



Brief History of Kimberley Swimming Club



When I decided I needed to learn to swim, I booked myself in for lessons (with my husband Tony and a couple of friends) at the Kimberley Leisure Centre at the end of May 1976.

I achieved my goal in 6 weeks and went on holiday to Spain determined to carry on improving.

When we got back, Tony and I enrolled for the improver class, making friends with two more people, which then led to us being used as "bodies" for the lifesaving group who came into the pool after our lessons.

We enjoyed that and decided to give lifesaving a go too, and the two friends and I went on to achieve our Bronze Medallions!!

In the Autumn of 1976, the Leisure Centre, encouraged by the local councillor, Arthur Briggs, decided that it wanted to set up a swimming club of its own and our instructor said we should get involved. An open meeting was held and wasn't terribly well attended but those of us who did turn up 'volunteered' to form a committee.

This done, we were allocated pool time only on a Saturday evening – we 'spread the word' by poster and by word of mouth and waited with baited breath on the first night in January 1977. We needn't have worried – loads of people turned up and the rest is history – they've never stopped coming!!

At the outset we only had two of the Leisure Centre teachers but with ever increasing numbers, two of us decided we needed to go for teacher training. This meant going to the Victoria Baths on a Saturday afternoon for our Assistant Teacher Certificate, but we did it, and then went on to become full Teachers the following year.

Obviously, over the years we've extended our pool time and the Club staff has changed many times but we must be doing something right because people I taught to swim are now bringing their children and even grandchildren.

Keep up the good work!!

Jean Granger
Club Secretary