



Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club

www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk

Annual Report 2024

What a great year's swimming we have experienced in this our 60th anniversary year.

BLDSA 1HC & 30MC (Postal Swim) - We had 17 swimmers completing this event. We allocated 3 sessions at Broomfields and a proportion of the pool for members to swim. Thanks to those who sat on the side and counted lengths for their fellow Dolphins. We swam a total of 40448 metres in both the 1 hour and 30 minute categories. Once again Chris Carter swam many times to try and improve his distance. The club entered 3 teams, 2 in the 1 hour challenge and the other in the 30 minute challenge. The 3 teams were Gents 25+, Ladies 25+ and Mixed open team. All 3 teams total distance swam was the greatest, therefore all teams won their category. Chris Carter managed to come 2nd and 1st in his age group for the 1hour and 30minute challenge respectively. We also need to thank Caroline Lewis (an ex-treasurer of the club who ran this national event on behalf of the club).

1500m Championship - In late January we again held our 1500m event at Warrington's Jubilee Hub. The swim format was a repeat of previous years and was a great success. It was lovely to see old friends from taking part once more. We plan to hold next years on a similar date. But our thanks must go to Kalliopi for her excellent organisation of the event.

Membership – We are very pleased that the club has significantly increased its membership numbers this year, we believe this is due to a significant reduction in membership fees implemented this year and attractive swim prices for members.

Budworth Tuesday Summer Sessions - We held 23 Tuesday night open water sessions at Budworth this season, during the period from April to September. My thanks must go to all those who helped out to make the sessions so successful. We had a total of 53 swimmers registered and 308 swims during the season overall. Our busiest Tuesday was on the 18th June, when we had 21 swimmers in the water. The maximum water temperature observed was 23°C. We only missed one week during the season due to some 'dodgy' looking water quality. However, the big talking point this year was Andy's temperature measurements and how he reported to the swimmers. The phrase 16C appeared to be used throughout the summer.

Training - We continue to hold training sessions at Broomfields Leisure Centre (8pm to 9pm) on Monday nights. Numbers attending have been varied with a hard core of swimmers attending. We had a little disruption during the summer due to pool heating issues at Broomfields. As a result, we trained for 3 weeks at Orford. Our decision to dedicate one lane as a 'Social lane', for those swimmers who swim as Budworth but felt they couldn't do a training session proved to be a great success. Most of swimmers in this lane have never had a formal swimming lesson. But Julie Trevor stepped in and took control. What a result apart from very regular attendance of these swimmers, most had never swum anything other than 'head up' breaststroke before. Julie has now got them all swimming breaststroke, crawl & backcrawl with lovely stroke. The lane has been so successful that all entered the 30MC and 3 swam in the BLDSA 'Swim into the sunset' event.



Anderson Trophy - This year the committee decided to acknowledge Julie Trevor's efforts particularly relating to teaching swimming techniques and strokes to our 'Social lane' swimmers on Monday nights, by awarding her the Anderson Trophy. The presentation was made at Budworth Sailing Club at our 60th anniversary social gathering in July. Well done Julie.

Budworth Championship— We managed to run our Budworth Championship which we had not held for five years. We set the distances as 1 & 2 mile swims. We had an excellent turnout for the May swim. Thanks to all the participants and the helpers. We intend to repeat the event next year. We are currently working on agreeing the 2025 event date with the Sailing club. Will advise date when known.

Billy Dutton – It was on the 13th May 2024 that Billy last came to a club session. Little were those present to realise that this would be Billy's last swim. Two weeks later Billy passed away. Billy will always be remembered as a great swimmer with a unique friendly character. Many of the older members can recall with great happiness stories involving Billy. It was a great tribute to him that many friends from current and older times attended his funeral earlier this month. Billy you will always be remembered.

Dolphins 60th Anniversary – This year has been the 60th anniversary of the club. We marked this significant occasion by having a social gathering on the 18th June. The event was held after one of our Budworth Tuesday evening swimming sessions in the Budworth Sailing clubhouse. We had a great turnout of members old and new and their partner/friends. The social had a picture showing old and current members. We also had a buffet with an anniversary cake for the club. We need to thank Fiona for the magnificent poster she produced to advertise the event. Also, our thanks to BSC for their hospitality at allowing us to use their club house to hold the event.

Coniston 'Swim into the sunset' – The Dolphins entered 2 teams of 6 into this new BLDSA swim. Both teams were entered into the 6 hour category. This meant both teams started swimming at 2pm and finished at 8pm. I believe that everyone enjoyed this low-key swim. Coniston water temperature (which I didn't measure) was 17.8C. One of the teams all swam as 'skins' and completed 15km. The other team swimmers were a combination of skins and wetsuits. They swam 11km which was a great achievement as a number of the team had never swim in Coniston before. Many of the swimmers after the event went to the Coniston Inn Hotel for a drink and some food. Bill Boyall who was camping, realised that he had no lights on his bike to cycle with to the campsite at 11pm. However, Kalliopi engineered a solution lending him 2 green swimming lights one for each hand. We have since found out that the event is to be repeated next year on the 28th June 2025. Maybe we can get more swimmers there next year.

Dee Mile – This year we had 9 swimmers taking part in the swim. Jess Burke excelled by finishing 2nd.

Our ladies have again been entering swims together this year. The first was at Cholmondeley, where they excelled. Later in the year they ended up being 'The Ladies on Tour', where they went to Croatia to undertake a Swim-Trek adventure. And from the stories that came out, it was an adventure. So, Julie, Kalliopi, Alison, Mandy and Karen apparently all enjoyed themselves and did some swimming.

Notable swims – Rachel Giles swam the Chill-swim Coniston and the Ivan Percival, Andy Henderson also swam the Chill-swim Coniston, James Cox-Coy completed the Gt North Swim & Jess Burke finished 2nd in the U-Swim Salford race. These being a few of the great swims completed this year.

Mileage Chart – For years we have recorded all the know miles swum by our members in events and this year we have had a pleasing increase in total mileage after a number of years of decline. This year we swam 144miles in total, which is on its way back to our 2019 total.

Finally, I thank our hard-working committee and our 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.



See you all soon.

David Bowker
President