

Warrington Dolphins LDSC

Annual Report 2002

2002 has been another successful year for the Dolphins from Juniors through to Veterans.

The Postal swim in February brought us two team awards in the 45+ gents and 35+ ladies categories. Graham Padgett also came first in his age category, something he has repeated several times during the season. Age does not seem to slow him down!

The Budworth Championships were well supported and good weather contributed to the success of the day. The 1 mile novice championship attracted many new swimmers and is now an established event.

In July the club held its annual Marbury Handicap followed this year by a buffet in a local hostelry. The event was a great success, thanks to John Glynn, our new social secretary. It is hoped more such events will be organised in the near future.

Many swimmers have competed successfully outdoors, too many to mention individually, but well done to you all. A special mention is deserved for some outstanding swims, these include David Feakes' successful Channel Swim in July, Andy Wright's Coniston Veterans swim in August, and Natalie Jones' Junior Coniston In September. Other juniors including Nicola Wright and Julia Lydon have also had successful swims.

The club cannot operate without the support of many others; our thanks therefore go to Budworth Mere Sailing Club, Peter Dickenson for coordinating much of our canoe cover this season, and to all those who organise events, especially John Lydon for the Albert Dock Championships. A big thankyou to all our coaches for all their time and hard work and also the committee members.

The start of the year saw the retirement of Tony Johnson from the post of president. Tony has long been associated with the club and all involved express their thanks and best wishes. It is hoped we still see him at the occasional event.

Jim Nurse became club president in January and has had a busy year organising the committee, attending events and setting up a Civic Reception with the Mayor of Warrington to celebrate the successes of the club. Nearly all members attended the event making for a very enjoyable evening. Finally many of our members are currently involved in an Action Group looking at preventing the closure of Legh Street Baths in Warrington. The outcome of various meetings and consultations will be known in December. If the Baths are shut it is hoped a replacement will be built but this is not guaranteed. The Dolphins may therefore be fighting for pool space in Warrington. It is vital therefore that we maintain and increase our current membership and attract more people to Open Water Swimming so as to ensure our future.

Despite this the Club has much to celebrate and is looking forward to another successful season in 2003.

Lesley Feakes
Hon. Club Secretary.