

THANK YOU DAVE!

After several years running our Thursday and Friday sessions at Moseley Road and Muntz Street, David Sheppard has decided to call it a day. Dave was always a great motivator of the young beginner; his sessions may, at times, have appeared chaotic, but they got results and many of his proteges went on to swim in our teams. We wish Dave well and he will be presented with a tankard as a small token of our gratitude.

WELL WORTH MENTIONING!

Years ago, a 6-year-old Debbie Baker insisted on joining her 2 older brothers in our session at Moseley Road. She thoroughly enjoyed herself, bobbing up and down in the water and went on to be a regular member of our teams for several years, reaching County standard. A Christmas card from her parents enclosed a copy of a press cutting detailing her best-ever swim.

Debbie, married and with 2 young children, was on holiday at Mwnt Bay, Cardiganshire when she saw a man in difficulty in the sea. The waves were building up quite badly and nobody felt confident enough to attempt a rescue. Debbie was unable to stand and watch the man drown. Watched by her husband and children, she plunged into the water with a torpedo float and, after a tremendous struggle, succeeded in bringing him ashore.

Later he said: "I have no doubt that she saved my life. The waves just kept right on, carrying me further and further out to sea. They kept battering me. It felt like lying in a trough of water being hit from one side to another. Every few seconds, a huge wave knocked me right under and I was wondering how much longer I could last."

A retired police sergeant, watching from the cliff top, said: "It was the highest act of bravery I have ever seen."

A CLUB RECORD

It is several years since Steve Dunn reduced his 100F/S record to 53.10, and I am pleased to report that Darren Dyke was well inside this when taking 17th place in the National Short Course Championships in December with a time of 52.08 (24.68). I am sure that he can further improve it, and Steve Eggleton's 200 F/S record of 1.59.50 would seem to be at his mercy.

Craig Norrey, 32 in May, swam his usual 56+ long course in the Geneva Championships in January.

I hope our younger members who are hovering around the 58-61 seconds area will note the above performances and START SPRINTING.

#### THE CLUB WEDDING OF THE YEAR

(So far, that is - I think there are some more planned for 1993.)

Jo Seymour, holder of several club records, became Mrs Minion on 30 January. Our best wishes go to Jo and to John for a long and happy marriage.

The club was well represented, although those who came over for the evening discotheque had some difficulty in finding their way through the Worcestershire lanes, and arrived late. I am told, on good authority, that Martin, Steve and others soon made up for lost time, but were returned home safely.

#### MORNING TRAINING

Tuesdays and Fridays, 6.30-8.00. I continue to be disappointed by the response to this facility. I am sure that many of you could get to the pool in 20 minutes or less and swim for at least 50 minutes of the session, leaving you plenty of time to get ready for the morning's activities. Obviously, someone will have to bring you to the pool with some personal inconvenience, but once a routine is established, that should not be too difficult.

Many of those whom you swim against train early morning, and at 5.30 rather than 6.30. This does not mean that I am looking for an influx of swimmers a fortnight before the County Championships, as was the case last year. It will then be too late to be of any value and would probably do more harm than good. Which brings me to:-

#### WHAT ARE YOUR AIMS FOR 1993? HAVE YOU GOT ANY? IF NOT, WHY ARE YOU TRAINING?

I shall shortly be issuing a brief questionnaire to be completed by all regular team members, and will then discuss them individually.

## COMPETITION REPORTS

### 12 December 1992 - WML Round III

#### Walsall (36 2/3 yds)

COSSACS 199, Braunstone 196, Walsall 180, C/Hill 170, Peterborough 151, Nottingham Northern 150

Quite a good result, although we might have looked for 3rd rather than 4th place. By all accounts, the water and the poolside were cold, but it was, of course, the same for everyone. Most of our swims were standard rather than inspired, but a few merit mention.

Adam Edwards F/S 39.95, BK 47.25; Jonathan Baker FLY 45.53; Ian Potter FLY 24.00; Judy Logan F/S 1.05.16; Jamie Hamer FLY 1.08.76 and what a pity he deprived himself of a PB in the BR through a 'dropped shoulder' at a turn after an impressive first place. Some good relay splits, especially Steve Dunn's 36.29 F/S.

#### Final league placing 15/24

#### Bromsgrove (27 1/2 yds)

Tewkesbury 192, Mansfield 192, Bilston 178, Chase 170, C/Hill 163, Bromsgrove 154

We did well to qualify for this final after our disappointing result in the first round. Everyone rose to the occasion and there were many fast swims. To mention some:-

F/S Paul Bickness 36.39, 1 4-sec improvement; Kesree Finnegan 1.07.49; Lydia Lee 1.04.79; Andre Sheppard 59.12, almost pulled to a 58+ by Olympian Roland Lee; Katie Brooks 32.00; BR Steven Jones 1.17.33; Natalie Smith 41.41; BK Lisa Johnstone 1.23.88; Russell Turner 35.50; FLY Kesree edging closer to that sub-80 mark; Katie Smith 35.56

#### Final league placing 6/30

### 19 December 1992 - Haden Hill (25m)

Haden Hill 195, C/Hill 154, Witney 151, Chase 144

Our last gala of 1992 produced several PB's: Jonathan Baker, FLY 1.10.51 - there is still so much more there; Jamie Hamer, BR 1.14.29 - an encouraging swim and, again, more to come; Ian Potter, FLY 37.19; Hannah Loftus, BR 44.74; Russell Turner, BK 1.17.45; Mike Hoare, FLY 1.02.09

2 January 1993 - Loughborough (25m)

Walsall 185, Cheadle 183, Loughborough 158.5, C/Hill 157.5, Deepings 125, Leicester 79

Yet another foggy, miserable day - would we be able to travel? We set off on time and, strangely but fortunately, considering Loughborough's reputation for fog, visibility improved considerably and we arrived in plenty of time.

The varied programme enabled our swimmers to show their form in the 1993 age groupings and this was particularly valuable in the 9 years. There were lots of noteworthy swims: **F/S** Jade Finnegan 38.34; Joseph Huddleston 38.25; Emma McElwee 35.74; **BR** Louise Morgan 49.43; Damien Freeman 42.89; **FLY** Laura Hyde 21.33. We did well in the relays. Although only winning one, we were 2nd in 9 and finished 1st in the 16 x 1 cannon, only for a DQ to cost us 5 valuable points.

Well done the 9 years on your first competition: Clare Franklin, Tracey O'Connell, Kate Hindson, Emma Raine, Ian Johnstone, Matthew Hobbis, Thomas Massey, William Barker.

9 January 1993 - EML Round 1

Beechdale (25m)

Nottingham Leander 211, Stourbridge 197, Wisbech 183, C/Hill 164, Nottingham Northern 153, Orion 136

Yet again, our map reading to Beechdale failed and we eventually arrived 15 minutes before the start of the gala. A disappointing first half of the programme saw us trailing in 6th place at event 24. By event 32 we were 5th and moving to 4th, at event 39 we stabilised our position with good performances in the final block of relays.

**F/S** Gemma Hindson 33.69; Joseph Huddlestone 36.78; Katie Brooks 1.09.65; Lydia Lee 1.03.78; **BR** Damien Freeman 1.35.72 and 43.67; Nicola Sheasby 42.44; **BK** Jo Potter 1.19.29 - her first sub-80 secs; Kate Green 1.25.97; **FLY** Martin Atkins 1.02.66; Ian Potter 1.24.37.

This was a sound first round result that means we need have no fears of relegation.

Nuneaton (36 2/3 yds)

Walsall 245, Nuneaton 219, C/Hill 192, Daventry 151, Dereham 128, Chesterfield 104

Shelly Taylorin, her first match for the club, gained 18 points: **BK** 1.14.44; **BR** 1.24.90; and **IM**. Other good swims: **BK** Nadia Rahman 28.66; **FLY** Jade Finnegan 27.17; **BR** Louise Morgan 31.33; **F/S** Andre Sheppard 1.00.45. Also good 2nd places by our Men's and Women's relays against a strong Walsall team.

10 January 1993 - Stourbridge Diddy Meet (25m)

This meet, the first of several scheduled for Wolverhampton, consisted of 200 IM and 50m races. Our swimmers produced many pleasing performances. Medals were awarded to all 8 finalists.

**IM** Gemma Hindson 3rd 1.26.84; **F/S** Ruth Fraser 6th; Gemma 2nd 33.71; **BR** Damien Freeman 2nd 42.38; Nicola Sheasby 2nd 43.84; Hannah Loftus 8th; James Venables 6th 49.79 - but he must learn how to keep his goggles on; Pamela Schofield 5th 40.65; **BK** Gemma 6th 40.46; Laura Payne 8th; **FLY** Gemma 2nd 37.37

Ian Potter, **F/S** 33.20, was, I thought, unlucky to miss the final due to the vagaries of the automatic timing system.

Some other good efforts: **FLY** Katie Smith 35.88; **F/S** Laura Payne 37.79; **BK** Hannah Loftus 42.71

16 January 1993 - Shrewsbury (33 1/3m)

C/Hill 228, Shrewsbury 220, Fox Hollies 205, Oswestry 184, Wombourne 113

This 'fun' gala resulted in an easier win than planned, due to the diligence of our judge - lane 4 definitely was a flier, lane 6 definitely did not!

We all behaved well and gave of our best, even though Adam was down on his luck - (a) stabbing Sally Jo with a lead pencil, (b) could not persuade our judge, TK's, TM, 4 boys, 3 girls or the coach driver to do his **FLY** swim, (c) no one would sit next to him on the coach.

Ten individual wins from 32 events and 8 team wins from 17 relays underlines the strong team spirit - we need individuals to compete for themselves with the same spirit and effort.

Special Mentions:

11/U Girls won all 6 of their events by wide margins and in excellent times - we have a very rosy future here. 11/U Boys - good swims all round, with Damien Freeman easily winning the **BR**, and a brilliant team effort to win the medley relay. Ruth Fraser and Matthew Bowen gave us a 5m lead in the cannon, which the seniors managed to hold on to - just.

**F/S** Joseph Huddleston 1.23.80; David Tubbs 1.03.54; **BK** Hannah Loftus 1.32.04; **BR** Shelley Taylor 1.23.18; **FLY** Katie Smith 1.28.57

23 January 1993 - Derby Meet (25m)

Stephen Tomlinson, **BK** 29.83 - 3rd, 2.18.94 - 4th; Georgina Lee, **FLY** 3.02.24 - 1st; Michael Hoare, **BR** 2.31.76 - 2nd

Haden Hill Diddy Relays

Kidlington 149, Haden Hill 132, Stourport 103, C/Hill 92

A disappointing result, but lots of effort and good behaviour, which is always so helpful in this type of gala. A shortage of swimmers in certain areas resulted in our swims getting progressively slower, although real effort in the last 2 cannons produced fast times. Several good splits.

NS

31 January 1993 - Dudley Meet, Wolverhampton (25m)

This was generally a most satisfactory day for the Club, with several PB's. Jonathan Baker swam good heats and finals in the **BR** 1.21.01 - 5th and **FLY** 1.10.35 - 5th. I'm looking for a 67 there soon. Ben Darbyshire, who is at last gaining confidence in his ability, produced a good **FLY**, 1.06.53 - 5th. Damien Freeman's **BR**, 1.31.91, was a very mature swim in his heat. Not everyone can, or wants to, swim a final holding 'failed' goggles in one hand - 7th. Kesree Finnegan swam 2 sub-80's **FLY** - 7th and a **F/S** PB 1.06.84 - 7th. Jamie Hamer's **BR** was close to his best, 1.15.51 - 4th and 1.15.44 - 4th. Michelle Jennings swam 2 65's **F/S** - 5th. Katie Brooks did well with a 1.08.93 **F/S**, while Stephen Jones looked a little sluggish in his swims, **BR** 1.17.48 - 7th, but he did have a long wait for his events. Our relay teams both finished close 2nds.

In addition to these, our best efforts came from: Stephen Tomlinson **BK** 1.03.30 - 3rd; Ian Potter **FLY** 1.20.59 - 2nd; Adam Edwards, undaunted by strong opposition, **BK** 1.11.09 - 4th and, edging nearer to that sub-60's, **F/S** 1.00.95 - 3rd. Georgina Lee looked to have taken 3rd place in the **FLY** with a 1.21.80, only, as we later discovered, to have been disqualified on a turn - therefore no medal, but she must take consolation from her time. Yes, it was a good meet for us.

FIXTURES

Feb            13th EML A&B Teams (14th and 9th after first round)

                 20th Lichfield

                 20th Tamworth 9-13 yrs

                 27th Stourbridge - Relays 11-14 yrs

March

7th Solihull - Relays 9-12 yrs

13th EML A&B Teams

14th Broadway Meet

20th Rugby 11 yrs - OP

20th Leic. Knighton Fields 12 yrd - OP

21st Broadway Meet

27th Warwickshire Championships, 1st day. ARE YOU  
READY? Watch the notice board for details of  
entries. Most of you should take part.