



NEWSLETTER



DO.119

DECEMBER 1986

SECRETARY'S NOTES

ANNUAL GALA

We witnessed a fine evening of swimming which ran so smoothly, that it had the officials asking each other how we had so much time left at the end! However, this did allow them time to enjoy the excellent post gala refreshments prepared by the senior members of the Thackray Family!

A magnificent total of 22 new Club records were established in all age groups and strokes and, amazingly, several of these times have since been superceded, (a current updated records list appears in this Newsletter).

The coveted annual achievement awards went to the following swimmers after some difficult deliberation:-

Boys Junior Progress Cup	Roy Burdett
Girls Junior Progress Cup	Claire Conner
Boy Swimmer of Year Cup	Philip Rush
Girl Swimmer of Year Cup	Kelly Brooker

We also award three annual trophies to the swimmer who scores the highest total of points in competition. This year, these trophies were awarded as follows:-

The Anderson Trophy (Inter-Club 'A' Matches)	Kelly Brooker
The Tudor Trophy (Tudor 'B' League Series)	Philip Rush
The White Horse Trophy (White Horse 'A' League Series)	John Murray

The top placings for 1985/6 season are listed below:-

'THE TOP TWENTY'

<u>Anderson Trophy</u>	<u>Tudor Trophy</u>	<u>White Horse Trophy</u>
Kelly Brooker 116	Philip Rush 96	John Murray 94
Suzanne Groce 100	Mark Bragg 87	Lucianna Romagnolo 88
Elizabeth Watkins 99	Marnie Thackray 77	Tina Bennett 84
Sammy Hayes 98	Claire Hamblin 73	Bobby Game 81
Robin Parkhurst 93	Claire Conner 65	Kelly Brooker 79
Lucianna Romagnolo 86	John Burdett 64	Sarah Byers 75
Simon Gilbert 82	Andrew Eastaugh 49	Jennie Newton 74
Jennie Newton 81	Mark Russell 49	Robin Parkhurst 69
Tina Bennett 78	Lynn Young 47	Philip Rush 69
Philip Rush 78	Roy Burdett 46	Elizabeth Watkins 66
Barry Nay 72	Andrew Stevenson 43	David Ryan 66
Mark Bragg 70	Helen Parkhurst 41	Marnie Thackray 64
Marnie Thackray 66	Andrew Smith 40	Suzanne Groce 61
Claire Hamblin 62	Steve Willcocks 39	Simon Gilbert 58
John Murray 59	Matthew Wenham 39	Steve Willcocks 54
Nicola Holmes 57	Martin Eastaugh 39	Claire Hamblin 47
David Ryan 55	Kelly Brooker 37	Andrew Callard 43
Andrew Eastaugh 54	Claire Rice 37	Barry Nay 43
Mark Walker 54	Lorraine Stevens 34	Simone Rider 43
Natalie Webster 48	Alison Walker 33	Julian Torregianni 40
		Victoria Eaton 40

In a six team gala, points are awarded as follows:-

1st place = 6 points	4th place = 3 points
2nd place = 5 points	5th place = 2 points
3rd place = 4 points	6th place = 1 point

Our thanks go to Mr. Alan Davidson, our former Chief Instructor for collating the above results.

POSTSCRIPT FROM ANNUAL GALA

With so many of our swimmers in such good form at the moment, their efforts are in part being wasted due to the apparent inability of the organiser of the White Horse League to swim galas on agreed and published dates. So we have to wait until January before the next gala, by which time many of our swimmers will have changed age group.

Please give Mick Thackray your full support when we resume after these disappointments.

SPRINT TROPHY

The experiment to swim two strokes on one evening, thus lessening disruption of normal classes on the customary four evenings, was deemed a success. I was encouraged by the number of new youngsters competing for the first time but disappointed by the absence of some well known faces and the attitude of some who, despite both announcements and a notice displayed for some weeks previously, had other more pressing engagements. All teachers and officials of the Club give their time up freely throughout the year and do expect in return to see the swimmers compete in all Club competitions. So please make sure you swim on Friday, 12th December in the breaststroke and butterfly events. We need your support to assist the Competition Secretaries in their Gala selections for 1987. The prizewinners' presentations will take place on Friday, 19th December at 8.00 p.m. This will be followed by some 'organised' fun events and team races for all age groups.

B.S.C.A. AWARDS

For the benefit of newer members, this series of awards provides a super incentive to improve your personal best times progressively, firstly to the bronze standard and, as you improve, on to the silver and gold standards.

The basic oval badge for the three levels costs just 65p and the flashes for the various strokes in which you qualify are 20p. So if you swim a qualifying time in any event at Riverside or any other pool in a gala, you can obtain a badge, (relay times are only provisional). All standards and strokes badges/flashes along with official Club record cards (record your P.B's the professional way!) are available on Friday evenings from the ladies on the door.

A list of qualifying times with relevant pool lengths is permanently displayed on the Club notice board. So go for those badges!

EXPLANATION OF AGE GROUPING

Again, this is for the benefit of newer members. With a new year fast approaching, please remember that in the majority of swimming events you are likely to compete in during your time with the Club, we base age groups on the age you will be as at 31st December of the current year.

In all annual Club events the age groups are:-

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------|
| 10 & Under | 14 & Under | Open |
| 12 & Under | 16 & Under | |

Consequently, those of you born in the early months of the year, will be at an advantage. Conversely, as a number of our newer members have been born in November/December perhaps find it difficult swimming against children almost two years older than themselves in their respective age groups. But do not let it worry you, think of it as an even greater challenge!

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR PERIOD

Riverside - There will be no Club evening on Friday 26.12.86. The Club will operate as normal on Sunday 28.12.86, Tuesday 30.12.86, Friday 2.1.87 and Sunday 4.1.87.

Dartford College - The last evening before Christmas will be Wednesday 17.12.86. There will be no swimming on 24.12.86 and 31.12.86, but the 6.30-7.30 classes resume as normal on 7.1.87

For the benefit of new members, please note that the Club only 'shuts down' at Riverside Pool on public holidays, otherwise we swim at all other times throughout the year.

CLUB RECORDS (ALL TIMES BASED ON 364 YARDS OR 334METRES POOLS) AS AT 30.11.86

AGE GROUP	DISTANCE (LENGTHS)	STROKE	TIME	HOLDER	VENUE WHERE SET	KEY *	DATE
10 & U	1	Breaststroke	29.97	Steve Wilcocks	Riverside	I/C	29.11.86
"	"	Backstroke	28.02	Matthew Wenham	Riverside	S/T	21.11.86
"	"	Freestyle	21.79	Paul Dodson	Riverside	I/C	29.11.86
"	"	Butterfly	27.54	Paul Dodson	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
12 & U	2	Breaststroke	57.29	Mark Walker	W.Wickham	W/H	15. 6.85
"	"	Backstroke	53.9	Simon Gilbert	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	46.65	Robin Parkhurst	W.Wickham	W/H	17. 5.86
"	1	Butterfly	25.96	Barry Hay	Riverside	A/G	16.11.85
14 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.23.01	Mark Walker	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Backstroke	1.22.89	Philip Rush	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	1.06.36	Philip Rush	Riverside	A/G	12. 9.86
"	2	Butterfly	47.67	Philip Rush	W.Wickham	W/H	6. 9.86
16 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.27.9	Mark Bragg	Riverside	P/C	20. 4.85
"	"	Backstroke	1.13.7	Mark Bragg	Crook Log	I/C	9. 3.85
"	"	Freestyle	1.03.54	Sammy Hayes	Riverside	A/G	13.10.86
"	"	Butterfly	1.24.72	Stephen Watkins	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
OPEN	3	Breaststroke	1.21.24	John Murray	Riverside	A/G	16.11.85
"	"	Backstroke	1.13.2	Andrew Callard	Riverside	A/G	16.11.85
"	"	Freestyle	1.03.46	John Murray	Riverside	A/G	16.11.85
"	"	Butterfly	1.18.4	John Murray	Riverside	A/G	13.10.86
10 & U	1	Breaststroke	29.96	Rebecca Russell	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Backstroke	29.58	Rebecca Russell	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	24.47	Rebecca Russell	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Butterfly	31.32	Lorraine Stevens	White Oak	I/C	23.11.85
12 & U	2	Breaststroke	59.1	Claire Conner	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Backstroke	55.91	Kelly Brooker	White Oak	I/C	23.11.85
"	"	Freestyle	46.46	Kelly Brooker	Riverside	S/T	13.12.85
"	1	Butterfly	22.77	Claire Conner	Riverside	I/C	29.11.86
14 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.37.08	Claire Hamblin	Riverside	A/G	19. 9.86
"	"	Backstroke	1.24.03	Elizabeth Watkins	White Oak	I/C	23.11.85
"	"	Freestyle	1.10.23	Kelly Brooker	Black Lion	K/S	15. 3.86
"	2	Butterfly	51.09	Suzanne Groce	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
16 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.31.87	Lorraine Newitt	Crook Log	P/C	17. 4.86
"	"	Backstroke	1.21.73	Tina Bennett	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	1.09.6	Tina Bennett	Riverside	A/G	19.10.86
"	"	Butterfly	1.25.06	Tina Bennett	Crook Log	P/C	8. 5.86
OPEN	3	Breaststroke	1.29.26	Lucianne Romagnolo	White Oak	I/C	23.11.85
"	"	Backstroke	1.21.77	Tina Bennett	Riverside	I/C	29.11.86
"	"	Freestyle	1.09.5	Lucianne Romagnolo	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Butterfly	1.22.34	Jennie Newton	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86

CLUB RECORDS CONTINUED - INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

AGE GROUP	TIME	HOLDER	VENUE WHERE SET	KEY*	DATE
12 & U	2.01.15	Darry May	Riverside	A/G	16.11.85
14 & U	1.49.22	Philip Rush	"	"	17.10.86
16 & U	1.46.14	Sammy Hayes	"	"	17.10.86
OPEN	1.40.84	Andrew Callard	"	"	16.11.85
12 & U	1.59.44	Kelly Brooker	"	"	16.11.85
14 & U	1.55.03	Kelly Brooker	"	"	17.10.86
16 & U	1.51.95	Tina Bennett	"	"	17.10.86
OPEN	1.52.17	Lucianna Romagnolo	"	"	17.10.86

KEY P/C Points Cup I/C Inter-Club Match
 S/T Sprint Trophy W/H White Horse 'A' League Gala
 A/G Annual Gala (Heat or Final) K/S Kent Schools Championships

ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following beginners who all receive Penguin Awards and E.E.S.C. Certificates:-

1 Width

Mark Boswell	Lisa Josling
David Brough	Madeleine Long
Gavin Coogan	Marilyn Luff
John Coogan	Peter McIntyre
Martina Cooley	Adam Moore
David Clark	Mark Morrish
Claire Durrant	Paul Rockefeller
Victoria Harris	Natalie Walker
Donna Jackson	Clare Watson

CLUB WEAR SUGGESTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS

From stock, we have available a range of excellent products which make ideal gifts at anytime of the year, for example:

Quality Turkish Towels (colourfast guaranteed) with embroidered Club badge. In case of loss, why not have your child's name added for an extra 30p.	£5.00
Club Swimbags	£5.30
Club Tee Shirts (sizes up to 32")	£3.00
" " " (sizes 34" upwards)	£3.50
Club Sweatshirts (some sizes available at old prices)	
Child old stock	£5.20
" new stock	£6.40
Adult old stock	£5.70
" new stock	£7.40

Plus of course, we have available the usual selection of Club costumes, goggles, hats etc.

NEW POOL MANAGER

It is nice to report that following the appointment of a Pool Manager for Riverside, Mr. Bob Jones, the place is taking on a much tidier and cleaner image - keep it up Bob!

VIDEOS

Please note we have the following VHS format tapes available for hire at just 50p per week. They are all highly recommended:-

- 1) Duncan Goodhew (Advanced Swimming)
- 2) Doc. Councilman (Advanced Techniques)
- 3) Cadbury (Basic Strokes)
- 4) Learning to Swim

A. Bedford

COMPETITION RESULTS

Otter Masters - Saturday, 4th October 1986

On entering this event, I was under the misapprehension that this was a championship for the older swimmer entering just for fun. Three senior members of the Club entered this event; Pat Griffiths, Bill Lovett and the writer. It was a long day for just two events, but well worth the experience. Pat was the first to swim, with a creditable 6th place in the 4x1 Individual Medley, 7th place in the 100m Freestyle and 7th place in the 50m Freestyle. Bill competed in one event, the 50m Backstroke and was placed 7th. I was placed 11th in the 100m Freestyle and 6th in the 50m.

We all felt that we swam very well but the standard was so high that our top swimmers would have struggled to compete on equal terms with the 45-49 year age group that's how good it was!

Lets hope we can still do the same next year

T. Holmes

Trophy Gala at Rochester - Saturday, 4th October 1986

Having spent all day at Victoria competing in the Otters Masters, we travelled down to Rochester and met the teams for what turned out to be a very successful gala. Victory was particularly gratifying through our performance in the relays - winning 8 out of 12 such events.

Individual winners were Helen Parkhurst, Simon Gilbert, Sammy Hayes, Rebecca Russell and Mark Walker but every swimmer performed extremely well.

The trophy was presented to our Captains Jennie and Bob by the former Olympic Gold Medal winner Linda Ludgrove, now trainer for City of Rochester S.C.

1st	Erith	121 pts
2nd	City of Rochester	136 pts
3rd	Mote Park	175 pts
4th	B.P. Comets	247 pts
5th	Birchington	287 pts

T. Holmes

Trophy Gala at Canterbury - Saturday, 1st November 1986

During the season, I usually only manage to attend a few galas other than those that I am present in my capacity as M.C. and announcer. So it made a pleasant change to be on the poolside at Canterbury in a Gala that I had also been involved 12 months previously.

On that occasion we had experienced strong competition and only managed to finish in 4th position. As the 1985 winners of the trophy, Eastbourne were back to defend their title, and I was not particularly optimistic about our chances especially when we were fielding a depleted team.

It was obvious from the first few races that the competing teams were no match for Eastbourne who drew further ahead on points as the gala progressed.

Nevertheless we found ourselves embroiled in a battle with Canterbury and the final result reveals just how close things were.

Continued overleaf

Trophy Gala at Canterbury Cont'd

With the exceptions of relays all races were of one length distance and proved fast and furious. Sasha Rider, Mark Walker, Steve Willcocks and Paul Dodson swam well to record 1st places, Steve and Paul breaking Club records in the process. The remainder of our 11 wins were provided by Sammy Hayes and Philip Rush who seemed to be having their personal battle in who would gain the greater number of victories! With our older girl swimmers unavailable, Kelly Brooker, Claire Hamblin and Suzanne Groce swam magnificently to fill the breach and were unlucky to be rewarded with at least one win apiece. Finally, well done to Richard Cane who was swimming in his first Inter-Club gala.

1st	Eastbourne (St.Andrews)	330 pts
	Erith	
2nd	Canterbury 'A'	277 pts
4th	Hythe	230 pts
5th	Ashford	149 pts
6th	Canterbury 'B'	114 pts

P.A.Frost

Tudor 'B' League Gala at Eltham - Saturday, 8th November 1986

We had a magnificent start to the league season even though our team was perhaps a little too strong after my words at the A.G.M. For the next gala in the series we will use some alternative swimmers so that in true 'B' league spirit we can give as many members as possible a taste of competition. Nonetheless, I was very pleased by our performance and usual good behaviour. I look forward to the rest of the season with optimism.

1st	Erith	217 pts
2nd	Addington	191 pts
3rd	Dartford	188 pts
4th	Gravesend & Northfleet	161 pts

Greenwich did not swim as this was their 'drop-out' gala; Eltham did not field a team whilst City of London (Finsbury) withdrew from the series at short notice.

M.Thackray

Gala at Hythe - Saturday, 15th November 1986

Although some people may think that relay galas are not as interesting as the usual 'straight' galas, it does give swimmers experience in take-overs and improves our discipline. This was shown in this gala as we only had one disqualification on a technical point, whilst the other teams had three or four disqualifications each.

Congratulations must go to our Girls 13 & Under team who had three wins out of 4 with one second place and also to the Boys 11 & Under team who had two wins and one second place.

As in the previous galas, every swimmer swam their best and eventually we finished in a third place behind Mote Park and Canterbury, with whom we were having our second meeting within as many weeks.

1st	Mote Park	64 pts
2nd	Canterbury	67 pts
3rd	Erith	81 pts
4th	Hythe	91 pts
5th	Sheerness	122 pts

T.Holmes

Home Gala at Riverside - Saturday, 29th November 1986

In one respect this gala was a great disappointment, as after all the planning that went into it's organisation we then had three teams drop out for various excuses and despite sending out more invitations, we were unable to improve on the situation. We also feared the worse when Feltham arrived with only minutes to spare before the start. Nevertheless, it turned out to be a very competitive gala, in which Erith's 'A' and 'B' teams fared extremely well. Certain arranged events, gave us an indication on how swimmers were coming along especially Sammy Hayes, Mark Russell, Mark Walker, Tracey Dodson, Claire Conner and John Murray. As can be seen the 'A' team finished the gala runaway winners, but what was satisfying was the way the 'B' team acquitted themselves so well, providing a few surprises for the 'A' team on the way.

1st	Erith 'A'	223 pts
2nd	Greenwich	151 pts
3rd	Feltham	133 pts
4th	Erith 'B'	121 pts

T.Holmes

OUR 'B' LEAGUE COMPETITION SECRETARY WRITES....

As a competition secretary and a member on the White Horse 'A' League Committee, I feel I must offer some explanation and apology for the cancellation of two White Horse 'A' League Galas which should have taken place before Christmas. As has already been explained, this was due to bad organisation, broken promises and unkept deadlines by the 'A' League Secretary, (who belongs to a certain other swimming club). From a personal point of view and with some prompting from older swimmers, if matters continue, I may seriously consider opting for a different league competition in the 1987/88 season.

M.Thackray

SOCIAL SECTION NEWS

Fund Raising

Annual Gala Raffle - I must thank you for your support of our Annual Gala Raffle. It proved to be the most successful ever realising a magnificent profit of £199.86. In case you did not get to see a list of prizewinners, they are listed below:-

1986 ANNUAL GALA RAFFLE

10 prizes were to be won

	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket No.</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>Purchaser/Seller of Winning Ticket</u>
1st	Portable Colour Television	857	D.Clancy	Same
2nd	Sun Lounger		G.Foley	John Murray
3rd	Food Mixer	3806	N.Rush	Same
4th	Whisky	1769	'Maxine'	Green Family
5th	Mini Fashion Brush	3517	'Geoff'	Wenham Family
6th	Wine	4073	B.Willcocks	Same
7th	Watch/Pen Set	2093	G.Howlett	Same
8th	Basket	1144	I.Bulmer	Thackray Family
9th	Chocolates	3793	Philip Rush	Same
10th	Soaps	844	E.Mason	Clancy Family

FUND RAISING CONT'D

This Raffle profit proved to be most timely in view of our recent expenditure. Below is a summarisation of recent Social Section monetary transactions and I think this will highlight and help to remind everyone just how important our fund raising activities are to the survival of a healthy Club.

Mid-July to Mid-October

<u>Receipts</u>	£	<u>Payments</u>	£
Bexley Donkey Derby Stall	63.39	Set of 5 Lane Ropes	344.66
Crisps/Drinks Sales	55.00	Storage Bin & Padlock	124.60
Coach Receipts	43.00	Coach Hire (5 Coaches)	655.00
Bring & Buy % Commission	12.45		
Indoor Cricket	20.00		
TOTAL	<u>193.84</u>	TOTAL	<u>1,124.26</u>

Social events are always arranged on a 'break-even' basis so that the price of tickets can be kept low. Any forthcoming profits, like that obtained at the Indoor Cricket, are usually as a result of raffles held at such functions.

Double Jumble Sale - Saturday, 8th October

Firstly, I would like to thank all the Mums, Dads and swimmers who braved an icy scout hall to assist in our recent sale. Secondly thank you to Parents and members who donated jumble. Together, our efforts helped realise a further £132.20 towards Club funds.

Christmas Mini-Bazaar - Friday, 21st November

Our most recent fund raising event realised a profit of £128.52. This sum will be added to with the continuing sale of 'lucky dips' and stocking fillas on Clubnights leading up to Christmas. Once again, a big 'thank you' to all our helpers who made this our most successful Clubroom Mini-Bazaar ever.

Christmas Raffle

We are presently running our Annual Christmas Raffle with a selection of festive prizes to be won headed by a magnificent cake, courtesy of Rosemary Watkins. Why not buy some raffle tickets - the draw will take place the very same night that the Sprint Trophy presentations are made, Friday, 19th December.

P.A.Frost

Indoor Cricket - Saturday, 27th September

I was pleasantly surprised to learn that 'Er indoors' (sorry Jac.) had volunteered me and the boys for a Saturday night out playing Australian Rules Indoor Cricket, (little did she know that this kind gesture on her part would backfire, as I am now playing every other Wednesday in a league!)

On the night, we had enough people turn up to form six adult teams and three junior teams, so we were able to form two adult leagues of three teams each and a junior league. Each team played the other two teams in their league and the winners of each section played in the final match to find the overall winning team.

The game itself seemed quite easy to understand: When you thought you were out you stayed in and at the end of the innings when you thought you were still in, you were out!!! When you were out and stayed in - you lost five runs - GOT IT! There were six players in each team, each player bowled one eight ball over and each pair of batsmen stayed in for two overs. This doesn't seem like much batting but at the end of the innings I was quite puffed! The game reminded me somewhat of the old Tip It and Run or Non Stop Cricket that I use to play at school - but I didn't get quite so exhausted then.

Indoor Cricket Cont'd

There was a bar for drinks and later in the evening a supper of sausage and chips was provided and, would you believe it, the Club even held a raffle! It turned out to be a very enjoyable social night for all concerned. The children had a whale of a time and each member of the winning junior team was presented with a shield. I got nothing - only a scraped elbow and graze knee although I did win a bottle of wine in the raffle!

The only thing that marred an otherwise very enjoyable night out, which started at 7 p.m. and ended after midnight, was when Buck Ryan forgot about cricket, thought he was playing golf and got a 'hole in one' on his drive home. For those of you who weren't there, the road was very badly lit and unfortunately Buck didn't see the 3 ft. drop into the adjacent factory's parking bay. Let this be a warning to all future cricketers - KEEP TO THE RIGHT ON YOUR WAY OUT!

Ray Burdett

Hallowe'en Disco - Saturday, 25th October

With this being the first time that we have held a Disco in the Church Hall, our worries that the Scout Hall atmosphere would not be recreated in this larger venue were soon dispelled. Although not obligatory, full marks to those of you who came suitably dressed to usher in the witching hour. I think I can say that 120 Club members, Parents and friends had a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Ramble - Thursday, 30th October

With the proximity of the Hallowe'en Disco, I did not think it fair to ask Parents to dig deeper into their posckets to help pay for a coach that would be required to take us out into the countryside. Consequently, the idea of an autumn ramble was initially placed on ice, and was only revived after a suggestion was made to hold a walk in the immediate locality, thereby at little expense. I rapidly arranged a Ramble based on the recently waymarked Green Chain Walk that extends from Thamesmead to Beckenham. And so it was that a dozen souls began an 8 mile trek. Beginning at Lessness Abbey, Abbey Wood it took us through Bostall Woods, across the heath to West Wickham, and thence onto Oxleas Woods. Lunch was had atop Shooters Hill in gusty conditions and then we made our way via the Woolwich 'branch' of the Walk to the Thames Barrier. We declined visits to the Rotunda, (the Royal Artillery Museum) or Charlton House but had a good lark around in Maryon Wilson Park before meeting the deer kept there. The following visit to the Thames Barrier and it's adjoining visitors centre enthralled even those who had been there before. With time to spare we crossed the Thames by ferry for a visit to the North Woolwich Railway Museum. Housed in the former station buildings, we saw three steam locomotives and various memorabilia of the old Great Eastern Railway. We returned to Woolwich via the foot tunnel and everyone agreed that they had experienced an enjoyable day, all for 30p, the price of our bus fare back to Abbey Wood.

75th Anniversary Dinner and Dance

As many of you are aware, 1912 was the year in which Erith & District Swimming Club was established. As such, 1987 marks our 75th Anniversary and to celebrate, we will be holding a Dinner & Dance on Saturday, 21st February in 'The Boathouse', Danson Park, Bexleyheath. Several former members have accepted invites to attend and if you would like to go, tickets will be available shortly. The price of ticket, £12.50 will include a three course meal followed by dancing to a 'live' band. Tickets can be reserved with a £5.00 deposit.

One invited guest that we hope will be able to attend the Dinner and Dance is Kathy Mills who swam with the Club in the '30's' and is still actively involved with City of Rochester S.C. at 72 years of age! Bill and Trevor finally managed to track her down at the recent Otters Masters Championships in which she was also competing!

Dinner and Dance Cont'd

Unfortunately our oldest known living member, Mrs.E.Anderson, will not be able to attend due to failing health. Nevertheless, over the years, Mrs.Anderson has provided us with many interesting tit-bits surrounding the past history of the Club. With further information gleaned in conversation with Kathy Mills, it has formed the basis of exhaustive research by Allan Bedford and Rosemary Watkins. Delving into the Club's own archives and those stored in Hall Place, Bexley, 1987 should see their efforts come to fruition with publication of an official Club history.

P.A.Frost

OTHER NEWS

London Fire Brigade Bath Tub Race - Sunday, 5th October

The scene was set on a very damp Sunday morning in Danson Park. The children and I approached the bustling lakeside where fireman from all over London and the South East were putting the last touches to their 'crafts'.

The Erith & District entry was proudly moored in line, ready for the oncoming events.

Our crew, alias - Peter Frost, John Murray, Bobby Game, David Ryan, Sammy Hayes and Philip Rush, were looking very fit.

We then took on the task of "bomb" making in the form of flour bags and water bags - no goldfish to be seen! Plus of course, eggs for added effect.

The atmosphere was beginning to get very tense as last minute adjustments were made to our craft and the E.D.S.C. flag was erected.

To add to the occasion, David my son did a fine backward movement to end up fully submerged in the lake! However, true to form our "crew" baled him out in an assortment of replacement oversize clothing. The crew were then in place and off on the first heat, against an assortment of opponents. Once round the lake was the intention and after a battering of eggs, flour and whatever else they designed to throw, our lads came in a comfortable, or uncomfortable second! The semi- finals proved even more rewarding - first place. Our lads were getting bluer by the minute especially Bobby who appeared to end up swimming a good part of the way!

At 3.30 they were ready for the final. Competition was pretty strong but our lads weren't deterred. The result was a fine fifth position which we were more than proud of.

All in all they deserved lots of praise not only for doing so well but giving us a really enjoyable Sunday. I bet you wished you had come now!

Chris Springham

Bath Tub Race -

FOOTNOTE: On behalf of the 'crew', I would like to extend our thanks to our supporters who provided the necessary encouragement for us to return cold and wet, to the lake, for further soakings and splatterings! Thank you also to John Eastaugh who spent the preceding afternoon assisting us in the attachment of our bath tub and transporting the whole assemblage to Danson Park; to Trevor Gilbert for loan of life jackets and wet suit and to Dylan Emmett for the loan of paddles.

Our craft, unlike those of our fellow competitors, survives to float another day, a tribute to Mr.Hayes' design and constructional skills. 'Americas' Cup' here we come - well maybe not quite!

P.A.Frost

P.S. I have since learnt that the event raised almost £3,000, sufficient to purchase a special walking brace for seven year old James Pretty, a sufferer of Cerebral Palsy. Well done to everyone.

Other News Cont'd

Are you wondering why training sessions have been slightly more restrained as of late? Then the reason for this is that the infectious exuberance of Bobby Game is being felt elsewhere, namely at the City of London University. Yes, Bobby is at University taking a Degree in Property Valuation and Management and although he has 'digs' there during the week, he returns home most weekends and has made himself available for galas when necessary. Bobby says the sports facilities on campus are excellent and he has time there there to maintain his fitness! I am sure you will join me in wishing Bobby well in the many months of hard study ahead

WELL DONE TO

Jennie Newton took part in a sponsored 10K run back in October and although Jennie stated that her time was "not fantastic", she did raise in the region of £200 towards Spina Bifida research.

Andrew Callard reluctantly withdrew from the Annual Gala finals in the knowledge that he was involved in the British Under 18's Weightlifting Championships at Bromley the very next day. Disappointment in one sport turned to triumph in the other, for in the Under 82 Kilo Class, he won the Gold Medal. More recently, Andrew has competed in the British Under 23's Championship and picked up a Bronze Medal there too.

Tina Bennett represented Kent in a recent Under 19's Inter-County Squash Tournament against Berkshire. I do not know how the team fared but Tina won her individual matches.

Roy Burdett recently took part in the South East London and Kent Gymnastic finals. The various disciplines involved exercises on the parallel bars, floor, vault, low bar, ranging and conditioning (stretching exercises). Although there was stiff competition in his age group, Roy gained a well-earned third place. His reward is a place in the Area team to compete at the National Finals in Leicester on the 6th December.

ANNOUNCEMENT: A new column known as the 'Deep End Diary', will be appearing in future Newsletters under the editorship of Sarah Byers. Always humorous, never serious, any items of gossip forwarded will be most welcome!

P.A.Frost

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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|-----------------|----------|------|--|
| <u>DECEMBER</u> | Friday | 12th | Breaststroke/Butterfly Sprint Trophy Races at 8.00 p.m. |
| | Friday | 19th | Sprint Trophy Presentations at 8.00 p.m. followed by 'Fun and Games'. |
| 1987 | | | |
| <u>JANUARY</u> | Saturday | 17th | White Horse 'A' League Gala at West Wickham (details to be advised) |
| | Saturday | 31st | Tudor 'B' League Gala at Eltham (details to be advised) |
| <u>FEBRUARY</u> | Saturday | 14th | Anniversary/Valentine's Day Disco at 4th Barnehurst Scout Hall (details to be announced) |
| | Saturday | 21st | 75th Anniversary Dinner & Dance at Danson 'Boathouse' |
| | Thursday | 26th | 5th 'Anniversary' Outing to Guy's Hospital Medical School |
| | Saturday | 28th | Tudor 'B' League Gala at Eltham (details to be advised) |

