

OUR CLUB! ISSUE 6 : MAY 2009



Welcome to the latest issue of "OUR CLUB" - the newsletter by and for Beckenham SC. It's now a year since I started editing this - so thank you for your support! A good amount to read and thanks once again to the contributors; I held this issue back a bit due to the London Youth Champs and the BSC Open. Don't forget, you can be involved - send me bits and pieces about swimming, other sports or ideas. Contact me via john@hamo6055.plus.com or 020 8857 4977. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

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Orpington OJays Level 2 Open; Water Polo triumph; National League Finals; Opens; Youth Champs; BSC Open; White Horse League; T-Bag/Polo Shirt challenge; spot the well-known BSC personality (!), and 'Ten things you did not know about'....Doreen Somerville and Anna Newell!

GOOD LUCK to all swimming in the London BAGCATS, Nationals and Welsh Summer Nationals, too!

ORPINGTON OJAYS LEVEL 2 MEET - 5th APRIL



This well-attended meet was on one of April's glorious days...just right to be inside! There was a goodly contingent of swimmers from across the squads and four of the BSC contingent got together this note about their day -

"The fab 4 in the under 11 category had a great time at the Orpington OJays meet. There were loads of PBs for everyone and amazing swims from Lauren, Natasha, April and Sophie from Silver squad. It was very hot and stuffy, but, well worth going to!" Also competing, but not putting 'pen to paper' on this occasion were Patrick Gunning, Sabrina and Heather Travers, Mark and Olivia Handley, Katie

Irving, Orla Ingram, Grace Ockwell and Denzel Meo-Hennings. Full details from the meet can be found on www.orpingtonojays.com.

CRAWLEY OPEN MEET 18TH AND 19TH APRIL



A number of swimmers dusted off their passports and entered Surry to swim at K2 for the Crawley Open. Some great times were recorded and well done to small but excellent band of swimmers. Full results are posted on the Crawley web site - www.crawleysc.ik.com.

WHITE HORSE LEAGUE 2009



Well done to all the swimmers who competed on Saturday April 18th in the second round of the White Horse League at Crook Log. Some great swims led to a second place for the Beckenham team, narrowly pipped by Orpington OJays who finished just 7 points ahead. Both teams very much competed head-to-head, as they both finished 100 points ahead of third placed Saxon Crown. Added to the second place finish in the first round, Beckenham will now go into the third round at Crook Log on the 13th June in a strong position.

WATER POLO

The ASA Water Polo Championships saw six Beckenham Water Polo players represent our Sister Club in National Competition - Invicta Water Polo, and successfully too. Well done to Danny Casey, Conrad Rhodes and Tom Cart in the junior boy's competition where Invicta beat Dunfermline 10 - 9 to become National Champions - Beckenham first teamer Conrad scoring 3 goals! In the Youth final, Danny along with Chad and Rhys Knapman and Oliver Longhurst, were runners-up to a slightly more experienced Lancaster team, who ran out 17 - 6 winners.



L to r Chad, Danny, Oliver and Rhys

THE BECKENHAM SC T-BAG/POLO SHIRT CHALLENGE!

First we had a snowman suitably attired and now we have.....



Megan Scobie of Bronze Squad proudly modeling her BSC T-bag at the top of the mountain on the border of Zermatt, Switzerland and Cervinia, Italy. Prize will get to you!! Let's have some more entries!

THE BIG ONE! National Speedo League 9th B Final

An interesting gathering of Beckenham swimmers, parents, other family members and general supporters and also a couple of suitably attired officials arrived at a very sunny Ponds Forge in Sheffield, having narrowly missing entering in error the local road race which was going on at the same time; one of our roving reporters, *Kirsty Sheltz*, records the event for us -

On Saturday 25th April, Beckenham swimming club travelled up to the *City of Sport*, Sheffield, to compete in the 9th 'B' National swimming league cup final, at the 50M Ponds Forge Pool.

On our arrival the sun was shining and the city of Sheffield was buzzing; Sheffield United were playing at home against Swansea, the World snooker championships were on at the Crucible, and Beckenham Swimming Club were in town for the main Club swimming event of the year!

After our evening meal the night before, the swimmers had a squad meeting with Head Coach Tony Beckley, who reminded the swimmers to eat sensibly and to keep drinking as it is very important to stay hydrated.

On overhearing Tony's advice on the importance of keeping their fluid levels topped up, the parents (you know who you are...), immediately set about maximizing their fluid levels with energy drinks such as Stella Artois, Chardonnay, Boddingtons and Sambuca. (*Any photos - Ed?*)

After a hearty breakfast on the morning of the final, the Beckenham army of swimmers and parents gathered together to march across the now silent streets of Sheffield to the chant of *"Tony Beckley's Beckenham Army"*, dressed in our army combats and hats, proudly waving the Beckenham flag. All eyes were on the Beckenham army as they arrived loudly outside Ponds Forge. The atmosphere was electric, and Team Beckenham was raring to go.



Supporters corner



BSC Fly the flag

The lanes draw were:- Lane 1 - Lincoln Vulcans, Lane 2 - Haslemere, Lane 3 - Camden Swiss Cottage, Lane 4 - Warrington Warriors, Lane 5 - Leatherhead, Lane 6 - **BECKENHAM**, Lane 7 - City of Cardiff, Lane 8 - City of Salford, Lane 9 - Preston, Lane 10 - Leicester Penguins.

After the Beckenham supporters showed everyone how to Conga, the gala got under way at 10.40 am.



Wish me luck!

The racing was fantastic; just some of the highlights for Beckenham were 1st places for: boys 15 years and under freestyle, Kunmi Ogunfeibo 50 M Butterfly in a time of 33.62 and 50 M Backstroke 33.95, Steffi King 100 M Backstroke 1.06.71, Lauren Walton 100 M Freestyle in 1.01.80, and Craig Gibbons 100 M Freestyle 50.64. It was nice to see some of our 'retired' swimmers such as David Bennett, Rob Spurr and Danny Casey coming to offer their services for the cause, this showed great commitment to the club; well done to you guys! Also, a special mention to those swimmers that had to swim up and so out of their age group.

Though the Beckenham supporters were clearly robbed of the Best Supporters Trophy which was won by Leatherhead, the day was a huge success. Beckenham were runners up in the combined relay trophy with a time of 34:21:17 to eventual winners City of Cardiff who had a time of 34:19:78.

City of Cardiff came 1st in the B Final with 328 points, City of Salford were 2nd with 321 points and **Beckenham** managed to secure **3rd Place** with 309 points, which is a massive achievement for a club of our size. This result now gives Beckenham the bragging rights to being the **TOP LONDON CLUB**.

The success of Beckenham didn't stop there; Craig Gibbons won Best male in the open category and Lauren Walton won Best female in 13 years and under.



Lauren on the podium

The whole weekend was a huge success and a MASSIVE THANK YOU from the whole of Beckenham Swimming Club goes out to **Gillian and Shaun Gunning** who organized the whole N.S.L event, from the preliminary rounds, transport, accommodation, informing team members, ordering tracksuits and arranging the delicious food. **Pat Davies** for making the banners, noise makers and flags that were waved so proudly, the parents who officiated, John Handley, Tony King and Hilary Moore; last but not least, our magnificent coach **TONY BECKLEY**, who once again managed to prepare and motivate our club to 'punch above its weight'. At the end of the day Tony was emotionally drained and told me how *proud* he was with all his swimmers.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

Kirsty Shelts (Platinum Squad)

NEW OFFICIALS

Congratulations to Chris Bedford and John Handley who recently completed successfully their Judge 1 assessments, under the watchful eye of Stewart Brown, President of the Kent ASA. Having been to many meets at levels 1-3, and having experience as time-keepers, alongside completing a workbook, it was still an exacting evening! Also being practically examined after passing the theory exam and so moving up to Judge 2 Starter, was Hilary Moore - but, don't panic, she does not have her own pistol! Well done to all - and let's hope that there will be even more BSC accredited officials ere long.

LONDON YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS



Coming home to their usual location after somewhat longer than ever anticipated, this year's Youth Champs took place at Crystal Palace on 21st and 25th May. 25 BSC swimmers took part over the two-day competition.

There were many personal bests and more [national qualifying time](#) (NQT) to add to the 15 so far this year. An impressive 1500m Freestyle from Michael Gunning saw Gold as well as breaking the 17minute barrier in an NQT. The 200IM race saw a 1-2 with country member Matt Shead, fresh off the plane from training in the U.S., finish just ahead of Club Captain Ricky Outhwaite. Ricky, whose 2:13.38 was another NQT, then followed up with a pair of bronzes (100 Fly & 100 Breast) and further NQTs.

The men's 50 FC saw Matt grab 3rd behind another country member, and senior international, Craig Gibbons - Craig himself also winning 50m Back. Not to be outdone the girls waded in with some impressive performances too, with Steph Denny's silver in the 50m FC. And it was the relays where the girls demonstrated their strength and depth with the 'A' Team acquiring a silver in the 4 x 100 FC (a creditable 7th from the 'B' team too) and bronze in the 4 x 100 IM.

Well done to everyone!

It's the turn of the younger squads regionally later this month - report in the July issue.

BECKENHAM SC OPEN - 9TH AND 10TH MAY



After three years, another "coming home"! BSC's last long course Open was in 2006.....but, with much planning and organisation by our gala organiser, Patricia Ogunfeibo, it came back with a bang!

Already full by mid February, it was a Meet which attracted some 40 clubs and individuals from a wide area, and led to a highly competitive and special Meet. Results are on the BSC web -site; much has been said about the number of NQTs, regional times and PBs, but here are some quotes, thanks and reviews -

"Being on the other side of a major 2 day Open Meet for the first time, as opposed to competing, has been an incredibly valuable experience and just how much goes on behind the scenes. The sum of the individual efforts being far greater than the whole, led to an end result of a smoothly run meet enjoyed by all. For me, the music made for a great atmosphere - all credit to Andy Denny (brother of Steph), for his set up - not forgetting swimmer Ned Moriarty who stood in for Andy when he had to go to work his shift at West Wickham !

*70 people (volunteers / officials / coaches) were kept fed and watered throughout the weekend, and it would have been a nightmare without the willing on hand support. A minor "Cup Crisis" was avoided thanks to Alana Shay (former swimmer), who must have seen the inside of 8 different supermarkets across the weekend; Sue Irving, for another kettle (phew!) and for keeping the drinks flowing on the Saturday; The clearing up - Anne & Colin Denny, Sean & Michael Gunning (in between swimming), Hakan (the Crystal Palace lifeguard) and even young Charlotte Hamilton (10) - all helped to ensure we left the facility as we'd found it. I think I might have given Patricia a minor headache Friday lunchtime, when I said on the phone "**the Food is all over West Wickham**"... Thanks to the households (Denny & The 'Collins Oldies'), as well as West Wickham M&S, whose fridges were kept maxed out !" Thanks to Mark Brown for his incredibly popular (and spicy!) Jerk Chicken, and the Jackie-Bedford-bake-off-extravaganza!*

Richard Collins

Some Plaudits -

I meant to e-mail you yesterday to congratulate you and your team on a superbly organised Open.

Thanks for a super meet over the weekend our swimmers enjoyed being at the Palace - most for the first time. Brighton SC

I would just like to say thank you to you and your team for all your hard work which had obviously gone into organising this weekend's gala. There was a lovely atmosphere and everything seemed to run smoothly. Please pass my thanks to all concerned. Nicky, Jan and Liese van der Velde.

I am emailing to say a very big thank you for a wonderful meet over the weekend. All our swimmers thoroughly enjoyed it, and the coaches were impressed at the smooth running of the event, so thank you for all your hard work. We look forward to repeating the experience another time.

Ellie Devine, Swimming Dept., Millfield School.

First of all I and every parent at Leander who had swimmers competing must congratulate you and your team of volunteers/parents from Beckenham Swimming Club for the amount of work involved in ensuring that the meet was successful and run smoothly and on time. I fully enjoyed my weekend at Crystal Palace and hopefully at the next meet I would have pass my timekeeping practical and be able to offer my help.

Many thanks for organising such a well run Open meet. The organisation was fantastic!!

I would just like to pass on my thanks to you and everyone else that helped to make the Beckenham Open such a success. It was a fantastic gala, both Mark and I very much enjoyed the two days. Particularly the friendly atmosphere and warm welcome offered to us by all members of the Beckenham club. I will certainly be looking to enter SMSC swimmers in future galas run by your club.

I would like to say thank you for the above meet.

Thank you once again....

And so say all of us!



The tombola and raffle crews



IN THIS GROUP PHOTO -DO YOU RECOGNISE A BSC PERSONALITY?



Send your answers to the Editor as soon as possible; correct answers will put into hat and one lucky winner will receive a small prize....any other photos from the archives out there??? Do send them to me; GOOD LUCK!

TEN THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT.....DOREEN SOMERVILLE!

I have been President of the Club twice - 1995/6 and 2007/8. In the 1980's and 90's I used to be the announcer for all the Club events, plus the Kent Championships and often the District Championships as well. I was Championships Secretary for many years and was often the chaperone on Club away trips. (There are many tales to tell regarding these). *(Do tell...ED!)* But I am probably best known to you all now as Susie Goold's mother!



FAVOURITE FILM Lawrence of Arabia

FOOD Egg and Chips. But I never eat it now as I am always battling with my weight!

MUSIC Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat which I have seen



about 40 times as my grandson is in it!
Plus' of course, any Frank Sinatra there is no-one to match him, ever.

FOOTBALL CLUB Charlton Athletic. I have watched them down at The Valley since the 1950's and am a Season Ticket holder. But very worried



about them being relegated this season.

INTERESTS All the boring things like holidays and the garden. But a lot of my interests evolve around my four grandchildren and their activities. They all have so many interests too.

HATE Graffiti everywhere and chewing gum all over the pavements. I would make both of these criminal activities and punish offenders heavily.



MOTTO/CHANT Motto: Work hard and aim high
Chant: 'Valley Floyd Road' and sung at The Valley

CAT OR DOG I have had both and love them both dearly. But at the moment I have to say dog, as our beautiful rescued greyhound, Megan, has recently passed away.

FIRST SWIMMING MEDAL Not actually a medal but I achieved my 100



yards certificate in July 1949 (and I still have it).

I also swam for Kent in an inter-county Masters competition in a relay which comprised three swimming Mum's plus one proper 'Masters' swimmer. Good fun but never again.

SWIMMING LIKES & DISLIKES I love the atmosphere at the Speedo League matches when everyone really cheers every race. Also, I never fail to enjoy watching the youngest swimmers in the Club when they swim their first Club Championships or first Elementary Gala.

I dislike PA Systems that do not work. And I absolutely hate today's way of running galas, especially County Championships' when all events are Heat Declared with no heats and finals and no presentations on the rostrum. There is nothing better than watching a superb final followed by an emotional presentation on the rostrum.



AND from **ANNA NEWELL** - Water Polo -

Favourite film - Not really a film girl - I can't sit still or keep quiet for that long!

Favourite food - A good roast dinner goes down very well with me - especially if



someone else is doing the washing up!

Favourite music - I'll dance to anything after a drink



Football club - have only been to one football match and that was Crystal Palace - I can't even remember who they were against.... (So, that was a memorable match! Ed)

Interests - A little bit of everything.

Things I hate - Tuna from a tin, baked beans and.....bananas! YUK.



(Especially for you....Ed!)

Motto - "Aim for the moon, and if you miss it, you will be aiming for the stars!"

Dog/cat- I used to have cats, but, would like a dog when I am grown up enough...

First water polo medal- Not sure that I have ever got a medal from water polo, but I do remember winning my first game when I was about 13 years old and had to play against all boys teams.

Likes/dislikes - Can't stand bad refereeing...and I don't like the scratches or black eyes; I seem to come away with a fair bit of both. (*Crumbs - ! Ed*).



Thanks to **Doreen and Anna** for their thoughts and being so helpful. Another willing person/victim will be in the hot seat next issue.....or maybe two or three!

Thanks to the following contributors -

The 'fab four', Richard Collins, Patricia Ogunfeibo, Megan Scobie, Doreen Somerville, Anna Newell, Jackie Elliott and Kirsty Sheltz.

DON'T FORGET YOUR T-BAG/POLO SHIRT PHOTOS!!

Please send any ideas/suggestions/articles about swimming/other sports or other interesting information to Hilary by 25/6/09 for the July, 2009 issue.

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