



Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club

NEWS LETTER September 2013

Hasn't this summer flown by! And what a fantastic summer it has been. Not only has the weather been great, but the Dolphin's achievements have once again been outstanding. I heard that swimmers complained that the water at Lyn Padarn was too warm at 26 degrees C!

Let's start first of all with Michaela Richard's successful round Jersey swim on 21st August in a time of 9 hours 41 minutes for the 41 mile (tide assisted) swim, the first by a member of the Dolphins. I understand that this is the 3rd fastest swim ever and the 2nd fastest by a female. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Michaela on her fantastic achievement. As part of her training, Michaela has competed in open water events all over the country, coming 1st in the Dee mile, Bala 3 and 6 miles, 2nd in the Ivan Percival and the Utterly Buttermere events and 3rd in our own Budworth Championship.

Not to be outdone by Michaela, Jo Norton-Barker has again risen to the challenge culminating in a successful 2-way Windermere swim in the very respectable time of 15 hours 7 minutes.

Further congratulations must go to Judy Brown who was the first female home at Budworth and to Phil Woods who won Budworth on his first open water swim in a time of 1 hour 8 minutes and 2 seconds. Phil then went on to complete a channel relay crossing with 3 colleagues in a time of 13 hours 49 minutes. Stuart Ainsworth, Dave Bowker, Chris Carter, Dave Cornwell, Steve Elliott, Kay Gorzko, Barbara Harding, Pam Kay, Andy Sherratt, Richard Taylor and Julie Trevor must all be congratulated on successful open water swims this summer.

Congratulations go to Sally White, Tamara Brown, Sue Marsh and Stephne Douglas who, along with 2 other Mum-school-run friends also completed a channel relay crossing on despite having to overcome problems when the propeller of the support boat got entangled in lobster pot guy ropes.

Pride of place must go, however, to juniors brother and sister Thomas and Sarah Roberts. Both have won championships this year, many in record times, with Thomas sometimes beating the winning senior gents time. The future of our Club rests with members like Thomas and Sarah and Joe Reid who also deserves a mention.

The success of our open water swimmers was recognised by the BLDSA when they awarded Caroline Lewis the Hans Belay Trophy for her outstanding Loch Lomond swim in 2012. Michaela Richard was awarded the Avril and Alan Mitchell Trophy in recognition of her ability and dedication during the 2012 season and Thomas Roberts the Elsie Brook Encouragement and Perseverance Trophy in recognition of his outstanding swims as a junior.

Our thanks must go to Larry and Michaela Richard for, again, organising the Budworth Mere Championship swim and to Dave Bowker for organising the Albert Dock Championship swim, both of which were resounding successes. Thanks must also go to the Dolphin members who turned up on the day to act as marshalls, time keepers etc and to those who provided the very essential canoe safety cover. This is the last year Budworth will be organised by Larry and Michaela. Our thanks go to them for doing such a fantastic job over the past 6 years and to Adrian Moylan who has volunteered to run the swim next year. We are also sorry to learn that Dave has decided to retire from organising the Albert Dock swim. So if somebody feels they would like to take over the running of the swim please be in touch (I'm sure Dave will be more than willing to give plenty of help in the first year.)

The popular Tuesday evening open water training sessions at Budworth unfortunately had to be suspended again due to the presence of blue green algae in the water. Larry and Michaela, who run the swims, are looking to increase the pool of available canoeists to provide the essential safety cover so if you feel you could help out, please be in touch.

On the domestic front, Alan Pomfret has retired as Postal Swim Secretary. Our thanks go to Alan for all his hard work over the past 5 years and to Mandy Reid for volunteering to take on the running of this BLDSA competition from which we receive 50% of the profits. Because of this, Mandy has decided to stand down as organiser of the Dolphin's 1500 m swim which has been held in February these last 2 years with this year being at the new Orford Park centre. A volunteer to take over the running of this event would be welcome.

Dolphins successes this summer have not just been confined to open water events. Our strong Masters section continues to compete at the highest national and international level. Judy Brown and Graham Padgett are now both ranked in the top 10 in the world (yes, the world) in several of their respective age-group events. The successes of the masters swimmers are too many to mention, but congratulations must go as well to Graeme Atherton, Claire Dickinson, Trevor Eland, Paul Frith, Gerry Kelleher, Russ Mason, Chris Rix, Richard Taylor and Phil Woods for successfully representing the Dolphins at Masters meets throughout the UK. Apologies if I have missed someone off the list!!

STOP PRESS

The Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club is 50 years old next year. To celebrate this, we are holding a dinner at the Fir Grove Hotel, Grappenhall on Saturday 11th October, 2014. Tickets will be £25.00 per head. All present and past members are invited. Dress code will be smart evening wear! We are trying to find out how many are likely to attend so if those who do want to come could let either Mandy Reid, Julie Trevor or myself know it would be very helpful.

We are also organising a 50th anniversary channel relay crossing at the end of June next year. The team will consist of 6 swimmers and 1 reserve. The cost of the swim will be in the order of £500.00 per swimmer excluding travel and accommodation. It is likely that quite a few members will want to take part in the crossing and we have decided that the fairest way to choose the team is draw the names out of a hat at the Christmas Dinner. Will anyone who wants to join the team please send a deposit of £50.00 to club treasurer, Caroline Lewis, by the end of November. Cheques will be returned to unsuccessful applicants. Should there be sufficient applications, we will consider organising another crossing in 2015.

Other anniversary events will be planned so "watch this space" for further details.

Can I welcome new members who have joined us during the past 12 months. I hope that you will enjoy swimming with "the dolphins" for many years to come.

Jim Nurse
President Warrington Dolphins LDSC