



Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club

www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk

Newsletter – September 2026

The nights are drawing in, and the temperature is falling so it must be time for another quick roundup of what's happened since the last newsletter in February.

Feb/March - 1 hour & 30 minute Challenge (Postal Swim) – We had 22 swimmers entering the event this year. From these swimmers we also entered 3 relay teams in both the 1HC & 30MC. Most of the swims were undertaken on Monday evenings in February and March. In the 1HC: Jess, James, Emma W and Anita were all first in their age groups. In the 30MC: Chris, Kalliopi and Alexandra were all first in their age groups. We swam a total of 43239m made up of 30222m in the 1HC and 13017m in the 30MC. Our teams claimed 2 firsts in both the 1HC and 30MC. Caroline has been organising this event nationally for the BLDSA for the last 6 years and as a result the Dolphins get a share of the profits. Therefore, I think its only right that we thank Caroline for her hard work. Additionally, we need to thank Kalliopi for organising, collating results together for the Dolphins.

April - Matlock Natural Spar 12 miles in 12 hours – In April we had 6 swimmers taking part. The challenge was to swim 12 miles in 12 hours, either as a solo or team. The 6 members swam as 3 teams of 2. The teams were Caroline & Sarah, Rachel & Michaela and Julie & Andy W. The water temperature was a comfortable 18.4C. We all considered it to be a great event. We must thank Mandy who sat on the side for the 12hours counting for all 3 teams.

Individual Swims – Well done everyone with your swims so far this season. No matter how long or short your swim, you did it and they are all great achievements. There are too many to individually identify them all here, but the mileage chart for this season currently stands at 287miles. The Chill-swims have been popular this season with all 3 events being swum. Coniston saw Julie, Micheala, Ruth, Rachel and Andy H taking part. Ullswater (appalling weather) saw Julie, Andy H and Ruth swimming and Windermere Julie and Ellie swimming. Sarah swam the Hurley Burley, Ellie swam at Rutland water, Helen T swam at Loch Lomond. Alexandra swam the BLDSA Thybergh swim. Michaela travelled to Jersey to swim to France but was thwarted by the weather.

May - Budworth Challenge – Again we held the event on the May bank holiday and involved either a 1 mile or 2 miles swim around the mere. Everything was going to plan until I realised that a week before I'd made an almighty 'Cockup' and had agreed to go for a weekend break with my daughter's family. Yes, double booked myself. Fortunately, Dave stood in and ran the swim on the day. Thanks to all those who helped and it appears that it was a great event, with beautiful weather. A special thanks must be made to Budworth Sailing Club for the use of their facilities and their help.

Pool Training – Our Monday sessions at Broomfields (8pm to 9pm) has seen a consistent level of attendance. However, we found ourselves 'homeless' by the closure of Broomfields Pool (supposedly temporary). The council have allocated us 4 lanes at Orford from 9pm to 10pm with 4 lanes of the pool for the Masters group. Unfortunately, we have also to share this slot with the Water Polo team to hold matches. So, our training slot will see over 50% of them unavailable for us use. We are in the process of looking to obtain another slot more consistently available and at a earlier time. However, when the pool closed we approached Marbury Pool to hire for training. Thanks to Helen T for her efforts on this hire. We held 4 Mondays which were the last of their season. This proved to be very popular and there is talk of hiring the pool on a weekly basis next year.

April to September - Budworth Tuesday Sessions – As you will all remember the very hot & dry summer. This as you would have expected had consequences and the water in Budworth and in July it was not brilliant. We had to cancel 3 sessions and the water at 2 others was questionable, being described as 'Grass Cuttings' as that's what it looked like. However, we were surprised at how quickly the quality improved. Throughout the summer we were blest with lovely warm water. We held 20 sessions this season. We had a maximum of 24 swimmers in the water at one of the sessions. Thanks to all who helped, particular thanks to Fraser, Anita, Mike and Kalliopi who provided most of the kayak safety cover.

At the last swim of the season, we had a fun swim cap competition. Fiona produced a splendid cap which she named Blue-green algae. A lot of the caps proved impossible to swim in! After the session once again we went to the Cock O'Budworth.

June - Budworth Handicap – Last year we reintroduced this event which proved to be very popular. This year we held it immediately before the summer social. The swim was advertised as a 'Nominal 400m +/- a bit. Again, swimmers submitted their predicted time prior to the swim. The winner being the closest to their submitted time. Cathy Foster won the handicap being 26 seconds out. We also gave three spot prizes. It turned out to be a very enjoyable evening.

June - BLDSA Coniston 'Swim into the sunset' – At the end of June the club again dominated this event. We had five teams and an individual entry present. Everyone took part of the 6-hour swim slot. It was a lovely day with unbelievable warm water, 24C. In total we swam 80km.

The teams were:

A team of 6 - Spinner: Dave B and Simon - 9km

A team of 3 - Dusky: Mandy, Karen & Alison – 9.5km

A team of 3 - Risso's: Kalliopi, Sophie and Ellie - 14km

A team of 3 - Hector's: Sarah and Andy W – 13.5km

A team of 3 - Hourglass: Jess, James & Rachel – 19.5km

The observant will notice that Dave's team of six only had 2 in it. However, Dave encouraged 'moonlighting', swimmers from other teams to do extra miles. Apparent the phrase 'extra miles on mileage chart' was enough to encourage a few competitive club members. Once again Michaela pulled a great swim out of the bag. As it was her 'big birthday' the day before so she entered the 6 hour swim by herself. She swam an amazing 14.5km. Later after the swim the club presented her with a bottle of Fizz and card.

June - Budworth Summer Social – We held our annual summer social inside the Budworth Sailing Club house straight after the Budworth Handicap. We had another great turnout. At the event we presented the 'Anderson Trophy' to Dodd Family for their help at events particularly Budworth Tuesday sessions providing kayak support and shore side marshalling. Thanks to Julie T for organising the event and everyone who brought food to make the buffet a success.

Next August - Proposed Loch Lomond Relay – A number of swimmers have expressed interest in the club organising a team to swim a relay down the Loch next year to coincide with the BLDSA event at the end of August 2027. This also happens to be the same weekend of the 'Go-swim' event, so we could possibly have a few swimmers swimming over that weekend.

Dates for your diary are:

Xmas social at the London Bridge Pub Saturday 12th December 6:30pm, Boxing Day Dip meet at Budworth Sailing Club at 9:30 for a 10am swim, followed by Bacon Butty & Drink. The AGM will be held 21st January 2027.

Andy Wright