

Billy Dutton RIP

It was with great sadness that Billy Dutton a member of the Dolphins for 54 years passed away on Saturday 1st June 2024 two months short of 80 years old. Billy last came to our Monday training session on 13th May 2024 and although somewhat frailer than he used to be was still the same character.

Billy loved to train and over the year has trained with Warrington Dolphins, Warrington SC, Warrington Masters and Warrington Warriors. Billy was a great competitor, taking part in many Open Water swims and Masters Events. These were both Nationally and Internationally. Billy represented the British Long Distance Swimming Association (BLDSA) in Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Hungary and Israel. Masters events he swam, World Masters Canada, USA and also many British Masters Events.

I personally can remember a number of Billy Tales. In the late 2000's, the gents would weekly nominate the last out of the changing room as the winner of the 'Billy Award' as when he was training he was always last out. The last time he was training Mike Reason said as Billy was about to put on his shoes, 'Billy you have to put your trousers on first'. To which Billy replied I always put my trousers on last!

Another memory was of Billy stood in Marbury Pool saying 'Oh its cold' or the one where he brought a square of carpet to get changed on next to Budworth Mere so he didn't stand on the stones, only to realise that he was 3 meters from the waters edge and still had to walk across the stones.

Billy is recorded as swimming 634miles in open water events as a Warrington Dolphins.

Below are extracts from the Warrington Dolphins LDSC History booklet produced to celebrate their 40th in 2004. The content of the booklet was taken from the clubs Annual Report.

1970	Billy Dutton in his first season as a Dolphin won Swansea-Mumbles Championship. The Club had a major success in the Morecambe Bay Relay, where we had 2 teams competing. The first team (Billy Dutton , Chris Carter and Ian Thompson) finished 2 nd .
1971	Billy Dutton and Jill Adey also swam River Ebro. Billy Dutton came 6 th in the Ebro swim, which is surprising since he broke his arm shortly after winning the Morecambe Inshore Championship, because he was unable to stay on his motorcycle. Nevertheless, the accident didn't deter him and the Club members were not surprised to see him training in the pool with his arm in plaster. The first time he did this the plaster got wet and fell off. The Casualty Department were not amused
1972	Also in the annual report it was noted that Billy Dutton was disqualified for alleged walking in the ASA 5mile race, the Club proposed to buy him a pair of walking boots in preparation for the following season. Billy cadged a sandwich from some picnickers on the shore then proceeded to "take a few steps" while eating it. He is noted for stopping when he feels hungry! From the BLDSA Annual Report on the River Ebro swim in Spain, a swimmer came 5 th . He appears to come from our Clubs, ' Wilhelm Duttonio '.
1975	Billy Dutton wins Windermere and Morecambe Bay.

	The Club organised its first successful Channel Relay Team to commemorate the Centenary of Captain Webs Channel Swim. The team was Billy Dutton , Chris Carter, Alan Humphries, Dilys Beynon, Pat Dawson, Gina Clarke, with reserves of Kevin Ferguson and Jean Wilkin.
1976	Billy Dutton retained his Windermere Championship
1979	Billy Dutton produced a monthly newsletter for the Club
1980	Billy Dutton gets his Pickmere entry form in on time this year.
1982	The Dolphins Team won the Chasewater Team Competition. The team was Stephen Dockery, Billy Dutton , Keith Bosson and Helen Driver.
1983	The Club had two Channel Relay teams, which were planned to swim at the same time, to celebrate the 50 th anniversary of Sunny Anderson's Channel swim in 1933. The first team was made up of Dave Jones, Billy Dutton , Paul Gwatkin, Andy Sandon, Dave Palmer and Trevor Symmons. The second team was made up of Carole Hunt, Chris Carter, Chris Green, Cathy Taylor, Sue Johnson and Ken Bailey. Alan Humphries was also involved. The weather was not good but it was decided to go. Both teams started together but with worsening conditions the first team's crossing was abandoned. It has been suggested that the 1 st team weren't helped by Billy refusing to swim saying he wasn't a sea swimmer! The second team continued into worsening weather. Difficulty was found in getting back into the boat. The observer was seasick. For a period of 2 hour a force 7 storm blow. After 14hours 33mins the crossing was completed. Chris Green dipped Sunny's costume into the Channel; the same she had swam in 50years previously and brought back a handful of pebbles on a long three hour return in rough conditions.
1985	Billy Dutton takes over as Club Coach
1991	Anderson Trophy was presented to Billy Dutton .
1993	Billy Dutton wished to organise a sponsored swim for Warrington Bomb appeal Sub committee set-up to look into a 24hour swim for fund raising
2002	Bill volunteered and then help at the Manchester Commonwealth Game swimming events.
2004	Judy Brown, Claire Dickinson, Graham Padgett and Billy Dutton all entered masters competitions this year. Billy Dutton for some unexplained reason decided to enter the 200m Fly in the 60 to 64 year age group. After the swim he claimed it was the hardest swim he had ever done. Yet another 'Hardest Swim' Billy.
2006	A number of memorable quotes were heard this year. During training Billy Dutton was heard to reply after being told he was to do 4 x 100 freestyle, 'All in one go". Cheshire Masters was organised by Claire Dickinson and what an enjoyable evening with 12 members taking part. Unfortunately, we didn't have as many members entered as the previous year, but the quality of swimming was equally as good. Billy Dutton took 5 titles and set 3 Championship Records.

Some of Billy swims

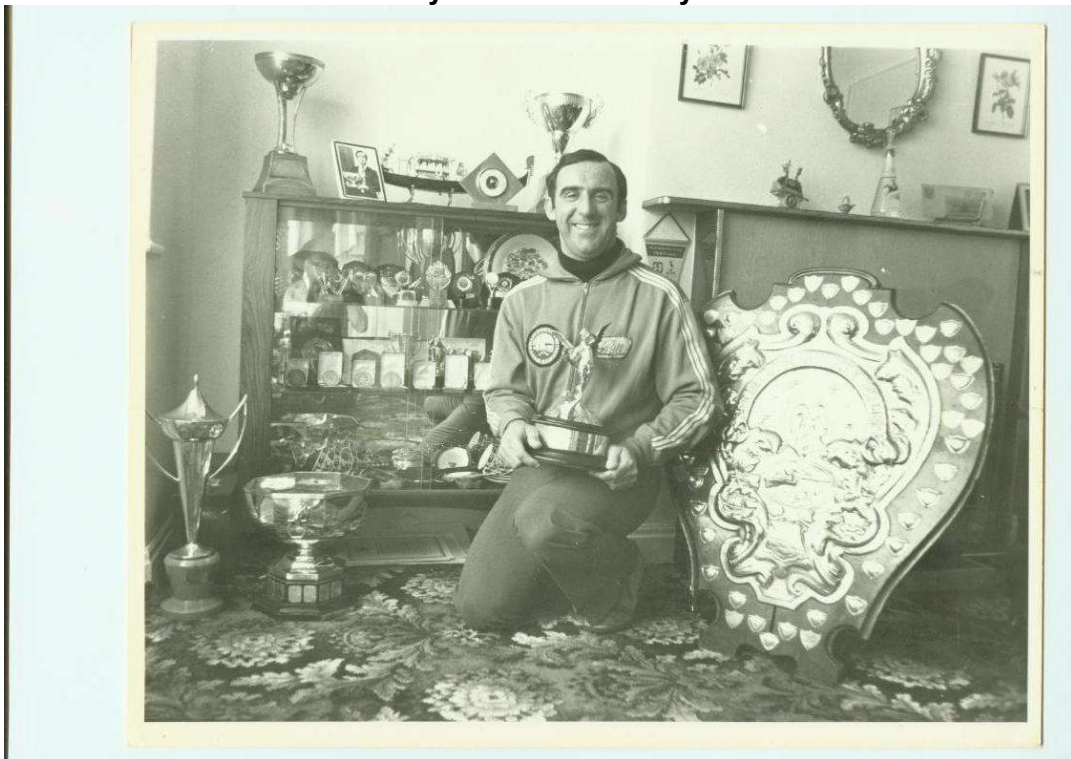
1970	LLYN TEGID	Freestyle	03:08:24		6.00M
1970	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:26:17		3.00M
1970	SWANSEA-MUMBLES	Freestyle	01:20:00	Gents Champ	3.00M
1971	DOUBLE TAY	Freestyle	00:55:00		1.50M
1971	POOLE HARBOUR	Freestyle	01:00:00	Gents Champ	3.00M
1971	TRENTHAM LAKE	Freestyle	01:08:15		3.00M
1971	WALTON--CLACTON	Freestyle	02:17:00		7.00M
1972	DOUBLE TAY	Freestyle	00:53:28		1.50M
1972	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:20:04		3.00M
1973	A.S.A. 5M	Freestyle	02:38:00		5.00M
1973	CONISTON	Freestyle	02:27:27		5.25M
1973	EXMOUTH GENTS ONLY	Freestyle	01:33:30		4.00M
1973	FOLKESTONE-DOVER	Freestyle	00:58:40		2.50M
1973	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:15:32		3.00M
1973	POOLE HARBOUR	Freestyle	01:13:00		3.00M
1973	TRENTHAM LAKE	Freestyle	01:10:37		3.00M
1974	A.S.A. 5M	Freestyle	02:36:33		5.00M
1974	FOLKESTONE-DOVER	Freestyle	01:42:35		6.00M
1974	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	02:45:24	Gents Champ	9.00M
1974	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:19:04		3.00M
1974	TRENTHAM LAKE	Freestyle	01:07:57		3.00M
1974	WINDERMERE	Freestyle	04:40:15		10.25M
1974	WINDERMERE	Freestyle	04:50:58		10.25M
1975	LLYN TEGID	Freestyle	02:37:35		6.00M
1975	EXMOUTH GENTS ONLY	Freestyle	01:29:00	Gents Champ	4.00M
1975	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	02:46:00	Gents Champ	9.00M
1975	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:20:10		3.00M
1975	BLDSA Torbay	Freestyle	03:10:20		8.00M
1975	TRENTHAM LAKE	Freestyle	01:11:07		3.00M
1975	WINDERMERE	Freestyle	04:40:06	Gents Champ	10.25M
1976	A.S.A. 5M	Freestyle	02:28:04		5.00M
1976	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	02:54:07	Gents Champ	9.00M
1976	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:14:16		3.00M
1976	WINDERMERE	Freestyle	05:00:02	Gents Champ	10.25M
1977	A.S.A. 5M	Freestyle	02:35:09		5.00M

1977	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:16:55		3.00M
1978	ALEXANDRA DOCK	Freestyle	01:42:42	Gents Champ	4.00M
1978	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	03:02:41	Gents Champ	9.00M
1978	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:17:17		3.00M
1978	ST.GERMANS-KINGS LYN	Freestyle	01:11:48		4.00M
1979	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	02:44:20		9.00M
1979	STOKES BAY,GOSPORT	Freestyle	01:19:56	Gents Champ	3.25M
1979	WALTON--CLACTON	Freestyle	02:00:48		7.00M
1980	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:16:06		3.00M
1980	SANDWELL-SWAN POOL	Freestyle	00:47:00		2.00M
1981	A.S.A. 5M	Freestyle	02:00:11		5.00M
1981	LLYN TEGID	Freestyle	02:44:29		6.00M
1981	LLYN PADARN	Freestyle	01:37:47		4.00M
1981	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	02:59:06		9.00M
1981	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:10:56		3.00M
1981	SWANSEA-ABERAVON	Freestyle	02:14:20		5.00M
1981	WALTON--CLACTON	Freestyle	02:28:32		7.00M
1981	WINDERMERE	Freestyle	04:52:55		10.25M
1982	LLYN TEGID	Freestyle	02:45:11		6.00M
1982	BLDSA Champion of	Freestyle	00:19:22		1.00M
1982	Champions	Freestyle	01:03:06		3.00M
1982	BLDSA Champion of	Freestyle	01:03:06		3.00M
1982	Champions	Freestyle	01:03:06		3.00M
1982	DERWENTWATER	Freestyle	02:31:58		5.00M
1982	SANDWELL-SWAN POOL	Freestyle	00:46:49		2.00M
1982	WALTON--CLACTON	Freestyle	02:31:38		7.00M
1982	BLDSA Champion of	Freestyle	00:20:34		1.00M
1983	Champions	Freestyle	00:20:34		1.00M
1983	BLDSA Champion of	Freestyle	01:09:33		3.00M
1983	Champions	Freestyle	01:09:33		3.00M
1983	DERWENTWATER	Freestyle	02:20:03		5.00M
1983	MORECAMBE X BAY	Freestyle	02:36:30		9.00M
1983	SANDWELL-SWAN POOL	Freestyle	00:46:37		2.00M
1984	A.S.A. 5M	Freestyle	02:23:57		5.00M
1984	MIDLANDS CHAMP. ASA	Freestyle	01:25:18		3.00M
1984	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:12:32		3.00M
1984	SANDWELL-SWAN POOL	Freestyle	00:43:50		2.00M
1984	WINDERMERE	Freestyle	04:51:37		10.25M
1984	BLDSA Champion of	Freestyle	00:22:50		1.00M
1985	Champions	Freestyle	00:22:50		1.00M

1985	BLDSA Champion of Champions	Freestyle	01:10:12		3.00M
1985	MIDLANDS CHAMP. ASA	Freestyle	01:17:37	Gents Champ	3.00M
1985	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:12:58		3.00M
1985	SANDWELL-SWAN POOL	Freestyle	00:45:43		2.00M
1987	ALBERT DOCK L'POOL	Freestyle	01:33:28		4.00M
1988	LLYN PADARN	Freestyle	01:38:45		4.00M
1988	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:20:11		3.00M
1989	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:14:52		3.00M
1990	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:15:54		3.00M
1991	ALBERT DOCK L'POOL	Bst	01:00:11	Gents B/s Champ	2.00M
1991	BARNBY DUN	Freestyle	01:12:43		3.00M
1991	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:20:15		3.00M
1993	BLDSA Lynn Regis	Freestyle	01:13:15	1st Gents Vet	3.00M
1993	PICKMERE	Freestyle	01:25:09		3.00M
1997	BUDWORTH MERE	Freestyle	01:30:32		3.00M
1997	LLYN PADARN	Freestyle	01:47:34		4.00M
1999	BUDWORTH MERE	Freestyle	01:29:48		3.00M
2001	BLDSA Rivington Reservoir	Freestyle	00:59:32		2.00M



Billy at Morecambe Bay



Billy at Home with Some of his Trophies