

Welcome!

“We hope everyone had a wonderful Easter and look forward to the weather finally getting warmer.

As you’ll read, we’re already far ahead in terms of fundraising for the bus service for 2014, however we still not your help to raise the remainder with any events or other initiatives you can think of.

Please take a look at a few key events to put in your diary including the outing and Puffins gala!

Thanks again for all your support with the club and do let me or the committee know if you have any questions or ideas for the club.”

Tasha Fleming, Puffins Club President



Puffins news

Bus fundraising update

As you may be aware, in 2013, Puffins had to start paying 25% towards the bus costs, costing £1,384 over the year.

In 2013 we were very lucky to have some great fund-raising events, such as the charity concert organised by Emily Maddick and her mum, Anna's sponsored swim and Rotary club's dinner donations. In total in 2013 we raised a whopping **£2,400**. Thank you to everyone for their hard work - it is great to have a bit of reserve in the bank for the upcoming year.

Other fundraising news

As you may remember from the last newsletter, we also received a rotary grant of £1,100 that enabled us to buy the new hoist chair.

2014 has already seen some other fantastic fundraising:

We were donated £1,000 from [North Asset Management](#), an independent, UK-based investment management firm. The donation was put forward by Michael Carras, who works for them and is also the treasurer of Westminster East Rotary Club, which is how he knows about Pimlico Puffins. They set up a collection box for spare change, and the amount raised was then matched by the company. We are extremely grateful for this generous donation.

Puffins news

Other fundraising news continued...

Rosie Cresswell, a Puffins helper, raised £440 by participating in a sponsored half marathon. Thank you Rosie - this is amazing!



We are always looking for more fundraising opportunities, so if you can organise an event or have a fundraising idea, please speak to Rich or Tash.

Don't forget you can also donate via the Puffins website – please visit here:
<http://www.pimlicopuffins.org.uk/donate.html>

New roles for Puffins Committee

With Jane currently on maternity leave and fundraising being a bigger priority for the club, we're looking at creating one or two new roles within the committee. New roles include fundraising officer and swimmer liaison officer. Could you let us know if, as a swimmer, helper or carer, you think a new role is needed or if you're interested in joining?

Swimmer training plans

For those swimmers hoping to improve their swimming, the committee is proposing to start developing training plans so that all helpers are aware of what each swimmer wants to achieve during each session. This might simply show how many lengths the swimmer is aiming to do and over what time, develop skills such as doing a push and glide or diving. Please let Rich know if you'd like to have a training plan put together for you.



Rash vests

We appear to be losing the Puffins rash vests we bought a few months ago. Have you taken one home by mistake? We used to have five and now we're down to three. Please make sure you return them after the session, as they're very valuable when the pool is a bit cooler.



Puffins dates for the diary

Bank holidays

Don't forget there are two bank holidays in May so there will be NO Puffins session on:

Monday 5th May

Monday 26th May

Away gala

We have an opportunity to send a group of Puffins swimmers to the Halliwick Penguins gala on Saturday 14th June at Southgate Leisure Centre. Please let Corinne know if you're interested in attending – transport will be provided and a member of the committee will accompany the group. Participating in away galas is really fun and is great for meeting and networking with other clubs.

Regional gala

There is also an opportunity for Puffins to participate in regional gala for the National Association for Swimming Clubs for people with Disabilities (NASCH), which we haven't done in recent years. This then feeds in to a chance to compete in the national gala in November. The exact date hasn't been confirmed yet, but it will take place around July. Please let Corinne know by the end of May if you would like to take part.

Summer outing

The Summer outing will take place on Sunday 22nd June. This is always a really fun day where we get to spend time and chat to other members of the club away from the pool. If you haven't been before – I would really recommend it, so please put this in your diary.

We are currently looking for ideas for 2014, so please let the committee know if you have any suggestions for where we could go – ideas so far include walk around Little Venice, Richmond river picnic, visit to the Southbank, Tower of London or the British Museum. We'll be in touch with more details soon.



Annual Puffins gala

The proposed date for the Puffins gala is Sunday 12th October so please put this in your diary.



Puffins recent events

The Spinal Cord Paralytics Association of Turkey Smiling Child Festival, Istanbul

Shima, Yousef and Zara went to this festival in Turkey in April 2014 courtesy of one of Westminster East Rotary Club who paid for their flights and accommodation.

The Spinal Cord Paralytics Association of Turkey has been organising International Smiling Child Festival since 2006. Since then, approximately 2,100 disabled and non-disabled children from 40 different countries have participated in the festival. The aim is to draw disabled and non-disabled children from all over the world in order to exchange and learn about different cultures. During the four days, children aged between 7 and 15 to take part in performing arts including modern dance, folklore dance, lyrical dance and singing.

We are looking forward to hearing how the event went, and will hopefully include a photo in the next newsletter.

The Christmas photos are available here to download:

http://s1129.photobucket.com/user/pimlico_puffins/library/Puffins%20Xmas%202013

Photos from the Christmas meal!

Here are some great photos from the Christmas meal last December – thanks everyone for making it such a fun event!



Puffins people news

As you all may know, Jane had her baby on 22nd February – his name is Ben and he weighed 6lb5. She's been enjoying motherhood and taking a break from Puffins, but will be back later this year.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the present we gave them. This included some bath toys, a swim suit and a towel so that he develops a love of water like the rest of us. He also has his own Pimlico Puffins baby grow.



Swimmer of the quarter

The Committee nominates a swimmer of the quarter for their improved swimming and contribution to the club.

This month we nominate Ben Adams. He is such an enthusiastic new member of the club, his ambition is infectious, and he makes everyone, including staff at the pool, smile when they chat to him. He has already started training for the gala, and has helped the club save money by taking home some of the plastic cups to wash them so that we can reuse them.