

## **Warrington Dolphins LDSC – Annual Boxing Day Dip 2003**

Swimmers from four counties including the Midlands and Yorkshire attended the Warrington Dolphins LDSC annual 60m Boxing Day race. This year's entrants assembled at Budworth Mere on a dry and fairly mild day. Again the race organiser (John Heapy) entered into the festive spirit of the event by turning out attired as William Wallace.

The briefing was held at the lakeside and swimmers were disappointed that the water temperature was seasonally higher than usual at 44F (5C). The start time was agreed as 11:00 which gave swimmers 15 minutes to prepare for the experience.

With 5 minutes in hand, Dan Quake demonstrated that men from the midlands are made from hard stuff by getting in the water early to 'warm up'. As 11:00 approached the remaining competitors duly lined up for the start of the race and with the lowering of a sword the race commenced.

Toby Hirst quickly plunged ahead of Ian Cowburn, to again a yard lead, which he held to the finish. Last year's winner Ian Ainsworth decided to demonstrate that the swim could be completed as an IM, which let the acclimatised Dan pass him to finish third.

Julie Mainwaring, swimming for the first time in open water took a little time to build up the courage to swim. She then demonstrated that dry hair breaststroke swimming is very important if you don't want your makeup and perfect hair do to be spoilt for the family meal at the local restaurant following the swim.

Natalie Jones the experience open water swimmer and winner of many races last season, put her toes in the water and quickly walked out saying 'there's no way I'm swimming in that'. However, Toby Hirst (a so-called friend), after winning the race presented her with two options either to be thrown in or to get in herself. With no way of getting out of a swim, she walked to the end of the jetty and performed a perfect racing dive into the mere and promptly swam back to the shore.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Toby Hirst - Stockport Metro
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ian Cowburn - Crewe Flyers
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dan Quake - Sandwell LDSC
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dilys Beynon - Warrington Dolphins
- 5<sup>th</sup> Ian Ainsworth - Warrington Dolphins
- 6<sup>th</sup> Gary Mogel - Warrington Dolphins
- 7<sup>th</sup> Alister Stocks - Halifax SC
- 8<sup>th</sup> Tom Towey - Warrington Dolphins
- 9<sup>th</sup> Colin Hirst - Stockport Metro
- 10<sup>th</sup> Julie Mainwaring - Warrington Dolphins

### **Dippers**

Natalie Jones - Warrington Dolphins/ Stockport Metro  
Paul Beynon - Warrington Dolphins

