

THE SWIMMING LEAGUE

We entered this competition in 1968, finishing 3rd in Division Two, and gaining promotion to Division One. In 1969 and again in 1970 we were placed 9th-out of the 24 clubs in Division One. We had hoped to finish in the first six last year, but, in the second round, some indifferent performances and a number of disqualifications ruined our chances. CAN WE REACH THE LAST SIX IN 1971 ? It all depends on the result of the second round at Rotherhithe on February 13th. If we can take first or second place in this gala we automatically go into the 'Winners' Gala' in the third round, and are placed in the first six in the final league table. In round two we meet Southampton (208 pts), Watford (170 pts), Southwark (163 pts), Walthamstow, and Barracuda: you will recall that we scored 182 pts at Hornsey Rd. Our statisticians think that we have an excellent chance of finishing in the first two in this gala, and I am sure that they are right - don't forget that we beat Southampton in 2 of our 3 encounters last year.

Having said that, I must emphasise that it will not be at all easy. In 1970 Southampton won the League, Southwark were 4th and Watford were 10th. We can do it, however, if every member of the team makes an all-out effort. I say every member because every point is vital - in our second gala last year there were only 11 points between the 2nd and the 6th club, and we lost at least 9 points through disqualifications. When competition is as keen as this there must be no question of disqualifications, and every place must be fought for: if you can only manage 5th in your race, you still get one more point than you would if you finished 6th, and that point might decide your club's position. We have a gala on almost every Saturday in 1971, and I regard the one on February 13th as the most important of the lot, so DO YOUR BEST !

THE MOTORWAY LEAGUE

As last year, the second rounds of the two leagues are on the same date, and we shall be sending a second team to swim at Bramcote. They will meet Leeds Central, Derby, Leicester Penguins, Belgrave and Cambridge Grants. Obviously, our team is in for a tough time, but is a good deal stronger than the team we turned out in similar circumstances last year, and I am hoping for some personal best times. A team is as strong as its reserves, and there are a number of occasions this year when we shall be without the services of some of our first strings for important matches, so I hope everyone will continue to train hard.

RESULTS.

Jan 2nd. Relay Gala v. C.O.S.A.C.S.S. & Three Spires. This provided an exciting evening's swimming, and we just beat C.O.S.A.C.S.S. for first place.

Jan 9th. Motorway League.
Leeds Central. 216, Camp Hill/Westminster 206, Leicester 189, Three Spires 157, Chelmsford 119, Kettering 65. A very pleasing result with many good swims, including: U/12 F/S team, (Andrew Reeve 24.3. Paul McKenzie 23.3. Alan Deeley 22.1. Paul Rogers 22.1. - 93.1. our best performance in league galas for this event), 73 yds BK. Frank Smith (54.5); 110 yds BR. Dave Wakeling (84.8); 36 yds. BK. Paul Rogers (25.7); 110 yds F/S Mike Fearon (64.5); 110 yds FLY. Andrew Wolf (68.0 - club record); Martin Edwards (68.2).

Jan 16th - Relay Gala. Hull Olympic 140. CH/WH. 124. Heston 88, Belgrave 82, Newport 71, CH/WH. 'B'. 51.

The U/12 'B' team distinguished itself here finishing 2nd & 3rd in its events. The 220 yds events brought pleasing swims from Stephen Rogers (F/S 2.28.3. a National Age Group entry standard); Nicky Green (FLY 3.1.6); Andrew Wolf (FLY 2.28.8, BK. 2.34.5 - National Age Group entry standards); and Martin Edwards (FLY 2.31.6 - National Age Group standard). We shall probably visit Hull next year.

Jan 23rd - Swimming League.

Sutton & Cheam. 216. CH/WH. 182. Aldershot 162. Walthamstow 160, Camden 159, Lambeth 80.

Good swims included: Andrew Wolf (I.M. 96.1. BK. 70.8). Martin Edwards (FLY 68.3. - Martin must soon go down to 67 if he keeps this up), Alan Deeley (FLY 26.9). Everyone swam either on top form or very close to it, although I felt that the U/16 F/S Team was good enough to have won its event if it had been a bit 'sharper'.

Jan 30th. 'B' Team v. Brierley Hill & Coseley.

This resulted in an easy win, but it gave members an opportunity to show their form on second strokes. Martin Edwards took this with a 66.6. 100 yds. BK. so he can now expect a sub-75, 110 yds. Many of the U/12s impressed, including Simon Cull (66 yds F/S 50.2). and Paul Rogers (200 yds. 2.30.3). Frank Smith's 200 yds (2.27.5) looked very comfortable, and showed promise of things to come.

FIXTURES 3 FEBRUARY.

February 6th. Relay Gala (London) v. Heston, Harringay,
Hornchurch, Gloucester, Hounslow,
U/12. U/15. Open.

February 13th. Swimming League. Motorway League.

February 27th. Leicester Belgrave (a)

FIKTURE LISTS. I still have some left.

Delete - Feb 20th 'B' Team match.

Add - March 13th 'B' Team. (Leic).

April 24th. Newport, Soundwell, Aberavon,
Swansea, Cardiff (a).

July 17th. St.Athans (a).

WATER POLO.

Fixtures:

Thursday. 4th. U/16. v. Leamington (a).

Friday. 5th. v. Nechells (h).

Wednesday. 10th. v. Walsall U/16. (a).

Monday. 15th. Training Session. Moseley Rd. 7.30.

Friday. 19th. U/16. (h).

Wednesday. 24th. v. Coventry (a) U/16.

Friday. 26th. Jun. Game v. Heath Town (h).

Sunday. 28th. Juniors. v. Cheltenham. (a).

The U/16 Team has drawn Everton away in the first round of the A.S.A. Boy's Water Polo Championship.

All team players should make a note of the training session on February 15th, and come along - if it is well supported there will be another one in March. Dave Nutt is arranging a West Country Tour for the older players (17+ ?) at the end of August/beginning of September.