

BUNTINGFORD SWIMMING CLUB

RIPPLES IN THE POOL

EASTER 2006

Here we are once again, with the Easter edition of 'Ripples in the Pool'.. As usual, I am underwhelmed with things to write about, so you will just have to put up with my own thoughts, etc. to fill a page – maybe two if I write with big letters.

GALAS ATTENDED

We started 2006 with a gala at the Fanshawe Pool in January, where we finished in 4th place. This was the Ware S.C. Junior Challenge Trophy gala against teams from Ware ; Bishops Stortford ; Letchworth and Broxbourne. We were disqualified in 5 events for silly things we should not have done, and these DQ's **cost us 30 points!!** Never the less, the children swam very well for the most part, with many personal best times again achieved, It was also a steep learning curve.

We visited Ware again in February for the Ware Novice gala, and this gave us a chance to try out quite a few swimmers new to competition. We actually had 10 swimmers swimming for the first time and many others who had swum only a few times in the past. This was a very close gala all evening and we actually finished again in 4th place. We were very happy with all the swimmers and the new times collected on the evening. Those new swimmers did themselves proud, and will feature again in the galas to come.

We are now preparing to take part in the Peanut series of galas during May ; June & July. **Please check out the dates on the notice boards and please make every effort to swim if asked to do so.** We did very well last year, which was our first in Division 2, and we agreed to try to finish in the top 6 this year. **WE CAN DO IT.**

We are looking into the possibility of getting extra pool time on a regular basis to assist all the members in the near future. An approach has been made and we are awaiting a reply to our offer. Nothing has been promised yet, but we are hopeful.

In preparation for the peanut galas, extra pool time for the squad has been arranged at our pool on the Sundays preceding each of the galas. **If you are in the team, please make every effort to attend.**

COURSES BEING ATTENDED

Steve Coote and Gillie Johnson have signed up for the Officials course being run at the moment by the County, and we wish them well when the examinations come around. This is part of our on going commitment to 'SWIM 21'. Stuart Holland has also been CRB'd, because of his involvement at the desk. Our life guards have also been CRB'd.

Dave Carr has also attended a 'TEAM MANAGERS ' course, which he found most helpful. It dealt with all manner of things – travelling arrangements ; selection ; what to take to a swimming meet ; 'must haves' ; what information he should carry with him ; etc. etc.

All these courses are towards our ongoing commitment to 'Swim 21'.

TRIATHLON 2006

Arrangements are in hand for this year's event, with invitations already sent to the Broxbourne and Royston Swimming Clubs to see if they would like to take part.

We thought it would be a good idea to expand this year, following the great success of 2005. The formula is going to be the same as last year, to include a Bar B Q, etc.

Forms will soon be available for you to enter. We want to beat last year's number, and make it a great afternoon for everyone. We just hope it is not as hot as last year !!!

BIATHLON

Three of our 'senior' girls made up a team and entered the Eastern Region qualifying round of the National Biathlon Championship. This was held at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium and they did very well indeed. Jessica & Eleanor Earp and Christina Branch made up the team [the Buntingford Belles ???], and they qualified for the final to be held in Manchester on May 13/14th. All the swims were quite good and the running must have been OK as well, although Eleanor was injured and couldn't finish that part of it. Well done girls. Will let everyone know what happens in the finals.

Georgia Makin also took part in the same event in a younger age grouping. She swam/ran with 2 friends from the Hatfield Club, and they also did well and qualified for the finals. . Maybe next year.....Who knows.

NEW MEMBERS

We should take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Club.

Jayne Rowe – yes the one who is a mum and swims with the adults.

Luke Atkins ; Stephen Burchmore ; Meredith Moody ; Tommy Lee Winkworth ; Adam Sheaham ; Lauren Moore ; Rebecca O'Sullivan ; Harry O'Sullivan ; Lauren Barnes ; Lucy Taylor ; Jonathon Bowell ; Annabel Buckworth ; Elizabeth Emery ; Kira Faik ; Liam Faik ; Callum Faik ; Emily Hagger ; Georgina Heaton ; Amanda Hokton ; Natasha Longthorpe ; Olivia Longthorpe ; Anastasia May.

We welcome back to the Club after a short break the following swimmers.....

Cameron Angus ; Frazer Angus ; Laura Grierson ; Michael Colman and James O'Sullivan.

As you can see, we are getting to be quite a popular Club, with children coming from all around. Our name is spreading which is a great thing to happen. That is another reason for looking for extra water time so that we can accommodate everybody. We try not to turn anybody away, which is what sport is all about. Everybody should have their chance.

FIXTURES, etc

We have lined up quite a few galas over the coming months apart from the peanut series of galas. Some will include the older swimmers at long last. Keep looking at the fixture list in the notice board, which is always kept up to date.

We want to get some swimmers involved with 'Open ' competitions if we can during the year, which will mean that there will be extra expense for some mums & dads. The swimmers will have to be registered as 'competitive swimmers', which is a different category to the one to which we currently subscribe to. Some of our swimmers have already taken the step, and do enter outside events of their own free will. The extra cost involved is about £14 per year plus the cost to enter any competition. It would be good to get a group of swimmers attending such competitions. Local ones coming up are being held at Stevenage ; Harlow and Borehamwood.

THIS & THAT

We are, at the moment, awaiting a quotation for a large storage cage to be for our own use and placed on the poolside. We will be getting a lot of extra pieces of equipment for use by the swimmers hopefully in the very near future, once we have the cage in position. We will be getting training fins ; hand paddles ; tubes ; etc etc etc, which should be of great use to all the swimmers.

We are also looking at the possibility of introducing a new range of Club clothing such as 'T'shirts ; polo neck shirts ; tracksuits ; sweat tops and possibly introducing our own Club swimming bag. All of these would be in our Club Colours of red and black in some form or other, and would be offered for sale at a very competitive price.

Well, that's it. **If ANY of you can contribute anything to the next edition of 'RIPPLES IN THE POOL' please do so. There is quite a long while to go until the next edition [probably next September], so do try and write something.**

I hope we have a good run in the League – we deserve to. **Let us put our best team out in every round.**

2006 sees the Club reach 30 years in existence, and we aim to mark this sometime later in the year. Keep a look out on the board for information about what we hope to be doing .