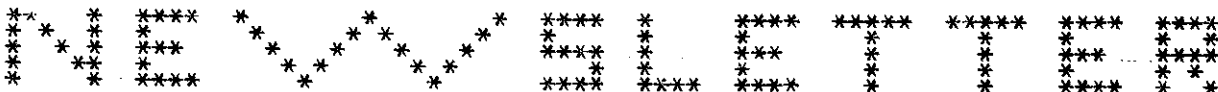


ERITH & DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB



No.108

JUNE, 1984

SECRETARY'S NOTES

TUESDAY CLUB SESSIONS

For two years now we have been able to hire Riverside Baths for a total of 3 hours, but the additional hour granted to us then has only been available on a six monthly renewal basis.

Following many alterations now beginning to take effect in the Baths service due to personnel and policy changes, the Council have decided to give 'our' hour back to the public starting from 3rd July, we have been told just for the high season and school holiday period, although this is still subject to confirmation on their part.

Obviously this will seriously affect our class allocations particularly on the four Tuesdays prior to the school break. Commencing from 3rd July the Beginners Group will switch to Fridays and the children will be incorporated in the two Groups held on that evening. We hope to give everyone else a swim in the reduced time available, full details will be announced in advance so watch the Notice Board.

We hope to get our hour back in September and every effort will be made to do so. Meanwhile please accept our apologies for any inconvenience caused but it will be appreciated that these matters are outside our direct control.

MORNING SWIMS

Again, due to policy changes, the two weeks Morning Swims we had booked during August from 9 - 10 a.m. have been given over to 'Fun Sessions' for the public and the double booking has only just been admitted by Council Officials.

We may still be able to organise approx. 40 minute swims from 8.20 - 9 a.m. for those of you prepared to get up early, so your support is required. The proposed dates are Monday 6th - Friday 10th August and Monday 20th - Friday 24th August.

WATCH FOR DETAILS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note those of you who have paid the first quarter only should pay a further £5, £10 or £15 per Member by 1st July.

Please help us by not making a reminder necessary. Thank you.

CLUB TOWELS

At last they're here - Super Quality Bath Size 'Flame Red' towels with embroidered Club Badges, great value at only £5 or personalised with swimmer's name or nickname for an extra 20p!

T. Shirts

We have good stocks (except 32") of our super quality T Shirts available

Prices £2.10 for 24", 26", 28" & 30"  
£2.60 Small, Medium & Large

A. Bedford

TUDOR LEAGUE GALA HELD ON 14th APRIL, 1984

The final Gala in this Year's League was hosted by Erith in its usual impeccable style. Also this was probably our best performance this season resulting in second place.

RESULT: 1st Greenwich  
2nd Erith  
3rd City of London  
4th Dartford  
5th Eltham  
6th Pollards

The final league results were as follows:-

1st	City of London	22	points
2nd	Greenwich	19	"
3rd	Dartford	19	"
4th	Erith	16	"
5th	Pollards	7	"
6th	Eltham	5	"

This has been a very enjoyable season for us with many swimmers getting their first swim for the Club. I would like to make special mention of some of our older swimmers especially Julian Torregiani, David Ryan and Helen Coulson who have given us great service and loyalty.

My thanks also to all Officials who helped us on the side. We look forward to an even better series next season.

WHITE HORSE LEAGUE GALA AT ERITH HELD ON 12th MAY 1984

An early altercation with some rather arrogant Dartford Officials and the non-arrival (without any notice) of Maidstone S.C. rather soured the evening for officials of E.D.S.C., but it did not seem to affect our swimmers. They managed to record no less than 36 personal best times and gave a very creditable performance.

RESULT: 1st Dartford 233 points  
2nd Greenwich 185 "  
3rd Bromley 173 "  
4th Erith 164 "  
5th Addington 113 "

The last Gala in this League is at Maidstone on 16th June and we are hoping they may turn up this time.

M. Thackray

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GALA AT CROOK LOG ON SATURDAY, 14th APRIL, 1984

Confusion arose before the Gala with the requirements laid down by Bexley Swimming Club on the times in which a swimmer had to complete their events. This caused problems in selection.

As for the Gala itself, a very interesting and exciting one with all swimmers showing very good form and control. 21 best times were recorded and a good swim by Robert Williams in his first Gala.

Disappointment was felt by Martin Eastaugh, B. Nay, S. Watkins and M. Steeden who were disqualified in their individual events, after very good showings, no reason was given.

In the end we took some 'good scalps' and finished 4th.

Result overleaf

CROOK LOG GALA 14th APRIL 1984 (Continued)

RESULT:	1st	White Oak	216	Points
	2nd	Bexley	192	"
	3rd	Beckenham	178	"
	4th	Erith	169	"
	5th	Black Lion	129	"
	6th	Orpington	110	"

GALA AT FAIRFIELD POOL, DARTFORD ON SATURDAY, 19th MAY, 1984

We knew from the very start of this Gala that we would need all our skill to keep with the Clubs around us.

We could ask for nothing better than the 39 Best Times recorded, which showed how hard they all tried.

RESULT:	1st	Dartford A	250	Points
	2nd	Folkestone	187	"
	3rd	Mote Park	185	"
	4th	Erith	161	"
	5th	Dartford B	145	"

GALA AT BANSTEAD POOL ON 9th JUNE, 1984

This was a very unusual Gala with all events in the form of relays. Having selected a very large squad, numerous swimmers could not take part due to previous engagements or illness which deprived us of many options and in the end this showed.

Interest was to the front beforehand on how the Backstroke relay was to be swum. In the end lessons were learnt especially by Kevin Hurley to his pain by the rushing incoming David Ryan who decided to change course at the last minute.

Two swimmers, Rochells Springham at the young end of the age group and the writer at the wrong end of any age group, took part in their first Gala.

In the end we took home with us a 5th Place which was creditable, if disappointing against some extremely strong teams. 34 Best Times were recorded. Unfortunately no official result sheet was issued, therefore no position table is available.

T. Holmes

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NOTES FROM OUR CLUB COACH

I would like to thank you for your efforts in the various Galas that we have entered over the past few months. We have seen many personal best times achieved.

At the Beckenham S.C. Age Group meet at the Crystal Palace in April we saw our swimmers working hard against some of the best age group swimmers in the Southern Counties. I think a special mention should go to Mark Bragg who came sixth out of the eight finalists in his 50M backstroke event and less than one second behind the winner.

At the Kent Schools Swimming Association Primary Schools Gala in May we had Kelly Brooker and Suzanne Groce swimming for Parkwood School and finishing second in the freestyle team race and first in the Medley Team event. Kelly also came fifth in the final of the individual freestyle race (For Report see 'Achievements')

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NOTES FROM OUR CLUB COACH (Continued)

To change the subject especially for our young girl swimmers, remember that there is an A.S.A. law which relates to the style of costume you are allowed to wear when swimming in competition. It says that shoulder straps must be attached to the front and the back of the costume. You should not wear the halter neck type of costume that we see at the seaside, it can get you disqualified in a gala or the whole team disqualified if you are in a team event.

W. Lovett

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SOCIAL SECTION

SOUTH DOWNS RAMBLE, SATURDAY 28th APRIL, 1984

The final Saturday of the school Easter Holiday saw 17 Club Members and friends experience a very enjoyable day out on the South Downs in West Sussex. The combination of beautiful weather and scenery made the lengthy train journey worthwhile as we were soon to discover.

After alighting at Amberley station the first leg of our Ramble led us to the nearby village which boasts a ruined castle and many attractive thatched cottages. We then ascended the Downs and from our elevated position on Amberley Mount we were able to look back over the village and beyond to the North Downs which were silhouetted against the distant skyline. This particular area of the South Downs had seen industrial activity, the deep scars of the chalk quarries acting as reminders, as does the Museum that has recently opened there.

Retracing our steps over the Arun, we began another steep climb onto the Downs at Bury Hill where once again the views were ample reward for energy expended. After following the South Downs Way for several miles, we finally made a stop for lunch at a point some 600 feet above sea level overlooking the surrounding countryside.

With a radiant sun, a cool breeze and only the song of the skylark to break the silence, those everyday problems just seemed to melt away. Indeed, I think everyone would have been quite content to have remained there for the rest of the afternoon. Suitably refreshed, we resumed the Ramble. We were soon joined by a glider soaring high overhead upon the thermals produced by the Downs.

Due to pressure of time, it was with some reluctance that we decided to shorten our trek along the South Downs Way and instead, turn south, to descend into Houghton Forest.

We were not to regret this decision as the dense undergrowth provided a total contrast to the open heathland scenery of the Downs and, in addition, enclosed a habitat that was rich in wildlife. In the sunlit glades we saw many butterflies and various birds, including the uncommon long-tailed Tit. For many though the highlight of the Ramble was still to come, for there in a clearing, we had the rare reward of seeing an Adder. For a minute or so all our fears about snakes were dispelled as we watched it slither away into the undergrowth.

A mile or so further on, we were abruptly brought back to everyday life due to our route being bisected by a busy main road. This was soon left behind and forgotten as we crossed to enter Arundel Park, the pathway leading us along a steep ridge affording fine views over the Arun Valley. Again we encountered nature at close quarters in the shape of pheasants and rabbits and then in one field, dozens of sheep and their lambs bleating plaintively.

Shortly we were to catch a glimpse of our goal, Arundel Castle, and beyond, the English Channel was visible too. We finally descended from the Downs at a

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SOUTH DOWNS RAMBLE (Continued)

point beside the wildfowl reserve of Swanbourne Lake and then continued on our way beneath the imposing bastions of the Castle itself. Unfortunately we did not have time to linger, so a hurried procession was made through the town, just in time to catch a London-bound train home.

So this brought to a close an Outing to remember and certainly one of the most rewarding Rambles we have yet undertaken. Needless to say my intentions will be to arrange another South Downs Ramble next year, so keep an eye open for this and any other Outing details on the Club notice board and avoid missing out on future fun!

MINI-BAZAAR HELD ON FRIDAY 11th MAY, 1984

A big THANK YOU to all swimmers, Mumms and Dads who were in any way involved in the running or support of the recent Mini-Bazaar. Through your combined efforts this fund-raising event realised a profit of £102.22

THANK YOU.

BIGGIN HILL AIR FAIR, ON SUNDAY 20th MAY, 1984

Sandwiched in between two marvellous outings (see previous and following reports) the Air Fair proved to be a little of an anti-climax. For the second year in succession the weather turned against us and we experienced rather a wet day once again, being subjected to constant drizzle. Fortunately, it was not enough to deter the pilots from putting their aircraft, old and new, through their paces, and the display was a credit to their skill and courage, particularly to those in open cockpit type aircraft.

Believe it or not, the day was still enjoyable and we pray for better weather next year.

OUTING TO PORTSMOUTH, SATURDAY 22nd JUNE, 1984

With so much to see in the City of Portsmouth an exciting day was in prospect.

After a surprisingly smooth train journey, 14 Club Members and parents alighted at the harbour station within sight of our first objective, H.M.S. Victory. Nelson's flagship was not looking at her best as she was undergoing further restoration, (so would we if we were over 200 years old) but the guided tour that followed certainly made up for this disappointment. In addition to giving a concise account of her history, our guide, a naval rating gave us a very vivid account of life on board this fine fighting ship. Seeing the cannons, the punishment rail and the actual place where Nelson was brought after he was mortally wounded at the Battle of Trafalgar, gave everyone an uncanny feeling. It was as if he had sensed the miserable conditions that existed at that time, that my son, Matthew at first was a little upset, even though he had previously enjoyed visits to the S.S. 'Great Britain' and the 'Cutty Sark'. Indeed Sammy Hayes found some of the facts hard to swallow as his smiles prompted our guide to pass his Naval cap to Sammy and to request him to continue with the lecture (all in good spirit I must add). Thus it was with some mixed feelings that we finally disembarked from H.M.S. Victory after a very absorbing tour.

A mere stone's throw away lay the remains of an even older ship, namely the 'Mary Rose'. The Naval rating had jokingly referred to her as H.M.S. Driftwood and although our first impressions were a little disappointing our guide related how reconstruction will progress over the next few years, and, by using a little imagination one began to understand why archeologists have got so excited, (unfortunately the Museum which will house the many interesting relics found in the Tudor warship, had yet to be opened).

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## OUTING TO PORTSMOUTH (Continued)

Lunch followed in the parade square by H.M.S. Victory and within a short distance of warships from the U.S. Navy that had berthed there the previous day. As a bonus on leaving the Naval base, we were treated to the sight of the Royal Yacht 'Brittania' coming into dock bringing the Queen Mother to Portsmouth for the D-Day 40th Anniversary celebrations.

There then followed a walk through the new and old areas of the City until we reached the sea wall providing us with fine views across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. With the sun blazing down the waters looked especially inviting and several of the boys had to be restrained from going swimming.

With a promise that we would return to the inevitable amusement arcades, we carried on to the headland surmounted by Southsea Castle. This edifice provided an interesting link with the 'Mary Rose' as from the battlements, King Henry VIII saw the English fleet set sail and actually witnessed the sinking of his flagship. Another interesting bonus here was provided by an exhibition of lavish costumes worn by the actors in the award-winning B.B.C. - T.V. series 'The Six Wives of Henry VIII'

By now, it was time to start our return journey back to the harbour station. This was not before some of the boys had used up their pocket money on amusements whilst I took several others around the dozens of historic military vehicles that were displayed on Southsea Common prior to their departure to France for the D-Day celebrations.

Our hurried passage back was made just in time to catch the return train home with a consequent arrival back at Abbey Wood station on schedule again!

Beyond question, everyone had experienced a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Postscript: With the 'Mary Rose' and D-Day Museums just recently opened and the Dolphin Submarine Museum still to be seen too (to name but 3) there is still ample scope for another exciting outing to Portsmouth next year..... so don't miss that one either.

## IT'S A KNOCKOUT COMPETITION - SUNDAY 10th JUNE, 1984

This annual event gave teams from six local Swimming Clubs the chance, for once, to contest for honours on dry land. Mind you, with 7 knockout style games to compete in, FUN was certainly the order of the day. The weather could not have been better, so while team members awaited their turn of the action, the hot sun provided ideal Barbecue and sun bathing conditions for the Mums and Dads.

Anyhow, fun we certainly did have as team members battled it out against opposition from Bexley, City of London, Dartford, Eltham and White Oak Swimming Clubs. To mention briefly, our 'five-legged' team of Barry Nay, Mark Russell, Sammy Hayes, Marnie Thackray and Karen Philips romped to an easy victory, whilst Angela Lapsley showed gritty determination running against boys twice her size, in her respective game. Without previous practice, all team members did well and helped the Club to an overall fifth place, an improvement on 1983. Hence I would like to take this opportunity to again thank all swimmers who took part and to all Mums and Dads who came along to support. I hope you enjoyed the day as much as I did!

P.S. We're after a 4th placing next year!

N.B. Photos of the 'It's a Knockout' (along with those taken on several previous Outings) will be available for purchase early in July. Keep an eye on the Club Noticeboard for them.

## SAVE THOSE EMPTY CRISP PACKETS

Some of you may be aware that 'Golden Wonder' crisps are presently running a promotion whereby one can exchange empty crisp packets (with the special £1 million logo) for cash. (1p for every packet returned). Hence, if you are

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"SAVE THOSE EMPTY CRISP PACKETS" (Continued)

a 'Golden Wonder consumer and do not intend to save the packets yourself, why not donate them to the Club and together we can collect enough to make a worthwhile contribution towards Club Funds. Please leave your empty 'Golden Wonder' crisp packets with the ladies on the door.

Thank you.

RUNNING SUCCESS

John Murray, Martin Lovett, Mr. Williams (swimmers Dad) and yours truly took part in the recent East London Half Marathon. The poor weather conditions abated just long enough to enable us to complete the course in reasonable comfort (!) and in personal best times.

P.S. Why not come along and support us when we run in the Dartford Half Marathon on Sunday 29th July?

P.A. Frost

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ACHIEVEMENTS

KENT PRIMARY SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two of our Erith Swimming Club Members represented their school 'Parkwood' in this years Kent Primary School Championships which was held on Saturday 19th May at White Oaks Pool.

Suzanne Grose and Kelly Brooker swam in the Girls Medley and Freestyle Relay teams and reached the finals, with ease, in both events. They both swam extremely well in the finals and although they had little rest between the two races, took second place in the freestyle relay and won the medley relay by four seconds. Both teams have been invited to swim for Kent in a match against Surrey at Tunbridge Wells on Friday, 29th June.

In the individual events, Suzanne swam extremely well against strong opposition in the butterfly, whilst Kelly recorded a personal best time in the freestyle event gaining a place in the final which resulted in a fifth place in a very close race.

Both swimmers gave everything for their school and deserve many congratulations for their wonderful performances

BEGINNERS' ACHIEVEMENTS

1 Width

Laura Allison  
Carey Burt  
Lisa Durrant  
Lisa Flowers  
Anthony Johnson  
Natalie Jones  
Michelle Joyce  
Michael Joyce  
Steven Kent  
James Watkins

1 Length

Lisa Durrant  
Lee Gilbert  
Natalie Jones  
Nicola Smith  
James Willcocks

CONGRATULATIONS - All receive Badges and Certificates.

For Forthcoming Events, see over.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- Saturday 23rd JUMBLE SALE, 1.30 - 4.30 (donations welcome)  
FAMILY BARBECUE 8.00 - 11.30 p.m. ALSO DISCO (Tickets £2.00)  
Both to be held at St. Martin's Church, Scout Hall  
Erith Road, Barnehurst. (Near bus Garage)
- Saturday 30th Away Gala at St. Johns Pool, Southborough, Tunbridge  
Wells. Hosts East Grinstead S.C.  
Warm-up 6.45 Commences 7.00 p.m. No coach but  
lifts will be available.

JULY

- Sunday 15th Club Annual Outing to Westbrook (Please note change  
of date).
- Saturday 21st Dartford Carnival Procession. We are planning to  
have a decorated float, the theme this year is  
Heritage '84. See Peter Frost soon to book your  
place on the lorry.
- Saturday 21st Annual Dolphin Trophy Gala at Faversham Open Air  
Pool. Doors open at 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. start.  
(No coach but lifts available) This is always  
a pleasant evening hope you can join us.

AUGUST

- Friday 10th SPLASH NIGHT 8.30 - 9.30. Bring the family and  
friends for an hour of fun.
- Friday 24th SPLASH NIGHT - As above
- Monday 27th Club Fund Raising Stalls at 'Round Table' organised  
Erith Show and Bexley Donkey Derby.

SEPTEMBER

- Friday 14th Freestyle and Backstroke Annual Gala Heats -  
Riverside at 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 15th Away Gala at Dagenham. Coach for competitors and  
supporters. Times to be advised.
- Friday 21st Butterfly and Breaststroke Annual Gala Heats -  
Riverside at 7.30
- Saturday 22nd Away Gala at Witham, Essex. Hosts Witham Dolphins  
Coach for competitors and supporters. Time to be  
advised.
- Friday 28th Individual Medley Heats, Diving and Breaststroke Style  
From 7.00 p.m.

OCTOBER

- Saturday 6th E.D.S.C. ANNUAL GALA 'CHAMPIONSHIP NIGHT'  
Riverside Baths commencing 5.30 p.m.
- Friday 19th SPRINT TROPHY - Butterfly - commencing 8.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 31st Outing (details to follow)

NOVEMBER

- Saturday 3rd Away Gala at Wimbledon. Hosts Merton Swordfish.  
Coach for competitors and supporters.  
Doors open 6.45 for 7.00 p.m. Start.
- Saturday 10th Tudor 'B' Gala, Eltham. commencing 6.00 p.m.  
(Pool will be new length of 25M)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS (Continued)

NOVEMBER  
(Cont'd)

Friday 16th Sprint Trophy Breaststroke and Mini Bazaar  
(Commencing 7.00 p.m.)

Saturday 17th Home Gala at Riverside commencing 7.00 p.m.

Saturday 24th Afternoon Jumble Sale.  
Evening Outing to Parkfield Leisure Pool (provisional)

Friday 30th Sprint Trophy - Backstroke commencing 7.00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Saturday 1st Away Gala at Ashford, Kent. Details following

Saturday 8th Tudor 'B' Gala at Eltham commencing 6.00 p.m.

Friday 14th FINAL SPRINT TROPHY - Freestyle commencing 8.00 p.m.

Friday 21st SPRINT TROPHY winners presentation 8.00 p.m.  
followed by 'Fun Evening' similar to last year's  
successful offering.

PLEASE NOTE White Horse League - dates for new season to be announced.

<u>DISCO</u>	<u>BARBECUE</u>	<u>DISCO</u>
SATURDAY, 23rd JUNE, 1984		
Commencing 8.30 p.m.		
BRING ALL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY		
HURRY		
WHILE TICKETS ARE STILL AVAILABLE		
AT THE DOOR!!		PRICE £2.00 EACH

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

REPAIRS OR RENEWALS TO DAMAGED OR LEAKING ROOFS, CHIMNEY STACKS & GUTTERING

JOHN PRYOR

TELEPHONE: 01-301-0677

ATTENTION

If you have your own business such as Plumbing, Decorating, Car Repairs, Electrician etc, we will be pleased to use any spare space we have in the Newsletter to advertise your services for the benefit of other parents etc. A small contribution to Club Funds is all we ask.