

Cross-Channel Swimmer to Get Help in Bid for Record

COUNCIL HOUSE RECEPTION FOR FERGUS ON SUNDAY

COVENTRY'S cross-Channel swimmer, 24 years old Peter Fergus, who will find a civic car waiting at the station for him when he arrives back in the city on Sunday, was preparing today for another long-distance swim.

Drojen Das, a Pakistani who has already swum the Channel four times, is to make an attempt on the record tomorrow if the weather is suitable, and Fergus is to accompany him.

Fergus, who was in excellent health and spirits when he spoke to "The Coventry Evening Telegraph" from his hotel today, means to give Das all the help he can. He will watch his efforts from the pilot boat, and "jump in and urge him onwards if he shows signs of flagging."

But this week-end, when Fergus' short holiday from the G.E.C. telephone works at Stoke ends, will also mark the end of his swimming career for at least nine months.

Civic Welcome

He is a technical assistant in the works transmission laboratory, and is to resume on Monday, Technical College studies which will need his whole attention. On them will depend his success in Part III of the examination of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

"I shall have to give up swimming for the time being, except perhaps for half an hour at week-ends," he said.

Fergus will be arriving at Coventry Station on Sunday on a train due to reach there at 4.24 p.m. From there, the Corporation car will take him to the Council House, where the Lord Mayor will officially receive him in the presence of swimming baths officials and other people well-known in swimming circles.

A telegram and letter of congratulation were sent to him from the Lord Mayor yesterday.

Major A. E. Richards, manager of Stoke Hill Guildhouse, where Fergus is one of more than 700 residents, said news of his success came as "a bombshell," but everyone was delighted.

"Fergus is quiet and modest—I doubt if there's a more modest person in the Guildhouse," he declared.