



Orpington Ojays News

From the club chairman, David Ryan ...

After a spring spent in lockdown we're finally able to go out more and I hope you have been able to take advantage of the sunshine we've been having. I've now been chairman for six weeks and I am thoroughly enjoying it. I've chatted to a number of swimmers and parents I hadn't met before at Eric Liddle this summer, and I appreciate the feedback and candid conversations I've had. It's always great to meet more of the Ojays family so please, if you see me around, come and have a chat or you can email me on chair@orpingtonojays.com.

Summer swimming at the Eric Liddle Sports Centre

Thank you to everyone who booked sessions at Eric Liddle. We had an amazing response rate and have had more than 70 per cent of Ojays back in the water. We were pleased to have been able to provide swimming time for almost all of the club's squads. The coaches have done a fabulous job of pulling together a schedule that will be a great foundation for when we return to swimming on a more regular basis.

Volunteers

A big 'thank you' to everyone who volunteered to help out at the Eric Liddle swimming sessions. The response was amazing and without you, the club would not have been able to swim. Now everyone sees how many volunteers it takes to run the club I really hope you will get involved in the future, too. So please sign up the next time we shout for help, and tell your friends how easy it is so they can join in!

Head coach update

The vacant head coach position has now been widely advertised. We've had a number of enquiries and hopefully we can provide another update once the closing date has passed.



Returning to swimming

Unfortunately, there's no update about when we can return to full-time training. Mytime Active says it hopes to reopen the pools at the Walnuts and Biggin Hill in September. This does mean there may be a gap between the sessions finishing at Eric Liddle and when the swimmers can start training again. Chairman David has been busy trying many different pools at schools and private gyms to find a location for sessions throughout September, but has so far been unsuccessful. If you have a contact at a pool, please let Dave know.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

If you're a swimmer aged between 14 and 24 keep an eye out for an update about how to apply to volunteer at Ojays as part of your DofE programme. We're aiming to have a cohort of volunteers start in October (Covid situation permitting, of course). Watch the website and the club's social media for more information.

