



# Warrington Dolphins Long Distance Swimming Club

[www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk](http://www.warrington-dolphins.co.uk)

## Newsletter – October 2025

Here is a quick roundup of what's happened since the last newsletter in February.

**1 hour & 30 minute Challenge (Postal Swim)** – We had 20 swimmers entering the event this year. From these swimmers we also entered 3 relay teams. Most of the swims were undertaken on Monday evenings in February and March. Michaela was 1<sup>st</sup> in her age group in the 1hour challenge. While in the 30 minute challenge Chris, Helen T & Dave B were all 1<sup>st</sup> in their respective age groups. Our teams were 1x1st and 2x 2<sup>nd</sup>. Members swam a total of 43.4km.

Thanks to Kalliopi for organising, collating results together.

**Matlock Natural Spar 12 miles in 12 hours** – In April we had 5 swimmers taking part. The challenge was to swim 12 miles in 12 hours, either as a solo or team. Teams could be either 2 or 3 persons. Our swimmers completed the challenge as one team of 2 (Caroline & Rachel) and a team of 3 (Michaela, Julie T & Andy W). The water temperature was a comfortable 18C. We all considered it to be a great event. Recently it has been announced that the event will be held again next year and entries open in November.

**Budworth Challenge** – In May we held the event which involved either a 1 mile or 2 miles swim around the mere. We had a brilliant entry, and it was a great success. Thanks, must be given to all who helped whether on the land or on the water. A special thanks must be made to Budworth Sailing Club for the use of their facilities and their help.

**Individual Swims** – It's great once again to see the number of individuals entering swims. I'm sure it can't be the 'Mileage Chart' that is inspiring swims but there has been much talk and numerous messages about their latest swim be added to the chart. The current total is 183miles. Congratulations to Nick who swam Windermere, this being the longest swim completed by a member for quite a few years. At this moment, Ellie is toying the mileage chart, with swims in Coniston and a couple of cold swims in Loch Ken. Well done all of you no matter the swim length, let's improve our total next year.

**Budworth Tuesday Sessions** – We have had a great summer season of swimming this year with 23 planned sessions. We had to cancel 2 sessions due to poor water quality. Water temperatures have been consistently high once the water warmed in late April. We had a maximum of 24 swimmers in the water at one of the sessions. Thanks to all who helped, particular thanks to Fraser and Mike who provided kayak safety cover. Also needing to be thanked is Alison who provided her usual friendly and encouraging lake side support.

At the end of summer Budworth social a presentation was made to Alison who returns home to south Wales after spending 3.5 years in Cheshire. Although you wouldn't now believe it but when Alison joined us she was suffering badly from Long Covid and struggled to walk from the car to the mere slipway. Thankfully she is recovering well and has swim for the last 2 years in the Coniston Relay and other swims. She has been to nearly every Tuesday evening session since we restarted them after Covid. Alison has managed the slipway monitored swimmers entering and leaving the mere, handing over stroke tips, advice and generally encouraging swimmers new or old. Her shoe organisation will be long remembered. She'll always associate with Penguin Biscuits she would offer to swimmers after their swim and the associated penguin wrapper jokes!

**BLDSA Coniston 'Swim into the sunset'** – At the end of June the club dominated this event, when we had four teams and an individual entry, 18 in total. The teams all entered the 6-hour slot and Nick Morray entered the 3-hour slot as an individual and swam 9km. The teams were:

A team of 6: Alison, Dave B, Kalliopi, Mandy, Karen and Helen R, 10.2km

A team of 5: Mathew, Simon, Alexandra, Ellie & Andy W, 14.4km

A team of 3: Julie T, Caroline & Michaela, 15.5km

A team of 3: Jess, James & Rachel 20.8km

The weather was not the best, but all enjoyed the event. In total we swam 69.9km.

**Broomfields Training** – Our Monday sessions (8pm to 9pm) has seen a consistent level of attendance throughout the year.

**Budworth Summer Social** – In mid June we held our annual summer social inside the Budworth Sailing Club house. We had another great turnout. At the event we presented the 'Anderson Trophy' to Fiona Osbourne for her help in Designing the new club logo and production of certificates and posters. Thanks to Julie T for organising the event and everyone who brought food to make the buffet a success.

**Budworth Handicap** – We reintroduced this old event which we hadn't been held for a number of years. It was very well attended. So that the swim was inclusive, the 'Nominal Distance' was set as 400m. The traditional idea was repeated where you submitted your time prior to the swim. The winner being the closest to their submitted time. James did a blistering swim but couldn't beat Julie T's 3 second difference. We gave out prizes for the nearest, furthest out and 2 spot prizes. It turned out to be a very enjoyable evening. The swim was finished by Anita producing Bacon Butties for everyone, thanks Anita.

**Potential Channel Relay** – There have been a number of swimmers who have expressed interest in the club organising another channel relay crossing. As a pilot boat is required to book a crossing and there are only a limited number of slots per season. The next available slots will probably be in 2027. From information provided by Chris, the costs will be £4009 for the pilot boats plus individuals would need a medical and pay a registration fee. Anyone interested tell me.

***Dates for your diary are:***

Xmas social at the London Bridge Pub Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December 6:30pm (Live band on at 8pm in main room.  
Boxing Day Dip meet at Budworth Sailing Club at 9:30 for a 10am swim, followed by Bacon Biuttie & Drink

**Andy Wright**