

LOOKING AHEAD !

During the past two years the Club has made great strides, but I am certain that this is merely a reasonable start compared with what we can do in the future, for there are two developments which must be to our advantage.

1. We start the new season as a mixed Club.
2. We shall have our own headquarters at the School Bath at the start of 1972, if not earlier.

For the past three years we have had a happy and successful partnership with the girls of Westminster, but, from my experience in the swimming world, I am certain that we can be a far more efficient unit when operating as a mixed club. Our General Meeting was well attended, and the reasons for this change were fully discussed, so I do not propose to deal with them here, but I would emphasise that the termination of our partnership at the end of the year is being made with the agreement of the officials of both clubs. Our meeting was very pleased that Mr. Holman accepted the invitation to join our administration, and we wish him every success in the development of Westminster, also we wish success to those swimmers who will no longer be competing with us.

One of our problems has been the obtaining of adequate water time for the purpose of training, although several of our swimmers have benefited greatly from the training and facilities provided by the Birmingham Squad. Once the School pool is available, this should no longer be a problem. I anticipate using it for training on most evenings - possibly Team Training 3 evenings, Feeder Group 1 evening, and a full club session on the fifth evening including a hard 'Club Hour'. I also expect to transfer the Sunday session, and there will be additional sessions (early mornings & Saturdays) for specially selected swimmers - the really 'dedicated'. Nor, I hasten to add, will Polo be forgotten.

I was asked at the Meeting about my views as to continued membership of the B'ham Squad by our swimmers. Firstly, I feel bound to say that I consider that a swimmer's first loyalty should be to his/her club - especially if that club is doing a lot for that swimmer. The club should not be used as a convenient 'label' to enable the swimmer to take part in various competitions.

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Having said that, I fully appreciate that the swimmer/coach relationship is a very personal one, and I have no doubt that the swimmer should work in the situation which will best enable that swimmer to realise his/her full potential. I shall expect to see every member of the Team twice a week (their choice of session), and I do not consider this as being rather a dictatorial attitude, as I am sure that you will agree that no 'club' team is going to be really effective if it contains a number of rarely-seen faces.

This ruling should make it possible for members to continue in the B'ham Squad from one to four sessions per week, as they may find most convenient, for travelling time, expense, etc. will also have to be taken into account. I shall be only too happy for our members to continue to train in the City's Training Group alongside the best swimmers from other Clubs.

All of the above may seem a little premature, but I feel that all members should know the lines which I am thinking. In two months time I hope to be able to give detailed arrangements for the training timetable.

F.G.T.

RESULTS.

10.7.71. Gloucester 288. C.H./W.H. 275. Swansea 214.
Walsall 209. Bradford Gr. 201.

Although this turned out to be a close match, our performances generally, were not very inspiring - two only seem to be worthy of mention - both from the U/12 second string:

Andrew Smith 2 len. BK. 63.5 & Tim Welch 2 len FLY. 63.0.

17.7.71. Orion 371. C.H/W.H. 360. Nottingham Northern. 315.

Apparently this was a most exciting contest, with Orion coming from behind after the individual events to win the match by the superior strength of their relay teams.

Good performances: Martin Hubbard (BR.79.7); Paul Atkins (BK. 80.6) Andrew Wolf (F/S. 60.8. Club Rec). also Frank Smith, Alan Deeley, Paul Rogers, Martin Edwards and Richard Sheasby - altogether a good effort.

MIDLAND DISTRICT AGE GROUP.

Modernians of Bedford were the outstanding club at these Championships, but we can be well pleased with our 2nd place to them in the overall points table, for all Midland clubs were taking part. Any swimmer who repeated the qualifying time in his event got a point for his club, with additional points for the finalists. Points were gained by Dave Brook, Stephen Rogers, Nicky Green (3rd in Fly),

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Philip Baker (F/S 65.5), Richard Sheasby (F/S 64.3) and Alan Deeley (F/S & BR finals), Paul Rogers (4 finals - F/S 72.1. 2nd, BR. 96.5.-2nd). Martin Edwards (Winner of 100 m.FLY -63.2 & of 200m.FLY - 2.21.4), Andrew Wolf (7 finals - 2nd - 400 F/S - 4.50.3, 400 I.M. 200 FLY - 2.23.6., 100 FLY. 3rd - 66.5.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS - LEEDS.

The individual events at these Championships were limited to the fastest 32 qualifiers in each event, and our two swimmers ~~XXXX~~ 'did us proud'. Martin Edwards: 100 FLY. - 63.4.ninth, 1st reserve for final; 200 FLY - 6th in Final, 2.22.2 - Heat 2.21.8. Andrew Wolf: 200 FLY - 2.24.1. 1st reserve for final, 200 I.M. 2.27.8, 14th; 400 I.M. 5.13.1. 2nd reserve for final.

Martin Hubbard & Mike Fearon joined the above two 'worthies' to represent the Club in the Medley Team Race and their time of 4.39.1. (70.9; 80.3; 64.7; 63.2.) made us first reserve for the final. This was very good, and we should improve on it next year at the Crystal Palace. I'd like to put a F/S Team in also. The best teams go under 4 minutes, but 4.8.0 is a reasonable time - so let's have four of you doing 62 or better next year !

POLO.

We are in a fairly quiet period at the moment. I should mention that the U/16 Tournament is now to be replayed in November. The Juniors continue to have interesting duels with Aston, beating them in the Warks.K.O. and losing to them in the Midlands K.O. They lie second to Aston in the League, but have a chance to pull level in what will be a needle match on 10th September.

The Seniors are 6th out of the 9 clubs in the Midland League, and, with 5 games to play, must win at least one, if not two, to remain in this Division next season.

FIXTURES:

Friday.	August	27th.	Walsall Juniors	(h).
"	Sept.	3rd.	Nechells	(h).
Tuesday.	"	7th.	Heath Town.	(a).
Friday.	"	10th.	Aston Jun.	(h).
Tuesday.	"	14th.	Leamington.	(a).
Wednesday.	"	15th.	Coventry Jun.	(a).
Friday.	"	24th.	Northern.	(a).

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SWIMMING FIXTURES.

Monday. August 23rd. v. Glos. 'B'. Norwich. Leamington.
Three Spires. Rugby. (Luton 7.p.m).
U/14. U/16. Open. I have tickets to sell - own
transport.
Friday. Sept. 10th. Warks. Schools (Woodcock St. 6.15 p.m.).
Saturday. " 11th. 6 Club Gala. (Coseley. 6.30 pm.)
U/13. U/15. U/17. Open.
Friday. Sept. 17th. Midlands Schools Gala. (Derby).
Saturday. " 18th. Midlands Boys' Club Team Championship.
Luton.
Eight Boys - U/17.

GOOD SWIMMING ON OUR DOORSTEP !

Junior International - Great Britain v. West Germany
at Coventry. 7.30 pm. Friday 3rd September, & 2.30 pm.
Saturday. 4th September. This should be well worth a visit.