

Annual Report 2007

Here we are again another season finished and what a successful year. With new and old members taking part in club and BLDSA events we have swum the 2nd highest mileage since 1989, recording 471miles. Mark Blewitt has swum the most miles outside this season, completing 67miles. Two of our new members have swum unbelievable distances in there first year. Jo Norton-Barker from never swimming outside before this year finished a fantastic season with 36 miles and Richard Walsh after demonstrating his speed by finishing 2nd in the Rivington 1km revealed his stamina by swimming 9 lakes including Windermere twice in 44hours (a total of 50miles) for charity.

However, the highlight of the season must be the clubs first ever 2way Channel Relay success. After a week of uncertainty with weather it proved to have a lesser influence on the swim. What proved far more influential was the unpredictably strong northerly tide which resulted in the return leg of 43miles long being via the North Sea. This made the total distance swam of 72miles. The outward crossing was achieved in 13hrs 6mins and the complete 2way swim took 28hrs 54mins. The team consisted of Michaela Richard (Team Manager), Andy Wright, Jo Norton-Barker, Mark Blewitt, Chris Carter and Caroline Lewis.

Before updating you in details on the Clubs activity over the year, we need to update you on the Billy Dutton season. Billy had us all worried in April when problems with his 'ticker' caused him to take a rest at Warrington General Hospital. After several days in an unconscious state he woke to inform Julie Mainwaring that he'd be training again in a couple of weeks. Fortunately for Billy, he has some very caring and persuasive friend who convinced him to take the doctors advice seriously. Anyway after further investigations, Billy was found to need some corrective heart surgery and is now nearly full recovered, thank god. The down side to this is that Billy is threatening to take some training seasons which I would expected to be extremely hard work.

This year the BLDSA was celebrating its 50th and to commemorate it a Golden Jubilee Relay was organised. We entered two teams into the 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 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.

Club Championships – Budworth and Albert Dock

The **Budworth Championships** were another success thanks to Joe Coy. This was the first event on the BLDSA calendar that had taken entries on-line and it proved to be a great success. The club retained the Senior Team Award for the 9th year thanks to Graham Padgett, Julie Connor and Christian Wade. Martin Bosson and Nick White retained their junior gent's freestyle and senior gents breaststroke titles respectively. It was a great days swimming with an entry of 66.

Alan Pomfret once again organised an excellent **Albert Dock Championships** which had another record entry of 46. Once again there was a fine turn out of Dolphins with Graham Boswell producing an excellent swim in his first season outdoors. The swim set him up nicely for his later successful cross Windermere swim. Graham Padgett demonstrated his speed by being the first Dolphin home at both Budworth and Albert Dock. Christian Wade also swam fast on his first dip in the docks, something to do with jellyfish.

Club Events – Budworth Handicap, Marbury Handicap and Pool Events

At the **Budworth Handicap** we showed off one of their new 'Huge' marker buoys. The water temperature was 57F for the 18 swimmers who took part. Poor Dave Bowker with glory in sight and only 2 second away from his predicted time, Caroline stunned him by finishing exactly on her predicted time, to win the event. This year we had great help on the side.

Bob Keating & Dick Dickinson Handicaps were held at Fordton at the end of April. Eight swimmers competed for the Bob Keating Trophy. Russ Mason upon discovering how close he was to winning, only 1 second out, asked for a 'stewards enquiry' into the possible collusion of Christian Wade who had a 'senior moment' during the race, swimming into Russ, which stopped him. Caroline Lewis again took the trophy with her excellent prediction of her time.

The **Marbury Handicap** was once again a great success, well attended, good swimming, great food and an excellent social event. Out of the 19 swimmers taking part, Chris Byrne ensured that the trophy stayed at the Byrne house for the second year running by his victory. Thanks are again due to Alan Pomfret and Julie Mainwaring and to John Glynn for organising the excellent buffet.

We had another successful **Postal Swim** claiming many gold medals. Our thanks are owed to Julie Mainwaring for organising the Dolphins swims and Dave Feakes who organised it nationally. I believe Dave has done a fantastic job with little recognition of his continual efforts.

Our performance at Masters competitions this season were somewhat less intense than the last couple of years. However, 4 members competed in the **Cheshire Masters**. Judy Brown, Michaela Richard Graham Padgett, & Dave Bowker

Attendance levels at **training** have remained respectable throughout the year. However, we did experience a summer reduction. Don't forget to take up Alan's requests for Sunday coaches, this saves him from last minutes organising. Our new junior Chloe has probably the best attendance record and it is very apparent that she has improved, watch out for her over taking you.

Six members who entered in October 2006 swam in a cool **Dee Mile**, which turned out to be a great swim with Michaela winning the ladies 'all comers' title. This is the second year running the club has claimed this title.

It has been a somewhat busy summer for myself being BLDSA President this year and my attendance at club sessions has been less than usual. However, with the summer over and winter training started I will be able to regain some fitness for the Xmas Handicap and Boxing Day Dips.

Finally can I thank all those members who again have supported others at swims enabling them to participate which otherwise may not have been possible. Thanks for your help and time. Additionally, thanks also to members, their partners, spouses and parents who have supported and helped out at Club events. This has helped make our Club and our events successful and the great club it is.

Budworth Championships 7th June 2008
Albert Dock Championships 2nd August 2008

Andy Wright
President