



Orpington Ojays News

From the club chairman, David Ryan ...

There have been a lot of changes since our last update. In April, with the easing of restrictions, we welcomed back all our younger swimmers and May's changes meant we could open our Masters squad. We are fully operational again! As June 21 approaches, we are all waiting to see what the future has in store for us as a nation and as a swimming club. Until then we are still operating within the current government guidelines and those set out by Swim England and our pool operators.

It is exciting to think about what the next few months have in store for us. We are busy planning lots of events so please take the time to read all the info below, and hopefully we'll meet poolside soon!

Take your marks: we're returning to competition

It's been amazing to see so many swimmers returning post lockdown – and now we there is something for them to aim for!

A Festival of Swimming has been announced by Swim England. All the details are yet to be finalised but you can read more about it

[here](#). So the swimmers can achieve entry times for this gala we will be holding time trials throughout June in the training sessions. Information will be passed to swimmers via their coach and the Team Unify app.

Our own Ojays Gala We're going to run our own club gala on **September 5** at Trinity School. This will be a fun and competitive sprint meet (50m and 100m races) open to all squads (from bronze to Masters). We would encourage as many swimmers to take part as possible. Please save the date and keep an eye out for more info via the coaches and Team Unify.

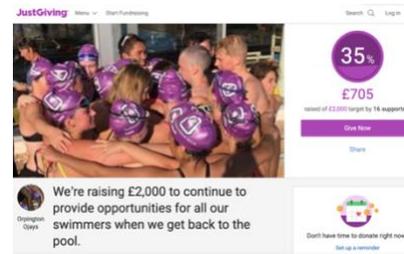
RTW Monson are hoping to hold a Level 3 licensed open gala. There is more information on their [website](#). We will be sending more information to members very soon.

The **Tudor League** will be held on June 19, July 17, September 11, and October 16 at the Eric Liddell Sport Centre. This is a team event and the coaches will be picking the swimmers to take part – so keep training hard to bag your place.



Ojays fundraising

Now we have 'arrived' in Tokyo and our Strava has gone very quiet apart from the hardcore few! Though this challenge has finished, please help us stay focused and motivated and raise important funds for the club. 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.



Good buys

The [Ojays club shop](#) has moved online, selling everything from goggles to Ojays hats and bags. The link on the web is [here](#). Please check out our shop before purchasing anywhere else. Swimmers in bronze squad and up could be asked to take part in league meets and open galas so we ask they all have a club top to wear when they are poolside. The tops – and other items of club kit can be purchased [here](#). The first time you visit you'll need to register as a new user.



Bring a friend

If you have a friend who might be interested in joining Ojays please check out our [joining page](#) or send an email



to membership@orpingtonojays.com for more information. We have places in all our squads from the youngest swimmers at five years old right up to well, just young at heart!

Volunteers' Week

The first week of June is [Volunteers' Week](#) so here at Orpington Ojays we would like to celebrate our band of volunteers who devote time and energy



to making the club a success. Often the hard work these volunteers put in is taken for granted. We would like to give huge thanks to our Covid liaison volunteers who turn up week in, week out. Don't forget that without them we would not be swimming at all.

Thanks to: **Amanda Jackson, Myra Brown, Mark Bond, David Ryan, Wendy Peel, Julie Strover, Kerry Barrett, Michelle O'Neill, Wendy Lawrence, Sophie Field, Eoin Hickey, Alan Bloodworth, Caroline Bloodworth, Nicola Donne, Grace Yeun, Michelle Blaney, Roxanna Cioran, Lisa Boyd, Cat Lewis, Erica Bond, Vicky Sealey, Andre Magcanan, Jane Ward, Lance Christopher, Lindsay Ballantyne, Alex Rhys-Jones, Haili Cui, Claire Tinker, Carl Botton, Liz Wright, Chanese Griffin, Anitha Gurram, Sarah Davey, Darren Draper, Zahida Parveen, Cecilia Madlener, Jo Barker, Daurys Dartford, Amanda Horn, Jason Squibb, Shereen Wellard, Alexandr Antonov, Aunkur Agrawal, Andrea Steel, Addy Bhardwaj, Jackie Jiang, Emma Bridle, Busola Omojafor, Natasha Figoni, Kerry Capell, Lesley Ward, Madhavi Devireddy, Chiaki McAvoy, Dawn Jurrjens, Andrea Richardson, Jackie Birchmore, Claire Barrett, Jane Ward, Julie Lenihan, Rob Farrant, Laura Ayling and Tatiana Detochenko**

We're always in need of new volunteers. If you'd like to get involved and help the club continue to be the friendly, successful organisation it currently is we'd love to have you. Please email clubsecretary@orpingtonojays.com for more info.

2021/2022 AGM

We are holding the club's AGM on the July 14. If we can't book a venue to meet face to face, we will hold the AGM via Zoom. Please try to make time to attend and hear a recap of the last 12 months as well as our plans for the coming year.

Recruitment update

We want consistency in the coaching team for our younger squads, so we are advertising for new coaches to join our club. If you or someone you know is a Level 2 (or strong Level 1) qualified coach or swim teacher and would be interested in joining our fantastic team please email chair@orpingtonojays.com for more information.

Well done, Charlotte!



Huge congratulations go to Charlotte Bloodworth in platinum squad. Charlotte and her friend Ellie set themselves a challenge to walk, run, cycle and swim 600km in just two weeks. Charlotte and Ellie smashed their target and raised £2290 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. What an amazing achievement! And as if that wasn't enough, Charlotte also took part in a similar challenge for school over lockdown. Well done, Charlotte! We're so proud of your efforts.

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 oojcsnewsletter@gmail.com. We always want to hear about what our swimmers are getting up to out of the pool so please pass on any good news. If you have any questions about anything to do with the club, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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