



BRITISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

www.bldsa.org.uk

Newsletter – November 2011

Well the summer season is now a memory that is disappearing as quickly as the wintery weather approaches. Maybe you have already started planning out next year's season. If that is the case you'll find a provisional calendar on the website.

Swim Wear – A feature of our times as much as ever is fashion. Over the last few years this has had a considerable affect upon swim wear. This season we have had situations at swims where some costumes have either been magically inside the rules or clearly outside. Over the winter months the Executive will examine this subject and issue clear guideline in time for the start of next season.

2011 Swims – A quick review; we had a very full calendar this summer. Our swims were held all over the country, from the south coast to Scotland. We held our Torbay swim again this year thanks to Brian & Joan Metcalfe picking up the reigns. New this season was the St Mary's Loch swim which was a great success despite very wet weather. This time thanks are due to Janet Wilson. Can I at this point thank all swim secretaries for all their efforts in delivering the very varied and enjoyable season.

AGM – Last year a considerable cost and time was spent sending out AGM paperwork. The association is conscious of the ecological effect in producing this paperwork. Couple this with the increasing size of the association and the modern methods used in business today, it has been decided that the paperwork will only posted to members who do not have an email address. All other members will receive their paperwork by email.

Electronic Payments – With the abandonment of the cheque guarantee system mid way through the year this signalled further moves by the banks to reduce the use of cheques. The association for a number of years now have been preparing for the demise in the payment by cheques (on-line entries is an example). We will further move towards a more electronic system and next year we are aiming to enable insignia payments electronically.

On-line Entries - This year saw the first of our swims (Coniston) as an on-line entry only swim. The swim quickly filled and a waiting list formed. It worked very well. The on-line entry system eliminates the time consuming task of dealing with paper entries and particularly processing cheques. Writing of cheques can be a problem for some of our younger members as some accounts these day do not automatically have cheque books. Therefore over the next few seasons you can expect an increasing move towards on-line entry and away from paper entries. We will also be moving towards increasing the number of memberships taken on-line. I find it a bit strange that people join on paper and then want to enter swims on-line. On-line activities can be achieved via our website www.bldsa.org.uk or directly via www.entrycentral.com.

Have a great closed season, enjoy your training and I look forward to seeing you on the circuit next summer.

Andy Wright
Hon General Secretary