

RIPPLES IN THE POOL

EASTER 2008

We are well over our Christmas break now and we are doing very well indeed. I thought a general 'up date' of where we are, would be a good idea, so that all our newer members can catch up with what and how we are doing. As most of you know, 2007 was a very good year for us. Just a quick resume of some of the highlights.....

We won our first gala.. [the coach was on holiday !!!]

We entered a team in the 3rd division of the Hertfordshire Major Swimming league for the first time and finished in 4th place. A great result.

We entered swimmers in the County Development gala and came away with a gold medal, a silver medal and 15 personal best times.

Our Tri-athlon grew and we invited 4 other swimming clubs to send entries.

We eventually got the extra water time we had fought for after a 'battle' lasting months, and this started in January this year. This extra time is being well used.

We elected Richard Moody as our new Club Chairman at our AGM in November. He takes over from Ken Cain, who had done sterling work for many, many years at the Club.

Now for 2008.

We are currently in **first place** of the Herts swimming league - Div 3, with just the final round to go. Only a complete and utter disaster will stop us from getting promoted into the 2nd division for next year's competition. It has been a terrific effort by all the swimmers and coaching staff to get us to this position, and everybody can be very proud of what we have achieved. You have to take into consideration, the limited amount of water time we have compared with nearly all the other clubs.

This years Tri-athlon will again be taking place, bigger and better than ever. This year we have invited **5** swimming clubs to take part and, **by request** we are also including an adult section - so get training all you Buntingford parents!!! Entry forms will be available on the table from now on, so no excuses.

We always expect a great number of entries from the host club - BUNTINGFORD.

It is pleasing to announce that we now have 2 newly qualified teachers helping out on the pool side. Olly and Tracey have just completed a teaching course lasting quite a few weeks and are already getting into the swing of things in the Club.

We also have a new Boys Team Manager - Steve Hughes. Welcome aboard and good luck.

Our numbers are still going up, which is great, however we are desperately short of young boys. If any of you know of any boy swimmers aged 7 or 8, please ask them to come along and see us. We are now getting swimmers from quite a large area, so we must be doing something right !!!

If any of you are involved with any of the village schools, please let somebody know. We do have contact with quite a few, but there are several others where we don't. We can supply Club Handouts if required to give to the children.

It was agreed that no increase to our fees would be implemented for 2008 at the last AGM. Perhaps it would be a good idea to let you know where your money goes - or some of it at least.

It costs the Club in the region of **£300 per week** for pool hire at the Freman pool and St Eds.College. Just for interest, any time we hire outside of Thursday evening, is charged at a much higher rate per hour. [Special training times ; Tri-athlon ; etc.]

We have to pay an annual fee to the ASA and to the ASA East for **every** member. A cheque for well over £1300 has just been sent.

We have to pay out for annual Club Insurance.

We do not usually hire coaches for the team to travel to galas, but we are going by coach to Borehamwood for the last round of the Major league - Cost £275.

For the Tri-athlon we will have to pay out quite a lot for medals, insurance, etc. but we hope to recover those costs with the entry fees.

Given the above small insight into where some of the money goes, perhaps we can be forgiven for asking, on occasions, if anybody is interested in sponsoring the Club in some way. We do have a few 'anonymous' sponsors who do help, and we are very grateful to them.

If anybody is interested or wants any information, please ask.

Club 'gear'

Don't forget that these items are always available on a Club night.

BAGS : COSTUMES : HATS : SHIRTS : PENS AND PENCILS ; etc.

Peanut League.

We are looking forward to this league for those swimmers up to 13 years of age and the first round is in May. This will be followed by round 2 in June and the final round in July. We are hoping to do well in this competition again this year after our 8th place last year.

Other galas.

We have quite a few galas lined up for the rest of the year, apart from County events. We try to choose different types of galas during the year, so that we can give as many children as possible a chance to swim for the Club. Keep an eye on the notice board.

Summer Training.

As usual, we will be operating a different system for the summer holiday period. Training will take place between **6.30 and 8 o'clock** for the six weeks, and swimmers can come at any time during those 6 weeks. With so many people away on holiday, we have found over the years that this is the best system to operate during that period. **Keep checking the notice board for dates, etc.**

Well, that just about brings everything up to date. Continue to support us all the way - we are going in the right direction - honestly !!.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE CLUB WEB SITE