

BLDSA Postal Swim 2008

I can't believe that 12 months have elapsed since I was writing the summary for the 2007 Postal Swim, where does the time go?

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Postal Swim.

This year a total of 1539 swimmers took part in the event which is an increase of 149 on last year. I was pleased that the number of entries increased this year and hope this trend continues next year.

As I mentioned in last year's summary, due to the data protection act, the ASA will no longer provide me with the address details for the secretaries of all their affiliated clubs and therefore, in order to promote this year's Postal Swim I emailed details of the swim to as many clubs as I could. If you or your club did not receive the email promoting this year's swim, please let me have your email address and I will add you to the distribution list for next year.

This year a total of 3 individual records were broken whilst, as per last year, no team records were broken.

In the girls 10-11 year group Kristina Neves broke Nicola Faulkner's 11 year old record with a fabulous swim of 4635 metres. Kristina won the age group last year but managed to improve on the distance she swam last year to break the record, well done Kristina.

For the ladies, Jane Asher of Kings Cormorants S.C broke the record she set last year in the 75-79 year age group with a swim of 3345 metres and so well done again Jane. Jane's records for the 65-69 and 70-74 year age groups remain in tact for this year, will anyone break them next year?

In the gents 60-64 age group Graham Padgett of Warrington Dolphins LDSC broke the record set by Duncan McCreddie in 2006 by an impressive 240 metres with a swim of 4300 metres.

Zoe Clayton of Adwick ASC topped the ladies H1 category with a wonderful swim of 3505 metres. Zoe was followed by 10 year old Jennifer Cooke who improved on last year's distance with a swim of 3000 metres. In the men's H1 category Samuel Kaye of Troutbeck Bridge ASC led the way with a swim of 3913 metres, well done Samuel.

Kris Apps of Talays Aussi Masters and Tony Whelan jnr of Irlam Town S.C again set the standards in the H2 category with swims of 3025 metres and 2525 metres respectively.

In the H3 category, Elinor Wood of Don Valley Dolphins narrowly claimed top spot from last year's top H3 lady, Leah Halpin of Bingham Penguins, with a swim of 2962. Andrew Zawadzki of Bingham SC led the H3 mens category with a fabulous swim of 3700 metres.

I have received a number of requests to include records for each of the disabled categories in the swim results. The reason why records have not been included for disabled swimmers is that the degree of disability in each category can vary significantly from one swimmer to another and therefore, I do not plan changing the current stance of excluding records for the disabled categories from the swim results.

As with this year, details for next year's swim will be posted on our web site www.postalswim.com where results, entry forms, and contact details may be obtained. **Please note that this is my last year as Postal Swim Secretary and that Alan Pomfret will be the Secretary for next year's swim. Therefore, the contact telephone number and address to which results should be sent will change for next years swim.**

As in previous years, a big thankyou to all the people who have helped me with this year's swim which includes Chris Byrne, Alan Pomfret, Andy Wright, Christian Wade, Jo Coy, Larry and Michaela Richard and Chris Carter from the Warrington Dolphins LDSC. A big thankyou also to my 'wonderful' wife (her words, not mine) Lesley.

For those of you who like the outdoor life and fancy sampling the pleasures of outdoor swimming the British Long Distance Swimming Association web site www.bldsa.org.uk has information on this years events.

Again I've made every effort to keep mistakes to a minimum however, if you do find a mistake, please contact me and I will endeavour to correct it.

Regards
Dave Feakes
Hon. Postal Swim Secretary.