



BRITISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

www.bldsa.org.uk

Newsletter – October 2009

During the summer many of us find it hectic running our normal lives, fitting in our swimming and keeping our partners as happy as possible with what time is left. Having said that autumn is here and didn't the season pass ever so quickly and what a fantastic season it was? This newsletter is designed as a quick update, following the season. As usual a more complete account of the year will be recorded in the Annual Report.

I'll start by updating you all on the progress to recovery of our Past President Dee Llewellyn. Dee has taken a complete rest over the summer and hasn't entered the water once or so I believe! However, I have seen a 'utube' clip where she was in mid-channel sat on a pilots boat so it can't be said that she hasn't been involved. I'm sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy full recovery. More recently Kevin Murphy suffered a set back with a problem to his 'main pump'. Fortunately he has had corrective surgery and doctor apparently said that after surgery he could 'do all those thing he'd ever dreamed of doing'. I'm sure a few question of what Kevin has done in his life would have lead the doctor to say different words. Anyway I'm told that Kevin is making a good recovery prior to the next swimming season. Janet Wilson found herself somewhat below 'par' in August, which required her to have a short stay in hospital. I'm pleased to report she is making a good recovery. John say's she's a poor patient refusing to do what she's told to do and has been taking walks on the moors instead of resting. We wish Janet a prompt full recovery.

I can report that the 'on-line' facility for entering swims, becoming a member and renewing membership is gaining popularity. This year the facility was extended to include the Derwentwater Championship. To use the 'on-line' facility of renewal/entry you can either go to the BLDSA website www.bldsa.org.uk or directly to www.entrycentral.com. Don't forget that membership renewals are due on 1st January 2010.

This year was the 50th Llyn Tegid Championship, although the championship was cancelled in 1996 the event has been organised every year since 1960. For the 50th Championship, there was a record entry of 140 for all the events. The event was a great success and it was pleasing to see that our premier 2-way Championship had an entry of 40 swimmers. Other Championships also had record entries, these being Wykeham, Lynn Regis, Coniston, and Windermere 2way. In the March newsletter I predicted that some swims would fill and a waiting list formed and this occurred for the Coniston Senior swim and Windermere. With the trend of increasing numbers the recommendation to enter early applies even more so next season. You're wasting your time if you think the Swim Secretary will allow you to enter late.

I'd like now to draw your attention to our Annual Dinner, which will be held on 13th March 2010 at the Holiday Inn Hull Marina, Hull. The format of the evening is being finalised. However, it will include, a dinner and then followed by the presentation of our special awards. The evening will conclude with a social gathering. You have the right to nominate for these special awards. I would encourage you all to do this by either writing to Marguerite Pike or filling in the form on the Association's website. I look forward to seeing you at the dinner.

I'm not going to go into detail on each swim as the Annual Reports will provide you with this information. However, I'll give you a brief summary of the season. Although the weather this summer has been damp, most swims fit into drier periods with the main exceptions being Derwentwater and Windermere. The standard of swimming this season has been particularly good. In general we experienced few retirements. The Association has always considered that Safety is of paramount

importance and again we have continued to follow that principle. On that note and on behalf of the Association I would like to thank all those associated with Safety starting with the swim secretary's role of organising. First aid this year has on numerous occasions been undertaken by John and Janet who on occasion have had little to do, which from the Associations point of view is a good thing. And finally a huge thank you to the RIB boat crews, Daniel, Laura, Mathew, Vince, Jacky, Chris, Steve, Joe, Jimmy and Sandra, who gave up considerable time, a fair bit of it in the rain to ensure swimmers safety.

This summer we introduced a Coniston Relay which proved to be popular and a great swim. There were a number of swimmers who made their first swims in open water and all of them appeared to enjoy the experience. The team size was set at three to keep it easy for members to form teams and 14 teams were entered. On the day we had some good rivalry between a couple of affiliated clubs who entered more than one team.

I'd like to draw your attention to **our** Postal Swim, which takes place at the beginning of the year, before the end of February. This is a fantastic event and very easy to take part in. It always surprises me how few long distance swimmers take part. The swim gives a fantastic measure of your fitness. Details can be found on the website or Postal Swim website www.postalswim.com. All you have to do is swim for an hour and have your lengths counted. Send off the entry and wait to see how we've done against an International field. Yes we have a large entry from Australia and USA.

Next season if plans fall into place, we will have the Ullswater Championship running and either a new venue for our Rivington Championship or will have regained permission to hold it a Rivington. Also our Torbay Championship is being planned to take place next July.

Look out on our website for when swims open as a number of them will open in February next year. This will depend upon arrangement details, but next year's swims are already well planned out.

For those of you who haven't seen a lot of Amanda Taylor this season it's because she just had a book published (Chinaman's Bastard), congratulation Amanda.

One of our oldest affiliated clubs YeAABA is celebrating their 125th Anniversary this year and will be holding a Dinner on 24th October. I'm sure you'll all join me in wish that it is a great success.

Finally, enjoy the winter break, don't eat too much Christmas pudding, train hard over the winter and see you all at next summers swims, if not at our Annual Dinner in March.

Andy Wright
Hon General Secretary