

A trip to Isle of Wight

A trip to Isle of Wight took place in the Spring of 1992 (14/15 March) Richard Lucas wrote 'We had a marvellously wild weekend with some bracing walks and a swimming gala against the combined forces of West and South Wight swimming clubs, won convincingly by Teddington with 258 points to Isle of Wight's 226.

'About seventy parents and children travelled over to the island including 17 intrepid travellers who risked their lives in a Richmond Council minibus, driven by a rather dubious looking parent wondering what he had let himself in for. We all met up for Saturday lunch at the Totland Bay Youth Hostel - our home for the weekend - where some people had the luxury of family rooms while the rest of us bunked down in spacious male and female dormitories. Some of the younger members of the group were so excited by the occasion that they just could not get to sleep. We realised why in the morning when three sheepish looking young lads were noticed creeping back to their room from the direction of the girls dormitory. (*Editors note - they claimed that they were scared of a rather odd-looking individual, not of our party, who had the misfortune to find himself allocated a bunk in one of 'our' rooms!!*). A bracing walk after breakfast following the estuary to Yarmouth and back soon sorted them out!



Figure 32.

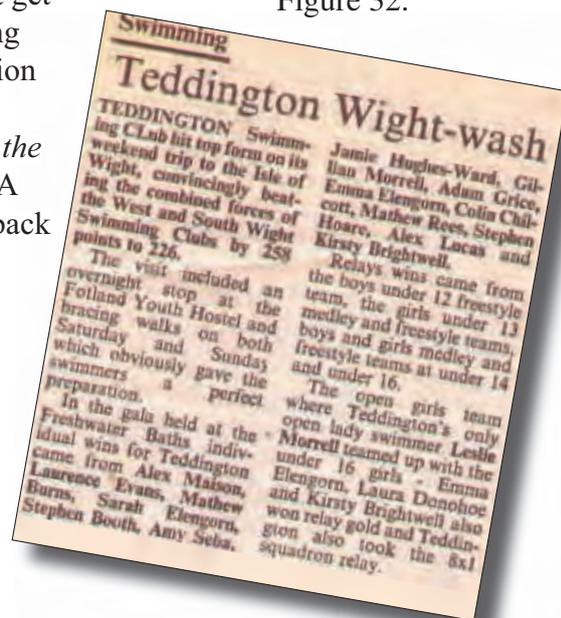


Figure 33. Isle of Wight trip 1992: from the left Anna Young, Camilla McInnes, Neil Stewart, Simon Lucas, Gregory Duggan, Sally Morrell (on the pole), Ross Stewart and Rebecca Duggan

Figure 34. Waiting for the Isle of Wight Ferry

A visit from Konstanz

Later in the year social activities continued with a visit from Konstanz

Richard Lucas wrote: 'This was a return visit to Teddington by our German friends from Sparta Club in Konstanz and followed on from our hugely successful trip there in August 1991. It proved to be a very hectic week superbly organised by Sharon Evans who laid on an extensive programme of activities and excursions. There were visits to Kew Gardens, Hampton Court and to the theatre for Les Miserables, a barbecue and fun night at Hampton Pool, sightseeing, shopping, hiking and an evening spectacular at Claremont Lake where people dressed up as ancient gods, ate exotic picnics under the trees and were royally entertained through to sunset. Sharon also had the difficult job of finding accommodation for the visitors who were eventually boarded out to various houses in Teddington, Hampton and Ashford with the overflow in a Richmond hotel.

'The children also played their part in looking after the visitors and arranged excursions to Wimbledon tennis courts museum, a barbecue by the river and sightseeing and shopping trips to town. We all got on extremely well and were clearly very happy together after this our third meeting in two years. The visit culminated in a swimming gala on Sunday 19th July - the Konstanz Cup - which was won by invited club Runnymede with Teddington fourth and Sparta sixth. Sparta's sixth place was reflected in the fact that only fourteen swimmers were able to make the trip this year and their team for the gala was augmented by members from Teddington.'



Figure 36. Christine Lucas and John Seabrook chat at Hampton Pool

Figure 35. Swimmers at Hampton Pool party 1992



Following John Seabrook's departure as Borough Coach in the middle of the year various temporary arrangements were made to provide continuity of coaching. Ken Parry (of Richmond Club) initially took on the job, and then Tony Pearce coached the borough squad for a short time.

Carol and Dave Butler arrived as club coaches in the middle of 1993, joining Carol's father George Pines, who later retired as head of the coaching team.

The outstanding swimmer this year was **Rosie Phillips** who won the Wilkinson Sword Trophy for the top Juvenile Girl at the Middlesex Age Groups.



Figure 37. The Mayor, Ian Whittaker and John Seabrook



Figure 38. Teddington's Rosie Outlook

Sponsored swims

12 swimmers, supported by the club, raised over £500 for the Wheelchair Sports Foundation in 1993.

A second sponsored swim in aid of Wheelchair Sports Foundation was held the following year. This time however it involved more swimmers. Six relay teams, each of 7 swimmers of different ages doing 50 metre sprints continuously for an hour, raised over £1000.

Figure 40.



Figure 41.



Visit from Lindlar

Christina Triep's club at Lindlar visited in July 1993.

Ian Whittaker wrote 'One of the big events of the year was the visit of Christine Triep's club Lindlar in July. Lindlar came with a full team of 30 swimmers and our thanks go to all who found space in their homes to accommodate them. They were a friendly crowd who undertook a full programme of events culminating in a successful gala at Teddington. It was perhaps fitting that Christina should win both her individual events on her return to her old club! '



Figure 42. Enjoying a beer with visitors from Lindlar.



Figure 43. In action at the International Gala.

Visit to Konstanz in August 1993

Ian Whittaker wrote 'This was our second visit to Konstanz and we again took a large party (38, including 22 swimmers). The weather was less kind than on our previous visit in 1991. However, this did not deter us from carrying out a full programme of activities and the visit culminated in a gala with our swimmers coming home with 2 golds, 10 silvers, 14 bronzes and 36 'other places', and in the words of Amy Sebba 'That was the best holiday I've ever been on'. The visit included a reception held in the Town Hall, which was generally agreed to have been 'boring'.

Figure 44. 1994 Club Championships – the girls enjoy the presentation for the breaststroke race – winner Lala Day is second from right.



Figure 45. Richmond Borough Championships at Teddington



Another trip to Konstanz

1995 saw another trip to Konstanz - again part of the town twinning celebrations.

Ian Whittaker wrote in the newsletter : Twelve swimmers took part in the very successful and busy weekend which culminated in an international gala hosted by Konstanz with teams competing from Czechoslovakia (*as it was then*), Switzerland and us. Adam Acland and Louise Alessi won individual events and many of the swimmers were placed 2nd and 3rd with personal best times. After the gala there was a closing ceremony at the nearby sports stadium where all the swimmers were presented with commemorative medals by the Mayors of the twin towns, including the Mayor of Richmond.

A report in the 'Richmond & Twickenham Times' also notes that '...The Teddington team were joined by two ex-members Sakura and Suzie Hingley, who left the club last year to live in Germany and turned up to represent their old club.



Figure 48. A certificate from Konstanz

Figure 49. Konstanz 1995, Picture includes Adam Acland, Sakura Hingley, Sally Morrell and Louise Alessi



Figure 50. Konstanz 1995, enjoying a MacDonaldis! Ben Silver and his mum in the foreground

Figure 51. Smaller Goup who visited Konstanz in 1995 swimmers are:

Back Row: Ian Whittaker, Louise Alessi, Rebecca Duggan, Adam Acland, Ben Warriner, Gerry Duggan.
Front Row: Suzy Hingley, Sakura Hingley, Sally Morrell, Ben Silver, Simon Lucas and Francis Grice.

