

RUISLIP & NORTHWOOD S. C.

MASTERS

NEWS LETTER 3 (APRIL 1994)

LETTER FROM THE 1994 GUERNSEY GALA CLUB TRIP

by A. Robjant

"This is your captain speaking - sorry about the turbulence. The weather is terrible on Guernsey at the moment and visibility through the fog is zero. No plane managed to land yesterday . Never mind I think we'll have a go!"

"Liz - let go Liz. let go of me Liz"

And suddenly we're 100ft above the runway - thump, squeal, squeal, thump.

Worried? Intrepid members of the R.N.S.C.? - never. That's the Royal Navy Swimming Club by the way. Or it seems everyone on Guernsey thought so.

Unfortunately Sandra's bag thought it was all too risky and decided not to even get on the plane. Having rushed over to get the hire cars sorted out, we all got in, set off to the hotel and found it! Not as exciting as last year , eh Colin? According to the hotel, Mr Marlen Jones was to share rooms with Mr Rogers and Mr Terence Skilton would be with his wife Ray. Maybe we'd all died in the air crash! Marlen soon sorted them out!

A quick look round St Peter Port - Yes. I'm afraid we found it straight away again - and it's off to the pool! A couple of anxious faces rather regretting a noble entry into the 400m Freestyle and we're off and swimming. With last year's experience we avoided the "ice block" corners around the pool. set up the club banner (the best there by far!) and got down to the serious business of getting nervous.

Some people say the 400m is a really good race as a first event - "gives a good warm-up opportunity", "isn't that far really", "is over before you know it", etc. etc. Actually, folks, 400m is just a BLOODY LONG WAY!

Even though our better swimmers are missing this year, we start really well. Except yours truly, who misses third place by 0.4 of a second in a six minute 400m swim! Commiserations take the form of Grolsch and pizza down at the Cafe California on the harbour front. (Still there, still as good, but no, she didn't remember you Colin!)

You may not know this, readers, but apparently Guernsey has lots of large cottages with magnetic walls round the back of them on the island and, as to commemorate this, instead of medals, the gala awarded small pottery replica cottages! Bet you are regretting not going now Lesley, eh? Well, tough matey - your entire career will have to remain incomplete.

Even at the end of the first evening a trend starts. Teresa and Liz are obviously going to get enough cottages for a whole village each. The rest of us mere mortals will have to seek solace in doing it for the club, the team points and be happy to grab a small cottage if we can.

Dinner down at the Californian with lots of pizza, garlic bread and pasta. Teresa amazed the locals with her appetite and Liz had chips.

SATURDAY

The day started really well. Julia Roberts, Nicole Kidman and Bridget North (eh?) were having a three way mud wrestling contest to see which of them was to satisfy my every whim, when Ron woke me up.

One of the best things about the Guernsey gala, as most will know, is the middle day when an early start gets you to a morning of competition, a midday break, followed by an early evening session again and dinner in a local cafe/wine bar etc. A really nice day.

Teresa and Liz kept turning up in the presentations all day and the rest of us started to pick up the odd cottage or two! People were P.B.ing all over the place and extra excitement was provided by one World Masters record attempt (won after some initial controversy), two European attempts (that I think failed, but were U.K. records) and a U.K. 100m I.M. record attempt that just failed in 59.86 secs!

The organisation at Guernsey is just marvellous - very laid back, informative but ultra-efficient - the officials being 'on holiday' as well, as it were. Talking to some of the Jersey swimming club members, however, that is nothing compared to French masters' galas apparently. They go to places like Nantes and Quiberon (?) where wine and cheese are provided midday and the time-keepers and other officials are provided with a bottom-less wine glass all day. When can we go?!!

We all had lunch at a craft/copper and brass place on the North side of the island. Liz had chips. Drive, walk, walk, drive and it's back to the pool so that Teresa can build up her collection.

Yours truly manages a bronze in the 200m freestyle, but only by leaving most of his internal organs in the pool - bars of choc and a Mars bar are readily supplied and all is well.

Dinner is found hiding away in a little alley-way behind the harbour front in the form of a wine bar (I think) which also does meals. The weather had been much better today - blue skies and sunshine. Cauliflower soup, a delicious seafood risotto, palm trees in sight makes you begin to think you are somewhere exotic. Liz had chips.

Sleep comes really easily tonight!

SUNDAY

MORE RUDDY SWIMMING!

For some, this is the busiest swimming day -- that's just how the event timetable has worked out. But for most, it's the 50m freestyle, a relay, Sunday lunch and home.

We all watch in awe as the morning starts with the 200m Butterfly. Teresa continues building up her collection. Bob hears officially of disqualification in the 50m Butterfly - great effort, that one, seemed a bit harsh. And Ron's knee decides enough is enough (why the French only have one egg for breakfast!) and starts to complain.

Soon it's all over and on to Sunday lunch - magnificent as before but, horrors of horrors Liz - no chips!

The team from Switzerland win the team trophy - we were probably secondish - a few speeches, commitments undertaken to come next year (definitely, as far as I'm concerned) and it's over.

The afternoon is spent wallowing around, a trip to the wood carvers, another bumpy flight home and tales of glory to relate to family and friends.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE NEXT YEAR FOLKS.

Liz had chips for tea.

TONY is right. It was a really good trip and we brought back 22 medals between the eight of us - Teresa had enough for a village; Ray, Marlen and I, enough for a small hamlet and the others collected a few farmhouse manors!! As before, Guernsey Masters were excellent hosts and the competition fair and exciting!

In the hope that more of you will come next year, we are going to repeat the savings scheme that was set up in 1992/93. This could help people put some money away in preparation for what really is a good-value trip! Please see me for more details and prepare yourselves for the nagging!!!

CLUB GALA

An evening not easily forgotten! An excellent turn-out from the club in both competitors and officials and a good time was had by all.

Many thanks to Tony, Leslie and Ron for getting the whole event off the ground with a special mention to Mr. Robjant for all the hard work he put in. Yes, there were a few complaints about the handicapping, but then all they had to go with was the information we had /hadn't provided. At least we had our "cards" with details of races and heats and you had a good idea of where you should be at a given time! Thanks also to Lyn and Derek who arranged for the officials and to the officials themselves who certainly gave the gala that certain something!! There was one dodgy moment when we did not think that the gala could proceed in accordance with ASA rules, but Joanne was quickly wrested from her spectator seat to timekeep and we were away!!

After a brief explanation of the handicapping system we were as confused as ever but fortunately Maurice and Daphne Short had it all under control. A 'Gladiator-style' starting pattern was soon established - "Competitors in lane 1 & 2 will go on the gun Competitors in lanes 3,4,& 5 will go on my first whistle.....Competitor in lane 6, on my second whistle".....Confused? Some of us certainly were, but surprisingly enough only a few false starts occurred!

There wasn't a lot of time between races (speak to Colin, he'll tell you!) but people had entered a lot of events - some they hadn't even tried before. Feeling inspired, Laraine even volunteered to swim in the 25m Fly, although she hadn't previously entered. It was that kind of evening! Derek should have been barred entry from the Fly events as the turbulence he caused in the water put the other swimmers at a disadvantage and competition between the O'Dea family was exciting as Dad lined up against his daughters again and again!!

The Fun Races certainly provided a few laughs along with a lot of pain and frustration.

THE CHARIOTS OF FIRE REVIVAL, as Mr Robjant so kindly explained to us, was a **RUNNING RACE**! You were expected to get to the end of the pool in an upright position (no swimming allowed). Those who were competing in later heats thought they had the benefit of watching the mistakes of the first lot, but soon found out that it was extremely difficult whichever technique you tried. The eventual winner was Jennifer, followed by Julia and then Derek.

'THE BOOT HILL CLASSIC', named after the cowboys' graveyard (the only place a cowboy would enter feet first!), meant you had to go down the pool **FEET FIRST**! Jennifer's impression of a torpedo-powered mermaid will stick in the minds of many as she shot through the water at a rate of knots! Graeme's rendition turned up the other way wasn't so effective and Simon's attempt to pull himself along the ropes underwater looked good but, in his own words "let him down when he had to breathe". Jennifer was the overall winner by a long chalk and has had us all booking up for synchro lessons in preparation for next year! Colin and Simon came 2nd and 3rd.

'THE CASTLE RAMPARTS' was supposed to be "good for breaststroke swimmers" as we were supposed to "trace the outline of a castle along the top and bottom of the pool using 3 breaststrokes each time". Hmmmmmm!! The winner of this race was Graeme (not surprisingly!) with Karen and Keith in 2nd and 3rd.

'THE FANNY CRADDOCK REVIVAL' race had props and a few disqualifications! Swimming the length of the pool carrying a wooden spoon and pastry brush wasn't everybody's idea of fun but appeared to suit Lesley who came first closely followed by Simon and Jennifer.

'THE INFLATION BEATER' was a fancy way of telling us to swim to the end carrying an inflated balloon out of the water at all times. By this time people were taking these Fun races very seriously indeed and all sorts of techniques and styles were being discussed poolside! Simon finally found his niche in first place. Karen and Teresa were the next two home.

The evening's swimming ended with a Boys v Girls relay race using the fastest 4 of each group. The girls should have had a head start but were not disgraced in their attempt!

The Medal Ceremony was held at the Tuck Shop afterwards where chocolate medals were awarded by Mrs. Vee Dale, the Chairwoman of RNSC, to the top two of each age group. Bruce still can't understand how he won the golds for the 25m and 50m Fly as he insists he didn't even swim in the races! And cups for the year's top male and female swimmers were also awarded to the surprise and shock of the recipients! Please see the cutting from the Ruislip - Northwood Gazette below:-

Top two

LEZ Smart and Joe O'Dea were presented with trophies as the top two swimmers at the Ruislip Northwood Masters Club first ever club championships.

There were too many sausage rolls left over but it was still fun and likely to be first of many Club galas!!!

P.S A special award should have gone to 2 year old, Christopher Gilder, who behaved impeccably throughout the whole evening.

P.P.S Thanks to the following 'Officials' :- Mr. & Mrs. Short, John Guinness, Mary & Barry Pethwick, Mrs. Clarke and family, Joanne Holton, Mr. Cordial, Christine Rowley and Ron Gilder.

BASINGSTOKE MASTERS FAST WATER MEET

A select team of five (Teresa, Ray, Joe, Trevor and Ron) went to Basingstoke on Sunday, 6 March. Some of us had been put off by the cramped poolside and spectator arrangements of last year and for various other reasons had decided not to compete. Apparently it was still crowded (Ron had to spectate and timekeep through a glazed gallery) but it was well organised and offered good competition.

Teresa came away with 3 medals - silver in the I.M. and bronzes in the 50m and 25m Freestyle and Joe won silver in the 50m Breast. The men's 200 years+ relay team of Trevor, Joe, Ron and Ray won the gold in the 4 x 50m Breaststroke race.

The competition was well run and in Trevor's 50m Breaststroke race, a little too well run! No sooner had he stepped onto the blocks, still adjusting his goggles, than the starter had fired the gun. His eventual time of 40.22 secs suggests that he is soon going to break that 40 second barrier!!

BT SWIMATHON

As our Basingstoke team were on their way home, our Swimathon team (Julia, Sandra and Jill) were just warming up for their 5,000m 'ordeal'. Unfortunately the team had been reduced from a possible 5 participants to an eventual 3 due to illness and the such like and they were a little concerned about the extra lengths each would have to do. Their concern did not last long as they soon began to show the rest of the field what for!! They finished in a very respectable time of 1 hour 40mins 46 secs as the second team out of a total of 60 on the night! Later results revealed that, out of a total of 7,219 teams, they had finishes 444th. And out of a total of 1,353 (4 people)teams, they were placed 103rd. Not bad, eh? They have since collected a large sum of sponsorship money for charity.

NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....NEWS.....

CONGRATULATIONS to David and Sharon Dines on the birth of their baby daughter - Katie Cheryl Philippa ("Cherry Pip"). No doubt she will soon be in the water!

CONGRATULATIONS also to Joanne who married Andrew Martin on 9 April 1994. I can also report that her bouquet landed at Lesley's feet. Does this have any significance?

REMEMBER Bernie? Well, apparently he is recovering from injuries sustained in a skiing accident. Witnesses describe a nocturnal, death-defying leap off a mountain which resulted in certain ribs being damaged. This would explain his absence at the Club Gala. We wish you well, Bernie, and hope you have a speedy recovery!!!!

WELCOME to the following new members. We hope they have a long and enjoyable time with RNSC Masters!

Jean & Ann Morrow
Stuart Fone
Jeremy Skilton

Alistair Asher
Lesley Burchett
Jenny Brennon

Sarah Jane Hotten
Lesley Hine

Samar Syed
Graham Smart

REMINDER - ASA Registration fees are now due. Please give Enid the £6.50 as soon as possible so that you are eligible for competition. Thanks.

CONTRIBUTIONS to this Newsletter are always welcome. Next month's edition will contain an interesting article on 'Warming Up', kindly handed to me by Reg. If anyone else has anything to say please do not hesitate to do so!

BASINGSTOKE - March 6th

TERESA

50m Back	41.57	PB	50 Free	31.31	Bronze
50m Breast	41.47		I.M	1.20.31	Silver
50m Fly	36.44		25m Free	14.57	Bronze

RAY

50m Back	53.43		50 Free	41.68	
50m Breast	46.40		I.M	1.55.21	
			25m Free	18.28	

JOE

50m Breast	41.73	PB Silver	25m Free	17.22	
50m Fly	40.36		50m Free	38.98	

TREVOR

50m Breast	40.22	PB	25m Free	16.50	
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MENS 200 yrs.+ BREASTSTROKE (4X50M) 3.07.26 Gold

GUERNSEY

TERESA

400 Free	5.07.96	Silver	PB	100m Breast	1.30.60	Gold	
200 Free	2.25.08	Gold		50m Breast	41.89	Gold	
100 Free	1.07.05	Gold		100m Back	1.24.76	Silver	PB
50 Free	31.34	Silver		100m IM	1.20.59	Gold	

SANDRA

400 Free	7.53.98	PB		50m Breast	54.85		
100 Free	1.42.03			100m IM	1.56.44		
50 Free	42.40						

LIZ

400 Free	6.57.32	PB		100m Breast	1.28.77	Gold	
50 Free	34.28			50m Breast	41.64	Gold	
200m Breast	3.17.79	Silver		100m IM	1.31.29		

MARLEN

50 Free	57.93	Silver		50m Breast	54.71	Silver	
100m Breast	2.06.32	Silver	PB	50m Back	1.05.66	Bronze	

TONY

400 Free	6.07.37	PB		50 Free	33.14		
200 Free	2.43.44	Bronze		50m Fly	35.72	PB	
		PB					
100 Free	1.13.73						

BOB

400 Free	8.18.54	PB		50 Free	45.60		
50m Breast	55.32	Bronze					

RAY

100m Free	1.40.86			200m Back	4.38.87	Bronze	
50m Free	41.53			100m Back	2.02.30	Bronze	
200m Breast	4.02.03	Bronze		50m Back	52.02	Bronze	
100m Breast	1.45.70	Bronze		100m IM	1.51.69		
50m Breast	48.72						

RON

200m Breast	4.24.12	PB		50m Breast	56.29		
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MEN'S 200 yrs + MEDLEY RELAY

3RD (Position only)