



Channel Swimming Association Ltd.
Newsletter 1
August 2005

Dear Member,

Over the past few years, with members far and wide, we have been hoping to find an economical way to send you a newsletter, to keep you up to date with what is going on. Well, finally it is here and hopefully, by using your email address, we can now go some way towards solving this problem. We trust that you will read it with interest and let us know of any comments that you would like to make for the next edition. We appreciate that this newsletter may not reach everyone. If you know someone who has not received it, please let us know their email address and we will make sure that they are added to the list.

The Channel swimming season started off in early July, we had some good weather. The channel has warmed up to 65°F and as you can see, we have had a successful start to 2005.

Successes 2005

The unrated results to date are shown in the table below:

Swimmers	Nationality	Time	Mins	Pilot
Jim Fitzpatrick	USA	14	32	Andy King
Jane McCormick	British	15	12	Andy King
Richard Haan	Czech Rep.	14	7	Reg Brickell
Stanislav Bartusek	Czech Rep.	10	7	Reg Brickell
David Pantling	British	11	45	Ray Cooper
Yvetta Hlvacova	Czech Rep.	8	42	Reg Brickell
Roy Harding	British	11	20	Andy King
Stephen Smith	British	14	28	Reg Brickell
Jose Raga Amaro	Venezuela	13	31	Andy King

Richard Barnes	USA	16	45	Ray Copper
Tina Neill	USA	13	22	Reg Brickell
Olly White	British	11	43	Andy King
Tim Denyer	British	12	40	Reg Brickell
Frederique Jacques	France	13	31	Andy King
Liane Llewellyn	British			

Relay TEAMS 2005

6 Person Teams

Sudbury Swimming Club	British	12	15	Andy King
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5 Person Teams

Spencer Team	British	13	8	Ray Cooper
South Coast Strugglers	Australia	11	39	Ray Cooper
Everton SA	British	14	16	Andy King

2 way

Umihime (Sea Princesses) Ladies team	Japan	22	35	Andy King
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Many congratulations to all our swimmers. Especially to James Fitzpatrick who got the season off to a start, to Jane who had to battle through difficult conditions, to our 3 Czech Republic swimmers who all had successful swims with Reg Brickell. To Yveta who becomes the fastest ever Czech swimmer and who is currently our fastest swimmer across so far this year and to Steve Smith, who has refused to give up and always knew he could do it. For him success was sweet on his 5th attempt. Congratulations also to Tina Neill, who, within 48 hours of her arrival in Dover had completed her crossing, using backstroke, it could not have happened to a nicer person. She is almost certainly the first lady to use this stroke. Congratulations to Frederik who set a new Breaststroke record, clearly Belgium must be the home for Breast stokers as the previous record holder was Patrick Ghysel. Congratulations to Liane who joins her sister Dee in completing the swim.

Congratulations also to the Team Spencer 5 person relay, who unlike Tina, had to wait patiently, since last year. Also to our Everton ladies team and to our 5 man Australian team, which included 4 of the Shoebridge family. Jason had been teaching in a Maidstone school.

Many congratulations to the Umihime (Sea Princesses) Japanese Ladies 2 way relay team, who become our first 2 way team to get across this year.

Unsuccessful Swims

As usual some swims are unsuccessful and most of the swimmers keep trying in the true spirit of Channel swimming. We congratulate all who take on this Herculean challenge. An unsuccessful swim can be due to many factors outside of the control of the swimmer, such as unpredictably rough weather, unexpected change of current, jellyfish stings, cramps, abdominal indisposition's, the list is endless. Our deepest commiseration's to those who have so far been unsuccessful. We hope that they will persevere and be successful next time around.

Mark Rickhuss:

Sadly we have to report the death of Mark Rickhuss and we send our deepest sympathy to his wife and family. Mark collapsed in the dingy, on his way back to the escort vessel, only a few metres from Cap Gris Nez, just a few minutes after he had joined, hugged and congratulated Tim Denyer on his successful crossing. He died doing the things he loved, helping swimmers, helping Channel swimming and helping a best friend to achieve a long held dream. He made the fastest crossing by a Britain in 1999 in 9 hours 18 minutes. He will be sadly missed, but long remembered.

Visitors:

We were please to hear that Jose Vitos had come over to Dover with his family to reminisce. Jose swam France/England breast stroke in 1958.

We were also pleased to see Peter Bales from South Africa who swam in 1969.

Entente Cordiale

In November 2004 the Chairman was invited by Her Majesty to the State Banquet at Windsor Castle to celebrate the 100 years of the "Entente Cordiale" where he had the honour to meet The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, President Chirac, Madame Chirac and the Prime Minister.

Maritime Reception

In July 2005 our President Sunny Lowry and the Chairman were invited by Her Majesty to attend the Maritime Reception held at St James' Palace. The President and Chairman had the honour to meet The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duke of Kent.

Meeting with the President of Eire.

At the end of last year Ray Cossum and Ted Keenan were amongst a small group of swimmers from Ireland, who were invited to meet the Irish President.

David Meca

Many congratulations to David Meca, who has just become World Champion in 25 Km Open Water Swim (Montreal).

Men's 25k Results

1°David Meca ESP 5:00:21.4

2°Brendan Capell AUS 5:00:23.6

3°Petar Stoychev BUL 5:00:28.4

David Meca said after the race "Because there were so many laps, the course was different to what we are used to. It resulted in physical contact between many swimmers and that made it especially tough for me. Many people may have thought that I was too old and since I have been swimming since 1992 that may be true although I continue to win medals in each championship. Training is getting tougher and tougher for me everyday as I grow older. I did not even know that I was on the last lap until I was half way through it. I was in the first pack of swimmers during the last lap and I made my move with 1500 meters to go. Today I have won the gold medal and for me it is the best!

Marguerite Pike

Many congratulations to Marguerite Pike who won the gold medal in the 3 Km at the World Masters Games in Edmonton, Canada, recently.

Lewis Pugh

BRITISH SWIMMER SET TO TACKLE ARCTIC OCEAN

Top long distance swimmer, Lewis Gordon Pugh who swam the Channel in 1992, announced today that he will attempt to become the first person to undertake a long distance swim in the Arctic Ocean shortly. Due to its cold and inaccessibility, the Arctic Ocean is the last remaining ocean in which a long distance swim has never taken place.

The British swimmer, a veteran of many cold swims, was the first person to swim around a number of famous landmarks including North Cape (the most northern point of Europe), the Cape Agulhas (the most southern point of Africa) and the Cape of Good Hope. Last year, he swam 204km down the longest fjord in Norway (Sognefjord), in temperatures as low as 6 degrees centigrade, to break the world record for the longest cold water swim. Lewis's Arctic swim will take place on 20 August at the most northern point of the Island of Spitsbergen. This is barely 1,000km from the North Pole. He plans to swim 1,000 meters in water, which is expected to be between 2

and 5 degrees. Lewis will swim in a swimming costume and a swimming cap, as English Channel Swimming Rules prevent the use of a wetsuit:

Lewis said: "This is a very exciting challenge. While there are polar bears and walruses in the area, my main concern is the cold. I will have to swim extremely hard to keep warm, but not too fast that I burn out."

Lewis will be accompanied by a comprehensive safety crew, which includes Professor Tim Noakes, the Director of the Sports Science Institute of South Africa.

Further details of the swim, and a map, may be found on www.epicswims.com.

Julie Bradshaw

Tsunami appeal:

Many of you will have wanted to do some thing to support the Tsunami victims. Julie Bradshaw has kindly made the effort on our behalf by swimming 15 miles butterfly during a charity swim in January. Please support her by sending your donations directly to her, thank you.

Manhattan

Not content with a charity butterfly swim in January, Julie went to Manhattan to raise more for good causes in July. Unfortunately the Round Manhattan swim was cancelled after 5 hours but she is still raising money.

The St James' Place relay

The St James' Place relay is also swimming for charity, they are planning to raise the enormous sum of £100,000 to support Hope and Homes. We are sure that they would also like your support.

Bill Pickering

We send our congratulations to Bill. On the 26th August Bill celebrates the 50th Anniversary of his swim in 1955. He was the 11th person to swim England to France and set a New World record of 14 hours 6 minutes, which he lost a few weeks later to Florence Chadwick. Local television did a programme about his swim in early August.

June Gilbert

June Gilbert/June Masters has recently got in touch with us to ask if anyone who remembers her would like to get in touch. She swam France/England in 1957 and an England/France crossing in 1973. For the past 32 years she has been June Spokes and now, a new convert to the wonders of the internet, she can be contacted at junespokes.@virginnet

Swim for Malaria

We have been contacted about a global fundraising initiative, which aims to have 1 million people around the world swimming for malaria on 3 December this year.

Sally McCombie [mailto:smccombie@smartresource.net] writes that We'd be delighted if channel swimmers would join us.

The reason behind World Swim for Malaria is that:

- The equivalent of 7 jumbo jets full of children will die today and every day from malaria.
- That's 3000 children a day, one every 30 seconds. It's the world's largest single killer of children.
- Yet malaria is preventable.
- The most effective means of protection is the provision of mosquito nets to put over children's heads at night.

Our aim is to raise many millions of pounds to buy millions of mosquito nets.

- 100% of the money raised will buy mosquito nets. Every £1million raised will help stop 16,000 people from dying. If 50 people swim and raise £60 each, we save 50 children's lives.

There are already more than 150,000 people from over 100 countries involved in World Swim for Malaria making this the largest participatory swim ever. Swimming federations, schools, swimming clubs, groups of friends, elite athletes and grassroots swimmers are all joining in. Olympic swimming champions such as Shane Gould and Adrian Moorhouse have pledged their support.

Global partners include Microsoft, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Speedo. Each has committed generous pro bono support. Other supporters include Accenture, the BBC and JWT. Most will have 5,000 staff, family and friends taking part.

The numbers signing up on the World Swim for Malaria website are increasing all the time - but many more swimmers are needed to achieve the goal of 1 million swimming.

Could channel swimmers use their talent to help us reach a million?

Ideas on what channel swimmers might do:

- organise a swim and raise money. There are no rules to stop people participating. There is no fixed number of people that must be involved in an individual swim, or fixed distance they have to swim or minimum amount of money they have to raise. If you cannot swim on 3rd December 2005, you can swim on a different day instead. You organise your swim as best suits you. This is about participation across the world.
- add the WSM logo to your website and link to the World Swim for Malaria site www.worldswimformalaria.com

These are just initial thoughts, which I'd be happy to talk through.

The idea behind this is very simple: If we swim, we save lives. We hope you'll join us and help reach 1 million swimming.

Best wishes

Sally

If you would like to help, please contact Sally on Mobile:

+44 7976 595 857

Old swimmers

From time to time we get asked for information about swimmers from earlier years. We were delighted to hear from members of Henry Sullivan's family recently. He swam in 1923 and still has the record for the longest solo.

We also heard from members of Peggy Duncan's family, who kindly furnished us with copies of some of the newspaper articles, which had been written in the South African press. She swam in 1930 and carried a letter from the Mayor of Boulogne.

We also heard from members of Mihir Sen's family. He swam in 1958 and was the first Indian swimmer to be successful.

We also heard from members of "King of the Channel 1960-74" Brojan Das's family. He was the first person from Pakistan to swim the Channel and took the record number of swims from 4 to 6.

Annual Dinner:

The Channel Swimming Association Annual dinner and presentation of awards and trophies will be held at Dover Town Hall on the 5th November 2005. Dinner tickets £29/head, please book and plan early as it is often a struggle to accommodate all those wishing to attend.

Visit Dover Museum: See the Association's trophies.

Those of you coming to Dover this year may like to take the opportunity to visit the Dover Museum. Along with much detail of Dover's history, the museum has an enormous archive of Channel Swimming data and the Associations trophies are on display.

Vellums:

Successful teams are reminded that if all members order a vellum before the 1st September and the vellums can be dispatched to one address, there is a 20% discount on the cost.

Christof Wandratsch's swim:

Many of you will have seen reports of his swim and also somewhat unpleasant reports of what the Chairman is rumoured to have told the Times.

When approached by the Times, the Chairman said,

"Sadly his swim was not conducted under the Channel Swimming Association and consequently I can tell you nothing, except that I have already received rumours that his swim suit might not have been legal under our rules". He did go on to say "what I can tell you is that in 2003 he became the second fastest person ever to cross the channel under Channel Swimming Association rules". End of conversation.

We have since heard that he used the same suit as in his 2003 swim.

Swimmers grease:

We had been telling swimmers that they need to make their own, but there is good news, it is available from David Frantzeskou at the Varne Ridge Caravan Park, 145, Old Dover Road, Capel-le-Ferne 01303 251765.

Rolex:

Sadly, after 35 years of support, Rolex has decided not to continue sponsoring the Channel Swimming Association's "blue riband event". We are extremely grateful for the many years of support they have given us.

Regalia:

We are still running down our stocks, what we have available is offered at cost price plus p&p.

New 2006 Handbook:

We are planning a New Edition of the Handbook, with more pictures and results updated until the end of 2005, which we hope will be available at the Dinner on the 5th November. Please get your orders to Alison; the price will be the same as the current edition.

Mako Shark:

A Mako shark has been sighted by fishermen in North Cornwall, off Bude and was reported in the press on the 12th August. This is just to let you know that it will have to swim another 450 miles to reach Dover, but it is no reason not to take care and represents another possible hazard to add to the long list.

If you have news that you would like to share with other members, please let us know and if this newsletter works, we can always enclose messages and news in the future.

With our continued best wishes to you all for a successful season,

CSA Board, August 2005.