

BRITISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

"Burnside"
Stoney Royd Lane,
Bodroorden,
Lanc's.
November, 1958.

Dear Member,

Annual Report 1958.

I have pleasure in presenting my annual report on the activities of the Association during the past year, together with one or two items of general interest.

Membership of the Association has risen to 102. Thirteen Regional Representatives are appointed, covering 14 counties, Scotland and Wales have one Representative each. With the affiliation this year of the Morecambe Inshore Swim, we have now obtained the support of all the long distance swimming organisations in the country.

A great stride forward has been made with the inauguration of the Torbay Championship, which made another page of swimming history, and showed a happy spirit of co-operation between the various swimming authorities, local organisations, Corporations, Councils and officials etc. Without doubt it was a most successful Championship, and the fact that 16 out of 22 competitors completed the 8 mile course from Torquay to Priddy & back to Torquay indicates the high standard of competitor.

The date for next year's race will probably be the 2nd week in July, but the date for this and other swims will be given to all competitive members as soon as possible.

The luxury of reclining in our individual massive sunken baths in the Spa immediately after the swim, and the civic reception in the evening, made this a day to be long remembered. We are greatly indebted to Mr. John Robinson, Torquay Publicity Officer for his interest and assistance, to Mrs. S.W. Margbits, Devon County A.S.A. President & Gen. Competitions Sec. for her very efficient organisation in connection with boats and carsmen and life savers, and to Mr. George H. Theaton for the use of his boats. We look forward to meeting all our friends in Torquay next year. It is interesting to note that prior to this year, only one man had ever completed the two way swim - our President.

Results:- Cmdr. C.G. Forsberg 4hrs 8 mins 29.5 secs.,
A. Ayres 4.15.7.4. J. Somerfield 4.39.16. E. Kinnam 4.44.55. W.C. Wrenn 4.52.43. M. Mann 4.56.12. J.H. Slater Pres. B. Watson 5.3.19.
P.L. Wilson-Chalton 5.7.34. G.W. Foote 5.10.33. Miss J. Adams 5.11.44
K. Mellor 5.31.35. Miss J. Gilbert 5.35.20. A. Smith 5.40. B. Robinson 5.48.10.
Temp. 61. Wind - Nil 1st lap. Light 2nd lap.

The Windermere Championship took place this year in good conditions with 15 out of 20 competitors completing the 10½ mile course. The tragic death during the race, of one of the competitors greatly upset us all. Championship records and all comers records for both sexes were broken, one by seconds, another by over an hour.

Our good friends Mrs. Tyson, Mr. Gouche & Mr. Coupletwhite once again accepted our weary greasy bodies in their immaculate Hotel Bathrooms. I understand it takes the staff a good half day to clean the baths and the bath rooms, the carpets, lino, polished floors and handisters etc., after our Championship, but their enthusiasm for our swim seems to be some compensation to them. Mr. Robert Clarke, Dr. G. Lancaster, & Mr. Jack Coupletwhite have again rendered us sterling service, and we are indebted to R.N.S. Tray Castle Cadets, and the local lads for assisting as carsmen & pilots.

Results:- Cmdr. C.G. Forsberg, 5.19.5 (New Record) A. Ayres, 5.42. Miss Joyce Bricknell 5.43. (New Ladies Ch'p Rec'd) Miss Jean Adams 5.58. R. McCaughey 6.2.30. W. Fenton 6.7.30. G. Foote 6.10.12. J. Slater 6.11.9. A. Sandersby 6.12. (New Breast stroke Rec'd) Miss June Gilbert 6.25. K. Mellor 6.45. J. Nardin 6.49. B. Robinson, 7.19. G. Beaton 7.38.3. W.C. Wrenn 8.13. Temp. 62-63. Slight following wind.

Individual swims in Windermere this year are:- J.K. Slater 6.10. B. Watson 7.14. J.A. Todd 8.14. W. Fenton 7.45. Jenny James 5.39 (Ladies Record) Margaret Lindsay 6.20 (Ladies Breast stroke Rec'd) Jack Graham 7.14.

Congratulations to June Gilbert, the first of our lady members to conquer the Channel since the Association was formed. June is a founder member of the B.L.D.S.A., Windermere Ladies Champion in 1957, Runner-up in Torbay Champ'p 1958, I think that June will have

a busy season in 1959. Cmdr. Forsberg continues on top form. Baulked at another Channel record attempt, he became the 3rd man to swim Windermere both ways, and reduced the record previously held by our President, to 12 hrs 45 mins Torbay Champion, Windermere Champion, record holder for both events as well as Channel record holder, ranks the Commander as Britain's No. 1 Swimming Marathoner.

Jean Adams, Southampton, became the first woman swimmer to conquer Windermere both ways. Time 15.45. This late September swim was made against a strong opposing wind in the 1st lap, torrential rain for 11 hours with thunder and lightning thrown in for good measure. Temp 61, 4 minute break at Lakeside. Jean's first triumph this year was as winner of the Torbay Ladies Championship. A bilateral breather she was also runner-up in the Windermere Championship this year.

Joyce Dricknell, Coventry, gave us some indication of her speed in open water when she won the Douglas Bay I & M Ladies Champ'p in 48.19, only 34 sec's behind the winner of the men's Champ'p. With her splendid performance in winning the Windermere Ladies Champ'p, we shall look forward to seeing some keen competition between June, Jean & Joyce, perhaps over a longer course if our plans for a Scottish Championship materialize.

Arthur Ayres, Coventry, scored a well deserved win in beating Commander Forsberg by a narrow margin in the Morecambe Cross Bay Final

Bob McCaughey, President of the Firth of Clyde Swim regained his Champ'p title this year, covering the 25 miles in 1.26.10. If we do have the Scottish Championship, Bob will be in a fine position to practice over the suggested course.

Dorothy May Perkins, Bradford, in her first venture into open water swimming won the mile Sea Championship at Withernsea organised by the local Life Guard Corps. Miss Ann Johnstone, Grange over Sands, in her first attempt on the Bay, won the Ladies Cross Bay Championship. We hope to see more of these two young ladies next season.

Otley S.C. is still producing long distance swimmers. Five members of the Club completed the Torbay Swim, six completed the Windermere course this year, two members in the Cross Bay final and four in the Inshore Final. Coventry is again coming to the fore and had four competitors in the Windermere Championship as well as individual successes already mentioned.

We are all sorry to hear that the Solent Swim may not be held again. Boating and oarsmen problems are the cause, and no one is more sorry to see the suspension of this grand swim than Mr. W.S. Rowe who has "fathered" the swim for so many years.

The English A.S.M. Long Distance Badges, having lain dormant in the vaults for so long, may soon be seeing daylight again. Joe Smith (23 minute miler & Morecambe Inshore Champion) together with Geoffrey Farnsworth (25 minute miler) Hon. Sec. of Castleton S.C. Rochdale, are hoping to persuade local officials to hold these two 3 mile Championships in nearby Hollingworth Lake which has a reputation for being cold & rough.

The suggestion by our President that an oarsman/pilot/life saver Badge be available to members who qualify by practical tests is to be implemented during next season. The idea being that a pool should be formed of members who are experienced and qualified to accompany swimmers on any long distance swims. The Association's Badge, with the addition of crossed oars and a suitable caption, to be the hallmark of such qualification.

The proposition for a Loch Lomond Championship will be discussed at the A.G.M. The course will be at least twenty miles, although the full length is 24 miles, the largest expanse of inland water in Great Britain.

The Loch has never been swum before.

T.V. B.B.C. & Press have given good support this year, parts of both our Championships being televised.

We are pleased to welcome two more affiliated Clubs, the Morecambe Bay Inshore Swim, and The Ancient Amphibious Bathing Association, Dundee. The Hon. Sec. of the latter being Angus Smith, who represented Scotland in our Torbay Championship.

In addition to local correspondence, letters have been received from India, Holland and Israel, the two latter inviting the Association to be represented at the Schelde Swim & the Sea of Galilee Championship. Whilst the distance and expense involved in a trip to Israel may limit our representation, I feel that we should take part in the Dutch Long Distance swim in the Schelde Estuary.

Metal lapel badges, priced 5/- each will be available to all members shortly. The badge is based upon the Association's Blazer Badge, the latter being available to all members who complete the Windermere Championship course and to members who serve two years on the Executive.

We are glad to welcome to membership Mr. J. Humphrey, of Preston, the 2nd man to swim Windermere, and who broke the existing record

in 1933, also to Mr. C.Daley, Manchester, who held the Windermere Record from 1934 to 1955.

The work of the Association grows more complex with the addition of further Championships, and it is proposed that a number of duties at present performed by myself, should be shared amongst members.

In this way we can continue to increase the scope of our activities and efficiency.

My grateful thanks are due to our President, Chairman, Treasurer & Press Relations Officer, all of whom have given a great deal of work and time to the Association.

My sincere thanks are also due to all members, patrons and others who have supported the Association in any way during the past season, to Mr. F.Wilson, of Kendal, who presented a silver trophy for the Ladies Windermere Championship, and to an anonymous donor from the Manchester area who presented two Sportotrophies for the Windermere Championship.

John, K, Slater

Hon. Sec.

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Information Bulletin.

1. Metal Lapel badges are now available to all members of the Association price 5/-. From Assistant Hon. Sec. Mr. K.Mellor, 89, Ashleigh Street, Weighley, Wks.
2. Clyde Firth Swim. Date not yet available. 2 miles. Average time 1 hr. Hon. Sec. Mr. R.McCaughy, 8, Lyle Street, Greenock, Scotland.
3. Douglas Bay (I o I) Swim. Date not yet available. 2 miles. Average time 1 hr. 15 mins. Hon. Sec. Mr. F.A.Huntley, "The Moorings" First Avenue, Douglas I o M.
4. Morecambe Bay Inshore Swim. 11th July, 25th July, 8th Aug. Final on Sun. 23rd Aug. 3 miles. Average time 1hr, 15 mins. Hon. Sec. Mrs. R. Brockbank, 19, Haysham Road, Morecambe.
5. Morecambe Cross Bay Swim. 22nd August. 8 miles. Average time 3 hrs. Hon. Sec. Mr. J.Brown, 30, Acre Moss Lane, Morecambe. B.L.D.S.A. training demonstration will be held at Morecambe Baths on Sun. 23rd Aug. all members invited to attend.
6. B.L.D.S.A. Torbay Championship. 11th July, 1958. 7 miles. Average time 5 hrs 15 mins. Hon. Sec. Mr. R.Robinson, 25, Belmont Avenue, Otley, Wks.
7. B.L.D.S.A. Windermere Championship. 29th August, 1959. 10 1/2 miles. Average time 6 hrs. 30 mins. Hon. Sec. Mr. J.Brown, 30, Acre Moss Lane, Morecambe.
8. B.L.D.S.A. proposed Loch Lomond Championship. August Bank Holiday. 20 miles. Approximate average time 18 hrs. The Loch has never been swum before. Hon. Sec. Mr. J.V.Slater, "Burnside" 30, Stoney Royd Lane, Todmorden, Lanc's.
9. Schelde (Holland) Swim. By invitation only. Date not yet available. 3 miles. Average time 1.30 All expenses paid by the Dutch organisers and the B.L.D.S.A. Further details from the undersigned.
10. Read "The Swimming Times" and keep up to date with long distance swimming news; articles by Commander O.R.Forsberg (R.N.) O.B.E. Further details of the above swims will be published in this magazine from time to time.
11. Any communications regarding the above swims should be addressed to the Championship or Swim Hon. Secretary concerned.
12. Donations to the John Rhodes Worthington (the swimmer who lost his life during the Windermere Championship) Fund are still being accepted. Donations (a minimum of 2/6d is suggested) should be sent to Mr. G.Trevor Smith, 30, Oak Tree Terrace, Lepton, Muddersfield.
13. Members are reminded that annual subscriptions are now due. (5/-)
14. Members who are prepared to assist in the Association's Championships and who are willing to undertake practical tests, i.e. rowing, life saving and artificial respiration etc., are invited to contact the undersigned. It is proposed to form a special panel of recognised Oarsmen/Life Savers, the members of such panel to be entitled to purchase and wear the badge of the Association set on crossed oars and bearing a suitable title to indicate the wearer's qualification.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year and I look forward to meeting you and meeting you during the 1959 season.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN V. SLATER.

Honorary Secretary. B.L.D.S.A.
"Burnside" 30, Stoney Royd Lane,
Todmorden. Lanc's.

2nd January, 1959.