

OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

Founded 1869



ANNUAL REPORT and ACCOUNTS

1999

130th SEASON

1999 has been a year of notable success in the water for both swimmers and water polo players, and thanks are due to everyone involved, particularly to Mike Wake whose drive, enthusiasm and commitment has been a major factor in the success of the swimming section over the last two years. Mike has now stepped down as head coach and we wish him continued success in competitive swimming.

It is a continuing source of regret that we cannot find a pool which will accommodate both the water polo and swimming sections on the same night, so that there can be closer interaction between the two sections. Pool time in general is a major problem, and at some stage in 2000 we will lose the use of the Shell pool on a Monday night. The Committee is well aware that sorting out new long-term arrangements for pool time is a priority, but there is no obvious solution as yet. The finances of the club remain steady, but our objectives of increased competitiveness and professionalism, combined with more pool time requirements, means that subscriptions will not stay at their present level, and even this level is only maintained because of the generous support of many members to appeals for funds.

The social side of the club has remained as strong as ever, and it is fully appreciated that with so many competing demands on individuals' time, people must enjoy the Club and everything it has to offer, whilst having realistic competitive targets.

The composition of the Committee changed drastically during 1999, with the introduction of several new members who are heavily involved in the active competitive programme. Special thanks Charles Doxat, Bob Bum, and Dennis Wamford-Davis who served with distinction for so long on the Committee, and continue to make a valuable contribution towards the Club. Barbara Woodward has made a major impact as the new Hon Secretary, and Lucy Clarke and Guy Powdrill as Ladies' and Men's Captains have significantly strengthened the club. Martin Flash, as always, is a tower of strength as Hon. Treasurer.

There are many more people who help in so many ways, and the Committee, as always, owes thanks to everyone who played a part in the running of the Club during 1999, and we can look forward to the next 1000 years with some confidence!



OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

**OFFICERS
1999**

President: R.F.H. Sharpley
Hon. Secretary: Miss B. Woodward
Hon. Treasurer: M.H. Flash

Past Presidents

N.E. Fitzsimon C. Doxat
 R.G.M. Burn J.K. Iliffe

Past Vice-Presidents

C.A. Ball Dr. D.D. Craig A.M. Crawford M.C. Downs M.H. Flash J.B. Goodbody
 Cdr. C.G. Forsberg O.B.E., R.N.
 M. Grundy R.H. Jones
 N. Musgrove Lord Plummer TD,DL R.N. Roberts R. Smith
 R.L. Stead B. Thornton D.M. Warnford-Davis R.J. Williamson

Vice-Presidents

Miss L.Davies J.K. Nalson

Captain of Swimming (ladies): Miss L. Clarke
Captain of Swimming (men): G. Powdrill
Captain of Water Polo: T. Kendall
Water Polo Hon. Secretary: S. Woodley
Hon. Handicapper: J. Mackenzie
Schools' Secretary: J.K. Nalson

Committee

A.A. Ray J. Iliffe

Swimming Coach: M. Wake
Assistant Coach: Mrs C. Kirkbride

FINANCES

Rather to the surprise of the Treasurer the accounts this year show a small surplus. Given that the subscriptions, despite an increase, did not achieve the budgeted level the reason lies primarily in a cost budget that fell short. This was the coaching budget, which was less than expected because we are behind in our ambition to achieve a much larger and more comprehensive coverage than in previous years (see next page). The weakness in subscriptions compared to forecast lies as always in changes in membership through the year, and hence partial year payments. Even if the total numbers stay stable, as they did this year, the churn in membership produces a shortfall of nearly 20% of theoretical income.

Once again donations from members exceeded expectations and our thanks go to those who add a vital 10% to our income overall. These splendid people were;

Prizes and General Fund

J.Agar, C.Bancroft, A.Batt, J.Breare, D.Craig, L.Crocker, M.Downs, C.Doxat, I.Dusseck, C.Duval-Kieffer, P.Evans, F.Fitzsimon, N.Fitzsimon, G.Forsberg, T.Fraser, M. Gallagher, J.Gardner, P.Grace, P.Guascone, V.Hardy, J.Illiffe, R.Jones, B.Karoly, N.Kay, J.Kay-Mouat, C.King, D.Lean, M.McHaffie, R.Millington, D.Milne, A.Morton, N.Musgrove, A.Myers, R.Palmer, D.Parr, D.Payne, D.Pellew, J.Plumley, Lord.Plummer, L.Redpath, J.Ricketts, N.Salsbury, R.Sharpley, D.Skidmore, R.Stead, C.Stewart, D.Stewart, C.Stossel, R.Thomas, P.Thorogood, J.Towers, H.Turner, M.Vandersteen, L.Walkden, W.Walton, P.Wiliamson, R.Williamson, B. Woodward, M.Zillman.

Our thanks go also to Lesley Davies for producing another profit for the shop. The accounting tends to understate the figure, and certainly understates her work.

Three other points should be made about the income statement. The dinner again showed a loss, and the core reason for this is the conflict between our desire to thank various external people for their support to the club by inviting them as guests, and keeping attendance high with an attractive ticket price.

Secondly the postage costs jumped this year, mainly due to a loss of rhythm of three mailings a year; for various reasons there were more. Undoubtedly in time mailings will be impacted by the Internet. Organising mailings is no fun and our thanks go to Tony Ray for doing the 'stuffing', which from both a practical and financial viewpoint is an activity regrettably on the increase. At the moment only half the club has an e-mail address so we will continue to mail members, but already a lot of communication goes electronically, and the Otter web site (see last page), which was set up by Jim Mackenzie to whom we owe many thanks, is where more and more news will be posted first.

The last point about our costs and income is perhaps the most important for its impact on future plans. We were lucky that the Shell pool was available all year. Our time there is supported by Shell and this is reflected in the accounts, but when we lose access to Shell pool we do not expect similar help. Not only will the pool space be difficult to find, it will cost more. Central London pool time with one lifeguard or coach costs around £75 per hour, an annual cost of about £3500. Furthermore last year we ran several extra training sessions which for which swimmers were not charged (with thanks to Mike Wake and Shell). We are grateful to Mike for setting up this opportunity which is now well established. We fully intend to continue these sessions, but in future there will be an extra cost.

Members must therefore remain aware that the club does not pay for itself. The policy of increasing the service level (pool time and coaching) while increasing the Active subscriptions will continue for some years. The aim is to provide swimming and water polo at the highest level with full professional support, and in the long run this means a different financial structure.

The undesirable consequence is that the club must grapple with the fact that the membership is less integrated, and differential payments for different use patterns will emerge. The new year sees a start to this with a different fee for those who play water polo only, and an extra fee for those using the special sessions.

If the situation of the income statement is sombre, that of the balance sheet is rather different. Astute observers will see that the value of the club has jumped some 20% from last year's figures. Ah, you will say, the Treasurer was fiddling the accounts; all is revealed. Despite some minor truth behind these libelous allegations, the real reason was foreshadowed in last year's report. A major supplier

forgot to send us a bill, for which we made a reserve. One year later with no bill forthcoming, we can integrate the reserve.

The Life Members Fund grew slightly, and the Memorial Fund saw a small change. The Memorial Fund is the subject of a special note below. This year we thank;

Memorial Fund

F.Fitzsimon, R.Stead,

Four other changes are of note. We have made a substantial investment in a new supply of spoons, with a reworked Otter on top. We have written off the cost of the Histories. These are given to new members, and the windfall referred to above gave the opportunity to do this. The histories themselves are in plentiful supply and (more or less) freely available to the members.

Thirdly there is a cosmetic change in the accounting of the reserves, where the General Reserve has been combined with the line Capital Income and Reserves. The General Reserve was simply the reserve when the current Treasurer took office and there seems no point in keeping it as a separate item.

Lastly the value of the investments (which now produce a nice income) is more than twice their book value. Although one must remember that share values can go down or through the floor, our thanks go to David Miller for his guidance to produce this happy state.

In sum therefore the club finishes the millennium with the strength to undertake new initiatives, but an operating equilibrium still to be achieved.

OTTERS' MEMORIAL FUND

Last year saw a small change in the presentation of the accounts with the removal of the names under the Memorial Fund. These names were of donors long ago and there appeared no reason to keep them. However



there may have been confusion in the past between those noted in the annual report (donors giving capital to the club), and those in the hand book (names for which others have donated capital to perpetuate their memory - as the name of the fund implies). Among the names removed were some who merit remembering, and older members might like to donate this year to place some of the names in the handbook.

The names removed were;

I.L.H.Mackillop, Docking (initial unknown), J.H.Davision, A.S.Davison, H.M.Wagstaff, A.H.Dussek, L.P.Worger, C.A.Young.

The Treasurer will certainly donate to remember C.A.Young, and Gary Wagstaff, both Past Presidents.

Gary did more than almost anyone in keeping the club alive through the war by attending the club's normal water hole every week so that Otters in London could find someone convivial. C.A.Young was of slightly more recent vintage, and was a source of encouragement to many swimmers and water polo players, in the second case almost too much. After the dinner it was 'custom' in C.A.'s time to repair to the pool at St Mary's Hospital to play polo, usually unencumbered with swimming trunks. This practice was curtailed by the Matron who, while not contesting C.A.'s rights as a senior member of the hospital to bring his friends in late at night, asked that they should do so without turning on all the lights and opening all the windows!

MEMBERSHIP

The club numbers declined slightly this year. Last year's figures are shown in brackets. The membership of 238 (245) was made up of Active 106 (115), Non-active 87 (87), and Junior 16 (17) members.

The average age of the club was 42 (41), of Active members 35 (34), Non-active 49 (50), and Junior 15 (14). The ladies total declined to 43 (49). The explanation of the changes in Active figures lies in a more stable membership and fewer new members 26 (40), but why we lost relatively so many ladies is a mystery. We welcomed the following this year;

New Members

Massimiliano Cusimano, Christopher Davies, Kim Marchant, Christopher Tidman, Mark Fincham, Rachel James, Zennon Kapron, Edward Horrocks, Richard Horrocks, Archibald Kendall, Edmund Buckley, Ezra Clark, Alexander Garrow, Luke Romandi, Michael Munns, Stephen Crowe, Mark McMorran, Matthew Seaton, Colin Frearson, Malcolm Sheehan, Ruth Britz, Emily Bright, Nicola Short, Matthew Harley, Margherita Gianni, Philip Harper

The rising average age and declining number of Juniors can be attributed to Otters losing the habit of enrolling their offspring at birth (in one case in the past , before it -



and still a member), while those that have been enrolled get steadily older. As the reproductive powers of Otters appear to be intact from the news we get, loyalty is clearly declining.

Members News

Gerry Forsberg, open water swimmer extraordinary, provides cheery support from Morecombe. A recent cataract operation hasn't slowed him down although he now swims little. He swam his first race in 1923 and his last in 1996 but appears to have lost none of his energy.

Neither has Roy Romain who won his first championship in 1935 and swam for Great Britain in 1938, and is still competing, most recently having won no less than 3 gold medals in the World Masters in Morocco!

Paul Thorogood writes from Cornwall where he is making a no doubt strong contribution to local beer consumption while playing bridge - at the local rugby club.

Norman Fitzsimon gives the club regular support, not least via the membership of his 5 grandchildren, and assures us that his date of birth is unchanged from previous years. Norman is an excellent source of reference for the club's history and was helpful in sorting out the Memorial Fund details, as too was Ron Stead.

Denis Lean, the senior member of the club, is still in contact from Perth in Scotland. Andy Fawcett is no longer working in Brazil and was studying music in Boston, USA. Bob Williamson, dug into Devon after the Middle East, won the WCASA short course 59-64 backstroke in 1998.

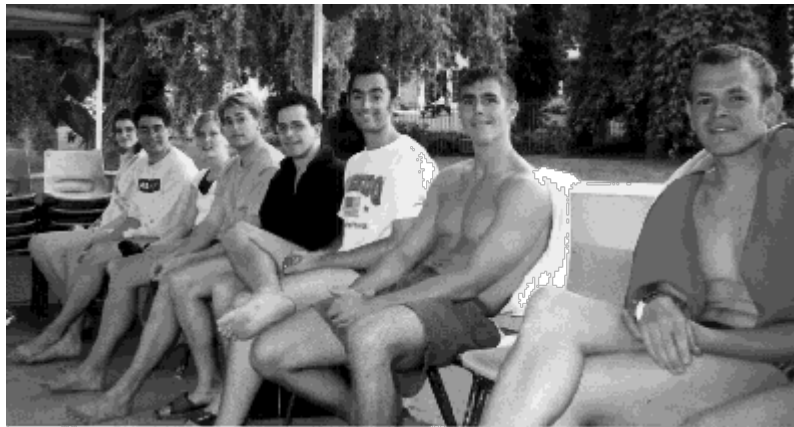
Spencer Russell, pillar of the second team water polo, started his married life with the delightful Debbie, and Brian Karoly also got married. Brother Jeff is now in Brazil. In Australia at Rottnest Island, off Perth, Western Australia. "The Otter Tourists" - Gary Semini (late of the Otter Water Polo Team) and Richard Kendall (Tim's brother) team won their event (60+ age-group) - a two-man team swimming 20km. They came third in the four-man teams last year. Over 1200 swimmers take part in this event, and there would have been some 30 teams in their age-group.

For those of you who know Garry and Christine Willetts on Saturday 27th March they had a baby girl, called





Samantha Jane. Wanting to look her best she arrived with a head of hair and long finger nails. Congratulations also to Joanna (Breare) and Pete Godwin on the birth of their daughter Nicola Jane in April, and to David and Cecelia



Miller on the safe arrival of the triplets in October.

Many congratulations to South East Masters Swimmer of the year, Derek Parr, who at the European Masters Championships in Innsbruck won the 55-59 200 butterfly long course in a new European record time of 2.50.92 and broke the British short course record at the National Masters in Sheffield in a time of 2.42.36. He takes up the banner from fellow Otter Roger Lloyd-Mostyn. However as he did the former race in the colours of another club the committee is pondering what sanctions are appropriate. Normally several rounds of drinks would be in order, but Derek has a credit on which he can call. A few years ago having failed to return home after one especially convivial Monday evening, he established an alibi for all Otters. His wife, who was naturally alarmed by his failure to return home the previous evening, phoned several Otters who all told her where he was, and that such behaviour was perfectly normal on club nights.



ACTIVITY REPORTS

Swimming

The swimming year has seen several successes, a suitable reward for Mike Wake who drilled the club hard, at a time of great difficulty for himself. He decided to resign late in the year to concentrate on swimming, leaving behind (to the surprise of several Otters) a much fitter club. Mike was assisted through the year by Claire Kirkbride to whom we owe our thanks for her commitment. At the end of the year both were joined by Alan Reed, who made an immediate impact, and with other changes forthcoming this year we should have moved further towards our goal of a larger professional coaching structure. Nor should we forget the ever willing support from Arthur Batt who emerges from retirement to ensure that events are properly conducted.

Overall the year was remarkably rich for Otter. The editors count a medal haul of 35 gold medals, 30 silvers and 29 bronzes (but there may be more from Otters too modest to report their triumphs to Tony Ray). Otter featured prominently at key championships: notably the Southern Counties Long Course a



t Crystal Palace, where the club was placed second overall. The team is shown here left to right, Bob Thomas (in athletic profile), Tony Ray, Mike Wake and Derek Parr. At the short course later in the year at Barnet Cophthall, Otter was sixth out of 59 teams (and might have done better if finding the pool had not defeated some team members). Team turn out at the National Masters Championships in Sheffield was a record 38 (provided you counted the President before he absconded to France for the rugby) and the medal tally there (counting one for relays) was 11 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze.

But the correlation between the winning of a gold medal or other glories and regular attendance at Club training sessions remained elusive. The successes of James Stewart (5 individual medals, including gold in the 400 IM and 200 IM), Derek Parr (4 individual medals with gold in the 200 fly (British record), and 100 fly , Roger Lloyd-Mostyn (four with gold in the 50 fly and 50 free), Liz Redpath (three with gold in 200 and 100 back), Mike Wake (two with gold in the 200 breast), Luke Romandi (two), and Bob Thomas and Tim Fraser with one each were perhaps to be expected. Congratulations too to Lucy Clarke, who nearly became the first Otter captain for 15 years to get a medal at the Nationals, but the ravages of flu took their toll and left her with fourth places in the 200 and 100m breaststroke.

Otter performances in the relays also deserve mention. The much vaunted return to competitive swimming of the mens 160 plus relay squad, bronze medalists in the freestyle, surprised seasoned observers no less than their opponents. And the distinctive swim which secured Mark Courtney (Biggles) a silver medal in the 200 IM showed the supreme importance of tactics: (pick races with only one other competitor). Special congratulations to the men's 200-239 medley and freestyle teams for golds in closely contested races. But younger members of the club (it's always relative) demonstrated their potential, with the aforementioned bronze for the men's 160-199 freestyle, and a silver for the women's medley 100-119. Many more took to the water for the glory of Otter but did not have their efforts garlanded with laurels. It was a demonstration of the recovering competitive strength of the club that we fielded women's, men's and mixed relay teams in almost all age groups (although the youth of the ladies team is a real handicap here) --and a credit to the captains' IQ that we avoided contravening the Byzantine regulations (due for revision in 2000). Finally a honorary medal is due to Lesley Davies for arranging (and rearranging at short notice) accommodation for the team.

Congratulations should also go to several members for other fine efforts. These included the following;

Although years ago one famous Otter did a personal best at Crystal Palace straight after a panic search before the race found him in the bar, this was not the lot of Nicola Molloy and Colette Dennigan in the Southern Counties who missed their 400 race gossiping in the loos.

In Guernsey Lesley Davies and Barbara Woodward won lots of medals. In Southend Lesley was runner up in the overall gala. A team lead by Tony Ray and Queralt Prat i Pubil and including Nicola Malloy, Roger Phillips and Mike Wake went to Paris and distinguished themselves - when they finally found the pool. Claire Ambrose went to several small meets, but it must have put her off because she returned to Oxford as a fellow in her old college.

In multi sports Juliette Clark, Charles Doxat and Barbara Woodward entered the Windsor triathlon. Particular congratulations to Juliette who achieved her aim of qualifying for the World Championships in Canada after a fine series of performances culminating in a third place in her age group at Windsor. She

Division II	Pen.II	Met.I	Otter1	OColms	Macc.	Division III	Pen.III	Met.II	Enfield	Otter11	Ealing
Penguin II		5-3	13-4	9-6	2-0	Penguin III		9-7	17-11	2-0	17-5
Met Police I	6-13		11-3	V	16-5	Met Police II	4-6		8-5	3-0	2-0
Otter I	5-14	4-15		11-6	5-4	Enfield	5-10	10-7		9-3	9-5
O'Cholms.	4-7	9-13	2-0		2-0	Otter II	7-3	8-5	3-11		10-7
Maccabi	0-2	0-20	3-16	8-11		Ealing	4-10	1-10	6-4	5-2	

did triathlons all season and was placed high in all of them. She earned a place at the World Champs in Canada in September and did well and went on to Australia where she then went sub 2h20m for the first time and was 13th in her age

group. She also did a half iron man in the north of England.

Lesley Davies (3rd), Guy Powdrill (2nd) and Barbara Woodward (1st - shown here with her cup) did the Tooting tri (but Guy had a wet suit and a girls bike). Peter Rae, Chris Owens and Guy are to be congratulated on 7th team place in the London triathlon although they confessed they would have been second if Chris had not run an extra lap. The proof that (over) training

Division III	Avon.II	Beck.II	Otter1	Borewd	Lambeth	Sutton11
Avondale II		13-6	10-5	W-L	W-L	11-8
Beckenham II	8-10		5-4	12-13	15-13	16-6
Otter I	5-8	3-16		9-6	W-L	12-9
Borehamwood	W-L	8-14	W-L		7-6	11-9
Lambeth	6-8	13-9	2-2	12-9		Void
SuttonCheam11	5-7	L-W	L-W	W-L	18-12	

is bad for you! The team is shown below.



Congratulations to Nicola Molloy and Peter Grace who also completed that triathlon (without the extra lap). Still in the murky waters of the East London Thames, in the Albert Docks swim in September, Laura Lopez-Bonila was 3rd in her age group (behind Queen of the Channel Allison Streeter), and Matt Seaton did it as well coming top of his age group in his debut swim for Otter. Further North, John Iliffe put his retirement to good use by doing the Coniston 5.25 mile swim again, and the 4 mile Torbay veterans race .

1st Team Colours

Derek Parr, Liz Redpath, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, James Stewart.

2nd Team Colours

Nicola Molloy, Kim Gardiner, Steve Boyd, Jonathan Agar, David Milne, Laura Lopez-Bonila, Grant Pearce, Roger Phillips, Alex Ray, Tony Ray, Luke Romandi. Spencer Russell, Roger Sharpley, Margaret Askew-Walinda, Allistair Booth, Wendy Collier, Lesley Davies, Mark Courtney, Paul Goudie, John Iliffe, Ian Hughes, Rachel James, Peter Kirk, Bob Thomas, Mike Wake, Barbara Woodward, Guy Powdrill

Masters Colours

Mark Courtney, Tim Fraser, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Derek Parr, Liz Redpath, Luke Romandi, James Stewart, Bob Thomas, Mike Wake, Lucy Clarke

Multi-sports

Juliette Clark

Club races

Handicaps and open water events were run with the usual expressions of frank disbelief of allocated times, and open attempts at mendacity about best times. As ever these efforts were ignored (or factored into some obscure computer programme) by Jim Mackenzie to produce some surprise results. The club owes much to him for his methods honed over many years.

The club races were organised this year as last by Allistair Booth (here in action) with an efficiency that only confirms the rise of right wing sentiments in Europe recently. He is to be congratulated with these 2 successful club nights.

Mile

This event is the undiscovered gem of open water races. Organised as before by Jim Mackenzie and Tony Stanton the evening

benefits from a leisurely boat ride up the Thames, (and a less leisurely swim down). There follows a magnificent meal in a local watering hole, and all this possible with a train ride to and from Waterloo. The men's' winner this year was Guy Powdrill, by only 2 seconds from Peter Kirk, and ladies' winner was Rachael James, only 5 seconds ahead of Lucy Clarke . The handicap was won by Claire Ambrose. A special commendation for the swimmer who, in an excess of zeal rarely witnessed at Otter, swam passed the finish and had to be stopped heading for the Thames Barrier by Jim Mackenzie

Half Mile

Yet again, the half mile was the jewel in the crown of the open water season. On one of the finest summer evenings of the year, Otters young and old, finely honed athletes and well rounded drinkers (or is it the other way round?) admired the river and criticised the handicapper in equal measure. In a fine display of swimming from the front, Gemma Deacon won the half mile, 5 seconds ahead of her father Tim Fraser (who started 10 minutes later), at the same time taking the title of youngest ever winner from Allison Stewart, another



daughter of an esteemed Otter scion. Mark Gunning arranged (but mercifully got someone else to cook) the magnificent buffet. All of which more than compensated those without cars for having to endure Helgo von Meirs jokes all the way home on the train. The field is shown above (absent some of the more well rounded members), and the victor and father to the left. Below can be seen, relaxing after their exertions (or is it during?) Bob Thomas, Meg and James Stewart, David Craig, and Mark and Drew Grundy.

Quarter Mile

Swum in the Tooting Bec Lido in a temperature that was surprisingly warm, Dennis Warnford-Davis once more organised an excellent evening. One Junior Otter, Alexander Flash, appreciated the organisation especially as Dennis had provided a birthday cake for him, his heartless father having decided that an Otter Open Water Race was the only way to spend the evening. The race was won by Andrew Craig, here with his cup.

The overall Open Water winner was Spencer Russell, achieved by being well placed in all three races.

Handicaps

The full compliment of races was run. The races inevitably took some time from real training, but many were thankful for this and competed. The winner of the Averages Trophy was Nicola Molloy, with a close challenge from Patrea ODonohue and Spencer Russell. The Ladies Club Championship was won decisively by Lucy Clarke. Lucy was beaten in only one of the events. Congratulations to Rachel James for her unique victory in the 50 fly. Luke Romandis victory in the mens championship was never in serious doubt. But there was no room for complacency as strong challenges from Nigel Burnham in the breaststroke and IM showed.

Schools Swimming

John Nalson ran the Bath Cup with his usual efficiency. Although Otter officially sponsor this event, fewer and fewer from the club actually assist and one must wonder how much longer the club should be associated with an event which impinges so little on the club, even though it is perhaps useful long term marketing.

The schools matches suffered from a lack of knowledge in advance of the programme and for several we struggled to put out a team. This is a great pity because these are enjoyable events, where youthful energy does not always get the upper hand on aged prowess. The best formula is undoubtedly a triangular match so that any weakness in the Otter team is masked by the presence of the other visiting team. The events are the chance for some easy racing (although more hard work if the team only has four swimmers, 2 of which came for the polo!) and a Water Polo game that usual combines a lot of energy , short playing periods and biased referees so that the Club just loses.

Water Polo

The long term ambition of the club is still to achieve one club night combining both swimming and water polo training, but this year brought it no nearer. The polo squad lives a life largely of its own and under the guidance of Tim Kendall is growing in strength and presence. Invaluable support from the side supporting the bureaucracy that appears to be the hallmark of a minor sport was given this year as in previous years by the everlasting Dennis Warnford-Davis, to whom the gratitude of the

polo players is extended.

Success in the water has been harder to achieve and there is room for improvement in our results. The first team finished third in both the London League (3rd Division) and the Middlesex League (2nd Division), while the second team finished fourth in the Middlesex League Division 3. The captains administrative skills also need some work (the "Cholmelians" were half an hour "Older" by the time we turned up).

Thanks are owed to Scott Woodley as Secretary for facing the challenge of getting referees to show up (and to James Orford in Scotts absence), to Adrian Cattley for his astute vice-captaincy and to Spencer Russell for getting a second team together. The team are also aware of the debt owed to Dominic Pellew, the captain in previous seasons for the amount of effort he had put into putting out polo teams. Hopefully he is now finding time to think of water polo in the Moscow winter and will eventually return to a thriving polo club. There seem to be more polo players in London than ever and Otter should make the most of this.

Water Polo Results for 1998/99.

Middlesex County Amateur Swimming Association London Water Polo League

We look forward to the new season, starting in March, with optimism. We have a new coach, have entered a second team in the London League and hope to continue our co-operation with Westminster University. It would be good to build on our record of fulfilling all but one of our fixtures last season. We often had a full squad of 13 players and had as many as 26 people training.

Otter Golf

David Craig organised as before a day of strenuous golf, excellent eating and drinking, and divine weather. The winner was Charles Doxat, demonstrating that the advertising world clearly allows time to perfect one's stroke. The Royal Wimbledon course is one of the most delightful in London and David puts his membership on the line in inviting Otters to play there. Those responsible this year are shown here (Martin Flash, Andrew and David Craig, Ron Roberts (speed golfer extraordinary!), Vic Hardy, Charles Doxat, Roy Smith and Jim MacKenzie at the rear, plus Bernard Thornton, Lesley Davies, and Bob Burn. The picture was taken by caddy Dennis Warnford-Davis). Anyone with pretensions to the ancient game should signal their interest to David for a not-to-be missed annual event, for which many thanks.

Annual Dinner

We owe our gratitude as last year to the organisers, Rick Jones and Lesley Davies for a splendid evening held in the Lansdowne club. Roger Deakin, author of "Waterlog", the story of a swimmers odyssey through Britain, was enticed out of his Suffolk moat to share some of his swimming experiences (and sell more of his books). The following day some of those attending wanted to forget the evening and others could not remember it, evidence that all enjoyed it. The club organised a Russian Raffle, which financially was quite a success but which was understood by practically no one (in fact, quintessentially Russian according to the the Hon. Sec. Barbara Woodward) and hence was viewed as a bit of a rip-off (quintessentially Russian). The Treasurer bears the blame for this, but also appreciates how much money was raised. What he appreciates less is receiving it all in cash before the bar closes, not because of the bar but because of the need to remember how much he had in the first place.

E-Otter

As mentioned earlier the club now has a web site, (www.otter.sc.freemove.co.uk). In fact there are really 2 sites (linked) the other set up by Tim Kendall at <http://www.tim.kendall.dial.pipex.com/otter.html> for water polo. Although there is no plan to stop mailing Otters, these developments plus related advances in computers and printing raise the question of whether the Annual Report and Handbook format of many years should be retained. The latter in particular has been the subject of many attacks. As the club diary it had a clear role, but now half its volume is (obscure?) history, and the diary function is both a source of delay in printing, and of error and omission. One possibility would be to combine the two; another would be to suppress it. A third idea would be to reconfigure both, and introduce a third publication comprising only rules and history. The views of members on the format and content of either or both documents would greatly assist the debate, which need not move to a quick, or indeed any conclusion.

TROPHIES 1999

Date	Name	Event	Donor	1999 Winner
1874	Ladies C. C.	5 L Handicap	Lady friends	P. ODonaghue
1889	Brown Challenge Cup	100m Backstroke (M)	G. S. Brown	L. Romandi
1893	Macdonald C.C.	2 L Handicap	A.R. MacDonald	R. Sharpley

Lesley Davies with the 1/2 mile wooden spoon!

ACCOUNTS 1999



1896	Thorne-Thorne C.C.	Open Water points	Dr. L.C. Thorne-Thorne	S. Russell
1898	Dudley C.C.	Mile open water	Dr. J. G. Dudley	G. Powdrill
1899	Collis Brown C.C.	400m Freestyle (M)	Maj. W.A. Collis-Brown	L. Romandi
1905	Buller C.C.	Club championship (M)	W.A.H. Buller	L. Romandi
1911	G.H. Rope Averages	Handicap points total	Club members	N. Molloy
1911	Humphreys C.C.	100m Freestyle (M)	Jack Humphreys	L. Romandi
1914	Annison C.C.	100m Breaststroke (M)	F.E. Annison	L. Romandi
1921	J.W. Rope Memorial	Half mile open water	Club members	G. Deacon
1922	Haskins C.C.	100m Sealed handicap	A. W. Haskins	J. Agar
1923	George H.Rope Cup	Golf competition	G. H. Rope	C. Doxat
1931	Synge-Hutchinson C.C.	Veterans 50m handicap	Col E.D.B.Synge-Hutchinson	M. Askew-Walinda
1934	Baldon Challenge Cup	150m Handicap	Club members	P.ODonaghue
1935	Jonas C.C.	200m Handicap	Alfred Jonas	D. Korn
1948	Tom Batt C.C	Quarter Mile open water	Friends of Tom Batt	A. Craig
1951	Cunningham Plate	Mile oHandicap	Club Members	C. Ambrose
1952	Edgar salver	100m Individual Medley (M)	Club members	L. Romandi
1955	Pyers Mostyn C.C.	4 L Handicap	Lady Mostyn	N. Mulloy
1966	Lawrence Peters	100m Butterfly (M)	Nigel Peters	L. Romandi
1970	Hodge C.C.	10 Widths handicap	Club members	N. Molloy
1977	Millner C.C.	100m Freestyle (W)	J. R.G. Millner	L. Clarke
1993	Jackson Trophy	Club championship (W)	Richard Jackson	L. Clarke
1996	Arthur Batt Trophy	200m Individual Medley (W)	A.G. Batt	L. Clarke

1996	Arthur Batt Trophy	200m Individual Medley (M)	A.G. Batt	G. Powdrill
1998	J.H.R. Haswell Trophy	Water Polo	Mrs G. Haswell	A. Clarke

<u>Income statement</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>		<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
<i>Revenue</i>	£	£	<i>Expenditure</i>	£	£
Subscriptions	13440	16063	Bath hire	10430	10605
Prizes & general	1888	1779	Swimming	704	433
<i>Total members income</i>	<i>15328</i>	<i>17842</i>	Water Polo	556	445
Fund raising	355	298	<i>Total activity costs</i>	<i>11690</i>	<i>11483</i>
Investments net	628	728	Coaching	4750	4759
Sponsorship	3250	3250	Affiliation	906	891
<i>Total fund raising</i>	<i>4233</i>	<i>4276</i>	Prizes in year	500	500
Annual dinner	-814	-828	<i>Total support costs</i>	<i>6156</i>	<i>6149</i>
Open water	14	60	Insurance and engraving	709	639
Masters	0	0	Postage	337	688
Shop	109	19	Printing & stationery	830	1190
Misc.	20	0	Charges, Computer, Misc.	381	351
<i>Total misc income</i>	<i>-672</i>	<i>-749</i>	<i>Total administration costs</i>	<i>2257</i>	<i>2867</i>
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>18889</i>	<i>21368</i>	<i>Total costs</i>	<i>20103</i>	<i>20500</i>
			<i>Operating surplus/Deficit</i>	<i>-1214</i>	<i>868</i>
<u>Balance Sheet</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>		<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
<i>Long term financing</i>	£	£		£	£
Capital Funds			Investments		
Sinking Funds			Trophies*	0	0
- computer sinking fund	2250	2500	Investments at cost**	16152	16152
- spoon sinking fund	3671	429			
<i>Sinking Funds Total</i>	<i>5921</i>	<i>2929</i>			
Memorial & Life Membership Funds					
- life membership fund	4704	6054			
- memorial fund*	5502	5527			

<i>Memorial Funds Total</i>	10206	11581			
<i>Capital Funds Total</i>	<u>16127</u>	<u>14510</u>	<i>Capital Investments</i>	<u>16152</u>	<u>16152</u>
Short term financing					
Reserve Funds			Operating funds		
Operating Reserve			Reserves or contingencies		-500
- balance b/fwd	-1472	-2393	Stock***	3275	5011
- capital income and reserves	292	17922	Debtors	205	112
- result for year	-1214	868	Bank - deposit	11108	11591
<i>Operating reserve total</i>	-2393	16397	- current	853	1435
General reserve	10590	0	Creditors	-1849	-2894
Reserve Funds Total	8197	16397	<i>Working capital</i>	10317	10245
<i>Total Funds</i>	<u>24324</u>	<u>30907</u>	<i>Net operating funds</i>	<u>24324</u>	<u>30907</u>
Notes					
* Insured value, replacement	31000		** Investment units	#	
*** Stock at cost	£		Foreign & Colonial	7465	
Clothes	1435		Fleming Claverhouse	1530	
Spoons	3576		Brunner	1290	
Histories	0		Scottish Mortgage	510	
Honorary Auditors: B.Thornton. T.Fraser					



Annual General Meeting, Monday April 17th, 9.00 pm Jubilee Arms.

Annual report

Accounts.

Pool time

Otter Swimming Club Annual Report 1999 Page #