



BRITISH LONG DISTANCE SWIMMING ASSOCIATION

ST. Mary's Loch Swims

INFORMATION SHEET

This is the tenth swim in the BLDSA calendar at this venue. As with all swims safety is paramount and we do everything possible to make the event run in a safe environment. Although the distance is relatively short, those entering must bear in mind that this is a Scottish Loch at the end of the season, and the temperature and conditions may be challenging!

The swim secretary may question your experience once entry forms are received, but please be realistic about what you can achieve.

EVERY SWIMMER ENTERING THE 3.25 AND 6.5 MILE EVENTS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN ESCORT BOAT OR KAYAK, WITH A ROWER OR PADLER, DETAILS OF WHICH MUST BE STATED ON THE ENTRY FORM

There is an Angling Club on the Loch who have hired their rowing boats to swimmers in the past if you prefer this option to a kayak, but do remember you need to have at least one competent rower to go with it.

Contact:

Richard

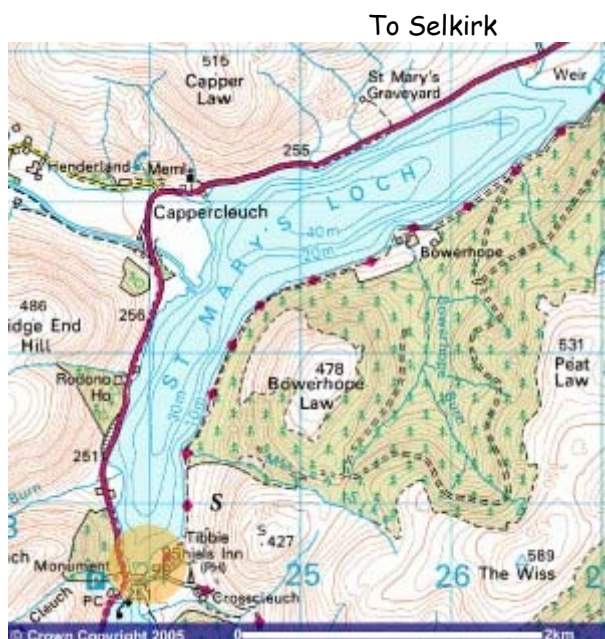
Stmarysloch@gmail.com

St Mary's Loch Sailing Club may also be able to help with escort boats.

We are using the facilities of the Tibbie Shiels Inn, so please respect that, and do not leave any litter or abuse the privilege. The proprietor, Alistair, has been helpful in putting the plans together, and has a variety of accommodation available if booked early enough. Please contact the swim secretary if you wish to explore the options.

Date of Swim: Saturday 29th August 2020

Venue: St. Mary's Loch, between Selkirk and Moffat in the Scottish borders. (approx 15 miles from the M74 on the A708)



To Moffat

Time:

Registration from 8-30am

1km event Briefing 9am. Start 9-30am

6.5 miles and 3.25 miles events: Briefing 11am. Start 11-30am and 12-30 am respectively. The start of the 3.25 mile event is dependant on all the swimmers, boats, crews and officials arriving at the North eastern end of the Loch on time, after the briefing has taken place.

Distance: The Loch is approx 3.25 miles long and swimmers can either swim one or two ways. Entry and exit is easier at the Tibbie Shiels end, so activity will be centred around there, and all swims will finish there.

Entry Fee: £60.00 (6.25 miles) £45.00 (3.25 miles) £15 (1km)

(Please make cheques payable to the B.L.D.S.A)

Briefing : Will be held at Tibbie Shiels Inn campsite at 9am for 1km and 11am for 3.25 and 6.5 miles (Look for the BLDSA First Aid Tent on the shore of the loch at the Tibbie Shiels campsite)

Time Limit:

1km 1 hour

For one (3.25mile) and two way swims (6.5mile) - 6 hours. This will actually mean a 5 hour time limit for the one way event which starts an hour later.

Costs:

In line with BLDSA Policy, the swim costs have been set to cover the costs of Rescue, First Aid, Pre swim Risk Assessment, Officials, Refreshment, and Certification. The cost also includes a small buffer profit amount, which if realised, will go toward the upkeep of BLDSA equipment. This is dependant on good entry numbers as this is an expensive swim to organise for the length of the course.

Age Limits

None - but see first paragraph of this information

Dress for 3.25 and 6.5 mile events

BLDSA Rules -one costume or trunks not extending beyond armpit or crotch, one cap and one pair of goggles. Nothing else! No wetsuits, no music in ears, no trunks down to your knees. Grease is allowed, but don't forget you have to get it off afterwards.

HOWEVER- in line with a recent executive decision swimmers in wetsuits will be accepted in all events, but will only receive a certificate for completion and not a placing in the championship. Please state you intention to do this on your entry form.

Water Temperature:

Cannot of course be guaranteed, but is likely to be between 11 and 16 in August in Scotland. May be more - may be less! - so be prepared.

Access:

There is good access to the Loch for swimmers, rescue boats and kayaks at the Moffat end of the Loch. This is also a campsite which is in the grounds of the Tibbie Sheils Inn, both of which can provide accommodation. Please inform the swim secretary as early as possible if you require help finding accommodation.

The BLDSA First Aid Tent will be on the site from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning. This facility can be used for camping (for the same fee as anyone else pays for camping) for those wishing to have a budget weekend that don't have camping gear. Please let the organiser know if you intend to make use of this, as it does have a limited capacity.

Access to the Loch at the Selkirk end is on private land, so will only be used to start the one way swim. There is no parking at this end, so cars can only be used for pick up and drop off. A limited number of cars will be able to enter the private land to enable kayaks to be dropped off etc., but must not be left there.

There is a road within yards of the Loch at one side (the A708), and a footpath at the other, for spectators and emergency access.

The area is fairly remote, although in addition to the Inn there is a tea room, picnic area and car park, and a sailing club. The bar at the Inn is now closed, and the Inn only has accommodation available if booked.

Presentation:

For the 1km event this will take place at approximately 1pm, as soon as the 2 longer events are underway.

For the 3.25 and 6.5 mile events, this will be held in or around the First Aid tent as soon as possible after the last swimmer is out of the water. Food and hot drinks will be available for swimmers and helpers free of charge, and at a small cost to others.

The time for this will not be known until the day, but will be no later than 5-30pm, which is the time limit for the swim. If there are still swimmers in the water, the Safety Officer and Referee, in conjunction with other officials will decide whether they can continue as part of the event, but the presentation will still go ahead.

If you are intending to leap out of the water and drive home without your certificate, or partaking of any of the facilities and refreshment offered to you, as seems to have become fashionable at swims, then please feel free to send £5.00p less for your entry fee and bring an A4 stamped self addressed envelope for the posting of your certificate!

It is a beautiful and impressive venue. Make the most of it.

Trophies:

There are no traditional trophies for this event, a decision taken after consultation with swimmers, but there is a perpetual trophy for the oldest swimmer to finish the 6.5 mile championship, donated by Greta Gall. All swimmers who complete their course will be awarded a certificate and an appropriate memento.

Rescue Boats and First Aid

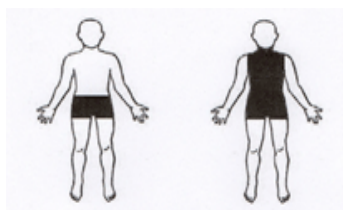
You should plan to be self sufficient, with at least a towel and footwear in your escort boat, along with any refreshment and medication you may need. The BLDSA rescue boats will be on the Loch and will take any retiring swimmers to the Tibbie Shiels end. All retiring swimmers MUST report to the First Aid personnel, even if their services are not required. In the event that you need to retire and the rescue boat is not immediately available, you should follow the instructions of your escort, who may decide to take you to the road side of the Loch, to await rescue, hence the need for towel and footwear.

YOU MUST DECLARE ANY PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS ON YOUR ENTRY FORM OR TO THE FIRST AID PERSONEL, BEFORE YOU ENTER THE WATER.

We will not disclose this information to anyone who doesn't need to know, but consider it essential that you tell us in order that we can look after your safety. Medical conditions do not necessarily prevent you from entering, but the organiser's decision will be final.

Costumes

No costume must extend outside the highlighted are detailed in the picture below for the championship events.



Useful websites

<http://www.visitmoffat.co.uk/attraction-finder/st-marys-loch>

<http://www.stmlsc.org.uk/index.htm>

<http://tibbieshiels.com/>

And finally.....

Please come to the swim to enjoy the day, and indeed the whole weekend if you can spare the time.

Please return entry form with fee to: Janet Wilson, 20, Padgett Court, Ben Rhydding Drive, Ilkley, West Yorkshire. LS29 8JU. Tel Mobile 07957 348328. E-mail janetwilson22@aol.com