



## PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2015

As many of you will already know, this is my last year as Club President. It has been an eventful past four years which have seen many changes to our Club. I believe the Club is stronger for these changes. With membership numbers at their highest ever, we must be doing something right! It is great to see that junior membership is increasing. This must be encouraged. Our future must lie in stronger links with swimming clubs like Warrington Warriors to encourage the youngsters to continue swimming once they have left their clubs. My personal thanks go to the members of the Club's committee who have supported me during my 2 terms as Club President and to all the army of volunteers who regularly turn out in all weather conditions to act as officials, first aiders, canoeists etc without whom the Club would not be able to function. Finally I wish the new President every success in the future and ask that you all give him (or her) the same support that I have always received.

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner

Well, we've got there! Warrington Dolphins is now 50 years old. This achievement was celebrated with a dinner at The Fir Grove Hotel on 11<sup>th</sup> October attended by 90 past and present members, partners and guests. Guests included the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress representing Warrington Borough Council and Jean Wilkin-Oxley representing The BLDSA. It was a truly memorable occasion. The King of the Channel himself, Kevin Murphy, proposed the toast to the Dolphins and rendered me (almost) speechless when he presented me with Life Membership of the Club (something I knew nothing about!). I can only say how honoured and proud I am to be awarded this honour and thanks to all of you who proposed me for it.

### Open Water Championships

Our first congratulations must go to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary channel relay team comprising Alan & Marc Pomfret, Rob Waterhouse ( who is the nephew of Club founder member Bob Keating), Margaret Smith, Andy Sherratt and Stephne Douglas who completed the crossing from England to France in 15 hours 15 minutes on 29<sup>th</sup> June. For more details of the crossing why not check out Rob's report on the Warrington Dolphins web site). The team were presented with their certificates by Kevin Murphy at the dinner.

The total distance swum by club members this year is 422.26 miles of which 358.33 were swum outdoors. Thomas Roberts, in his first year as a senior, topped the mileage chart with a total of 57.63 miles. This included wins in the Ivan Percival, Colwick Park, Champion of Champions, Senior Gents at Coniston and St Mary's Loch in record time. Other club members who had a successful summer outdoors include Richard Taylor, who, together with Dave Cornwell, successfully completed their first Windermere swims, Judy Brown, Kevin Saunders, Henry Lowther and granddaughter Ellie-Jo Hughes, Chris Carter, Steve Elliott, Andy Wright, Julie Trevor, Stuart Ainsworth, Dave Bowker, Sarah Roberts, Steve Conner, Mandy & Joe Reid and Robert Saille.

The success of our open water swimmers was recognised by the BLDSA when they awarded Michaela Richard the Hans Belay Trophy for her outstanding round Jersey swim, Thomas Roberts the Tom Butcher Trophy for his achievements as a junior swimmer, Margaret Smith the Brierley Law Masters Trophy for the most miles completed by a Masters swimmer (over 60 years of age) and a special award to Alan Pomfret for organising the BLDSA postal swim for the past 5 years.

Our thanks must go to Adrian Moylan for organising the Budworth Mere Championship swim for the first time and to Barbara Harding who organised the Albert Dock Championship swim, also for the first time, both of which were resounding successes. It was interesting to see how these new swim secretaries set about stamping their own ideas on how the events should be run. Thanks must also go to the Dolphin members who turned up on the day to act as marshalls, time keepers etc and to those who provided the very essential canoe safety cover.

## **Club Events**

The popular Tuesday evening open water training sessions at Budworth were a great success culminating in the first Tuesday evening outdoor handicap which was won by Karen Hodgkins. Thanks to all who helped run these sessions-in particular Adrian Moylan, Mandy Reid and Julie Trevor. Our other club events have been popular this year. Not only did Karen Hodgkins win the end of season handicap on the last Tuesday of the season, but she also won the early season Budworth Handicap with Stuart Ainsworth winning the Warrington Walking Day Marbury Handicap (you don't have to be the fastest to win these events, just the nearest to your predicted time!).

## **Postal Swim**

Thanks go to Our Mandy Reid for taking on the running of this BLDSA Postal Swim competition from which we receive 50% of the profits.

## **1500 m Championship**

Thanks also goes to Judy Brown for running this year's 1500 m event which took place at the new Jubilee Park swimming pool at Orford in February.

## **Masters**

Dolphins successes this year have not just been confined to open water events. Our strong Masters section continues to compete at the highest national and international level. Judy Brown and Graham Padgett are now both ranked in the top 10 in the world (yes, the world) in several of their respective age-group events. The successes of the Masters swimmers are too many to mention, but congratulations must go as well to Billy Dutton (who won 3 gold medals at the Amsterdam Masters) Graeme Atherton, Trevor Eland, Paul Frith, Gerry Kelleher, Russ Mason, Chris Rix, Richard Taylor, Jennifer Sutton, Steve Elliot and Rob Waters who have represented Warrington Dolphins at Masters events throughout the UK. Apologies if I have missed someone off the list!!

## **Swimmer of the Year**

The swimmer of the year has this year been awarded to Judy Brown. Judy won the Swim Northwest Open water Championship and was first in her category at Ullswater and at the Albert Dock. It is, however, at the Masters events where Judy has excelled with 4 firsts at the Northwest Masters (setting British Records in 3 events, 5 firsts at the Lancashire Masters (1 in British Record time), 3 firsts at the Cheshire Masters and 3 firsts again at the Arfon Masters. What a season, for which Judy has deservedly been awarded the Warrington Dolphins LDSC swimmer of the year for 2014.

## **Anderson Trophy**

I am also delighted to report that Mandy Reid has been awarded the Anderson Trophy this year. She is a committed committee member and club coach, has taken over the running of the BLDSA Postal Swim, proposed and ran the first 1500m event at Orford, has completed her first channel relay crossing, stores boats and canoes at her home in Moore, has helped run the successful Tuesday evening open water training sessions, helped organise the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner and arranged for a member of her staff to pull together the club data bases of members details to produce the invite schedule for the dinner. I am sure you will all join me in giving her your congratulations.

Finally, can I welcome new members who have joined us during the past 12 months. I hope that you will enjoy swimming with "the dolphins" for many years to come.

Jim Nurse  
President Warrington Dolphins LDSC