



## Orpington Ojays News

*From the club chairman, David Ryan ...*

Finally there is some light at the end of the tunnel. It's been a long winter of lockdown and home schooling with no training or competitions. But the steps to ease restrictions have been announced and as long as things keep going well, we should be back to swimming soon. We will be guided by the government and MyTime, the company that operates the Walnuts, but we hope to return to the pool on April 12. Fingers crossed! Until then, stay safe and stay positive. We'll be swimming again soon!

### Our new head coach

We recently announced that the club's new head coach is Joseph Gaster. Joe will take on the role when we return to the pool. In the meantime, here is a quick word from him about his new job:



*Dear swimmers and parents/carers,*

*Words cannot quite describe what this club means to me as an individual and to now have the honour of being head coach is something I'm immensely proud of and extremely excited by. After such a tough 12 months for everyone, things finally seem to be on the up with pools opening soon and normality returning to our daily lifestyles. I can't wait to be back poolside and hopefully to see many of you there, supporting our swimmers as they get back to doing what they love and achieving their best in the pool. In the meantime, stay safe and well.*

Joe

### Members' handbook

How does the club run? How do I find out what my swimmer needs for training? What's a gala and how does my swimmer enter? Are these questions you've struggled to find answers to? We've all been there, so to make it easier to find information about the club, swimmer progression and more, we have put together a members' handbook.

We'll be sending it out to every club member via email and there will be a link on the website too.

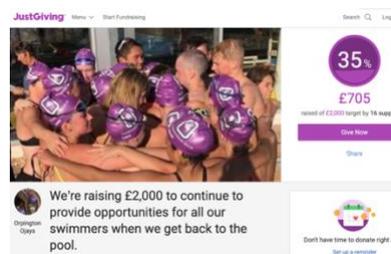
### Returning to swimming

We'll pass on any information about pools reopening as soon as we have it. We are working on the assumption there will be some social distancing measures, as well as a new Swim England health declaration to be filled in and returned before swimmers return. An email will be coming soon with the relevant info, so please keep an eye out.



### Ojays Tokyo challenge

Have you been following our updates on the website about our challenge to get to Tokyo – virtually – before the Olympics start? That's 5944 miles for us all to swim, run, jog, walk or cycle and we have smashed it! We have just 'arrived' in Tokyo thanks to your efforts! Let's keep going and see how much further we can get – and how much money we can raise. To keep up with the challenge or find out how you can join, visit the Ojays website.



Help us stay focused and motivated and raise important funds for the club by getting involved. We are asking that you get your families and friends to support you and the team by donating some money and leaving messages of encouragement. [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/orpingtonojayssc](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/orpingtonojayssc)

### Orpington Ojays Swimming Club



### Members' Guide

## Swim England London: Unsung Heroes Award

Orpington Ojays is built on the goodwill of volunteers, who all devote time and energy to making the club a success. Often the hard work these volunteers put in is taken for granted. But not anymore! Swim England London has introduced an Unsung Heroes Award to recognise the efforts of these volunteers and thank them for all the work they do. The club committee will be asking for nominations for the awards three times a year, which we'll then submit to Swim England London.

Our most recent winners are Amanda Jackson, Andrea Richardson, Kerry Barrett and Mark Bond for all the work they do behind the scenes to keep the club running smoothly and helping us adapt to the new challenges created by lockdown and Covid restrictions.

We're always in need of new volunteers. If you'd like to get involved when we return to the pool and help the club continue to be the friendly, successful organisation it currently is by volunteering in any capacity – no matter how big or small – we'd love to have you. Please email [Clubsecretary@orpingtonojays.com](mailto:Clubsecretary@orpingtonojays.com) for more info.

## Shopping frenzy

The Ojays club shop has moved online, selling everything from goggles to Ojays hats and bags. <https://www.orpingtonojays.com/Shop>



Swimmers in bronze squad and upwards could be asked to take part in league meets and open galas so we ask they all have a club top to wear proudly when they are poolside. The tops – and other items of club kit can be purchased here: <http://www.zeonshop.co.uk/oosc> The first time you visit you'll need to register as a new user, and from then on, just shop away!

## Any other business?

Do you have something you'd like to see in the next newsletter? If so, let us know by emailing us at [oojscnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:oojscnewsletter@gmail.com)

We always want to hear about what our swimmers are getting up to – in and out of the pool – especially now when we are all apart from each other. We want to shout about our members and their brilliant achievements so please pass on any good news for us to share in future newsletters.

If you have any questions about anything to do with the club, the return to swimming, or anything else please do not hesitate to contact us. You can find out who to contact here:

<https://www.orpingtonojays.com/Information/OurCommittee>

