

It seems incredible to think that the Yuletide festivities will be with us again in less than a month, and though politically we are still beset by industrial disputes, go slows etc., it is safe to say that the Club has made noticeable progress during the year and looks set for a 'boom' time.

Numbers at the sessions are at a healthy level and competition wise we continue to have a good deal of success - with the prospect of a place in the National Inter-League Final an immediate objective. There is no doubt we enjoy good facilities at Camp Hill - the assured water time being a vital factor - and if we continue to make full use of these and at the same time steer clear of power failures and the like, then I'm sure that 1974 will see the Club reaping even greater rewards.

Finally may I take this opportunity of thanking all those who have kindly contributed to the Newsletter over the past 12 months, and wish you all an early Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

After being in charge of refreshments for two years, Mrs. Sheasby has decided to take a well-earned rest. Many a visiting team has testified to their calorific goodness, and suffice to say that no-one ever departed from a 'home fixture' feeling hungry !!

We are indebted for all the hard work and time she has given to this vital side of the Club's activities, and thank her very much for all she has done.

Thanks too are due to Mrs. Franklin and Mrs. Horton for volunteering to help with the refreshments on future occasions.

Club Dance.

The best way to forget about petrol rationing, Phase 3, and the power go-slow is to buy a ticket for the Club Dance which is being held at the Greswolde Arms Hotel, Knowle on Friday, December 7th. There are still tickets available and anyone interested should refer to the notice on the Club board.

Stainless Steel Evening.

Many thanks to everyone who sold tickets, provided raffle prizes, assisted with the catering and gave their support to the Stainless Steel Evening. A profit of £41-40 was made for Club funds.

J.B.

Buffet/Skittle Evening.

A Buffet/Skittle Evening will be held at the 'Farmer's Arms', Kempsey, Nr. Worcester, on Thursday, 14th. February, 1974. Further details nearer the date.

American Retrospect - Vivienne Bunting.

Last year I spent 8 months studying at a University in Northern New York State, U.S.A. When I arrived in New York City in Sept. it was 85° but it didn't last long as I experienced the first snowfall in October and the last in March!

The University which I studied at was situated in a small village in the middle of an agricultural belt with the nearest city being 20 miles away. 12,000 students attended the University and it had a large P.E. Dept. The College afforded 2 swimming pools (25 yds. long) and a further 50m. pool which is due to be opened in January. The village High School also had a 25yd. pool. With all these facilities you would imagine that a swimmer would have no difficulty in finding training space - this however was not the case. In the High School the swimming pool time was allocated as follows: Sept./Nov.: Synchronised team; Dec./March: Boys swim team; April/July: Girls swim team. Each of these teams trained during the designated period from 4-6 p.m., Monday to Friday. A similar set up existed in the College. The pools were used during the day for lectures which began at 8.00 a.m. After 6.00 p.m. the School pool was leased out to the Parents Assoc. and the College pools were used for lectures until 10.00 p.m.

These 3 pools provided the only swimming facilities for 20 miles, and even then the next nearest enforced a similar system of use. Thus in the Eastern part of America children swim in seasons - all Championships are geared towards these seasons.

Another system of competing which is administered by the YMCA and YWCA is their season from Dec. to April. Each Association hold their own Nationals at different venues all over North America. Every club in the Association afford their own pool but fees to join are astronomical. Most large cities have a club and as the Association own the pool they have freedom of use. The YMCA and YWCA both have mixed teams but the standard of the YMCA is higher.

As both the Clubs I have mentioned train only in the winter it is possible to join another team for the summer. These clubs are usually affiliated to a summer 'club' (meant in its broadest sense.)

This was the swimming set up that I experienced in America and the seasons are fairly constant throughout the States although training facilities are obviously better in the areas which warmer climates and hence more pools. During the holidays at College I attempted to swim in a local pool only to find that admission was by membership only. No where did I find a public pool.

In the States if you swim, you must really want to and this is reflected in their attitude towards both training and competition. Seldom do they "play about" in training or refuse to do the schedule set by the Coach. They have implicit faith in their Coach and are motivated by the smallest incentive. I can remember during my training at College 18 and 20 yr. olds striving merely to receive a jelly baby! They encourage team spirit and even if a competitor comes last but tries, she is congratulated by her team members. Most teams chant during the Galas and this creates a great atmosphere which is conducive to producing good times.

I am glad I was able to experience swimming and life in the States and I feel I have learnt a lot from it. Life is far more competitive in the U.S.A. but it is this that brings results. After due consideration, however, I prefer to abide in England and leave America for visits!

In the April Newsletter I asked when we were going to get some more sub-60s. Freestylers and Andrew Wolf responded by joining Martin Edwards in that select group. Nicky Green has now made up the number to three - let's have some more.

F.G.T.

In the recent British Colleges Championship Anne Priestley made a notable debut by finishing 3rd. in the Final of the 200m. F/S in 2m24.4 and 2nd. in the Final of the 100m. Fly in 1m14.9.

MATCH REPORTS.

6/10/73, N.M. League Round 1 - Walsall.

A wet, miserable night greeted us when we arrived at Walsall Baths for the 1st. Round of the Midland League, but this did not dampen our efforts or the enthusiasm of our supporters, who were there in quite large numbers. After a delayed start due to the Water Polo final going to extra time, the Gala got under way. By the tenth event it was quite clear we were going to win comfortably. It must be said that the team swam very well, but we still need to "tighten up" on starts and especially finishes.

The final scores at the end of the evening were: C/Hill 188, Walsall 158, Derby 136, Notts. 136, Stourbridge 73.

The result should give us great encouragement for Round 2.

A.McD.

14/10/73. The Burma Oil Trophy - Leeds.

On a rather chilly Sunday morning, just after 10 a.m., a coach and a 12 seater Mini-Bus (ably driven by Mr. MacDougall), started on an uneventful journey to Leeds. We were taking a strong team, knowing before we left, that the opposition was likely to be formidable, particularly from the local team and our friends(?) Junction 10.

The gala consisted of 32 team races (medley and freestyle) in age-groups ranging from 10 and under to open. Of the Camp Hill teams that took part, the 10 and under girls perhaps deserve the most credit as they came 2nd. in both the medley and freestyle events. The team was made up of Rosemary Grimes, Linda and Caroline Brown, and Katie Long.

It is very difficult to single out good personal performances in a sprint relay gala, but it should be mentioned that Martin Edwards had the best

We were very pleased to see Helen Rowson, who arrived with the Everton swimmers, in such good form and she swam a good anchor leg in the cannon.

It was an exciting gala, the final result being: 1st. Junction 10, 2nd. Leeds, 3rd. Sheffield, 4th. Leicester, 5th. Camp Hill, with Everton, Spondon and Hartlepool trailing behind.

Arriving at the Hall of Memory in good time, we were all pleased to reach our destination without the transport having broken down.

A.R.

26/27/10/73. ESSA Championships - Feltham.

Five Club swimmers took part in these Championships held within striking distance of Heathrow Airport. Michael Starling, representing Division 6, swam a 69.8 in the Junior Boys 100m F/S and also swam in the Relays. Anne Priestley, Senior Girls IM 3.51.3 and Sue Stacey Senior Girls Fly 1.18.0, also swam in the Relays but were unable to secure a place in the Finals. Martin Edwards helped the Medley Team to second place in the Final, and then went one better by winning the Senior Boys 100m Fly title in 60.3. Andrew Wolf swam a very sound 3.16.9 to win his heat in the Senior Boys IM and then finished a close 2nd, in the Final after a titanic swim against S. Veale in which both swimmers had broken Ray Terrell's existing record. Andrew's time was 3.9.5 and it was a pity that such a creditable swim could only get him 2nd place.

R.J.

3/11/73. W.M. League - Round 2. Bilston.

C/Hill 188, Walsall 142, Bilston 136, Nottingham 123, Coalville 95.

The club progressed to the winners final of the League without too much effort but a few of the individual performances do merit mention: Jacq ueline Evans (BK 49.1); Ian MacDougall (BK 77.6); Janine Evans (BK 75.6); Nicky Green (F/S 61.1); Philip Baker (F/S 62.0). All-round club strength was shown in our winning of 8 of the 12 relays and there were some good 'splits' - notably Nigel Baker (42.1 & 42.3) and Robert Leach (44.5). I was disappointed with our Senior Girls 4x2 F/S Team, which averaged 46s. - a fall-off of nearly 6 secs. on the Round 1 time. A performance of 45s. should be a MUST in this event - after all, it's only equivalent to a 71.0 110m. - in fact, girls, you should find it hard to swim slower!

F.G.T.

ROUND 3, Nuneaton, 1st. December.

In our MOST IMPORTANT GALA OF 1973 we meet Coventry, C.O.S.S.A.C.S., Three Spires, Leicester and Walsall. A win in this would give us a lane in the National Inter-League Final in 1974. If you want to win you can, but only by an all-out effort. Coventry have already had 2 keen contests with C.O.S.S.A.C.S., beating them 190-179 and 197 $\frac{1}{2}$ -196 $\frac{1}{2}$, Leicester have scored 197 and 192 in their two wins.

There's no doubt that it will be a close contest, so every point gained will be invaluable - it could be that a 5th. place as opposed to a 6th. place in a race might win the gala. This is one gala when I want everyone taking an interest in the situation and staying on the bathside end supporting the Team.

F.G.T.

10/11/73. Halesowen.

This was a two part gala, the first 18 events formed a "Diddy" gala for swimmers aged 10 and under, the remaining 34 events formed a senior gala. Each gala was scored separately.

Diddy Gala.

In the first event our swimmer finished in 2nd. place and we waited for the wins to come. We waited and waited, but we waited in vain. A long series of 2nd., 3rd., and 4th. places, but never a win! Susan Welch swam to her limit and returned a 34.4 for one length BR, but was still only rewarded with 2nd. place. Along came the relays and we waited for the inevitable win, but it never came! They were in fact something of a disaster, we were unable to swim a team in one event, in another our swimmer was still on the block for a full two seconds after the incoming swimmer touched. In a third relay our swimmer, breathing on one side only, was overtaken and beaten to the touch on the 'blind' side, both teams returning the same time. In the last relay a blatant foul start by the Derby backstroke swimmer was allowed. With his feet well above water level and his toes hooked in the trough he had a flying start from which the other teams never recovered. The final points total came as a pleasant surprise but, everything considered, it was a scrappy gala, the standard of touch judging bringing exclamations of disbelief from supporters of all the teams.

Result:

Halesowen 123, Camp Hill 85, Swansea 75, Derby 70, 3 Spires 67, Oldbury 52.

Senior Gala.

Again we began with a 2nd. place, gained by a fine swim by Suzanne Paul who returned a 59.3 for 2 length ER. Two events later, the 21st. of the evening, we were able to cheer home our first winner when Debbie Clark returned a 47.2 for 2 lengths F/S. It soon became apparent that the girls were going to supply our winners on this evening. Lynn Dealey and Sarah Cheeseborough supplied two more wins in individual events. The girls strength in depth was apparent when they won three of the relay events. With the boys events it appeared to be a case of the 'lads' swimming against the 'dads,' and we supplied the 'lads' portion. They swam as hard as they knew how but never managed a higher placing than third, and all too often filled the last place.

The race of the evening? The ladies 100 F/S. Kate Welch swam hard to take second place, the first three all recording the same time of 71.7 with the fourth and fifth finishing 0.6 seconds later. The swimmer of the evening for Camp Hill? Debbie Clark for my money. She swam hard and well in every event, looking every inch a 'class' swimmer.

Again it was an uncomfortable gala with 13 false starts in the 34 events, 3 Spires recording eight, Camp Hill two, Swansea, Derby and Oldbury one each. The 3 Spires swimmers appeared to be the main cause of the trouble, always very slow going down, they were often still moving when the start came.

Result: Derby 214, 3 Spires 194, C. Hill 150, Swansea 125, Oldbury 124, Halesowen 116.
R.L.

17/7/73. v. Sutton-in-Ashfield.

After a slightly chaotic warm-up, due to younger Sutton swimmers, and people commenting on the 'keen to win' atmosphere, the gala had a prompt start. With many of our 'A' team swimmers missing and younger ones being needed for the Diddy Gala, we still managed to produce a team good enough to win comfortably.

Although our opponents were not strong in depth, our swimmers still did very good times - even if not personal bests. Some of them are listed below:

50m.

F/S. K. Leaman 42.2, D. MacKenzie 43.1, BK. P. Kelly 51.1.
BR. F. Whitmarsh 52.7, Fly F. Bladen 42.3, A. Payne 40.0.

100m.

F/S. J. Welch 72.3, D. Clarke 72.8, D. Baker 75.8, L. Clark 82.8, M. Green 59.8,
N. Baker 66.4, M. Starling 68.2.
BK. S. Paul 93.2, D. Baker 97.3, R. Payne 92.9, R. Green 96.6.
Fly. K. Welch 76.5, D. Clarke 84.5, M. Starling 82.9, S. Gatland 90.4.

The team races were not very exciting, as we won by a large margin in all cases. On the whole, it was a good gala for Camp Hill as a team, but not quite so good from the point of view of a closely fought match. The final result being Camp Hill 219 and Sutton-in-Ashfield 156.

Congratulations to Mr. Thain for being able to arrange and manage the teams in both our gala and the Diddy Gala in the evening at Coventry!

L.D. & A.R.

17/11/73. The Diddy Gala - Coventry.

C/Hill 154½, 3 Spires 110½, Westminster 103, Leamington 90, Halesowen 82.

An enthusiastic band of supporters helped the Team to retain the Pirahna trophy for the fourth successive year. Every team member swam well and it was most pleasing to see the professional, competent manner in which our representatives swam their races. Kate Welch and Lyn Dealey were most helpful in organising and controlling our 24 'diddies' who were:

- 8 yrs: Laura Barrett, Yvonne Jukes, Sara Harrison, Ruth Tanner, Erica Coles, John Audin, Nigel Haworth, Ian Atkins, Andrew Garner.
- 9 yrs: Sue Welch (her 4th. year), Katie Long, Lesley Singer, Nick King, Ian Scott, Guy Adams.
- 10yrs: Carol Browne (Capt.), Linda Browne, Jane Tanner, Rosemary Grimes, David Steele (Capt.), Andrew Hurton, Duncan Wright, Martin Lawrence, Robert Harrison.

F.G.T.

Water Polo News.

Under 16 Fixtures for B'ham Water Polo League.

- 26 Nov: Camp Hill v. Aston. 5 Dec. Coventry v. Camp Hill.
- 10 Dec: Camp Hill v. Solihull. 18 Dec: Solihull v. Camp Hill.
- 10 Jan: Aston v. Camp Hill. 15/17 Jan: Leicester v. Camp Hill.
- 21 Jan: Camp Hill v. Leamington. 28 Jan: Camp Hill v. Coventry.