



British Long Distance Swimming Association

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



www.bldsa.org.uk

Contents

Message from BLDSA Committee	3
Championship Reports	
Distance Weekend	4
One Hour Swim Challenge	5
200 Club Winners	6
Swim Recognition	7
Minutes of the 63rd Annual General Meeting	8

Message from BLDSA Executive Committee

The BLDSA Executive Committee, hope you are all well and are not physically affected by the Covid19 Coronavirus and if you are, we hope you make a full recovery.

As you are aware, we made the extremely difficult and possibly controversial decision to cancel all of the events for 2020. This decision was not easy, and we took many different things into consideration. We could not afford to risk the safety of our members, entrants, volunteers, (safety crew, first aiders, kayakers, swim secretaries to name but a few). You will also be aware that the BLDSA is run entirely by volunteers on a not for profit basis and primarily stands for the promotion of open water swimming.

We as a Committee would like to express our greatest thanks to you the members for your loyalty and support over the years and in particular during 2020. Many of you have rolled over your entry into this year rather than seek a refund. This we are especially grateful for and we hope to see you at our events this year.

We have really missed seeing some of the regular faces that support the swims around the Country and are looking forward to meeting up with you in person this year.

Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Season, there is no printed Annual Report this year and the AGM for the 2020 Season will be held via Zoom to which all members are invited. The meeting will be brief due to the lack of events to review.

Once again many thanks on behalf of the Committee. We hope your training will start when the water warms up and in the meantime please stay safe and healthy.

Many Thanks
BLDSA Committee

Championship Reports

Distance Weekend

Kate, Chris and Mark welcomed ca. 20 swimmers at Charlton Lido for this year's (3rd) BLDSA Distance weekend. Outside of the swim training itself, the event is intended to help swimmers access the murky world of marathon swimming and a stepping stone into BLDSA events. Again, as in prior years, people came from far and wide from Inverness in the north to Devon and Cornwall in the south.

Successful applicants were put to their paces covering over 15km of swimming during the weekend with a mixture of technique and pace-work. Even the most die-hard of open water swimmers felt converted by the delightful 24c-heated crystal clear water in the 50m pool.

Swim sessions were interspersed with group seminars covering all aspects of marathon swimming from nutrition to the mental side. Each swimmer was presented with extensive 1:1 feedback on specifics they needed to work on to correct any bad habits.

It was testament to the results of the prior Distance Weekends to see 2 'repeat offenders' come back for another weekend displaying how much they had improved since the inaugural one in 2018. Indeed Rob Waterhouse is the only one (other than the coaches) who can boast attendance at all 3 events – well done Rob - your hard work is paying off!

This remains one of the best weekends of the year for those leading the course and all swimmers appeared to go home pleasantly tired after putting some miles in the shoulders with inspiration for the year ahead having made new like-minded friends.

The next one should be on or around the last weekend in February 2021 – the application process will start again at the beginning of January 2021.

Many thanks for those who took part and those who gave up their weekends to volunteer.

Mark Sheridan
Swim Secretary

One Hour Swim Challenge 2020

Well done to all our swimmers who entered the One Hour Swim Challenge (formerly known as the Postal Swim) in 2020. We had entrants from all corners of the world, aged between 7 and 84 years young, all categories of able-bodied and disabled swimmers.

There were 948 swimmers, from many, many clubs and those who entered as individuals. Our age categories were amended slightly this year to level the playing field for the mid-teens age group. Congratulations to our inaugural records holders as follows:

16-17 Girls	Sophie Dix	Dartford SC	4030m
18-19 Ladies	Kathlyn Yeo	Cheltenham Ladies College	4370m
16-17 Boys	George Wise	Dartford District SC	4775m
18-19 Mens	Charlie-Joe Hallett	Guernsey SC	4750m

Thank you to all event organisers - those who have planned One Hour Challenge events at their clubs, checked all swimmers' details, scheduled the counters and sent the entries in to me, put in a huge effort behind the scenes and deserve all our thanks. It has been lovely to see so many young swimmers this year and some amazing performances. The aim of this swim is to provide something for everyone. Everyone has the chance to enter their best swim. For some swimmers, it has taken the most enormous effort to swim the distance they have, however long or short, and I am in awe of you all.

Well done again to all of you. We look forward to hearing from you again in 2021. We are all aware that 2021 may not be a 'normal' year for lots of athletes. However, please do keep training if you can and send us your entry, even if your pool isn't allowing full 1 hour time slots – lots of other people will be in the same position and the One Hour Swim Challenge is for everyone.

Caroline Lewis
One Hour Swim Challenge Secretary
bldsanehourchallenge@gmail.com

200 Club

Month	Amt	No	Name	Amt	No	Name	Amt	No	Name
Jan	£10	29	Jo Blackburn	£10	55	Penny Rushton	£5	77	Paul Taylor
Feb	£10	145	Joe Smith	£10	16	Margaret Smith	£5	116	Liane Llewellyn
March	£10	19	Tom Gunning	£10	93	Leslie DuCane	£5	6	Philip Yorke
AGM	£20	68	Jacky Classen	£20	109	Steve Price	N/A	N/A	N/A
April	£10	33	Kevin Murphy	£10	52	Stephen Lawson	£5	16	Margaret Smith
May	£10	13	Leslie DuCane	£10	60	Miss EM Simister	£5	68	Jacky Classen
June	£10	74	Richard Hardy	£10	113	Margaret Smith	£5	46	Richard Garnish
July	£10	73	Keith Coleman	£10	4	Penny Rushton	£5	141	Ruth Garnish
Aug	£10	116	Liane Hickling	£10	134	Chris Hickling	£5	113	Margaret Smith
Sept	£10	116	Liane Hickling	£10	1	Eileen Fenton	£5	94	Paul Taylor
Oct	£10	30	Richard Garnish	£10	58	Bridget Hopkinson	£5	112	Philip Yorke
Nov	£10	134	Chris Hickling	£10	99	Helen Beveridge	£5	69	Leslie DuCane
Dec	£10	23	Carol Butler	£10	108	Gwyn Llewellyn	£5	12	Leslie DuCane

Congratulations to the winners. There are many numbers still available for the annual cost of £6 per number. It could be well worth it, anyone wanting numbers please check the website for details or contact me for a form, email membership@blds.org.uk

Vince Classen
200 Club Administrator

Swim Recognitions for 2020

I must apologise to the successful swimmers for the delay in getting their certificates out in a timely manner. Hopefully by the time this is published all will have received the formal recognition they so richly deserve.

Completed

Iris Ashman

15th August, Rough Towers to Felixstowe
5 hours 21 minutes 1 second

Philip Hodges

17th September, Loch Morar, Oban Bothy to Morar
6 hours, 31 minutes 37 seconds

Gavin Lee

29th September, Float Bay to Portpatrick
2 hours 46 minutes and 9 seconds.

V Classen

BLDSA Recorder

AGM Minutes

63rd Annual General Meeting

Humber Royal Hotel, Grimsby - Sunday 15th March 2020 at 10 am

In the Chair: Philip Yorke, Past President

A Minute's silence was held in memory of members & friends who have passed away during the year: Eric Millican, Dave Evans & Graham Killingbeck.

1. **Apologies:** Caroline Lewis, Bryan Finlay, Erin Hope, Hazel Killingbeck, Janet Wilson, Jean Wilkin-Oxley, Jackalyn Classen, Eileen Fenton, Michael Davies, Roger Parsons, Valerie Parsons, Steve Price.

1a. **Life Membership Presentation:** Life Membership was awarded to Graham McIntyre & a certificate presented.

2. **Minutes** of the 62nd Annual General Meeting on 10/03/2019. Approved as submitted in the Annual Report on pages 56 to 64.

Proposed: Graham McIntyre

Seconded: Martyn Coates

All in Favour

3. **Matters Arising:** there were no matters arising.

4. **Hon. General Secretary's report:** submitted as published on page 2 of the Annual report, with addition of this verbal report:

I refer to my report on page 2 of the annual report. I have been extremely busy juggling roles this year and have tried my best but on occasions have dropped a ball. I have apologised to any individuals affected and now apologise to you all for anything which may have affected you.

I would like to start by saying a little about the Executive Committee members and the Swim Secretaries. Please can Association members bear in mind, before having a dig at any of them, they are actually carrying out your wishes as the electorate, that they are volunteers who give a huge amount of time and effort to the Association and many of whom have never actually been Association swimmers but have come on board as friends and family members of swimmers.

Before we start on the reports, I wish to give the meeting a briefing of the current status of the Executive Committee and its members. There are several leaving or have already left, namely:

Jacky Classen (Trophy Sec)

Francis Zielinski (committee member - has already left)

Liane Hickling (has confirmed she is not re-standing but is staying on as a Swim Sec)

Mark Sheridan (Chaired the development sub-committee, he will remain a Swim Sec)

Hazel Killingbeck (leaving the role of Publicity Officer, but wants to remain on the committee)

Jane Bell (Dinner Sec. will be resigning in full, from that and the committee)

I would like to thank the outgoing committee for their hard work either as a committee member, swim secretary or in most cases both. I could go through every single committee member with individual thanks for their taking on the roles they have but we would be here all day.

However, I would like to say a special thanks to Richard Hardy for not only being the Association's Safety Officer, RIB Pilot, Boat Maintainer, Printer, Insurance Guru, Webmaster, not forgetting Boat Salesman extraordinaire and for being there as a sounding board and allowing me to unload some issues directly onto him.

You will be receiving specific information on each aspect of the Association from the appropriate Officer or Secretary as the meeting progresses.

I have given the information of those leaving and those standing again to the Executive Committee. However, it has not been elevated to an Emergency Committee matter but brought to this AGM for your consideration.

So, here is my take on matters in response and with some references to some of the replies I have received. Please remember these are not proposals just some suggestions and obviously will need some discussion and a lot of work by the committee you elect later at this meeting.

There have been some comments that the Executive has become unwieldy, time consuming and not as effective as it could be. I am not totally on board with the comments but trying to be positive, I think this could be a seminal time in the Association and we should look hard at the composition of the Executive and the Hon. Sec. posts with a view to reducing the numbers, which may reduce the time taken at meetings.

As we no longer present trophies at events and only present the Annual Awards as we did last night, there will be a massive drop in the Trophy Sec's work-load and the role could be absorbed into the Dinner Sec's role, which may be reducing but more on this shortly. Treasurer and Publicity could be under one officer and also Rules and Development under one head.

Therefore, I think perhaps –

Dinner and Trophies could be combined but not sure of who would be willing to take it on.

Treasurer and Publicity could be combined under Michelle, she is already looking after the swimming magazine interactions, running the 2nd open BLDSA Facebook Group and is very hands on with the Website. Michelle has said she is happy to run both roles. However, she did say in the future the next Treasurer may not want both roles.

Rules and Development can be combined under Philip Yorke as he is willing to take on both.

Grand Prix and Swim Recognition could be combined under a new administrator.

Membership work is reducing as the website becomes more effective. The last three (Grand Prix, Swim Recognition and Membership) I have been managing with varying degrees of success and if the Grand Prix and Swim Recognition were taken off my hands, I could continue with Hon. Gen. Sec., Membership and 200 Club.

The Safety Officer, Safeguarding Officer and Rescue Boat Co-ordinator, should remain as such, as should the **Hon. Gen. Sec., President and President Elect**.

I am unsure of the **Minute Sec.** being an Officer and perhaps should be a "normal" non Hon. committee member.

I am suggesting we could reduce the number of Hon this and thats, which could be a way of getting back from the current twelve Officers to a more manageable six officers and ten/twelve committee members from the current 28 in total (according to the website and defunct handbook).

I will now move onto Dinners and AGMs, because of the falling numbers at Dinners and General Meetings.

The Annual Dinners can be attended by anyone, historically the numbers have not been quantified, Members, Guests, non-members (families and friends) etc. This year for instance there were 27 Members (Swimmers and Social, some last year and some this year), 4 Guests (2

of whom were life members) and 21 non-members (families, friends, affiliate clubs and local club the Water Rats) and I thank everyone for attending and hope you had a great night.

The **Annual General Meeting** is the day after the Annual Dinner and has always been a bit of an enigma (and thick heads for some).

Perhaps the way forward could be a one day, AGM, Presentation and social event. This perhaps, to be at the end of the season, say November and not quarter of the way through the following year in the March. This may help with the nominations for the Annual Awards, as things are still fresh in the minds of everyone. The outgoing President would still present the Annual Awards, and the new Season President would be in place before the events open and we do not have the strange situation where the outgoing President welcomes new joiners into the Association immediately before they stop being President.

If I am elected as President Elect, it could be that in my year in Office I am in post for 8 months, March to November. With the new system in place for 2022, the President would be back on track for the year and the whole of the swimming season.

I know there is a huge amount of information here to take on board, so what I am asking for is for this meeting to approve the ideas in principle and authorise the Executive to work on those ideas and amend the constitutional rules as appropriate. There are so many that will need altering, it would be a huge undertaking to make a full formal proposal for a General Meeting to agree to these proposed changes.

Please be assured that we will always have the best interests of the Association in mind whilst making any changes.

Are there any comments or questions from the floor before I move a proposal?

I am proposing:

"The Executive Committee is allowed to amend the current Constitution as appropriate".

G J Smith expressed the wish to applaud Vince for the thinking & work undertaken. He commented that the fall in numbers of swim entrants, dinner attendance & attendance at the AGM appears to support the potential move to a one- day event to enable people to control their costs.

Proposed: Vince Classen
Seconded: Margaret J Smith **All in favour**

G McIntyre left the meeting at 10.17.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report: M Hardy submitted her report as printed & circulated. She offered congratulations to Richard Hardy for the excellent price secured for the sale of the redundant boat to help the coffers of the Association. She commented that income from Swim Recognition had increased and there was a small increase in income from Membership, however, there was a drop in income from swim entries which means more swimmers are required. There is welcome income from the Postal One Hour challenge & from the distance weekend. She was pleased to report that £159.00 was raised by the raffle at the dinner & also offered thanks to Martyn Coates for raising £52 for UNICEF during the evening.

Proposed: Anne Stafford
Seconded: Martyn Coates **All in favour**

6. **Hon. Membership Secretary's Report:** V Classen presented his report on page 41 of the Annual Report.

Proposed: Graham Smith
Seconded: Sue Coates **All in favour**

7. **Hon Safety Officer's Report:** Submitted by R Hardy, as published on page 42 in the Annual Report.

Proposed: Richard Hardy
Seconded: Anne Stafford **All in favour**

8. **Hon Safeguarding Officer's Report:** Anne Stafford submitted her report as published on page 44 of the Annual Report. She commented that looking ahead there will be issues relating to the Corona Virus which is currently under consideration.

Proposed: Anne Stafford
Seconded: Michelle Hardy **All in favour**

9. **Hon Trophy Secretary's Report:** No report was published. V Classen indicated that Jacky Classen is happy to continue the cataloguing of all the withdrawn swim trophies. Liane Hickling asked that thanks to both Jacky & Vince Classen be noted, for all the assistance they had given in the preparation of the trophy presentations at the dinner & making the work of other members of the Trophy sub-committee so easy.

10. **Hon Recorder's Report:** V Classen submitted the report as on page 41 of the Annual Report.

Proposed: V Classen
Seconded: Liane Hickling **All in favour**

11. **Hon Rescue Boat Co-ordinator's Report:** Chris Hickling submitted his report on page 43 of the Annual Report.

Proposed: C Hickling
Seconded: R Hardy **All in favour**

12. **Hon. Publicity Officer's report:** V Classen submitted the report on behalf of the retiring PO (Hazel Killingbeck), as published on page 44 of the Annual Report. Michelle Hardy who is willing to co-ordinate future publicity encouraged members to send information & pictures to her in the future to support publicity work.

Proposed: V Classen
Seconded: M Hardy **All in favour**

13. **Hon. Dinner Secretary's Report:** P Yorke offered thanks for all the hard work by Jane Bell to create the enjoyable event the previous evening. Her report is on page 44 of the Annual report.

Proposed: Jane Bell
Seconded: Margaret Smith **All in favour**

14. **Championship Hon Secretaries' Reports:** It was agreed that these reports would be voted for en-bloc unless any contentious issues should be raised.

14a. **Distance Weekend** (Mark Sheridan) AR page 3

- 14b. **Colwick Park** (Amanda Bell) AR page 4
- 14c. **Wykeham** (Erin Hope) AR page 5
- 14d. **Champion of Champions South** (Mark Sheridan) AR page 7
- 14e. **Champion of Champions North** (Amanda Bell) AR page 10
- 14f. **Torbay** (Steve Price) AR page 11
- 14g. **Bala/Llyn Tegid** (Phil Yorke) AR page 14
- 14h. **Coniston Veterans** (Francis Zielinski) AR page 16
- 14i. **Coniston** (Francis Zielinski) AR page 17
- 14j. **Champion of Champions Wales** (Liane Hickling) AR page 18
- 14k. **Ullswater** (Anne Stafford) AR page 21
- 14l. **Derwentwater** (Anne Stafford) AR page 23
- 14m. **Loch Lomond** (Janet Wilson) AR page 24
- 14n. **Windermere** (Chris Malpass) AR page 28
- 14o. **St Marys' Loch** (Janet Wilson) AR page 30
- 14p. **Postal Swim** (Organised by Warrington Dolphins) AR page 55
- 14q. **Grand Prix** (Vince Classen) AR page 32

15. Special Awards

A list of Awards made is listed for information:

James Brennan Memorial Trophy:	Michelle Hardy
Fred Slater Swimmer of the Year:	Steve Taylor
Hans Belay Swim of the Year	Ros Hardiman
Tom Butcher Junior swimmer of the Year:	Maddie Adams
Elise Brook Junior Perseverance Trophy:	Holly Rotchell
The Avril & Alan Mitchell Veteran Trophy	Louise Orgill
The Breaststroke Trophy:	Jane Sedman
Captain Webb Relay Team of the Year:	Team Impossible Nada
William Keating Windermere Trophy	Michael Johmann
Willy Van Rysel Masters' Swimmer of the Year	David Randall
Brierley Law Ladies' Masters' Swimmer of the Year	Jean Wilkin Oxley
Annual Dinner Swimmer of the Year (Male)	Amanda Bell
Annual Dinner Swimmer of the Year (Female)	Philip Yorke
Junior Girls' Grand Prix:	Maddie Adams
Junior Boys' Grand Prix:	Thomas Reynoldson
Senior Ladies' Grand Prix	Alex Sedman
Senior Gents' Grand Prix	Steve Taylor
Veterans' Ladies Grand Prix	Jane Sedman
Veterans' Male Grand Prix	Steve Taylor
Ladies Breast-Stroke Grand Prix	Jane Sedman
Mens' Breast-Stroke Grand Prix	Ian Bacon

16. Long Service Awards: a long service award was made to Vince Classen for service to the Executive & in various support administration posts contributing to the work of the Executive. The Award was made by Phil Yorke, Past President.

17. Alteration to constitutional rules. None submitted.

18. Subscriptions: The Executive committee proposed an increase in Senior Membership to £47 from 1/01/2021 with Junior & Social membership remaining at £10.

Proposed:	Executive Committee	
Seconded	G Smith	In favour 18 Abstentions 1

19. **Installation of President:** Past President Phil Yorke installed Amanda Bell as President. Having accepted the role, Amanda then installed Vince Classen as President Elect.

20. **Election of Officers:**

Honorary General Secretary	Vince Classen
Honorary Treasurer	Michelle Hardy
Honorary Minute Secretary	Caroline Lewis
Honorary Publicity Officer	
Honorary Safety Officer	Richard Hardy
Honorary Recorder	Vince Classen
Honorary Trophies' Secretary	
Honorary Membership Secretary	Vince Classen
Honorary Safeguarding Officer	Anne Stafford
Honorary Rescue Boat co-ordinator	Chris Hickling
Honorary Dinner Secretary	
Past President	Philip Yorke
Committee	Margaret Smith
	Janet Wilson
	Hazel Killingbeck
	Steve Price
	Erin Hope

Proposed: Graham Smith
Seconded: Martyn Coates

All in favour

2020 Championship Secretaries:

Event	Secretary
Colwick Park	Kevin Welsh
Wykeham	Erin Hope
Champion of Champions (South) Dover	Mark Sheridan
Torbay	Steve Price
Llyn Tegid (Bala)	Philip Yorke
Coniston Open	Michelle Hardy
Coniston Senior /Junior	Michelle Hardy
Champion of Champions (Wales) Holyhead Harbour	Liane Hickling
Windermere 2 Way (not being held in 2020)	David Randall
Ullswater	Anne Stafford
Derwentwater	Anne Stafford
Loch Lomond	Janet Wilson
Windermere	Chris Malpass
St Mary's Loch	Janet Wilson
One Hour Challenge (previously Postal Swim.)	Caroline Lewis (Warrington Dolphins)
Distance Weekend	Mark Sheridan

Proposed: Martyn Coates
Seconded: Louise Orgill

All in favour

The President asked that thanks be recorded to all retiring Officers & Championship Secretaries for all their hard work and contributions over the years.

21. Venue for Annual Dinner & AGM 2021: this was referred to the Executive in recognition that changes of style have been raised for their consideration.

The meeting closed at 10.49am

In attendance: Amanda Bell, Jane Bell, Vince Classen, Martyn Coates, Sue Coates, Tony Espin, Michelle Hardy, Richard Hardy, Chris Hickling, Liane Hickling, Graham McIntyre, Louise Orgill, Robert Orgill, David Randall, Graham Smith, Margaret Smith, Annie Stafford, Simon Wallis, Andrew Wells, Philip Yorke

Observer: Rosalinda Hardiman