



NEWSLETTER



NO.123

FEBRUARY 1988

SECRETARY'S NOTES

Club Fees

For the benefit of our newer members and beginners parents, please note that all Club instructors and helpers give their services on an entirely voluntary basis and receive no fee for the work they put in at all levels for the Club throughout the year.

The Club does not receive any subsidy from the Council towards its finances and pays the standard rate for pool hire costs, (these are shortly to increase again to £18 per hour, a rise of £1.50 per hour, with Saturday evening galas increasing to £50 per hour). The modest Club fees we charge pay for the pool hire and all other running costs as you will no doubt see from the Club balance sheet to be presented at the forthcoming A.G.M. Despite this, unless further unforeseen increases are charged to us this year, you will be pleased to learn that we will be holding fees at 1987 rates for the next 12 months.

A reminder that on 1st April, these annual subscription fees for 1988/9 fall due. Whether you choose to pay one sum or in two half-yearly portions, we would obviously appreciate an early settlement. (Please bring your membership card with you when renewing).

Annual General Meeting

All members should have already received notification of our Annual General Meeting which this year is to be held on Sunday, 6th March in the pool clubroom. The annual Club accounts will be presented on that afternoon together with a review of the previous year and our proposals concerning fees, rules, officials etc. applicable as from the 1st April 1988. If there is any matter you would like to ask questions about concerning any aspect of Club life, then this is your opportunity.

Dartford College Easter Arrangements

There will be no Wednesday sessions on 6/4/88 or 13/4/88. Sessions will remain as normal until the 30th March and will resume after Easter on 20th April to continue until the summer break.

Speedo League

Following the presentation of the Speedo Trophy to Kelly Brooker just before Christmas, the top placed swimmers in this three gala league series scored points for the Club as shown in the following list. The restored Rose Cup, (first presented in 1929 and unused since 1964) will be presented annually to our highest scoring swimmer in this series.

1.	Kelly Brooker	66
2.	Helen Parkhurst	50
=3.	(Claire Conner	49
	(John Burdett	49
=5.	(Tracey Dodson	48
	(Paul Dodson	48
=7.	(Mark Walker	47
	(Mark Bragg	47
9.	Keith Walker	44
=10.	(Suzie Groce	42
	(Alison Walker	42

Sprint Trophy

A big thank you to all swimmers for making this years competition a very comprehensive event in all age groups. Indeed, this resulted in part of an extra evening having to be put aside to finish all the races. The winners presentation will be held at our A.G.M.

B.L.D.S.A. Championship

I would like to thank all parents and members who helped in the lane counting on our two evening distance swims.

A. Bedford

Congratulations to the following Beginners who have swum their first width of the pool:-

Gary Cook	Ryan Carthy	Claire Brice
Christopher Jenner	Stephen Kilner	Simon Allen
Marie Jenner	Gary Mugridge	Peter Anderson
Stephen Perfitt	Karen Ratcliffe	Daniel Walker
Eleanor Hogan	Luella Sullivan	Tony Lawrence
Jennifer Hogan	Mark Crutchfield	Carly Romagnoli
Jennifer King	Anthony Keehan	Charlotte Davies
Theresa Shead	Phillip Moore	Heather Stean
Amanda Allen	Philip Varney	Robert Harris

Congratulations also to Philip Ellis who has swum his first length of the pool.

Mrs.P. Bedford

COMPETITION RESULTS

Home Gala - British Bakeries Centenary Trophy 7.11.87

Once again we suffered with 'drop-outs' from various clubs, but we were able to persuade Dartford to put in two equal teams, which was appreciated. This gave us a good idea how we were shaping up.

Although Dartford came 1st and 2nd we did not disgrace ourselves in a gala where we managed to form nearly two and a half teams. We eventually finished in 4th place with the points close between the teams.

Major successes came from Alison Walker, Roy Burdett, Paul Dodson, Mark Walker, Tracey Dodson, quite a family affair. There were also successes for the 11 & U Medley team of Roy Burdett, Rebecca Russell, Helen Parkhurst and Paul Dodson and the team, with the addition of Vicky Eaton, won the 11 & U Freestyle Relay too. We also won the Open Freestyle Relay with Luch. Romagnolo, Tina Bennett, John Murray and Mark Eragg.

Results:	Dartford Blue	294 pts
	Dartford White	285 pts
	Canterbury	270 pts
	Erith 'A'	267 pts
	Erith 'B'	151 pts
	Erith 'C'	44 pts

T. Holmes

2nd Speedo Gala at Northolt 14.11.87

We left for this gala with quite high hopes after Bill Lovett had analysed the opposition and predicted that we were going to win it!

The pool itself at Northolt turned out to be ideal with a good balcony and large area on the side for all the swimmers.

Continued

A delayed start caused by the late arrival of Hastings S.C. made the butterflies in our stomachs a lot worse and we were all glad when it finally got under way. The first set of relays gave us mixed feelings with three 1st places in the first 6 events but one disqualification. As the evening wore on and the scores were announced, it became clear that we were doing quite well. This saw great team spirit on the poolside with all age groups encouraging each other more than I have ever seen before. A really great middle section in the gala with a host of first places gave us a strong enough lead to get through the relays and win the gala! This has got to be the best result for the Club since I have been involved with it and, may I suggest, one of the most important in the Club's long history. I must thank all the swimmers who really gave their best, but I will not, as usual, name individual swimmers who did well because the team spirit on the poolside had to be experienced to be believed and each one was as good as any other.

Thanks must go to Bill Lovett who really got everybody ready for this one and, of course, to my "partner" T.H. for all his help.

I must add a few words about the journey too which was very enjoyable in itself with a most helpful driver and a great coach which brought us back through the West End to see the Christmas lights. A great night was had by all.

Result:	Erith	213 pts
	Feltham	190 pts
	White Oak 'B'	181 pts
	Wantage	161 pts
	Ealing	142 pts
	Hastings Seagulls	138 pts

Tudor League Gala I 21.11.87

This was our first gala of the new league season and a chance for us to gauge the strength of the opposition.

We eventually finished third behind Dartford and Greenwich and this showed how seriously teams are now taking this league. There was a spread of good results throughout the age groups with perhaps our youngest swimmers doing the best of all, especially in the relays.

Result:	Dartford	204 pts
	Greenwich	186 pts
	Erith	179 pts
	Gravesend & Northfleet	163 pts
	Beaver	94 pts
	Eltham	54 pts

M.J.Thackray

Gala at Braintree 28.11.87

On a very cold evening we travelled to Braintree for the first time. When we arrived we found the pool extremely cramped and noisy, especially as a result of the other teams. As usual we appeared to be the best turned out and the best behaved which is all due credit to the Club. It takes little effort to wear Club colours.

This was known as a 'B' Team Gala for age groups up to 16 years but, as usual, we did not have any idea how strong the opposition would be.

We had successes with Heidi Green (with two wins), Ian Magness (in his first Gala), Sasha Rider, Lee Gilbert. There were also a number of good performances from the least experienced swimmers including Penny Tuckfield, Miriam Hogan and Heidi Seal which holds well for the future.

Results N/A

Tudor League Gala II 5.12.87

I broke my own golden rule on this night by putting two teams out, something which I said I would never do again!

This time though it was different, with A.B. picking the 'B' team and choosing the races and P.F. running things on the poolside with the help of the senior swimmers. This worked well and gave us times for many swimmers, some of whom had never raced before. It also gave some swimmers gala experience which is very important too. On this occasion, our scoring team were a little stronger and with it being Dartford's "drop out" gala, we came out winners in front of Gravesend & Northfleet and Greenwich.

This is slightly puzzling when Greenwich claim to have only enough swimmers for one team as sometimes we beat them easily and others, we get beaten ourselves. Our younger swimmers, especially the girls, excelled as usual with Heidi Green, Sasha Rider, Joanna Stevens and Penny Tuckfield really on good form. Our senior girls, Lorraine Newitt, Marnie Thackray, Kelly Brooker and Suzie Groce were also in winning ways.

Result:	Erith	211 pts
	Gravesend & Northfleet	196 pts
	Greenwich	191 pts
	Addington	139 pts
	Eltham	78 pts

Full marks to our non scoring team for the strong competition with excellent swims from Michael Hayes, Tracey Dodson, Alison and Mark Walker.

M.J.Thackray

Masters Gala at Bottisham 5.12.87

Buck Ryan and myself travelled up to Cambridge to compete in another Masters Gala which gave us a chance to see how we were doing with our training. It is very surprising to see the standard that swimmers attain in age groups from 25 to 65 and over and a number of ex-Olympic swimmers took part, including Brian Brinkley.

The event did not start off very well for myself as I aggravated a knee problem caused by slipping from the starting block. After this, we both swam 4 to 5 events over a very long day. As it turned out this proved to be quite successful, with Buck gaining one Silver Medal and 2 Bronze Medals whilst I gained a Bronze Medal, which was pleasing.

By the time you read this, we will have seen in our next Masters Gala which will have been held at Runnymede on Sunday 14th February.

T.Holmes

3rd Speedo Gala at Sevenoaks 12.12.87

On this occasion, the Gala involved a much shorter coach journey, this time to the new pool at Sevenoaks. This was our first visit here since it was built although we regularly used to swim at the old pool.

The pool is of the new lapping style with the water level right to the top edge and making the use of turning boards at each end a necessity. This, combined with the 25 metre length, did not seem to suit us very well and it undoubtedly caused a few below par performances. This is not meant to take anything away from our swimmers for they all gave their best.. The 15 & Under Boys & Girls relay teams were particularly successful. Add to this the 3 1st places in breaststroke events by Claire Conner, Rebecca Russell and Mark Walker plus two great relays by our Open swimmers. the team gained second place overall.

After the great result of the 2nd gala, I was disappointed not to have won this one too because I really believe we could have done with a bit more luck and less worry concerning the short pool and turns.

Continued

Overall, the performance in our first season in the Speedo League has been very encouraging and we learnt a lot as we went along. Firstly, the importance of a high placing in the first round gala because they carry bonus points and the importance of the order of swimmers in relays. We look forward to next season.

Result:	Canterbury	198	pts
	Erith	190	pts
	Feltham	176	pts
	Margate	173.5	pts
	Barracuda	163	pts
	White Oak 'B'	134	pts

See Table for final League position.

M.J.Thackray

Gala at Margate 9.1.88

What a start to the New Year! Two teams swimming, two coaches, one trophy and a good 5th place with our "B" team, can't be bad! We had in this Gala some 60 swimmers in two teams which we tried to keep totally separate. We had nine individual wins with Paul Dodson(2), Tracey Dodson(2), Miriam Hogan, Steve Willcocks, Rebecca Russell, Claire Conner and Elizabeth Watkins. What made a victory even better, which shows an excellent all round performance were in the Relay wins. Eleven out of 16 events! What was also very pleasing was the "B" team performance with a number of 'turn-overs' on their "A" team-mates, notably Claire Hamblin. Even yours truly had a swim which made a change. Once again we consider that we were the best turned-out and well behaved team there. Even the 'Management' were complimented on their matching appearance. Well done team and supporters.

Results:	1st	Erith 'A'	151	pts
	2nd	Hythe	172	pts
	3rd	Margate 'A'	178	pts
	4th	Margate 'B'	287	pts
	5th	Erith 'B'	306	pts
	6th	Hythe S.	334	pts

T.Holmes

Tudor League Gala III 16.1.88

This is always the most difficult gala of the season to select because of the age group changes that arise at the turn of the year. As a result, we had very little form to go on, and this also meant the first races for some of the youngest age group swimmers which can often be a bit frightening for them. In addition to this, our new team captains for the Tudor League also started their new jobs that night, with Mark Russell for the boys and Marnie Thackray for the girls giving me good help on the poolside with assistance from Stephen Watkins and Tina Bennett, our outgoing captains. Swimmers on form that evening included Heidi Green, Tracey and Paul Dodson, Philip Rush, Claire Conner and both boys 14 & Under and Senior Relay teams. I feel I must make special mention of two of our youngest and smallest swimmers with the biggest of hearts, namely Heidi Green and Jamie Willcocks, who currently carry a heavy burden, not only in Tudor League, but in most other galas as well. Both had about five or six races in this gala and never complained once of tiredness and always gave their best. They have both been with the Club for some time now and one tends to forget how young they really are. Well done to both of them.

Continued

Result:	Dartford	199 pts
	Greenwich	187 pts
	Erith	184 pts
	Gravesend & Northfleet	122 pts
	Addington	105 pts
	Beaver	83 pts

Tudor League Positions to date:

Erith	14 pts
Greenwich	14 pts
Dartford	12 pts
Gravesend & Northfleet	8 pts
Addington	5 pts
Eltham	3 pts
Beaver	3 pts

PLEASE NOTE: Our next Gala in this League is on FRIDAY 11th March with 7.15 warm up and 7.30 start.

M.J.Thackray

Junior Age Group Gala at Hythe 30.1.88

This gala gave us a very good indication on our up and coming swimmers, especially our very young ones.

For the first time, Natalie Walker, Louise Ryan, Wendy Housden, Anthony Cane, Neil Bowden-Brown and Mark Dudley swam in a Gala outside of our Home Pool and Tudor "B" events.

How pleasing it was to see these swimmers doing so well. We know how well the other age groups can do but the young ones have very limited experience.

When this Gala started, we all thought that we would not do very well, but as it progressed, we challenged for the lead right to the end.

Notable successes were Paul Dodson, Jamie Willcocks, Alison Walker, Roy Burdett, Stevie Willcocks, Ian Magness and Louise Ryan, (This was a good win, but a surprise - we all like surprises!) Keeping up our tradition, we also had 4 wins in various relays.

Mick Thackray and yours truly had very little to do at this Gala, thanks to some of our older swimmers Nicky, Marnie, Mark Russell, John Burdett and Stephen Watkins, who took over the organising of swimmers. This was very pleasing and we appreciate their help. Thanks.

As a by the way, a member of another club came up to Mick and myself and stated that if we had entered a fancy dress team, we would have won! What a cheek! I can only believe that they must have been jealous of our Club shirts. At least it's nice to get noticed!

Results:	1st Hythe	192 pts
	2nd Erith	172 pts
	3rd Maidstone	128 pts
	4th Sevenoaks	127 pts
	5th Folkestone	121 pts

T.Holmes

SPEEDO SWIMMING LEAGUE - DIVISION 3 FINAL RESULTS.

CLUB	POINTS:		POS.
	TOT. GALA	TOT. LGE	
Redhill & Reigate	638	38	1
Reading 'C'	586	37	2
Gosport Dolphins	597	35	3
Maidstone	591	32	4
Elmbridge Phoenix	601	30	5
Gravesend & Northfleet	539	27	6
Canterbury	577	21	7
Newbury	551	18	8
Farnham	543	18	9
Basingstoke & District	528	17.5	10
Worthing	523	17	11
Dorking	545	17	12
Brighton	558.5	16	13
Seagulls	524	16	14
Hythe	507	14	15
<u>Erith & District</u>	563	13	<u>16</u>
Forward Hillingdon 'B'	474.5	12	17
Bromley	414	11.5	18
Feltham	527	11	19
Margate	530.5	11	20
Plaistow United	453	11	21
Barracuda	504	10	22
Hastings Seagulls	496	9	23
Hart	475.5	7.5	24
Merton Swordfish	483	7	25
White Oak 'B'	466.5	7	26
Epsom District 'B'	423	6	27
London Borough of Ealing	438	6	28
Sevenoaks	465.5	5.5	29
Wantage White Horses	422	5	30

COMPARISON OF 1987 & 1988 B.L.D.S.A. 1 HOUR SWIMS

SWIMMERS NAME	AGE 1ST JAN. 1988	DISTANCE IN METRES		CHANGE IN METRES 1987-88
		1987	1988	
1. Sammy Hayes	16		3979	
2. Mark Russell	15	3639	3970	+331
3. John Murray	24	3883	3950	+ 67
4. Sean Roper	26		3931	
5. Tina Bennett	17		3931	
6. Stephen Watkins	17		3864	
7. Tracey Dodson	13	3031	3806	+775
8. John Burdett	14	3601	3797	+196
9. Elizabeth Watkins	15		3773	
10. Marnie Thackray	16		3739	
11. Jenny Newton	24	3889	3701	-188
12. Robin Parkhurst	13	3576	3605	+ 29
13. Claire Conner	13	3332	3587	+255
14. Nicola Holmes	14	3505	3553	+ 48
15. Glenn Thackray	13	3051	3520	+469
16. Lorraine Stevens	12	3073	3390	+317
17. Rochelle Springham	13	3017	3386	+369
18. Miranda Newitt	14		3361	
19. Zak Green	11	2729	3352	+623
20. Roy Burdett	11	2930	3342	+412
21. Mark Holmes	12	2776	3308	+532
22. Rebecca Russell	11	2403	3252	+849
23. Peter Frost	30	3194	3252	+ 58
24. Michael Ryan	50	3299	3218	- 81
25. Victoria Eaton	11	2715	3174	+459
26. Natalie Webster	12	3102	3160	+ 58
27. Miriam Hogan	11		3127	
28. Paul Dodson	11	2662	3094	+432
29. Laura Bedford	11	2633	3073	+440
30. Eleanor Beeke	12	2168	3002	+834
31. Asa Barnes	14		2983	
32. Simone Rider	13	2830	2983	+153
33. Joanna Stevens	10	2279	2950	+671
34. Sasha Rider	10	2615	2906	+291
35. Heidi Green	9	2212	2868	+656
36. Heidi Seal	11	2575	2825	+250
37. Amanda Stevens	10	2255	2801	+546
38. Jay Barnes	11	1978	2749	+771
39. Penny Tuckfield			2715	
40. Jennifer MacDonald	11	2226	2633	+407
41. Jennifer Attridge	11	2092	2599	+507
42. Dagan Barnes			2514	
43. Claire Garrett	11	2020	2432	+412
44. Richard Cane			2365	
45. Martin Lock			2313	
46. Katharine Attridge	9	1844	2264	+420
47. Daniel Eaton	9		2130	

CLUB RECORDS EXCLUDING INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY AS AT 6.2.88 - BASED ON 36² YARDS/33¹ METRES POOLS

AGE GROUP	DISTANCE (LENGTHS)	STROKE	TIME	HOLDER	VENUE WHERE SET	KEY*	DATE
10 & U	1	Breaststroke	29.96	Steve Willcocks	Riverside	S/T	12.12.86
"	"	Backstroke	28.02	Matthew Wenham	Riverside	S/T	21.11.86
"	"	Freestyle	21.79	Paul Dodson	Riverside	I/C	29.11.86
"	"	Butterfly	25.45	Paul Dodson	Riverside	S/T	12.12.86
12 & U	2	Breaststroke	57.29	Mark Walker	W.Wickham	W/H	15. 6.85
"	"	Backstroke	53.90	Simon Gilbert	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	46.07	Paul Dodson	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	1	Butterfly	23.49	Paul Dodson	Riverside	I/C	7.11.87
14 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.24.83	Mark Walker	Crawley	SP	3.10.87
"	"	Backstroke	1.22.89	Philip Rush	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	1.05.14	John Burdett	Riverside	I/C	7.11.87
"	2	Butterfly	47.67	Philip Rush	W.Wickham	W/H	6. 9.86
16 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.22.50	Mark Walker	Riverside	T/T	5. 2.88
"	"	Backstroke	1.13.70	Mark Bragg	Crook Log	I/C	9. 3.85
"	"	Freestyle	1.01.92	Philip Rush	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	"	Butterfly	1.14.44	Philip Rush	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
OPEN	3	Breaststroke	1.20.70	John Murray	Northolt	SP	14.11.87
"	"	Backstroke	1.06.58	Gareth Newton	Riverside	I/C	28. 3.87
"	"	Freestyle	1.02.99	John Murray	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	"	Butterfly	1.14.07	John Murray	Northolt	SP	14.11.87
10 & U	1	Breaststroke	28.37	Alison Walker	Northolt	SP	14.11.87
"	"	Backstroke	27.49	Alison Walker	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	"	Freestyle	22.33	Alison Walker	Northolt	SP	14.11.87
"	"	Butterfly	29.14	Joanna Stevens	Northolt	SP	14.11.87
12 & U	2	Breaststroke	57.77	Claire Conner	Riverside	S/T	12.12.86
"	"	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	1.28.81	Claire Conner	Riverside	T/T	5. 2.88
"	"	Backstroke	1.22.67	Kelly Brooker	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	"	Freestyle	1.09.70	Kelly Brooker	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	2	Butterfly	50.05	Suzanne Groce	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
16 & U	3	Breaststroke	1.28.81	Claire Conner	Riverside	T/T	5. 2.88
"	"	Backstroke	1.21.73	Tina Bennett	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Freestyle	1.09.60	Tina Bennett	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86
"	"	Butterfly	1.24.59	Marnie Thackray	Riverside	P/C	15. 5.87
OPEN	3	Breaststroke	1.29.21	Lucianna Romagnolo	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	"	Backstroke	1.21.44	Tina Bennett	Riverside	A/G	17.10.87
"	"	Freestyle	1.07.95	Lucianna Romagnolo	Northolt	SP	14.11.87
"	"	Butterfly	1.22.34	Jennie Newton	Riverside	A/G	18.10.86

* A/G - Annual Gala T/T - Time Trial I/C - Inter Club P/C - Points Cup
 SP - Speedo S/T - Sprint Trophy W/H - White Horse

SOCIAL NEWS

Fund-raising

We are again indebted to Pip Willcocks for arranging a further fund-raising scheme with stockbrokers 'Phillips & Drew'. This saw Club members and parents involved in a pre-Christmas preparation and packaging of some several thousand diaries for 'Phillips & Drew' clients.

Our thanks must go to everyone who helped over a succession of Clubnights thus enabling the speedy completion of an otherwise daunting task. You will be pleased to learn that your efforts were justly rewarded by the presentation of a cheque for £350! A letter of thanks has since been received from 'Phillips & Drew' themselves and this is reproduced below:

I believe we are once again indebted to the Erith District Swimming Club for the work they have done on the Phillips & Drew 1988 Diary.

We are delighted that this kind of arrangements works to our mutual benefit and accordingly are pleased to make a donation to the Club of £350.

Yours sincerely

B A M Cottrell
Chairman

Christmas Raffle

May I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who generously supported our Christmas raffle which ultimately realised a profit of £98.05. I am grateful to those of you who donated prizes, especially to the creator of the first prize, Rosemary Watkins, for another of her magnificent home-made Christmas cakes.

Comic Relief Red Nose Day

A big 'Thank You' to everyone who joined in the spirit of things on Friday, 5th February by purchasing and wearing a red nose. The proceeds, destined for the Great Ormond Street Childrens' Hospital Appeal will be swelled by the money pledged to persuade 'Buck' Ryan and our coach, Bill Lovett, into wearing red noses too. They had cautiously agreed to do this providing that a £25 sponsorship target was reached. This sum was easily exceeded and, (if you missed it) to prove that they did indeed don their noses, the event was captured for posterity on film.

So, in total, we hope to raise in the region of £100 towards the Appeal. Well done everyone

'Race Night' 23.1.88

A packed hall saw members, parents and friends enjoy the third running of this increasingly popular event in the Social Calendar. Money flowed as freely as everyone's drinks and each of the eight races was met with a crescendo of cheering and less printable remarks as chosen mounts either found the going too tough or, for the lucky few, crossed the finishing post as winners.

Yes, a truly enjoyable evenings' entertainment even if most of us went home somewhat lighter in the pocket. Our thanks to the ladies of the Social Committee for a fine meal and, of course, to the Parkhurst family for their professional services.

Valentine's Disco 13.2.88

With so many other 'do's' on that night, many regulars were unable to attend our Disco resulting in a reduced attendance. Nevertheless, those present thoroughly enjoyed themselves and, in the absence of Roy Burdett, Angela Lapsley admirably stepped-into the Whitney Houston/gymnastics slot!

You will no doubt be pleased to learn that we hope to arrange a pre-Christmas Disco later in the year to make up for the one that we were unable to have in '87.

P.A.Frost

OTHER NEWS

It's a Christmas Water Knockout at Eltham Baths 19.12.87

Two teams were entered for this event, although called A and B, they were both equal in strength. Some of the games were different to the June Knockout, but penalty points were lost on not completing everything in each game. The points were very even up to event 8 when 50 points were added to each team minus the penalty points. The A team done extremely well winning events 1, 5 and 9, thus coming 1st overall. All contestants in the A team and the team manager (Stephen Watkins) won a medal. Thank you to Simone Rider for helping the A team, and Susie Groce and Nicola Holmes for helping the B team.

All the contestants enjoyed themselves, and we look forward to winning again.

Erith 'A'	54
G.B.M.	52
Eltham 'A'	51
Eltham 'B'	48
Erith 'B'	47
Greenwich	47

Rosemary Watkins for the 'B' team

Bike Ride

Sunday, 19th June will once again see an intrepid band of Club members and parents cycling south on the annual London to Brighton Bike Ride. Other members and parents have joined those who took part last year and so it is hoped that another substantial sum can be raised through sponsorship for the British Heart Foundation.

24 Hour Relay Swim

As I write, we are in the throes of making arrangements with Bexley Council concerning our contribution towards the celebrations surrounding the 20th anniversary of the opening of Erith's Riverside Pool, (the 6th July to be precise).

In this, we hope to organise a marathon 24 hour relay swim to run between our Clubnight on Friday, 8th July and to finish prior to our Anniversary Trophy Gala the very next day, Saturday, 9th July.

Firstly, allow me to outline it's objectives:

- i) As a unique challenge open to all Club swimmers.
- ii) As the highlight of the pool's 20th anniversary celebration, (come the autumn, the Club will have been swimming in the pool for twenty years too).
- iii) To gain publicity for the E.D.S.C.
- iv) To gain publicity for the Erith Swimming Centre facilities.
- v) In the midst of 'Sports Aid '88', to raise a large sum of money for a charity or charities through sponsorship from the public and local industry.

It is hoped to arrange full media coverage of the event with the possibility of a celebrity starting the swim off on the Friday evening and civic dignitaries present at it's close 24 hours later. There are other spin-off ideas in the pipeline but to gauge the interest amongst you the swimmer and parent, I would ask you to write your name on one of the appropriate lists that will shortly be appearing on the Club noticeboard. One will be for members wishing to take part in the swim itself and the other for parents willing to lane score and assist in other organisational roles. Please bear in mind (before committing yourself) that you may possibly be required at the pool during the small hours but I am sure the attraction of participating in such a unique event will almost certainly override this.

Continued

Unfortunately, there is one large problem to be overcome before we even get down to the nitty-gritty of relay teams, who's who, lane scoring rotas and sleeping and eating facilities and this involves the fee quoted by the Borough for the use of the pool during the Saturday, this being anything up to £1,000! (this sum is calculated to cover the loss of public earnings, staff wages, heating, lighting etc). After reading this, some of you may be wondering whether it is worthwhile going ahead with the swim in the first place for we have to find this sum before we can even consider where the money for charity will come from. Not to be outdone, I feel this sum can be amassed from sponsorship from local businesses. If any parent can assist us in helping to raise the necessary sum or charity donations please let me know as soon as possible. (If we have not raised this sum by mid-April, then the whole swim may have to be shelved). I shall shortly be canvassing all local firms in attempt to gain additional sponsorship. In the meantime, do fill in those forms and do see me if you have any other suggestions or require further details.

P.A. Frost

Keith Walker, Robin Parkhurst, Mark Russell and Peter Frost shook-off the post Christmas blues to take part in the Erith New Years' Day Road Races. Keith helped the Bexley boys team to a third place and collected a medal for his efforts.

Keith and Mark were again in action at the end of January in the Bexley Schools Cross Country Championship held at Hall Place, Bexley. Their high placing gained them selection for the Bexley teams that ran in the recent Kent Schools Cross Country Championship at Chatham.

Fingers crossed for those Club members who took part in the trials for the London Mini-Marathon, recently held in Danson Park, Bexleyheath. Mark Russell, Anthony Journet, Rochelle Springham and Keith Walker will have to wait and see if they have earned selection for places in Bexley teams that will run in these races on Sunday, 17th April that precede the London Marathon itself.

Congratulations to Rosemary Watkins who recently passed the R.L.S.S. Bronze Cross award. Rosemary will now go on to practice for the Award of Merit life saving award whilst joining her at Dartford will be Simone Rider, Elizabeth Watkins, John Burdett, Marnie Thackray, Nicola Holmes, Angela Lapsley and Tina Bennett who are in the middle of their Bronze Medallion life saving course.

Congratulations to Allan Bedford, Mike and Carole Russell who recently passed the S.T.L.S. life saving award at Crystal Palace.

Good luck to Tracey Dodson, Claire Conner, Steve Willcocks and Rebecca Russell in their forthcoming races in the Kent A.S.A. Championships held at various venues around the county.

STOP PRESS: Cheque for £120.00 sent to G.O.S.H. Appeal

Subject to confirmation, Keith Walker, Simone Rider, Mark and Rebecca Russell will be running for Bexley in the London Mini-Marathon.

