



# Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club

[www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk](http://www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk)

## Newsletter October 2007

As usual this newsletter is designed to update you all on the activities of the Club since the last newsletter in April and will additionally; give advance notice of forthcoming event. This year has seen an excellent turnout of members to either swim or to help either at events or coaching and I thank you all, that's what makes the Club so friendly.

Billy Dutton – I'm pleased to report that Billy is now well on the road to recovery after his emergency visit to the hospital earlier this year. Billy has now had his by-pass operation and has been helping out at a number of events such as the Marbury Handicap and Cheshire Masters. Under the watchful eyes of a number of members (Julie, Judy and Graham to name a few) they have encouraged and helped Billy back to health. I believe we're all been pleased to hear their regular updates.

Warrington Dolphins this year became the first Club to take entries for their swims 'On-line'. Entry for both Budworth and Albert Dock via the internet was very encouraging. It is anticipated that most of the entries next year will be via the internet.

### ***Budworth Handicap***

At the Budworth Handicap the Dolphins showed off one of their new 'Huge' marker buoys. The weather leading up to the event was wet and threatened to rain but fortunately held off. Water temperature was 57F. Eighteen swimmers took part. Dave Bowker thought he had won coming in 2 second away from his predicted time, only to be disappointed by Caroline won came in exactly on her predicted time. The President and Secretary had the worst predictions for the eight lap race. This year we had great help on the side. Which meant that the President celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by swimming.

### ***Bob Keating/Dick Dickenson Handicaps***

Bob Keating & Dick Dickenson Handicaps were held at Fordton at the end of April. There were again no junior in attendance, so the Dick Dickenson Trophy was for the 2year on the run unclaimed. However, 8 swimmers competed for the Bob Keating Trophy. Caroline Lewis again took the trophy being only 19seconds away from her predicted time. Russ Mason was 'gutted' to have come second, by only 1 second. He blamed Christian Wade who had a 'senior moment' during the race, swimming into Russ, which stopped him.

### ***Budworth Championship***

The Budworth Championship were again organised by Joe. 40% of entries for the swim were taken on-line. We also held a new Tri mile which attracted 8 swimmers and followed the same route as the 1mile race. The weather was once again fine. Warrington retained the team trophy, with a team of Graham Padgett, Julie Connor and Christian Wade. Graham was first veteran and Dolphin home. Martin Bosson retained his junior 2mile title by over 4 minutes.

### ***Marbury Handicap***

The Marbury Handicap was once again a great success with 19 swimmers taking part. Chris Byrne ensured that the trophy stayed at the Byrne house for the second year running by his victory. The usual visit to the Cock O'Budworth followed where a buffet and the presentation took place. Thanks are again due to Alan Pomfret and Julie Mainwaring and to John Glynn for organising the excellent buffet.

### ***BLDSA Golden Jubilee Relay***

We entered two teams into the two-way relay on Windermere. The event proved to be a truly enjoyable day for all who were either swimming or helping out. In total we were represented by 14 swimmers, 4 rowers and 4 helpers, which included your President as the swim organiser. Our two teams consisted one for the Ladies and the second for the Gents. Caroline was fairly sure that she would out swim



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Chris Carter in a sprint finish. However, the gents had other ideas and managed to put some clear water between the ladies. Our two other swimmers were in the Breaststroke team.

## **Albert Dock Championships**

The weather was nearly perfect for yet another successful Championship organised by Alan Pomfret. We had yet another record entry this year at 46. Once again many Dolphins were involved, either swimming or officiating. The usual course was again laid out the previous evening to ensure a prompt 9:30am start was achieved. With Claire Dickinson Refereeing and Peter Dickinson as Safety Officer the event proceeded without a hitch. Graham Padgett produced his usual medal swim in the 4mile with Christian Wade (first time in the dock) just behind him. Michaela also took a medal in the ladies 4mile. Mike Gallagher finished the 4mile course inside the time limit. Graham Boswell completed his first 2mile swim in a very respectable time. The proceedings were completed with an excellent buffet and presentation by the President of the BLDSA.

## **Two-way Channel Relay**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2007 the team of Michaela Richard, Andy Wright, Jo Norton-Barker, Mark Blewitt, Chris Carter and Caroline Lewis became the first Dolphin team to achieve a 2-way crossing of the English Channel. Setting out on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> August at 5:38, Andy landed in France in 13hours 6minutes. The return journey became an epic swim due to an unusual tidal flow which took the team far north into the North Sea. Chris Carter landed just east of Dover to complete the swim in 28hours 54minutes. It was a truly fantastic swim in at times choppy conditions.

## **Masters**

Unfortunately, this year we didn't have a large entry into the Cheshire Masters. However, our 4 swimmers all swam well. Judy & Graham won all there races and Michaela and Dave had finishes in the top 4. However, Dave Bowker's breaststroke swim proved to be very memorable swimming in lane 4 of the fastest heat.

## **Notable swims**

- Richard Walsh swam 9 lakes including Windermere twice in 24hours to raise money for Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Martin Bosson won the Junior Budworth Championship.
- Alison Lydon and Martin Bosson won the junior ladies and gents Llyn Padarn Championships.
- Christian Wade achieved his first Windermere swim, after 3miles his shoulder started playing up but continued at a slightly slower pace. Alan Pomfret was part of his boat crew.
- For a second year on the run members of our club help overnight other swimmers to achieve their goals. This year it was Jo Norton-Barker who rowed on the 2way Windermere for Dave Cech. In very wet conditions Jo and her partner Mick guided him to a new Championship record.
- Jo Norton-Barker started the season never swimming outdoors and finished it in the Channel relay team. The highlight of the year must be her Bala 1-way third place the day after swimming 2-ways in very poor conditions.
- Mark Blewitt has topped the mileage chart with 58.6 miles.

## **Forthcoming Events**

- 21<sup>st</sup> December 2007 - Final training session of the year at Broomfields.
- 16<sup>th</sup> December 2007 - Christmas 1mile Handicap at Fordton 6:00pm. As usual bring a wrapped present of value around £4.
- The Anderson Trophy will be presented at Curry night – details to be confirmed.
- Boxing Day Dip – Budworth Sailing Club, 10am briefing, 10:30am swim.
- Provisional AGM date is Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2008, 4:30pm prior to training

Andy Wright  
President