

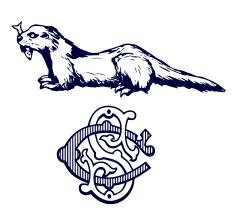
OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2020



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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

Paul Hindle



2020 a year to be remembered mostly for all the wrong reasons!

This time last year I wrote, "As I write this President's Foreword we are now in a Coronavirus nightmare, the country is in lockdown, all Otter training has been suspended for the foreseeable future, the 2020 Olympics have been postponed, and almost everyone other than essential services workers is at home with only very restricted ability to go outside. We are living in profoundly unusual and anxious times."

Sadly, it did not get much better through the rest of the year. However, in between lockdowns, we did manage to get in some masters swimming and a little bit of water polo. But now, at last, things are looking positive for a proper return to the sport we all love, although I suspect we will have to live with a degree of restriction for some time yet before "normality" returns.

It has been one of the most traumatic and existential challenges that aquatic sports in the UK has ever faced. Many swimming clubs have faced major financial difficulties, indeed some have been forced to fold. Some swimming pools closed for lockdown will never reopen again and others, e.g. Crystal Palace, are likely to remain closed for some time to come. Otter has not been immune from any of those issues, but happily our relatively strong financial position has made things easier.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to keeping the Club together in these difficult times, especially the Committee, the Swimming and Water Polo Captains, our Coaches, our pool bookers and all who helped with putting in place all the systems, procedures and risk assessments we needed to operate in the Covid world.

I also want to thank those who organised the numerous virtual training sessions and virtual Otter social get-togethers that took place during the year. Such virtual activities can never be a proper substitute for the real thing, but nevertheless it was very pleasing to see those Club activities taking place and being mostly driven by members/sections own initiatives rather than top-down from the Committee.

2020 was a trying year for all of us, and there will be knock on impacts yet to come, but I am supremely confident that Otter will return as strong as ever, when we are allowed.

September 2021



OTTER COMMITTEE 2020-21

THE OTTER COMMITTEE 2020-21

The principal decision making body of the club is the Committee. Its key functions are to set the strategic direction, manage financial affairs and oversee the ongoing health and welfare of the Club. In normal circumstances the Committee meets formally once every 2 months, however during the Covid Pandemic all meetings were held via Zoom on an "as required" basis. Particularly urgent matters are usually dealt with via email.

The 2019/20 Committee was elected at the April 2019 Annual General Meeting and remained in post until October 2020. The 2020/21 Committee was elected at the October 2020 Annual General Meeting.



	2019/2020	2020/2021
President	Paul Hindle	Paul Hindle
Vice Presidents (Health & Safety, Welfare and Coaching)	Lesley Davies	Lesley Davies
Hon. Treasurer	Chris Eden	Chris Eden
Hon. Secretary	(Vacant) (Lesley Davies for SE purposes)	(Vacant) (Lesley Davies for SE purposes)
Hon. Handicapper	Dave Warren	Dave Warren
Captain of Swimming	Pip Bennett	Pip Bennett
Captain of Swimming	Camille Vrain	Camille Vrain
Captain of Water Polo (Men)	Leon Estrella	Leon Estrella
Captain of Water Polo (Women)	(Vacant)	(Vacant)
Committee Members	James Williams (Water Polo)	James Williams (Water Polo)
	Vacant (Water Polo)	Sarah-Jane Law (Swimming)
	Sarah-Jane Law (Swimming)	Ben Phelps (Swimming)
	Abigail Hucker (Swimming)	Peggy Etiebet (Water Polo)
	Ben Phelps (Swimming)	Alice Dinsdale-Young (Co-opted during year)
	Peggy Etiebet (Water Polo)(Co-opted during year) Marco Pisati (Swimming)(Co-opted during year)	William Marsh (Swimming) (Co-opted during year)





CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Chris Eden

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW

This was a crazy year in many ways yet, from a financial perspective, there was not much to write home about.

Overall, the Club showed an operating surplus of £3.0k, compared to the operating deficit in the prior year of £28.6k (which included £12.3k for the 150th Anniversary Costs).

As would be expected given the periods of lockdown leaving only 5 months of activity in the year, membership income reduced considerably. On a pro-rated basis, income was broadly in line with 2019. Coaching costs in 2020 were half of 2019, primarily since 2019 coaching costs were under budget. Pool costs in 2020 reduced considerably on a pro-rated basis due to the reversal of some accrued costs that proved unnecessary. Aside from these three key totals, the year was relatively stable.

Membership numbers, excluding those who would compete only in the water polo age group tournaments, declined without the usual influx of joiners we, as a central London club, tend to see throughout the calendar year (20 joiners, mostly at the very start of the year, 95 leavers).

The balance sheet strengthened as a result of the small surplus and donations received (more below). As a result of this, we were able to sustain investment in pool time throughout the various periods where COVID rules restricted attendance. Looking forward, particularly as we start to re-enter some level of normality, the committee continues to consider options to expand the sessions available to the Club's members.

PRIZES & GENERAL FUND AND MEMORIAL FUND DONORS

The generosity of members, either in paying over and above their regular subscriptions or in making separate designated donations, continues to help manage the Club's annual costs as well as strengthen the capital base. In addition, a number of members kept subs going through the lockdown period, and these have been treated as donations. As such, we thank the following:

Michael Amos, Alex Black, Steve Braine, Ian Bond, Adam Brown, Ed Buckley, Matt Burgham, Oli Caldwell, Joe Canlan-Shaw, Greg Comiskey, Lesley Davies, Martha Dean, Martin Flash, Wilton Fry, Glen Gilbert, Victor Hardy, Kirsten Henderson, James Hindle, Paul Hindle, Gina Hobson, Fiona Marshall, MJ Matte, Jane McMenemy, Grant Monk, Andrew Morton, Doug Payne, Tony Ray, Mike Reys, Josh Sambrook-Smith, Elizabeth Shaw, James Stewart, Caspar Stops, Nikolay Storonsky, Bob Thomas, Tory Thorpe, Spencer Thursfield, Alison Wain, Will Wall, Dave Warren, Deirdre Ward, Simon Williams, Thibault Williams.

MEMBERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

During the year, Otter welcomed 20 new members (compared with 105 in 2019), 4 of whom were water polo players (2019: 43). All new members are included in the list of current members attached at the end of this report. The average number of members during the year was as follows:-

	2020	2019
Active swimmers	48	112
Country swimmers	16	25
Non-active swimmers	63	64
Life member swimmers	24	34
Junior swimmers	5	5
Total swimmers	156	240
Active polo	55	55
Country polo	5	6
Non-active polo	17	17
Life member polo	8	8
Junior polo	40	80
Total polo	124	164
Total members	280	404

Thanks to the considerable efforts of the following, for signing up new members, policing memberships and more:-

Sarah-Jane Law and Lesley Davies for swimmers; Jill Dean, Karen McDonagh, Jill Rogers, and Peggy Etiebet for ladies' polo; Leon Estrella, Paolo Sirianni and Paul Hindle for men's polo.

Thank you also to Lesley Davies for handling the Club's ASA registrations especially the annual renewal and making sure lastminute requests for registration are processed to get you into meets or tournaments; Tony Ray for running the shop; Pauline Turner and Nick Corjon for sorting out water polo-specific kit; and Michelle Senecal, Wade Rimbach, Leon Estrella and Paul Hindle for managing the pool bookings.

The Club website continues to be a key factor in attracting new members and communicate all the activities, successes and other news. Please get in touch throughout the year if you have any contributions, whatever it is reaction to!

Finally, thanks as ever go to Tom Burkinshaw for serving again as honorary Club auditor, so valuable to ensure our accounts are independently verified!

DO

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - £					
Year ended 31 Dec 2020	2020	2019			
Members income	46,222	145,831			
Subscriptions income	44,513	135,099			
Special sessions	252	-			
Match fees	-	9,046			
Prizes and general fund	1,686	1,686			
Other income	1,253	1,807			
Capital income	1,016	1,579			
Miscellaneous income	237	228			
TOTAL INCOME	47,475	147,638			
Pools & equipment	(17,609)	(82,652)			
Pool hire costs	(17,609)	(82,413)			
Equipment costs	-	(239)			
Coaching	(11,336)	(22,423)			
Coaching costs	(11,336)	(22,423)			
Activity costs	(9,240)	(19,516)			
Water polo expenses	(2,545)	(11,634)			
Swimming expenses	(108)	(866)			
Affiliation costs	(6,113)	(5,123)			
Prizes and trophies	(474)	(1,893)			
Club activities	(2)	(1,695)			
Dinner	-	-			
Open water races	-	(269)			
Shop sales	(2)	(1,426)			
Administration	(6,238)	(31,710)			
Insurance	(2,000)	(2,000)			
Post and printing	(1,652)	(2,865)			
Bad debts	(1,700)	(26,035)			
IT costs	(838)	(252)			
Miscellaneous costs	(48)	(558)			
150th Anniversary	-	(12,271)			
Dinner	-	(3,095)			
Gala	-	(6,846)			
Kit and marketing	-	(2,316)			
Sundry	-	(13)			
Total expenditure	(44,425)	(170,266)			
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	(3,050)	(22,628)			

'I have examined the books and vouchers of Otter Swimming Club and have obtained all necessary explanations for me to confirm that these accounts show a reasonable view of the Club's activities for the year and its financial position as at the 31st December 2020.' Hon Auditor. Tom Burkinshaw



BALANCE SHEET - £		
Year ended 31 Dec	2020	2019
2020		
Trophies	35,000	35,000
Tangible fixed assets	35,000	35,000
Investments at cost	30,142	30,142
Self insurance investment	32,188	32,159
Investments	62,330	62,301
Fixed assets	97,330	97,301
Stock	5,133	4,088
Debtors	-	4,310
Cash at bank and in hand	22,740	19,553
Current assets	27,873	27,951
Creditors falling due within one year	(10,022)	(21,639)
Net current assets	17,851	6,312
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	115,181	103,613
Computer fund	3,880	3,880
Spoon fund	7,038	7,038
Sinking funds	10,918	10,918
Provisions	10,918	10,918
Life membership fund	21,295	21,295
Memorial fund	48,730	42,212
Trophy insurance fund	32,983	30,983
Capital funds	103,008	94,490
Balance brought forward	(1,795)	20,833
Capital income and reserves	-	-
Result for year	(3,050)	(22,628)
Reserve funds	(1,255)	(1,795)
Reserves	104,263	92,695
RESERVES AND PROVISIONS	115,181	103,613

Investments # and value at 31 December 2020 Brunner Investment Trust 2,517 £21,671, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust 7,465 £58,750, JP Morgan Claverhouse

Investment Trust 1,530 £9,930, Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust 14,270 £173,238. Total market value



MEMBER NEWS OBITUARIES

KELVIN JUBA

By John Goodbody



Kelvin Juba was born into a family immersed in swimming. Aged one, he was taken by his parents, Bill, later a hugely popular coach to Otter, and Josie, a national champion and also a successful coach, to the 1948 Olympics to witness the events held at the Wembley Pool.

During the late 1950s, Kelvin and his younger brother Nick, later to become coach to the Danish national team, took part in the Otter Junior sessions at Chelsea, where their father oversaw the Saturday evening workouts. Both then progressed to the senior sessions.

Kelvin competed across a range of disciplines, competitive indoor swimming, water polo, in which he was a British under 21 international and in open water events. In 1962, he was 7th in the national long-distance championships, when five of the first eight finishers were members of this club. Kelvin also won the Welsh National title.

However, his greatest contribution to this club and to British swimming came after his retirement from serious competition. When his father died in 1970, Otter was desperate to find a successor as a Head Coach and Kelvin took over the role for three years.

At the same time, he became Editor of Swimming Times, the now defunct monthly magazine of the ASA (England Swimming), of which his father had been assistant editor. He reported the 1972 Olympics, one of several Games he attended.

Most important of all, it was Kelvin, who in 1972 was the leading mover in holding the first Masters meet in this country after the concept had been started in the United States by Dr Ransom Arthur, a former Otter member.

Kelvin then co-wrote books with David Wilkie, the 1976 Olympic 200 metres breaststroke champion, with whom he set up a marketing company, did an instructional TV series with Channel 4 and ran a swim school in the west country, where he was based. He also studied for three degrees at Bath and Bristol Universities.

His all-round knowledge of swimming was extraordinary. One former ASA Chief Executive, when needing the answer to a question,

used to tell his staff to ask 'Anorak One.' Kelvin established with the European Swimming League (LEN) a continental-wide programme entitled 'Learn to Swim, Prevent Drowning.'

Kelvin will be much missed by his family, members of this club and thousands of people in the swimming world.

PHIL PENNY

By John Goodbody



Dr. Phil Penny was a GP, occupational health physician and a leading breaststroke and butterfly competitor. In addition, he made a huge contribution to the sport by being the medical officer to the Amateur Swimming Association (now Swim England) and especially in his work examining the best ways of disinfecting pools.

During his career in the late 1940s and early 1950s, increasing numbers of breaststroke swimmers used butterfly arms with an orthodox breaststroke leg action before being finally separated into the two competitive techniques. The Somerset ASA records that Phil was an international in 1951 and 1953, although the Otter archives cannot confirm the latter. He had joined the club in 1952. In 1955, he was a member of the Otter team, who won the National medley relay title with Phil on the fly leg.

He was the Western Counties Medical Officer 1958-1984 and chaired the ASA facilities committee 1979-2005. For many years, first under a government department in 1975 and then as chair of the Independent Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group, Phil was an authoritative figure on the methods of disinfectant. In 2012, his work was recognized by receiving the prestigious Harold Fern award at the ASA Council dinner. Modern swimmers have much to thank Phil for.



SUSAN PEARCE

By Peggy Etiebet

I only knew Susan for a few years while she was in London but I, and a generation of female water polo players, owe her a depth of gratitude. One that we can only ever repay by playing and winning -Susan was very competitive indeed - in the sport she loved.

Susan was a founding member of the Otter Swimming Club Ladies Water Polo team. Today we have the best junior development programme in the country and are in the top three at the senior level. This would not have been possible without Susan's vision, drive and determination. It is a true legacy that she has left, halfway across the world, to the enduring benefit of countless young women.

20 years ago women's water polo in London was a desert. When I came to London after university in 1997 there was one team, with whom I didn't gel and so I stopped playing. It wasn't until 2002 that Otter Ladies Water Polo was founded, with Susan attending the first ever training session. Right from the beginning she was instrumental in setting up the squad, acting as Vice-Captain. The Captain at the time, Ruth Bickerton, recalls how unflappable and organised Susan was both in and out of the water – dealing with opponents and administrative red tape with the same no-nonsense attitude.

One of the men's coaches at the time remembers her battling it out with the boys in the tiny London pool Otter Ladies started in, her fighting spirit definitely showed up inside and outside the water. He also keenly remembers her technical expertise, using a video that had been recorded of her doing a step half turn to get the rest of the teams to do it properly.

Initially Vice-Captain, Susan swiftly became Captain in 2003 as she was able and willing to devote the time and administration needed to set up a team from scratch, and clearly the best person for the job, a natural leader.

When I joined the team in 2005 she was my first captain at the club. One of my first memories of meeting Susan was her smile. It was vibrant and brilliant, and made me feel welcome immediately. But that was outside the pool.

Inside the pool she was a demon. A fast counter attacker, she had very strong legs and a great shot but overall, and what I think was crucial to Otter's early success, she had a will to win and the dedication and commitment to put in the work required to do so. She also had an enviable ability to transmit this to the rest of the team.

Once in the water, game or training, she was all business, and this attitude helped mould, to this day, the Otter approach which underpins our success. This is not just me saying this now, every single person who played with Susan will say the same. The Otter Annual Report from 2005 records that Susan "continues to lead, inspire and gel the team into the force we are today - truly the backbone of our success".

When Susan stood down as Captain and retired due to the increasing demands of work in 2007, her legacy was set in stone. She had taken the team from a new entrant at the bottom Division 3 of the British National Water Polo League, to winning it and promotion into Division 2.

Susan worked closely with our Ladies' coach, Nick Buller, in whom I know she found a kindred spirit to work together to push the team to fulfil its potential and reach Division 1. He has said many times that without her, we would not be where we are now. Otter and water polo has been a continuing passion for me and although I sadly lost touch with Susan personally over the years since she returned to New Zealand, her legacy has shaped my life. I also know in my heart that she has shaped the lives and character of the many women that have trained and played with Otter since.

GEORGE HANCOCK

By John Towers

George's formative years were spent with Avondale SC in Battersea where he grew up and honed his waterpolo skills. Avondale were the ASA Champions in 1946 and ASA Junior Champions in 1954. Although he played in neither of these teams being either too young or too old, he grew up in a culture of first class waterpolo.

He was enticed to join Otter to strengthen the Club's playing power as a full back to combat the big sitting forwards that were prevalent in those days in the post war era. The pools that the games were played in were local swimming baths, narrow and shallow, and the game had similarity to rugby in the water.

George was a powerful and tough player, but was always fair. He had great anticipation and read the game extremely well and enjoyed coaching the younger members. In 1961 he was one of the Otter touring team to Yugoslavia where the Club was invited to participate in the opening swimming and waterpolo gala of the new 50 metre, 2 metre deep, open air pool in Dubrovnik. A big change from the British swimming baths.

George was in his element as passenger in Brian Zimmerman's triumph TR3 sports car on the four day road and boat journey to Dubrovnik. This tour was the highlight of his waterpolo career and he often reminisced with his son Mark. He was given the nickname of "George double Hancock" having enticed Eric Kimber, our coach, to provide him with double portions of nourishment at resting places to sustain his big frame. Otter benefited tremendously from this tour and went on to win the ASA Waterpolo Championship in 1964.

George was Captain of the successful Surrey team who were the County Champions and he represented the Southern Counties in Western European events. George was an Otter member 1957 to 1968, and was awarded First Team Water Polo colours 1957 to 1961. He was a great asset to the Club and a loyal friend to many. A larger than life character who is well remembered by those of his generation.



George Hancock (centre) on the boat from Trieste to Dubrovnik. Otter 1961 Tour of Yugoslavia

NEW BABY OTTERS

William Ivan Thomas joined Ben and Hannah Thomas on 8 October 2020 weighing 8lb 3oz. Isaac is a very proud big brother and can't wait to take him swimming!





Congratulations also to Tracey Allen who had baby Charlotte during lockdown and has already started her on the path to Otter greatness!



To C

ENGAGEMENTS

Camille Vrain got engaged to her now fiance Simon at le cap gris nez in France where he finished the Channel crossing in August 2019.



SPECIAL MENTION

Congratulations to Otter Matt Burgham, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours in 2019 for services to defence. The ceremony is yet to be arranged owing to coronavirus, but will be rescheduled in the near future.

"I am looking forward to the ceremony, and to taking my parents. It was a huge surprise to be recognised and still doesn't feel real" - Matt Burgham





CLUB PERFORMANCE: SWIMMING

BY CATHERINE DEMONT

The beginning of the year provides few opportunities to race, and given the nationwide shutdown at the end of March, not all of our swimmers had the chance to compete in 2020!

Three meets often frequented by Otters are the South-East LC Regionals, held at the K2 Crawley centre, the Welsh Masters National LC Championships held at the National Pool in Swansea, and the Bracknell SC meet, all of which had a strong Otter presence.

SSE LC MASTERS 2020, K2 CRAWLEY

18 & 19 January 2020



It's always a challenge to perform so soon after the festive season, but 12 swimmers did Otter proud in the South East Regionals this year, and there were plenty of medals shared around.

Esther Worthington swam several masters' best times. It was a clean sweep for Fraser Peh, taking 3 gold medals in all 3 of his races, and for Oli Samy also going 2 for 2.

THE WELSH MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, WELSH NATIONAL POOL, SWANSEA

29 February & 1st March 2020



A smaller selection of 5 swimmers made the journey to Wales for the annual Welsh National Championships, and every single swim was a medal-winner.

Peter Vider represented the mature Otters in style, taking home 2 gold medals for his 2 swims, and the masters' best times continued to flow for Fraser Peh in both the 100m & 200m freestyle, along with Wade Rimbach in his 100m breaststroke and Amy Barton in her 100m & 1500m freestyle.



Catherine & Amy

BRACKNELL 25TH ANNIVERSARY MASTERS 2020, BRACKNELL 29 February & 1st March 2020



Over the same weekend, those favouring a shorter distance in both journey from London and in pool length, often opt for this meet.

Catrin Jones mader her Otter debut, competing in 6 races, and masters' best times were recorded by Harry Klingenspor in the 50m freestyle & butterfly and for Sarah-Jane Law in her 200m freestyle.

With the success of the meets that we were able to compete in this year, mention & congratulations must be issued to the various Otters who's times featured on the FINA World Masters Top 10 list for LC meters in 2020 in their respective age groups. A fantastic achievement!

- Amy Barton: 200m free, 400m free, 1500m free, 100m back
- Catherine Demont: 100m fly, 200m fly
- Gina Hobson: 50m fly, 200m fly, 50m free, 100m free
- Jane McMenemy: 100m free
- Elizabeth Shaw: 200m breast
- Etienne Cambier: 400m free, 200m IM
- Fraser Peh: 100m free, 200m free, 100m fly, 200m fly
- Wade Rimbach: 50m back, 200m breast

OTHER COMPETITIONS

The European Swimming Masters Championships, due to take place in Budapest in June, was eventually rescheduled for 2022, and the ever-popular Swim England Master SC Nationals in Sheffield in October had to be cancelled in its entirety for the year.

Lastly, our own club events such as the annual dinner, the club championships & the handicap competitions were unable to go ahead.

It was a patchy year to say the least, but the team will be back and it's exciting to see what 2021 will hold!



All smiles at QMSC!

OUR LOCKDOWN TRAINING

As with the rest of the world, the swimming calendar came to a halt at the end of March and left daily training schedules, meets & training camps in the lurch. Creative land training had to stand in for pool training for a large part of the year. Much like the other Otter factions, we swimmers completed a few zoom gym classes together to try to keep the spirit up! We enjoyed taking it in turns to lead our team mates through various workouts and circuits.

Open water swimming, or 'wild swimming,' saw an increase in popularity over this period as well, and a few team members braved some very cold sea & lake swims, along with beautiful coastal walks.



Esther, Alice, Camille & Sarah-Jane

As the weather warmed up and restrictions began to slightly ease, Otters were amongst the first jumping into the docks and lidos around the country, before indoor pools reopened at the end of summer. Some open water competitions were able to resume in parts, and Peter Grace, now based in Hungar pleased to be able to compete in the annual 5.2km Cross Balaton swim.

Otters finally welcomed a brief return to training, albeit at a 2m distance, until lockdown 2.0 in the winter and shut us down for the remainder of the year.



Social distancing at LAC





CLUB PERFORMANCE: LADIES' WATERPOLO

Peggy Etiebet

The 2019-20 season has been a difficult period for all and women's water polo was no exception. A major highlight in a challenging year was Otter winning the British Championships Water Polo Festival and placing 4th in the Super Fives (before lockdown stopped play) with Katy Cutler as the second highest goal scorer. The young Otter Lutra team came sixth in Championship 2, and while they go down to Division Three for this coming season, with 5 players picked for the Great Britain u17s European Championship team, we are looking forward to a strong performance from them this year. On the negative side the closure of Crystal Palace due to a leak in the 50m pool has severely impacted our training. We have found a new session at Alleyn's School and, at least for the older players, there was a bittersweet return to our beginnings with a session at the Queen Mother's Sports Centre in Victoria.

OUR LOCKDOWN TRAINING

Women's water polo carried on training throughout the various lockdowns. For most of it we had to move to land training with 3 sessions a week via zoom but we also managed to fit in a few outdoor water polo sessions at Divers Cove in the early summer. A number of the girls had pools installed in their back gardens so they could continue training and swim and polo skills sessions were made available to them by the coaches. A huge thanks goes to Croydon Swimming and Water Polo Club who shared their pool time at Whitgift Pool with us so, during the break between the first and second lockdowns, and with Crystal Palace shut, the players were able to get in a weekly pool session. Our gratitude also goes to Alleyn's School who kindly stepped in with pool time for ad hoc training camps and then a weekly session after they heard we were left with no sessions.



Otter player Flic Hughes installed a pool in her back garden over lockdown so she could continue her training as a goalie to fulfil her aspirations to represent GBR

It was amazing to see the commitment to training the players showed over the lockdowns and it meant that the close Otter team spirit prevailed even when we were all stuck at home. We had a number of team bonding sessions when permitted including a Halloween night swim at Divers Cove and an open water race at Hever Castle.



Lucy Bullock, Pippa Danielson, Juliet Lyons and Mimi Anderson at Hever Castle

Even more amazing though was the investment by parent volunteers during this period. The stop start nature of training, the need to find new sessions after Crystal Palace closed and the covid related administration meant that there was a huge increase in the behind the scenes work carried out by volunteers to ensure we could keep training. Our thanks go to Amanda Lyons who administered the finances for the various pool sessions and training camps, Helen Bullock as covid officer, Karen McDonagh with registrations and Tony Hughes as liaison with Alleyn's School.

OTTER 2019/2020 BWPL SEASON

The Otter 2019/20 team was a young one, with over half the team making their Division One debuts, and our results reflected our relative inexperience. We finished the first half of the season in 5th position but, as the season's hard winter training began to pay off, we pulled back in the second half of the season in Super Fives and there were some wins and very close games against teams that had beat us comfortably in the first half. Ultimately, we finished 4th when the first lockdown stopped competition with the firm belief that had we played the last weekend we would have ended up in third position. Congratulations goes to Katy Cutler who finished second on the top goal scorer's table. Our thanks go to captain Brooke Tafazolli who was an inspiring leader both in and out of the water.

OTTER LUTRA 2019/2020 BWPL SEASON

With a number of Lutra players moving up to Otter, it meant that this year's Lutra team was also a young one with many making their BWPL debuts. Led by veteran Lindsay Williams (captain) and Ciara Nicolson (vice captain) the team narrowly missed securing a top five position in Division Two meaning that they went into Championship 2 for the second half of the season. There were some hard-fought games against teams with bigger and older players and the team finished the season in sixth place.

INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Unfortunately, due to covid the u19s European Championships 2020 was cancelled which meant that a number of our players, who had been strong contenders for the team, including Katy Cutler, Lily Turner, and Erin Andrews, were unable to take part in the competition.



CLUB PERFORMANCE: MEN'S WATERPOLO

MEN'S 1ST TEAM

By Omi Pantazis

In Phase 1 of the 2019/20 British Water Polo League season Otter easily qualified for the Championship 2 play-offs starting in January 2020, thanks to an unbeaten streak of 7 games.

The New Year did not start well. The slackness of holidays, and the amount of food and booze consumed contributed to on another bad starting weekend where Otter won only one of its 3 games.

However, Otter had not said its last word, and yet another episode in the history of epic Otter comebacks was played out in the last 2 weekends. Mario, the Catalan "El Mago", known as the "Guardiola" of Water Polo tactics, managed to bring out the best of our unfit selves. Under Mario's guidance, Nikos Jr. Zavitsanos mastered anger management and improved his game, Jules Player scored lots of goals and scared the opponents with his strong game, Kostas the "Greek wall" secured the goalposts and made sure that the opponent's top scorers retired, whilst Nick Corjon scored his usual bag of goals in every single match. Tim Chambers, our New Zealander star, during his last supper at the Marlborough weekend, before departing for his homeland, made sure to teach.



Tim Chambers' last Supper

Otters the secret Maori polo defence techniques he had learnt at a young age. And lastly, but not least, Orion Ganase, the Caribbean "teenager" managed to finally bring out the best of his game, a blend of maturity, yogi-level concentration and a strong voice reminding the team to keep pushing and that "it's not over till it's over", as he likes to say.



Nick Corjon, Tim Chambers, Mate Nyaka, Pier-Luigi Spagna

The result of all this was saw Otter winning its last 4 games each by a 10 goals margin on average and securing promotion to Division 2, a few days before the national lock-down. Another year, another step towards the top of British Water Polo.

Pts

-13

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BWPL Men's Championship 2							
Team	Р	w	D	L	F	A	GD
Penguin	7	6	1	0	96	54	42
Otter	7	5	0	2	94	54	40
Manchester Hawks	7	4	0	3	86	94	-8
Worthing	7	3	2	2	71	70	7
Birmingham	7	3	0	4	74	86	-12
Durham Palatinates	7	3	0	4	81	77	4



2

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Promotion.

City of Bristol

Castleford

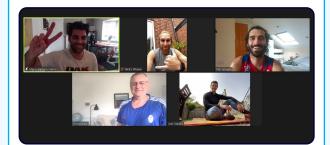
From left to right: Konstantinos Gartaganis, Danny Davis, Ivan Martinelli, Denes Csizsinszky, Daniel Shunn. Nikos Zavitsanos, Henry Elwell-Sutton, Omiros Pantazis, Mate Nyaka, Jules Jean Palayer, Nicholas Corjon, Alexandros Zachariades, Coach - Mario de Lera Calero Sadly the London Water Polo League - Premier Division - Summer 2020 could not be played, as well as the British Water Polo League 2020/21. At the time of writing it is not yet known whether the London League Summer 2021 competition will be played. The British Water Polo League are planning for the 2021/22 season to start in September.

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OUR LOCKDOWN TRAINING

Days after our glorious promotion to division 2, the morale of the team was on top and the humble Otters were ready to work hard for the increased demands that come along with the promotion. However, national lock-down and pool closures hit. The indenious coach of the team seized that opportunity and initiated weekly workout sessions through Zoom, motivating Otters to do burpees and other wild drills for the promise of a better summer body. Since, then and until the end of the year, the team kept training consistently twice per week with about 12 different people having attended these sessions. Thus, despite the restrictions imposed, Mario made sure that the team's abs and triceps are ready for the upcoming BWPL season. Having said that, we would like to acknowledge Mario's constant efforts to keep the team fit, offering a varying and evolving training schedule. Gracias Mario!





Otter Men during lockdown virtual training sessions

MEN'S 2ND TEAM

By Grant Monk

So we thought the 2020 season might be a bit of a challenge. As it turned out we couldn't have been more right, but for all the wrong reasons. We knew it was likely to be a transition year, with some rebuilding to do after a number of players left London and the club to do other things. We hoped some of the juniors would be ready to step up and fully contribute to the senior team, and had high hopes.

The Thameside Water Polo Cup started with a famous win over Croydon, when they conceded without fielding a team. Through to the next round, we focussed on the League, playing in Division 1 and starting for us in December 2019, with an away game at Whitgift to play Croydon again. They had by now found some players. Never an easy fixture, we travelled with a scratch side and valiantly went down 14-6. Clearly we had work to do. However, the Christmas break intervened which may have helped our buovancy more than agility, and our next two games against Poly Purples followed rapidly by Citizen's, both away, saw another two defeats. Our first home game came at the end of February, the return leg against Citizen's. The first half saw us go down 3-8, but a third quarter fightback meant we started the final quarter at 7-9. Another goal meant the gap was now one, before Citizen's pulled away again. We had improved, but still lost 13-8, with James Hindle and Sarpel Ustenel each claiming a brace of goals. A week later and we faced the return leg of Croydon at home. In a tightly fought and aggressive contest we had 8 exclusions in the game to their 7, but managed to come away winners with a score of 13-8. Danny Davies, Sarpel, Chris Eden and Grant Monk each got a pair of goals, and at last we were heading in the right direction.

At this point we were due to play our next leg of the Cup against Orcas, but we never managed to arrange the fixture. Similarly our home game against Poly Purples, which should have rounded out the Thameside League, never happened. Lockdown, or as we now call it, Lockdown One, meant pools closed and we couldn't do anything. We got used to working from home, home schooling, and being a bit diminished in our outlook. Frustratingly when lockdown one eventually lifted the indoor pools stayed shut.

As the summer came at least the outdoor pools opened and even for those of us whose ideas of fun do not start with swimming laps in a cold pool, the relief to get back in the water was palpable. Our coach Mariete offered Zoom land training which some took up, but this was a step beyond Joe Wick's fancy dress Friday stuff. I am sure some camera-shy players took advantage on their own time, quietly appreciating it.

As indoor pools eventually opened there was hope that we could get back to polo again. Swim England produced a roadmap to get polo going again and we dared to plan ahead. That the guidelines included seemingly arbitrary and nonsensical things like washing balls and equipment after play (in chlorinated water perhaps?) didn't faze us. If Swim England said swap water polo caps for a feather boa, at this point we'd just want to know what colour if it meant we could play. But before we could start, Lockdow 2 hit us, and the pools shut again. When that finished and pools opened again we still couldn't start polo, so we went back to laps in the vague hope that when we could play again we would be able to remember how not to drown. Christmas and Lockdow meant pools shut again, so it felt like even that might have been an ambitious target. However looking on the bright side, some players have used their time productively, and I congratulate and give best wishes for Ivor Sokolic and his wife Rhi for their daughter Emilia born just recently.

We have now been unable to play polo for over a full year. Looking ahead, as pools have finally re-opened again, we hope to get started soon. There will certainly be challenges, and more than just the normal rebuilding a team. Many players have moved out of London seeking more space and sunnier climes while working from home. Whether and when they come back is uncertain. Pool hire is going to be fiendishly competitive, and getting the training time we want may be difficult. Over a year ago we thought bringing Juniors into the Senior team would be helpful. Now maybe it's essential. Nonetheless, the first day back at training should be a busy one. There is plenty of pent-up demand!



CLUB PERFORMANCE: OTTER JUNIORS

OTTER JUNIORS

By Paul Hindle

At the start of 2020 we had great hopes for continued growth of the squad and development of our players. We had under 16 and under 14 teams playing in the London Water Polo League's Winter 2019/20 competition. We had entered under 15 and under 13 teams in the LWPL summer 2020 competition and were planning an under 15 entry for the 2020 Boys National Age Group competition. Then the Covid pandemic hit. All water polo competitions were abandoned for the year, and we don't yet know when they will restart.

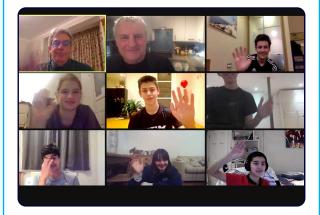
A mix of pool owner/operator decision making and government restrictions has meant that since the 1st Lockdown was announced in March our usual venues, St Paul Girls School and the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre have not yet re-opened, indeed rumours suggest it might be a couple of years before the pool complex at Crystal Palace can safely open its doors again. However, we did manage to get a couple of sessions at the London Aquatic Centre in early/mid December; it was wonderful to see all their smiley happy faces.



Otter Juniors training at the London Aquatic Centre – December 2020

OUR LOCKDOWN TRAINING

Once it became clear swimming pool access for water polo would be severely restricted for a long time and therefore a key question for us was how could we keep the squad together and as ready as possible to get back in the water as soon as pool availability and government rules allowed. Our response was to start a programme of weekly virtual training sessions via Zoom. The sessions were designed as a combination of exercise, water polo techniques, water polo tactics and game play, and knowing the rules, all backed up with a homework plan. These virtual sessions have been a great success, although not everyone's "cup of tea". We owe our lead coach Tim Kendall and assistant coach cum chief administrator Paul Hindle a massive THANK YOU for all the time and effort they have put into preparing and then leading the Zoom sessions on the day.



Otter Juniors during a virtual training session

We look forward to resuming our Junior Water Polo activities just as soon as we can; sadly it is inevitable that a good measure of rebuilding work will be required.



By Charles Doxat

The Mature Otters were fortunate that their annual post-Christmas dinner was able to take place before the "lock-down" at their favourite restaurant - The Seafresh, Wilton Street - on January 9th. An enjoyable time was had by one-and-all including the Club's oldest member and sometime "club mascot", Dennis Warnford-Davis (front left)



OUR LOCKDOWN TRAINING

Subsequently they suffered the consequences of the pandemic like everyone else - indeed more so as older citizens (which most of them are !) are supposedly more vulnerable to the disease. However, it did not stop some of the group swimming throughout the year (including the winter) in the sea.



Tim Kendall setting off, Cornish coast





Peter Rae ready for the Thames estuary

Tim Fraser on the Sussex coast

Apart from the brief Summer interlude when the Club could use QMSC with Mature Otters mainly in lane 6 and the "Jugged Hare", their "pub" gatherings have been replaced by Zoom meetings.

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Hopefully the Mature Otters can reunite at The Seafresh and QMSC in the not too distant future.



Mature Otters Zooming

1964 Fox. Dr. J.S.



Honorary Active Life Members 1966 Iliffe, Mr J.K.

Life Members

1946 Warnford-Davis, Mr D.M. 1949 Millner, Mr J.R. 1950 Cooper, Mr G.G. 1951 Milton, Mr H.P. 1952 Raw, Mr F. 1953 Gill, Mr A.G. 1953 Thorogood, Mr P. 1953 Vandersteen, Mr M.H. 1954 Dussek OBE, Mr I.J. 1956 Doxat. Mr C. 1959 Grundy, Mr M.D. 1960 Downs, Mr M.C. 1960 Goldberg, Mr M.D. 1960 McLachlan, Mr M.L. 1965 Thornton, Mr B. 1966 Gawler, Mr D. 1966 Thomas, Mr R. 1967 Pointon, Mr G.H. 1967 Wigginton, Mr A.B. 1971 Craig, Mr A.R. 1971 Goodbody, Mr J.B. 1971 Jones, Mr R.H. 1976 Mackenzie, Mr J. 1976 Miller, Mr D.R. 1979 Marshall, Mr F. 1980 Redpath. Mrs E.M. 1981 Courtney, Mr M. 1981 Plumley, Mr J. 1983 Woodward CMG.OBE, Ms B. 1984 Goudie, Mr P.A. 1985 Grace. Mr P.M. 1990 Williamson, Mr P.K. 1992 Hopkins, Mr R. 1993 Levitz, Mr M.D. 1997 Phillips, Mr R. 1997 Wake, Mr M. 1998 Gallagher, Mr N.R. 1998 Vider, Mr P.A.

Active, Non-active, Country Members

1946 Payne, Mr D.B.
1954 Morton, Mr A.J.
1955 Chaney, Mr A.J.
1955 Stossel, Mr C.A.
1956 Harford, Mr R.S.
1959 Kennedy, Dr W.J.
1959 Towers, Mr J.F.
1960 Lloyd-Mostyn, Dr R.H.
1960 Parr, Mr D.R.
1960 Skidmore OBE, Dr F.D.
1962 Flash, Mr M.H.
1962 Stewart, Mr C.J.

1966 Nalson, Mr J.K. 1968 Palmer, Dr R.J. 1972 Foxon, Dr M. 1973 Musgrove, Mr N. 1974 Sharpley, Mr R.F. 1975 Bedford, Mr J. 1975 Turner, Mr H. 1976 Hindle, Mr P.E. 1979 Flash, Mr G.M. 1979 Kirk, Mr P.G. 1984 Flash, Mr A.M. 1984 Fraser, Mr T.M. 1985 Stewart, Mrs M.J. 1987 Davies, Miss I 1987 Evans, Mr P. 1988 Wain, Mrs A.L. 1988 Willetts, Mr G. 1991 Kendall, Mr T.H. 1993 McMenemy, Ms E.J. 1994 Amos, Dr M.J. 1994 Rae, Mr P.J. 1994 Ray, Mr A.A. 1995 Fraser, Mr A. 1995 Gallagher, Mr M. 1997 Bree. Dr S. 1997 Evans, Mr B.E. 1997 Fry, Mr W.G. 1997 Hardy, Mr V. 1997 Powdrill, Mr G. 1999 Buckley, Mr E.J. 2000 Hindle, Mr J.E. 2001 Marshall, Ms F.C. 2001 Shaw, Miss E.A. 2001 Parrish, Mr.J. 2002 Dean. Ms M.E. 2002 Monk, Mr G.P. 2002 Slater, Ms S. 2003 Joyce, Miss R. 2003 Hobson, Dr G. 2003 Eden, Mr C.G. 2003 Ward, Ms D. 2003 Paynter, Miss D. 2004 Boldon, Mr E.M. 2004 Turner, Mrs E.A. 2004 Williams, Mrs L.J. 2004 Hudson, Mr A.M. 2005 Russell, Mr A. 2005 Miller. Miss A.T. 2005 Miller. Miss K.A. 2005 Miller, Mr R.G. 2005 Etiebet, Miss P.E. 2005 Buller, Mr N. 2005 Lievesley, Miss A. 2005 Miller, Mr L.A. 2005 Miller, Mr B.Q. 2005 Thomas, Mr B.

2005 Comiskey, Mr G.M. 2006 Senecal, Miss M.L. 2006 Estrella, Mr L. 2006 Adams, Mr C.J. 2006 Walton, Mrs S. 2007 Capon, Mr A. 2007 Ochocinska, Ms A. 2007 Thomas, Ms H. 2007 Hasnain, Dr C.A. 2007 Cook, Ms L 2008 Mulcahy, Miss R. 2008 Wall, Mr W.A. 2008 Williams, Mr T. 2008 Sokolic, Mr I. 2008 Shkurka, Miss F. 2008 Wright, Mrs E.J. 2009 Talbott, Mr.J.B. 2009 Burgham, Mr M.R. 2009 Williams, Mr J.C. 2009 Caldwell, Mr O.J. 2009 Ganase, Mr O.A. 2009 Sirianni, Mr P. 2009 Prentice, Dr H. 2009 Kruesmann, Dr M. 2009 Warren, Mr D. 2010 Burkinshaw, Mr T. 2010 Moulson, Mr D. 2010 Kerr, Miss K. 2010 Bari, Mr F. 2010 Tafazolli, Miss B.M. 2010 Hannon, Miss F.A. 2010 Bassev, Mr A. 2011 Bond, Mr I. 2011 Louw. Dr A.R. 2011 Wright, Miss S.E. 2011 Schuring, Mr B. 2011 Glennie, Miss G. 2011 Shannon, Miss H. 2011 Parra, Ms M. 2011 Coomer. Miss A. 2011 Csizsinszky, Mr D. 2011 Thorpe, Miss V. 2012 Cerqueira, Mr N. 2012 Grey, Mr C. 2012 Barber, Mr N. 2012 Revs. Mr M. 2012 Gillespie, Mr C. 2012 Eckert.Mr J. 2012 Gauer. Miss J.S. 2012 Finlay, Mr T. 2012 Nurthen, Ms M.L. 2012 Amardeilh, Mr C. 2012 Roussos, Mr N. 2012 Nyaka, Mr M.J. 2013 Reynolds, Miss O. 2013 Bennett, Dr P.S. 2013 Mattick, Mr J.

2013 Woolley, Mr R. 2013 Allen, Miss T. 2013 Dean, Miss I.A. 2013 Freeman, Miss C. 2014 Brooks, Miss D. 2014 Cartwright, Ms E. 2014 Wharton, Miss A. 2014 Bonavota, Mr G. 2014 Jourdain, Mr M. 2014 Nasadi-Gill, Mr D. 2014 Sambrook-Smith, Mr J. 2014 Rimbach, Mr W. 2014 Williams, Mr S.B. 2014 Szyszko, Miss A. 2014 Bion, Mr A. 2014 Edelman, Mr N. 2014 Shunn, Mr D. 2014 Tatar, Mr D. 2015 Benoy, Ms A-M. 2015 Demont. Miss C. 2015 Taurite, Miss D. 2015 Vrain, Miss C. 2015 Braine, Mr S. 2015 Masters, Mr N. 2015 Paulson, Mr J. 2015 Pisati, Mr M. 2015 Schwartz, Mr Y. 2015 Keith, Miss I. 2015 Rogers, Miss K. 2015 Bocsi, Mr G. 2015 Cocksworth. Mr B. 2015 Martinelli Mr I 2015 Monahan, Mr N. 2015 Turner, Miss C. 2016 Adamson. Mr D. 2016 Allgar, Ms E. 2016 Burkhart, Mr J. 2016 Campbell-Lamerton, Miss E. 2016 Corjon, Mr N. 2016 Couquet, Mr A. 2016 Davis. Ms H. 2016 Dinsdale-Young, Ms A. 2016 Filbey, Mr J. 2016 Fincher, Mr H. 2016 Gauer, Ms L. 2016 Goff, Mr S. 2016 Houghton, Mr M. 2016 Hucker, Ms A. 2016 Jancourtz, Ms K. 2016 Law. Ms S-J. 2016 Marnat. Ms E. 2016 Manning, Mr J. 2016 McNeill, Mr A. 2016 Mills, Mr P. 2016 Mohamed, Ms F. 2016 Morten, Mr S. 2016 Parsons, Mr M.

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2016 Pryke, Mr A. 2016 Sartorius, Mr M. 2016 Wan, Mr M. 2016 Webster, Mr G. 2017 Battestini, Mr M. 2017 Birmingham, Ms T. 2017 Caignard, Mr A. 2017 Canlan-Shaw, Mr J. 2017 Clarke, Ms S. 2017 Duff. Mr M. 2017 Elsaadany, Mr R. 2017 Hall, Mr T. 2017 Harfield, Ms A 2017 Holland, Ms M. 2017 Hu. Mr A. 2017 Jennings, Mr M. 2017 Klingenspor, Mr H. 2017 Lowi, Ms D. 2017 Mackay, Mr R. 2017 Masters. Mr N. 2017 Metsas, Mr A. 2017 Moscatiello, Mr M. 2017 Murphy, Mr A. 2017 Muscato, Mr L. 2017 Naseer, Ms Y. 2017 Pantazis, Mr O. 2017 Phelps, Mr B. 2017 Pitt, Mr G. 2017 Pryzwara, Ms S. 2017 Roje, Mr L. 2017 Ruiz Garcia, Mr L. 2017 Sapsford, Ms J. 2017 Siegel, Ms Y. 2017 Stops, Mr C. 2017 Sullivan, Ms S. 2017 Tollefson, Ms S. 2017 Ward, Ms E. 2018 Aguglia, Miss E. 2018 Bander, Mr N. 2018 Barton, Miss A. 2018 Ball, Mr C. 2018 Beaufort, Mr M. 2018 Browse, Mrs C. 2018 Bunting, Miss E. 2018 Cane, Ms C. 2018 Chambers, Mr T. 2018 Chin, Miss A. 2018 Coulter, Mr R. 2018 Cox, Ms K. 2018 Creager, Miss C. 2018 Dickinson, Mr J. 2018 Drew, Mr B. 2018 Dunkley, Mr E. 2018 Fernandez, Mr P. 2018 Harkins, Dr S. 2018 Hearn, Mr J. 2018 Hewitt, Mr C.

2018 Holland, Mrs M.

2018 Illes, Mr G T 2018 Jennison, Miss A. 2018 Juxon, Mr R. 2018 Kemp, Mr J. 2018 Kleymann, Mr D. 2018 LeFriec. Ms R. 2018 Le Loher, Mr G. 2018 Licciardi, Mr M. 2018 Marsh. Mr W. 2018 Martinez del Pozo, Mr L. 2018 Matthidis, Mr A. 2018 McLean, Mr T. 2018 Morato, Mr J. 2018 Morgan, Mr C. 2018 Mulliez, Miss A. 2018 Murphy, Mr A. 2018 Narengy, Mr D. 2018 Oriti, Miss S. 2018 O'Shea, Mr L. 2018 Posada Fishman. Mr S. 2018 Rito Barbosa, Mr F. 2018 Selby, Ms E. 2018 Snell, Ms E. 2018 Storonsky, Mr N. 2018 Ustunel, Mr S. 2018 Vriend, Mr P. 2018 Wisdish, Miss S. 2018 Woodhouse, Mr J. 2018 Yetman, Miss J. 2018 Zavitsanos, Mr N. 2019 Ayres, Mr A. 2019 Barton, Ms L. 2019 Black, Ms. C. 2019 Chaplin, Ms. J. 2019 Czysewski, Mr A. 2019 Davis, Mr D. 2019 Davitt, Mr A. 2019 De Giovanni, Mr C. 2019 Duggan, Mr T. 2019 Gallivan, Ms. L. 2019 Gartaganis, Mr K. 2019 Falvey, Ms. T. 2019 Gerhardstein, Ms. N. 2019 Gilbert, Mr G. 2019 Gorokhovik, Mr F. 2019 Goulding, Mr T. 2019 Harcourt, Mr F. 2019 Haynes, Ms. A. 2019 Henderson, Ms. K 2019 Inverarity, Mr A. 2019 Irwin, Ms. E. 2019 James, Mr A. 2019 Karich, Ms. A. 2019 Keir, Mr N. 2019 Lajoie, Mr A. 2019 Matte, Ms. M. 2019 Mistry, Dr P. 2019 Pitt, Ms. H.

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and the

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Stay up to date with the goings on at the club, at https://otterswimming.com/news

And please do continue to share contributions to the club news throughout the year to Catherine Demont at catherinemdemont@gmail.com





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