

Annual Report 2006

Another successful year for the Dolphins. We have been delighted to welcome new members to the Club over the season and have had several members swimming in outdoor swims for the first time. Members competed all across England, Scotland and Wales and in Billy's case, Germany as well. The Club has swum 343 miles outside this season and for the second year on a run Joe Coy with his completion of Loch Earn took the title of the Dolphins who swum the most in the season with 56 miles. Our Masters swimmers have also had an excellent year taking 15 Cheshire Championship titles and far more impressively Judy Brown took a European Masters Record in the 200m Fly.

Before updating you in details on the Clubs activity over the year, we need to report the death in October of Ken Bailey. Ken was the President of the Club from 1978 to 1982. Ken was a former European Speed Skating Champion before he took up long distance swimming for a charitable event. He obviously enjoyed it as he spent many years that followed involved in long distance swimming. He was also the President of the BLDSA in 1984 and served as Windermere International Secretary for 11 years in addition to Coniston Veterans Secretary for 15 years.

Other notable items were, Sunny Lowery (Life Member) received an MBE in the Queens New Years Honours, Carl Walker (Life Member) was inducted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in Fort Lauderdale, last May, and Caroline Lewis gave birth to a baby son (Joe) in June.

Budworth Handicap: 23 swimmers entered the mere on a beautifully sunny day with the water temperature around 60°F. An improved guess at the distance of the course allowed swimmers to have better predictions to their time. Michaela Richard won the race with a swim only 2 seconds outside her predicted time.

Budworth Championship: Joe Coy organised another successfully Championships. It was very nice to see past member Harry Peacock who had spotted the event while checking out the clubs website. Once again the event allowed some of our new members to enter their first open water swim in the correct attire (traditional costume). There was excellent safety cover again with Peter Dickinson acting as Canoe Coordinator. Spectators at the Championships were treated to a marvellous sight, that of Julie Bradshaw completing the 3mile swim on Fly. The only disappointment was that Les Robinson, who ran out of 'steam' in the closing stages and was forced to retire.

Albert Dock Championships: Alan Pomfret again organised an excellent Championships which had a record entry. The start time was moved to the morning following a request of the Harbour Master, which meant the course was set the night before. Several swimmers produced excellent times, particularly Helen Tristam who set a very respectable PB. Many Dolphins were present either swimming or helping out. It was very pleasing to see Tony Johnson on the dock slipway, catching up with old friends. The event finished with the traditionally buffet in bar next to the docks.

Bob Keating/Dick Dickinson Handicaps: The date selected for these handicaps this year was not the best as many members were unavailable. The senior Bob Keating Handicap finished with the President and Secretary within 5 seconds of their predicted times, with Joe Coy winning. Unfortunately, this year we had no entrants for the Junior Dick Dickinson Handicap.

Marbury Handicap: What an event! We were forced into holding 3 heats this year with each heat packed. It must have been something in the air, which resulted in the top 15 swimmers finishing with in 30seconds of their predicted times, 5 swimmers were within 5 seconds. But Andrew Byrne couldn't have been closer finishing exactly on his predicted time. He became the first recipient of the new John Heapy Memorial Trophy. Following the swim the entourage retired to the Cock O'Budworth for the traditional buffet. Thanks again go to Alan Pomfret and Julie Mainwaring for the swim organisation and for organising the buffet John Glynn.

Masters: Judy Brown again excelled at the ASA Championships. The highlight was her claiming the European 200m Fly record. At the Cheshire Masters again we had a very enjoyable night, where the Dolphins were 'all over' the event. The Dickinson family on organisation duties and the rest swimming. Fifteen Championship tiles were claimed in total, Billy Dutton (5), Judy Brown (4), Chris Byrne (3), Chris Carter (2) (including breaststroke) and Mark Blewitt (1).

Postal Swim: Another successful championships were again organised on behalf of the BLDSA by Dave Feakes who has maintained the high standard. Thanks Dave.

Juniors: Again this year our junior ladies (Rachel Byrne, Charlotte Dickinson & Alison Lydon) swam in the L&D championships and all qualified for to swim for L&D in the Northern Counties inter association age groups. Well done ladies. They are now all too fast for most of the senior members to keep up with.

Training: Attendance levels were marginally down during the season, however we maintained an average attendance of 11 for the complete year at our Sunday sessions. Thanks to all who have taken sessions during the year.

Two-way Channel Relay 2007: Michaela Richard was itching to get back in the Channel and as you know likes a challenge, so she's booked the double crossing for next August with Dave Whyte. The five others she's enrolled are Caroline Lewis, Kevin Saunders, Mark Blewitt, Lisa Stout and Andy Wright, of course three of the six have already made solo crossings.

Nick White attempted a Solo Channel Crossing last summer but unfortunately was beaten by worsening weather, better luck next summer.

Caroline Lewis's latest achievement was to swim the Budworth Championship 1 mile race at 8.5 months pregnant. She said baby enjoyed it. Hopefully, this pre-birth training will help Joe become a future Dolphin champion swimmer.

An interesting story: Joe Coy took the family to the Bala swim. Janet Coy told the story of how considerate Joe had been packing equipment to make a drink. In the afternoon she unpacked to make a drink, she took out Gas stove, water, tea, sugar, milk, cups, matches and an electric drill. She was quite worried about Joe and was unable to explain why he packed a drill instead of a kettle!

Mark Blewitt and Chris Carter in January competed in the Open Swimming competition at Tooting Beck Lido. Mark and Chris collected bronze medals in the Old English Backstroke and Backstroke races.

Finally can we thank all those members this season that have supported others at swims enabling them to participate which otherwise may not have been possible. Thanks for your help and time. Additionally, thanks also to members, their partners, spouses and parents who have supported and helped out at Club events. This has helped make our Club and our events successful and the great club it is.

Already looking forward to next season, currently we have 6 members already entered into the Dee Mile next July.

Budworth Championships 2nd June 2007
Albert Dock Championships 4th August 2007

Joe Coy & Andy Wright
Secretary & President