

Warrington Dolphins LDSC

Annual Report 2003

This year, the 39th for the Dolphins, has been a time of change. The closure of Legh Street Baths lead to a change of venue for our training sessions. The club now meets at Broomfields Leisure Centre, 9-10 pm on a Friday and at Great Sankey Leisure Centre on a Sunday morning, 8-9 am. It is hoped we will be able to secure a 2 hour training session in the near future for winter training.

Many members are and have been involved in various committees and action groups to prevent the closure of the baths or to secure the council's commitment to a town centre facility. John Lydon has been the driving force behind much of this work and he continues to work with others so that a town centre swimming pool remains an issue for the council to address.

Despite these changes we have recently attracted several new members and our training sessions are well attended. Hopefully this will mean some "new Dolphins" will be competing outdoors next season.

2003 has once again been a successful year for the club. Several members received Gold medals for both team and individual performances in the BLDSA Postal Swim. Andy Wright and Natalie Jones received BLDSA awards, the Veteran Grand Prix Trophy and Junior Swimmer of the Year Award, respectively. Last December, Stuart Ainsworth was awarded the club's Anderson Trophy in recognition of his long commitment to both the club and open water swimming in general. Stuart has talked of retirement but after several successful swims this year I'm sure he'll be back next season!

The Budworth Handicap in May attracted many swimmers and this has now become a recognised pre-season event by many local clubs. Clare Dickenson, a Warrington Dolphin, received the trophy for being closest to her estimated time for a rather short 1 mile course. The Handicap was followed by our Championships at Budworth. Once again the weather was kind and over 60 swimmers entered the water. The Dolphins had several successes, including Natalie Jones, first Junior Lady, breaking the course record.

The wonderful summer brought many more successes for the club, including good swims for Michaela Richards at Coniston and Windermere, for Andy Wright at Torbay and Coniston Vets, for Nicola Wright at Derwentwater and Coniston Juniors and for myself at 2 way Windermere. Loch Earn produced 3 excellent swims for the veterans Andy, Kevin and Henry!

Many swimmers could not participate without the support of boat crews and canoeists. Dolphin members are always keen to support each other and many members have crewed at events throughout the season. A big thank you on behalf of the swimmers to all of you!

Thanks also go to the members of the committee, particularly Jim Nurse, club President, for his enthusiasm and keenness to move the club forward, to John Glynn for the organisation of some excellent social events and to Andy Wright, for the fantastic job he does as Publicity Officer. Thanks also to all the coaches for their continued support. A special thanks goes to Wendy James, who is standing down from the committee at the end of the year. Wendy has been involved with the club for many years and it is hoped that she will continue to attend the occasional club event.

Next year is the Club's 40th anniversary, various events are planned including a social event to be held on the evening of the Budworth Championships. Please contact any club member if you are interested in knowing more. If you have any memorabilia or details on the Clubs history which you would be happy to lend to the Club for use at the social event marking the 40th anniversary, please contact any member of the Committee.

Finally despite a successful season there have been one or two minor incidents (some a little more major) that have highlighted the need not only for detailed risk assessment but also for comprehensive insurance. It is vital that the BLDSA address this matter to ensure clubs meet the necessary requirements and run safe and enjoyable events.

Well done to all swimmers, and here's to another successful season, let's hope the weather is as good as this year!

Lesley Feakes
Hon. Club Secretary