

OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

(FOUNDED 1869)



Annual Report & Accounts

140th Season 2009



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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

2009 was another year of achievement, success and consolidation for Otter in all respects, as chronicled in detail in this excellent Annual Report, compiled by Barbara Woodward.

Everyone has their own personal targets and can take pride in attaining these, whatever the level. The Club tries to create an environment and atmosphere which is conducive to participation at all levels – as long as each individual can fit into the training and competitive regime.

A few achievements stand out though. Rachel Joyce's stunning 6th place in the World Ironman Championships; Derek Parr's world record in the 200 metres butterfly; Alison Lievesley's successful Channel swim; the continuing success of the Ladies water polo teams; and, perhaps most noteworthy of all, Susie Rodgers's medals in the National Paralympic Swimming Championships – a first for an Otter member.

As most members will know I am standing down as President, and have been honoured to hold the role since 1997. I have been extraordinarily fortunate to have had such an active and supportive Committee during this period who have made my job so easy, and on behalf of myself and the Club, would like to thank all of them most sincerely for their input, without which the Club could not

function. I shall only single out one individual – Martin Flash, nominally the Treasurer, but so much more, who has put in an enormous effort over many years.

Otter is the only Club in the UK to participate actively in competitive swimming and water polo and should take great pride in this. It does create tensions and difficulties from time to time but this is a small price to pay, and the challenge is to overcome these – the result more than compensates for the problem.

I have enjoyed every moment of my time at Otter since joining in 1974 and will continue to do so, particularly the life long friendships I have formed. The generous words spoken and gifts given at the Dinner meant a lot to me, and the award of the Gold Otter Pin will be treasured forever.

A new President will bring renewed vigour, enthusiasm and drive and ensure the Club continues to go from strength to strength. I wish him and the Club every success for the future.

Roger Sharpley
President 1997 – 2009



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Officers and Committee Members

President:	Roger Sharpley	Captain of Water Polo (Women):	Tracy Wheeler
Hon. Secretary:	Katherine Mearman	Water Polo Hon. Secretary:	Laura Gallop
Hon. Treasurer:	Martin Flash		
Vice Presidents:	Eric Bolden Lesley Davies Tony Ray James Stewart	Hon. Handicapper:	Lauren Edwards
		Committee:	Michelle Senecal Roger Phillips Deirdre Ward Hugh Turner Ben Thomas Catherine Dobson Hannah Brown Enrico Hahn
Captain of Swimming:	Gina Hobson		
Captain of Water Polo (Men):	Leon Estrella		



FINANCES

Rather to the surprise of the Treasurer, the Club made a small surplus in 2009. A loss had been budgeted and while costs came in more or less as predicted, income was higher due to a rise in membership. Despite that good news the subscriptions have been increased for 2010, as we predicted last year. There are three reasons for this, all relating to pool hire. During the year more pool space became available at QMSC for polo. As we were still suffering from exclusion from ULU in 2008, and were already using some of the space but not paying for it, we took the opportunity. Secondly Crystal Palace came back into service and we took space, more than before, for better swimmers who need 50 metres in which to train. The full financial impact of both decisions comes into effect in 2010 and, together with related coaching costs, represents a considerable jump in cost. From 2008 to the end of 2010 we foresee combined coaching and pool hire costs will go from some £70,000 to £90,000 per year. The third reason for the subscription increase is more nebulous and only indirectly relevant. During 2009 Shell, who subsidise our time in their pool, gave us formal notice of the possible end to our use of it. This is not a new danger, but the first time it has been formalised. It may not happen, but if it does not only do we lose pool space, which we can probably replace, but we lose sponsorship also. New space will only be possible by paying for it. We therefore have to build up surpluses so we meet the situation when it comes. We still budget to provide all Club members two swimming or playing spots a week, and the Club remains excellent value for money for anyone who swims or plays even once a week.

Income statement

In 2009 the total income rose about 10%, attributable mainly to more members. The subscription income is 90% of total receipts and the gap is made up of sponsorship, income from our investments and, importantly, from members voluntarily making a donation beyond their subscriptions, which is credited to the Prizes & General Fund. We owe many thanks to the donors listed below.

Prizes & General Fund

Jonathan Bedford, Eric Boldon, Claire Bryan, Matt Burgham, Damien Charveriat, Catherine Couquet, Andrew Craig, Martha Dean, Martin Flash, John Fox, Wilton Fry, Bill Gebhardt, Katie Goodall, Peter Grace, Julia Gregory-Royle, John Iliffe, Conrad King, Alison Lievesley, Geoff Lynn, Shona Macfarlane, Andrew Morton, Marie Mulligan, Charlie Murray, Bill Myers, Damian Nogaledo, Derek Parr, Doug Payne, Desmond Plummer Kt.TD.DL., Wes Price, Jim Ricketts, Nigel Salsbury, Johann Schnauss, Roger Sharpley, Liz Shaw, David Skidmore OBE, Rob Stafford, James Stewart, Cliff Stossel, Ben Tausig, Bob Thomas, Peter Thompson, John Towers, Hugh Turner.

Expenditure

On the expenditure part of the income statement, pool hire costs and coaching went up nearly 20% from 2008 for reasons explained above. We tried to run a Friday session at Canary Wharf at the Tiller pool but we could not attract enough usage. As we have failed on Fridays before we should no doubt draw the appropriate lesson. Our other costs came in at similar figures from previous years and there is little to be said about them. The drop in printing costs reflects the

discontinuation of the handbook, replaced by the website. The total costs reflect an active Club, but one should underline that as a competitive Club we enter many competitions and a lot of the related cost, notably travel and accommodation, is borne by the swimmers or players individually, and it is not a small sum.

Overall this year's income statement reflected a healthy Club activity, but one must remember these accounts are essentially cash accounts. That means we must try to break even each year, even though our reserves permit us to weather a loss and to experiment. In this light the small surplus is most welcome.



Hon Treasurer

Income statement - £	2009	2008
Subscriptions total	91,294	82,176
Special sessions	0	0
Prizes & general fund	2,371	1,554
Members' income	93,665	83,729
External income	5,998	5,500
Capital income	1,496	2,108
Miscellaneous income	0	400
Other income	7,494	8,008
Income	101,159	91,737
Pool hire costs	(53,851)	(41,941)
Equipment costs	(1,230)	(4,900)
Pools & equipment	(55,080)	(46,841)
Coaching costs	(24,920)	(26,885)
Coaching	(24,920)	(26,885)
Water polo expenses	(5,685)	(5,615)
Swimming expenses	(838)	(906)
Affiliation costs	(5,790)	(5,083)
Prizes and trophies	(1,122)	(1,106)
Activity costs	(13,434)	(12,710)
Dinner	(43)	(262)
Open water races	(776)	(339)
Shop sales	133	371
Club activities	(686)	(229)
Insurance	(2,000)	(1,000)
Post and printing costs	(2,820)	(4,507)
Tax	0	0
Miscellaneous costs	(947)	(2,084)
Administration	(5,768)	(7,590)
Expenses	(99,888)	(94,257)
Profit / (Loss)	1,271	(2,519)

"I have examined the books and vouchers of Otter Swimming Club and have obtained all necessary explanations for me to confirm that these accounts show a reasonable view of the Club's activities for the year and its financial position as at the 31st December 2009." Hon Auditor. James Palmer



Balance sheet

The Club's investments have recovered some of the losses incurred by stock market turmoil and are currently valued some 50% more than the cost figure recorded in the Balance Sheet.

The self-insurance fund for our trophies (and our other physical assets) has increased by the amount we put aside each year. The fund acts as a useful cash reserve, but its name reflects its purpose and it should be worth at least one third and preferably more than one half of the insured (or balance sheet) value of the trophies and other assets. It is still some way from that target so we have increased the annual rate at which we put money in the fund, which is managed as a separate bank account.

The increase in our working capital is mainly because we have a better cash balance at the bank, and that also largely explains why the total value of the Club has risen.

Our long-term capital has changed by an increase in Life members, and by donations to the Memorial Fund. We owe our thanks to the following:

Memorial Fund

Damien Charveriat, Andrew Craig, John Iliffe, Andrew Morton, Bill Myers, Derek Parr, Doug Payne, Desmond Plummer Kt.TD.DL., Jim Ricketts, Roger Sharpley, David Skidmore OBE, James Stewart, Cliff Stossel, Bob Thomas.

We closed the year with a good balance sheet, retaining our ability to fund well thought-out initiatives, provided that overall we continue to aim to breakeven.

James Palmer has kindly once more checked the accounts.

ADMINISTRATION

Throughout 2009 new members joined only on the web. We hope in 2010 to make much better use of the data kept there to communicate with the Club. We owe many thanks to Andy Hudson who has got us to this point.

COACHING TEAM

In water polo and swimming we would not have achieved what we have without our dedicated band of coaches. We owe many thanks to all of them our, as well as our several volunteers.

In 2009, the swimming coaching team was led by Head Coach Steve Bratt, with Jamie Forero, Daniel Moulson, Clare Brown and Lesley Davies. Steve's programme and the whole team's support on pool-side during sessions at meets has underpinned the team's success this year.

The water polo teams were coached by Tim Kendall and Nick Buller. Again, the Club pays tribute to the dedication and commitment of the coaching team whose success is evident from this year's results. Otter water polo owes a particular debt of gratitude to Tim Kendall, whose coaching has been instrumental in the Club's return to the top reaches of national league water polo. Tim moves on this year to coach the GB junior squad.

Balance sheet - £	2009	2008
Trophies	35,000	35,000
Fixed Assets	35,000	35,000
Investments at cost	30,142	30,142
Self insurance investment	13,340	11,241
Investments	43,482	41,383
Long term assets	78,482	76,383
Bank	22,392	11,802
Debtors	984	2,567
Stock	3,227	3,063
Current assets	26,603	17,432
Creditors	(5,781)	(4,192)
Reserves or contingencies	(3,200)	0
Current liabilities	(8,981)	(4,192)
Working capital	17,622	13,240
Assets	96,104	89,623
Computer fund	2,780	2,480
Spoon fund	5,238	4,538
Sinking funds	8,018	7,018
Provisions	8,018	7,018
Life membership fund	14,039	13,489
Memorial fund	21,696	20,012
Trophy insurance fund	10,983	8,983
Capital funds	46,718	42,484
Balance b/fwd	40,122	37,024
Capital income & reserves	(25)	5,617
Result for year	1,271	(2,519)
Reserve funds	41,368	40,122
Reserves	88,086	82,605
Reserves & provisions	96,104	89,623

Investments #: Brunner Investment Trust 2517, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust 7465, Flemming Claverhouse Investment Trust 1530, Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust 2854.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members and Members' news

The membership numbers, drawn at the end of the year after resignations during the year do not fully reflect the remarks made under finance. The main reason is people joining, and leaving, within the year. At the end of the year the membership of the Club was made up of 369 (363) members. There were 169 (143) Active swimmers, 51 (68) Active polo players, 22 (22) Country members (including 5 polo players), 77 (79) Non Active members, 11 (12) Junior members and 39 (38) Life members. There were 109 (105) lady members, as before about one third of the polo players and slightly less than half the swimmers. The average age of Active members was 32 (31) and the average age of the club is 39 (39). The drop in polo numbers is we hope transitory and a reflection of the pool time turmoil of 2009.



Within the overall numbers are 85 (79) new members 29 (23) of them polo players, and we welcome the following to the Club:

New members

Lisa Abrey, Tarek Ahmed Elsheriff, Dee Airey, Andrew Aitken, Mark Ayling, Jo Ayres, Louise Bampton, Clare Beauchamp, Sarah Benett, Adam Benkato, Rob Bociek, Claire Bowen, Stu Brameld, Elize Brown, Claire Bryan, Matt Burgham, Ollie Caldwell, Alex Cameron, Courtney Campbell, Esteban Casuscelli, Richie Chambers, Wayne Collins, Nick Copley, Mike Davis, Mccall Dorr, Deirdre Dunn, Matt Eckford, Nat Effemey, Will Forbes, Jaime Forero, Chris Gallagher, Orion Ganase, Annabelle Gourlay, Graeme Gunthorp, Andy Harrison, Chris Hodgkinson, Andrea Hofer, Fahad Jewar, Tiffany Johnston, Anne Jones, Doug Jordan, Lee Kelleher, Jake Kislevitz, Monika Kruesmann, Neil Levi, Rosa Lopez, Thierry Masson, Telly Maukonen, Daniel Mertens, Hannah Noble, Jorge Pancorbo, Louise Parker, Michael Petch, Paul Pitcher, Sarah Preddy, Helen Prentice, Wes Price, Mathieu Reaud, Susie Rodgers, Théo Rohou, Francesca Rubulotta, Paula Ruiz

Hincapie, Eric Ryan, James Salter, Robert Sampson, Amar Shah, Suzanne Shakespeare, Paolo Sirianni, Ray Stones, John Talbott, Zig Tate, Chris Tickner, Jozef Tomaszewski, Belinda Tracey, Neil Traylor, Mark Trewren, Thania Tympanari, Mike Ventre, Alvaro Villanueva, Stephan Von Posern, Dave Warren, Matt Williams, James Williams, Balazs Zelei, Lena Zuchowski.

MEMBERS' NEWS

New Life Members

Paul Thorogood and **Mike Wake** joined the ranks of the Club's life members in 2009. Paul is known by older members for his witty interventions in past dinners and is now retired in Cornwall. Mike Wake joined the club more recently, in the late 1990s, combining a fine competitive swimming career with his role as club coach. Mike has stepped down from the latter role, but remains an active swimmer with a strong interest in performance and technique.

Obituaries

Sir Desmond Plummer, Baron Plummer of St Marylebone, (1914 – 2009)

Desmond Plummer joined Otter in 1933 and became a Life Member in 1946. He served as Public Schools Hon Sec in 1947, Vice-Captain in 1951, Captain in 1952-53, and Vice-President from 1954-65.

The club owes him a huge debt of gratitude for his help during his political career, as Leader of the Greater London Council, in securing our access to the Shell Centre from its inception. Desmond Plummer was Knighted in 1971 and given a life peerage in 1981 as Baron Plummer of St Marylebone in the City of Westminster. He continued a distinguished business career and to attend the House of Lords well into his nineties.

Desmond Plummer was not, as some authors have said, an angler but a supporter of making the Thames clean, not least for the enjoyment of Otters. The Hon Sally Plummer wrote to inform the Club of her father's death as follows: "He took great pride in the Otter Club...he enjoyed swimming in to his 80s. I think that his training for Water Polo stood him in good stead for the rough and tumble of politics."

Desmond Plummer left the Club a generous bequest.

Arthur Batt, Club Coach, 1979-1996

Arthur Batt, who died in October 2009, was the prime mover behind the re-emergence of Otter Swimming Club in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Arthur Batt was appointed by the Club's President, Charles Doxat, as club coach in 1979 to succeed Derek Spratt, at a low

ebb in the Club's history. With the help of some of the water polo players such as Tony Stanton, Arthur identified relay events such as Southern Counties and London Counties in which an Otter entry would signal Otter's re-emergence as a club and emergence as the UK's pre-eminent masters swim team. The relays brought together new swimmers, such as Terry Robinson, who had not even been born when James Stewart, his team mate and then Hon Sec, had won his first Southern Counties medal in 1962. The strategy worked: one of the officials commented that day: "It's good to see Otter back in the water again". This "advertising" of Otter's re-emergence really paid off as Otter then started to attract swimmers. Arthur's role was critical: the quality of his coaching allied to his infectiously vociferous support on the poolside during competitions was key to the subsequent development of the Club's strong performance and reputation. Arthur coached all three of the Club's weekly sessions from 1979 until he retired in 1997. During that time, Otter emerged to begin its dominance of British masters swimming.

Arthur spent his career as an architect for Southwark Borough Council. He was widely read and had strong views on a wide range of subjects on which he was happy to expound in the bar after a swim. Club members recall swimming competitions in Liverpool and van Scaldis (Belgium) where Arthur contributed not only coaching tips and timekeeping on poolside, but also informative and entertaining commentary about the architecture of the host city.

Arthur joined Otter from St James's SC, where he had been assistant coach. At his interview with Otter, he said he had always admired Otter and the role of Coach to us was one to which he had always aspired. When Arthur retired in 1996, he gave the Club trophies for the men's and ladies' 200m IM Club championship. In his will, Arthur left the Club a bequest for a further trophy in his name.



Births and Marriages

Otters **Fiona Marshall** (joined 2001; captain from 2004-2006) and **Matt Staines** (joined 2002) married in the OBE Chapel of St Paul's cathedral on 10th October 2009. A large number of active Otters joined the ceremony and party to wish them well, including Hon Treasurer, **Martin Flash**; Club Secretary, **Katherine Mearman** (who read 1 Corinthians 13:4-13) and 200m fly world champion **Derek Parr**. **Michelle Senecal** made the cup cake wedding tier (with logistical assistance from **Katherine Mearman** and **Gina Hobson**), and Otters formed the core of the dancing party at the reception well in to the night, wishing the couple a happy future.

Right: The happy couple.

Below: Gina Hobson, Michelle Senecal, and Katherine Mearman with cup cake tier.



News

Conrad King reports he has retired from refereeing water polo.

The **Musgrove** family, all four keen polo players, have now clocked up a collective century of membership.

Joanna Godwin (nee Breare) continues to clean up the swimming medals in New Plymouth, New Zealand and is now taking them on at triathlon.

Guy Davis reported the following times from the US (in body suit) in the men's 50-54 age group: 50 fly 27.79; 100 fly 1.02.86; 100 IM 1.04.43; 50 free 25.61; 100 free 56.16.

Marc Woods, who trained with Otter from 1993-1996 as part of his preparations for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics, is now established as a motivational speaker (www.marcwoods.com) and published his autobiography "Personal Best" in 2006. In late 2009, he and his wife Petra became the proud parents of daughter Evie Clementine.

The editor received greetings for Club members from the following overseas members: **Ben Tausig** from New York, **Scott Darling** from Abu Dhabi, **Alan Gill**, **Peter Williamson** and **Dan Mikulskis** from Oz, **Tony Lavery** and **Elisabeth Attwood** from Hong Kong.



Scott Darling, with teammates James Kerton and Gareth Earl, take second place in the Zurich lake swim, behind Otter ladies (pictured centre) Sheryl Slater, Jane McMenemy and Rachel Joyce



COMPETITIVE RESULTS

SWIMMING

Captain: **Gina Hobson**

Coaches: **Steve Bratt** (Head Coach); **Jamie Forero, Daniel Moulson, Clare Brown** and **Lesley Davies**

Results headlines:

Records: World: 1; European: 1; British: 14

World Masters medals: 1 gold

European and National Medals (inc relays):

Gold: 52; Silver: 45; Bronze 40.

National Decathlon: ladies 1st; men 3rd.

National and international events

GB Long Course Nationals, 18-20 June, Cardiff

<i>Number of swimmers</i>		<i>Male: 12</i>	<i>Female: 11</i>
<i>Records</i>	<i>British: 5</i>	<i>European: 1</i>	<i>World: 1</i>
<i>Medals</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
<i>Individual</i>	23	19	16
<i>Relay</i>	4	4	3

The Otter record charge was led by **Derek Parr** who set British Records in the 50m and 100m fly (31.11 and 1.11.65), a World Record in the 200m fly (2.47.60) and a further British Record (6.30.27) in the 400m IM, taking 4 golds and a silver (200m fs) in the process. **Fiona Marshall** added to the haul with her first individual British Record in the 50m breaststroke (34.41) and demonstrated her all round sprinting quality to take a further gold in the 50m free and silvers in the 100m breast and free.

Medals went to **Natalie Effemey** with two golds (100m bk and 200m IM) and a silver (100m bs). Club captain, **Gina Hobson**, took 2 golds (50m fly and 100m fs) and a trio of silvers (50m fs, 100m fly and 100m bk). Further medals came from **Michelle Senecal** (Gold: 100m and 200m fly, Silver: 50m fly, 200m and 400m fs, Bronze: 50m fs), **Catherine Dobson** (Bronze: 50m and 100m fly), **Bob Palmer** (Gold: 50m bs, Silver: 200m bk), **Enrico Hahn** (Silver: 200m bs, Bronze: 400m IM), **Liz Shaw** (Bronze: 100m and 200m bs) and **Phil Harper** (Gold: 50m fs, Silver: 100m fs, Bronze: 50m bk). Strong performances also came from **Damien Chaveriat, Lesley Davies, Andy Hudson and Tony Ray**.

Further medals went to **Dan Bullock**: Gold: 800m fs, Silver: 400m and 1500m fs, **Roger Lloyd-Mostyn** (Silver: 1500m fs and 100m fly, Bronze: 50m fly and 100m fs) and **Lesley Cook**.

Jane McMenemy took a trio of golds in freestyle (200m, 400m and 800m fs) setting records at each distance; **Peter Rae** won Gold in the 200m and 400m fs, Silver: 800m fs, Bronze: 50m and 100m fs. **John Talbot** took a pair (Gold: 200m and 800m fs) and **Melissa**

Perks another double (Gold: 400m and 800m fs). **Tomasso Tufarelli** took Bronze in 200m fs, Silver: 400m fs), and **Catherine Couquet** (Gold: 50m fly, Bronze: 100m and 800m fs) with a fourth in the 200m IM.

Otter dominated the relays. Gold for the 120+ women in the Medley (**Dobson, Marshall, Hobson and Effemey**) and Freestyle (**Marshall, Senecal, Hobson and Dobson**) relays with performances that beat all comers by 4 and 3 seconds respectively. A further nine relay medals were claimed (Gold: 100+ and 200+ Mixed IM, Silver: 100+, 160+, 240+ Men's fs and 240+ Men's IM, Bronze: 120+ Mixed fs, 240+ Mixed IM and 240+ Men's fs) with the Men's 100+ fs just pipped out of the bronze medal position.



Derek Parr breaks the world record in the men's 200 fly at the British Long Course Championships, Cardiff, June 2009

European Masters Championships: Cadiz (September)

<i>Number of swimmers</i>		<i>Male: 4</i>	<i>Female: 5</i>
<i>Records</i>	<i>British: 2</i>	<i>European: 0</i>	<i>World: 0</i>
<i>Medals</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>
<i>Individual</i>	1	3	3

Derek Parr got off to a storming start claiming a silver medal in the 200m IM and smashing the British Record in the process. He continued to swim well through the meet; having picked up further medals in the 200m fly (gold), 100m fly (silver) and 50m fly (bronze), Derek graced the cover of August's Swimming Times. In the 800m free, **Dan Bullock** secured his best result, with bronze at the top of his age group. **Gina Hobson** came away with a silver in the 100m fly and bronze in the 50m fly, and was touched out of the medals for three further fourth places.

Peter Rae just missed out on a medal in the 400m free, finishing 4th, and stormed through the 50m free, posting a speedy 28.36, and secured another top 8 finish. **Michelle Senecal** had tough competition in her events this year, with the 200m fly being unusually popular, but she managed to secure a top seven finish in all her races. **Liz Shaw** was pleased with her improvements from Cardiff, particularly

in her 200m breaststroke, where she achieved 13th spot, and 100m breaststroke. **Lesley Davies** demonstrated that it's worth spending the time on technique work in training by bettering her Cardiff times quite considerably; she was particularly pleased with her 400m free. **Lesley Cook** also secured a top 6 finish in her 400m free, and admitted she was glad she'd swum it despite her reservations. Head Coach **Steve Bratt** monitored everyone's performances and even managed to fit in the odd race himself declaring himself happy with his swims considering his recent training.

The open water event attracted five Otters, including 1991 and 2004 Channellists **John Goodbody** and **Katherine Mearman**. The event, shortened from 5k to 3k due to tide changes and held in Cadiz dock (with hosepipe to wash off the sludge afterwards), rather than along the picturesque coastline, got a somewhat mixed reception. **Peter Rae** and **Lesley Cook** achieved Otter's best results with 7th in their respective ages.

World Masters Games, Sydney, October

Enrico Hahn carried the flag for Otter at the World Masters Games held in the Sydney Olympic pool, entering five events (200m IM, 100m breaststroke, 400m IM, 100m fly and 200m breaststroke). Enrico won gold in the 400IM and took 4th in the 100m fly and 200m breaststroke.



Enrico Hahn wins gold in the 400m individual medley at the World Masters Games, Sydney.

GB Short Course Nationals, Sheffield, (October)

Number of swimmers	Male: 16		Female: 14
Records	British: 7	European: 0	World: 0
Medals	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Individual	20	16	15
Relay	4	3	3

A team of 30 swimmers brought Otter 7 national records and arguably the most successful nationals in the club's history.

Jane McMenemy opened for the record breakers, lowering the 40-44 200m free record she had set the previous year. She added to this golds in the 400m and 800m free and bronzes in the 100m fly and free. Derek Parr (65-69), lowered the records in the 400m and 200m IM and 50m and 100m fly as well as taking an additional gold in the 200m fly. **Gina Hobson** broke the 59 second barrier to set her first individual national record in the women's 100m free and took further gold medals in the 50m and 100m fly and a silver in the 100m back in the 30-34yrs age group. **Nat Effemey** took the title and national record in the 25-29yrs 200m IM and was unlucky enough to have an in-form **Katie Henderson** beat her in a superb 400m IM.

The medals came almost faster than even Head Coach **Steve Bratt** could keep track of. For the women's team, **Michelle Senecal** opened with a serious return to form and gold in the 200m fly, followed by golds in the 30-34yrs 200m and 400m free and bronze in the 100m fly. **Lee Kelleher**, crossing over from polo for the weekend, stormed to silvers in the 25-29yrs 50m free and 100m fly and golds in the 50m fly and 100m free. **Catherine Dobson** claimed bronze in the 25-29yrs backstroke. **Lesley Cook** took on her usual cornucopia of events and took a bronze in the 45-49yrs 200m back. **Helen Prentice** produced a metronomic performance in the 1500m free to take silver in the 25-29 years age group, following it up with top 8 placings in the 50m and 100m back and 200m IM. **Courtney Campbell** took three silvers and two 5th placings in a demanding programme of 200m fly, 200m free, 400m free, 100m fly and 100m free in the 30-34yrs age group. **Jane Leighton** swam through calf injury to take silver in the 200m breast and top 6 placings in the 200m back and 400m IM in the strong 25-29 yrs age group. **Anne Jones** took top ten placings in the 100m, 200m and 400m free in her first nationals in Otter colours.

For the men, **Roger Lloyd-Mostyn** took silver in the 65-69yrs 200m fly, following it up with silvers in the 1500m free and 50m fly and bronzes in the 100m fly and free. **Dan Bullock** faced stiff competition in the 35-39yrs distance freestyle securing himself silver in the 800m, bronze in the 400m and a 4th in the 1500m. **Bob Palmer** won the 65-69 yrs 200m back and took bronzes in the 100m back and breast and 200m free. **Ben Thomas** took bronze 200m back in the 25-29 yrs age group. **Matt Burgham** set up some excellent Otter head to heads with **Enrico Hahn** to take gold in the 25-29yrs 200IM and 4th in the 100 breast, while **Enrico** took a well deserved bronze (25-29 yrs) 200m IM and showed us all why gym work pays off by obliterating his own personal record sheet. **Roger Phillips** continued the 65-69 yrs men's fine run of form with silvers in the 200m and 400m free and a bronze in the 800m free.

Otter fielded 19 relay teams, winning gold in the ladies' 100+ and 120+ free, men's 100+ medley and mixed 100+ free, three silvers



(men's 100+ free and mixed 120+ medley and free) and three bronzes (240+ free and medley and 200+ free). The ladies were inside the 100+ free national record but the team included a non-British national so the time did not count.

Decathlon

The Decathlon is an annual, national competition in which Masters swimmers accumulate points for up to 10 swims out of the 18 different swimming events available. The decathlon aims to encourage participation, competition across age groups and promote masters competitions.

In 2009 Otter won the ladies competition, with two swimmers featuring in the individual top 10 listing (**Gina Hobson and Jane McMenemy**), plus a further two swimmers in the top 20 (**Fiona Marshall and Michelle Senecal**).

The men secured third spot in the team competition. **Derek Parr** achieved an individual top 20 position, with the added distinction of having competed in all available 18 Decathlon events (one of only a handful of Masters swimmers in the UK to do so). With the ladies' and men's points combined, Otter is comfortably the top UK club with regard to the Decathlon competition.

Paralympic swimming

Result:

*National Short Course: **Susie Rodgers, S7: 3 golds.***

Susie Rodgers, GB record holder in the 50m fly (S7) joined Otter this year. At national short course championships in Sheffield, Susie won the most individual events of the London regional team, with golds in the 50m and 100m freestyle, as well as the 50m butterfly, setting a new record in this short course event. Later in the year, Susie's 37 seconds came within an inch of the GB S7 record for the 50 free.

Long distance swimming

Results:

Alison Lievesley: Channel (2 August), 13h 14

Rob Deakin, Round Manhattan Island (6 June), 8h 19.44

Lake Zurich Marathon (August), Otter Ladies First; Otter men second

Alison Lievesley: Channel swim, 2 August 2009, 13h 14

Alison's first attempt to swim the channel ended very comfortably with a cooked breakfast in Dover. After an early start, they'd motored out of the harbour, been thrown around the boat by very lumpy seas, and decided it wasn't her day. The next day (Sunday 2nd August) was a different story altogether: the sea looked calm from the road, the sun was out, Alison applied sun cream on the boat - and the water felt warm (or at least not cold) when she got in.

Alison takes up the story: "And so it began: I swam a bit, I drank some Maxim, my crew (including 2004 Otter Channelist **Katherine Mearman**) shouted supportive things at me (most of which I didn't hear),

and I swam a bit more and drank some more Maxim. As I ploughed through the utter exhaustion of the 7 hour mark, I logged the feeling carefully in my mind: "Reasons to get across today, and never think about repeating the experience!"

France came into view - low, green, and a very long way away. "I'd had it drummed into me that the coastline stays exactly the same distance away for hours, so I kept my head down and kept plodding. I made a couple of attempts to break away and head for Belgium and chocolate, but Paul, the pilot, wasn't having any of it and kept me on course".

There followed classic nightmares of channel swimming: jellyfish, throwing up and an emergency stop for a passing tanker and....

"More swimming. Tiredness and crotchiness built up (though I was too tired to share it with my wonderful crew!); then suddenly everything came into focus. I started to feel human and started swimming properly again. We reached French inshore waters; the sea got a bit less lumpy; France got even closer - and eventually the boat stopped moving, and I knew I was into the last few hundred metres. Finally, I remembered how to swim in a straight line - straight into a rocky beach, right when the crew were trying to get me to aim slightly left to the nice sandy beach! The waves washing us off the barnacle-encrusted rock I managed to drag myself onto stopped us getting a photo, but there were huge smiles all round when I was back on the boat - and then I slept all the way back to Dover, a very happy and exhausted girl!



Alison Lievesley crossing the Channel, August 2009

Rob Deakin, Round Manhattan Island, 6 June, 8h 19m 44

Rob Deakin placed 11th in this classic of the long distance swimming calendar. Rob reports: "At 7.15am the race finally got underway. The swimmers jumped in the water and the organisers swiftly removed the steps, hence ensuring there was no turning back. I was escorted by two kayakers and a boat. We hooned it up the East river with a strong tidal assist. The water in the East and Harlem rivers was pretty warm (64F) although it was considerably colder in the Hudson. Swimming under the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges proved an immense experience."

"Having passed the UN we entered Hell's Gate. Three rivers meet and the currents are going all over the shop. It proved very hard to

get through and 3 or 4 swimmers were pulled out. Back in the Harlem River and on past the Yankees stadium."

"My crew did a tremendous job of preparing feeds and motivation. To swim for 8 hours, you have to drink a lot of Maxim, a carbohydrate liquid drink. It tastes awful, makes you vomit and destroys your stomach for at least a week, but is otherwise highly effective. I had 13 feeds in 8 hours and limited the feeding time to about 15 seconds each. You are not allowed to touch boat or crew whilst feeding and it's actually quite stressful trying to take as much liquid as possible in a short period whilst avoiding swallowing river water."

"Finally we cleared the Harlem River and entered the Hudson. This was the only time it got choppy and I recall having my left and right arms in completely opposite currents."

Rob reported the race in his inimitable style on <http://robdeakin.blogspot.com>

Lake Zurich Swim

Result:

Winners: Jane McMenemy, Sheryl Slater, Rachel Joyce,

Runners up: Scott Darling, James Kerton, Gareth Earl

Sheryl got the team off to a strong start, while Rach and Jane clambered aboard their luxury cruiser and admired the mountain scenery. At the first handover, the team was comfortably in the top 5, and Rach simply upped the tempo leaving everyone trailing in her wake. "You're being beaten by a girl!" one team was screaming at its swimmer. Stalwart Otters, **Jimmy K, Gareth Earl** and **Scott Darling**, blanched. They knew better ... "Oh no, it's Rach" was the cry of the defeated men. The girls held their lead, although when the wind picked up increasing the chop Jane and Rach had to dig deep for their second legs while Sheryl had paced herself well for the distance and took the team to first. Scott, Jimmy K and Gareth came second.



Winners of the Lake Zurich Marathon, Otter ladies: Sheryl Slater, Jane McMenemy and Rachel Joyce

Daroczy Memorial swim, Hungary, 16 August

Peter Grace completed the 15k Daroczy Memorial swim on 16 August. Peter reports that, because of the current in the Danube, it's a fast but challenging swim. (Like the Channel the current is strong and has chunky bulk carriers bombing down – but no jelly fish.) At the end, swimmers get free stew, a cucumber and unlimited bread, assuming they get past Hungary's nuclear reactor.

UK Open Water Sea races (Eastbourne, Brighton, Dover)

Tim Fraser, Alex Fraser, Lucy Deacon, Deirdre Ward, Jinny McDonald and **Barbara Woodward** completed a number of UK coastal races this season, in Eastbourne, Brighton and Dover.

UK Cold Water Swimming Championships, Tooting Lido, January 2009

Result:

1st Tim Fraser, 3rd Tim Kendall, 4th Mark Courtney



Tim Fraser and Tim Kendall, medalists at the UK Cold Water Swimming Championships, Tooting, January 2009

WATER POLO

First Team

Captain: **Leon Estrella**

Coach: **Tim Kendall**

Result:

National League Division 2: 3rd

Otter approached the 2009 National League with an abundance of confidence following success in the London League, but suffered early defeats to Croydon (13-10) and favourites Sutton & Cheam (11-4) before a win over Invicta Marlins (13 – 9).

Otter fared better in the second National League weekend in Loughborough, with a 12-9 win over Leeds in the first match, made possible by an impressive Otter attack and five goals by **Carl Ainley**. Otter then suffered a setback, losing to local rivals Polytechnic 11-6 the next day. In their last fixture of the weekend, Otter went against high fliers, Sheffield, who had lost by only one goal against favourites Sutton & Cheam the day before. In an impressive display of discipline, skill and determination, Otter managed an eight-man win with outstanding goal keeping by **Chris Hodgkinson** who frustrated Sheffield by stopping almost every shot taken, powerful counter-attacks by **Anthony Mulloy** (3 goals) and **Frank Braden** (1 goal), as well as the outstanding 100% goal conversion on man-up by **Spencer Corrigan, Leon Estrella** and **Richard Chambers** with 3, 2 and 1 goals respectively.



In the third weekend of the National League, Otter lost again to Sutton and Cheam (15-4), but lost no further matches for the remainder of the National League, beating Croydon Amphibians 11-7 and Birkenhead 10-9. At Millfield School, Otter had their most successful weekend (number four) of the National League, with a hat-trick of wins over Birkenhead, Sheffield (8-4) and Leeds (12-9). Against Birkenhead, goals from **Richard Chambers** (4 goals), **Oliver Holman** (2 goals) and **Eric Boldon** (1 goal) helped to secure the win, but it wasn't until **Jorge Pancorbo** scored the equalizer just before the last minute bell that Otter could see victory and **Jacques Venter** settled the matter by putting in a superb back shot over the keeper's head with only 23 seconds left on the clock, giving Otter an 11-10 win.

The last weekend of the season at Bath saw a second Otter win over Invicta Marlins (15-13) and a coveted 14-9 win over Polytechnic in which **Richard Chambers** single-handedly demolished the Polytechnic defence and scored 9 goals.

Otter 1869

Captain: **Thibault Williams**

Coach: **Tim Kendall**

Result:

10th in National League Division 4

Otter 1869 (second team) started their National League season with a 15-9 victory over the R.A.F., but down to 9 players, lost against Grantham (15-5) and Cambridge (11-5)

In the second weekend, Otter lost a close match with Carlisle (8-6), more seriously to Worthing (20-4), but gave eventual division winners, Exeter, a better match, losing 18-15. **Chris Eden** and **James Orrock** scored 3 goals each, while **Richard Lewindon**, **Douglas Jordan** and **Pierre Cerri** scored 2 each. **Thierry Williams**, restored following his previous exclusion and playing at centre back, did not concede any exclusion fouls.

In the third weekend, despite a comeback from 0-4 down and superb goals from **Damian Nogaledo** (4) the Otter team could not pull victory away from the Manchester Hawks (7-9 to Manchester), but compensated with a hard fought win over Newcastle. **Damian Nogaledo** and **Pierre Cerri** proceeded to put in 5 goals between them in a one-sided period of play, but Newcastle rallied. In the end, impressive defensive play denied Newcastle the comeback they were looking for and Otter won the match 10-8. This win was only made possible by an excellent display of man-down defence with a 92% success rate.

Otter 1869's fourth weekend opened with a rare draw, with Bedford (15-15). **Chris Eden** scored 6 goals from just outside 5m, **Ed Buckley** (3), **Damian Nogaledo** (3) and captain **Thierry Williams** put in one. A close fought match, including a five-goal comeback in the final period, against London rivals Ealing (who placed second in the division at year end) resulted in defeat (12-10). Otter 1869 squandered chances in the final game against Bedford, losing 13-11, with **Chris Eden** putting in 3 goals, but secured a win in a second match against the R.A.F. (12-9).

The overall result reflected the newness of the team. Having lost several players to the first team, Otter 1869 welcomed an influx of new members, **Tarek Mohammed**, **Fahad Jewar**, **Douglas Jordan**,

Estaban Casucelli, **Thierry Mason**, **Mathieu Reaud** and **Ivor Sokolic**. First time National League players with Otter, Sokolic, Casucelli, Mason, Reaud, and Jordan gained experience and plan to challenge for a position at the top of the division in the next National League.

Most Valuable Player: **Chris Hodgkinson**

Most Improved Player: **Chris Eden**

LADIES POLO

Otter A team

Captain: **Tracy Wheeler** (sub: **Lindsey Williams**)

Coach: **Nick Buller**

Result:

National League Division 1: 6th

Otter B team

Captain: **Sarah Holcombe**

Coach: **Nick Buller**

Result:

National League Division 3: 6th

Otter Ladies water polo A and B teams both earned National League promotion in the previous season, with the A Team joining Division 1 for the first time and the B team in Division 3 in only their second year of existence.

In the summer London League, Otter split into 2 equal teams to allow less experienced players to play alongside the more seasoned ones. With some tight matches, 'Otter White' were eventual champions and 'Otter Black' came fourth. Fourteen players from both teams joined a week long training camp in Vrutyky, Slovakia, in August, which concluded with a series of high level international matches from which Otter returned with the bronze Olympic Hopefuls Trophy.



Otter Ladies training camp, Slovakia: From L to R Back row; Lindsey Williams, Peggy Etiebet, Vera Gielen, Jo Alden, Sarah Tollefson, Laura Gallop, Nick Buller
Front row; Emily Viskovic, Jo Ayres, Sarah Holcombe, Marie Mulligan, Louise Bampton, Nicole Freeman, Sarah 'Bugsy' Bennet

National League Division 1 proved significant new challenge for newly promoted Otter A. Otter's first victory was a close 4-3 win over Liverpool B. In games over the rest of the season the team demonstrated developing mastery of complex set attacks, while goal keeper **Zuzana Ratveiska** made some excellent saves, including two penalties in a match against top team Manchester A. **Emily Viskovic** and **Jo Alden** were the team 'thieves' making some fantastic steals. Most teams recognised the Otter centre-forwards, **Peggy Etiebet** and **Nicole Freeman**, as a threat and played a drop all season. This opened up the way for distance shooters, **Sarah Bennett (Bugsy)**, **Sarah Tollefson**, **Marie Mulligan** and newcomer **Viviana Castagna** to make long shots into the top corners. New players **Jo Ayres** and **Stephanie Curran** added to the team's depth. Nonetheless, at the end of the season, Otter A again faced Liverpool B to stave off relegation in the play offs. Liverpool decided to double mark Otter's pit players **Peggy Etiebet** and **Nicole Freeman**, leaving **Sarah Bennett (Bugsy)** and **Sarah Tollefson** free to make some long shots into the top corners. These, along with goals from **Jo Ayres** on the wing and **Lindsey Williams**, gave the team an 8-5 win.

The B-team headed into their second National League season determined to retain their new Division 3 position. The division was highly competitive, but captain **Sarah Holcombe** and her team finished in 6th place. Had they not forfeit their first four points due to an ASA registration problem they would have been in contention for one of the top spots. As if to prove it, Otter B finished the season with a victory over Sheffield B who went on to earn promotion.

In 2009, Otter B was strengthened by the arrival of new members **Emma Shurka**, **Lee Kelleher** and **Charlotte McMahon**, while **Thania Tympanaria** and **Annabel Gourllay** both returned from overseas adding depth to the team. The season saw some strong centre forward play from Lee and Charlotte, with Charlotte ending the season as top scorer (19 goals). Centre backs **Laura Gallop** and **Niki McDonald** put up some fierce defence, while **Alice Rogers** and **Becky Mulcahy** used their speed and wit to make some fantastic breaks.

'Player of the Year' is A team goal keeper **Zuzana Ratveiska** who deflected high speed shots and made valuable penalty saves throughout the season. Zuzana represented Slovakia (against GB) at the European Nations Trophy in Manchester.



Otter Goalkeeper Zuzana Ratveiska plays for Slovakia (against GB) in the 2009 European European Nations Trophy in Manchester

Multisports

Result:

Rachel Joyce, Lanzarote Ironman 2nd;
South Africa Ironman, 3rd and Hawaii Ironman
(World Championship), 6th.

After her first pro podium finish, second in the gruelling Lanzarote Ironman, and following an impressive third place in the South Africa Ironman, Rachel headed to the World Championships in Hawaii on form and with designs on the world's top ten. She was not disappointed.

Rachel started the swim just behind Lucie Zelenkova and Tereza Macel and, despite some argy bargy (and a hint of a black eye), she hung on to Lucie's feet and exited the swim with 3 other girls in about 4th or 5th place in 53.31. Rachel stuck to her plan to ride strong up to Hawi and then start to push on the way back. World champion Chrissie Wellington overtook her about 10 minutes in to the ride, but she was gaining on strong cyclists Lucie and Leanda who had got out in front of her on the swim and overtook them shortly after the turnaround. A Smart gel, Rachel's first caffeine for about 6 weeks, gave her a huge boost as she headed powerfully in to the wind on the homeward leg entering the second transition in fourth place, with a marathon ahead of her.

The first ten miles of the run felt good: Rachel ran through cheering crowds along Alii Drive past aid stations stocked with ice, water, iced water, gels, Gatorade and coke. She drank at every aid station and took to tipping ice down her top to keep her core temperature under control. Rachel went through a tough patch at Pilani Drive and in the final miles her legs started to suffer, but she kept reminding herself how lucky she was to be racing, and around mile 23 Rachel began to allow herself to think about the crowds in Kona and the finishing chute which helped her hold pace.

The finish line did not disappoint. Rachel crossed in 7th place, but was upgraded to 6th following a disqualification. She was ecstatic and couldn't stop smiling from about mile 25...and for several days afterwards. "My first Hawaii Ironman World Championships and the occasion did not disappoint. I loved it!"



Rachel Joyce on her way to 6th place in the World Ironman Championships, Hawaii, October 2009

CLUB ACTIVITIES

Schools

Otter has a tradition of swimming against a number of the public schools around London. These give club swimmers the chance to race in a friendly environment, with the incentive of a tea afterwards. There is normally a water polo match following the swims, which a mix of polo players and swimmers play in.

In 2009, Otter won the prestigious Bath cup, beating boys' schools teams from across the UK in a fine night of sprint and relay swimming.

Club Championships

The Otter 2009 club championships results were as follows:

Women

- 1. **Gina Hobson** – 63 points
- 2. **Cat Dobson** – 55
- 3. **Helen Prentice** – 42

Men

- 1. **Enrico Hahn** – 53 points
- 2. **Anthony Mulloy** – 52
- 3. **Matt Burgham** – 51

Thanks to: **Michelle Senecal**, organiser.



Enrico Hahn, men's club champion, receives his trophy from President Roger Sharpley

Handicaps

The Club's handicap races give all members an opportunity to win trophies across a full programme of competitive events. Some of these events (like the 10 widths at Shell) no longer grace more conventional swimming competition programmes; prizes include the Club's oldest trophy, the Ladies Challenge Cup (for the 5 lengths), presented in 1874. **Hannah Brown** won both the open water and overall handicap trophies.

Thanks to: **Lauren Edwards**, handicapper



Hannah Brown wins the averages trophy, 2009

Open Water

Half Mile: J W Rope Memorial Trophy (1921):

*Winner: **Hannah Brown***

On 24 July, 33 Otters competed at Henley Sailing Club for the J W Rope Memorial trophy (presented in 1921) for the open water half mile. The evening was sunny, although after recent rain, the river was high, flowing fast but cool.

The decades-long tradition of complaints and blandishments to the Hon Handicapper evaporated when it became apparent that no-one had the handicap list. Under Hugh Turner's stewardship, swimmers arranged themselves on the departure jetty in a democratically agreed speed order and left at 5 second intervals. As ever, the race pitted swimming and water polo regulars against country and less-active members, with pool form no indication of success in the colder and murkier conditions of the Thames.



Result:

1st: Hannah Brown; 2nd Ben Thomas; 3rd: Matt Burgham

Thanks to: Lesley Davies, Henley Sailing Club, Windsor Life Guards, and Kathy Fraser, Emily Viskovic and Valera at the finish.

Mile:

Dudley Cup: (men's scratch): Anthony Mulloy

C G Forsberg: (women's scratch): Gina Hobson

Cunningham Plate: (handicap): Pippa Cronk

Despite overcast weather a record field of 38 swimmers threw themselves into the Thames. The Honourable Handicapper, plus helpers and spectators, watched from the safety of the river boat before it steamed at full speed to the finish to welcome the leaders and count everyone in. Fisherman meanwhile withdrew their lines from the path of the swimmers while passengers on passing river boats offered either helpful advice like 'keep going', or questioned the sanity of the participants. The water was warm, although that was not the immediate vocal opinion of several Otters as they jumped in from the lock wall. The previous warm weather meant that there was little current to assist swimmers so the fastest took around 20 minutes, the slowest more than half an hour.

Warm showers in the Windsor Leisure Centre, and alcohol plus the usual magnificent meal in the Bexley Arms put the world to rights. The field was dominated by polo players, men and women, and the fastest man was one such player, **Anthony Mulloy**, just ahead of last year's winner (and youngest ever) **Alex Fraser**. The polo players almost carried off the ladies trophy too. **Lee Kelleher** was second, but Club Captain **Gina Hobson** saved the swimmers' honour by winning - just. Both were faster than the next fastest male, **Tommaso Tufarelli**, and a bronzed **Jo Alden** was third lady. The handicap was a close affair but a lane 6 swimmer **Pippa Cronk** carried off the trophy, which is proof that quality is to be found in all lanes of the Club! She was chased by Gina, and another polo player **Ollie Holman**. **Emily Viskovic** celebrated her birthday at the same time, modestly announcing it by wearing a large birthday sash.

Thanks to: **Martin Flash**, for organising the event, transport from Barons Court and the post race meal at the Bexley Arms.

Quarter Mile

Tom Batt Challenge Cup: Winner: Hannah Brown

On Friday 7 August, 15 Otters gathered at the Serpentine Lido to swim the quarter mile. Despite recent rain, the sun was out, warming the water to a pleasant temperature.

The race was 4 laps of the 100m lido, with the lap element adding to the challenge as the return lap involved avoiding oncoming Otters, while swimming into the glare of the sun. There were a few near misses but no collisions and a close finish for the top places.

Result:

1st Hannah Brown

2nd: Frank Baden

3rd: Pippa Cronk

Thanks to: **Deirdre Ward** for organising and **Hugh Turner** (at the turn buoy).

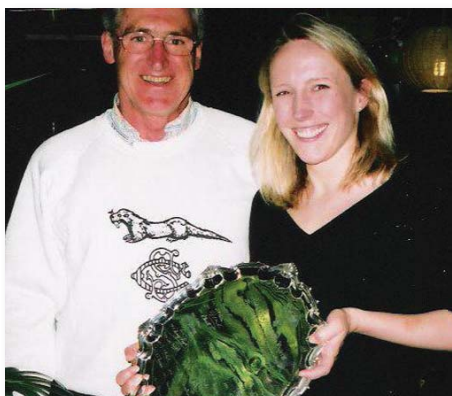


Quarter contestants

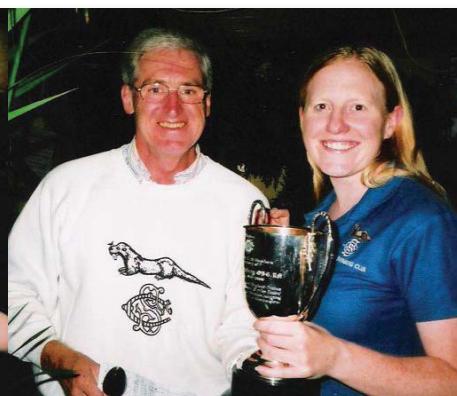
Golf

George Rope Trophy: Paul Hindle

Mark Grundy organised the annual Otter Golf competition on Friday May 15th at the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club. Twenty four members participated, of whom 10 managed to play golf, including **Lesley Davies** as the only competing female. **Paul Hindle** won the George Rope Trophy with 36 points; **Charles Doxat** was 2nd with 27 points and **Robert Palmer** 3rd with 23 points. **David Gawler**, placed 4th, in a welcome return after many years, with 22 points. **David Miller**, winner in 2007 and 2008, handicapped himself to a 12 points score. **Peter Waddell**, now living in Canada, was one of 24 Otters who joined lunch. After which, mysteriously, there were no takers for an afternoon round.



Pippa Cronk wins the mile sealed handicap trophy



Gina Hobson receives the mile trophy from Martin Flash



Paul Hindle receives the Otter Gold Trophy from Mark Grundy

Dinner

Lesley Davies led the team organising the 140th Otter dinner on Friday February 12th. Over 100 members congregated at Loose Cannons for a three course dinner, the President's address and dancing until the small hours.

The event was **Roger Sharpley's** last as club President. Former President **Charles Doxat** presented him with a gold Otter pin in recognition of his long, distinguished and successful service to the club

and, on behalf of the active swimmers, a copy of "Aquatics 1908-2008: 100 Years of Excellence in Sport", edited by Craig Lord and Deputy Editor Derek Parr. In his appreciation, Charles said that Roger's had been one of the most successful Presidencies (1997-2010) in club history and reminded younger members that Roger had also enjoyed a successful tenure as captain 1976-1980.



Charles Doxat and Roger Sharpley



Eric Bolden, Leon Estrella, Spencer Corrigan, and friends



Pippa Cronk, Monika Kreuzmann, [friend], Susie Rodgers, Avilé Rumbos



Polo players, Marie Mulligan, Sarah Holcombe



Fiona Marshall, Jane McMenemy, Barbara Woodward, Michelle Senecal, Gina Hobson



Paul Hindle, Tim Kendall, Klaus Celadon



Mark Grundy, David Skidmore OBE, John Iliffe



Denis Warnford Davies with Joanne Alden

TROPHY WINNERS

TROPHY	EVENT	DONOR	2008 WINNER	2009 WINNER
Ladies' C.C.	5 L Handicap	Lady friends of Members	B. Bew	H. Brown
Brown Challenge Cup	100m Backstroke (M)	G. S. Brown	A. Van der Kraay	M. Burgham
Macdonald C.C.	2 L Handicap	A.R. MacDonald	F. Marshall	D. Roberts
Sachs C.C.	Open Water points total	Mrs Frank Sachs	A. Craig	H. Brown
Dudley C.C.	Mile Open Water Scratch (M)	Dr. J. G. Dudley	A. Fraser	A. Mulloy
Collis Brown C.C.	400m Freestyle (M)	Maj. W.A. Collis-Brown	D. Bullock	J. Talbott
Buller C.C.	Club Championship (M)	W.A.H. Buller	A. Van der Kraay	E. Hahn
5th Humphreys C.C.	100m Freestyle (M)	Jack Humphreys	A. Van der Kraay	D. Roberts
G.H. Rope Averages Trophy	Handicap points total	Club Members	J.-L. Benavides	H. Brown
2nd Annison C.C.	100m Breaststroke (M)	F.E. Annison	A. Van der Kraay	M. Burgham
2nd Annison C.C.	100m Breaststroke (W)	F.E. Annison	J. Leighton	J. Leighton
J.W. Rope Memorial	Half mile Open Water	Club Members	H. Turner	H. Brown
George H. Rope Cup	Golf competition	G. H. Rope	D. Miller	P. Hindle
Synge-Hutchinson C.C.	Veterans 50m handicap	Col E.D.B. Synge-Hutchinson	A. Ray	A. Ray
Baldon C.C.	150m Handicap	Club Members	J.-L. Benavides	N. Charlesworth
Jonas C.C.	200m Handicap	Alfred Jonas	G. Hobson	E. Hahn
2nd Tom Batt C.C.	Quarter Mile open water	Friends of Tom Batt	A. Craig	H. Brown
Cunningham Plate	Mile Open Water Handicap	Club Members	S. Slater	P. Cronk
Edgar salver	100m Individual Medley (M)	Club Members	A. Van der Kraay	M. Burgham
Edgar salver	100m Individual Medley (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson	G. Hobson
Pyers Mostyn C.C.	4 L Handicap	Lady Mostyn	J.-L. Benavides	A. Ochocinska
Peters Tankard	100m Butterfly (M)	Nigel Peters	A. Van der Kraay	A. Mulloy
Hodge C.C.	10 Widths handicap	Club Members	F. Mozzicarelli	A. Aitken
Millner C.C.	100m Freestyle (W)	J.R.G. Millner	G. Hobson	G. Hobson
Jackson Trophy	Club championship (W)	Richard Jackson	G. Hobson	G. Hobson
Arthur Batt Trophy	200m Individual Medley (M)	A.G. Batt	A. Van der Kraay	M. Burgham
Arthur Batt Trophy	200m Individual Medley (W)	A.G. Batt	G. Hobson	N. Effemey
J.H.R. Haswell Trophy	Water Polo	Mrs G. Haswell	T. Grace	Chris Hodgkinson
Club Championship	100m Backstroke (W)	Club Members	C. Dobson	H. Prentice
Club Championship	100m Butterfly (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson	G. Hobson
Club Championship	400m Freestyle (W)	Club Members	N. Charlesworth	N. Effemey
C.G. Forsberg Memorial	Mile Open Water Scratch (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson	G. Hobson
Alex Ferguson Memorial	400m I.M. Handicap	J. McMenemy & A. Booth	E. Hahn	M. Klaeffling
Water Polo Cup	Women's Team award	Club Member	P. Etiebet	Z. Ratveiska
No Trophy	50m Butterfly (M)		A. Van der Kraay	A. Mulloy
No Trophy	50m Butterfly (W)		G. Hobson	G. Hobson
No Trophy	50m Freestyle (M)		A. Van der Kraay	A. Mulloy
No Trophy	50m Freestyle (W)		G. Hobson	F. Marshall
David Craig Salver	100m fs Handicap	Club Members	J.-L. Benavides	C. Campbell



