



Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club

www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk

Newsletter – April 2009

Here we are again at the start of another season and its time to bring you all up to date with what's going on at the Dolphins. Firstly, I'd like to welcome new members to the Club and I hope that you find us all welcoming and friendly.

At the end of January we held our AGM. The committee this year is Andy Wright (President), Caroline Lewis (Treasurer), Michaela Richard (Secretary), Christian Wade, Julie Mainwaring, Alan Pomfret, Dave Bowker, Mark Blewitt, Russ Mason & Jim Nurse. I'd like to welcome Russ to the committee and Jim back.

We had another successful Boxing Day Dip with a good turn out of swimmers and spectators. There was a close 'fought' finish with Mark Blewitt winning this year.

At the BLDSA AGM held this month we retained the role of administrating the Postal Swim. Other information from the BLDSA is that the Rivington and Torbay Championships will not be run this year, since United Utilities have withdrawn permission for swimming to occur in their reservoirs and Torbay has no secretary.

Again this year we held 3 sessions in late February for members to complete their Postal Swims and we had a good turn out of swimmers and members to count. Thanks to Julie Mainwaring who organised the Clubs entry. Alan Pomfret, has taken over the running of the Postal swim nationally this year so thanks Alan for your effort.

Can I draw your attention to **Membership – if you haven't paid it, its due, so please pay it.** Remember you are not insured if you have not paid your membership and you will not be allowed to train.

In the October newsletter, I informed you that we had booked 2 pilots to take 2 teams across the Channel in August 2010. Well we now have 3 boats booked, to reflect the interest of members. Hopefully we will be entering a few teams into the BLDSA Coniston Relay, which will be a great social and 'warm-up' for the Channel the following year.

For those keen outdoor swimmers the club has purchased a sit-on top canoe for the support of our members. If you wish to book it for a swim, see the website for details.

Dates for your diary are:

Bob Keating/Dick Dickinson Handicap	26/4/09	Fordton 6:00pm
Budworth Handicap (1 mile)	9/5/09	10:00am briefing 10:30am start
Budworth Championship	30/5/09	Swim Sec Michaela Richard
Marbury Handicap (1 mile)	last June	6:45 for 7:00pm start (date to be confirmed)
Albert Dock Championship	1/8/09	Swim Sec Dave Bowker, Briefing 8:30am

Budworth & Albert Dock Championship can be entered on-line via our website. Paper entry forms can also be downloaded from our website or see Michaela or Dave if you haven't internet access.

If anyone is not swimming the Budworth Handicap or any of our other swims please support your club by helping on the day.

Andy Wright



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Newsletter October 2009

Well with another blink of the eye the summer is over and a very pleasant summer of swimming has past. As usual the aim of the Newsletter is to welcome new members to the Club and provide an update on the club.

Bob Keating/Dick Dickinson Handicaps

This year we had 2 junior swimmers competing in the Dick Dickinson Handicap which was won by Rachel Byrne. In the senior Bob Keating Handicap we had 9 swimmer taking part and 4 seniors counting. The first 4 places were fairly close with Michaela Richard winning for her second time.

Budworth Handicap

Budworth Handicap despite poor weather leading up to the handicap on the day the weather held and water temperature were 14°C. We had a good turnout of 25 swimmers and good support of members helping. Owen Griffith christened our new canoe providing safety cover. We also trialled another company's electronic timing, which was good. Richard Walsh was presented with the trophy as winner, being only 7 seconds outside his predicted time.

Budworth Championship

Michaela and Larry Richard again organised the Budworth Championship this year. They were a tremendous success with the swim full and a waiting list formed. There were 96 swimmers who entered this year. The weather was good; the water temperature was in the 60's. Once again we had great support from Dolphins and friends of Dolphins either swimming or helping out. With electronic timing for the second year on the run the championships ran exceedingly well. The lake is already booked for next year for the 29th May 2010.

Marbury Handicap

Marbury Handicap followed the same successful format as it has done for several years. 21 swimmers took part this year and as usual the Presentation was held over a buffet at the Cock O' Budworth. This year's winner (John Glynn) was exceedingly close to his submitted time. The water temperature was nearly as warm as Fordton Leisure Centre's water at 19C.

Albert Dock Championships

This year the helm was taken over by Dave Bowker and his efforts maintained the standard set by previous secretaries. We had a good representation of members both on the side helping and swimming. The swim entry limit was set at 50 and the swim was full. Graham Padgett once again retained the accolade of being the first veteran home in the 4mile race. Richard Walsh and Michaela Richard both finished 2nd in the gents and ladies races respectively. Steve O'Brien retained the 4mile breaststroke title. Julie Trevor swam in the Dock for the first time. She was narrowly beaten by another breaststroke swimmer, blaming the President for talking to her during the swim.

Coniston Relay

The relay was held the day before the Senior Coniston swim. We had 5 team entered into the event. These were given the following names of Dolphins Babes, Dolphins Dolls, Jetsam, Flotsam and Team Carter. All teams swam well and the fastest was Jetsam. What was so pleasing was the enjoyment that was had by all. Some of the team members camped over the weekend at Hawkeshead. June Morris made her first swim in open water and Courtney and Connor Dean again excelled. Connor became annoyed when someone from another club accused him of slipstreaming during his first excellent swim. On his second swim he 'turned on the gas' leaving the complainant 'miles' behind. It was a great swim, narrowly finishing second. Dave Bowker swapped from being a timekeeper to canoeing for Flotsam on the Dolphins sit on canoe, his first time canoeing.



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The teams were:

Babes – Michaela Richard, Jo Norton-Barker, Julie Mainwaring
Dolls – Courtney Dean, Sarah Beresford, June Morris
Flotsam – Kevin Saunders, Richard Walsh, Christian Wade
Jetsam – Connor Dean, Alan Pomfret, Graham Boswell (subbed due to illness)
Carter – Chris, Joanne and Jennifer

Training

Attendance at sessions during the summer have continued at typical summer levels. Our thanks to Liz Byrne who has taken a large number of Sunday sessions and as a coach with considerable experience I'm sure we have all benefited from her quality sessions. Thanks are also due to Jim and Christian who have organised the coaches for the Friday and Sunday session respectively. Christian is always keen to receive offers for Coaching at Sunday sessions, so please volunteer.

Masters

Graham Padgett and Judy Brown again took part in a number of Masters Events over the year. At the Cheshire Masters both Graham and Judy swam well. Once again Judy set county records, this year she set three, which were in the 50m and 400m freestyle and the 100IM. Members of the Dolphins (Judy Brown, Graham Padgett and Chris Byrne) currently hold 12 county records.

Channel Relay 2010

Those of you involved in next summer's crossings its time to start concentrating on gaining fitness over the winter. Nearly all team members have swum outdoors this summer. A couple have had the summer off due to babies, injury or in Mark's case recovering from the previous year's commitments. Over the next couple of months plans will be drawn up on the teams and general arrangements. Since our last relay crossing in 2007, a new requirement has been introduced by the federation which requires all members to have swum a 2 hours qualifying swim.

Notable swims

- Richard Walsh swam 123.5 miles down the River Thames in five days. The challenge was in aid of Leukaemia Research
- Members who made their first open water swims this season as a Dolphin were June Morris and Julie Trevor.
- Richard Walsh topped the mileage chart with 150 miles (123 miles in a wetsuit). Jo Norton-Barker topped the mileage for true open water swimming (none wetsuit) with 52.0 miles.

Forthcoming Events

- Curry Night - 12th December 2009 - Including the Presentation of the 'Anderson' and 'Dolphin of the Year' Trophies.
- Christmas 1mile Handicap – 20th December 2009 at Fordton 6:00pm. As usual bring a wrapped present of value around £4. This is a very enjoyable event.
- Boxing Day Dip – Budworth Mere Sailing Club, 10am followed by the usual Bacon Buttie.
- AGM – Sunday 31st January 2010, 5pm Fordton
- Budworth Handicap – 8th May 2010
- Budworth Championship 29th May 2010
- Coniston Relay – 17th July 2010 (Preparation for the Channel Relay)
- Albert Dock Championship 7th August 2010
- Channel Relay – 17th to 24th August 2010

Andy Wright
President



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Newsletter – March 2010

As usual I'd like to welcome new members to the Club and I hope that you find us all welcoming and friendly. Hopefully we've seen the last of the snow and long dark nights as we move forward to the start of another summers swimming.

At the end of January we held our AGM. The committee this year is Andy Wright (President), Caroline Lewis (Treasurer), Michaela Richard (Secretary), Christian Wade, Julie Mainwaring, Alan Pomfret, Dave Bowker, Russ Mason & Jim Nurse. We are looking for a new Swim Secretary for our Albert Dock Championships. As Dave Bowker has changed his job and has been forced to take his annual leave on Albert Dock week. I'd like to thank Dave for his efforts associated with the Albert Dock swim. If anyone is interested or can help out please contact me. I honestly have enough on without doing this job as well but I don't want to see it not running.

We had another successful Boxing Day Dip with a good turn out of swimmers and spectators. It was a close fought race with the younger Martin Bosson getting the better of Richard Walsh at the last turn. It was a fine win for Martin.

At the BLDSA AGM held this month we retained the role of administrating the Postal Swim. Other information from the BLDSA is that the Rivington will not be run again and a new venue is being sort, which may run this year if permission is granted. However, a number of their swims opened in February and started to fill quite quickly.

Once again we held 3 sessions in late February for members to complete their Postal Swims and we had a good turn out of swimmers and members to count. I must thank Julie Mainwaring who organised the Clubs entry and Alan Pomfret, for running of the Postal swim nationally on behalf of the Dolphins.

No doubt by now if you haven't paid your membership you will have been reminded by Caroline to pay it. Remember you are not insured if you have not paid your membership and you will not be allowed to train.

Now to the Channel Relay teams – Atlantic, Pacific and Southern, with now only four months left, training should be well progressed and thoughts should now be to getting some open water swimming in and particularly thinking about our 2 hour swim at Budworth on the 8th July.

Dates for your diary are:

Bob Keating/Dick Dickinson Handicap	25/4/10	Fordton 6:00pm (social at the pub after)
Budworth Handicap (1 mile)	8/5/10	10:00am briefing 10:30am start
Budworth Championship	29/5/10	Swim Sec Michaela Richard
Marbury Handicap (1 mile)	last June	6:45 for 7:00pm start (date to be confirmed)
Channel Qualifier Budworth	8/07/10	7.00pm start
Albert Dock Championship	7/8/10	Acting Swim Sec Andy Wright, Briefing 8:30am

Budworth Championship is already full, but Albert Dock can be entered on-line via our website or by paper entry. My advice to you is that you enter early.

If anyone is not swimming the Budworth Handicap, Championships or any of our other club events please support your club by helping on the day.

Andy Wright



**Warrington Dolphins
Long Distance Swimming Club**
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Newsletter – May 2010

Recently I've only produced 2 Newsletters in the year, one in April and the other in October. However, Warrington Borough Council has proposed changes to the way the Dolphins and all other swimming clubs use their swimming baths. As this may have some quite striking changes, I've drafted this Newsletter to keep everyone up to date.

As you may be aware Warrington Borough Council has historically allocated time slots to swimming clubs and the members of that club get exclusive use of the pool at that time. Swimmers then pay the council at the door to use the pool. You are probably aware that the council is in a dire financial position and are looking for all ways to save money.

We have been contacted by the Leisure Services Department and they have informed us that they intend to change to the more widely used system of pool hire. It would mean that the club will be allocated a slot and would then be invoiced for that slot. Swimmers would not then pay the baths to enter. As you can imagine the club would then have to collect this money from swimmers.

At present the details have not been finalised, but rest assured we will do whatever is possible to get the best deal for the club and its members.

Additionally the council management team have reported that they are looking at pool usage and are to reallocate slots to swimming groups. Apparently they have no issues with the Dolphins but some user groups have been using the facilities at some session where only a couple of people are present. These sessions are unlikely to continue and they will be reallocated to other users. From our initial meeting our Friday night session will remain ours as it has been for over 40 years. Our current understanding is that we will not lose any water time in this process.

Moving into the future you will probably be aware of the new pool development now started on Winwick Road, (Orford Park Complex). This will be an eight lane pool and again we have been informed that there will be a smooth transfer of allocated time from the current pool at Fordton to Orford Park when it opens. Fordton will close at this time.

So to summarise there are changes ahead which will have some impact upon the Dolphins. All details have not been finalised by the council. In the next Newsletter I'll be able to report fully on what they are and that hopefully they have little financial impact on the club and its members.

**Andy Wright
President**

Newsletter October 2010

Firstly I'd like to formally thank Christian, Caroline and Jim for liaising with the baths management to sort out the changes forced upon us by the WBC. Secondly, I'd like to thank Michaela and Christian who have been sorting things throughout the season, such as updating the website and the Tuesday training sessions at Budworth. I have not been able to attend sessions as much as I would have hoped, but next year I'll be making it a priority to reach the higher levels of the mileage chart.

Channel Relay 2010

Well we eventually got two teams across. As August's weather was so poor, our slot came and went. We eventually, got a chance to go at the end of August. Unfortunately, we were unable to get all three teams away. Team Pacific crossed in 11 hours 31 minutes and Team Southern crossed in 14 hours 4 minutes. Well done to all the swimmers and thanks to the Team Managers of Michaela and Chris. I'll provide more information in the Annual Report. However, we are in the process of transferring Team Atlantic over to go across next season. The date is to be agreed.

Bob Keating/Dick Dickinson Handicaps

This year we returned to no juniors swimming in the Dick Dickinson Handicap. However, the Bob Keating handicap had 12 seniors taking part. **Steve Connor** was the winner being only 10 seconds out on his predicted time.

Budworth Handicap

Despite the wintry weather dragging on into spring, 27 swimmers entered the handicap. As usual the President arranged the course with help of Christian in a canoe. However, the estimate of 10 laps being equal to a mile proved to be way out. In fact it was probably 50% out, at approximately 1.5 miles. On the day the rain held off even though it was overcast. The water temperature was on the brisk side at 12.5°C. All but 2 swimmers completed the swim with the majority of Channel Relay members taking part. The winner of the swim was **Tony Fillingham** who ignored the President's estimated distance and was far more accurate with his own.

Budworth Championship

Once again our Championship fill up quickly and a waiting list formed. Michaela and Larry Richard again guided the event to a very successful conclusion. Unfortunately, for a few club members who didn't heed the warnings about entering early were disappointed as the swim was full by the time they decided to enter. Joe Coy continued on from the Ivan Percival completing the swim on Fly. The Dolphins won the team event again. We had splendid help from Dolphins not swimming. Those who did swim competed well. **Martin Bosson** won the senior gents championship. Eight Dolphins completed their first 3 mile swim.

Marbury Handicap

Marbury Handicap followed the same successful format as it has done for several years. 21 swimmers took part this year. However, the Presentation this year was held at the Antrobus Arms. This year's winner was **Adrian Moylan**. With the water temperature being 'Tropical' in the +20C, Russ Mason decided to make his first venture swimming outside and produced the fastest swim of the night.

Albert Dock Championships

This year your President was at the helm. We had a good representation of members both on the side helping and swimming. We had the highest entry ever at the event (64). Graham Padgett once again retained the accolade of being the first veteran home in the 4mile race.

Coniston Relay

For the second year we had four Dolphins teams entered. The weather on the day was changeable. However, all swimmers appear to enjoy themselves. The day was pretty much dominated by the Dolphins 'Youngsters bar one team', which featured some extremely fast swimming. This resulted in the team winning the event. Once again Dave Bowker stood in at the last minute, this year he swam, enabling the Dolphins '3 J's team' to complete when Julie Mainwaring was forced to retire due to sickness. The teams were:

Dolphins Youngsters bar one - Michaela Richard, Charlotte Dickinson, Eve Fellows

Dolphins 3 J's - Jenifer Carter, June Morris, Julie Mainwaring (subbed by Dave Bowker due to illness)

Dolphins Petunias - Sarah Beresford, Jo Norton-Barker, Amanda Reid

Warthogs - Richard Walsh, Christian Wade, Andy Sherrett

Training

Attendance levels during the summer have been as per normal at Broomfields, but with Fordton closing earlier and our session being moved earlier, attendance levels fell significantly. With these attendance levels and the fact that we now have to hire the pool it was very apparent that the club would be losing a significant amount of money each session. Therefore the decision was taken to accept an offer of a 1 hour session at Broomfields. Hopefully, this will be more popular with members.

Masters

This year we had a good tune out for the Cheshire Masters. Russ Mason set a new county record in the 100 IM and the 4x50m Medley Team 200/249 set a new county record. Overall we had 8 individual first places, lead by Billy Dutton x3, Russ Mason, Gerry Kelleher, Chris Byrne, Adrian Moylan, Keith Bosson all had one. This resulted in the club finishing as second club in the county.

Notable swims

- Windermere swims by Christian Wade, Eve Fellows, Jo Norton-Barker, Caroline Lewis and Michaela Richard.
- Victories by Eve Fellows at Loch Earn, Derwentwater and Lynn Regis, Charlotte Dickinson at Wykeham and Laura Holland at Llyn Padarn
- Stuart Ainsworth 2nd at Derwentwater.
- Andy Sherrett's first 4 mile swim at Albert Dock
- First 3 mile swims for Amanda Reid, Adrian Moylan, Julie Trevor, June Morris and Tony Fillingham at Budworth.

Forthcoming Events

- Social Night - 11th December 2010 (TBC) - Including the Presentation of the 'Anderson' and 'Dolphin of the Year' Trophies.
- Christmas 1mile Handicap – 19th December 2010 at Broomfields 8:00am. As usual bring a wrapped present of value around £5. This is a very enjoyable event.
- Boxing Day Dip – Budworth Mere Sailing Club, 10am followed by the usual Bacon Buttie.
- AGM – Sunday 30th January 2011, (Venue and date TBC)
- Budworth Championship 28th May 2011
- Albert Dock Championship 6th August 2011
- Coniston Relay – 16th July 2011
- Channel Relay – Team Atlantic details TBC

Andy Wright
President