

Warrington Dolphins LDSC – Boxing Day Dip 2006

It must have been last year's publicity in the Swimming Times which resulted in this year's massive turnout. We had to hold a second briefing to ensure those at the back could hear! The usual members of the club, together with a few unsuspecting new faces, assembled for their annual dip at 10:00am.

Once again we were indebted to Budworth Sailing Club who kindly allowed us to hold our annual event at Budworth. The galley crew opened up early to allow a medicinal pre-swim coffee to be taken. The Club President briefed everyone on all the necessary safety arrangements, the course and water temperature, 4°C. The duty of measuring of the water temperature was this year taken out of the hands of the President by Stuart Ainsworth, who felt that previous temperature measurements taken by the President had been on the verge of fictional.

The race Referee once again was Dave Feakes who pointed out to the fifteen swimmers that he would take great delight in sending swimmers around for a second lap if he felt that they had been cheating. Julie Mainwaring asked if there would be sufficient warning as she felt that she would need time to "warm-up", so a 2 minute call was agreed.

As the swim time approached more club members started to arrive ready to watch the event. These members informed the President that they couldn't swim due to safety reasons, as they had missed the briefing. What a likely story. Russ Mason and Michaela Richard had developed some medical condition over Christmas as they couldn't take the smiles of their faces, in addition forgetting how to tell the time!!

At 10.30 the swimmers assembled at the start and upon the whistle the very keen swimmers sprinted off, leaving behind those who either hadn't done it before or those who had and realised that it was no better than last time. Some of the regular swimmers were given a fine demonstration by our 2 junior members who found it quite easy.

On the finishing straight there was a keenly contested finish, with all rules of non-contact being forgotten. Mark Blewitt managed to out manoeuvre Julie Mainwaring to finish first, with Alan Pomfret finishing 3rd for the second year running. Dave Feakes then decided that as all the rest finished so close together, that he couldn't split them and gave them all joint 4th with the exception of Mick Gallagher who after spending a season leisurely bring up the rear took great delight in repeating that performance.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. | Mark Blewitt | 2. | Julie Mainwaring |
| 3. | Alan Pomfret | 4=. | Lisa Stout |
| 4=. | Paul Savage | 4=. | David Bowker |
| 4=. | Courtney Dean | 4=. | Conor Dean |
| 4=. | Christian Wade | 4=. | Gary Moge |
| 4=. | Rob Waters | 4=. | Joe Coy |
| 4=. | Andy Wright | 4=. | Stuart Ainsworth |
| 15. | Mick Gallagher | | |