

‘Also joining the team, already in Germany, was Sally Morrell, who was on an exchange visit to her German pen friend, as part of the twinning arrangements organised by her school, Teddington...’

During the summer the club held another successful Barbecue at Hampton Pool - where the sun shone and a good time was had by all.

A good number of older swimmers joined the club during the year, which helped to improve the position of the club, especially in the Speedo League, which took place at the start of the year, and then again in the Autumn after the League decided to change the dates in future. Events in 1996 included a gala at Littlehampton in which we came last but enjoyed an overnight stay in the Youth Hostel at Arundel and a walk followed by Sunday lunch on the riverbank. There was also a barbecue at Hampton open air pool, and a session with international swimmer Sarah Hardcastle held at Richmond (this was a borough event organised by the Borough Coach and supported financially by Richmond Council). The club reached its highest position to date on the Speedo League (7th in division 2).

Figure 52. TSC Championships

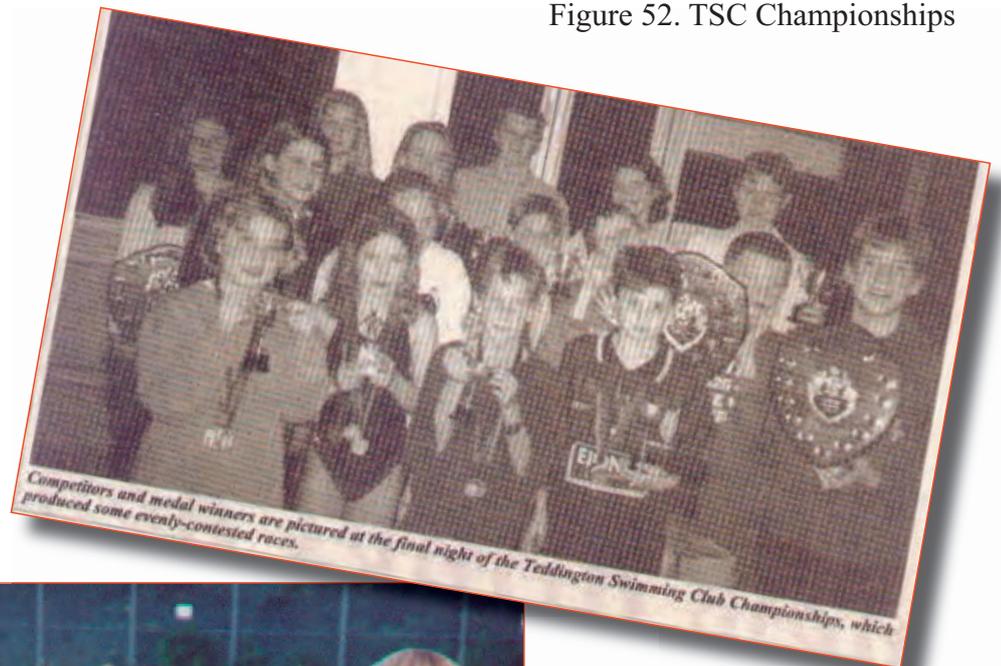


Figure 53. Pam and Ernie Hoare chat to former committee member Sarah Maison at the BBQ (Hampton Pool 1995)

Coaching strategy points the way forward



In 1997 the Pool management again successfully tendered for the contract to run the pool and a satisfactory agreement with the Club was negotiated. A number of questions were raised at the AGM about coaching aims and it was agreed that the committee would discuss this in detail in the New Year.

Matthew Earland and *Clare Salmon* were selected for Middlesex, and *John Seabrook* and *Terry Lyons* were chosen for the County Masters Team.

In December 1997 Teddington Pool closed for ‘a month’ for maintenance and to remove the ledge from the deep end of the pool. Major problems were found which extended the work into February. Jackie Rees & Pam Hoare managed to arrange water time at other pools: the Lensbury Club (a small indoor pool at a private sports

Figure 54. Hard Fought Contests 1996



Figure 55. London Youth Games – Ed Mann, Oliver Haynes, Philip Hoare, Edward Sinclair 1996

club) and Hampton outdoor pool, where swimmers trained on freezing cold dark nights, with great enthusiasm on the part of the swimmers (the water and changing rooms were heated) , less so on the part of the coach and lifeguards who had to stand on the side wrapped in layers of warm clothing, or the parents who huddled in the tiny cafe over endless cups of coffee, whilst peering through the steam rising over the water to check their children were still there! The club finally moved back to Teddington just in time for the annual Interhouse gala, having gone ahead with the organisation of this gala in hope rather than expectation. Fortunately our squad swimmers were also able to train at Richmond pool with the borough squad during the problems, so standards were largely maintained. However there was little opportunity to recruit new members and lessons for children not of club standard had to stop.

Following a suggestion made at the 1997 AGM the committee and coaching staff spent much of 1998 drawing up a formal plan for the development of the club over the next few years. Following this George Pines decided to step down as chief coach, allowing Carol Butler, with invaluable help from husband Dave, to take over to implement the strategy. A tankard was presented to George at the last session in July 1998. George however continues to be part of the team, giving us the benefit of his long experience teaching the younger children on Saturdays, and substituting for Carol as required. Thanks George!
A barbecue was held at Hampton to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the club.

Figure 56. TSC Championships 1997



Figure 57. Dave Butler, Carol Butler and George Pines



Other events in 1998

A new format was introduced for the Interhouse gala, with two nights of 'Heat-declared-winner' events rather than a separate finals night. This meant all the swimmers were aware of which house they represented and more swimmers were involved in the relays.

Notable swims this year included:

- **Stephen Robinson** and **Matthew Earland** featured in a number of finals at the Middlesex Championships
- **Philip Ross-Martyn** and **Matthew Earland** were selected for the Middlesex Long Distance Team
- Tamar Avakian and Robert Wells took part in a children's TV programme 'Get Wet'
- **Gina Heyn** excelled at the Club Championships breaking every record in her age group,

In the Autumn the club were advised by the ASA that the Club Constitution needed revision as it did not accurately reflect current ASA policy. A thorough revision took place and was duly approved at the AGM. The major changes involved were to

- the definition of eligible swimmer
- rules of the AGM
- and a complete rewriting of the clause relating to disciplinary matters.

1999 saw the coaches beginning to implement the coaching strategy. A fairly low key approach was adopted as the committee considered it important that swimmers were not 'demoted' as a result of rearrangements. However by the end of the year many of the proposals had been fully implemented.

Masters Swimming

In 1999 the club took over running a masters training session which had been set up at Teddington by Richmond Borough. A number of club swimmers transferred to this session and the club recruited members from those already involved in the session.

At the County Championships **Gina Heyn** (3 golds and a silver), **Neil Stewart** (silver) and **Jessica Herbert** (2 medals) were the top swimmers from the club. Gina also achieved a National top 20 ranking for breaststroke.



Figure 58. A group of young competitors on the beach at Calshott.

More opportunities to compete

The 400 metres freestyle handicap gala, the 'Butler Gala', was introduced in 1999 and proved popular with both younger and more experienced swimmers. Carol and Dave Butler presented trophies to be awarded to the swimmers beating their target times by the greatest amount. This competition is now held annually, with the number of entries steadily increasing.

During the summer coach Carol Butler, herself a former open water competitor, took a number of swimmers to open water competitions for the first time. They proved equal to the new challenge, regularly returning with a clutch of medals and trophies. Open water swimming soon became a regular feature of the summer programme. The venues include the Solent, the Isle of Wight and the Royal Albert Docks in London.

The club continued to progress. In 2000 the Junior Squad competed fiercely in the Milton Keynes Junior League, winning the Tuckey Trophy and achieving promotion to the first division. The 10 years girls won gold at the Middlesex Championships and *Alice Melotte* won two gold medals for breaststroke at the Middlesex Long Course Championships. The main squad won several trophies, and, not to be outdone, the Masters achieved second places at the Bracknell and Middlesex Masters meets. Unfortunately the Club failed to hold its place in the Speedo League First Division and were relegated, only to be re-promoted at the start of the next season due to another club dropping out. In May the boys 17+ relay team reached the final of the Southern Counties relays, bringing home 5th place ribbons.



Figure 59. Southern Counties 2000. Adam Acland, Russell Crew, Philip Ross Martyn, and Leon Smith reach the final of the 17+ freestyle relay at Crystal Palace.



Figure 60. Milton Keynes Champions 2000, the junior swimmers celebrate an historic victory.

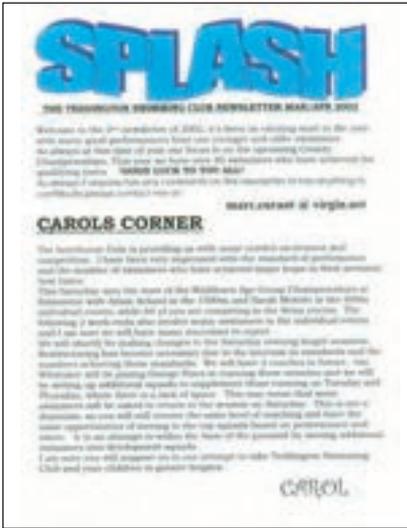


Figure 61. Cover of the Splash newsletter

Marc Curant took over the position of Press Officer in 2000 and shortly afterwards started to produce a newsletter 'Splash' for bi-monthly distribution to members. This proved popular with swimmers looking to see their name in print. Marc then organised setting up the club's website, which went 'live' in 2001 and also proved popular with members - especially the 'photo gallery' and later the 'rankings' pages. Enquiries from prospective members also began to come through this route.

This report of a visit from Ed Sinclair appeared in an early issue of 'Splash'

'During November, we were visited by GB Olympic swimmer ED SINCLAIR.

Ed has recently returned from the Olympic Games in Sydney. He swam as part of the Mens 4 x 200m Freestyle Team. Those of you who watched the race know that the men swam a great race and were narrowly beaten into 4th place in the last few metres.

Twickenham resident Ed began swimming with us at Teddington when he was much younger. He went on to win lots of medals at the Richmond Schools Galas, and to this day, still holds a number of Borough records.

During his visit Ed helped with the evenings training sessions. He also chatted to all the swimmers explaining how he trains 17.5 hours a week in the pool, plus several gym sessions and does plenty of STRETCHING (all swimmers take note!!!!) and lots of BOUNDING (jumping in the air and pulling knees to chest and down again before landing): this helps with power off the blocks when starting and pushing off the wall when turning.

He also told of his experiences in Sydney 'the facilities were fantastic,

Figure 62. Ed Sinclair with some of the swimmers who enjoyed his visit.



the atmosphere was electric and the Olympic pool was packed with up to 12,000 people most nights!!' He also said that the camaraderie between all the competitors was brilliant, especially at the purpose built Macdonalds in the Olympic Village which had free food and seated 4000 people!!

For now, Ed is back living at home. He has finished school at Millfield in Somerset and is hoping to go on to University at either Bath or Manchester.'

In 2001 the Chairman reported at the AGM

'In competition it has been an active year across a full range of events from novices to Masters. The Speedo Swimming League looked like a mid-table finish for the Club (an excellent result as we were 're-promoted' at the last moment). The Junior League had consolidated our position in the 1st division. Trophies were won at Staines and Dorking. There was success at the Middlesex Championships, and thanks were made to Dave for all his efforts in getting entries and teams together. More than 80 swimmers took part in the Teddington Challenge gala, and there had been successes too at Open Water Meets. The active Masters section had success at Bracknell (3rd overall, and an individual trophy for **Debbie Malin**), Middlesex Championships (2nd overall) and IOW and Milton Keynes Meets. **Adam Acland** and **Lucy Whittaker** had been selected to swim for the Middlesex Masters Team.' He also noted a large number of entries for the Club Championships - 195. During this year the Club expanded the number of training opportunities

available to swimmers, with the introduction of a monthly session at the new 50 metre pool at Aldershot, followed in 2002 by additional sessions at Feltham and St Catherine's School pools. The Club also began the process for accreditation under Swim 21, but suffered a number of setbacks as procedures were changed and forms revised, followed by the departure of the regional officer. As a result the procedure came to a standstill, and enthusiasm waned!

2002 saw a number of initiatives. In addition to extra swimming sessions, social events were organised for the younger swimmers. A local estate agent, Featherstone Leigh, agreed to provide sponsorship for some of the galas, enabling (amongst other things) extra keepsake trophies to be presented to all the top swimmers from the Club Championships. Other local companies also provided prizes for a grand raffle organised by Ron Curant, some of the proceeds of which went towards the purchase of *electronic starting equipment* for use at galas and training sessions. An anonymous donor contributed generously to this equipment. Success in individual and team competition continued. **Gina Heyn** and **John Whatley** were selected to represent Middlesex at the Southern

Figure 63. Gina Heyn is presented with a County Trophy by Middlesex ASA President Joyce Clarke





Figure 64. Ian Whittaker, Sarah Martin, Gina Heyn, and Lucy Whittaker at the Club Championships.

Counties competition, Junior swimmers won the Gibson Shield at Woking, and trophies also came from Leighton Buzzard and Acton. Both Junior and Senior teams had success in league competitions. Perhaps the most controversial event of this year was a complete change in the format of the club championships, mainly in order to incorporate the longer distance events now required for swimmers progressing beyond club level. This resulted in some confusion at the start, but things rapidly settled down and, despite some criticisms, was generally considered successful. The main change was that swimmers were seeded purely on time, rather than by age group, with the exception of the 'slower' masters swimmers who were given their own heats after complaints of embarrassment at being beaten by juniors. The gala was held over a record five evenings, with all swimmers able to enter 50, 100 and 200 metre races in all strokes, and 25 metre races also available to the youngest swimmers.

A Presentation Night was held a couple of weeks after the Championships, combined with the draw from the Grand Raffle and a Disco for the juniors (and anyone else who wanted to stay).

Figure 65. 'Junior Swimmers' enjoy the Disco in St Mary's Church Hall (ISM21)

