



**TRIBUTE TO GERRY ....**

"We should be in no doubt that the Club has been left a legacy by Gerry, based on a reputation that is world wide through his commitment, energy, loyalty and enthusiasm.

Club members are working hard to maintain the reputation and success of Camp Hill and I would like to thank everyone who is involved in helping and dedicating their time and efforts to sustain the "Spirit of the Edwardians".

The Newsletter was close to Gerry's heart. He felt passionate about it and was determined to the end to make sure all the match reports were included; progress of the water polo and swim teams; the odd piece of advice and how he loved it if he could report a marriage or birth amongst members.

In essence, it keeps the family of Camp Hill Edwardians in touch with each other, at home and abroad; an old fashioned non-electric means of communication."

**Anne Bourne**



**BIRMINGHAM EVENING MAIL (14 Jan 2013)**

***Gerry Thain, who has died aged 86, founded Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club and devoted his life to the sport***

***An "irreplaceable" Birmingham swimming coach who devoted his life to the sport has died aged 86.***

***Gerry Thain was the founder and head coach of Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club, based at King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys in Kings Heath.***

***He rose to the top of the swimming world, acting as a Great Britain team manager at world and European championships and the 1988 Seoul Olympics.***

***But those paying tribute on the club's website said widower Mr Thain never forgot his grass roots links.***

***Writing from Nova Scotia, Canada, Graham Woodhall posted: "Only those who trained/raced for him will truly know what swimming has lost, the man is irreplaceable.***

***"He taught my son David so much and the discipline of life: 'In freestyle, as in life, keep your head down and your eyes wide open'.***

***"Words never forgotten after 20 years or more."***

***And former Olympic swimmer Mike Fibbens wrote: "I spent a great deal of time on the national team with Gerry.***

***"He never stopped supporting me and was always a gentleman. He had a great life and inspired countless people over his time."***

***Mr Thain set up the club shortly after arriving at the school as a PE teacher in 1956. He also opened it up to the public and it now has more than 250 members. He received an MBE in 2003 and in 2008 won the BBC Midlands Sports Unsung Hero Award for his 50 years of service to Camp Hill.***

***Mr Thain defied his age to continue coaching swimmers at the club several nights a week.***



**LONG OVERDUE ...**

Please let me introduce myself, **Stuart Dunn** (father of Hannah & Georgia). I volunteered to take over the newsletter from Angela in the summer and due to a multitude of reasons it's taken a while to get my inaugural newsletter to print. So my first newsletter starts with an apology (great start!!). Please feel free to offer suggestions, ideas and comments as I try to find my feet here ...

**MUCH WENLOCK OLYMPIAN MASTERS GALA**



Eight intrepid Camp Hill swimmers had a brilliant day out at the 126th Annual Olympian Games in Much Wenlock, birthplace of the modern Olympic Games. The Games preserve the ideals of Dr William Penny Brookes who was the inspiration behind the Event, which began in 1850. Under the watchful eyes of Gerry Thain, Anne Bourne, Kate Chase, Alan Cooper, Steve Eggleton, Suzanne Linton, Paul Millington, Jane 'Talker' and Alison Watkins, managed to secure between them, 6 gold and 2 silver medals in the age group organised competition. The times achieved weren't always what had been hoped for but in this Olympic year, the taking part seemed to be the overriding feature. Jane 'Talker', who rumour has it, was the preliminary model for the EDF doll, managed to have the best of both worlds by swimming in both women's and a men's event! C'est la vie. The afternoon was rounded off by the medal presentations which were made by the Mayor of Much Wenlock and our own Gerry Thain. Paul Millington for once has managed to be in the team photograph although he still hasn't got the dress code correct. He even had to borrow a medal from another competitor because he couldn't find his own! After the exertions of the day the spirits of all involved (-1), were revived at a local hostelry which had been kindly organised by Steve E.

**Paul Millington**

**ARENA LEAGUE UPDATE (2012)**

After the three rounds of the league our A team finished in 10th place, with our B team finishing in 14th in division 3 South.

We found it difficult this year as A team were struggling with swimmers, especially in the 11U age groups, with them having to rely on pulling up from the B team, who swam all 3 rounds without a boys team. So to finish mid table is an achievement to those who turned out for us, so thank you. Let me remind you all these dates are to be kept free and are on the board on our competitions calendar.

It was the first in many years we agreed to use coaches to get us to the pools, since we were shipped off far and wide for our galas, which gave a good team spirit and camaraderie and is something we will be looking to do again in 2013. For 2013 we will be disbanding the B team to support the A team to its fullest and try and achieve a top division place, with the plan to move up to division two and stay there in our longer 5 year plan. This does not mean this is a permanent decision and with numbers in the club on the rise, we may find the need to have a B team again, but for the near future, the A team is our priority.

**Heather.**

**ASA Masters S C Championships, Ponds Forge, Sheffield (26-28 Oct 2012)**

Team work produced the club's first European Record of the weekend.

The importance of a well-timed takeover was demonstrated shortly before the Men's 4 x 200m Freestyle relay actually started. Anne Bourne was able to prove that she CAN use her legs and raced to the entrance of the Ponds Forge Pool to relieve Roland of his car at the end of his Friday journey from Wales. The finely judged timing of his arrival certainly raised the heart rates of the team Craig Norrey, Steve Nash, Roland Lee, Steve Eggleton prior to their record breaking win in 9:01.63 – a new 200-239yrs European Record.

The weekend of competition had begun a little earlier in the day with Gerry Bishop and Jenny Ball turning in strong swims in the 1500m with Jenny securing a 2nd place in her age group (70-74yrs). Jenny went on to secure a further 1 silver and 4 bronze medals in the freestyle & breaststroke events over the course of the weekend.



Camp Hill had a smaller than normal turn out for the ASA Masters as several people had chosen to swim at the local Midlands Championships event the previous month.

Four other records were set during the three day meet. The Men's 4 x 100m Medley relay produced a very exciting finish with the team of Craig, Steve E, Steve N and Roland winning in a British & European record time of 4:31.11 in the 200-239yrs age group.

Craig (50-54 yrs) set a new European record in the 50 BK (27.92) and British records in 100 Free (55.92) and 50 Fly (27.37). His tally of individual medals for the weekend was 5 Gold and 1 Silver.

Other notable individual swims came from Anne Bourne ( 2 Gold, 1 Silver) Fatima Lindo (2 Silver, 4 Bronze) Kate Chase (1 Silver ,1 Bronze) with Steve Eggleton, Simeon Hemming, Sarah Thornton, Jodie Le Resche and Vicky Wassell also producing some FGT pleasing swims.

The women's 72+ 4 x 50m Medley relay team ( Fatima Lindo, Sarah Thornton, Jodie Le Resche and Vicky Wassell ) secured a Bronze medal.

The 200-239 yrs men's team continued to compete fiercely all weekend and added silvers to their haul in the 4 x 50m Medley and 4 x 50m Freestyle relays. Not surprisingly there was not much left in the tank for the 200 -239 yrs Mixed 4 x 200 and Mixed 4 x 50m Freestyle relays, so the teams could only capture a silver and bronze.

This was the last Camp Hill Masters meet of the year and as ever Gerry was there to support, encourage and congratulate us on all our performances. He always knew what we were capable of but enjoyed the odd result/split where a swim would surprise both swimmer and coach. Gerry always took a keen interest in Camp Hill members who, due to relocation to other parts of the country, were training and competing with other clubs; Lucy Lloyd Roach and Trevor Clark, in particular, being very successful during this meet.

**Kate Chase**

### **ASA Masters & Seniors Inter-Counties Competition (Nov 2012)**

Seven Camp Hill members were selected for the Warwickshire team that competed at Stafford on 11th November. 28 counties across the country completed the programme of 68 events over the course of two weekends. Warwickshire was keen to retain their 2011 title.

Trevor Clark, Anne Bourne, Kate Chase, Suzanne Linton, Hayley Bettinson, Jo Seymour and Jodie Le Resche's individual and relay swims helped the county team win the closely contested Intercounties title for the second year running.

**Kate Chase**

### **SHREWSBURY MASTERS (5 Jan 2013)**

This was probably the most difficult days swimming ever for Paul Millington and Steve Eggleton. The day after we'd lost Gerry the two turned out in Shrewsbury for the Annual New Year Gala as he would have wanted and "his" seat saved for him. The announcement and speech from the Shrewsbury Swimming Club Chairman was moving and well received and the minutes silence was poignant and impeccably observed. Many swimmers came to pass on their well-meant condolences and memories making the task of preparing for the events even more difficult and emotional.

On the day the swimming was secondary but both having chosen mainly the longer (100m) events in each stroke managed some notable results. Paul gained a creditable 4th place overall with 13 points from his five swims with 4th in 100IM and 2nd in the other 4 including completing the 25m breaststroke with feet correctly positioned which would in itself have earned a "GOOD" from the great man. Steve also was 4th overall with a combined 14 points in a highly competitive age category. He recovered from a poor 6th place in the 100IM to win the Backstroke, 2nd in f/s, 3rd in 50 fly and finished strongly with one of his best times in the 100 breaststroke (1:24.17) to claim 2nd.

As a final tribute to Gerry the river was crossed to the Boathouse Inn, which he liked to visit on such occasions, and a glass or two was raised in his memory.

**Kate Chase**



### JOHN VAUGHN GALA (26 Jan 2013)

The team finished in joint 6th place out of 8 teams.

This gala raised some heads from fellow clubs with Pete and myself receiving some compliments at the standard of our swims. We were all very proud of the gala result, knowing we were swimming against teams who are in Division 2 of the Arena League, so would be some high standard races.

Daisy Cutts received two of our 1st places of the night in the 13U 50m BRS and 15U 50m BRS (37.74), showing us how hard she has been working in training and that her turns are becoming a lot stronger and more efficient. Continuing with the Breaststroke success, Adele Reeves and Jamie Evans both came 2nd in the 11U 50m BRS (48.18 and 46.64), well done to Jamie who had "warmed up" for this event by completing the 13U 50m BRS only 5 events earlier! Jo Seymour came a very impressive 2nd on the Open 100m BRS (1.23:83), showing us how 4 lengths of this stroke is done! Alice Collier took 1st place in the 15U 50m FS (31.76), next time she swims aiming for that time to be in the 30:00's! Stuart Tierney took a nail biting 2nd place in the Open 100m BF (1.07:15), with all swimmers in the event finishing within a nail length apart from each other. All swimmer please note how you should be using your under water kick off every turn!

Our most successful relay of the night went to the Open ladies team in the 4X25 FS relay 2nd place Amber Coughlan, Samantha Evans, Lily Watkins, and Jo Seymour, all celebrations when not only did they finish 2nd, but no one lost a nose on the shallow end take overs!

*Well done swimmers, a very enjoyable night.*

**Heather.**

### NUNEATON & BEDWORTH RELAY GALA (5 Feb 2013)

This gala was very bittersweet. With our dear Mr Thain passing away the day before, we decided to still swim under Gerry's ethos of **"What's the point of entering, if you are not going to swim?!"**

The gala started with a very emotional three cheers, celebrated with all swimmers and supporters, with fellow teammates joining us from Kingsbury and other clubs in our team assembly at the end of the pool.

Our 9yo Girls team showed us how our younger swimmers have been training hard with a very strong 2nd place 4x1L FS relay, narrowly missing 1st place (Gerda Vasiliauskaite, Hannah Dunn, Aimee Hood and Millie Checkley)

Our 13U Girls 4x1L FS really had lovely take over's and showed us some very strong swims (Gabby Dickson, Hannah Watkins, Pru Dixey and Veronika Rubinova)

The boys were not one to be over looked with the 11U boys 4X1L FS relay pulling out all the stops (Jay Merchant, Alex Deeks, James Smith and Kieran Redmond).

We gained supporters through the night with Kate Chase and Hayley Bettinson coming along to join and support our swimmers, it was great to have their support, and for them to see how our swimmers are doing in galas. Thank you all who swam for another great gala.

**Heather.**

### LEICESTER JUNIOR DIDDY GALA (16 Feb 2013)

Kingsbury 226, Walsall 211, **Camp Hill 178**, Nuneaton & Bedworth 154, Heath Town 147.

A big thank you to Heather and Pete for allowing a non-swimmer to report on this gala, I was wondering what I was going to do all evening! I was lucky to have the skilled eye of Tracy to explain what was actually going on so here we go.

First of we should hold all future galas at this pool; what a great venue, good spectator seating, not too hot, excellent sight lines, if they could just get the timing boards working properly and choose an announcer who doesn't sound like they are actually using a microphone under water. I think Jayne as the loudest and clearest voice poolside could take on this roll without the need for expensive amplification. As this was a junior event it rolled along at a good pace, events were only 50 or 25 metres. We seem to have a strong team out tonight with swimmers in nearly all races, shame about the two boys under ten races without swimmers, only 25metres each, hopefully we can fill those slots next time.

There were great swims from lots of youngsters tonight, six swimmers got individual 1st places, Gerda, Gabby, Tom, Luke, Adele and Lukus, the girls year 9 relay team were outstanding winning both the medley and FS events, so firsts for



Gerda, Millie, Ellie and Elizabeth. Unfortunately they had an over age swimmer in the medley for the last leg, which was a shame as they were already a length ahead by the final length.

Other notable individual performances during the evening came from Mille, Veronica, Jamie, Hannah and James with strong 2nd place swims. In the relays many swimmers achieved personal bests on their length, for instance Jamie and Tom both had great last legs in the final mixed FS race and the boys 11years medley, and Millie swimming up two age group in the 11years medley relay, a great effort.

Overall when you analysis the data the girls are showing the boys the way at the moment, both year 9 and 11 girls teams produced only 1st and 2nd places what a great achievement, this really sets the standard for everyone else to work towards. A special mention for Gerda who achieved three 1sts, well done.

I am sure the coaches will be working the whole team with regards to sharpness of the blocks and when to move into you first stroke after the dive, a little snappier and many of our 2nd places could have been 1sts.

Finally I am sure all this extra race practice will stand the team in good stead for the junior league competition which starts in April. Remember this year's goals to get promotion to league 2 and achieve 200 points in all three galas. Well done everyone who swam tonight.

***A good third place for the team.***

**Tom Speirs.**

### **CHESC Club Championships (Jan 2013)**

What a fantastic turn out for this years club championships! It was the most number of swimmers we have ever had entered, so well done to you all.

There were lots of great swims, too many to mention. The competitive spirit the swimmers showed was brilliant and long may it continue, in both individual and team events.

After two great weekends of competition the results were collected and medals were presented at the 'Annual Party' (many thanks again to Alison Watkins for organising the fabulous evening!).

Top boy and top girls was also awarded for each age group:

**8/U - Aimme Hood and Dylan Morris-Adams**

**9/10 - Millie Checkley and Alex Deeks**

**11/12 - Veronica Rubinova and Jamie Evans**

**13/14 - Daisy Cutts and Jordan Francis**

**15/16 - Samantha Evans/ Alice Collier and Aleks Michev**

This year we also decided to award the 'Gerry Thain Trophy' to a swimmer who has shown outstanding effort in training, support for her fellow swimmers at competitions and great improvement in her racing - well done Daisy Cutts, you deserve it.

All of the results are posted on the club website, please look at the results and record your times, it's very important that you know your P.B's for each event so you can work hard to improve them in training. Also keeping a record of your times means you can record the progress you are making and when entering competitions you will be swimming with swimmers of a similar speed.

Finally I would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped this year. Without you I couldn't have done it without you, so thank you.

**Jane**



# NOTICEBOARD

Website : <http://www.camphillswimming.org.uk/>

## TRAINING SESSIONS

### Monday

5.00pm - 6.30pm (Advanced Group)  
6.30pm - 8.00pm (Juniors)  
8.00pm - 10.00pm (Water Polo Club)

### Tuesday

5.00pm - 6.30pm (Advanced Group)  
6.30pm - 8.00pm (Juniors)

### Wednesday

6.00pm - 7.30pm (Heather & Pete's Juniors)  
7.30pm - 9.00pm (Advanced Group & Masters)

### Thursday

5.30pm - 7.00pm (Junior Team)  
7.00pm - 9.00pm (Advanced Group & Masters)

### Friday

5.00pm - 6.30pm (Advanced Group)  
6.30pm - 8.00pm (Juniors)

### Saturday

9.00am - 11.00am (Any)

## SATURDAY SESSIONS

Jane Dates :

Kevin Dates :

### **"NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"**

Enthusiastic swimmers can come along and visit any weekday, bring costumes and join in!

For more information and a swimming trial, please contact:

**Karen Coughlan** 07971 558930 –  
[kblccoughlan@googlemail.com](mailto:kblccoughlan@googlemail.com)

(Club Secretary & Memberships Liaison Officer)

**Nigel Greenwood** 07811 332393 –  
[nigel.greenwood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:nigel.greenwood@hotmail.co.uk)

(Water Polo Coach)

### Important Notice for all parents:

If your children are taking ANY medicines on a long-term regular basis, please get a "Medication Form" to register the details. This includes vitamins, herbal remedies, hay fever tablets etc.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS & CLUB FEES 2013

Every Club Member will be required to pay the following...

- 1) Club Annual Subscription
- 2) ASA Membership
- 3) Training Session Fees (payable at each attendance, towards Pool Hire)

**There will be no change in the Club subscriptions again for this year**

First or only swimmer: £20.00

Second family member: £15.00

Third and subsequent family members: £10.00

ASA Membership (age as at 31 December 2013)...

Category 1: Swimmers age 8yrs & below on 31/12/2013: **£13.40**

Category 2: Swimmers age 9yrs & above during 2013: **£30.20\***

Category 3: All other Members acting in ANY capacity for the Club **£10.20\*\***

\* To enable you to participate in swimming competition for the Club

\*\* including but not limited to Officials, Coaches, Helpers and Temporary Members and those helping with children in any capacity - please ask the Club Secretary.

Training Session Fees for All swimmers (based on a minimum of two swims per week) £3.00  
Camp Hill and ASA fees may be paid in the following way...

Obtain an application form from the Club Secretary or by clicking here, then complete and return along with your remittance...

a) By one cheque, made payable to Camp Hill Edwardians Swimming Club, or ...

b) By cash, (placed in an envelope with the Application Form) and handed to Karen Coughlan

**Note: Renewal payments received after the 31st January each year will be subject to a £5 additional administration charge per member (the Club Membership submission to the ASA will have been completed and additional costs will be incurred)**

## JUNIOR LEAGUE DATES (Ages 9-12)

**Junior League Round 1 – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**Junior League Round 2 – 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

**Junior League Round 3 – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013**

## IMPORTANT DIARY DATES

**Arena League Gala Round 1 - 12th Oct 2013**

**Arena League Gala Round 2 - 9th Nov 2013**

**Arena League Gala Round 3 - 14th Dec 2013**