

BUNTINGFORD SWIMMING CLUB

RIPPLES IN THE POOL

SUMMER 2006

Here we are once again with another edition of “Ripples in the Pool “
Once again I find myself completely underwhelmed with articles, so you will have to put up with whatever comes into my head – who said that there is a lot of space there to fill anyway!!!

PEANUT LEAGUE

We managed to stay in the second division with a **terrific** performance in the last round by everybody who swam. As expected, it was difficult once again against the bigger Clubs, and we were going to struggle after we had such a disappointing first round.

Although we did better in the second round, silly mistakes cost us very dearly with too many disqualifications carrying 7 points each time. The coaches spent a lot of time between the 2nd and final rounds working to eliminate those silly mistakes and the hard work paid off. **We did not have a single disqualification during the final round** and that meant that we finished in 3rd position. The swimmers performed magnificently, again setting many ‘PBs’ or very close to them throughout the evening. As a result of this effort, the Club avoided relegation, with the teams from Ware and Letchworth going down to Division 3. We were trying for a top 6 place, but those silly mistakes in the first 2 rounds prevented us from achieving that. We will just have to build for next year.

MAJOR LEAGUE

We are seriously thinking of entering a team in the County Major League in 2007. We have never done this before, but it will give our older swimmers a chance to shine!!! The age groups include u/ 11 ; u/ 13 ; u/ 15 and Open groups and we will start, of course, in Division 3. We are still trying to get galas for the whole range of swimmers we have, but we never seem to strike lucky. Twice this year we have accepted invitations and the other Clubs cancelled each time.

TRIATHLON

What a great event!!!! This year we had a total of **54** children starting, and nearly all of them finished. The organisation for the actual event was carried out by Dave Carr and a few of his Triathlon colleagues – the marking out of the course for the cycling, with a different course for the running, both with ‘water stations’ clearly seen - the special compound for the bikes laid out in order of age groups – the clothing compound outside the pool ready for the swimmers as they completed their swim – etc. A great job very well done.

The B-B-Q was again very well organised by Karen and her team of helpers. Nobody went short of fluid on such a hot day. There was also a great selection of food on offer to anybody who wanted it, together with a great selection of fruit.

We invited the Broxbourne and Royston Swimming Clubs to take part this year, and they both sent over quite a few children. The trophies for the first 3 in each age group, were presented by the Mayor of Buntingford, Councillor John Noades. All 3 Clubs won trophies, so a good afternoon was had by one and all. Every person who completed the course, was presented with a medal as they crossed the finishing line. There was a sizeable crowd of parents and grandparents cheering on all the entries. After the presentations, Dave Carr thanked everybody for supporting the event, and acknowledged the financial support given to the Club by the Town Council.

It was a terrific afternoon and lots of people expressed their thanks and said that they were already looking forward to next year!!!!

OTHER BIATHLON ; TRIATHLON & PENTATHLON EVENTS

Several of our swimmers have entered these events during the summer, with some terrific results.

Our u/19 girls entered as Buntingford Swimming Club and won a national Biathlon event in **Manchester**. Well done to Christina Branch ; Eleanor Earp ; Jessica Earp & Hannah Bashir.

Tom & Gemma Carr achieved top 15 places in their age groups at an event at **Rayleigh, Essex** where 100's of children took part from all over East Anglia. At the same event, Millie Farmer **won** her age group. At an event at **Dover**, Tom Carr again did very well, finishing in the top 10 for his age group.

Georgia Makin finished 5th in her age group in her first modern pentathlon held over 2 days at **Warwick University** in June. She had to run ; swim ; fence ; ride and shoot during the weekend, and was presented with her trophy by Kate Allenby, who won a bronze medal at the 2000 Sydney Olympics in this event.

Well done to all of them - if anyone is interested in 'having a go' at one of these events, or would like information about them, **the man to see is DAVE CARR.**

NEW CAGE

We now have our storage cage on the poolside, firmly fixed in position and waiting to be filled with new equipment. There is no truth that it is for the coaches & teachers to place those swimmers not paying attention into the racks!!! [Might be a good idea though]. We will be ordering all sorts of things which we believe will help us to continue to improve. We will be ordering fins ; hand paddles ; drag rings ; timing clocks, starting equipment ; etc ; etc. which should be here in the very near future, As you can see, we are investing a great deal of money to continue the great improvement we are making. **When we have the equipment, it must be looked after.**

PRESENTATION EVENING

We are now making arrangements for our Presentation evening after our Championships have been completed. There was an article placed in the Buntingford Journal in July, which asked about the whereabouts of several people who were involved when the Club started in September 1976. We have had some responses to that request, which is great news. We are still trying to get more information, because we want to invite them as guests to our presentation evening. I will be getting in touch with those who have responded so far, so that they can put the date in their diary. We

hope that there will be a bumper turn out for the evening, **which will be free**. We will start the evening with our AGM, quickly followed by the presentations and then a family disco. The evening will be held in Freman College, with a licensed bar.

NOTE THE DATE NOW.....

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER

TREVOR COX is the man who will be collecting names over the coming weeks, to give us an idea how many will be coming. Let's make it a terrific evening to celebrate **30 years of the Clubs existence**.

For the Club to have come so far says a great deal about the town and surrounding villages, a great deal about the people who had the courage to start the Club, and a great deal about all the people who have kept the Club going over those years. Our membership still continues to rise, which is such a positive thing to be happening.

ST EDMUNDS COLLEGE

We will be starting back at the college on **September 12th**. and we will be splitting the time so that two groups can have 45 minutes each. Details will be given over the coming weeks. I know that some of you are still going to the Council lessons on a Tuesday, but that was the best night for all parties concerned, It is a nice 20 metre pool, very clean with 3 wide lanes, so we can get between 15 and 20 in each group, and still get a lot of extra work done. It is well worth the effort to attend if you can. We only charge £2 per session, payable on the night.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Championships will be held over 2 Thursday evenings in October, and the lists for you to enter will be on the table very shortly. We will be having the same format as last year, with u/10 ; u/12 ; u/14 ; u/16 and open events covering all strokes. In order to keep the evening rolling along, we will be swimming events for the same distances for the u/16 & Open events together. Please make sure that you enter as many events as you can. There will also be the Parent & Child races, which are always a great feature of the proceedings!!!

A reminder to those who won a trophy last year. **Please bring them back nice and clean before the Championships start**. Before we can present them again, we have to have them engraved with the names of this years winners, ready to present on the 24th November.

THIS & THAT

We are pleased to welcome Nicky Pedder on to the poolside to help with the teaching/coaching of the swimmers. She won't mind me saying that she was a very junior member of the Club when I was first coaching here. Both her children now swim in the Club. She is a Level 2 qualified teacher and uses her skills to good effect at the new Royston pool.

Various courses have been, and continue to be, attended by your Committee members as part of Swim 21. Since it was a year ago that we achieved our accreditation, we had to submit evidence as to what we had achieved during the year against our set

targets and, I am very pleased to say, we received a **glowing second report**. A big THANK YOU to Steve who has masterminded the pathway once again.

We are hoping to get some new polo neck shirts made up for the Club in the near future and possibly a Club Tracksuit. We are also looking at the possibility of having a Club swimming bag produced. They will all be in the Club colours of Red & Black with possibly a bit of White. If you have any ideas as to the design, **PLEASE LET US KNOW. Put your thinking caps on.**

As usual, we welcome all the new members to the Club, and hope that you are enjoying yourselves, making new friends, etc. We are **always** on the look out for boys & girls who are 7 or 8, because they will be the youngest age group in the Peanut squad for next year, and also the youngest age group in any galas we enter. **If you know of children of this age, please encourage them to come along for a trial.**

We welcome swimmers of any age who want to join a local, friendly Club such as Buntingford. **There is an ADULT SECTION** who swim at 9.20 every Thursday evening for half an hour, and we welcome anybody who wants to have a relaxing swim without children about. Help is available if required. Go on, give it a try. We still have places available.

Some people might be a little surprised that we are about to use a large sum of money from our funds for equipment, etc. The reason behind this is quite simple – we have been able to secure grants and other monies specifically ‘for equipment that will benefit the members of the Club’. We will **not** be using our funds from membership subscriptions for that purpose – that is used to pay for things like the pool hire; Club insurances ; affiliation to the A.S.A. and other bodies ; medals and trophies for the Championships ; etc. etc.

That’s about it once again. **Please ; please ; please** try and make some sort of contribution for the next edition due out round about Christmas time – have you recently qualified as a swimming teacher ; life guard ; brain surgeon ; anything. Have you entered a competition and done well. Let me know about it so that we can share the news with everybody in the Club.

REMEMBER.....

**ENTER THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS THIS YEAR
COME TO THE AGM ; PRESENTATION EVENING AND DISCO
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF BUNTINGFORD SWIMMING CLUB ON...**

FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER