

Annual Report 2009

Year on year the summer swimming season seems to pass quicker and quicker. They always say "Time passes quickly when you're enjoying yourself". And what a year we've had despite a number of the establish swims on the calendar not taking place this year we have swum the highest mileage since 1984, recording 578miles. Richard Walsh swam the most miles this year, 150 miles (some in a wetsuit), but Jo Norton-Barker completed 52 miles all hers in traditional costume. The **Anderson Trophy** this year was awarded to Mr. & Mrs. Hubbard of Budworth Sailing Club who have supported and provided help at our visits to Budworth for many years and the **Dolphin of the Year** to Richard Walsh.

Richard Walsh and his brother set themselves a huge challenge this season which was to swim down the River Thames. They choose to swim from as near the source as possible they thought Cricklade Bridge to Teddington Lock (123 miles) and five days was the time allocated. Although Richard wanted to swim without a wetsuit the 5 days, starting at 5am and finishing at 8pm was just too much and as a result some of it was in a wetsuit. However, wetsuit or not, some of us don't swim that far in training in a few months. It was an unbelievable swim and raised money for charity.

In July for the first BLDSA Coniston Relay, the Dolphins were their in force. We had five teams entered, 2 ladies, 2 gents and a team Carter. There was some great swimming and it was a fantastic social event. A number of us camped over adding to the enjoyment. And yes the gent's team of Flotsam beat the lady's Babes.

There were a number of notable swims completed this season. Julie Mainwaring won the Ladies Coniston Veterans, Jo Norton-Barker completed her first Windermere swim, Sarah Beresford came second in the Derwentwater 5mile, Alec Glover became Budworth Breaststroke Champion, Eve Fellows won the Junior Ladies Loch Earn Title, Kevin Saunders swam a number of swims in San Francisco.

During the season we had a number of notable successes. Four of our members swam their first open water swim and they were: June Morris, Julie Trevor, Kay Gorzko and Andy Sherratt. Additionally Courtney Dean represented Great Britain under 18 Water Polo Team in France and brother Connor has been invited to train with the GB Youth Water Polo team. Other slightly different successes, congratulations to Stuart Ainsworth on his 70th birthday and Laura Flaherty on the birth of her daughter.

Next summer we have three Channel Relay teams booked to cross in the week starting 17th August 2010. The three teams are going to be called Atlantic, Pacific and Southern. Most of the swimmers have never experienced swimming in the Channel the remainder are 'veterans' who have either completed solos or been part of previous relays.

Club Championships – Budworth and Albert Dock

The **Budworth Championships** were another success thanks again to Michaela & Larry Richard. This year we limited the entry to 90 due to limitations on car parking. The on-line entry was very active with a waiting list being formed. The club retained the Senior Team Award for the 11th year thanks to Julie Mainwaring, Richard Walsh and Graham Padgett. Alec Glover stepped up from 1mile last year to win the senior gents breaststroke title. It was a great days swimming with an entry of 90.

Dave Bowker took over the running of the **Albert Dock Championships**. Similarly to Budworth we set a limit on the entry size, this time at 50 and this swim was also full. Once again there was a fine turn out of Dolphins with Julie Trevor producing an excellent breaststroke swim in his first season outdoors. Graham Padgett retained his dominance by retaining his title as first veteran home. Michaela Richard and Richard Walsh both took second place in the senior 4 mile Championships. Steve O'Brien retained the 4 mile Breaststroke title.

Club Events – Budworth Handicap, Marbury Handicap and Pool Events

The **Boxing Day Dip** once again saw a fine turnout of members, some realising that over indulgence the previous day required a serious swim, other put off the inevitable fitness attempt until the New Year. Anyway we had many members at Budworth. The swim was won by Mark Blewitt who once again produced a determined effort and demonstrated how easy the swim truly is.

At the **Budworth Handicap** despite a water temperature of 14°C we had a good turnout of 25 swimmers and good support of members helping. Owen Griffith christened our new canoe providing safety cover. We also trialled another companies electric timing at the event, which proved to be very successful. The winner was Richard Walsh who was only 7 seconds outside his predicted time.

Bob Keating & Dick Dickinson Handicaps were held at Fordton at the end of April. Nine swimmers competed for the senior Bob Keating Trophy and two for the junior Dick Dickinson Trophy. Michaela Richard won the senior handicap and Rachel Byrne won the junior handicap. However, the first 4 places in the senior handicap were fairly close. It was great to see 2 juniors taking part this year. Thanks to the four members who turned up and counted for the swimmers.

The **Marbury Handicap** proved once again to be very popular with 21 swimmers taking part. This again resulted in the running of 3 heats. The dark horse of the event wasn't blasting again in the fastest heat but was John Glynn who was only 1 second outside his predicted time. It was reported that the water temperature was in fact warmer than Fordton indoor pool. Following the swim swimmers and spectators again retired to the Cock O' Budworth for the presentation, a buffet and also the presentation of the Postal Swim badges and medals. Thanks are again due to Alan Pomfret and Julie Mainwaring for organising the event.

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

Our Masters stalwarts Graham Padgett and Judy Brown were again producing fine performance this year. At the **Cheshire Masters**. Judy Brown set 3 county records, but Graham Padgett found it hard to brake his own records. Both Judy and Graham represented the County at the Northern ASA Masters in Blackpool.

Attendance levels at **training** as usual had their summer dip, but generally throughout the year levels have been acceptable. Sunday sessions have been blessed by Liz Byrne providing quality coaching at many sessions and we are all grateful for her efforts.

Eight members managed to get an entry into the **Dee Mile**, which turned out to be another great swim with Michaela retaining the ladies 'all comers' title for the third year on a run.

Once again the Club has been very fortunate to receive so much support throughout the year from members and friends whether to participate swimming or to turn up and help. Can I thank all of you?

Budworth Championships 29th May 2010
Albert Dock Championships 7th August 2010

Andy Wright
President