

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1994

This year saw the 30th anniversary of the inception of the Dolphins by Mrs Sunny Anderson and the club managed to celebrate it in a most spectacular fashion.

In the early part of the year the club organised a 24 hour relay swim with the aims of providing financial assistance to 4 young members who were to tackle the Channel, providing money for charity and finally to put some money into the very depleted coffers of the club. We only managed to persuade one other club to join us despite it being advertised nation wide, but as it happens that was to our benefit because we manage to raise £4,000.00 of which £1,800.00 went to Loushers Lane Home for Handicapped Children (thanks to the Broomfield Barracudas), £600.00 to Motor Neurone Disease and a further £600.00 to Marie Curie Cancer Relief Fund. Club funds benefited from the remainder of the money and we were able to offer the financial assistance required by the Channel swimmers.

Saturday the 16th July saw Sally Baldwin, the first of our Channel swimmers make that coveted crossing and she did it in fine stile. On a glorious day with her crew enjoying the taste of fresh mackerel she completed the crossing in 12 hours 25 mins.

Two weeks later on the 30th July, Caroline Smith became the second member of the club to reach the French shore, but for this swim the weather deteriorated and she had to suffer storm and tempest before landing in a time just on 19 hours. For this swim Caroline was given the Endurance award by the Channel Swimmers Association and it should not be forgotten that Sally was in the water again giving Caroline the encouragement she needed for the last hour or so of the swim.

August Bank Holiday weekend saw Mike Cooke as the third member of the club to achieve the holy grail. This swim must rank alongside some of the greatest achievements in sporting history because Mike has only one arm and his time of 16 hours 40 mins is truly remarkable. For this feat he has become Young Mancunian of the Year, been interviewed on TV and been awarded the Handicapped Trophy by the Channel Swimmers Association. However it is rumoured that the award which he treasures above all is a full page write up in Manchester City's Programme (Mike as you can guess is a fanatic City supporter).

Dave Quatermain tried to emulate the success of his three compatriots but in a valiant attempt to beat the rough seas and a force 7 gale was forced to retire only 3 miles short of his goal. Notwithstanding that he had several major successes during the year and won the Exmouth Fairways 4 mile swim, the Colwick Park 4km swim and the Bala 3.5 mile swim and if that was not enough completed a 2 way Windermere swim.

On November 11th all the Channel swimmers attended an official reception given by the Lord Mayor on behalf of the people of Warrington. I had the pleasure of being there too and like everyone else who attended I was extremely proud of them not only because of their achievements but because they are such lovely, modest people who have, and will in the future be, such good ambassadors for the club and the sport of long distance swimming.

The 30th Anniversary Dinner took place at the Fir Grove on the 12 November. It was be attended by the Lord Mayor of Warrington and speeches were made by Chris