

APRIL 1998

Issue: 161

SECRETARY'S REPORT

POINTS CUP 1998 SERIES

A very good competition with age group winners finally only decided after some very close results.

All age groups, however, had a clear winner as follows, (top three placings):

	GIRLS		BOYS	
8+ Under				
Jodie Cousins	20*	Warren Carver		16
Katherine Nye	18	Robert Shead		13
Ellen Greenaway	13	Richard Goodey		11
10+ Under				
Kelly Bealing	19	Michael Redparth		17
Jade Barclay	10	Matthew Shead		16
Rachel Ashby	9	Stuart Russell		9
12+ Under				
Shelley Carver	20*	Phillip Brown		20*
Rikki Ferguson	13	Luke Fuller		13
Tiffany Brown	12	Terry Ponton		10
14+ Under				
Elizabeth Haynes	17	Ryan Carver		17
Gemma Merridan	12	Mark Nicholls		16
Tracey Thomas	11	Stephen Kihara		9

The overall winners of the Points Cup were Boys Philip Brown - Total 20 Points and a joint result for the Girls with Jodie Cousins and Shelley Carver also on 20 points. WELL DONE

ANNUAL GALA

The dates of the finals were changed owing to a clash of dates with the Bexley School Easter Holiday break which starts a week earlier than usual this year - Sorry for any inconvenience.

ALLAN BEDFORD

OCTOPUS LEAGUE

OCTOPUS REPORT

Following the AGM of the Octopus League, it was agreed that the maximum number of points that the League could be won with would be 28 points and any club achieving more than that number would be disqualified and possibly excluded from swimming in the league the following year. This rule is to ensure that Team Managers only give swims to swimmers of similar ability to the other clubs in the league or at least balances the team to give closer Gala results.

LEAGUE GALA WEST WICKHAM 24 JANUARY 1998

The new league season commenced with a Gala at West Wickham. The team had new captains, for the girls Jennifer Still and the boys, Steven Lawrence. There were several new younger aged swimmers and we swept to a very impressive victory. Individual 1st places were achieved by, Matthew Kirk 10u free, Steven Lawrence 16u fly, James Rayner 16u free, Katie Glasscock 10yr breast, Sammie Jo Pease 13u free, Darren Abbott 13u free, Judith Goodey 10u fly, Joe Carroll 10yr fly, Kerry Dewey 11u free, the 13u, 16u and Squadron freestyle relay teams. 32 PB's were achieved.

A great result but the team will need some 'adjusting' for the next gala to avoid problems with the new rule.

RESULT

1ST	ERITH	188
2ND	STREATHAM	148
3RD	WOODSIDE	139
4TH	BROMLEY	134
5TH	ELTHAM	131
6TH	CROYDON	128

LEAGUE GALA ORPINGTON 28 FEBRUARY 1998

The second gala was held at Walnuts pool, Orpington. There were 8 changes to the team of which 4 had not previously swum Octopus before. Again we competed very well and held third position for most of the gala which was the position we had planned for, suddenly a run of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places closed the gap on the 2nd place team Barracuda Swimming Club and we then moved into 2nd place by 1 point with one race to go. The final race saw Barracuda in 1st place and Erith in 3rd and therefore had finished the gala in 3rd place ... or had we?

One thing that has always made me proud to be associated with the Erith club is the marvellous support we get from the parents particularly at the Octopus and those same parents quickly informed me that there had been two errors on the positions announced and that in their view we had finished in second place! I think there was a little surprise that I was not madly excited by this news.

I reported the discrepancies to the organising club and our supporters were found to be correct (was there any doubt!) the errors were corrected but one further positional change was noted and were dropped from 1st to 2nd place in the girls 16u fly. This meant that we did finally finished the gala in 3rd place. On well you win some and you lose some, it at least gives us one more point to play with.

Individual wins were achieved by Matthew Kirk 10yr free, Judith Goodey 10yr back, Simon Facer 10yr back, Grace Broadhurst 11u fly, Kerry Dewey 11u free, Amit Hindocha 16u breast and the 10u medley relay team. There were 22 PB's achieved.

RESULT

1ST	STREATHAM	188
2ND	BARRACUDA	171
3RD	ERITH	170
4TH	ELTHAM	139
5TH	DARTFORD	112
6TH	WOODSIDE	93

MASTERS SECTION

BRACKNELL SWIM CLUB MASTERS OPEN MEET SATURDAY 14TH MARCH 1998

8 Masters travelled to Bracknell for an afternoon and evening open gala.

We had 11 medals between us, Alison Nye gaining 6 golds, one for each individual race she entered, we managed 2 silvers and 3 golds between the rest of us.

Frank Rider	100m b/c, Silver 50m b/s
Lorraine Storey	50m b/c bronze
Kathy Smith	50m f/c
Rosemary Watkins	100m b/s bronze

We also managed 10 4th places, 4 5th places and 7 6th places.

The relays gave us a 4th, 2 5ths and 1 7th place. Overall the team managed 3rd place. Well done to all those who entered.

ROSEMARY WATKINS

SPEEDO LEAGUE 1997

SPEEDO LEAGUE ROUND 3

DIVISION 3

MARGATE

6 DECEMBER 1997

Another long journey and the prospect of arriving late again. Luckily, as it turned out, we were only ten minutes late and the warm up had not yet started.

It soon became very apparent that Worthing were going to win, but the other four teams (Oxford had dropped out) were very close with rarely more than ten points separating all of us.

All the swimmers were excellent, and I was amazed, that yet again, swimmers all over the place were pulling out fantastic swims improving their PB's by two or three seconds. Chris Howard had a notable victory in the 100m Fly and Sam Peach took another two seconds of her 100m Br/s time to win. Laura Carroll improved her PB yet again to win 50M Br/s, in the youngest age group, while up at the other end of the scale, the open swimmers swam brilliantly, with Danielle Poore and Dave Sharrad winning 100M Backstroke and the Girls "walking" the 6x2 relay.

As a final word on this season, the whole team were a pleasure to manage and I can't wait for next September, so that Erith 'B' can prove themselves again to be a "force" not to be messed with. Well Done.

RESULT

1ST	WORTHING	196
2ND	MARGATE	142
3RD	ERITH	136
4TH	ROCHESTER	135
5TH	SOUTHEND	134

JENNY NEWTON

GALA REPORT STAINES SWIMMING CLUB 28 FEBRUARY 1998

Saturday 28th February saw a strong team of swimmers assembled at Riverside for a trek around the M25 to Staines, Middlesex. It also saw a rather large gathering of spectators, in fact too many to fit on the coach, so thank you to those of you that drove! I must say that both as team manager and also a swimmer (although only if I've got to!), the more support we can get at away galas, the better the team spirit, and the better the team spirit, the better the swimming. So, if you are sitting at home on a Saturday evening why not come and support us. We do appreciate it! Anyway, back to the gala:

The programme was a mix of relays and individual medleys. A strong start saw us in the lead after 7 events, but after a hard battle we finished up as runners up to "Sea Byrds" (a feeder club to the London Borough of Hillingdon).

Race of the night went to our 12 and Under/14& Under girls breaststroke relay (Tracey Thomas, Sam Peach, Laura Carroll, Louise Hoyne-Butler) who swam their socks off to win their event - Well Done!

Thank you to Peter Brown/Stuart Redpath/Jackie Nicholls for all their help on the side. Also to Paul Nicholls, Danielle Poore and Tony Lawrence for their expertise.

Keep up the good work everyone.

RESULT

1ST	SEA BYRDS	53
2ND	ERITH	90
3RD	CRAWLEY	101
4TH	STAINES	102
5TH	VERULEM	123
6TH	POTTERS BAR	145

JOHN BURDETT

SPEEDO DIVISION 2 TEAM 1997

Position	Name	Points
1 st	Niki Brandsetter	49
2 nd	Philip Brown	48
3 rd	Clare Ross	47
	Freda Ross	47
	Leanne Peile	47
6 th	Matthew Walker	45
7 th	Alison Nye	43
8 th	Luke Fuller	37
	Steven Hartley	37
10 th	Ian Magness	36

SPEEDO DIVISION 3 TEAM 1997

Position	Name	Points
1 st	Christopher Boyle	43
2 nd	Laura Carroll	41
3 rd	Ryan Carver	40
	Tony Lawrence	40
5 th	George Warnes	36
6 th	Samantha Peach	33
	David Sharrad	33
8 th	Rory Jenner	31
9 th	Jenny Newton	30
10 th	Danny Bayne	29
	Heidi Green	29

M 11 JUNIOR SPEEDO LEAGUE 1998

RIVERSIDE BATHS 1 MARCH 1998

The first day of the Harrod's sale? FA Cup final day at Wembley? No, Erith and District Swimming Club hosting a M11 Speedo Gala at Riverside. I have never seen the pool under siege before, not even on finals day of the Club's Annual Gala. There were people coming out of every orifice. Having secured a good seat in the gallery, I was asked to go and sit on poolside with some other Erith parents, who had the full complement of stopwatches and clipboards. I was a bit dubious at first, but I was soon soaking up the atmosphere together with the splashes from the pool

The team was very well organised by the two young captains, Shelley Carver and Luke Fuller, with everyone in the right place at the right time. The swimmers in the first race set the standard for the afternoon with 3 out of the 4 achieving PB's. It looked like "a stroll in the

park" described one mum. The 9 year old swimmers swam in 6 relay races, winning 5 and taking 2nd place in 1. Three of the relays were won by half a length. They all achieved personal bests, which is no mean feat as they are all new to inter-club galas, in fact, for many this was their first! The swimmers appeared to be totally unfazed by the situation, it was the parents who were nervous. So well done to Jade Barclay, Kelly Bealing, Daniel Byskup, Georgina Campbell, Adele Howard, Charles Kibisu, Scott Ponton, Natalina Semedo, Matthew Shead and Andrew Unwin.

I must not forget the older swimmers who all swam very well. PB's were achieved by no less than 19 of them. Michael Redpath swimming in his first 2 length freestyle race of the club produced an excellent PB. Wayne Slough had a notable swim in the 10 year old medley relay pulling the team clear with a fine butterfly length leaving an easy task for the final leg. George Warnes was unlucky to be beaten by an arm length in the 11 year freestyle race, but he still attained a PB.

At the end of the gala Erith finished 3rd with 183 points, only 18 points behind Hoddesdon. It was a very enjoyable afternoon and it was good to see such a great team spirit on poolside amongst the swimmers.

Result:

1 ST	HODDESDON	201
2 ND	NEWHAM	194
3 RD	ERITH	183
4 TH	BRAINTREE	147
5 TH	GRIFFIN B	92
6 TH	WHITE DART B	66

KIM SHEAD

TUDOR LEAGUE

RED TEAM

ELTHAM POOL

10 JANUARY 1998

Our first Tudor League Gala at Eltham Pool saw us arriving nice and early. However, so did every other family that was competing that evening and we therefore still had a problem trying to park. With car finally parked about ½ a mile away we entered the pool.

On entering the pool we had to run the gauntlet past Erith's answer to Group 4, the Craggs family, who were duty bouncers for this event. Having fleeced us of every penny we had they then strip searched by grandson just to check that we hadn't put a secret stash in his nappy. Tudor league galas are obviously well attended as we had difficulty in finding a space to sit, but we managed to squeeze in beneath the bright yellow flume at the shallow end of the pool.

Richard was one of a few new swimmers to competitive swimming galas and he was chosen to swim for the Erith Red tea, though both red and white teams were competing this evening. He had two races to swim in and both were relays, presumably this is arranged to ease new swimmers into performing in front of a strange crowd.

His first race was a medley relay and Richard was the opening swimmer for his team. At the deep end were the team gathered for the race, Trevor Holmes gave Richard a few words of encouragement, (at least that's what I think they were!!) before he entered the water for this start. TAKE YOUR MARKS BANG!!! Richard is off for his first even non-friendly competitive race with Trevor walking alongside the length of the pool encouraging Richard every stroke of the way. Even with Glenn Thackery willing him on from the other end of the pool and my wife and I cheering him on it seemed frustratingly slow, it was like watching the replay on Match of the Day.

Richard finished his leg of the relay and we were relieved that he hadn't finished last thereby giving the rest of his team a large margin to make up, a quick look at our shiny new stopwatch revealed that he had performed a personal best so perhaps it wasn't as slow as it felt.

The gala finished with Erith red lying in 3rd place with 176 points and Erith White in 5th with 152 points. I am sure the other new swimmers Matthew Shead, Rebecca Amato, Phillip Cunningham and Simon Facer enjoyed their first gala, three of whom also produced personal bests.

IAN MORRISON

WHITE TEAM

ELTHAM POOL

7 MARCH 1998

The Erith White team swam well with 33 PB's and finished in second place. Strong swimming from the winners Eltham, meant that the battle for second place was between Dartford, Larkfield and us. With the public address system poorly controlled by the host team Larkfield, you had to watch carefully to determine the final places.

First place swims went to Sarah McCook, Louise Morgan, Michael Redpath, Clare Greenaway, Christopher Boyle (2 first places) and Gemma Merridan (3 first places). Relay first places went to 14?U Girls freestyle and 14?U Girls Medley Relay teams.

Stuart Redpath made his debut in the BOYS! Open freestyle and relay freestyle. A false start by the Dartford team in his first race had Stuart controlling his nerves to swim well. (Could Stuart's mummy remember to pack his T/bag next time and give him the right change for sweets and fizzy drink afterwards).

Result

1ST	ELTHAM	154
2ND	ERITH WHITE	189
3RD	DARTFORD	177
4TH	LARKFIELD	170
5TH	BROMLEY	148½
6TH	ORPINGTON	130½

IAN CRAGGS

WHITE HORSE LEAGUE - The Story so far....

League Positions so far:

White Dart	36
GBM	32
Croydon	31
Erith	27
Bromley	24
Rochester	14

It has been a tough series so far, with White Dart SC seemingly out to prove that they are back in business.

Nevertheless, I would like to say that the atmosphere and team spirit has improved from gala to gala, with the 3rd round at Strood being one of the best galas I have run. Consistent swimming across all ages has helped us gain a 4th placing in the league, but, I believe that with just a bit more commitment from some of our top swimmers we could achieve a placing in the top half of the league at the end of the season.

1st placings so far this year have been mostly down to our younger swimmers, namingly Tiffany Brown, Louise Hoyne-Butler, Steven Hartley, Nicki Brandsetter, Ryan Carver, George Warnes and in our open age group - David Sharrad.

Thank you to all those people hat have helped on the poolside in some shape or form.

In conclusion please put the following dates in your diary:

16th May

13th June

It is important that we put out our strongest teams possible for these dates. Any crosses on the team sheets will weaken the team.

Thank you for your support and commitment so far, please try and give a little more between now and June 13th.

JOHN BURDETT

SOCIAL SECTION

DISCOS

Following hard on the heels of the Speedo/Octopus League Presentation Disco. Carlton Hall was again the venue for our Valentine's Disco and very successful it was too. Our thanks to Peter and Chris Ellingford for their newly acquired equipment and fine selection of music.

A Presentation Disco for all Junior Speedo, Tudor and White Horse League swimmers in planned for Saturday 18 July at a new venue - Trinity School, Upper Belvedere. Should all go according to plan and we behave ourselves (!) we may have just found a replacement venue for our Family New Years' Eve Celebration Disco....

QUIZ NIGHT 7 MARCH 1998

Having already provided us with 2 brain-numbing Quizzes, Ian and Lesley Morrison were invited to 'have-a-go' at presenting a full-blown Quiz Night - and what an excellent job they made of it!

Thanks also go to Rosemary Glasscock for providing additional questions and to Dave and Jenny Walker for organising the new Quiz venue at Howbury School, Slade Green.

Another Quiz Night is on the cards for Saturday 6 June following the final Tudor League gala.

ANNUAL GALA RAFFLE

To maintain the Annual Gala Raffle as our biggest single fund-raising event, please sell/buy as many tickets as possible to your family, friends and workmates. Who knows, you may be the lucky winner of the £150 first prize?!!

If you require additional tickets, please ask 'the ladies-on-the-door' who will also collect all counterfoils and monies.

Thanking you for your support.

RODEO HORSE

Don't delay! If you are looking to hire the EDSC's Rodeo Horse Sideshow for your school summer fete etc bookings are already being taken. Please see Peter Frost for further details.

WESTBROOK SEASIDE OUTING 12 JULY 1998

Barring inclement weather, a provisional date of Sunday 12 July has been chosen for our annual jaunt to the Seaside at Westbrook. Please look-out for notices issued nearer the time....

“THE UPS AND DOWNS TO LEEDS AND BEYOND ...” A FAMILY RAMBLE 19 FEBRUARY 1998

I don't think anyone was fooled by the title of this Ramble for as much as we would have liked to have travelled to Yorkshire, our journey was a little nearer to home and would take us past Leeds Castle nestled beneath the North Downs.

As so it was that 38 swimmers, parents, friends and one springer spaniel named Rolo headed east along the M20 motorway towards the village of Lenham were our 11 mile Ramble would begin.

Despite it's proximity to the busy A20 and adjoining M20 motorway, Lenham remains an attractive village although the latest chapter in the controversial High-Speed Rail Link saga threatens to engulf a community that has already witnessed the disruption brought by successive plans to neighbouring Hollingbourne and Harrietsham.

Anyhow, these worries were furthest from the minds of hungry ramblers who can spot a top-notch cake shop a thousand paces!

Several sugar-coated doughnuts and iced buns later, it was time to work-off those extra calories by climbing the North Downs escarpment and joining a route that has been trod, undisturbed by travellers, for a thousand years - the Pilgrims Way. Heading West, the hoped for views across the Kent countryside were somewhat obscured by mist.

For some, Rambling relieves the tension of modern living or provides an opportunity to renew the art of conversation. For others, there is a preference to get upto some typical, harmless schoolboy pranks!

Turning South of Hollingbourne, our route took us past the 14thC church and beneath the existing London to Ashford railway line. Ahead by the M20 motorway footbridge where the girls took great delight in receiving a hoot of acknowledgement from the HGV drivers as their lorries thundered beneath us on their way up from the Channel ports.

We then had to run the gauntlet of the A20 before we could reach the relative peace of the parkland which encircles Leeds Castle. This is hailed as 'The most beautiful Castle in the World' and provided the perfect backdrop of a group photocall. Everyone's thoughts now turned to lunch in the nearby village.

FOOTNOTES

Tiffany Brown very kindly presented me the following amusing ditty which is entitled, 'Ode to the Ramble Master' and is reproduced with permission of the Brown family. Incidentally, the "but there's one place we won't go ..." refers to Mount Everest!

Ode to the Ramble Master.

*... .. Off on the first ramble of '98
Got to catch the bus so can't be late.
Everyone is quite excited
and the route has been decided.*

*Here we go with our boots tied tight
Tuck your jeans in your socks
and just don't worry
if you look a sight.*

*Go well prepared with spare socks
drinks and snacks,
plasters, important carrier bags
all packed in ruck sacks.*

*Halfway through, its time for a rest,
some lunch and check the maps,
there's sometimes a 'detour'
or [an extra mile or two, perhaps].*

*The weather isn't guaranteed,
could be sunshine snow or rain
we don't care because when the date is set
we'll all be going again.*

*We'll follow you on the rambles
we really enjoy them you know,
it's great fun and we have a good laugh,
but there's one place we won't go... ..*

EASTER RAMBLE 11 APRIL 1998

By the time you read these words, I hope arrangements for an Easter Ramble on Saturday 11 April will be well in hand. Our destination is the Basingstoke Canal in Hampshire and a Saturday date has been chosen to enable those Mums and Dads to go when normally they cannot get any time off work during the week, (Thursdays are our usual Ramble days).

At the half-way point, 'The George Inn' provided a welcoming atmosphere and pre-booking saw hot meals on the tables before we had finished ordering our drinks! The splendid service saw us resume our Ramble much sooner than expected which was to have a bearing on the outcome of that day.

Walking through woodland and bare orchards, our route south brought us even closer to the Greensand ridge on which the village of Sutton Valence is perched. The remains of its 12thC castle provided an elevated platform from which to view the Wealden countryside below us.

For several factors, (the least of which is that we hadn't got ourselves lost!) we now found ourselves with over an hour before our coach would arrive to take us home. A vote was taken as to whether to contact the coach driver to request an earlier pick-up, to add an extra mile or 2 to our Ramble or find a welcoming pub open in the middle of the afternoon. I think you can guess what the outcome was and although the village has 4 hostelrys, 'The King's Head' was the only one still open. Much to the delight of the swimmers, it also had a pool table!

And so we came to the end of another enjoyable Ramble for all concerned.

AUTUMN HALF-TERM RAMBLE (29-30 OCTOBER 1998)

Looking further ahead, I am currently seeking support for a 2 day Ramble to the Mendip Hills, Somerset during the Autumn half-term, on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 October.

Further arrangements will be made only if sufficient support is forthcoming and this will include an overnight stay in a Youth Hostel and visits to Wells Cathedral or Glastonbury Abbey and Tor. Please see Peter Frost if you have any further questions.