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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

➤ John Burdett
(xxxx) xxxxxx

Tudor League – Red Team:

➤ Carol Goodey
(xxxx) xxxxxx

Tudor League – White Team:

➤ Julie Craggs
(xxxx) xxxxxx

Octopus League:

➤ Paul Byskup
(xxx) xxxx xxxx

Friendly Galas:

➤ Julie Craggs
(xxxx) xxxxxx

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

➤ Pam Bedford
(xxxx) xxxxxx

Newsletter (comments, articles) & Swimmers' Representative:

➤ Paul Nicholls
(xxxx) xxxxxx
xxxx xxxxxx
E-mail:
xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx

Secretary's News

May I start by wishing you all a happy Christmas and successful New Year from the Main Committee, Instructors and Officials.

Our first internal event of the New Year will be the 2nd Future Champions Gala on **Sunday 18th January 2003** and this will involve *all* members from 7-12 years. The warm-up will start as soon after 4 p.m. as we can make it. Please let us know in advance if you can't swim that afternoon. However, it is particularly important that you do take part in this event in order for coaches to assess your progress, and for Team Managers to pick the best available team for external events.

Please see below our timetable over the Christmas/New Year period:

Tuesday, 23 rd December 2003	Fun Night from 8 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. (Members only)
Friday, 26 th December 2003	Pool closed
Saturday, 27 th December 2003 7-8 a.m	Normal session
Sunday, 28 th December 2003	No session
Monday, 29 th December 2003	No session
Tuesday, 30 th December 2003	No session
Friday, 2 nd January 2004	Normal session
Saturday, 3 rd January 2004	Normal session
Sunday, 4 th January 2004	Synchro 1-2 p.m. Junior swimmers 2-3 p.m., Advanced swimmers 3-4 p.m., Masters 4-5 p.m.

Congratulations to:

Kelly Bealing, Philip Cunningham, Sammie Evans, Emma Gardiner, Judith Goodey, Joe Hodges, Emma Hoyne Butler, Michael Redpath, James Stear, Peter Sullivan, and James Willey for successfully completing your Club Helpers Course. We look forward to seeing you teaching on poolside.

We hope to run an ASA Teachers Level 1 Course in the New Year. We would like to see some parents and Masters taking the qualification. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. This will involve you in a small financial outlay although the club will give some aid towards the costs in return for some help on poolside. Teaching and coaching for the club can be very rewarding.

Pam Bedford, Club Secretary

Gala Results

All the latest League and Friendly Gala Results

Speedo League 2003

ROUND 1 – SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER 2003

Gala Results

A CRAWLEY		
Pos	Club	Points
1	Crawley	240
2	White Darts	209
3	Haywards Heath	194
4	Erith 'A'	164
5	Orpington	146
6	Hythe Aqua	91

65 Erith swimmers were in competition for the first round of the Speedo League 2003. Erith's A team got off to a good start in a tough draw for their Division 1 gala, held at Crawley. **James Stear** broke a 9 year old club record in the 15 and under 100m breaststroke event, and **Shane Hume** took half a second off the mens open 100m freestyle record. Erith had five individual wins of the night, courtesy of **Jake Reeves, Tim Colman, Michael Cook, Laura Porritt and Joe Thorogood**. There was also a win for the boys 13 and under medley relay team consisting of **Michael Cook, Joe Thorogood, Richard Goodey and Luke Morris**. In the B team's Division 2 gala at Sevenoaks there were good individual swims from **Rory Jenner, Ian Magness, Amy Glasscock, Joe Hodges and Gary Lansdale**.

B SEVENOAKS		
Pos	Club	Points
1	East Grinstead	245
2	Beckenham 'B'	224
3	Sevenoaks	193
4	Croydon 'B'	165
5	Erith 'B'	118
6	Eltham Stingrays	95

ROUND 2 – SATURDAY 8th NOVEMBER AND SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2003

Gala Results

A CRAWLEY		
Pos	Club	Points
1	Herne Bay	240
2	Crawley	225
3	Black Lion	194
4	Erith 'A'	171
5	Dorking	146
6	Ashford	68

In the second round of the Speedo League, the A team were again in action at Crawley, whilst the gala for the B team, which was originally going to be held at Erith, was postponed due to a severe lack of water in the pool (well, 0.01m to be precise) and actually took place on Sunday 23rd November at Beckenham Spa. The A team had 3 individual wins with 2 from **Joe Thorogood, and Tim Colman**, whilst the open ladies medley relay team consisting of **Tiffany Brown, Hannah Spencer, Freda Ross and Shelley Carver** also managed a win. Special mention to **Mark Russell**, who managed a PB in the 100m butterfly, for the first time in, well, a long time. The B team were relatively consistent throughout, and although we were in the absence of any wins, there were several good second places from **Heidi Green, Darren Fuller, Matt Kirkup, Ian Magness, Jenny Vick, Dean Povey-Garman, Daniel Upsher, Joe Hodges, Louise Hoyne-Butler, Rory Jenner and Helen Clifton**.

B BECKENHAM SPA		
Pos	Club	Points
1	Beckenham 'B'	254
2	Croydon 'B'	185.5
3	Epsom	183
4	Erith 'B'	154.5
5	Larkfield	145
6	Atlantis	122

ROUND 3 – SATURDAY 13th DECEMBER 2003

Gala Results

A	BURGESS HILL	
Pos	Club	Points
1	Croydon	197
2	Burgess Hill	188
3	Braintree	183
4	Elmbridge	172
5	Erith A	160
6	Bromley	149

B	SEVENOAKS	
Pos	Club	Points
1	Redhill and Reigate	187
2	Erith B	168
3	Larkfield	154
4	Eltham Stingrays	120
5	Atlantis	111

The final round of 2003's Speedo League took the A team to Burgess Hill, and the B team returned to Sevenoaks. Not long after arriving at Burgess Hill, it became apparent that there were 7 teams present on poolside. Sure enough, Hastings were actually meant to be swimming at another Division 2 gala at Orpington. Luckily for them, Burgess Hill is an 8 lane pool and it is believed their times were recorded and are likely to be incorporated into the gala held at Orpington. Other than that we saw some really good swims from Erith, most notably from **Michael Redpath**, who had previously been disqualified in the 100m backstroke event, but later avenged himself in the 100m freestyle race, not only by winning the race, but also shaving 1.5 seconds of his PB – now down to 57.36. And to think it was only 6 months ago that **Michael** went under a minute for the first time. 2 club records were also broken: **Shane Hume** took 0.17 seconds off the open freestyle record, while **James Stear** took another second off the 14 and under breaststroke record. Other individual wins for the A team came from **Tim Colman, Tiffany Brown, Jake Reeves, and Joe Thorogood**. The B team finished an excellent 2nd in their gala. Individual wins came from **Darren Fuller, Emma Eady (2), Jenny Vick,**

Phillip Rush, Matt Kirkup (2), Amy Glasscock, Ian Magness and Ashley Murray.

White Horse League 2003

ROUND 5 – ELTHAM – SATURDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points
=1	White Darts	103
=1	Croydon	103
3	Erith	136
4	Beckenham	143
5	Bromley	163
6	Eltham	219

A good performance which saw us beat Beckenham into 3rd place. There were 8 wins for Erith in total, including individual wins from **Tim Colman (2), Judith Goodey, Michael Cook, Laura Porritt, and Shane Hume**. The open freestyle team consisting of **Shane, Tiffany Brown, Freda Ross and Mark Russell** also gained maximum points for the team, as did **Grace McCalla, Richard Goodey, Michael Cook and Stacey Reeves** in the 13 and under freestyle team.

ROUND 6 – CROYDON – SATURDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points
1	Croydon	76
2	White Darts	116
3	Erith	127
4	Bromley	135
5	Eltham	201
DNS	Beckenham	

The final round was held at the 25m pool in Croydon. We achieved 5 wins during the night, with two individual wins from **Joe Thorogood** & 1 from **Shane Hume**, whilst the 15 and under mixed freestyle team consisting of **James Stear, Judith Goodey, Grace McCalla and Michael Redpath** gained maximum points, as did the 13 and under mixed freestyle team consisting of **Michael Cook, Stacey Reeves, Grace McCalla and Joe Thorogood**.

FINAL WHITE HORSE LEAGUE TABLE 2003:

Pos	Club	League Points
1	White Darts	66.5
2	Croydon	64.5
3	Bromley	58
4	Erith	56
5	Eltham	44
6	Beckenham	40

North Kent Junior League 2003

ROUND 2 – MOTE PARK – SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points
1	Erith	208
2	Sevenoaks	199
3	Greenwich Meridian	169
4	Orpington	163
5	Edenbridge	154
6	Margate	126

The Club followed up a win in the first round with a win in this, the second round held at Mote Park. **Laura Porritt** was Erith's top swimmer of the night with three individual wins, including the 12 and under backstroke and butterfly, and the 13 and under butterfly. **Michael Cook** gained maximum points for the team and also broke an 8 year old club record in the 13 and under backstroke event. Other good individual wins came courtesy of **Timothy Colman (2)**, **Jake Reeves**, **Joe Thorogood** and **Stacey Reeves**.

ROUND 3 – SEVENOAKS – SATURDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points
1	Erith	209
2	Sevenoaks	201
3	Greenwich Meridian	163
4	Edenbridge	159
5	Orpington	127
6	Margate	112

Erith gained promotion for the 2nd season running in this league, following a win in the final round at Sevenoaks. 18 out of the 47 races were won by Erith. Individual wins came from **Michael Cook (3)**, **Tim Colman (2)**, **Jake Reeves**, **Laura Porritt (3)**, **Shane Povey Garman (2)**, **Joe Thorogood (2)**, **Stacey Reeves** and **Alice McCalla**. The win resulted in Erith winning the league by a comfortable 3 league points. Next season will see us swimming against some more of the top clubs in North Kent, including Beckenham, who were relegated from Div 1 this year.

FINAL NORTH KENT JUNIOR LEAGUE DIVISION 3 LEAGUE TABLE 2003:

Pos	Club	League Points
1	Erith	18
2	Sevenoaks	15
3	Greenwich Meridian	12
4	Orpington	8
5	Edenbridge	6
6	Margate	4

Kent Junior League 2004				
Div 1	Div 2	Div 3	Div 4	Div 5
Beckenham	Ashford	City of Rochester	Beaver	Beachfield
Bexley	Black Lion	Edenbridge Piranhas	Gravesend & N'fleet	City of Canterbury B
City of Canterbury A	Bromley	Greenwich	Hythe Aqua	Chislehurst M'nium
Dover LG	Erith	Orpington Ojays	Larkfield	Eltham Stingrays
Herne Bay	Thanet	Saxon Crown	Maidstone	Folkestone
RTW Monson	White Darts	Sevenoaks	Margate	

Tudor League 2003/2004

ROUND 1 – ELTHAM – SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points	Time Faults
1	Eltham Stingrays	194	5
2	Erith Red	185	4
3	Erith White	173	11
4	Dartford	163	10
5	Bromley	151	8
6	Orpington	107	4

A promising start from both Erith teams in the new and revised Tudor League for the 2003/2004 season. Individual wins in the Red team came from **Naomi Monksfield, Stacey Reeves (2), Sophie Evans, Sam Gardiner (2), and Richard Jones**, whilst in the White team individual wins were recorded by **Luke Morris and Helen Clifton**.

ROUND 2 – ELTHAM – SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points	Time Faults
1	Eltham Stingrays	223	3
2	Greenwich	179	4
3	Erith White	167	4
4	Dartford	165	8
5	Orpington	144	6
6	Gravesend	121	10

Erith White did well by maintaining exactly the same gala position as before, but significantly reducing the number of time faults. Well done to the 3 individual winners of the night: **Callum Kent, Stevie Kirkup, and Thomas Rose**. Plus, the boys 10 and under freestyle and medley team, consisting of **Matthew Bassett, Sam Murray, Callum Kent and Marcus Page**, and the girls 10 and under medley team, **Gemma Davis, Alice McCalla, Emma Goodey, and Elizabeth Kennedy**.

*White team reports by Julie Craggs
Red team reports by Carol Goodey*

Octopus League 2003

ROUND 7 – SATURDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points
1	Barracuda	184
2	Bromley	176
3	Streatham	159
4	Woodside	139
5	Eltham	111
6	Erith	103

In the 7th round we saw some good individual swims from **Callum Kent** in the 10 years freestyle, **Charlotte Ashby** in the 10 years breaststroke, **Stevie Kirkup** in the 16 and under backstroke and **Sam Gardiner** in the 10 years butterfly.

ROUND 8 – SATURDAY 18th OCTOBER 2003

Gala Results

Pos	Club	Points
1	Barracuda	188
2	Bromley	171
3	Croydon	144
4	Streatham	143
5	Erith	125
6	Eltham	84

In the 8th and final round of the Octopus League 2003, there were good individual swims from **Callum Kent, Matthew Bassett, Daniel Upsher and Stevie Kirkup**. There was also a win for the 10 and under freestyle relay team consisting of **Emily Coyle, Marcus Page, Gemma Davies and Callum Kent**. The gala results should have meant that we finished in last place (8th) overall, however we were in fact awarded 6th place. Barracuda and Bromley swimming clubs were excluded from the competition under league rule 1.5 which states that: "No team shall be allowed to accumulate more than 27 league points in one season. Any club gaining more than 28 league points shall be immediately suspended and subject to dismissal from the league. Any proposed dismissal shall be fully discussed and voted on at the next general meeting."

FINAL OCTOPUS LEAGUE TABLE 2003:

Pos	Club	Gala Points	League Points
1	Streatham	807	23
2	Croydon	795	23
3	Edenbridge	783	20
4	Eltham	728	16
5	Woodside	634	16
6	Erith	629	12
DQ	<i>Barracuda</i>	<i>1026</i>	<i>30</i>
DQ	<i>Bromley</i>	<i>1001</i>	<i>28</i>

Paul Byskup – Octopus Team Manager

Your Swimmers' Representative

Many of you will no doubt know that **Heidi Green** has gone to Australia for a year, which now means that we have one swimmers' representative, namely myself, **Paul Nicholls**. As a reminder, please feel free to speak to me if you've got comments (negative or positive) to say about the following issues: **coaching / swimming galas / selection processes / your future with EDSC / social events / any other issues relevant to your future and enjoyment of EDSC**. I'm also available to speak to if you have an issue with another swimmer and you wish to speak to someone confidentially. Being a Management Committee Member I am also able to forward on any suggestions you may have with regards to improving the way the Club operates. I'm usually present to speak to on Monday (8.30-10pm), Tuesday (8.45-10pm) and Wednesday nights (8-9pm). Please feel free to phone / text me on my mobile: xxxxx xxxxxx, or e-mail me: xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xxx.xx

Club Trophies

As a reminder for all those in possession of any Club trophies, please note it is your responsibility to look after your trophy. If, at any time the trophy is accidentally broken it is your responsibility to replace the broken part or, if it cannot be repaired, replace the entire trophy (please let me know in advance if this is the case). Please also note that it is your responsibility to get your name engraved on the trophy (for this Pantiles in Bexleyheath is recommended). If you experience any difficulties in getting your name engraved then please speak to **Paul Nicholls**. Finally, when you are asked to return your trophy/trophies please make sure that no repair work is required and that they are clean and shiny! (a bottle of silver polish at around £2 is all you need).

Paul Nicholls

Other Results

Sprint Trophy September 2003

Pos	Age group / name	Points
	7 and Under Girls	
1	Francesca Williams	42
2	Alice Walden	23
3	Hannah Campbell	18
	9 and Under Girls	
=1	Emma Goodey	50
=1	Emily White	50
3	Casey Porritt	38
	11 and Under Girls	
1	Emily Morris	40
=2	Ria Surridge	32
=2	Alice McCalla	32
	13 and Under Girls	
1	Stacey Reeves	48
2	Grace McCalla	40
3	Rachel Cook	38
	15 and Under Girls	
1	Judith Goodey	54
2	Emma Hoyne Butler	50
3	Emma Gardiner	33
	Open Ladies	
1	Shelley Carver	44
2	Freda Ross	42
3	Luch Cowell	35

Pos	Age group / name	Points
	7 and Under Boys	
1	Daniel Bassett	42
2	Zack Anderson	27
3	Robbie Aldis	21
	9 and Under Boys	
1	Henry Wong	52
2	Jack Hussey	49
3	Tommy Cowell	20
	11 and Under Boys	
1	Timothy Colman	52
2	Dean Povey-Garman	42
3	Jake Reeves	38
	13 and Under Boys	
1	Joe Thorogood	54
2	Michael Cook	50
3	Richard Goodey	34
	15 and Under Boys	
1	Michael Redpath	48
2	James Willey	42
3	Joseph Hodges	34
	Open Mens	
1	Phillip Brown	36
2	Stephen Kihara	34
3	Gary Lansdale	30

Overall Winners:

Girls: **Judith Goodey** (54 points)

Boys: **Joe Thorogood** (54 points)

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

Georgina Bradley
Jack Campbell
Caitlin Colman
Emily Coyle

Tommy Parry
Jordon Smith
Ben Warnes
Jane Wickett

Adam Forrest
Henry Wong
Rebecca O'Dwyer
Josephine Wynee-Williams

Chris Case

Over the page is the latest list of Club Records. Over the last couple of months we have seen 5 Club Records broken, plus another one equaled. Well done to **Emily White**, **Michael Cook**, **James Stear**, **Laura Porritt**, **Joe Thorogood**, **Stephen Kihara** and **Shane Hume**, who have all broken Club Records this year. Please note if you believe you may have broken a club record then please speak to either **John Burdett** or **Sue Carver**.

Latest Club Records – December 2003

Event	Age Group	Competitor	Time
Girls Front Crawl 1L	8 & U	H. Wallington 1991	24.74
Girls Backstroke 1L	8 & U	E White 2003	29.28
Girls Breaststroke	8 & U	J Cousins 1998	33.30
Boys Front Crawl 1L	8 & U	N Brandstetter 1993	24.40
Boys Backstroke 1L	8 & U	M Shead 1998	29.56
Boys Breaststroke 1L	8 & U	M Shead 1997	30.95
Girls Front Crawl 2L	10 & U	C Ross 2000	47.48
Girls Backstroke 2L	10 & U	A Howard 1999	57.22
Girls Breaststroke 2L	10 & U	L Smith 1991	1.03.71
Girls Butterfly 1L	10 & U	J Barclay 1999	24.32
Girls Front Crawl 1L	10 & U	L Smith 1991	20.99
Boys Front Crawl 2L	10 & U	N Brandstetter 1995	45.78
Boys Backstroke 2L	10 & U	N Brandstetter 1995	54.55
Boys Breaststroke 2L	10 & U	M Shead 1999	58.84
Boys Butterfly 1L	10 & U	N Brandstetter 1995	22.15
Boys Front Crawl 1L	10 & U	N Brandstetter 1995	20.31
Girls Front Crawl 100m	12 & U	K Bealing 2001	1.09.??
Girls Backstroke 100m	12 & U	L Porritt 2003	1.18.25
Girls Breaststroke 100m	12 & U	H Green 1990	1.28.94
Girls Butterfly 2L	12 & U	L Porritt 2003	47.99
Girls 100m Butterfly	12 & U	L Porritt 2003	1.18.34
Girls Front Crawl 1L	12 & U	A Howard 2001	19.56
Boys Front Crawl 100m	12 & U	I Magness 1991	1.05.46
Boys Backstroke 100m	12 & U	M Cook 2003	1.10.64
Boys Breaststroke 100m	12 & U	J Thorogood 2003	1.19.40
Boys Butterfly 2L	12 & U	D Chappell 1996	45.09
Boys Front Crawl 1L	12 & U	J Thorogood 2003	18.47
Girls Front Crawl 100m	14 & U	A Hill 1993	1.05.69
Girls Backstroke 100m	14 & U	T Brown 2001	1.14.89
Girls Breaststroke 100m	14 & U	H Spencer 1993	1.24.76
Girls Butterfly 100m	14 & U	A Hill 1993	1.16.16
Girls Front Crawl 1L	14 & U	A Hill 1993	19.13
Boys Front Crawl 100m	14 & U	A Bates 1996	58.90
Boys Backstroke 100m	14 & U	P Brown 2001	1.08.33
Boys Breaststroke 100m	14 & U	J Stear 2003	1.16.17
Boys Butterfly 100m	14 & U	R Carver 1999	1.07.80
Boys Front Crawl 1L	14 & U	P Nicholls 1994	17.11
Girls Front Crawl 100m	16 & U	H Spencer 1995	1.04.09
Girls Backstroke 100m	16 & U	T Brown 2001	1.13.53
Girls Breaststroke 100m	16 & U	H Spencer 1994	1.21.65
Girls Butterfly 100m	16 & U	A Hill 1994	1.14.28
Girls Front Crawl 1L	16 & U	N Bennett 1996	18.67
Boys Front Crawl 100m	16 & U	R Carver 2001	56.74
Boys Backstroke 100m	16 & U	I Magness 1995	1.05.15
Boys Breaststroke 100m	16 & U	S Kihara 2000	1.14.28
Boys Butterfly 100m	16 & U	R Carver 2000	1.04.74
Boys Front Crawl 1L	16 & U	P Dodson 1992	16.55
Ladies Front Crawl 100m	Open	F Ross 1999	1.01.78
Ladies Backstroke 100m	Open	F Ross 1999	1.09.44
Ladies Breaststroke 100m	Open	H Spencer 1996	1.18.53
Ladies Butterfly 100m	Open	F Ross 1998	1.08.21
Ladies Front Crawl 1L	Open	A Nye 1995	18.55
Mens Front Crawl 100m	Open	S Hume 2003	55.30
Mens Backstroke 100m	Open	I Magness 1998	1.04.77
Mens Breaststroke 100m	Open	S Kihara 2003	1.10.58
Mens Butterfly 100m	Open	G Cooper 2001	1.01.49
Mens Front Crawl 1L	Open	S Hayes 1993	16.20

Masters Section

Masters Sheffield, Ponds Forge – 24 to 26 October 2003

Seven Masters, **Mark Russell, David Kane, Dennis Vick, Freda Ross, Luch Cowell, Jenny Vick, Emily Chadwick and Shane Hume** ventured to the North for the ASA Championships. As with all good Masters events there were lots of talking, re-newing of friendships and socialising. When we got down to the serious stuff, swimming, we did not let the Club down. **Luch** came away with a bronze and silver for the 100 and 50m breaststroke and a bronze for the 76 age freestyle relay. **Jenny** got a bronze for the 100m butterfly. **Shane, Mark and Freda** received bronzes for the 76 age relay. Apart from that a number of PBs were recorded by others.

The real treat and showstoppers were the 50 and 100m freestyle events which brought everyone to their feet with a winning time of 22.6 and 49.5 seconds respectively.

Jokers Gala – 1 November 2003

I must first state that we let Haywards Heath, the host club, have their cup back after 2 years but we did finish second only 7 points behind them.

We had a first though in turning out 27 Masters swimmers arguably our biggest team for some time, it was most certainly our biggest turnout of 'virgin' swimmers. It shows the strength of the section that almost until we left Erith alterations were being made due to injuries etc and we still got to Haywards Heath with further team 'shufflings' being made on the coach, despite the President suddenly waking up and saying we should be going to Horsham!

A few people deserve a mention but everyone should be proud of their efforts. A special thanks to our travelling officials, recorders and team whips. Two exceptional swims were made in the relay legs by **David Kane and Mark Russell** (warm water swimming only), although the Club coach thought he had a good leg but it wasn't so good for us to record the split! It was nice to see **Alison Nye** back in the team and **Sasha**, now McCully, swimming competitively after a break of ??? years.

We had four disqualifications, **Kathy Anderson** for waving to her husband at the start, **Peter Frost** for not walking on water, too tired after the ramble and the Masters coach and her husband who can only apologise profusely. We all have excuses because the DQ's were being handed out like confetti so it could have happened to anyone, we volunteered to be the honourable sacrifices.

Lastly, mention must be made of **Luch Cowell** who did not really want to swim so she dislocated her right shoulder instead, by the time of reading this she had better be restored to full health!

Dennis Vick
Masters Representative

Social Section News

33rd 'Internationales Schwimmfest', Arnsberg, Germany Friday 28th to Monday 31st May 2004

Can it be that 6 long years have elapsed since our swimmers last crossed the German border to compete at the 'Internationales Schwimmfest' in Bexley's twin town of Neheim Husten? Well, if current plans succeed, we hope to take a team of approximately 30 swimmers back to compete in this attractive suburb of Arnsberg over the course of next years' Spring Bank Holiday, between Friday 28th and Monday 31st May.

However, this annual event is not for the faint hearted, so before you reach for the atlas in an attempt to pinpoint Arnsberg, (it's on the western fringes of the Black Forest east of the Rhur), be warned that it comprises two full days of intense competition, is held in an open-air 50m pool and attracts national and international swimmers from Clubs all over Europe!

Still enthusiastic? Well, there are several major hurdles to cross before we can sit down to decide who will be in the team and who will swim what... Inevitably, cost will be an overriding factor and unless a willing sponsor can be found, the full coach and accommodation fees will have to be borne by each swimmer and official. Crucially, for every selected swimmer of school age, we will require their Headteacher's written permission to allow them to forego a days' education on Friday 28th May. Whilst this could prove to be the 'fly in the ointment', I have had encouraging responses from several schools who I have already approached with our proposals. In addition, we will also need several willing Parents to volunteer their time and services in the multi-skilled role of chaperone, bag person, first aider, flag carrier, barbecue Chef, etc, etc.

Whilst information is still being gathered, it is hoped that a team can be announced early in the New Year to be followed by a preliminary meeting between swimmers, Parents and Club Officials. Here's hoping for our fifth visit to Germany. All I can say is, "Watch this space..!"

Peter Frost, Chairman of the Social Section

London to Brighton Bike Ride – Sunday 20th June 2004

Next year we are hoping to organise a team to take part in the London to Brighton bike ride. If progress in organising this event is successful this will be the first time the swimming club have entered a team into the bike ride for about 4 years. In the past, the Club has helped to raise thousands of pounds for the British Heart Foundation.

If you are interested in taking part in next year's event then please place your name on the list, which is now on the Club's Noticeboard. Please note that this list is not final. Please also note that Club Members will get priority. It is hoped that we will be able to get a team of at least 30 people together. A lorry, which has already been booked by Allan Bedford, will take the bikes from Riverside to the start of the 58 mile ride in Clapham Common. A double decker coach will transport riders and supporters to the start, and then the supporters to Brighton and then back again with the riders on board. Again, please note, riders have preference over supporters for the coach. Those wishing to be a member of the Club's team are expected to come back on the team coach, which will be available, along with supporters, for an inclusive price. The cost of actually taking part in the bike ride is about £20, and of course, you are expected to raise plenty of money for the British Heart Foundation!

The event is open to all who are aged 14 and above on the day of the bike ride. Those under 18 will need to have the entry form signed by their parents or guardian. An adult minder for the day will need to be assigned to those under this age. We will also need to organise at least two contacts at the Brighton end to deal with potential problems experienced by riders.

Having completed my first London to Brighton bike ride this year, I can say the whole experience is certainly worth while. It is a great day out, and regular riders of this event tell me that this year's brilliant weather was by no means a one off. So if you think you could hack the 58 mile distance (which, I should state now includes a few mean hills), then place your name on the Noticeboard now!

Paul Nicholls

Family Ramble, Thursday 30th October 2003

Firstly we got on the coach really early in the morning. Peter told us what we were doing for the day. He then gave us a game to play using people's surnames (as you will see below). We got off the coach walked a little and it seemed every girl/woman had to go toilet. NICE! Again we walked a little bit more and eventually found our path that we were meant to be on - it was a bank with the river on each side, it was very slippery and was hard not to fall in. Judith could not stay on her feet. We got on a steam train that took us about 2 minutes down the road, which I believe we could have walked in almost the same time! We came to some fields.

Then we came to a road that was expected to lead us to the pub that we had arranged to have lunch in. However, Peter wanted to find a short cut - again he found this big field with a big gate at the end of it. On the opposite side of the gate were some woods, and everyone thought it looked like the woods from the Blair Witch Project - some girls were a little scared (not me of course!). When we got into the woods Peter realised that we were not going the right way. At this point Frank and Moya's dogs decided to visit this really smelly lake thing. Then a really tragic thing happened - Frank went over to rescue his dogs but fell in himself, and he was absolutely covered in this black smelly stuff up 2 his thigh. This was very dangerous and we all decided to get out of the woods because we thought that maybe the Blair Witch really was there. So Pete decided to go the long way round the roads and take no more shortcuts.

When we finally got to the pub where we were eating everyone was so happy and especially since it involved sitting down. After we had all eaten all the kids went and played pool or snooker (I'm not sure which one). Before we all got on the way Pete took our picture. We walked again a lot more and it started to quickly get dark. We walked through this field and it was really dark and scary - there were lots of cow pats on the floor and there were 2 or 3 really big, fat cows just staring at us. Right near the end we had to walk (you would never have guessed it) through a field and it had really big prickly bushes in it and they really hurt my feet - luckily I got offered a piggy back!!!

Soon it became clear that we were lost again, and we ended up walking through a graveyard (I hate graveyards at the best of times and it didn't help with bats flying over us). We finished outside this pub a million miles away from where we were meant to meet the coach so Pete had to call the coach to come and pick us up - unfortunately this meant a 30 minute wait and it was raining (oh my god my hair!). When we finally got on the coach Pete read out our surname games, but the kids and young adults (which includes me) at the back of the coach didn't win. We got back to Erith at about half 9, 10 - which is well past my bedtime.

Stevie Kirkup

Even before the Ramble got underway, the hour or so on the coach had most swimmers and Parents pre-occupied with the 'Surname Game' where they were asked to compose a short, humorous story incorporating the surnames of all those participating. If that sounds odd, just have a laugh at the inventiveness of the winning entries (the surnames are shown in bold type).

Story 1 (by **Matt and Stevie Kirkup, Emma Hoyne-Butler and Judith Goodey**):

The **Walkers and Riders** were on a coach with **Frost** on the windows. The coach was being **Stear** by Mr. **Fitnum**. Once off the coach, we then walked down the **Redpath** and found a **Piele** and a bottle of orange **Kihara** juice. The **Craggs** were **Fuller** it. Their eyes were **Eady** beady. We went to the **Hoyne-Butler** where the **Cook** made is some **Byskups**. When we left, we were all feeling **Goodey**. We turned **Eastaugh** at the **Morris Smith** path. Most of us were wearing **Lansdale** jumpers. At the end, we found a farm called the **Kirkup** farm. We all turned around to **Facer** the cows which was next to a pond with **Reeves** in it. Once on the **Dobberson** coach, we all fell asleep...

Story 2 (by **Gill and Arthur Piele**):

Awoke bright and early, the **Frost** was on the ground. Oh **Goodey**, it's ramble day, I'll **Stear** my **Morris** round, **Piele** the oranges, pack the **Byskups** and **Fitnum** in the boot. Now I've got the **Kihara**, isn't this a hoot!

I'm not an **Eady Rider**, is it **Eastaugh** West? I think I'll take the **Redpath and Walker** with the rest.

We fell down **Craggs** and dropped our bags, I'm glad they weren't **Fuller**. The person who **Cooks** up this route, I'd really love to muller!

Hoyme-Butler wandered off with **Smith**, up hill and down **Lansdale**. We hunted high and low for them, all to no avail.

The day is done, back in the car and I'm no boy racer. Tucked-up in bed, I get the eye, but really couldn't **Facer!**

Motown Weekend – 31st October to 3rd November 2003 Pontins, Pakefield, East Suffolk Coast

For the second year running we returned to the East Suffolk Coast for the Pontins 'Halloween' themed weekend, for plenty of entertainment, grub and the occasional alcoholic beverage for those old enough to consume one.

It didn't take long before our first drinking casualty was recorded – one member of the party was down and out at approximately 5.30pm on the Friday, after being present for a mere two hours. A record, I believe, for any trip to Pontins. After warming up the bar, we warmed up ourselves a little with a choice of hot meals in the buffet style restaurant, and then promptly returned to our chalets and got ready for the first of three evenings in the main hall.

Saturday morning arrived, and it was clear to see that not many people could be bothered to leave their beds and attend to breakfast. For me, any pain experienced courtesy of a hangover was overridden by the smell of a cooked English breakfast. For our small contingent we later took a trip up to Great Yarmouth, and after spotting a cinema, decided that it would be relatively appropriate to go and see the new version of the Texas Chainsaw Massacre.

The Saturday, we decided, would be the night to wear our Halloween costumes and outfits. This year I really splashed out and purchased five Halloween items from the 99p Stores in Dartford. Full credit to ex Club Member, **Steve Lawrence**, along with his mates who all dressed up in similar 'Scream' type costumes, and also hooked up straws through them in order to deal with the issue of drinking with a mask on. Once again, the costumes resulted in some degree of confusion, particularly for Pontins new recruit, **Mark Nicholls**, who let **Steve Lawrence** know how obvious it was that it was him because of his belly sticking out. Only thing was the person Mark was talking to wasn't Steve at all. **Mark and Rory Jenner** also looked good in their nuns outfit – though I'm still unsure how this is connected with Halloween. They both insist that the costumes were in the Halloween section. However, I believe they were possibly there as a 'gap fill', due to the Halloween costumes being sold out.

Because of school on the Monday many families left on the Sunday, so it was a little strange as to why they decided to have the fancy dress parade on the Sunday evening. Still, there were plenty of Erith Club members about, including **Sam Hayes**, who I kept catching playing with his son's toys more than Lewis himself.

Once again, I do believe a good weekend was had by all who attended. It was particularly pleasing to hear that the new recruits had a good time. Hopefully next year, we'll have plenty more Club members on board – watch out for details to come in future editions of the Newsletter. Finally, on behalf of everyone who went, thanks must go to **Jill Thackray** for her organisational efforts, even though **Jill and Mick** opted for a trip to Cuba in place of Pontins this year (I can't understand why).

Paul Nicholls

Evening Out To Megabowl, Sunday 30th December 2003

The first of what hopefully will be many trips out organised by your new Club Captains, namely, **Paul Nicholls, Gary Lansdale, Tiffany Brown and Shelley Carver**. We were quite pleased to see in the end that we managed to fill the full 24 spaces allocated to us within the 4 pre-booked lanes. Champion of the night was, according to himself, **Gary Lansdale**, with 170 odd – and he has stated that under no circumstances did he use the barriers that were in place (of course, Gary). As far as we could tell everyone had a good night – there was plenty of dancing to be done in order to win prizes. Unfortunately one of the prizes happened to be two bottles of ‘Champagne’, which two of our lanes won. Luckily, those over 18 seized the opportunity to obtain free alcohol and promptly snatched the bottles from those under 18, but also thanked them for their efforts. Only a couple of bowling catastrophes to report – **Emma Eady** somehow managed to get her bowling ball stuck between the edge of the gutter and the barrier, whilst **Stevie Kirkup** decided to try her luck at knocking down the pins in Lane 4, even though she bowled the ball from Lane 3.

Bearing in mind the success of this evening, we shall be looking to arrange similar trips out in the near future. For the time being, we are collecting ideas, so if you think you’ve got a good one, please let us know and we’ll endeavour to get more information together. Apologies also to those under 13 – we will be expanding the age groups for such events in the future.

Synchro Update

The synchronised section of Erith and District swimming club has now been going for 18 months. During this time we have gone from training once to twice a week and have even had new people join. We have taken part in two competitions and won no awards but this year and competition number three we had success.

On November 16th 2003 at Kingsmead Pool in Canterbury, the Kent championships were held for synchronised swimming. This competition was not the same for us when compared with last year as this year we were entering in a group display. It did not take us long to get there - 40 minutes I think my mum said. We went in and our parents set up camp and bought themselves coffee and us girls had gob stoppers.

The competition was in two parts. First, the figures part in which we had to show five judges how we do the figures and they gave us a mark. The second part was the displays – these were undertaken in duos, trios and groups of eight girls. Erith were entered into the group of eight girls display. It was very good fun as after the figures all the mums from the spectators gallery came down to the girls changing room to get us ready for the display. This is where we had to have cooking gelatine put into our hair to keep it neat and tidy and shining. We also had to have make-up applied. The cooking gelatine, although good for our hair, is YUK!

At the end of the competition they announced who had won Gold, Silver, and Bronze, so no-one really knows who came where until the end. Our mums kept saying we had done really well. They announced the winners in the order that the competition took place and look what we achieved:

In the novice section **Billie Biss** took Silver

In the 12/U section **Ria Surridge** took Gold and **Sophie Evans** took Silver

In the 13/U section **Alex Wilkes** took Silver

But that is not all:

In the team display we took silver and only missed out on the gold by one point. The whole team who took part in the display received a silver medal each. I would like to say a big thank you to all the coaches and our parents and a very big well done to all the Erith and District Synchronised swimmers.

Sophie Evans



FORTHCOMING EVENTS – 2004



JANUARY	Saturday 10 th Saturday 17 th Sunday 18 th Saturday 24 th Saturday 31 st	Tudor League Round 3 White Horse League Rd 1 - Erith Host Champions of the Future Competition Octopus League Southern Counties Masters-Crystal Palace
FEBRUARY	Saturday 7 th Saturday 14 th Saturday 21 st	Tudor League Round 4 Presentation Disco (Speedo / North Kent Junior / Octopus / White Horse Leagues) Octopus League
MARCH	Saturday 6 th	Tudor League Round 5 Bracknell Masters
APRIL	Sunday 18 th Saturday 24 th	Tudor League Round 6 White Horse League Rd 2 - Bromley Host Octopus League+GB Masters Manchester
MAY	Saturday 15 th Sunday 16 th Fri 28 th - Mon 31 st	Octopus League Tudor League Round 7 Proposed Trip to Neheim Husten
JUNE	Tuesday 1 st Saturday 5 th Saturday 19 th Sunday 20 th Saturday 26 th	Potters Bar Synchro Invitational Comp Tudor League Round 8 White Horse League Rd 3 - W Darts Host Eastbourne Masters Kent Junior League Round 1
JULY	Saturday 3 rd	White Horse League Rd 4 - B'ham Host
AUGUST	Sunday 22 nd	Eastbourne 2km Open Water Sea Swim
SEPTEMBER	Wednesday 1 st Saturday 11 th Saturday 18 th	National Age Gap Synchro Championships White Horse League Rd 5 Eltham Host Octopus League Kent Junior League Round 2
OCTOBER	Saturday 9 th Saturday 16 th Fri 29 th -Sun 31 st	Speedo League Round 1 - Provisional Octopus League ASA Masters Championships - Sheffield
NOVEMBER	Monday 1 st Saturday 13 th Saturday 20 th Saturday 27 th	Kent County Synchro Championships Speedo League Round 2 - Provisional Kent Junior League Round 3 White Horse League Rd 6 - Croydon Host
DECEMBER	Saturday 11 th	Speedo League Round 3 - Provisional