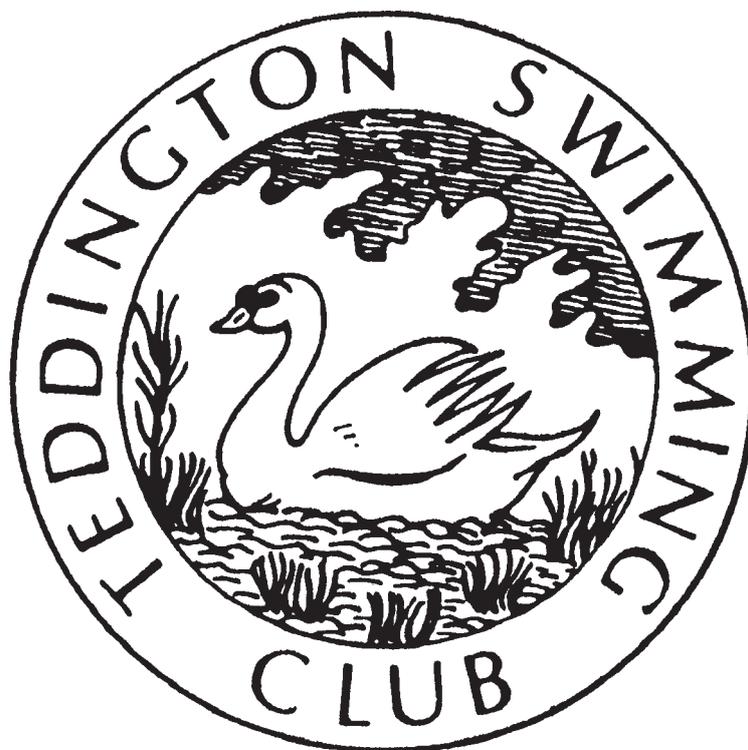


# **Teddington Swimming Club**

**The first twenty five years**





# Introduction and acknowledgements

At some point during the preparations for Teddington Swimming Club's 25th Anniversary celebrations I thought that it would be a good idea to write a short history of the club, drawing on the recollections of people who had been members and helpers for many years and were still actively involved in the club. This publication is the outcome of that thought. As well as personal recollections from a number of people. I also used the minutes of committee meetings held regularly and documented in some detail, the report presented to the AGM by the Chairperson each year, correspondence files and newsletters.

I would especially like to thank those who contributed reminiscences, photographs and press cuttings from their own collections, especially Pam and Ernie Hoare, Brenda and Ian Whittaker, Christine and Richard Lucas, Brenda and Roger Martin, John Kenny and Marc Curant. Thanks are also due to Nick Barnett who took my raw text and photographs and turned them into such a professional document. I would also like to thank the various minutes secretaries and newsletter editors, not all of whom are known to me by name, without whose diligence in recording the club's activities this history would have been impossible to produce.

Of necessity this History is a personal selection of events and personalities - if your achievements have been omitted let us know so we can include you in the next update. I apologise if my own family feature rather too prominently in some of the photographs, but over the 20 or so years we have been involved with the club at least one of us seems to have been present at nearly every event!

Finally I would like to quote some words penned by the club's current President, Ian Whittaker, in his introduction to the Club Handbook for swimmers: "The club has had many family swimming relationships over the years and these, I believe, more than anything else, epitomise what Teddington Swimming Club is all about. It is a friendly, family club with a place for everyone, catering for all age groups (6 to 60+) and all abilities. We have an excellent teaching set-up, efficient progression through the various ability groups, first class qualified teachers and coaches and expanding competitive and successful A & B squads. We are a friendly active club which means business. ...I wish you every success in the coming years".

Like Ian, I too wish the club every success in the future.

History compiled by Sue Morrell  
April 2004

## **Contents**

Formation of the club 1978	5
The early years 1978-82	7
A more competitive era 1983-87	9
Focus on training 1988-90	13
The international years 1990-95	18
Coaching strategy points the way 1996-8	34
More opportunities to compete 1999-2002	37
The Anniversary year 2003	41
Appendix 1 Club Trophies	43
Appendix 2 Evolution of the club kit	45
Appendix 3 Who ran the Club	46

# Formation of the club 1978

*This contribution is by Brenda and Roger Martin*

‘For many years the residents of Teddington had only had the use of an open air pool (which was originally built in 1931) on the site of the current pool. By the mid-1970s it was decided to redevelop the site to provide an indoor 25 metre pool and a small pool for teaching.

‘As work progressed Mr Alec CAIRNS, the Headmaster of St Mary & St Peters School in Church Road Teddington, together with the school PTA, decided to try and start a local swimming club. Members of the PTA, including Mrs Joan LAING and Mrs Joy ELLIS, walked the streets of Teddington delivering invitations to an exploratory meeting at the school. The meeting was well attended and chaired by Mr Cairns, assisted by Mrs Ellis and Mrs Alma COATES who had previous swimming club experience, and was to become the chief teacher and first chairperson.

‘At the meeting names were taken of people who were willing to assist in forming a club, with details of any expertise they had. From these beginnings a steering committee was formed and wheels put in motion to formally set up the club and negotiate with the local authority.

‘It became clear that the Council had desires to move the existing Richmond SC from the Richmond Pool to Teddington, with the result that both Richmond and Teddington applied for water time at the new pool, with both clubs requesting Friday evening. In their wisdom(?) the Council allocated Friday to Richmond and Teddington were offered Saturday evening. Despite this setback, Teddington Swimming Club, with a swan as its emblem, was born.

‘At this time all the teachers were volunteers and the first swims took place at the end of June’

Correspondence and minutes files confirm the timing of these events as follows:

- A ‘caretaker committee’ was formed and a letter was sent to Mr Woodward at LBRUT on 29th April 1978 stating that ‘Teddington Swimming Club had recently been formed’ and formally applying for water time at Teddington Pool when it opened
- The public meeting was held on 12th May 1978
- The council allocated water time on Tuesday 7.45-9.15pm & Saturday 6.00 to 8.00 pm at a charge of £7.50 per hour (there is no mention of lifeguard provision)
- The first club swim was on Tuesday 27th June 1978. (*Editor: It is my recollection that the pool itself opened in the middle of June, although the formal opening ceremony did not take place until September*).
- The caretaker committee developed a constitution based on a model supplied by the SCASA, and this was submitted to the ASA with the Club’s application for affiliation on 3rd October 1978

*From the minutes of the First AGM January 1979:* After several initial meetings, including a very successful public meeting, the Teddington Swimming Club started life on June 27th 1978. The Club has 321

members with 250 still on the waiting list, including children not yet old enough to take lessons with the Club. Although the committee setting up the Club had asked for water time on Wednesday or Friday evening they were eventually allocated sessions on Tuesday & Saturday evenings. Teaching was by volunteers led by John KENNY (Saturday) and Mrs CAIRNS (Tuesday). The Club affiliated to the Southern counties ASA in November. Members paid an annual fee (£4 for children & £5 for adults) and also a swim charge of 10p each time they attended. The financial statement of 13.9.78 illustrates how the money was used.

*Brenda continues:* 'Teachers were soon encouraged to attend courses and several people became qualified in 1979. Waiting lists grew as did the ability of the swimmers. In quite a short time the Club was given more water time on Tuesday night, and later Thursday was added. Before long the Club decided to become involved in Galas. Joy Ellis would book the galas and Roger MARTIN, who was a teacher on Thursdays, became the first team manager.'

*John Kenny has also provided some recollections of these early days* 'In 1978 during the formation of TSC, I helped on the poolside as a Dad with my eldest son Mark in the main pool. Alma Coates seemed in charge of everything! She was assisted by Joy Ellis as Club Secretary and Brian Maskell Club Treasurer. Alma asked me to become an ASA teacher and in 1979 I became a qualified ASA teacher. During those early years on the poolside I taught along with Jeff Wilson, Ken McCloughlin, Doug Gibson, Ian Haynes, Brenda Martin, Janine Chandler, and later with Denise Baptie, Jim While, Clive Blackmore, Jackie Rees and George Pines. Joan Laing and Brenda Martin taught non-swimmers in the small pool.

'Chief coaches came and went, one called Keith Lavatt (had a beard, a friend of Alma), John Frost who I thought was an excellent chief coach, also a former Borough coach John Seabrook and of course George Pines. I was Chairman for 2 years in the 80s and have been assisting at Club galas and Inter-Club galas since 1980 mainly as the Starter.'

Figure 1. An early financial statement

TEDDINGTON SWIMMING CLUB	
Financial Statement as at 13.9.78	
<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Insurance	£ 42.50
Floats	£ 45.90
Printing	£ 2.50
Bath hire	£ 247.50
Laundry	£ 2.30
Stationery	£ 15.50
Stop Watches	£ 1189.05*
To Balance	£1545.25
	<u>£1545.25</u>
	<u>£1189.05</u>
* Bank current a/c	£184.05
Bank deposit a/c	£1000
Cash float	£ 5.00
	<u>£1189.05</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	
Initial Meeting	£ 26.60
Subscriptions	£1295.00+
Swimmers and Spectators	£ 215.65
Raffle	£ 8.00
	<u>£1545.25</u>
	<u>£1295</u>
- Adults 87 @ £5 =	£435
Children 211	= £844
@ £4	= £ 16
Assoc. 16 @ £1 =	£ 16
	<u>£1295</u>

*(Editor: sadly John left Teddington in 2003 and ended his formal association with the club. We will always be grateful for his interest and help).*



*At the AGM in January 1980 Mrs Coates reported: 'In 1979 Club members entered the Borough championships and 'reaped a good harvest of medals. The limit of ability was exposed when members were invited to represent the borough against other London boroughs. With the exception of 3 races we came consistently last.'*

In 1982 the Club took part in the St George's Day Parade held in Teddington and came second in the float competition, winning the princely sum of £2. The minutes record that Mr Wilson had spent £6 on bunting and the hire of a staple gun for the day.

The Club ran its first Gala in May 1982, finishing 5th behind Feltham, Leatherhead, Hounslow and Hillingdon. It was noted that but for disqualifications, which cost a massive 20 points, the team would have finished second. The Club has continued to run this Gala, now known as the 'Teddington Challenge Trophy', thanks to a trophy donated by George Pines. It is usually held in early September.

The Club was invited to join the 'Southern Counties Winter League' (a forerunner of the Speedo League) but were offered a place in Division 2 rather than Division 3. This proved too big a challenge as there were too few swimmers in the older age groups (14+) interested in competition and the club left the league after one season.

'The History of Haslemere Swimming Club' records that about this time 'There was an active B Team who went to exciting venues like Teddington and came last but thoroughly enjoyed themselves' (on the internet at <http://users.tinyworld.co.uk/haslemere.swim/History.htm>)

## Newsletters

Earlier Newsletters 1982/1984 were written by the secretary. These were generally brief and dealt mainly with matters of immediate concern. From 1989-1997 Jackie Rees produced occasional newsletters, which covered subjects such as announcements of pool closures, AGM, Discipline (a recurring theme unfortunately), Gala reports, appeals for parents to help, and many other items of interest. A few issues of 'Teddington Times' were produced by Lucy Whittaker at the end of the 90s.

In 2001 'Splash' was started by Marc Curant, with issues every 2 months. This more substantial publication (usually 8 to 10 pages) includes photographs, gala reports, information on forthcoming events, a column by the Coach, and information from the Committee.