

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1995

This year sees the ending of an era because Mr Chris Carter has decided to retire as President of the Club after 5 years devoted service. I am sure you all want to thank him for the unselfish way he has always put the interests of the club first. It is particularly nice to report here that he has been made an honorary member of the Channel Swimming Association in recognition of his services to that particular branch of the sport.

During the year John O'Hara died. He was best know for the commentaries he made at our swimming events. Our thoughts go out to his wife, Lucy, at this time of the year.

We have had a full Calendar of events during the year:

The Christmas Handicap.

The Boxing Day swim.

The Postal swim. *John Brooks → Feb 11 & 10th.*

The Bob Keating Adults 5k swim (won by Dave Penketh). *T Johnson*

The Dick Dickinson's Junior 2.5k swim (won by Craig McDermott). *T Johnson*

The outdoor 1 mile at Budworth. *May 10th C. Smith*

The Budworth 3 mile Championship (report still awaited). *1st June*

The Marbury Pool 1 mile Adult winner John Taylor and Junior winner Jemma Taylor). *with the holidays*

The Albert Dock Swim for which a full report is appended (thanks to Tony Johnson. *30th July*)

Dave Quatermain tried yet again to complete a single handed Channel swim but again I have to report that he failed, but this time by the slenderest margins possible, a mere 500 yards from the French shore. Bad luck Dave lets hope it's third time lucky.

There have been some notable swims by our member during the year and perhaps the one that gives the greatest pleasure to report is the Windermere swim of Lillian Brooks-Bell who completed the swim in 10h 4m 54s to become the oldest lady ever to swim the lake. Congratulation Lillian and we must not forget your other swims Budworth, 2 way Bala, Llyn Pardarn, Vet championship at Coniston and the Gem of the Pennines for which you won the Spirit of Gem Endeavour Award.

Four other members also completed Windermere they were M Ferguson, C Smith M Gallagher and Tom Nolan.

Tom has had a particularly busy season competing in 21 events. He has won The Budworth 1 mile, Colwick Park Vet Championship, finished second in the Albert Dock 2 mile, Exmouth Fairway Buoy, Torbay Championship, Bala Lake, Northern Counties ASA and been placed third in three others, also he has completed a two way Coniston. Tom hopes to make a single handed Channel swim next year and we all hope that he maintains this form and makes a successful crossing.

During August John Glynn, Jim Nurse, Alan Hibbert, Stuart Ainsworth, Michaela Yates and the redoubtable Tom Nolan completed a Channel Relay swim. The time was a very creditable 15h 13m in conditions that were far from ideal. The comment from the observer is worthy of note " I always enjoy observing Warrington Dolphins swims, well organised, well disciplined and no nonsense. Another good swim by them and from a team whose average age is 47.6y. Well done." I am sure all the swimmers would like to thank Karen Jones for managing the swim, and so it's a special well done to you Karen. Finally I have appended a poem written by Jim Nurse's wife about the swim, I hope you all enjoy as much as I did.

Michaela not to be outdone by her Channel partner managed to compete in 7 competitive swims with a truly remarkable success rate. First in the Leeds Masters 1500m in 21m46.44s in a British record, second in the 2 way Bala and Llyn Padarn and third in the Coniston Water 5.5 mile. Added to this she took part in the BT Swimathon, The Postal Swim and completed Ulswater in 3h52m.

Mick Gallaher also had a busy season and to add to the Windermere swim he competed in The Budworth Mere Championship, Grimsby Dock, Llyn Padarn, Gem of the Pennines and Loch Earn .

Chris Carter also managed a number of notable achievements. He came first in the Sandown Shanklin IOW over 40s, second in the ASA 3 mile 45/49 age group, and NCASA age group, as well as competing in the Budworth swims, The Albert Dock, and The Ermouth swims.

From the above you can see that it has been yet another highly successful year for the club and on behalf of all the members I would like to give a vote of thanks to all those people whose efforts have helped to maintain the smooth running and friendly nature of the club. There are far too many names to mention everyone but I must single out our coaches Steve Critchley and Wendy Stringer, our treasurer, Wendy James, and all our swim organisers without whose efforts there would have be no swim to compete in.

J S Watkin
Secretary
19 November 1995