

At times we tend to forget that Camp Hill not only has a competitive swimming team but also a very successful and thriving Water Polo Squad.

The Polo News will give a fuller picture of the Squad's activities but suffice to say that the Senior Teams 9 - 7 win over Walsall in the League Knockout Championship Final must certainly rank as one of the Clubs major achievements of 1973. The fact that most of the Team travel from different parts of the country to compete says much for the spirit to be found amongst the Polo players and deserves notable mention. (If time permitted them to compete at full strength regularly, who knows what heights they could reach !)

Water polo goes from strength in the Club (at both Senior and Junior levels), and the League will certainly have taken note that Gordon Sheasby and his helpers are producing Teams which are forces to be reckoned with.

Congratulations to all concerned !

Jumble Sale.

There is to be a Club Jumble Sale at Kings Heath School, Institutue Road, on Saturday, February 16th. at 2.00 p.m.

Jumble is urgently required and if you are unable to store it then pass it on to either Mrs. Green, Mrs. Sheasby or Mrs. Baker. Better still bring it down on the day - help will be needed from 12 noon onwards. Bric-a-Brac and oddments especially wanted.

Club Dance.

This was held on December 7th. and from various reports which have filtered through, it proved to be a very enjoyable and entertaining evening. Our thanks to the Niblets for their expert organisation.

Warwicks. ASA A.G.M.

Thanks to Mr. G. Ison who represented the Club at the County AGM, and brought back much valuable information including the election of Mr. Thain as a Life Member, and Mrs. Edwards and Mr. Varney to the Executive Committee. Martin Edwards was named Swimmer of the Year, Sue Stacey emerged as the Junior Fly Champion and Paul Rogers as the Boys Schoolboy Champion. Congratulations one and all !

WATER POLO NEWS.

At the end of a very successful season we found ourselves in two Championship Finals. The Junior Team beat Coventry 8-4 in the County Junior Championship and the Senior Team beat Walsall 9-7 in the League Knock-out Championship. The Knock-out Final was, in my opinion our match of the year ! It proved to be a very close and exciting game right up to the last whistle. Walsall were 1973 Midland League Champions and must have thought that the match was theirs but when our Team are at full strength there is virtually no stopping them!

Dave Brook was in goal, Gerry Bishop and Dave Niblett backs, Mick Hobbs and Ian Hutchinson mid-bath, Martin Hubbard and Richard Sheasby forwards. Dave Butler, Steve Assinder, Dave Wakeling and Jeremy Shimell also made valuable contributions and the scorers were: Sheasby 6, Hubbard 2 and Hutchinson 1.

Under 16 Winter League.

By the time you read this our Under 16's will have won the Southern Division League. With all but one game played they are unbeaten, and even if they lose their last game to their nearest rivals Coventry, they would still win on goal average.

They are playing a high standard of water polo and improve with every game. Let's see if this year we can bring the National Boys Club Championship home to Camp Hill. The preliminary rounds start next month.

Congratulations to Mike Hobbs, Mike Fearon, Richard Sheasby and Dave Brook on their selection for a Great Britain Junior training weekend at Cosford last December.

Further congratulations to Richard Sheasby on his selection as a member of the Great Britain Senior training squad for 1974.

Fixtures.

February 1st. C/Hill v. Coventry .SENIOR.
February 3rd. C/Hill v. Liverpool University.SENIOR.
February 4th. C/Hill v. Leamington.JUNIOR.
February 6th. Nechells v. C/Hill.JUNIOR.
February 11th. C/Hill v. Walsall.SENIOR.
February 15th. C/Hill v. Walsall.U/16.
February 18th. C/Hill v. Nechells.JUNIOR.
February 19th. Solihull v. C/Hill.SENIOR.

I hope to have the fixtures for the year ready for the next News letter.
G.S.

MATCH REPORTS.

24/11/73.Club Gala - Stechford.

Southampton 233,C/Hill 223,Southampton 'B' 146,Roath Park 140,Walsall 124,
Camp Hill 'B' 116.

Many lengths have been swum since this Gala took place, but this Gala always produces some good times from our swimmers and for the record one notes:Graham Brookhouse BK 54.2,Fly 45.7;Robert Leach BK 78.3;Russell Payne BR 91.4;Mark Varney BR 82.9;Alan Deeley Fly 80.8.

F.G.T.

1/12/73.West Midland League Final.

As expected this was our most exciting Gala in 1973;the expected challenge from Leicester never materialised and the vent developed into a keen struggle between Coventry and ourselves.At one time,with a 6 point lead, it looked as if we were certain to win and to qualify for the Inter-League Final, but alas this was not to be and we finished 2nd. - a mere 3 points behind Coventry.

The Team certainly gave a good account of itself and amongst the many good performances were:Nicky Green FS 59.8,Fly 64.6;Paul Rogers BR 52.9;Debbie Baker FS 22.0;Martin Edwards Fly 61.7,FS 57.9,Stuart Gatland Fly 24.0,Jackie Sheasby Fly 48.9.

Our relay teams set high standards for 1974:the U/14 Girls averaging 45.0 and the Boys 44.0;the U/16 Girls 43.7 and the Boys 42.0 while the Ladies 6x2 averaged 43.6 and the Men 38.6 - let's keep this up !

F.G.T.

7/12/73.Achievements Trophy.

The Gala for the Achievements Trophy was held at Woodcock Street Baths. Eight Clubs were represented each with Boys and Girls Teams, covering age groups of 9,10 and 11 year-olds.

It was originally intended to present the trophy to the most capable individual, but since this had proved neither practicable nor desirable it is now presented to the Team, either boys or girls, gaining most points in the Gala. Camp Hill came 2nd. to Orion. It would be wrong to comment on individuals (and impossible, since nearly all swimmers look alike with their faces under water) but their performances were excellent and the achievements of our swimmers left little doubt of their future capabilities. In the six relays C/Hill gained 3 firsts, 2 seconds and one fourth - thus demonstrating the depth of the club.

Sincere thanks are offered to Margaret Deeley who volunteered to miss the Club's Christmas Dinner/Dance in order to supervise. (She was well assisted by Alan.)

Two general comments on the Gala - one, it was far too long (60 events) for the age groups concerned and secondly, the Gala would have been easier to follow if each Club had been designated a particular lane and the P.A. system had been more efficient.

A.S.

15/12/73. Motorway League Relay Gala - Bramcote.

This Gala consisted of both U/15 and Open, freestyle and medley relays, for boys and girls. There were 8 events, each with 3 heats and 1 Final. Sixteen teams took part in the afternoon Gala but some opted out in the evening.

It was an exciting gala for Camp Hill, as we won all four girls events, giving us a maximum points total of 24. The boys had a somewhat harder time, as they had to wait until the last event to claim victory. They managed to get a final total of 19 points, with Leicester close behind with 17.

Some good splits are listed below, all relating to a distance of 73 1/2 yds.
F/S: P. Rogers 41.5; M. Edwards 36.2; H. Rowson 42.1; J. Evans 42.4; A. Rabl 42.4.

BK: I. MacDougall 48.5; Fly: N. Baker 46.0; N. Green 41.1.

In case you're wondering what we won, well, it was two of the most elaborate monuments ever presented; not the sort you put on top of the telly!

L.D. and A.R.

23/12/73. Cardiff Invitation Meet.

I was pleased to have 18 club members taking part in the Cardiff Winter Meet. Performances generally were good and this is a very brief report as I did not put comments on the split times on the noticeboard. Two swims in particular remain in my mind: Helen Rowson's 400 F/S in 5.00 and Janine Evans's 200 BK in 2.41.8, both girls were go near that sub 5 min., sub 2.40 - good swims, but that little bit more determination would have made them very good.

F.G.T.

5/1/74. 'B' Team v. Mansfield.

Mansfield 269, Camp Hill 'B' 257.

This proved to be a close and exciting match, and we look forward to the return in a few weeks time.

12/1/74. Swimming League.

The opening galas of the Swimming League for 1974 were held in London on Jan. 12th. Camp Hill were drawn at Edmonton Baths where we finished 4th with 143 points, and our opponents were Reading (218), Mermaid/Marlin (200), Edmonton (160), Bromley (133) and Guildford City (103).

Though Anne Priestley got us off to a good start by winning the opening Medley in 1.9.8., by event 6 we were in 5th. place, and remained there till event 40 when we finally caught Bromley. Good swims were made by Lynn Starling BR.

60.9 (personal best), Mike Starling Fly 49.4 and FS 43.3 (personal bests), Kate Welch Fly 1.18.0, Dave Brock BR 1.20.0 and Debbie Clark FS 45.2 and Fly 53.2. The outstanding swims of the evening were by Philip Baker, however, who was for once not overshadowed by older swimmers, and returned 68.0 for the Fly and 60.4 for the FS. He must have it within his reach to swim 100 metres in under a minute, a milestone reached by few of our swimmers to-date.

On a sourer note, the starts, finishes, turns and particularly relay changeovers of many of our swimmers need attention. Please note!

There are 24 Clubs in Division 1 of the Swimming League, and our 143 points placed us 17th in point order after Round 1. Thus we narrowly missed joining the six bottom clubs in their own gala in the next round. Instead we again go to Edmonton on February 2nd, and again meet Reading, who were second to Southampton in point order and Ilford who were 5th, and Ruislip-Northwood (8th), Haringey (11th) and Tunbridge Wells (14th). These latter three clubs also all met each other at Rotherhithe in the first round.

We have never beaten Reading - the last occasion on which we met them was in the top Final Gala of the Swimming League last year, and since then they have won the Southern Swimming League Competition. We are not likely to beat them now, and if we are to achieve a place in the gala for the top six clubs of the Swimming League in the final round for the third year running, we MUST beat Ilford and the other clubs to achieve second place at Edmonton on February 2nd. It will be a tough, enjoyable and fascinating struggle, which will demand a strong team and maximum effort from every swimmer.

B.S.

12/1/74. Motorway League.

The start of a New Year also means a new round of Motorway League Galas. The first round of this competition was held on January 12th, at St. Margaret's Street Baths, Leicester. The team met the coach at the Hall of Memory at four o'clock and owing to the short journey we had quite a long wait before we were let into the pool.

The competing teams were Bramcote, Cambridge Granta, Derby, Westminster Handsworth, Leicester and ourselves.

After a fifteen minute warm up in a very crowded bath the gala began. The first event was the Boys Under 12 Freestyle Team Race which we won due to the disqualification of the Derby Team. The Under 12 Girls team also won. All the way through the gala the events were closely contested, and consequently the points position was always close. Unfortunately the Leicester teams won all the remaining team races which allowed to move into the top position. The final points were Leicester 240, Camp Hill 212, Derby 163, Cambridge 148, Bramcote 123 and Westminster Handsworth 76.

The overall result was quite good and all the swimmers look forward to the next round on February 9th.

S.S.

26/1/74. 'B' Team at Northampton.

A triangular match at the Mount Baths, Northampton between the local SC, Wellinborough and ourselves produced some good swimming and commendable performances from: John Austin 1st. in both the F/S 22.4 and the BK 26.9, Katie Long 1st. in the U/10 BR. 28.4 and a good 2nd. in the U/12 BR. 60.8; Haylen Bettinson another double first BK 53.5 and Fly 54.4, Laura Barratt 2nd. in the U/12 BK 63.8; Tim Welch 67.6 and Jane Harrison 69.2 both winners of the U/14 F/S, Duncan Wright Fly 56.3 (2nd), Jane Tanner 1st. U/12 BR in 59.3 and Helen Field 2nd. in the FS in 66.5 (coming several close swims).

In no event were we completely outclassed, and our strength in depth enabled us to pile up enough points to emerge as deserving winners.

Totals: Camp Hill 282, Wellinborough 268½, Northampton 248½.

R.J.

26/1/74. The Mini Bolgna Trophy.

"A Welcome in the Hillside", yes, true Welsh hospitality shone through a wet bleak January Saturday.

After a uneventful journey apart from a minor upset to the coach (motorised type) we arrived at the Afan Lido with five minutes to spare, and after a quick briefing from the Officials we were ready for the Opening Ceremony attended by Civic and Welsh Swimming dignitaries.

The Ceremony comprised a march of teams 'musically accompanied' around the pool, led by Camp Hill as holders of the trophy, followed by both English and Welsh anthems and a welcome address from the Mayor.

The Gala commenced shortly after and we were off to a good start with a win and a P.B. from Sue Stacey in the open I.M. Many fine swims were swum and several good performances returned, on this occasion, if one must select a 'Man of the Match' one did not have to look further than Nick Green who returned several outstanding swims, but there were other excellent efforts, to name a few:

A. Coaton. L. Starling BR/S. J. Sheasby. F/S & FLY.
M. Starling. FLY. D. Baker & G. Brookhouse F/S.

The list could go on, but space prohibits.

After the Gala the welcome continued with excellent refreshments, and a Discotheque for the swimmers:

No disqualifications, good turns, good effort, three more points and we would have retained the trophy, congratulations to Leeds who pipped us on the relays, after being eight points behind at the end of the individual events.

K.B.