



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Speedo / White Horse / Junior
Speedo / North Kent Leagues:

➤ John Burdett
(xxxxx) xxxxxx

Tudor League - Red Team:

➤ Carol Goodey
(xxxxx) xxxxxx

Tudor League - White Team:

➤ Frank Rider
(xxxxx) xxxxxx

Octopus League:

➤ Paul Byskup
(xxx) xxxx xxxx

Friendly Galas:

➤ Julie Craggs
(xxxxx) xxxxxx

Internal Competitions (Points
Cup, Sprint Trophy, Annual
Gala) and all other enquiries:

➤ Pam Bedford
(xxxxx) xxxxxx

Newsletter:

➤ Paul Nicholls
(xxxxx) xxxxxx
E-mail:

Secretary's News

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As I hope you are aware, Erith & District Swimming Club is run on a voluntary basis. No official gets paid for the effort and time they put into teaching and coaching, managing the teams which invariably means spending most weekends around poolsides, and all the administration which is needed to run the club. We are looking for some more volunteers to fill the following vacant posts. At the moment one or two people are doing most of these jobs and we felt it was time to 'spread the load'. The majority of the posts would not take up much time each week and as the old saying goes "many hands make light work". Please take the trouble to read through the Job Descriptions on the following pages and see if you have the attributes to help the club out by taking on any of the positions. If we don't get any more volunteers coming forward, the Club will not be able to run efficiently and may eventually fold up.

If you would like to take on any of the roles please speak to Pam Bedford, John Burdett or Karen Hubbard.

ANNUAL GALA 2003

The Annual Gala is nearly upon us once again. Please note that **ALL** swimmers are expected to swim in **ALL** Annual Gala events, as referred to within the Club's rules, while it is also expected that all swimmers competing in an Annual Gala final should do so in Club Costume.

ANNUAL GALA AND POINTS CUP DATES - Ages at 31.12.02
Sun 11th & 18th May, 15th & 29th June - Warm Up 4.00pm

Distances: 7 & under / 9 & under - 1 length
 11 & under - 2 lengths (except Butterfly - 1 length)
 13 & under - 3 lengths (except Butterfly - 2 lengths)
 15 and under / Open - 3 lengths

Fri 13th and 27th June - 4x1 Individual Medley - Warm Up 8pm

Tues 13th May - 4x2 Individual Medley - Warm Up 8.45pm

Pam Bedford, Club Secretary

Job Vacancies

JOB TITLE: Welfare Officer	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee
SKILLS REQUIRED: - Good listener - Approachable	TIME COMMITMENT: ?
MAIN DUTIES: 1) To maintain, administer and manage the completion of the CRB check forms and keep a record of all registered officials. 2) To be aware of the child protection policies and procedures of the ASA and to receive all updating information of a CP nature from the ASA and ensure any recommendations made are integrated into club policy. 3) To ensure that the ASA Child Protection Policy and Procedure is followed by the club and that Child Protection is a standing item on the committee agenda. 4) To ensure Swimline is promoted by a notice on the club notice board. 5) Ensure that all possible Child Protection concerns of an urgent nature are referred to the appropriate agency immediately and all concerns (urgent or non urgent) are notified to the ASA Legal Affairs Department within 3 days. 6) To raise awareness of good child protection practice with the club officials, coaches and teachers, members and parents of members. 7) Ensure that all relevant officials attend a Child Protection Course 8) Deal with any welfare problems with respect to child members in conjunction with instructors and Swimmers Representatives 9) To attend at least one Child Protection workshop held by the County Welfare Officer each year.	

JOB TITLE: Development Officer	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee
SKILLS REQUIRED: - Communication Skills - Well Organised - Enthusiastic - Ability to motivate	TIME COMMITMENT: Approximately 2 hours plus per week
MAIN DUTIES: 1) Identifying the aims and requirements of the club. 2) Monitoring progress. 3) To seek out and identify appropriate courses. 4) Select courses for the appropriate candidates. 5) Where necessary, set up and run courses for the club i.e. teachers courses, CPD seminars 6) To liaise with the Volunteer Co-ordinator to seek and identify appropriate volunteers and new recruits. 7) To develop, along with the committee, the clubs Action Plan. 8) To implement current action plan. 9) To develop along with the Head Teacher and Club Coach the teaching and coaching activities of the club 10) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection policy	

JOB TITLE: New Members Co-ordinator	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee
SKILLS REQUIRED: - Administration skills - Organisational skills - Communication skills - Tact and discretion	TIME COMMITMENT: ?
MAIN DUTIES: 1) Produces Welcome Pack to be given to all new members on joining 2) Hold meeting with new parents and answer any questions 3) Be available at club sessions to answer parents questions 4) Liase with Volunteers Co-ordinators to encourage new parents to volunteer to help within the club 5) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection Policy	

JOB TITLE: Volunteer Co-ordinator	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee
SKILLS REQUIRED: - Approachable and Good Listener - Confident and Effective - Communicator - Tactful and Discreet - Well-organised and able to delegate - Enthusiastic and a good motivator	TIME COMMITMENT: Approximately 2 hours plus per week
MAIN DUTIES: 1) Act as the main contact for all volunteers. 2) Get to know all club volunteers and potential volunteers by name. 3) Ensure that all jobs have a job description. 4) Supervise and oversee all volunteers 5) Liaise with the Chairperson to ensure that all tasks required to run the club efficiently are carried out. 6) Co-ordinate the implementation of the volunteer recruitment plan 7) Liaise with the Development Officer and Competition secretary as to their course and volunteer requirements (or other similar positions within the club) 8) Become a member of Sport England VIP. 9) Issue Volunteer packs to all volunteers. 10) In conjunction with the Welfare Officer, administer the Criminal Records Bureau paperwork i.e. disclosure application forms. 11) Organise Social and Recruitment events for volunteers. 12) Liaise closely with the welfare officer to ensure that each volunteer is aware of ASA Child Protection Policy and Procedures 13) Ensure that all volunteers are given some praise on a regular basis	

JOB TITLE: Championship Secretary	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee, Club Coach, Team Managers
SKILLS REQUIRED: - Well organised - Communication skills - Administration skills	TIME COMMITMENT: ?
MAIN DUTIES: 1) Be responsible for organising and running all internal competitions 2) Issue fixtures lists for all internal competitions to all club officers, officials, swimmers and notice boards annually. 3) Liaising with club secretary regarding the booking of pool for inter-club and championship gala dates. 4) Maintaining list of officials and helpers in conjunction with Officials Representative. 5) Organising officials and helpers for all club galas in conjunction with Officials Rep. 6) Liaise with volunteer co-ordinator as to volunteer requirements. 7) Order medals and trophies in conjunction with the Trophies Secretary for all internal competitions 8) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection policy.	

JOB TITLE: Instructor Co-ordinator	RESPONSIBLE TO: Senior Instructor
SKILLS REQUIRED: - Organisational skills - Communication skills - Have ASA Instructor qualification - Administration skills - Tact and discretion	TIME COMMITMENT: Four hours per week
MAIN DUTIES: 1) Ensuring that all groups are covered adequately with the correct amount of instructors 2) Allotting Club Helpers and Assistant Teachers to groups 3) Finding cover for a teacher who is ill or on holiday if the absent teacher cannot do this 4) Keeping a record of all instructors and qualifications 5) Arrange courses and inform instructors of CPD courses in conjunction with Development Officer 6) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection Policy	

JOB TITLE: Senior Instructor	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee, Club Coach
QUALIFICATIONS: The Head Teacher would normally hold an ASA Teachers Certificate	
SKILLS REQUIRED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ability to motivate Swimmers and Volunteers - Show an appropriate level of technical knowledge - Good time management, ability to use time efficiently and effectively 	TIME COMMITMENT: Tuesday and Fridays 7-8 p.m. and approx. five hours
MAIN DUTIES: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Head Teacher will be a member of the appropriate Club Committees. 2) Co-ordinate the teaching programme e.g. utilise ASA National Plan for Teaching Swimming. 3) All teachers should be encouraged to obtain the ASA Teachers Certificates as a basic qualification. 4) To ensure that there is adequate provision for the teaching programme. 5) To control the ratio of pupils to teachers. 6) Maintain records of members achievements in the ASA National Plan Awards and Competitive Start Awards 7) Oversee and give advice to Club Helpers and Assistant Teachers 8) Be aware and understand the facility Emergency Action Plan and Normal Operating Procedures (EAP & NOP) 9) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection policy 	

JOB TITLE: ASA Registration Officer	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee
SKILLS REQUIRED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration skills - Discretion 	TIME COMMITMENT: 15-20 hours per year
MAIN DUTIES: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Complete ASA Registration forms as and when required 2) Deal with yearly return from ASA, deleting members where applicable and giving out Registration Cards when received 3) Complete Medical Registration Forms as appropriate 4) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection Policy 	

JOB TITLE: Learn to Swim Course Co-ordinator	RESPONSIBLE TO: Management Committee, Senior Instructor
SKILLS REQUIRED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administration skills - Communication skills - Organisational skills 	TIME COMMITMENT: 5 hours per week
MAIN DUTIES: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Promoting and recruiting non-swimmers for the Learn to Swim courses 2) Allocating pupils into the appropriate classes 3) Issuing Membership Cards to each pupil and passing all course fees over to Membership Secretary 4) Ensuring that adequate instructors are available at all times 5) Ensuring that all appropriate ASA National Plan awards are executed and certificates issued as well as with certificates 6) Be available to answer any questions which parents may have 7) To follow and promote the ASA Child Protection Policy 	

Gala Results

All the latest League and Friendly Gala Results

White Horse League 2003

ROUND 1 - FAIRFIELD, DARTFORD - 11TH JANUARY 2003

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	White Darts	104
2	Bromley	106
3	Erith	122
4	Croydon	137
5	Beckenham	175
6	Eltham	231

Joe again.

The team recorded an impressive third place in the very first round of the White Horse League held at Fairfield Pool in Dartford. Individual wins came from **Joe Thorogood (2)**, **Timothy Colman**, **Michael Cook**, and **Richard Goodey**. There were also wins for the mixed 13 and under F/S relay consisting of **Richard Goodey**, **Grace McCalla**, **Emma Eady** and **Joe Thorogood**, as well as the mixed 13 and under medley team consisting of **Michael Cook**, **Rachel Cook**, **Laura Porritt** and

Junior Speedo League 2002

ROUND 1 - BARNET COPTHALL - 9TH MARCH 2002

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Barnet Copthall	201
2	Potters Bar	157
3	Runnymede	148
4	Braintree	145
5	Canvey Island	126
6	Erith	110

The first round of the Junior Speedo League took us to Barnet Copthall, and a gala that put us against a number of the best clubs in Essex. Only 1 first place was recorded. Well done to the girls 9 and under medley relay team consisting of: **Elizabeth Kennedy**, **Bethan Austin**, **Emma Goodey**, **Charlotte Ody**.

Tudor League 2001/2002

ROUND 3 - ELTHAM - 12TH JANUARY 2002

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Orpington OJAYS	197
2	Bromley	186
3	Eltham Stingrays	185
4	Erith White	175
5	Greenwich	157
6	Dartford	141

WHITE TEAM REPORT: Another close gala, the first Tudor league gala of the year welcomed the following swimmers for the first time: **Bethan Austin**, **Ria Surridge**, **Tia Anderson**, **Samuel Murray**, **Marcus Page**. Well done to the following swimmers who won their individual races: **Shane Povey-Garman**, **Heidi Green**, **Michael Cook (2)**, and **James Willey (3)**.

ROUND 4 - ELTHAM - 1ST FEBRUARY 2003

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Gravesend	204
2	Greenwich	203
=3	Erith Red	197
=3	Bromley	197
5	Erith White	182
6	Orpington	DNS

RED TEAM REPORT: A very good gala result. With the change of ages there were a few new swimmers to the Tudor Red team and these were **Sally Hopkins Bain, Claire Gayson, Charlotte Ashby, Luke Spence and Jay Gorga**. Also, a welcome return to Tudor, with **Susie Murray and Luke Fuller** both swimming in the Open Age Group. Please do not leave poolside without speaking to myself and/or the person responsible for sending you up to swim. One swimmer went to

the toilet and nearly missed his race and another went home before she had finished swimming. It is very important that swimmers speak to me before getting changed. **Matt Kirkup (2), Luke Fuller, Sam Gardiner, Grace McCalla, Stacey Reeves, and Callum Kent** all won their individual races.

WHITE TEAM REPORT: Swimming in their first Tudor gala on this occasion were **Elizabeth and Robert Kennedy**. Congratulations to our individual winners of the night: **Shane Povey-Garman (2), Natalie Walker, Emma Hoyne-Butler and Sara Case**.

ROUND 5 - ELTHAM - 1ST MARCH 2003

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Erith Red	188
2	Gravesend	185
3	Eltham Stingrays	180
4	Greenwich	155
5	Orpington	154
	Dartford	DQ

RED TEAM: At last, a win for the Erith Red team! For those of you present at the gala, it was announced that we had come joint first with Dartford. Unfortunately for them, a claim was later made that swimmers competing in the Kent County Championships had swum for Dartford in the gala. This was proven to be the case and resulted in Dartford as a team being disqualified, with their league points being taken away from them! Erith Red's individual winners included **Charlotte**

Ashby, Matt Kirkup, Paul Nicholls, Sophie Evans, Stacey Reeves, Jake Reeves and Mark Nicholls. Additionally, **Claire Grayson, Emma Goodey, Sophie Evans, Naomi Monksfield, Stacey Reeves, Sam Evans, Helen Clifton and Stevie Kirkup** all helped gain maximum points for the team in the girls freestyle squadron.

White Team reports courtesy of **Frank and Simone Rider**

Red Team reports courtesy of **Carol Goodey**

PLEASE NOTE: A tracksuit was left where the White Team sit at the first gala of the New Year on 12 January which, to date, no one has claimed. If you think it is yours please speak to Frank or Simone Rider...

Tudor Galas and Kent Times

I have been asked by John Burdett (Club Coach) to write this piece and explain to swimmers and parents the rules governing the Tudor League.

The original idea of the league was to give swimmers a series of galas where they are not necessarily the automatic "A Gala" choice swimmer, but were of a standard or showing potential and needed to learn the skills of racing before going into A team galas.

The league itself found that the competitive spirit from clubs and swimmers pushed the boundary of what was in effect a B grade gala (indeed the League has been called The Tudor B League in the past - but the "B" was dropped several years ago). It was decided at a league AGM several years ago that a formal level needed to be set that all clubs could adhere to. This standard was set and a new rule written into the League's constitution so that "any swimmer was as deemed capable of attaining a Kent County qualifying time" would not be allowed to swim Tudor events in that year. That rule has since been clarified and now reads:

"No swimmer shall be allowed to swim the Tudor league Galas if they have achieved the Kent County qualifying time for their present age group of that calendar year in any stroke". It is obvious from this rule that any swimmer entered into the Kents has by definition attained a current Kent County qualifying time.

Now here comes the confusing part of this rule.

The benchmark times used for this seasons Tudor Galas are the 100m qualifying times from the year 2000 Kent County Championships and some of these times are slightly different to the 2003 Kent County Championship qualifying times.

So if you / your child is entered into the Kent County Championships this year, you/they will be unable to take part in the Tudor galas for the rest of this year.

Frank Rider

Octopus League 2003

ROUND 1 - 25TH JANUARY 2003

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Streatham	170
2	Edenbridge	150
3	Woodside & Thornton Heath	144
4	Erith	131
5	Bromley	124
6	Eltham	116

The 1st Octopus League gala of the year welcomed the following new swimmers: **Charlotte Ody, Sally Hopkins-Bain, Chloe Marshall, Charlotte Ashby, Sam Gardiner, Callum Kent, Tommy Parry, Jay Gorga, Zoe Elliott, Gemma Cannon, Kelvin Chan, Jake Mitchell, Adam Forrest, Richard Jones & Matthew Tait.** Although there were only 2 wins of the night (**Charlotte Ashby** for the girls 10 years

breaststroke & the mixed 10 & under freestyle relay, with **Charlotte Ody, Sally, Jay & Tommy**), the overall team performance was excellent, finishing 4th.

ROUND 2 - 22ND FEBRUARY 2003

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Bromley	187
2	Croydon	161
3	Barracuda	136
4	Edenbridge	135
5	Streatham	134
6	Erith	112

Bromley seemed to pick up their performance quite significantly for the 2nd round. Erith suffered two unfortunate disqualifications and an even more unfortunate circumstance occurred when nature called upon our 10 year boys backstroke swimmer just prior to the start of the race. Despite that we had more wins than the first gala - **Stevie Kirkup** with two in the GIRLS 16 and under free and the GIRLS 16 and under back, together with **Daniel Upsher** in the boys 13 and under fly.

Results supplied by Paul Byskup - Octopus Team Manager

Friendly Galas

ELMBRIDGE PHOENIX RELAY GALA - 25th JANUARY 2003

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Kingston Royals	54
2	Elmbridge Phoenix	67
3	Burgess Hill	84
4	Sutton and Cheam A	91
5	Erith	123
6	Sutton and Cheam B	144

Looking at the other teams competing in this gala it was going to be tough and that proved to be the case. We had some good swims and a lot of PB's. Many thanks to **Carol Goodey, Stuart Redpath and Ian Craggs** who along with myself competed in the two Masters Relays. A big thank you to **Karen Hubbard and Steve Surridge** who were our officials for the evening and to **Helen Clifton and Tiffany Brown** for their help on poolside.

VICTORIA CUP GALA - SOUTH NORWOOD - 26TH JANUARY 2002

Gala Results

POS.	TEAM	POINTS
1	Erith	208
2	Croydon	140
=3	Addington	121
=3	Leander	121
5	Wimbledon Dolphins	115
6	Woodside & Addiscombe	102

Having won this gala 3 years running I really didn't think we would win the trophy 4 years in a row but I was proved wrong. We had some fantastic swims winning 19 of the 41 events. Our younger swimmers swam brilliantly & we had wins for **Sam Gardiner B/S & Shane Povey-Garman B/C**. It was a wonderful experience for all the swimmers well done to you all. Many thanks to **Ian Craggs, Rick Gardiner & Carol Goodey** who were all officials & to **Judith Goodey** for her help on poolside.

Julie Craggs - Friendly Gala Manager

Other Results

Kent County Championships February to March 2003

We completed another successful year in the Kent County Championships. This year 13 swimmers entered. The total medal haul included 2 golds, 5 silvers and 2 bronzes.

Congratulations must go to **Tiffany Brown** who won the girls 16 years 200m backstroke, and **Michael Cook** who won the boys 11 years 50m backstroke. Silvers went to **Joe Thorogood** in the 12 years 50m breaststroke, **James Stear** in the 13 years 100m breaststroke, **Stephen Kihara** in the 17/18 years 50m breaststroke and **Phillip Brown** in the 16 years 200m backstroke.

In addition to this **Tiffany** gained a bronze in the 50m backstroke, with **Stephen** also gaining a bronze in his 100m breaststroke event. Well done to Erith's other finalists which included **Timothy Colman, Laura Porritt and Judith Goodey**.

The final results were:

NAME	AGE	EVENT	POS.	EVENT	POS.	EVENT	POS.
Timothy Colman	10	50m Fly	6	50m B/C	5		
Michael Cook	11	50m Fly	9	50m B/C	1		
James Willey	13	50m Fly	12	100m FLY	11		
Gary Lansdale	15	50m F/S	10	100m F/S	12		
Rachael Cook	12	100m B/S	10	50m B/S	14		
Michael Redpath	14	200m F/S	10				
Joe Thorogood	12	50m B/S	2				
James Stear	13	50m B/S	4	100m B/S	2	50m B/C	9
Laura Porritt	11	50m FLY	6				
Stephen Kihara	Open	100m F/S	8	100m B/S	3	50m B/S	2
Judith Goodey	14	50m B/C	4	100m B/C	6		
Tiffany Brown	16	50m B/C	3	200m B/C	1	100m B/C	4
Philip Brown	16	100m F/S	11	200m B/C	2		

Kent Relays - Crystal Palace - Saturday 15th March 2003

We entered a magnificent 16 teams in the championships this year, which resulted in 10 teams making it into the finals - our best result came courtesy of **Michael Cook, Joe Thorogood, Timothy Colman and Matt Kirkup**, who won a silver in the boys 12 and under medley event. They also finished 8th in their freestyle relay. The following teams made the finals in both the freestyle and medley relay events: **Shelley Carver, Kerry Dewey, Kirsty Dobberson and Tiffany Brown** in the girls 15/16 years; **Katie Dobberson, Rachel Cook, Laura Porritt and Grace McCalla** in the girls 12 and under; and **Ian Magness, Stephen Kihara, Shane Hume and Paul Nicholls** in the mens open. Well done to all!

RESULTS

AGE	EVENT	TEAM MEMBERS	POSITION
GIRLS			
12/U	F/S	Katie Dobberson, Rachel Cook, Laura Porritt, Grace McCalla	8th
12/U	MEDLEY	Katie Dobberson, Rachel Cook, Laura Porritt, Grace McCalla	6th
14/U	F/S	Judith Goodey, Emma Hoyne-Butler, Kelly Bealing, Sam Evans	11th
14/U	MEDLEY	Judith Goodey, Emma Hoyne-Butler, Kelly Bealing, Sam Evans	12th
16/U	F/S	Shelley Carver, Kerry Dewey, Kirsty Dobberson, Tiffany Brown	6th
16/U	MEDLEY	Shelley Carver, Kerry Dewey, Kirsty Dobberson, Tiffany Brown	7th
JUNIOR	F/S	Tiffany Brown, Kerry Dewey, Kirsty Dobberson, Shelley Carver	8th
JUNIOR	MEDLEY	Tiffany Brown, Rachel Cook, Judith Goodey, Shelley Carver	8th
BOYS			
12/U	F/S	Joe Thorogood, Tim Colman, Matt Kirkup, Michael Cook	8th
12/U	MEDLEY	Joe Thorogood, Tim Colman, Matt Kirkup, Michael Cook	2nd
14/U	F/S	Michael Redpath, James Stear, James Willey, Joe Hodges	9th
14/U	MEDLEY	Michael Redpath, James Stear, James Willey, Joe Hodges	10th
JUNIOR	F/S	Phil Brown, Joe Thorogood, Michael Redpath, Gary Lansdale	9th
JUNIOR	MEDLEY	Phil Brown, James Stear, Michael Redpath, Gary Lansdale	10th
OPEN	F/S	Stephen Kihara, Ian Magness, Shane Hume, Paul Nicholls	7th
OPEN	MEDLEY	Stephen Kihara, Ian Magness, Shane Hume, Paul Nicholls	6th

Thank you to all coach's on the pool side, and all parents and friends who supported from the balcony. For times and further results from the Kent's visit: www.kcasa.org.uk.

Paul Nicholls

Other Results

BLDSA 1 Hour Postal Swim 2003 - Squad Results

BRONZE SQUAD

(2002 max: Sophie Evans - 75 lengths 25m)

Dean Povey Garman - 83 lengths

Ria Surridge - 81 lengths 15m

Richard Jones - 81 lengths

Cassey Porritt - 81 lengths

Lauren Hunt - 81 lengths

Emily White - 80 lengths

Michelle Wong - 75 lengths 15m

Emily Willey - 75 lengths

Alison Morley - 73 lengths 15m

Matthew Bassett - 72 lengths

Ashley Murray - 70 lengths

Jonathon Brock - 70 lengths

Emma Goodey - 64 lengths

Gemma Davies - 63 lengths 15m

Total 14 swimmers (last year 5)

TEACHING GROUPS 7.00

Tommy Cowell - 63 lengths

Nicole Gibbs - 63 lengths

Sheryl Povey Garman - 60 lengths

Georgina Bradley - 55 lengths

Samuel Murray - 53 lengths

Henry Wong - 53 lengths

Lucy Hunt - 53 lengths

Jessica Brock - 44 lengths

Ryan Grant - 38 lengths

Damon Kwong - 31 lengths

Total 10 swimmers (last year 0)

SILVER SQUAD

(2002 max: Louisa Jenner - 84 lengths)

Chris Vines - 88 lengths 15m

Emma Gardiner - 88 lengths 15m

Ryan Piioli - 87 lengths

Rebecca Cooper - 87 lengths

Frankie Ody - 86 lengths

Lisa Morley - 85 lengths

Shirley Wong - 85 lengths

Louisa Jenner - 82 lengths

Kushal Sookarry - 75 lengths

Jake Dykes - 68 lengths 15m

Laura Sullivan - sick

Total 11 swimmers (last year 7)

TEACHING GROUPS (7.30)

(2002 max: Sam Gardiner - 71 lengths)

Bethan Austin - 70 lengths

Charlotte Ashby - 70 lengths

Shani Anderson - 68 lengths

Shane Povey Garman - 68 lengths

Joseph Smith - 67 lengths

Adam Forest - 66 lengths

Matthew Tait - 66 lengths

Adam Boden - 66 lengths

Chanel Dykes - 64 lengths

Wesley Man - 61 lengths

Grace Aldis - 60 lengths

Daniel Wood - 57 lengths 15m

Josephine Wyne Williams - 55 lengths

Olivia Wilson - 54 lengths

Gemma Cannon - 45 lengths (sick)

Total 15 swimmers (last year 3)

MASTERS

(2002 max: Freda Ross - 130 lengths 10m)

Tony Ball - 124 lengths 15m

Stuart Redpath - 111 lengths

Lorraine Stevens - 109 lengths

Gemma Anderson - 108 lengths

Claire Colmer - 99 lengths

Total 5 swimmers (last year 7)

GOLD SQUAD

(2002 max: Philip Cunningham - 106 lengths 15m)

Laura Porritt - 111 lengths

Philip Cunningham - 110 lengths 15m

Matt Kirkup - 110 lengths

Peter Sullivan - 108 lengths 15m

Rachel Cook - 108 lengths

Katie Timmins - 107 lengths 15m

Sam Evans - 107 lengths 10m

Michael Cook - 107 lengths 10m

Emma Wallace - 107 lengths

Sarah Craggs - 107 lengths

Lucy Craggs - 105 lengths

Ben Wallace - 100 lengths 15m

Lauren Thorogood - 95 lengths 15m

Darren Fuller - 92 lengths 25m

Grace McCalla - 87 lengths 10m

Total 15 swimmers (last year 18)

JUNIOR SQUAD

(2002 max: Katie Dobberson - 98 lengths 20m)

Jake Reeves - 97 lengths

Thomas Rose - 95 lengths 15m

Storm Anderson - 94 lengths

James Davies - 93 lengths 15m

Luke Morris - 90 lengths

Timothy Colman - 87 lengths 15m

Luisa Byskup - 86 lengths

Alex Wilkes - 86 lengths

Daniel Upsher - 85 lengths 15m

George Upsher - 82 lengths 15m

Sam Gardiner - 81 lengths 15m

Robert Kennedy - 81 lengths 15m

Naomi Monksfield - 79 lengths

Tia Anderson - 78 lengths 25m

Callum Kent - 77 lengths

Jade Risby - 76 lengths 10m

Emily Morris - 74 lengths 10m

Taylor Gorga - 73 lengths 15m

Alice McCalla - 62 lengths 10m

Megan Bassett - 44 lengths DNF

Total 20 swimmers (last year 16)

TOP SQUAD

(2002 max: Phil Brown - 130 lengths)

Phil Brown - 127 lengths

Amy Pritchard - 124 lengths 15m

Stephen Kihara - 124 lengths

Michael Redpath - 123 lengths 10m

Joe Hodges - 121 lengths 10m

James Willey - 117 lengths 15m

James Stear - 117 lengths

Joe Thorogood - 116 lengths

Rory Jenner - 116 lengths

Kirsty Dobberson - 115 lengths 10m

Tiffany Brown - 115 lengths

Stevie Kirkup - 113 lengths 25m

Jenny Vick - 113 lengths 15m

Katie Dobberson - 110 lengths 5m

Stacey Reeves - 107 lengths 20m

Emma Eady - 107 lengths 10m

Judith Goodey - 93 lengths 15m

Richard Goodey - 84 lengths

Shelley Carver - sick

Total 19 swimmers (last year 20)

Overall entries 2003 - 105 swimmers (compared with 76 in 2002) -
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!!!

Other Results

Competitive Start Award

Congratulations to the following swimmers who successfully passed the competitive start award:

Grace Aldis
Elizabeth Kennedy
Bethan Austin
Charlotte Ody
Chanel Dykes
Suzanne Watkins

Rebecca Hussey
Charlotte Ashby
Samuel Murray
Tommy Cowell
Jessica Walden
Mary Jane Godsall

Shani Anderson
Kate Middleton
Gemma Cannon
Marcus Page
Jake Dykes
Sally Hopkins-Bain

Chris Case

Speedo, White Horse, Octopus and Kent Junior League Swimmers 2002

SPEEDO LEAGUE - A TEAM

SPEEDO LEAGUE - B TEAM

POS.	NAME	PTS.	POS.	NAME	PTS.
1	Freda Ross	45	1	Tiffany Brown	63
=2	Katie Dobberson	44	2	Heidi Green	54
=2	Michael Cook	44	3	Ian Magness	51
=4	Philip Brown	42	4	Stacey Reeves	50
=4	Stephen Kihara	42	5	Tim Wilkes	49
=4	Joe Thorogood	42	6	Tim Colman	43
=7	Hannah Spencer	40	7	Sophie Evans	40
=7	Mark Russell	40	=8	Richard Goodey	38
=7	Luch Cowell	40	=8	Judith Goodey	38
=10	James Stear	38	10	Naomi Monksfield	37
=10	Matt Kirkup	38	=11	Luke Fuller	36
=12	Laura Porritt	36	=11	Mark Nicholls	36
=12	Gary Lansdale	36	13	Emma Hoyne-Butler	35
14	James Willey	35	14	Natalie Bennett	33
15	Grant Cooper	31	15	Rory Jenner	31
16	Shelley Carver	29	16	Jake Reeves	30
17	Sarah Garrett	28	17	Joe Hodges	26
18	Sam Pilbeam	26	18	Darren Fuller	25
19	Luke Morris	22	=19	Warren Carver	24
20	Sarah Craggs	21	=19	Lucy Craggs	24
=21	Rachel Cook	19	=21	Amy Glasscock	23
=21	Emma Eady	19	=21	Louise Hoyne-Butler	23
=21	Paul Nicholls	19	23	Sam Evans	19
=21	Michael Redpath	19	24	Michael Hodges	17
=25	Grace McCalla	17	=25	Megan Bassett	16
=25	Sam Hayes	17	=25	Peter Sullivan	16
=25	Oliver Thomson	17	=25	Ashley Murray	16
28	Luisa Byskup	16	28	Sara Case	15
29	Helen Clifton	15	29	Philip Rush	14
=30	Kelly Bealing	13	30	Emily Morris	12
=30	Kerry Dewey	13	31	Peter Ben Rabbah	12
=30	Stevie Kirkup	13	32	Jenny Vick	12
=30	Kirsty Dobberson	13	33	Carrie Rush	10
34	Richard Morrison	11	34	Robert Cricket	7
=35	Grant Bealing	10	35	Ben Wallace	6
=35	Susie Murray	10	36	Daniella Murray	6
37	Thomas Rose	7	37	Dean Povey Garman	5
38	Lauren Thorogood	7	38	Ian Facer	5
			39	Philip Cunningham	5
			40	George Upsher	5
			41	Emily Willey	4
			42	Hollie Ferguson	4
			43	Shaney Piele	2

OCTOPUS LEAGUE**WHITE HORSE LEAGUE****KENT JUNIOR LEAGUE**

POS.	NAME	PTS.	POS.	NAME	PTS.	POS.	NAME	PTS.
1	Monksfield Naomi	60	1.	Matt Kirkup	128	1	Joe Thorogood	84
2	Lansdale Gary	58	2.	Katie Dobberson	102	2	Jake Reeves	81
3	Cook Michael	51	3.	Joe Thorogood	99	3	Emma Eady	79
4	Gardiner Emma	46	4.	Stephen Kihara	86	4	Grace McCalla	71
5	Byskup Daniel	46	5.	Laura Porritt	83	5	Timothy Colman	69
6	Upsher George	44	6.	Tiffany Brown	77	6	Stacey Reeves	64
7	Bassett Megan	40	7.	Grant Bealing	74	7	Michael Cook	57
8	Gorga Taylor	40	8.	Gary Lansdale	71	8	Richard Goodey	54
9	Watkins Katy	40	9.	Kelly Bealing	66	9	Kelly Bealing	50
10	Murray Ashley	40	10	Shelley Carver	65	10	James Willey	48
11	Hodges Michael	38	11	Emma Eady	53	=11	Emily Morris	47
12	Upsher Daniel	35	12	Philip Brown	51	=11	Katie Dobberson	47
13	Byskup Luisa	31	=13	Stacey Reeves	48	13	Megan Bassett	46
14	Kirkup Stevie	30	=13	Luke Fuller	48	14	Warren Carver	45
15	Colman Timothy	28	15	Michael Redpath	42	15	Sarah Craggs	42
16	Power Mark	28	16	Sarah Craggs	40	=16	Laura Porritt	40
17	Hunt Lauren	27	17	Susie Murray	39	=16	Grant Bealing	40
18	Brock Jonathon	26	18	Sam Pilbeam	36	=18	Thomas Rose	34
19	Hall Charlotte	26	19	Louise Hoyne Butler	35	=18	Sophie Evans	34
20	Morris Emily	25	20	Lauren Thorogood	29	20	Sam Evans	33
21	O'dowd Emma	23	21	Stevie Kirkup	28	=21	James Stear	30
22	Willingale Danielle	23	22	Michael Cook	26	=21	Rachel Cook	30
23	Kennedy Robert	21	23	James Willey	24	23	Emily Willey	29
24	Steer James	21	24	Kirsty Dobberson	23	24	Matt Kirkup	27
25	Facer Laura	20	25	Mark Russell	19	=25	Sam Gardiner	25
26	Ben Rabah Peter	20	26	Freda Ross	18	=25	Callum Kent	25
27	Cook Rachael	20	27	Grant Cooper	15	27	Joe Spence	23
28	Thomson Oliver	20	=28	Timothy Colman	12	28	Oliver Thomson	21
29	Morley Alison	19	=28	Paul Nicholls	12	=29	Luke Morris	19
30	Murray Daniella	18	30	Hannah Spencer	11	=29	Alice McCalla	19
31	Surridge Ria	18	31	Richard Goodey	10	31	Georgia Carlton	14
32	Wilkes Alex	17	32	Helen Clifton	8	32	Katherine Nye	11
33	Cunningham Philip	16	33	Kerry Dewey	6	=33	Darren Fuller	10
34	Craggs Lucy	15	34	James Steer	5	=33	Jade Risby	10
35	Timmins Katie	15	35	Emma Hoyne Butler	3	35	Luisa Byskup	8
36	Cooper Darren	14	36	Talisia Quallo	1			
37	Cooper Tracey	14						
38	Davies James	14						
39	Goodey Judith	13						
40	Hodges Joe	13						
41	Dykes Chanel	12						
42	Forrest Adam	12						
43	Wallace Ben	10						
44	Aldis Grace	10						
45	Willey Emily	9						
46	Willey James	7						
47	Davies Gemma	7						
48	Dobberson Katie	7						
49	Morrison Richard	7						
50	Goodey Richard	6						
51	Brown Dania	5						
52	Spence Hannah	4						
53	Sullivan Peter	3						
54	Bradley Joshua	3						
55	Boden Adam	3						
56	Grayson Claire	3						
57	Hares Charlotte	2						
58	Pioli Ryan	2						

Synchro News

I would like to tell you about the Synchronised swimming team. In May 2002, Erith and District Swimming Club wrote to all girls under the age of 11 asking if we would be interested in joining a synchronised swimming team. Those of us who were interested went along to a meeting held in a room at the Riverside baths to find out more about it and to meet a lady called Sam who would coach us, supported by Lisa Burdett, who used to be a synchronised swimmer and Keely who swims for Medway Mermaids.

We started by swimming one hour on a Sunday at 1pm, we were taught different movements and positions back-tuck somersault, oyster, tub-turn, etc. Then our session time changed. We now exercise in the gym room, 2 till 3, and from 3 till 4 continued practicing our water movements and sequences.

In November those of us that were over 9 years old took part in the Kent Championships. This is

where we as individuals had to show several judges the movements (back-tuck, tub-turn and alternate bent knee) that we had been taught in our sessions. The water was very cold and some of us were very nervous. The judges held up cards after we had performed our movements. We were then given an overall score. I did not understand the scores at the time nor did most of the other girls. It was a very long day and we were very tired, although it was also enjoyable.

In December we started to learn different routines one to a song called 'It's Raining Men' and another song was called 'Immortality'. These routines were very different. The 'It's Raining Men' routine was lively and we danced on the side of the pool before we did the water display. 'Immortality' was peaceful and relaxing - a much slower pace routine.

On Saturday 22nd February at Riverside Baths the Medway Mermaids (another synchro team coached by Sam) presented a show called Young Love. We took part in this show where we performed both of our routines. There were 2 shows that night for people to watch: one at 6pm and one at 8pm. On the night some of us were very nervous others excited, not knowing what it was going to be like presenting our routines that we had worked so hard on, in front of others. We had to wear cooking gelatine in our hair to keep it all in place - it was very sticky. We received a lot of applause and that gave us confidence for the next show. Our coaches and parents said we did very well!

So on behalf of all the girls I would like to thank Sam and Lisa for teaching us everything, Carol for keeping us fit, Keely for helping us in the water by showing us and supporting us, and to the Club for providing pool time for us to practice. Also, a big thanks to our parents for running us to and fro. The Synchro team members are: **Ria SurrIDGE, Alice McCalla, Sophie Evans, Chloe Marshall, Charlotte Hares, Natalie Wilkes, Georgina Smith, Emma Goodey, Emily White, Caitlin Colman, Kate Middleton and Elizabeth Kennedy.**

Sophie Evans

Special Feature

Life Membership

The first of our special features in this edition of the Newsletter focuses on Life Membership. As a Member of Erith and District Swimming Club you are awarded Life Membership status once you have completed 20 years *continuous* membership at the club. Below you will find a list of those current members who can be proud that they've achieved such status. Congratulations must go to the following people who have achieved this status, most of which, have and continue to put a huge amount of effort into helping the club, whether it be through coaching, managing teams, being active committee members, or simply competing:

Eileen McArdell	1927	76 years	Pam Bedford	1955	48 years
Allan Bedford	1964	39 years	Peter Frost	1968	35 years
Desmond Fitnum	1970	33 years	Buck Ryan	1971	32 years
John Murray	1974	29 years	Peter Day	1976	27 years
Marnie Parker	1980	23 years	Luch Cowell	1981	22 years
Mick Thackray	1982	21 years	Rosemary Watkins		1982
21 years					
Glenn Thackray	1982	21 years	Sam Hayes	1982	21 years

The simple rule to remember is that in order to achieve Life Membership, you must have been a member for a continuous period of at least 20 years. If any Member thinks that they might have achieved this, and they haven't been mentioned above, then please feel free to write to the Management Committee.

Special Feature

Sub 1 Minute 100m Freestyle Swimmers

The Management Committee thought it might be a good idea to honour the following swimmers who, to the best of our knowledge, have achieved that well renowned landmark - going under 1 minute for the 100m freestyle. Congratulations must go to **Sam Hayes** who was the first to go under 1 minute way back in 1989. Well done to the following swimmers who followed suit (in no particular order):

Grant Cooper
Shane Hume
Patrik Newsham
Ian Magness

Ryan Carver
Roy Burdett
Stephen Kihara

Mark Russell
Phil Rush
Phil Brown

The Management Committee

Officials News

Congratulations to **Rik Gardiner, Deidre Timmins, Bob Eady, Andy Watkins, Angela Watkins and Mary Facer** on passing the ASA timekeeper exam, and congratulations to **Carol Goodey** on passing the judges exam, well done to you all.

Once again anyone wishing to take the exams this year please let me know (closing date 31st July 2003).

ASA Changes to Laws

We have recently seen a number of swimmers, experienced ones at that, disqualified for an incorrect backstroke turn, usually for what is known as "gliding". This has been the topic of much discussion lately and relates to the tumble style turn only :

The ASA technical rule states that "during the turn the shoulders may be turned over the vertical to the breast, after which a continuous single arm pull or a continuous simultaneous double arm pull may be used to initiate the turn". This therefore means that once the swimmer has turned onto the breast you must initiate the turn immediately by an arm pull, there is no allowance for gliding or floating to get nearer the wall to start the turn.

Furthermore "Once the body has left the position on the back, any kick or arm pull must be part of the continuous turning action". So in a nutshell when the swimmer has turned onto the breast they must start the turning action immediately by way of arm pull, followed immediately with the tumble turning action. A disqualification may also occur when after the arm pull gliding or floating takes place to get closer to the wall and the head is not moving down for the turn.

As soon as you turn onto the breast the full turning action must take place immediately, or you may be disqualified.

Karen Hubbard, Kent Officials Representative

Social Section News

Isle of Grain Ramble - 27th February 2003

Unique in character, by definition alone, the marshland of the Isle of Grain can be a pretty grim place at the best of times, so it came as some relief to wake up to sunshine after repeated weather forecasts had predicted otherwise. Unsurprisingly, a plethora of "No Airport at Cliffe" signs greeted our arrival on the Isle of Grain and would remain a subject of discussion throughout the Ramble.

And so it was that 40 parents, swimmers, friends and three dogs set-down from our coach at Allhallows prepared for an expectant 11 mile walk to Cliffe itself. Of course, despite 20 odd years of organising Club Rambles, every opportunity still remains to get us lost or to take the wrong footpath and within 200 yards of our start, I knew we were heading in the wrong direction! Unperturbed, and with the sea wall as our initial objective, I knew that we would soon recover our route and soon head westwards past the holiday chalets and caravans of Allhallows-on-Sea. Here, Arthur Peile recounted nostalgic days spent as a young boy holidaying with his Grandparents, whilst others indulged in a spot of bird watching for which the marshes are such an important refuge for many threatened species.

With the Thames Estuary bounding our route on one side, negotiating the many drainage channels proved troublesome at times - but then that's all part of the fun! Turning south, our route now took us inland and leaving the marshes behind us, we began a gentle ascent of Northward Hill, the highest point on the Isle of Grain. Noted for Britain's largest Heronry, not a single Heron was to be seen, but our disappointment was tempered by the fine views back across the marshes to Essex and, more importantly, to the distant village of Cooling where we were due to stop for lunch. Chastened for our untypically late arrival, everyone soon forgot about their aching limbs and sore feet as they tucked in to a hot buffet in the welcoming atmosphere of 'The Horseshoe and Castle' pub.

Suitably refreshed, we continued on our way pausing at St. James' Church, immortalised in Dickens' 'Great Expectations', & at the imposing ruins of Cooling Castle. Continuing westwards to Cliffe, the open, agricultural landscape briefly gave way to urban development before we began a gentle descent towards the old, water-filled gravel workings, now a new conservation area under the control of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, (RSPB). Worryingly, a pall of black smoke now drifted upwards from the direction of our intended route and it was not long before we came upon an appliance & it's crew attending a rubbish fire amidst the unsightly detritus of burnt-out cars, dumped 'fridges and the like. Whilst some would consider this the trademark of travellers, sadly these scenes are becoming increasingly commonplace in some of our most attractive landscapes as the result of unscrupulous fly-tippers. Disgusting though the sight was, we reminded ourselves that this would be small fry should the Government persist with it's proposals to bury much of Grain under concrete.

Further along the footpath not only found us in the shadows of huge mounds of sand, (a legacy of Cliffe's current quarrying activities) but also slightly lost! Help was at hand from a local inhabitant and with the sun setting, we abandoned any thought of reaching Cliffe Fort and followed directions for the supposedly shortest route to Higham. This gave us one last opportunity to get our footwear well and truly muddied and by the time we re-boarded our coach at Higham Station, it was dark. Despite the many aches and pains, an enjoyable day was had by all and a new awareness aroused in everyone at what we all will lose if the dreaded airport plans get the 'green light'.....

If you would like to join us on the next Ramble, I'm afraid that you have a long wait until the School Autumn half-term at the end of October. Watch this space for further details...

Annual Gala Raffle

The Annual gala will soon be upon us once again and with it, our Annual Gala Raffle. The Raffle was particularly successful last year and we hope to repeat that, offering-up the same cash prize format. Tickets and further details will be winging their way to you in due course and we hope that everyone will 'do-their-bit' for the sake of the Club.

Peter Frost

Halloween Weekend Away at Pontins, Pakefield

Friday 31st October to Monday 3rd November 2003

After last year's success, when over 100 club members, families and their friends had a very enjoyable weekend away at Pontins, Pakefield, we are now organizing our return for this year's Halloween weekend on the East Suffolk coast. The cost will be a maximum of £60 per person, and includes chalet accommodation for 3 nights (with colour TV and en suite bathroom), buffet breakfasts and dinners, plus free access to the swimming pool and outdoor sports facilities! Reserve your booking now at just £5 deposit per person! (cheques payable to Erith & District Swimming Club). Speak to **Jill Thackray** (01322 338910) or **Paul Nicholls** (01322 336747) for more details



Dave's London Marathon Report

I've done it! It took me 4 hours 12 minutes seconds in real time as it took me over seven minutes to get over the starting line. There is photographic proof of the run for those of you who don't believe me or for those of you who just want to see me looking hot, sweaty & shattered!

It was a really enjoyable day except the last few miles hurt. I was pleased that none of the lovable looneys in serious fancy dress went past me and I overtook Spiderman eight times! Will I do it again??...Watch this space.

Assuming that I get all my pledged money in I will be raising in excess of £2500 for the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust. It is not too late to sponsor me so if you are interested then please contact me on 01474 832546. My address is: 14 Crockenhall Way, Istead Rise, Northfleet, Kent, DA13 9DB. Cheques must be payable to "The Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust". For those of you with Gift Aid cheques, the charity number is MB 292375. Please include your address as this will enable the charity to claim the tax back - this amounts to £2.80 for every £10.

As many of you will be aware, I have been actively raising money for the charity since my son died last year and to date have raised over £12K. On Monday 14th April, I handed over a SiPap machine to the unit. It is a new type of ventilator that does not need tubes to be pushed into the babies' lungs. It will be engraved in Matthew's memory. The unit will be publicising the handover and it will be featured in local papers in the Medway area. You will also be pleased to hear that Megan is expecting again and the baby is due in July. Let's hope that he/she won't be needing the services of the unit.

Thank you for all your support.

Dave Buck

**HOLIDAY FLAT TO LET
Romney Sands Holiday Village
Sleeps 4/5**

Phone Marion or Buck Ryan on (01322) 291088



A History of EDSC - part 4: 1992 to 2002

The start of the competitive season in 1992 saw Erith and District Swimming Club take another memorable trip to Amsterdam, and 7 club records were broken in the first round of the Speedo League. The first Newsletter of 1993 contained a report on an open meet organised by the then White Oak swimming club held in Swanley. The conditions at the pool were said to be ridiculous, as the temperature steadily rose throughout the day. According to Carol Russell, Ian Magness's face was a picture when, by the evening, he'd discovered he'd made yet another final and faced the prospect of swimming again in what was described as 'laughable conditions.' In the same month a caption competition was held in which members and parents were asked to think of an amusing caption to complement a photo of 2 1920's swimmers in suitable period costume. The picture, taken from a past issue of The Swimming Times was slightly doctored so as to depict one of the swimmers as a certain Buck Ryan, complete with beard. It was said Buck immediately shaved off his beard after hearing of this! Oh, the winning caption... "I knew they were going to raise the Titanic, but I didn't think they'd find any survivors", courtesy of Kay Scarley.

Also in early 1993, Erith were introduced to the Octopus Sprint League, which was created to provide the opportunity for those swimmers aged between 9 and 16 who do not get, or often get, a chance to swim competitively in galas against other clubs. Team managers were Dave Lawrence and Penny Spencer, with Sara Case and Sean Norris the team captains.

In May 1993 we returned to Neiham Hustein, this time with a team of 34 swimmers. David Case was drawn in as a quick replacement for Paul Nicholls, who unfortunately broke his wrist just a couple of weeks before the trip. Although training for this weekend took place at the 50m Crystal Palace pool, only those that had been before were aware of the outdoor pool and the surrounding conditions. Up against some of the best clubs in Europe, we still managed to record 6 medals and 36 places between 4th and 6th. As an example of the competition, the winning team in the 4x100 mens open event, contained Ron Dekker who was a European Champion at the time, and beat Adrian Moorhouse in the European Championships in the 100m breaststroke.

The then club captains, John Burdett and Claire Conner, successfully organised a special 24 hour charity swim, in conjunction with our 25th year at Riverside, which helped to raise more than £7,500 for their chosen charities. The Newsletter article states: "It's nice to know that the future of the club is guaranteed into the first half of the 21st century with the organisational skills and sponsorship raising abilities of our senior swimmers." Need I say more?

In the Diddy League (later to become the M11 Junior Speedo League) we finished 5th in the league, which at this time, was our best ever result. We also fielded 4 teams in one friendly gala - and yes, the other team, Dartford, filled the lanes with 2 teams. Erith Red, Erith White and Erith Black finished 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively. Erith Pink finished last.

December 1993's issue of the Newsletter welcomed a new editor, Leigh Chandler, who replaced Carol Russell. This edition included a report on the first Tudor gala where we entered two teams - red and white. Team managers were Mick Thackray for the red team and Simone Rider for the white team. Lisa Finch, later to become Lisa Burdett, competed in her first gala for the club for Erith's red team in the Tudor League. A month later she was to smash the 100m backstroke record by almost 4 seconds.

Into 1994, our first Presentation Disco took place at the Slade Green Community Centre, and Peter Frost reflected on 25 years as a member of the Club. The Newsletter from June 1994 sadly contained an article advising us of the death of Bill Lovett, who was our Club Coach between 1984 and 1988. Bill had kick started what was to be a continued period of steady improvement for the club, which markedly in 1994 included two successive wins over Bexley in the White Horse League. Later in the year, Erith Red finished 2nd in the Tudor League, with the new Erith White team finishing 5th out of 7. We also beat our previous highest position in the Diddy League, by finishing 4th.

A new editor for the Newsletter, Mr. Dave Buck, took over from November 1994. This particular issue included an interesting article entitled 'Medical Briefing - How I Keep Fat' by a certain John Burdett. It included an in depth analysis of how John strives to keep out of condition. An excerpt from the article, when John is referring to his earlier swimming days states:

"In those days I could swim a mile, but never did. I once swam a length in a relay, but made sure that I had a good meal afterwards to put on any weight I may have lost."

In 1995, we had massive success at the Kent County Championships, which resulted in the 15 swimmers entered gaining 14 final places, which included 8 top 3 places. For the first time ever, we entered a Kent relay team, which consisted of Paul Nicholls, Ian Magness, Trevor Jones and Mark Dudley. They finished 3rd in both events. 1995 also saw us return to Neihem Husten for the 3rd time. A final medal haul of 3 golds, 11 silvers and 5 bronzes gave Erith a final standing of 7th in the overall team competition, which consisted of many teams from across Europe. This year we also entered two teams into the Speedo League, where the A team were finally promoted Division 1, but only after a close nail-biter at Braintree. We secured promotion by beating Croydon by just 2 points, and yes, it came down to the mens open 6x2 event, which we finished 3rd to Croydon's 6th. 1995 was also memorable for we won the White Horse League for the first time ever, beating a very strong GBM team and of course Bexley. This was also to be Bexley's last season in the White Horse League, for what appeared to be obvious reasons! Highlights on the social side included Roy Burdett's gymnastic display at the summer's presentation disco, accompanied by a synchronised dance routine performed by Tiffany Brown and Shelley Carver. A return to Amsterdam followed in October, where the report included reference to a rather quiet Peter Frost after experiencing the Python rollercoaster at Effterling, a Dutch theme park.

In 1996, it was decided that time restrictions should be put in place to prevent Kent swimmers from taking part in the Tudor League, which was always essentially considered a B league. Erith's Red Team in the White Horse was saved by embarrassment in the open medley relay, when Trevor Holmes stepped in at the last minute in place of Sam Hayes. The Kent Championships this year were the best the club had ever achieved before with 7 gold, 6 silver and 4 bronze medals being won. In the relay championships, the 12 and under boys team consisting of Mark Nicholls, Lee Scott, Darren Chappell and Niki Branstetter won both the medley and freestyle events. Socially, 'Ramble 50' celebrated Peter Frost's 50th ramble, which was to be a 2 day event on the Isle of Wight. It included a visit to the Robin Hill Country Park, which, much to the pleasure of the more senior trekkers, the weather just about held up and enabled everyone a go on the toboggan ride! Staying in the dormitories was great fun more so for the swimmers than the allegedly more responsible parents, who tried desperately to stop any 'Blazing Saddles' type antics from continuing through the night.

A visit from Scotland's Bathgate swimming club took place in Easter 1997. Highlights included a trip to the ice skating rink in Gillingham, ten pen bowling after the gala and an unexpected appearance by EDSC's very own Spicey Girls. The gala went well, which resulted in us coming first. In addition to the visit by Bathgate, we also visited Neihem Husten in

Germany for the fourth time. We once more came across old friends from Het 'Y' Amsterdam, and for the first time the weather was brilliant. Our medal tally amounted to 4 gold, 5 silver and 8 bronzes.

At the end of the swimming season in June 1997 Jill and Mick Thackray made a difficult decision, which resulted in them passing on the responsibility of running the White Horse and Speedo League galas to John Burdett. A strong work commitment meant that Mick was regrettably not always available to be at all of the galas. Mick and Jill ran the league galas for a very creditable 15 years. Also, Maureen and Trevor Holmes decided to retire from running the friendly galas, which was to be handed over to Chris Case and Penny Spencer. Thankfully all of the aforementioned people have continued to be heavily involved in the Club whenever and wherever possible. A successful season came to a climax with the Erith White team winning the Tudor League, followed by Erith Red in 2nd position, while John, Lisa and Jenny's '24 Hour Celebration of Swimming' event went extremely well, resulting in over £6,000 being raised for good causes.

In 1998, we entered 8 teams in the Kent County Relay Championships, with 4 of them getting to the final. The level of competition increased immensely in the White Horse League, which unfortunately pushed our league position down. We also just missed out on promotion from Division 2 of the Speedo League, by finishing 5th. However, in the Octopus League we had our very first league victory. Our excellent ability to raise money for good causes continued when official 'Spicey Girls' calendars went on sale, and added a further £60 to the money already raised during the previous year's 24 hours swim.

In March 1999 I, for all my sins, took over the job as editor of the Newsletter. Carol Goodey found herself a new responsibility in the form of Octopus Team Manager. Sadly in 1999, the White Horse League was to consist of just 5 teams for the first time ever, however, we improved on our league position and finished runners up to White Darts. The White Horse league was then revamped for the next season, going back to 6 galas a year and incorporating relay and sprint galas. The 1998/1999 season finished with Erith White Team winning the Tudor League, with Erith Red close runners up. We also remained consistent with our results in the Junior Speedo League by finishing 6th. In a further alteration to Team Managers, Chris Case and Penny Spencer retired from running the friendly galas. This responsibility was later to be passed to Julie Craggs. In the Kent County Championships we gained a gold, 2 silvers and a bronze. In the county relay championships, 8 of our teams made the finals.

On the social front, Peter Frost's 'Ramble 2000' proved to be a huge success. It consisted of a 2 day ramble in the Pas de Calais, France. Two unexpected things occurred: firstly, the weather was actually quite good, and secondly, an entire stage of the Ramble had to be re-routed due to a non-anticipated amount of erosion to the paths along the cliffs of Cap Blanc Nez. The majority of Ramblers found the passing French very pleasant, with the exception coming from Roy Wallace, who planted a Union Flag as a defiant gesture against France's British Beef Ban whenever he felt it necessary. There were other obstacles along the way, which included unexploded WWII bombs and the actual tide of the Channel!

Much was to occur in the first year of the 21st century. On the organisational side of things, John Burdett became our Club Coach. He took over from Mick Thackray who was our Club Coach for over 12 years and successfully led us to victories in the White Horse and Tudor Leagues. Mick was also responsible for our first year in the Speedo League, with our highlight being in 1995, when we were first promoted to Division 1. Also, Julie Craggs took over the role as the Team Manager for Friendly Galas.

In the Kents we won 2 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals. In the relays we obtained a third silver medal. We obtained our highest ever league position in the Junior Speedo League,

finishing runners-up. We also finished equal first with White Darts in the White Horse League, and Erith Red won the Tudor League. The Sprint Trophy series was moved to September for the purpose of being able to pick the right teams at the start of the swimming season.

In Easter 2000 we welcomed back our friends from Het Y Amsterdam, after a gap of almost 6 years. The weekend consisted of a trip to London (in which the laid back Dutch lost 2 of their swimmers - but they were eventually found!), a swimming gala (in which we just beat Black Lion), a social night out on the Saturday (which resulted in double the amount of Dutch swimmers staying at my house that night), a trip to Greenwich (in which England beat the Dutch at a game of football - again!), and the traditional farewell disco (including a wonderful performance by 'Big Ben' and our own Peter Frost, playing the roles of Sonny and Cher and singing 'I Got You Babe'). In addition to our Dutch friends visiting, we also sent a team to Bathgate in the autumn.

Into 2001, where we entered our biggest ever entry in the Kent County Championships - 37 swimmers took part, of which 27 made it into the Top 6. In Easter 2001, we returned to Amsterdam. The trip included a 'mini ramble' by Peter Frost through Bruges, which made Ian Magness so hungry he promptly ordered 1kg of mussels as soon as we'd sat down in a restaurant. According to eyewitness accounts, Peter Frost provided the majority of the laughs when most of the team opted for some roller-blading through the parks of Amsterdam. The gala on the Sunday included an exclusive DJ (not quite like our own MC Frost). The farewell disco that evening contained a typically traditional EDSC cabaret performance by our very own Village People. The Erith Red team winning the Tudor League meant a successful end to the 2000/2001 swimming season. The White Horse League 2001 was won by White Darts who unfortunately beat us by just 1 league point. We also finished 6th in the Division 3 (East) of the Speedo League.

Our 90th anniversary year got off to a great start when the 130 length barrier was broken for the first in the long distance swim by not one, but two of our swimmers - Freda Ross and Philip Brown. Also, Erith won the Victoria Cup gala for the third year in a row - thrashing Bexley in the process. 2002 also saw us enter the North Kent Junior League for the first time, which, by the end of the season, saw us promoted into Division 2. In the Speedo League, we entered 2 teams again after a gap of a couple of years.

Special 90th Anniversary social events were held throughout the year, including two very successful Pontins Weekends away in both March and November, an anniversary disco in September, a visit from Bathgate swimming club in October and a very special and successful 90th Anniversary Dinner and Dance held at the Alexander Suite in Swanley. A special raffle was held on the night which helped to raise over £2000 for the Oliver Fisher Special Baby Care Unit in Medway.

Now bang up to date, I would hope that has given you a brief (and believe me, that was brief) history of Erith and District Swimming Club. Over the last few editions of the Newsletter we have discussed the history leading up to the successful, well run, family orientated swimming club that we have all learnt to know and love. It has also hopefully explained and demonstrated that the future of the club is in the hands of the current membership, and in particular the younger swimmers of today. So, here's to another 90 great years - just don't expect me to be writing about the history then!

*Parts 1, 2 and 3 written by Allan Bedford
Part 4 written by Paul Nicholls*



FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2003



APRIL	Saturday 12th	White Horse League Round 2 - Bromley host		
	Sunday 13th	Southern Counties Masters 1 - Crystal Palace		
	Sunday 20th	Tudor League Round 6 (Red and White teams)		
	Saturday 26th	Southern Counties Masters 2 - Crystal Palace Easter Open Meet - Dartford Octopus League Round 4		
MAY	Saturday 10th	Friendly Gala - Elmbridge Pheonix		
	Sunday 11th	Annual Gala - Session 1		
	Tuesday 13th	Annual Gala - Session 2		
	Saturday 17th	Octopus League Round 5 Tudor League Round 7 (White team only)		
	Sunday 18th Saturday 31st	Annual Gala - Session 3 Friendly Gala - Ashford		
JUNE	Sunday 1st	Junior Speedo League Round 3		
	Saturday 7th	White Horse League Round 3 - White Darts host		
	Sunday 8th	Tudor League Round 8 (Red and White teams)		
	Friday 13th	Annual Gala - Session 4		
	Sunday 15th	Annual Gala - Session 5		
	Saturday 14th	North Kent Junior League Round 1		
	Saturday 21st	Octopus League Round 6 (EDSC drop out)		
	Sunday 22nd	Eastbourne Masters		
	Friday 27th	Annual Gala - Session 6		
	Saturday 28th Sunday 29th	Kent Junior League Round 1 Annual Gala - Session 7		
JULY	Saturday 5th Saturday 12th	White Horse League Round 4 - Beckenham host Presentation Disco for Tudor/Junior Speedo Leagues <i>and</i> Kent County Masters Championships at Black Lion (2pm)		
	SEPTEMBER	Saturday 13th Saturday 20th Saturday 27th	Octopus League Round 7 North Kent Junior League Round 2 White Horse League Round 5 - Eltham host	
OCTOBER		Saturday 11th Saturday 18th Fri 24th - Sun 26th Thurs 30th	Speedo League Round 1 Octopus League Round 8 National Masters - Sheffield Family Ramble (provisional)	
		NOVEMBER	Fri 31st Oct-Mon 3rd Nov Saturday 1st Saturday 8th Sunday 9th Saturday 15th Saturday 22nd	Family Halloween Weekend Away at Pontins Haywards Heath Masters Speedo League Round 2 County Development Meet - Canterbury North Kent Junior League Round 3 White Horse League Round 6 - Croydon host
	DECEMBER		Saturday 13th	Speedo League Round 3