

Obituary



Maurice Ferguson, of Northwich, Cheshire who died on Friday 30th May 2008
Maurice was a member of the British Long Distance Swimming Association until his death and held many positions on the committee he gave up hours of his time to help the association and was:

BLDSA President, 1989-90 and 2005-2006

BLSDA Secretary, 1994-2003 and 2006-2007

BLSDA Membership Secretary, 2000-current

BLDSA Pilot Lifesaver Scheme Honorary Secretary, 2003-2005

BLDSA Honorary Recorder, 1974-1999

BLDSA Postal Swim Secretary, 1986-1994

He was Inducted in to the International Swimming Hall of Fame, in Ft Lauderdale, Florida in May 2004, a major honour that he was very proud to receive.

While he proclaimed he was not the speediest of mortals as a swimmer, a mid-field placing or above was normally guaranteed. After 30 years and a few illnesses, he was slower than when he first competed, but he still was a swimmer who would almost certainly get there, he swam virtually all the long distance courses in the U.K., as well as officiating and crewing on them. He was a person of great tenacity and mind bending attention to detail. Long distance swimming in Britain was made all the more enjoyable by the presence of one or more of his family of three children, four grandchildren and wife Milly, either in or on the water at almost every swim. His sons Simon and Kevin both crewed for Maurice.

Maurice joined the Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club in 1967 and completed his first three-mile swim at Pickmere Lake in 1970. In the same

year, he swam Lake Coniston, breaststroke. He went on to make consistent appearances on the long distance circuit. Not content with participating, he organized and administered the Warrington Dolphins Pickmere Lake event for seven years and was elected club president.

Maurice was awarded the BLDSA's James Brennan Trophy in 1992, the Harry Moffatt Trophy in 1994 and the Veteran Swimmer or the Year Trophy in 1983 and The Eileen Butcher Trophy as the eldest swimmer in the Association's Veterans Championship in 2004. He trained Channel relay teams and three solo Channel swimmers — Sally White, Caroline Smith and Michaela Yates.

Maurice's list of hobbies pursued over the years ranged from sport and target rifle shooting, weight lifting, diving, skiing, and of course, long distance swimming. He was also a keen wood turner and exhibited his work at local craft fairs. He was Chairman of his Local Parish Council and was also the first chairman of the Anderton Lift Restoration Society.

Somehow he also found time to work part time as a lifeguard at the Marbury Open Air Swimming Pool during the summer months.

He did for many years work as a Non Destructive Testing Engineer specializing in ultrasonic and radiographic work.

He will be sadly missed by many.