

EDITORIAL

One of my New Year Resolutions was to re-establish our Newsletter on a regular basis and I hope that this will improve communication within the Club and help to co-ordinate our efforts in 1989.

This issue will set out our programme and policy and I look forward to future issues containing items from club members.

Gerry T.

Training Timetable

Monday	5.00-6.45-8.15	Water Polo 8.15-9.45
Tuesday	5.00-6.30- 7 .45	
Wednesday	6.00-7.30-9.00	
Thursday	5.00-7.00	
Thursday	Moseley Road 7.00-8.30	
Friday	5.00-6.30-8.00	
Friday	Muntz Street 7.30-9.00	
Saturday	9.00-10.30	
Sunday	11.00-12.30	

If you wish to alter or increase your sessions at the School pool, remember to consult me first.

Few clubs have better water-time but I feel that we are not making the best use of this. For instance, our junior session on Mondays has up to 40 attending and is getting over-crowded, whereas on Tuesday we are averaging 24 and there is plenty of room. I would also point out to Seniors who cannot manage the early session on Tuesdays that I can make room for them in the second session.

Numbers on Wednesday and Thursday are good. Most disappointing is the poor attendance on Fridays at 5.00 pm, a time which I would have thought most suitable for young swimmers. This session provides the opportunity for all round stroke work and for longer swims which are so essential to stroke rhythm and water adaptation.

Similarly, Saturday morning attendances are very poor and I would make the same comment.

Thursdays at Moseley Road tend to vary with an average of 25 and we could do with a few more.

Fridays at Muntz Street, however, represents our worst waste of a facility. Admittedly this is a "dubious" area for leaving cars unattended but I believe some parents drop the swimmers and return at the end of the session which is one solution. Certainly the facility is excellent and we must make better use of it or cancel it. I am reluctant to do that as we need back-up to the School pool. Thursdays include a 'Beginners' group at Moseley Road and at Muntz Street there is a good teaching pool alongside the 25 metre pool.

Better support of these groups would assist the bottom end of our Diddy Team, for every year we need fresh 8/9 year olds. Which brings me to:

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RECRUITMENT

We are woefully weak numerically in boys/girls 14/15 years and I see little hope of increasing the numbers in those ages where most swimmers are already established with clubs. There must, however, be a great 'pool' of younger swimmers awaiting 'direction' into clubs and I would ask everyone to do their best to recruit for us in that area.

COMPETITION

League competition has always been one of our main interests and I regret having had to withdraw our 'C' Team from the Leagues due to the problem of numbers in the 14/15 year group. I hope that this will be only a temporary absence and that we can return after 2 years.

There are areas of competition to cater for everyone:- 'Diddy', 'B' Matches, 'A' Matches, Meets, Masters, County, Midlands and National. Study your fixture list and plan your programme.

TEAM SELECTION

I endeavour to select Teams for the best interests of the Club and of the competitor. Consequently, you may be swimming 'off stroke' or only doing relays. In the first case it may be that someone else is being given an opportunity on the event that you usually swim or it may be the best permutation of events from the 'team' point of view. Anyway, you should be able to compete on all strokes when you train on them all. Maggie Hohmann started her international career as a backstroker and after a few years became a breaststroker. She is the current G.B. second string at the age of 32 and with a family.

In the second case, you may only be good enough for a relay in that team at that match, but if you do not swim you will obviously have to be replaced by a weaker competitor and hence weaken the team. In 'friendly' matches I try to give everyone an event but it is not practical to do this in important ones. Some people will say, 'What is the point of going to Nottingham, etc, just to do a relay?' The answer is so as to support your club and to enable it to obtain its best result. I took Alison Sheppard over 5,000 miles to Seoul just to swim one 50 metre event. Everything is relative.

I realise that my selections may often seem inexplicable and I am far from infallible so do not hesitate to discuss it with me if you cannot see the reasoning behind it. Remember also that a time trial can always be had on request.

THE CLUB SHOP

This is run by those indefatigable workers on the Club's behalf Pat and Doug Knight. Profits are ploughed back into Club Funds and a great deal of work is involved. In future, to save Mr Knight transporting a lot of kit backwards and forwards, an order list will be placed on the noticeboard in the corner. Which brings me to:-

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NOTICEBOARD

This is vital to communication which is a two way process. Where possible, notices will be displayed in plenty of time. When a Team is required, there is the responsibility of notifying that Team. The matter is then only partially dealt with for it is then your responsibility to communicate whether you can turn out or not. You do that by ticking or crossing - there is usually a pen in the Office. On entering the building, deal with such matters, or, if you need to check first, note it and deal with it the NEXT time.

SWIMMER OF THE MONTH

Speedo Ltd give us one costume monthly for award. I distribute these for a personal improvement or for good work, loyalty to the Club, etc. The January award is to LIZ GREEN for a P.B. of 1.32.46 in the 13/U Breaststroke in the 'B' Team 1st Round E.M.L.

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

These were due in May (LAST). This was clearly stated on the noticeboard but it has been difficult getting them in. The membership list has been compiled and will be available soon. Your name may not be on it due to an oversight but it is more likely to be because of your failure to pay your subscription. There is still time. Anyone training at the School pool on any occasion £10.00 per year (May-April), reducing by £2.00 for every other member of the family. Those who train only at Muntz Street and/or Moseley Road, £5.00 per year.

REGISTRATION

National Registration will be due again soon. More about this in the next newsletter. 'It's all money' you may say. Pause to reflect how cheaply you are getting your swimming. How much does it cost to belong to that golf club, to have tennis coaching, etc?

DIDDY LEAGUE

My thanks to Mr Humber and to those who helped him for their hard work (and it certainly is with this age group) with the Team in 1988. We had a good season and just missed promotion into Division 1 by one place. This year the Diddys will be organised by Anne Lee and Paul Morris. Mr Morris attended the A.G.M. recently and the dates for 1989 are: 15th April, 13th May and 17th June. The first round always clashes with the Warwickshire Championships but efforts to get it altered over the years have always failed. As with the Senior Leagues, we need a good pool of swimmers in case of illness, unavailability, etc. Hopefully, unavailability will not be a problem once you have read this. There does appear to be a problem, however, in the youngest boys (9th birthday in 1989) which ties up with earlier remarks on RECRUITMENT.

Now to the other end of the Scale:-

MASTERS and 19/24 age Groups.

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Masters competitions are proliferating and I hope that some 'self help' will be forthcoming from amongst our large number of Masters resulting in the efficient organisation and administration of what is potentially a strong team.

PROFILES

We are fortunate in having several very experienced senior swimmers and I think it would be of interest to younger members to know more about their swimming background and achievements.

Who else can I start with but Chris Tainty. I delve into the archives. Chris, 28 this year, joined us at the age of 14. In 1975 he was placed 3rd in the 14/15 years 200 metres backstroke at the National Age Group and in August of that year he swam for the Great Britain Junior Team at that distance in an Eight Nations International in Geneva. In 1976 he had several good swims - I quote from the May '76 Club Newsletter:-

"National Short Course at Worthing - Chris swam with determination to take the Junior 200 metre Backstroke Championship in a time of 2.18.6 (17th overall) and to gain selection for the Eight Nations Junior International. His 100 B.K. time of 65.5 gave him 3rd place in the Junior Championship and he also swam a respectable 2.23.5. in the 200 FLY.'

In the same year, Chris was in our 3rd placed Medley Team at the National Age Group and in 1978 he won the Men's Consolation Final at the National Short Course (2.14.64) and was 2nd in the 100 BK at the Schools Championships (62.9).

Chris has always been a 'worker' in training - he still is and although kept busy as an Accountant, is regularly to be seen at training. He has won many medals at County and Midlands level and swam an excellent 64.87 at Leicester in December. He has been an ever present member of our club teams since 1974.

W.M.L.

I am pleased to report that our 'A' Team survived in Division 1 after a great Team effort under the blandishments, cajoling, threats and encouragement of Team Manager Mrs Knight. Our 'B' Team was less fortunate but we look for better this year with only two teams competing.

E.M.L. - Round 1 14.1.89

'A' Team. Our 6th place was disappointing particularly as we will go into the 2nd round without bonus points. All I can stress is that we have to have EVERYONE available for the 2nd round on February 11th. Good swims by Carla Flynn (FLY-73.95), Andrew Brown (BR-88.94), Martin Atkins (FLY-61.12).

The 'B' Team were placed 3rd out of 4. Good swims:- the Greens, Liz (BR-92.55), Tom (BR-92.97), Ben Darbyshire (F/S-75.24), Sharon Morris (F/S-77.86), Peter Badham (F/S-59.22), Martin Page (BR-88.07), Deborah Bees (F/S-66.65).

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21/1/89 Orion-Pride of the Midlands Gala - Stechford

We were placed 6th in this well organised event, with the following obtaining medals:- Joanne Potter (FLY, 2nd, 28.87), Jonathan Baker (FLY, 2nd, 25.30), Tom Green (BR, 1st, 1.31.46), Ben Darbyshire (F/S, 3rd, 1.13.88), Adrian Lee (FLY, 3rd, 1.26.82), Lydia Lee (BR, 1st, 1.24.45), Andrew Brown (BR, 1st, 1.26.68). We also had a number of P.B.'s and good relay results.

Inter-Club - Burton

In view of the above event, we had a somewhat depleted team at Burton finishing 5th. It was a useful initial outing for our 9 year group however.

Good swims:- Susan Humber (BR-1.29.27), Katharine Green (BR-24.49), Lucy Tubbs (BK-1.21.50).

22/1/89 Dudley Meet

To complete a busy weekend, we had several entrants for the above Meet. Midland Qualifying Times were achieved by Andrew Brown (BR-1.24.08), Lydia Lee (BR), Car41a Flynn (FLY), Tom Green (BR-1.32.10).

Our Men and Women's F/S Teams won and our 13/14 Girls came 3rd and 11/12 Boys 2nd.