

SWIMMING INTO 1991

Well, we've had a 10 days break and we now start our build-up to the County events in April (10 yrs - Open). Three Saturdays of intense competition with good results then leading on to the Midland District in May and June, with the target of qualifying for the Nationals in August.

Qualifying times can be achieved at most of the Meets that we enter and you must approach every 100m. swim as an opportunity to reach your target.

You know the programme - the qualifying times have been published - now LET'S GET ON WITH IT!

FIXTURE LISTS

I still have many of these available - ask for one.

NOTICEBOARD

It is always kept up-to-date. Make sure that you study it regularly so that YOU are up-to-date.

GIRLS 9 YEARS IN 1991

At the risk of being repetitive, I must continue to urge members to try to recruit swimmers for this age group. Our Diddy Team has had two successful years and we want to continue along that path, but, at the moment we look like having difficulties in turning out a full team as we only have 4 girls in that age group.

WEST MIDLAND LEAGUE

It was a pity that the last round had to be cancelled - the organisers had hoped to swim the top gala early this year, but it has proved impossible to find a suitable date for the 6 clubs involved: consequently, the league positions remain as at the close of the second round.

THANK YOU

Finally, may I thank you for your gifts, especially that lovely camellia, the installation of which has transformed our backyard into a patio, and for all your cards.

MATCH RESULTS

17th/18th Nov. Staffs Meet - Wolverhampton (25m)

Our participation in this Meet was limited because of the Diddy Match at Solihull. Nevertheless, we had many P.B.'s in the new 8 lane pool.

F/S Adam Edwards 1.10.54, Natalie Smith 1.17.14, Flora Lee 1.17.54

BR. Jamie Hamer 1.24.83

FLY Sally-Jo Jennings 1.21.28, Jon Baker 1.20.25, Neil Sharma 1.22.52, Jo Potter 1.25.55, Richard Rivers 1.16.79

BK Richard 1.16.15, Simon Delves 1.19.30

We also had some good swims in the final session, but I cannot note these, as I do not have the result sheet.

Good as our results were, the fact that we had few finalists points to the ever-increasing standard of competition and to the necessity to work still harder.

18.11.1990 Diddy Trophy Gala-Solihull (33.3m)

C/Hill 228, Bedworth 210, Solihull 194, Broadway 175, Sparkhill 129, Solihull 'B' 69.

A comfortable win in a gala where we were in the lead throughout. This was a good result as several of the Team had already been in action earlier in the day at Wolverhampton. Some good swims : Katrina Hebden, BK, 55.49, Sally Millard, BR, 55.16, Jo Potter, FLY, 24.82 and relay splits of 22+ and 21+ by Jo Hutton.

24.11.1990 Orion Diddy Gala - Halesowen

Walsall 220, C/Hill 192, Orion 'A' 191, Triple S 187, Kidlington 177, Orion 'B' 53.

A somewhat sluggish start saw us in equal 4th place after 12 events, but after another 12 races we had progressed to 3rd place and in the final event, the canon relay, we edged ahead of Orion to finish 2nd. Another good 'team effort' with several pleasing swims: Sally Millard, BR, 1.28.59; Natalie Smith, FLY, 27.27; two strong swims by Edward Bissenden, BR & FLY, 31.57 & 28.23; Wayne Poole, FLY, 29.83 - a 5 secs. improvement on the previous week because he was concentrating: Katrina Hebden, BK, 1.28.89, gradually bringing down her times; Ben Hobbs, F/S 52.09; Kate Green, BR, 1.03.76; Adam Edwards, BK, 1.24.59 - but still adding chunks to his time with amateurish turns. Best individual swim - Jo Potter, FLY, 52.76.

1.12.1990 A BUSY DAY

23 swimmers went to the new 25m Wolverhampton Pool to compete in an 8 club relay match alongside the International Match. We were placed in the first 3 in all of the 12 races, but lost the trophy to Walsall by 5 points having handicapped ourselves with a takeover disqualification which cost us 6 points. Our Men won both their races despite Martin having to rescue his car from the clutches of the police. There were many good splits with an outstanding 33.67 Br. from Andrew Brown.

We then proceeded to Halesowen for an inter-club.

C/Hill 193, Perry Beeches 161, Haden Hill 139, Halesowen 124, Rugby 99.

Mike Hoare, with no opposition, swam a relaxed BR, 1.09.34, while Heidi Perry used her BK race to warm up for her 1.25.06 BR. In fact, our strength in that stroke was well in evidence: Kate Green 1.02.82; Sally Millard 1.27.73; Sharon Morris 1.24.40; Andrew Brown 1.16.24. Katrina Hebden whittled a bit more off her BK with a 1.27.83 and Ben Hobbs did likewise in the F/S, 49.45. Lydia Lee, after a poor start, found that she could complete the FLY in good form, 1.17.10. There really is no excuse for being taken by surprise at a start if you observe the starter's 'pattern' during a gala.

Jonathan Baker and Adam Edwards continue to work hard in their races, but, equally, they continue to deprive themselves of P.B.'s by stupid lapses in concentration. Jonathan adds a second to his FLY every time he takes a look at the progress of his race, while Adam's lack of concentration when finishing and turning continues to lose him races. Let's hope both these boys have included CONCENTRATION in their New Year resolutions, so as to produce the times which are so well within their capabilities.

Concurrently, we had another team at Stourport for a relay gala :

Walsall 149, Broadway 130, Stourport 112, C/Hill 81, Worcester 68.

Many good splits including Joseph Bunting's 36.36 BR., which confirms that he should be sub-80 every time he swims 100m. Come on Joseph!

15.12.1990 Oxford Meet (25m.)

Our representatives, their number depleted by illness, travelled to Oxford on a wintry day to compete in a high-level Meet with strong contingents from southern clubs. As usual, our effort was spearheaded by Mike Hoare who swam another sound BR, 1.08.30 only to be pushed in to 2nd place by a lapse in concentration over the final 10m. He had two busy sessions and gave evidence of his improving F/S with a P.B. of 56.95 in = 4th. Lydia Lee was unfortunate to miss a place in the FLY final, 1.16.61, but did qualify for the finals of F/S & Br. 1.04.31 & 1.23.04. In the F/S a poor start cost her dearly. Andrew Brown was 2nd in a hard-fought BR final, 1.14.59 and he reached the BK final after the organisers kindly accepted his 'very late posted' entry card. Raymond Watson's 1.16.73 FLY was another consistent swim and will soon be faster. Kate Green, 44.38, and Natalie Smith, 45.24, were 4th and 7th in the BR. Lucy Tubbs showed a return to fitness and Jo Potter swam a P.B. in the F/S 1.12.90.

6.1.1991 Stourbridge Diddy Meet (Wolv. 25m.)

A really high level Meet to start off the year, with competitors from 55 clubs including a large contingent from Leeds.

We had 2 finalists in the 1st session: Jonathan Baker, FLY, 34.52, 2nd swam an excellent 50m. - he must have made that New Year resolution, and if he continues to tackle his races like that, he can look forward to success in 1991. Kate Green, BR 4th, 43.72 continues to bring her times down. Good swims from Natalie Smith, I.M., 1.28.78; Michelle Jennings, BR, 43.72; Lisa Darcy F/S 38.80; Adam Edwards, FLY, 37.58; Jo Potter, 37.65; Katrina Hebden 40.08.

The session had lasted over 4 hours, so the start of the 2nd session was delayed. We were not looking forward to it, the the officials kept things moving much better and we finished at a reasonable time. This time we had 7 finalists : Edward Bissenden, in his first Meet was 8th in the Br, 48.07, a remarkable performance considering how infrequently he trains; Adam, F/S, 4th 32.47; Jonathan, 6th, 32.93; David Tubbs, BK, 8th, 38.32; Adam, 4th, 37.74, a medal for Georgina Lee, also making her debut, FLY, 6th, 45.64; Sally Millard, BR, 2nd, 39.29. Good heat swims by Wayne Poole, FLY, 43.36; Jo & Michelle, F/S, 33.50 & 33.63; Ben Hobbs, 34.84; Kate Green, 36.41; Katrina Hebden, BK, 39.86.

We had several notably BAD turns, and, in answer to popular request, more time will be devoted to these in training, BUT this requires the co-operation of YOU the swimmer. No one can do it for you. You have to make a conscious effort every time you approach that wall in the course of all your training swims until it becomes a reflex action.

CAMP HILL 1979

Another busy year with our 15 yr. girls outstanding. Jo Seymour began by breaking the Midlands Junior BR record, 1.17.20. We were the leading club at the Milton Keynes Meet where our results included Melanie Hayward and Karen Gurney, BR, 1.18.01 & 1.21.65. In the County Champs we took 109 out of the 240 medals available, winning 7 of the 8 team races. Jo was 1st in the BR with Melanie 2nd, 1.18.5 & 18.8. Debbie Fielding won the 11yr. F/S, 1.11.7; Laura Barrett was 2nd in the BK, 1.11.8.

We took 17 swimmers to Darmstadt, getting 6 medals and a further 12 finalists. At the National Age Group, Melanie won the 15 yr. Br. 1.17.92 while Jo, below form, was 4th, 1.19.17. That illustrates how the 'pecking order' in a club does not have to remain unchanged. Melanie went to the National Youth Squad and Jo was not re-selected. Laura Barrett was 8th in the BK with a heat time of 1.10.33. We were in 3 relay finals.

We retained the Diddy League title for a 3rd year, were 2nd in the WML, and 6th in the National League Final. We had several members in the Divisional Schools Team for the National Finals at the Isle of Man where Jo showed her resilience by winning the Inter. Br in a record 1.14.90. In the finals of the Esso K.O. Competition, Melanie won the BR. 1.16.84 and a determined Jo took the 200 BR in 2.41.31, a swim which resulted in her being added to the Youth Squad.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 19th Orion 10-13 yrs. at Coventry.
 20th Derby Mt. & Dudley Meet. Entries made.

FEB. 2nd Haden Hill 9-12 yrs.
 3rd SALS Trophy - Barnet
 9th EML
 10th Haden Hill Meet. Entries Made.
 17th Bilston Meet. Entries Made.