



Turtles Newsletter

FOR MEMBERS OF THE RUISLIP TURTLES
SWIMMING CLUB

APRIL 2011

DIARY DATES

Cadbury World
Outing
Sunday 27th March

Committee Meeting
Wednesday 13th
April

Hatfield Gala
Saturday 16th April

Committee Meeting
Wednesday 18th
May

Turtles
Championship
Saturday 4th June

Turtles AGM
Saturday 4th June

Turtles Invitation
Gala
Saturday 17th
September (tbc)

NASCH Region 1
Gala
Saturday 17th
September (tbc)

NASCH
Championships
Leamington Spa
Saturday 5th
November

AGM 4th June
Please attend!

The Turtles Swimming
Club is a registered
charity - number
01055585

Thank You Hasbro



Hasbro, the international toy and games manufacturer has again supported our club by donating fundraising raffle prizes (shown above). We are very grateful to Hasbro for their support for a third consecutive year.

The UK Head Office of Hasbro is locally based (Stockley Park).

Tickets for the weekly raffle can be obtained from Patricia Bonney every Saturday in reception.

Thank You Malcolm



Malcolm Yates has decided that he will not be standing for re-election to the Committee at the AGM on the 4th June.

Malcolm has been a tremendous servant of the Turtles since joining the club as a young boy with disabilities some 45

years ago. Malcolm has been a committee member for many years and has also held the office of Chairman and Vice Chairman and under Malcolm's stewardship the club became a registered charity.

We are indebted to his vast knowledge and experience of people with disabilities and the committee would like to express their sincere gratitude to Malcolm for all that he has achieved for the club over the years. We are delighted that Malcolm intends to continue as a member of the club and we hope we can talk him into presenting the medals and trophies at our galas in the future as it is a task that he has personally managed for a number of years.

We will have a vacancy on the committee as a consequence of Malcolm's decision so if you are interested in taking a more active role in the running of the club please approach Dave Lee, Rosemary Noyes or Marion Beckwith.

Highgrove update.....we wait to hear



We await further news of the Highgrove plans

We are still waiting for further news regarding the planned refurbishment of Highgrove, the closure dates and duration are still yet to be decided. Until things become clearer, it will not be possible to make alternative arrangements for our Saturday sessions with other leisure centres / pools, but we have made contact with Hillingdon Leisure Centre (Uxbridge) and we remain in regular contact with the

Hillingdon Sports Council.

The Sports Council will have a difficult task trying to fit all the Highgrove based clubs into the already full schedules at other pools but they are sympathetic to the needs of our club and wish to be supportive.

We have been informed about the outline plans for Highgrove (see below) although we have not had sight of the final plans as yet. The major problem facing the

contractors is the removal of the existing filtration plant, a task that has been made harder following the 2000 building extension. With that in mind, we understand that the closure may be longer than 3 months and so it is important that we secure an alternative venue for the period of the closure.

We will let you all know once things become clearer.

So what is planned.....

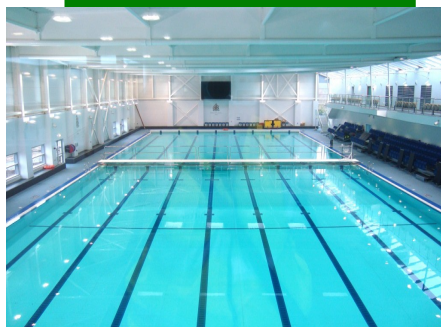


The specification is still to be finalised but we have been given an outline of what is planned

- The boilers and filtration plant will be replaced
- A small single storey extension will be erected to the front as a reception area that all will enter through, including wheelchairs
- A new lift will be installed (where the automatic entrance doors are currently situated)
- The changing areas will be completely redesigned - as you go up the staircase or elevator by the new entrance area you will be met by separate Gents and Ladies changing room areas that will run side by side
- the length of the building (rather than the current opposite ends of the building)
- Both new changing areas will have a number of larger 'disabled' cubicles as well as the standard cubicles
- Both Ladies and Gents will leave the changing area and join the pool at the shallow end
- A new lockable disabled room will be provided with bed, shower and hoist
- The current Disabled Changing Rooms will be converted to a First Aid Room and Store Room
- A new pool hoist is planned

(fixed not mobile)

- The back entrance slope will be retained as an emergency entrance / exit only
- The auditorium area will remain unchanged (due to lack of funds)
- The windows will not be changed due to lack of funds (although a grant has been requested)
- The gym should remain open throughout
- Apart from the separate filtration systems, the pool / swimming area will remain largely unchanged
- The work is likely to take at least 3 months.



We hope to book Hillingdon Leisure Centre, Uxbridge for our September gala

Change of date and venue for our Gala

The Turtles Invitation Gala and the NASCH Region 1 Gala has been re-scheduled to Saturday 17th September and hopefully will take place at the Hillingdon Leisure Centre, Uxbridge.

We will not be using the full 50 metre pool but instead will use one of the 25 metres pools.

The booking and arrangements are still to be confirmed but we are hopeful that we will be able to notify the other competing clubs shortly.

We will of course need volunteers to help with the gala as ever!



Club striving to keep its head above water

by **Jack Griffith**
jackgriffith@trinitysouth.co.uk

A SWIMMING club facing a challenging year because of funding cuts is kicking hard towards a financial lifeline.

Ruislip Turtles Club has been teaching disabled people in the borough how to swim since 1964, and would welcome a cash prize at this year's Let's Do It Community Awards.

The club has about 100 members, some of whom compete in galas held across the south of England, organised by the National Association of Swimming Clubs for the Handicapped (NASCH).

For the past two years, transporting the disabled swimmers to regional and national meets and social events was made possible by grants from the Hillingdon Sports Council and the North West London Community Foundation (NWLCF), but both have been pulled this year and no money will be available from either organisation beyond April.

Rosemary Noyes, vice-chairwoman and treasurer at the club, conceded that trying times lay ahead.

"We understand that these are tough economic times so we have to be pragmatic about it. We have been very fortunate

for the past couple of years and enjoyed the benefits of receiving the grants. They have been a terrific boost.

"They have allowed us to organise some excellent outings and our performance in galas has improved a lot because we have been able to get to the meets. Now we will have to make it under our own steam. The membership fees will only stretch so far so it is a concern, and we are doing everything we can to try and find other funding sources. We would be delighted to receive any money which

would enable us to continue these activities as effectively as we have been doing in the past."

The club welcomes swimmers of all ages, meeting every Saturday at Highgrove Pool in Eastcote Road, Ruislip.

Classes are taken by professionals, with volunteers assisting. The day-to-day running of the club is overseen by a dedicated team, which includes NASCH president and Turtles founding member Sylvia Smith OBE.

■ **DIFFICULT TIMES:** Turtles founder Sylvia Smith OBE meeting the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, at the opening of Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Complex last March. Contributed



The above article appeared in the Uxbridge Gazette and also with some small variations in the free Leader newspapers



We are a swimming club for anyone with a physical, mental health or learning difficulty. The Turtles Swimming Club is based at Highgrove Pool, Ruislip and meets every Saturday between 5pm and 6 pm.

Turtles website: <http://www.ruislipturtles.org.uk/>

Turtles email: turtlesswimming@yahoo.co.uk

Chair (Dave): 07730 047500

Secretary (Marion) 0208 866 8606

Cadbury World Outing Arrangements

The arrangements for the Cadbury World Outing Sunday 27th March are as follows:

Our coach will be at Highgrove at 8.40am for 9.00am departure. We will pick up at Ickenham at 9.10 and Hillingdon Station at 9.15. Please make sure that you are at your collection point on time.

Cadbury World is just over 100 miles from Hillingdon and the travelling time on the coach is just under 2 hours and so we will be taking a 30 minute comfort break at the Warwick Services on the way down (Oxford Services on the way home). If everyone is on time we should arrive at Cadbury World at 11.45 - our 'tour' is scheduled for 12.20.

The 'tour' is a self tour - you go round at your own pace and there are 14 zones to travel through. We are advised that the shortest trip round the zones will take 90 minutes but will generally take 2 hours. There will also be entertainers on the walk round.

Wheelchair and electric scooters are allowed in all areas, with the exception of the packaging plant, which is to be found on the 3rd floor. There are disabled toilets, lift access to the second floor, a large self-service restaurant serving hot food from 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. indoor and outdoor picnic areas, and the worlds biggest Cadbury Shop.

We will be loading up again for the trip home at 15.45 for a 16.00 departure. There will therefore also be time to visit the original Bourneville Village (a 5 minute walk from Cadbury World). Bourneville is the picturesque village built for the original staff by the Quakers.

With a 30 minute stop at Oxford Services we should be back at Highgrove about 18.30.

Clocks go forward

the night before!

Cadbury World

Hatfield Platypus Gala Team Sheet

With many of the team away on holiday, we will be sending a smaller than usual team of just 5 competitors to Hatfield on the 16th April:

Junior 1L	Ian Andrew Horne
Junior 2L	Ian Andrew Horne
Ladies 1L	Jeannette Prentice
Ladies 2L	Jeannette Prentice
Ladies 3L	Karen Hoffmann
Mens 1L	Neil Dew
Mens 2L	Gary Lee
Mens 3L	Gary Lee
Mens Diving	Neil Dew
Ladies Diving	Karen Hoffmann
Ladies Relay	Karen & Jeannette
Mens Relay	Neil & Gary

* No Junior Relay or Junior 3L competitor

Watford Sea Lion May Gala Cancelled!

The above scheduled May Gala will not now take place. Unfortunately, The Sea Lions do not have a Gala Team Manager at the moment so cannot organise their annual event.

Hillingdon Sports Development Meeting

The next meeting of the Sports Development Forum will take place on Tuesday 29th March. David Lee, Rosemary Noyes and Malcolm Yates will be representing the Turtles at the meeting.

Membership Subscriptions Due 1st April

Subscription rates have been frozen again for another year, please pay promptly.

Disabled Members £7 p.a.

Family, Helpers & Carers £14