

Newsletter October 2008

It's hard to believe it but another summer has passed by with what seems to be a blink of the eye and five months have passed since the last Newsletter letter in April. As usual the aim of the Newsletter is to welcome new members to the Club and provide an update on the club.

Most of you will know that Maurice Ferguson passed away in May. Maurice spent years swimming as a Dolphin and working on the Administration of the Club. It was very pleasing to see such a great turnout at his funeral of passed and present Dolphins. He will be sadly missed.

Bob Keating/Dick Dickinson Handicaps

The Handicaps were held at Fordton at the end of April. This year we had a good turn out of seniors but once again a shortage of juniors. Dave Bowker claimed the Bob Keating title swimming only 17seconds outside his predicted time. Following the swimming, members retired to the pub to discuss the merits of their swims. We also had great support from members willing to count.

Budworth Handicap

After the cool weather in spring the week leading up to the Budworth Handicap was beautiful resulting in a nicely warm lake (17.2C). The Dolphins hoisted a trail on the new BLDSA electronic timing which was a success. We had 24 swimmers taking part this year and many others helping out. The event was a great success, helped by the Presidents fairly accurate prediction of 10 circuits being a 1mile long. The winner was guest Dee Llewellyn who narrowly beat Judy Brown in her first open water swim.

Budworth Championship

The Budworth Championship were organised this year by Michaela Richard. They were a tremendous success with an entry of 86 swimmers. The weather was good, the water temperature was in the mid 60's and most Dolphins were there either swimming or helping out. What a Championships.

Marbury Handicap

The Marbury Handicap despite the prospect of a damp night saw a record 21 swimmers taking part. The three heats saw a broad range of the membership taking part. However, Stuart Ainsworth took the title being only 3 seconds outside his predicted time. Following the swim everyone went to the Cock O'Budworth for the presentation and food. In addition to the handicap a presentation of a Silver Salver was made to John Glynn to commemorate his election as Life Member earlier in the year.

Albert Dock Championships

Alan Pomfret organised yet another excellent Championships. Many Dolphins were involved either officiating or swimming. With the water temperature in the upper 60'sF everyone had a great swim. In the gents 4mile race we had a 1, 2 and 3 with Nick Aspey 1st, Graham Padget 2nd and Christian Wade 3rd. As usual the presentation was held at the Blue Bar. Alan has organised the event for 5 years now and has decided to pass over the leadership as he is going to lead the running of the Postal Swim. Dave Bowker has agreed to lead the event next year.

Training

The numbers attending session during the summer have been good. Only in August did the number drop on Sundays while members were away on holiday. Thanks are due to Jim and Christian who have organised the coaches for the Friday and Sunday session respectively. Christian is always keen to receive offers for Coaching at Sunday sessions, so please volunteer.

Masters

The Masters this season had a quiet year. However, as usual we had a contingent who entered the Cheshire Masters. Graham Padget, Judy Brown, Christian Wade and Owen Griffith all produced good swims. Rumours have returned that Owen blitzed his leg of the relay in a sub 30sec time, 'a dark horse'. Once again Claire Dickinson organised an excellent Championship.

Channel Relay 2010

Early in the summer we sounded out amongst member the interest level in another relay. To our surprise 15 members were interested. While at the Champion of Champions event we discovered that our Channel Pilot of many years, Dave Whyte, was retiring at the end of the year. This meant that a new pilot was required so with the interest shown we were very pleased to have booked 2 experienced pilots, Alison and Neil Streeter for August 2010. Alison is the Queen of the Channel having swam it more times than any one else. However, since then the interest list has grown and now stands at 20.

Notable swims

- Solo Windermere swims by Dave Bowker & Joe Coy. This was Dave's first Windermere, a great achievement.
- Members who made their first open water swims this season as a Dolphin were Sarah Beresford, Nick Aspey, Emma Dean, Laura Flaherty, Sarah Mahar, Courtney Dean, Connor Dean, Patrick Horgan, Judy Brown, Steve O'Brien and Kay Gorzko.
- Mark Blewitt attempted the Cooke Straits (New Zealand) early in the year but was beaten by the tides.
- Mark Blewitt had 2 attempts to swim the Channel, the first attempt ground to a halt with equipment failure and the second, Mark retired cold. He still retains the title of the only British Diabetic to have swum the Channel.
- Courtney Dean and Connor Dean won the Junior Ladies and Junior Gents 3km Cheshire County Open Water Championships.
- Joe Coy topped the mileage chart with 52.4 miles.
- Nick Aspey had in late September a slot to swim the Channel but unfortunately the weather wasn't good enough to go. As it was late in the month it meant that he didn't get away this year. A great pity since he had spent a number of weekends down in Dover training.
- Michaela Richard swims her first Loch Earn Championship in appalling weather and won 'her age group'.
- A number of Dolphins have swum abroad this year – Mark Blewitt (New Zealand and Ireland) Kevin Saunders (New York) Michaela Richard & myself (Scotland!!!).

Forthcoming Events

- Curry Night - 4th December 2008 - Including the Presentation of the 'Anderson' and 'Dolphin of the Year' Trophies.
- Christmas 1mile Handicap - 21st December 2008 at Fordton 6:00pm. As usual bring a wrapped present of value around £4. This is a very enjoyable event.
- Boxing Day Dip – Budworth Mere Sailing Club, 10am followed by the usual Bacon Buttie.
- AGM – Sunday 25th January 2009, 5pm Fordton
- Coniston Relay – 18th July 2009.

Andy Wright
President