



This is the 101st edition of Camp Hill News, and as it goes into its second century the editorial style may not have changed much (see last month's edition) but the technology has!

We are now able to print photographs and who better to start with than **Mr. Gerry Thain?**

Gerry came to Birmingham in 1956 to take up a post at Camp Hill Boys' School teaching P.E. (with some English and a little French). He soon after started a swimming club which he affiliated to the Warwickshire A.S.A. in 1958. Training sessions were held at various City baths and other parents were soon approaching Gerry to take their daughters as well as their sons.

When the Camp Hill Schools' Pool was built in 1972 the Club officially became mixed.

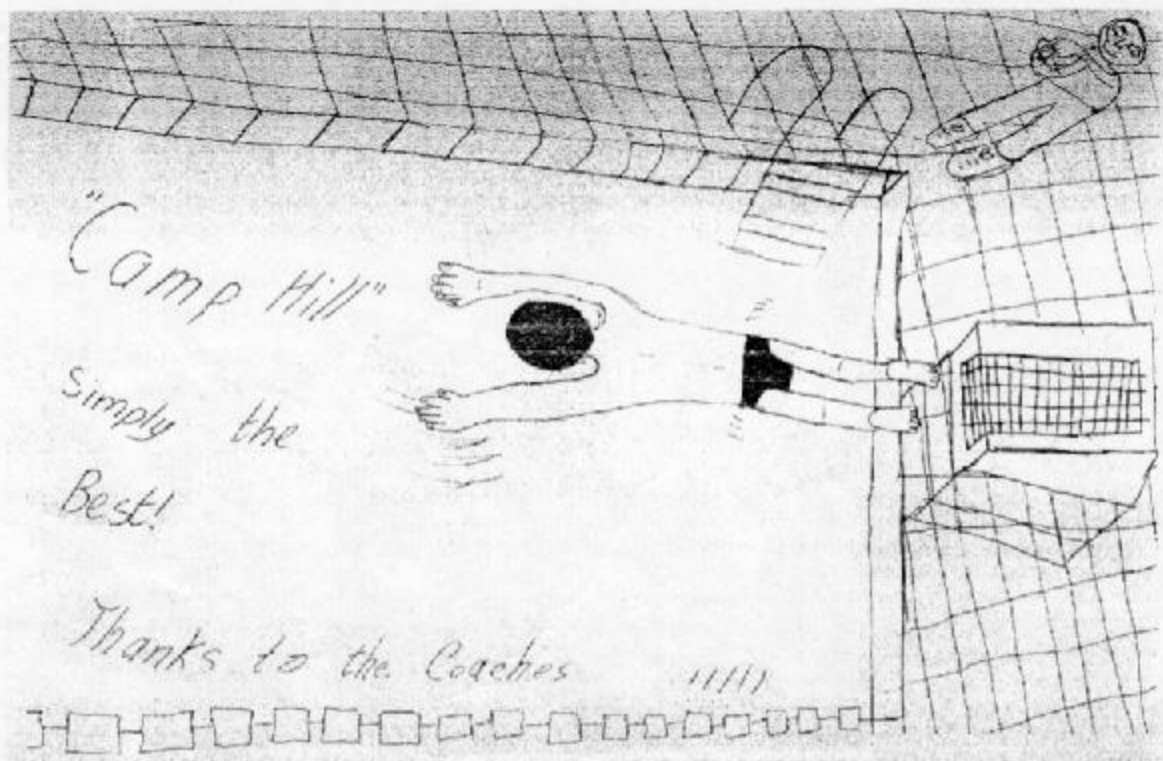
With Gerry as its guru and guardian angel the club went from strength to strength. He himself rose to become a senior and much respected figure in the swimming world, until finally, in 1988, he was the British Team Manager at the Seoul Olympic Games.

With his wife, Mary, Gerry has travelled much of the world with swimming teams, though all this international experience did not prevent him, last year, from boarding a through train to Euston when he intended alighting at Coventry for the County Swimming Championships!

Tolerant, patient ("Rome wasn't built in a day") totally unassuming and completely unflappable, F.G.T. has an encyclopaedic knowledge of swimming and a computer in his head for storing swimmers times. He is as delighted with some improvement by the newest, youngest swimmer as he was with various internationals he has coached over the years.

We know you won't much like this article, Gerry, but we want to take the opportunity of saying, for all your time, thought and dedication

THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED!



Richard Preece

Your photographs wanted!

In the next few issues we hope to bring some of the swimmers' names that you will find mentioned in the results sheets to life, by publishing their picture alongside their results. This it is hoped, will give well deserved recognition for an achievement to the individual and will provide a means for the younger swimmers and newer parents to recognise them.

At this stage we have very few pictures, we need more. How can you get them to us and what happens to them? We suggest that a photograph is placed in an envelope with the name of the swimmer on the outside and is handed to me, Chris Pilsbury on either Monday or Wednesday or Martin Loftus or Ann Lee. Be assured that your photographs will not be altered or damaged in any way. What will happen then? The picture that you supply will be electronically scanned and the image saved in a computer file so that it can be used when needed. The photograph will then be returned to you.

We hope that you will feel able to support this new departure for Camp Hill Swimming Club and look forward to your comments.

There are no general items this month, so we go straight into:

MATCH REPORTS

4/5.2.95 Bilston Meet - Wolverhampton (25m.)

Wolverhampton suits us. Our latest visit produced many P.B.s and good swims. **Michelle Jennings**, F/S 1.03.16 & 2.16.71, is edging towards a 62+, and **David Tubbs**, F/S 58.03, is consistently under the minute: he must now aim to make every swim under 58.0. **David's BK** is also improving with a 1.05.95. It was good to see **Jo Potter** really working throughout the 200 BR to win in 2.43.51, and her 400 I.M., 5.19.15, is moving well in the right direction. **Katie Smith** is now swimming 1.16.0 + FLY consistently and would have recorded 1.15 + but for an over-emphatic touch at the finish. **Hannah Loftus** has now become a sub 80 secs. backstroker, and **Ruth Fraser's F/S**, 1.10.46, was good, and I am sure that she now appreciates the need for greater fitness in order to swim a good heat and final. **Georgina Lee** swam P.B.s in a wide range of events, F/S 1.03.70, BR 1.21.42 & 2.54.15, FLY 1.08.55 & 2.28.55, BK 1.12.19 and I.M. 5.24.04. Equally versatile, **Gemma Hindson** swam F/S 2.14.60 & 4.41.82, I.M. 5.31.66, BR 1.23.85 & 2.56.02. **Ian Potter**, looking stronger, F/S 1.05.30, FLY 1.14.82. **Stephen Tomlinson**, who clearly needs more races, BK 1.03.83, is approaching his old form. **Louise Morgan**, BR 1.34.72, continues to show ability but she needs more work. **Kesree Finnegan**, at last ventured beyond the boundaries of 100m and raced an introductory 400 F/S in 4.51.45. **Kate Hindson** shows promise on FLY, 1.28.24 and **Lucy Lloyd-Roach** had several good efforts, FLY 1.18.24 & 2.55.42, BK 2.21.49, F/S 1.12.42.

11/12.2.95 Welsh A.S.A. Dragon Meet - Cardiff (50m.)

Our two girls produced some good efforts in their first long course competition of the year. In the U/16 group **Georgina Lee** swam best times in the FLY, 1.09.21 & 2.30.06, narrowly missing G.B. junior selection, and useful times in the I.M., 2.35.42 & 5.29.59. **Gemma Hindson**, U/13 group collected medals in several events, with best times in the FLY 1.14.02 & 2.38.92 and 400 I.M., 5.30.09.

11.2.95 East Midland League - Round II Kettering Deepings (25m.)

Norwich Penguins 270, Lincoln 209, Radford 190, C/Hill 179, Triple S 151

This was a poorly organised gala with the starter using damp blanks. Despite our efforts, we only won two events. **Damien Freeman**, BR 1.21.52 and the Men's Medley Relay **Stephen Tomlinson** 29.76, **Mike Hoare** 32.33, **Ben Darbyshire** 27.49, **Trevor Clark** 26.34. Second places were gained by: **Jo Minion**, I.M. 1.10.93; **Stephen**, BK 1.02.93;

Ian Johnstone, BR 48.57; **Mike**, BR 1.11.55; **Michelle Jennings**, F/S 104.08 and seven relay teams. The coach left much to be desired, as did the driver's performance. Loss on coach hire £ 21.00. **N.S.**

11.2.95 Nuneaton (36²₃ yds.)

Bedworth 205, Matlock 198, Chatteris 189, C/Hill 165, St.Ives 147, Radford 115

Nothing exciting to report from this gala, and we could only be satisfied with our 4th placing.

18.2.95 Diddy Match - Leicester (25m.)

Perry Beeches 227, C/Hill 174, Leic. Belgrave 147, Leic. Neptune 132, Stourbridge 96, Perry Beeches 'B' 95

Several of our team recorded good times in this junior match.

F/S **Sally Jones** 16.55, **William Barker** 15.70, **Ruth Fraser** 32.31

BR **Louise Venables** 22.81, **Louise Morgan** 42.10

BK **Laura Payne** 40.19, **Stephen Gregory** 22.11

FLY **Lucy Lloyd-Roach** 35.59, **Warren Jones** 36.98, **Jon Sheasby** 22.11

26.2.95 Junior Relay Gala - Bromsgrove (27¹₂ yds.)

Witney 151, Bromsgrove 132, Orion & C/Hill 89, Fox Hollies 63

No times are available, but I understand that we enjoyed the match.

25/26.2.95 High Wycombe (50m.)

This was a good meet for our girls with a demanding programme of long course races over the two days. Our best swims: 400 I.M. **Georgina Lee** 5.24.06; **Jo Potter** 5.24.45; **Gemma Hindson** 5.29.68. F/S **Ruth Fraser** 1.11.61; **Kate Hindson** 1.17.72; **Gemma** 1.04.56.

FLY **Lucy Lloyd-Roach** 1.20.69 (2nd); **Georgina** 1.09.57 (2nd); **Jo** 1.14.83; **Kate** 1.26.76. BR **Jo** 1.20.38 (3rd); BK **Georgina** 1.15.53.

4.3.95 Kettering (25m.)

Lincoln Pentaqua 'B' 216, Thetford 213, Leighton Buzzard 208, Kettering 194, C/Hill 'B' 156

Having assembled a full team with great difficulty, we were always going to be up against it in this gala, and that proved to be the case. Despite that, we tried very hard, with several

swimmers tackling hitherto unknown distances. We had two very good efforts: **James Venables**, BR 1.30.64 - now a sub 90 - and **Russell Turner**, BK 1.09.77. **Simon Delves** declined an individual event, but swam two 'scorching' 26's in the relays, and **Duncan Adams**, with a 30.61 relay swim, showed that it is still not too late for him to get down to it and earn an individual race.
Loss on coach hire £ 24.00.

11.3.95 East Midland League Round III - Leicester (25m.)

C/Hill 205, Stourbridge & Luton 187, Eckington 178, Triple S 159, Leic. Penguins 128

This was an exciting and keenly fought gala, and our good 'team effort' resulted in many fine swims in individual events and relays, including:

F/S **Jon Baker** 56.02, **Nicola Sheasby** 1.07.00, **Michelle Jennings** 1.03.69.

BR **Robert Delves** 1.30.59, **James Raine** 1.23.94.

BK **Georgina Lee** 1.11.54, **David Tubbs** 1.05.95.

FLY **Mike Hoare** 1.01.89, **Mike Holmes** 1.12.61, **Warren Jones** 1.22.74 - but so slow leaving the block! **Kate Hindson** 39.22, **William Barker** 41.01.

I.M. **Jo Minion** 1.09.50.

12.3.95 Wolverhampton Meet (25m.)

Despite having been at Leicester on the previous evening, we had several entries for this Meet which offered 10 yr events and longer swims in addition to the usual sprints.

Michelle Jennings, 400 F/S 4.48.6* and 1.03.71* - with three swims of 63+ over the weekend, surely a 62 must soon be reached. **Jo Potter**, 400 F/S 4.50.76 - a very even swim, 2.25.37 & 2.25.29 and FLY 1.13.64. **Jon Sheasby**, F/S 34.69 - he needs to attack that first length. **William Barker** 1.17.64 - better turns will reduce his times. **Damien Freeman**, BR 1.21.55 - he really should be aiming for a sub - 80secs. **Lucy Lloyd-Roach**, FLY 1.18.75 - she is consistently swimming sub 80 and must now aim for 76 secs. **Gemma Hindson**, FLY 1.12.60 *, I.M. 2.32.58 (NQT); **Ruth Fraser**, F/S 1.11.21; **Georgina Lee**, FLY 1.09.62 (NQT), I.M. 2.31.50 (NQT); **Kate Hindson**, 400 F/S 5.27.09 *, FLY 1.24.56, F/S 1.14.54 & I.M. 2.57.08 *.

* = Midland Qualifying Time.

18.3.95 Diddy Gala - Rugby (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ m.)

Rugby 242, C/Hill 204, Fox Hollies 196

With the Junior League getting ever closer, this match was used to provide information towards future team selection, with swimmers being tried on a variety of strokes. Congratulations to our 9 yr olds who did well in the long pool and were very well behaved.

Our best swim came from **Lucy Lloyd-Roach**, 2 length FLY 50.18. I was pleased too by **Edward Freeman's** BR, 31.31 and **Sally Jones** swam a good BK, 1.01.00, but should borrow a club cap rather than turn out in a yellow training cap. There were a number of 'capless' swims and I would urge parents to support our efforts to get a good team image. Good BR swims from **Louise Morgan**, 59.96, although she still fails to get into her stroke early enough, and from **James Venables**, 58.78. There were several good relay swims including: **Georgina Cross**, 25.78 and **Jenny Pearce**, 21.82, **Chris Gregory** 23.43 and brother **Stephen**, BK 28.68. **Sophie Mayor** had three useful relay swims. It is pleasing to note that our feeder group at Edgbaston High is producing results.

25.3.95 County Championships and Age Group Competitions - Coventry (50m.)

The day's programme consisted of three sessions, commencing at 10.30 a.m. The first gala seemed interminable with lengthy hold-ups, whereas the second one was really hectic with very little rest between swims. No wonder that we were all wilting by the start of session 3 at 6.00 p.m. Yet this was to provide our most exciting race with **Georgina Lee** and **Gemma Hindson** taking 1st and 2nd in the Girls 13/14 F/S, 1.03.17 & 1.03.27 National Qualifying Times. This was proof that, providing one has trained hard and prepared correctly - even if fatigued at the end of a long tiring day - it is possible with determination to produce a really good swim.

Other medals were won by: **Jo Potter**, 2nd in OPEN BR 1.20.75 *; **Gemma**, 2nd 200 F/S 2.15.36 (NQT); **Georgina**, 1st OPEN 50 FLY 31.79 *; and 3rd 200 BK 2.33.56 (NQT); **Stephen Tomlinson** 3rd 50 BK 30.41.

Other good swims included: **Michelle Jennings**, 200 F/S 2.18.36 *; **James Venables**, BR 1.32.26; **Ian Potter**, BK 1.16.85; **Jo**, LM 2.35.66 *; **Kesree Finnegan**, 50 FLY 32.84 *; **Ruth Fraser**, F/S 1.11.15 *; **Kate Hindson**, F/S 1.14.84 *.

Fifteen swimmers won medals in team races; **Jon Baker**, **Adam Edwards** (dragged from retirement), **Russell Turner**, **Dean Cross**, 2nd in 15/16 & Junior F/S races;

Gemma, **Nicola Sheasby**, **Hannah Loftus**, **Georgina**, 2nd in 13/14 Medley.

Simon Delves, **Ben Darbyshire**, **Jamie Hamer**, **David Tubbs**, 2nd in 17/18 F/S.

David, **Jonathan**, **Mike Hoare**, **Ben**, 3rd in OPEN F/S.

* = Midland Qualifying Time.

The end of an era

In future, all League Galas will be swum on the same dates. The EML and the WML will be on the second Saturdays in October, November and December. Teams have been allocated on a regional basis, so we shall be competing in the WML.

Sadly, this ends our long-standing association with the EML which was originally called the Motorway League. We joined that league in 1970, so have been members for a quarter of a century. We were league winners or runners-up several times, and represented the League in the National League Finals on a number of occasions. At the time, we were also swimming in the London League, and were founder members of the WML in 1972.