

**Channel Swimming Association Ltd. 1927-2012**  
**Newsletter 25**  
**January 2012**

## **Celebrating 85 years of serving Channel Swimmers**

Dear Member,

**Welcome to our January 2012 Newsletter.**

### **Chairman's Message**

Dear CSA friends,

Yet again all the signs are that this coming year looks as if the swimming season will be as busy as last year.

The swimming tides are known and as last year more than 80 of you have so far registered your intentions to swim. I hope you are building up your condition towards a successful swim. From the bottom of my heart I wish everybody a favourable forecast and a successful swim. Please send photos and videos or even links to us so that we can update our new website.

Also a quick reminder.... be sure all your paperwork is done properly and forwarded to our secretary... if there is something missing please get it completed as early as possible otherwise you put your swim and effort at risk.

The Channel Swimming Association wishes you great success and I do hope that we will meet someday. The Annual Dinner this year is on November 3rd, make a note in your diary now, it is always a wonderful occasion, tickets will again be £35/head.

Peter Van Vooren

## **Channel Update**

Today, 29th January, as I start this Newsletter, the temperature mid channel at the Sandtette Buoy is currently 47.5°F, up from 45.3°F at the beginning of the year.

## **2012 Membership.**

A gentle reminder, membership renewal was due on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. Please use the membership forms at the end of this newsletter or on the website, [www.channelswimmingassociation.com](http://www.channelswimmingassociation.com) This way you stay as a member and we stay in touch with you.

If you have not already completed the Standing Order form please take this opportunity to do it now. We do our best to keep membership fees as low as possible to encourage you to stay in membership. All you have to do is to complete the Standing Order Form, at the end of this newsletter return it to your bank and also let us know and your membership problems are solved.

## **President named in New Year Honours list**

**It is my great pleasure to be able to tell you that our President has been awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours list for services to swimming. A fitting tribute to over 55 years of dedication to the administration of clubs and especially our Association.**

**Peter Van Vooren**

## **Apologies**

Well done the person who spotted that the subject of Newsletter 24, on the email, was December 2012 instead of 2011. She has won a fortnight's all inclusive holiday in Ipswich, UK.

We keep asking you for your contributions to the newsletter and we thank those of you who have sent in stories, photos and information. We are extremely grateful to Mike Jennings who has sent us his memories of the 1960's which provide a wonderful insight and understanding of this period in our history and we are delighted to be able to add his contribution in its entirety.

## **Anniversaries**

Believe it or not 1962 is the only year in the past 50 when the weather was so bad that there was not a single successful swim that year.

## **CHANNEL SWIMMING IN THE 1960s.**

**Michael Jennings – Fr-Eng 1960 – Eng to Fr 1966**

I hardly covered myself in glory on my first swim in the 1960s. I entered the water about 01.00 am and was dragged out by my lifelong pal, Norman Trusty, about five minutes later coughing, spluttering and with a sprained ankle. But what did I expect with about 2,000 participants and half a million onlookers.

It followed the most amazing New Year's Eve party ever and the fountains in Trafalgar Square just couldn't cope with us all. Central London heaved with happiness that night as us twenty somethings finally shook off the austerity and restrictions of our earlier lives, putting behind us the thought that any one of those one million bombs, doodlebugs or V2 rockets that fell on our city might have had our name on it.

We were ready to move on and start fulfilling those dreams, aims and ambitions we held. And my dream? To swim the English Channel! So welcome to the "Swinging Sixties" the most exciting decade of the last century. And later that year there I was, 01.41am Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> 1960, on Cap Gris Nez beach after an horrendous 3 hour trip over from Dover on Captain Hutchinson's launch, the cabin in which I tried to sleep stinking of fish, diesel fumes and a blocked toilet, every wave juddering the boat ... a nightmare!

Shards of ice flew from the twelve foot raging surf crashing onto the rocks, great white sharks and killer whales roamed the depths and it was rumoured polar bears stalked the Goodwin Sands! Oh yes, it was seriously different in my day! One of the bears, shot and stuffed, 8 feet tall, stands on the landing of the second floor of the Dover Museum. Don't believe me? Visit and see for yourself.

As I plunged into the waves I couldn't help but think ... Captain Matthew Webb, you have an awful lot to answer for, and being a boy brought up with the scriptures I offered up a prayer, "ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACHTHANI" which as all you educated CSA members know is the ancient Hebrew for "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" Fifty one years on and I'm still waiting for an answer!

Average conditions I suppose and 13h 31m later I pitched up about half a mile east of Dover Harbour. I was the first swimmer that year, thus the first in the 60s and the first Kent-born person to do it, for which I was honoured as "Kent Swimmer of the Year". I was also sent £10 and two pairs of goggles by Siebe Gorman, whose Fire Brigade fire fighting goggles I wore. They were paralytically uncomfortable but did the job. Swimming goggles were virtually unheard of in the UK at that time.



So for me began a seven year affair with long-distance swimming. But never mind those swims in Torbay, Windermere, Morecombe Bay, The Solent, Coniston, Ullswater, Bala and the Rhine, the wins and many records and the supreme accolade paid me by Cdr. Gerry Forsberg OBE, RN, our former president and world authority who wrote of me ... "Probably the best Amateur eight miler in the world", Channel swimming was my real passion...for fifteen years.

1959 saw the end of what were called 'the glamorous years' of Channel swimming, the Butlins and Daily Mail cross-Channel

Dover, Aug 1<sup>st</sup> 1960. Capt Len Hutchinson and my dad ALWAYS wore a suit and tie on swims!

Races, with bevvies of gorgeous Redcoats, of both genders, brought in to keep the troops happy, scuppered by a little lady who couldn't swim a stroke. That year Dr Barbara Moore became the first person to walk non-stop from Lands End to John O'Groats attracting massive daily publicity. Sir Billy dropped Channel swimming and was onto Lands End to John O'Groats walking races like a rat up a drainpipe. Sam Rockett who masterminded the swim races now found himself in charge of racing walkers all armed with national bus and train timetables!

This nine years of cross-Channel races had popularised the sport to such a degree that names like Sam Rockett, Florence Chadwick, Ned Barrie, Greta Andersen and Philip Mickman were every young boy's heroes and household names. Hassan Abdel Rehim and Abu Latif Heif had streets named after them in Cairo, I've seen them, and were promoted to Colonels in the



Greta Andersen with Esther Williams, film star and USA Olympic swimmer

Egyptian Army on the basis of their wins, neither of them ever having fired a gun! It was rumoured Greta Andersen was to swim the channel with film star Esther Williams, but didn't. This incredible popularity continued well into the 60s, all British swimmers having a real fuss made of them in their home towns. I even got to judge the Miss Gravesend contest and finished up marrying the winner. Well, we're all entitled to one mistake!

The stats for the 1960s compared to nowadays are quite incredible; only 70 successes in the 10 years by 60 different swimmers, (F to E 48 and E to F 22), 2 x 2 ways and 27 relays and the ratio of failures was far higher than now. In 1962 unbelievably there were no successful swims at all and two-way relays were unheard of. Sponsorship, by way of raising money from your swim was unheard of too until relay swims began in earnest in 1964 with three successes of ten swimmers per team from France to England. Training in the harbour was unrestricted and most swam regularly out to the Admiralty Pier and back. Brojen Das even swam out of the Eastern entrance and back in through the Western entrance! On his own, no boat.

It was obvious to the CSA that relay swims were to be very much part of the future, most importantly to provide more work for the pilots (who were hardly making fortunes), and for the fact that they might encourage relay swimmers to make solo attempts and of course, unwittingly, the potential to raise millions of ££££s by being sponsored for charities. I served on the CSA committee from 1960 to 1973 and helped formulate relay rules for the 1965 season, namely six swimmers per team, 1 hour each in strict rotation. These rules prevailed till the end of the century.

Other rules and decisions were brought in at this time. Neoprene was a new material and immediately banned as was any insulating material and the CSA decided it would not entertain anything but "traditional swimming". This ruled out all the 'fin and snorkel' brigade, the wetsuit woosies, bobbies on bicycles (or pedaloos) two by two, bottle floaters, straw bale paddlers, lilo luvvies towed by kites, 'chained' swimmers from Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and even Fred Baldasare, although I argued strongly in his favour. Fred's problem was that nobody saw him do it, possibly because he was the first person to swim from France to England UNDERWATER.....more of this epic adventure later.

Discussions were held at great length as to whether Observers should be paid.....in a word "No". It was also decided no observer was to participate in mackerel fishing, a popular escort boat bit of fun, (shame!) following a lady getting five fish hooks caught in her face and hair and all observers had to return their Rolex watches at the end of the season (bigger shame!). And no observer was to participate in rude gestures to Russian submarine periscopes, occasionally seen in those days. 'Torpedo running 136 degrees. Abandon ship!' Debated also was proof of a long swim in cold water and the need for a medical. Although debated and considered at considerable length these were not adopted till years later.

A new CSA Handbook was published in 1964 at five shillings and sixpence, 27<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> p, and a new tie was extortionately priced at fifteen shillings, 75p. No wonder we never sold many. Talking of extortionate prices my pilot's fee in 1960 was £90 rising to £120 in 1966! Talk about inflation.

The CSA was brilliantly run and organised in the 60s as it is today, with such esteemed presidents as Lord Freyberg, VC, GCMG, KCB, KBE, DSO, until 1963 then Cdr. Gerald Forsberg, OBE, RN, world authority and Channel record holder. Ray Scott steadied the ship as chairman throughout the 60s with two hard-working Hon Secs, John Unicum Wood (1958-1963) and Miss I W Kellam-Smith (1964-1969). The Ayatollah, she who must be obeyed!

John Unicum was terrific, always out in a small boat loaded down to the gunnels with press, TV and photographers ready to welcome in swimmers from France, more often than not getting in the water fully clothed, to be the first to shake their hand. He even had a cat named after him, 'Woodie', that lived on Capt. Hutchinson's boat in the Eastern Docks, supposedly to keep the rats away that plagued there. "Woodie" (the cat) went on quite a few Channel swims (what quarantine regulations?) till one dark night in a Force 5 off Cap Blanc Nez he fell overboard and was never seen again. Capt. H who, as

a merchant sea captain of the North Atlantic and Arctic wartime convoys (and with the scars to prove it) had buried many at sea, held an impromptu service and we all sang the first verse of the hymn “For those in peril on the sea”. Quite touching.

As one of the CSA’s keenest observers JUW gave me the pick of the swims and my mum always sent me off to Dover with a huge home-made cake for him, usually devoured by swimmers who crammed daily into his tiny apartment on the seafront, much to the discomfort of his lovely long-suffering wife. It didn’t do to upset him though as Arthur Ayres found out. He made a 4 foot rag doll, with a large piece of card pinned to its chest with Arthur’s name on it. ‘Arthur’ was hung by the neck from a high lamppost on the promenade swinging nicely in a strong south-westerly for six hours till the Dover Council made JUW cut him down! Others who upset him weren’t allowed to attend the Annual Dinner. JUW was thrilled to be invited as Guest of Honour at the BLDSA Annual Dinner 1961, saying it was a great honour for the CSA. As a surprise I took him pre dinner to see Manchester Utd v. Leeds, where he dropped his glasses, which were promptly trodden on in the crush and he couldn’t use his notes for his speech. Whose fault do you think that was? I got it in the neck.

Woodie retired and life for me was never to be the same again. Somehow Miss IWKellam-Smith didn’t seem to like me and my services as Observer were not required so frequently. Didn’t matter though as I went as ‘deckie’ for Capt. H and got paid, there being no expenses for observers.



*Annual Dinner 1961. Back Row, Wood, Forsberg, Rockett, Rising, Fergus, White, Birkett, M.J.*

Years later Ray Scott said to me ... “You know why Miss IWK-S didn’t take to you, don’t you?” I replied, “No, Ray, I don’t.” “Michael it was clear to us all, she wanted your body.” “Really, Ray?” I was staggered. “Yes, preferably cremated!” Happy days.

All committee members were senior to me, one of whom was Sydney de Haan, a lovely man, beautifully spoken, expensively attired, a chain-smoker. He had been a POW of the Germans in Poland for most of the war and once punched Sir Billy Butlin on the nose for swearing in front of his wife. (“I warned him once, he did it again so I punched him”). He offered me a job which I turned down. He subsequently went on to form ‘SAGA’ which his son sold for a couple of billion quid a few years ago. Missed opportunity? Well, my old Robin Reliant gets me around!



*Gerry Forsberg, OBE*



*Ray Scott*



*John Unicum Wood*



*M.J lards up Peter Fergus*

*Annual Dinner dip 1961. Sunny Lowry, Peter Frayne, Bill Bristow, Peter Fergus, me, Victor Birkett, Arthur Ayres.*

The main pilots then were Val Noakes, Reg Brickell, Bert Reid, all Folkestone fishermen, and the incomparable Captain Leonard Hutchinson, an absolutely wonderful man, although anybody who had a boat could escort a swimmer in the early 1960s.....no restrictions. "Hutch" always wore a suit and tie on board and was my pilot on both my swims and with whom I went on dozens of swims till the mid 70s. He enthralled me with his wartime adventures. Seems if it hadn't been for him and my dad we would have lost! Val Noakes inexplicably was to drown in the channel whilst fishing, about 1974. Navigation was primitive to say the least compared with the sophisticated GPS and AIS tracker systems there are today, possibly responsible for knocking up to 2 hours off a swim comparatively.

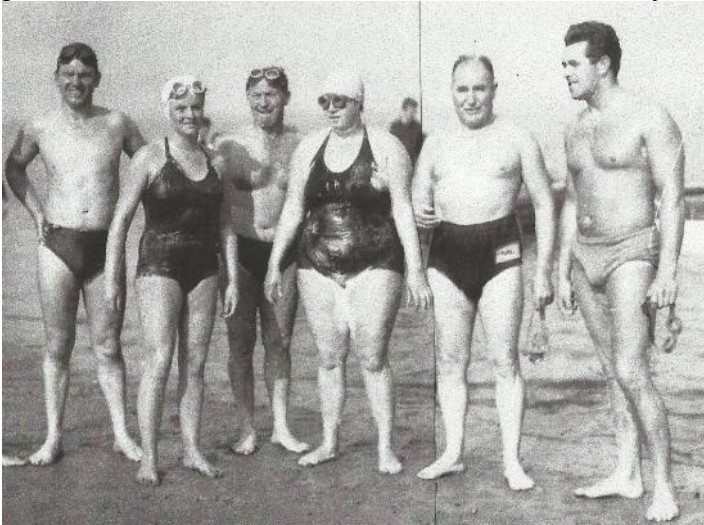
Capt H relied on an almost unreadable chart, rusty sextant, dodgy compass and a large tin tray lashed to the mast-head by wire coat hangers acting as a radar reflector which often needed straightening up. The radio seldom worked but there was, of course, if all else failed, the reliable licked finger held out of the wheelhouse window. 'Where's the wind?' We came close to disaster on a few occasions! A 200,000 ton tanker bearing down on you out of the fog or night, that probably doesn't even know you're there is not for the faint-hearted. I filmed some of the swims I went on using an 8mm cine camera, converted to VCR and now all on DVD. They show some exciting times and close encounters. Meteorological data was sparse to non-existent, there being a shipping forecast on the BBC radio four times daily which merely stated the conditions at the time. Capt H relied on phoning Bracknell Airport (where?) and ME! I lived in Thameside and could see the 300 feet high chimneys emitting plumes of smoke from the cement manufacturing works. "How's the smoke, Michael?" "Wind SE 30 degrees from the shaft, Captain." "France to England, we're off tonight". How thrilled would a swimmer be today if he thought the start of his swim was judged by the angle smoke came out of a factory chimney fifty miles away?

Nutritional knowledge and advice was scant with Lucozade about the only energy drink available. If you want to throw up quickly, drink Lucozade with 'umpteens spoons of glucose powder in it and go channel swimming!! Mind you, it could be kept down if preceded by a steak and kidney pie .....lovely! Scientific fat breakdown, carb loading, insulin levels, glycogen burning, creatine, lactic acid, power bars, anabolic steroids (don't go there), would have been a foreign language then. Hubert House Hotel served as 'home' for many Channel aspirants, as it still does today, the owner then Mrs Garnet-Martin personally seeing off all E to F swimmers from Shakespeare Beach and laying out an enormous red carpet for the successful on return. She even paid the taxi fare for the more hard up.

The CSA held their Committee meetings there and she presented them with the Garnet-Martin trophy for the fastest relay team annually. Nobody to go with you? No worries, Mrs G-M's lovely schoolgirl daughter, Naomi, was detailed off for duty, the best kid I ever saw on a boat. Force 6, in the dark, mid-Channel: "What this time, tea, soup or coffee?" Then leaning over the side ..... "Get a move on I've got to be at school by 9am." She even took her homework with her!

CSA Annual Dinners were lavish affairs then as they are now, enjoying such salubrious venues as the Grand Hotel and other top Folkestone hotels as well as Ferryfield Airport at Lydd and the magnificent and majestic Dover Town Hall with its tapestries and many suits of armour that seem to have gone walkabouts these days. Top personalities in the swimming world were invited as Guest of Honour and speakers. All swimmers had to enjoy/endure the mandatory next morning dip in the harbour, pre the AGM led by Gerry Forsberg or Sunny Lowry.

"So what about some swims?" I hear you cry. Well, impossible to mention everybody but I trust the following together with these last few pages will give you an insight into how it was in the 60s. How times have changed but the English Channel is still as challenging and unpredictable as it ever was but published data shows it's warmer now. I'll take it year by year. "TAKE YOUR MARKS.... GO!"



*Derek Turner, Ruth Oldham, Arthur Ayres,  
Dorothy Perkins, Gerry Forsberg, M.J.*

### **They were pretty nifty in 1960.**

Following my F to E swim there were a further seven successes, four particularly worth mention. Helge Jensen set a cracking new record time of 10-23 E to F bettering the previous by over two hours. Helge could eat for Denmark, taking piles of sandwiches to bed nightly and his land-lady swearing there was nearly always half a loaf and a tin of corned beef gone missing most mornings. Being Danish he certainly "brought home the bacon", his record standing for twelve years.

Mary Kok (Holland) set a new overall ladies record of 12-25 swimming F to E and Brojen Das, first Pakistani, did his 4<sup>th</sup> swim to elevate him to King of the Channel<sup>®</sup> status which he held till 1974. Brojen and I became great mates but for some reason he never allowed me to be on any of his swims although we swam together in the harbour. I may have upset his trainer, Ali. I called him 'BaBa' and asked him to show us the rope trick!

Do you believe in ghosts? Well you would if you had been on Mary Kok's swim. Capt Hutchinson, his boatman Ron Talbot and myself all swore, in the swirling fog off Cap Gris Nez, to seeing a vague figure swim across the bow which for all the world was the ghost of Ted May who died unaccompanied in 1954. It had been rumoured by others but here was our proof. Some years later I was in the next bed to Ted's son in hospital....I had fallen down a cliff! "My dad swam the Channel, Mick." "No, I don't think he did, Paul." "Yes he did. He got across and it was on the way back he drowned. Some people say they've seen his ghost in the Channel." I thought keep your trap shut, Jennings.

Peter Fergus, 6'8" 23 stones, from Coventry, a real gentle giant got across E to F, 16-31, in atrocious conditions. A French fishing boat came close to see if we were in trouble, calling through a loud hailer, "Vous Anglais – stupide!" We yelled back, "Vous grenouilles aussi!"

I fed Peter enormous quantities of food.....chickens, steak pies, sandwiches, canned peaches and a big cake made by my mum – should have been two cakes but we ate one on board!

### **The girls had fun in 1961.**

Rosemary George, Montserrat Tresserras, both E to F, and Dorothy Perkins and Margaret White, F to E. Capt H escorted all four; I was only with three of them, leaving Monty, 16-25, to make her own way home, becoming the first lady to swim it in both directions. A beautiful Spanish girl who is now a very distinguished lady, a Director of the CSA and recently awarded by the King of Spain "La Real Ordre de Merit Esportiu", Spain's highest sporting honour. She deserves it. Congratulations, 'Monty'. They all graced Dover beach with their charm and good looks, turning dull days into sunny ones! Dorothy Perkins told everybody that the English Channel might have stopped Napoleon and Hitler, "but by 'eck, it's not going to stop me".....and it didn't.

Dorothy kicked off with the earliest swim ever, June 6<sup>th</sup>. C-c-c-c-cold? No, f-f-f-f-freezing! (55/56 degs). Her BLDSA reputation was that she ALWAYS did the last 100 on butterfly. Edging in alongside Deal Pier her dad called out, "Come on, Dorothy lass, last 100." "You can get stoofed, Dad." "Eee, lass, just wash your filthy mouth out before you finish." 20-26, great swim but no butterfly!



*Margaret White & Montserrat Tresserras*



*Dover's lovely Rosemary George*

Next up was Rosemary George, the beautiful face of Channel swimming. She didn't look too wonderful though after 21-35 as she crawled over the rocks near Boulogne, calling me everything because I made her make a proper landfall. How did these lovely girls know such language? But 'rules are rules' and great credit to the CSA for resisting change. I had one swimmer ten feet up the cliff-face on a spring tide! Unbelievably Rosemary was prosecuted in Dover because she didn't have a bell on her bike. True!

Margaret White, thick fog in mid-Channel crying to come out. "Get wet time, Michael", ordered Capt H. In I went. "Come on Margaret give me ten more strokes (only 12 miles to go!) now another ten, now twenty, now fifty." I got her going, getting in with her regularly for a few hours and she landed near Folkestone 15-08, the youngest person to have done it, just 17. What a kid! Her trainer thanked me by saying I was a bully! Who me? But she made it near Folkestone. Terrific! France disappeared after 10 minutes, England appeared with 5 minutes to go!

Montserrat, Rosemary and Margaret all attended the CSA Dinner this year to be honoured by the Association on the 50<sup>th</sup>. Anniversary of those swims and all were presented with the CSA Heraldic Shield suitably inscribed. Beautifully dressed and coiffured they agreed that none of them had changed one bit!! Well, perhaps just a little. Dorothy sadly passed away some time ago.



*Rosemary, Monty & Margaret with Mike Read  
Unbelievably 50 years later....CSA Dinner 2011*

But 1961 was certainly not ‘Ladies only’. Brojen Das added another couple of F – E swims to his tally, making six, the second of which set a new F – E record of 10-35. Capt H was choked he hadn’t beaten Jensen’s 10-23 (he wanted all the records). “He needed a pace-maker, Michael, and he would have done it. Where were you?” Brojen had again refused to have me as Observer!

The most incredible event since Captain Webb occurred this year. Antonio Abertondo (Argentina) “The Bull of the Pampas” became the first person to do a 2-way non-stop swim, E – F – E 43-10. This was then the longest swim in the English Channel, and remained so till 1975. Dover, UK, the whole long-distance swimming world went potty! Surprisingly he had failed a week or so earlier on a solo attempt lasting 19 hours in atrocious conditions!

‘Tony’ himself made very little of it and did his best to avoid the limelight. But he came unstuck when he strolled into a lavish reception laid on by the Pakistan Embassy in Dover to celebrate Brojen’s recent record swim. I was sitting in the corner, on cushions on the floor shoeless, with Margaret, Rosemary and Rosemary’s boyfriend, Fred, marvelling at such things as samosas, onion bhajees and champagne, all new to us. The press dropped Brojen like a red hot chapatti and were all over Tony like a rash. Fred worried the whole evening about the price of gold, Rosemary having been awarded the Dover Gold Medal. Hope you hung on to it, Fred; today’s spot price \$1,920 per ounce. Ouch! But what a year!



*Brojen Das, Margaret White &  
Antonio Abertondo...reception laid on  
by the Pakistan Embassy*

## Not much 'ado in 1962.

Other than me marrying my Miss Gravesend and winning the British Lake Windermere Championship a week later not much. Not her dream honeymoon, me having to save my energy for the big race but I did my best. No wonder it didn't last!

Amazingly there were no successful swims, the only year from 1950 to present day. The weather was awful, many swimmers spending several weeks in Dover and not able to make a start, all those who chanced it failed. I had trained hard for an Eng to Fr attempt but didn't start. One highly respected pilot put his head in the gas oven, lamenting he wouldn't be able to afford his usual six weeks' holiday in the Caribbean. Unable to accomplish his demise with the newly developed North Sea gas, he realized the folly of his ways, relaxed with a cigarette and blew his house to smithereens. Honest!

I went on about six swims with Capt H with several memorable incidents. A BBC sound recordist accompanied a British girl making a programme for radio. When he collapsed from sea sickness a couple of us added our own contribution into his microphones, not too rude! An Italian swimmer had a friend on board who sang magnificent opera non-stop, really wonderful, but he only had to sing for about 3 hours! About two hours into an E – F attempt it was realized there was no fresh water on board and I had to row to the South Goodwin Lightship for two buckets, two half buckets when I got back! Frighteningly, in the dark, I had to go under the boat to free a rope caught in the screw armed with a carving knife. And I managed to sprain Arthur Ayres finger fending him off with a boat hook when he wanted to get out. Seldom a dull day!



*Captain Hutchinson's two launches  
with "crew" of swimmers  
M.J, Peter Fergus, Bryan Finlay,  
Arthur Ayres, Rosemary George &  
boyfriend Fred and "Woodie"*

**BUT** the weather didn't stop 'Fearless Fred' Baldasare (USA) the first person to conquer the Channel UNDERWATER, piloted by Val Noakes, scuba style, his air cylinders changed regularly by a team of divers. Fred, a New York film director, was over in 1960 when his wife Jane had made two unsuccessful similar attempts resulting in their divorce! He went under at Cap Gris Nez and surfaced some 20 hours later right alongside the 8<sup>th</sup> green of the world-famous Royal St Georges Golf Club, Sandwich, an Open venue, where he upset the club captain who not surprisingly had just missed a short putt. "For Chrissakes, buddy, it's left to right, everything runs to the sea!" Fred covered 42 miles, fed from plastic squeeze bottles, didn't surface once and blamed the diarrhoea he suffered on the swim on sabotage by HRH Prince Philip whom he claimed had poisoned his food! My old adversary in BLDSA events, Joe Smith, oldest Brit E-F 1999, spoke with Fred on the beach. "Hey limey, you swimming on top? You must be mad on a day like this!" Joe retired because of bad weather. 'Fearless Fred' Baldasare, what a character. They made him then threw away the mold.....mould? You tell me.

### Just a bit calmer sea in 1963.

Resulting in six successes, all F – E, two by Frenchmen (ah! they do like Channel swimming!). Claudia McPherson popped over from Canada to represent the fair sex, 17-17, Pierre van Vooren (Belgium) did the first of his two swims, 15-09, amazingly his lovely wife Ghislaine presenting him with a son while he was swimming. I suggested to them that in view of our friendship they may like to call the baby ‘Michael’. “Wonderful”, they cried and then christened him Peter. Peter is now Chairman of the CSA. His dad would have been so proud just as his lovely mum is.

Derek Turner and Kendall Mellor blew in to try their luck. Derek was without doubt the toughest swimmer I ever met. He had the knack of being able to tear telephone directories in half and could blow up rubber hot water bottles. Not the sort of person to pick a fight with. Several of us went for a stroll around the Eastern Docks, no security then, and a thick mass of jellyfish about 20 yards square and who knows how deep, had been pushed into a corner by wind and tide. It looked horrible. “I’ll prove to you jelly fish don’t sting”, said Derek, stripped down to his underpants and dived in ... and didn’t come up. We waited and waited till at least a minute later he surfaced about 50 yards away, laughing like a drain. “Were you worried?” he called out. Captain H piloted them both in rough conditions and both got across, Derek 15-39, Kendall 16-53.



*Kendal Mellor, Joe Smith, M.J.*

Later Derek suggested the three of us swim from the harbour beach out through the Western entrance and round to Shakespeare Beach, about 2 miles, have a sit in the sun and swim back. Out we went, round the corner but half way to Shakespeare Beach a Harbour Board launch came up and told us in no uncertain terms were we to swim back the way we had come, so we had to walk from Shakespeare back to the harbour. What sore feet? I finally swam back through it though in 1996 with Shaun Roper, F – E, 11-51. Pilot “Oram the Younger” .....Lance.... a CSA pilot in those days, went potty but couldn’t stop us. The skipper of a hovercraft waiting to come out wasn’t too happy either! Shaun would have been the last solo F – E but Kevin got wind of the fact there were to be no more F – E swims after 1996 and to be sure he was the last nipped in on New Year’s Eve I think it was! Well, the 24<sup>th</sup> September is almost mid winter!!

### Successes galore in 1964.

Well nine of them to be exact. Certainly the most spectacular was Barry Watson’s gob-smacking F – E, 9-35. A record that was to last eighteen years. All the Brits I’ve mentioned cut their teeth with the BLDSA events, Barry no exception. Leonora Modell (USA) F – E 15-27 took Margaret White’s youngest-ever crown at only 14 yrs 3 months, and we welcomed back to the Channel Greta Andersen (USA) (F – E 1957/58/59). Although from the USA she was Danish born.



*Ted Erikson*

Greta was over to try to become the second 2-way swimmer, but she had competition from Ted Erikson (USA) with the same ambition. Ted went first, did a good first leg, E – F 12-35, but couldn’t make it back and retired after 23 hours. Greta got across in 13-40 breaking Florence Chadwick’s 1955 E – F ladies record, but she couldn’t get back either. Both vowed to try again in 1965, the gauntlet was down. The Daily Mirror unveiled their “Golden Girl”, a beautiful Mary Margaret Revell (USA) a very accomplished long-distance swimmer. She made three attempts in the season without success. One swim she started from Dungeness point, some 20 miles plus west of Dover, the theory being that the flood tide would hit this huge promontory and give her a big push for six hours towards France.

A Folkestone journalist wag wrote ... ‘A brave endeavour and not a totally silly idea, but the doubters were proved right when, after 1-55 she was pulled out heading for the Isle of Wight.’



*Barry Watson*



*Mary Margaret Revell*



*Danny La Rue OBE*



*June Gilbert*

Greta got fed up with the Daily Mirror publicity machine and wagered £500 for any woman who could beat her. The only ‘taker’ was a new young drag artist comedian looking for a bit of publicity for himself and later to become a ‘star’, Danny La Rue! He (she?) was turned down but made front page nationals posing as a lady swimmer in a sequined cozzie and floral swim cap. Following this, Danny went on to become a national treasure, cross-dressing his way through show business and high society, owning night clubs in the West End and honoured with an OBE, but sadly he died in 2010, in somewhat impoverished circumstances. When the lovely June Gilbert, (F/E 1958 and E/F 1973), my early 60s training partner, heard Greta had extended the bet to any woman who could beat her or outlast her on the return leg of her next 2-way swim she said, “That’s going to be the easiest 500 quid I’ll ever earn”, but somehow she missed the boat!

1964 saw me out there for the third time with Arthur Ayres, all piloted by Captain H. A proven distance swimmer it seemed Arthur just couldn’t get his brain in gear for the Channel. The two previous occasions he hadn’t lasted more than five hours but this time he went over on the ferry thus eliminating the gut-wrenching trip on the escort boat. Captain H had me swim ashore, he didn’t want to risk the dinghy in the rolling surf. Black as pitch I waded ashore on Cap Gris Nez beach, torch down my cozzie, to be met by Mrs Garnet-Martin, about six members of Arthur’s fan club, a few drunken revellers from La Sirene Restaurant and a French Catholic Priest who called us to prayer. Down on our knees he blessed us all, the sea, the wind and the half bucket of “perfect food” Arthur then gulped down. Arthur and I swam out to the boat, about 200 yds off. I got a rollicking from Captain H. “Where have you been?” “I’ve been with Jesus, Captain,” and I explained. “We’re late, missing the tide, you should have told him time and tide wait for no man, and anyway I’m running this swim, not the Almighty.”



*Greta Andersen*

Arthur lasted 2-55, sick as a dog ... so much for the ‘perfect food’. Back on board he cried like a baby. In the distance we could see the lights of another escort boat going like a bat out of hell ... Val Noakes piloting Barry Watson, 9-35, world record! Flat calm!

### **The battle’s still alive in 1965.**

As promised, Greta and Ted returned to do battle. Ted felt he definitely had the edge, bringing with him some new-fangled bit of equipment, rumoured it filled three suitcases called a computer. A what? This iconic, demonic, electronic piece of wizardry could even print! Whilst Ted burnt the midnight oil feeding in his co-ordinates Greta made two 2-way attempts. Yet again she got across, E – F 13-49, just nine minutes outside her own ladies E – F record but couldn’t get back. Her next attempt was thwarted by bad weather.

Finally Ted was ready but his print-outs let him down and he suffered two failures. His exasperated pilot suggested ... “Look Ted, hang your bits of paper on the inside of the lavatory door where they’ll be more use, get in the water and follow me!” The rest, as they say, is history. Ted Erikson, second 2-way swimmer E – F – E 30-03, more than thirteen hours faster than Abertondo.

Some interesting solo swims. I was with Pierre van Vooren again, E – F 17-55, holding up ferries trying to get in and out of Calais Harbour. Linda McGill (Australia) F – E 11-12 was in trouble for dodging customs clearance, being anxious to get back to Hubert House where I was waiting to scrub her down. Danilo Lopez, the first (only?) Guatemalan, F – E 16-45, had done all his training at 12,000 ft altitude, couldn't believe how warm the Channel was or understand why he was three minutes a mile faster!

Our own Philip Gollop, a Tom Watch protégé from Weymouth succeeded at his second attempt, F – E, 14-31, to become the youngest ever. He appeared the following week on 'Sunday Night Live at the London Palladium'. Bruce (now Sir Bruce Forsyth) threw all his usual catchphrases at him ... 'Can you come back next week?' .... 'Not likely I'm doing England to France', and as he walked off 'Nice to see you, to see you' ... and the audience roared 'NICE', calling him back for a standing ovation. He deserved it. Additionally, The Guardian sponsored a five team relay race, the London 'hoi poloi', Banks, Stock Exchange, Lloyds of London etc. But the swims were not recognized by CSA because they wouldn't play by the rules. Well, I am surprised.....not much changes there!



*Philip Gollop*

A certain Wilfred Westley formed the English Channel Swimming Association in opposition to the CSA and was a thorn in their side till 1969 when it disbanded. As though there could ever be another association.....the very thought of it! Some young man called Kevin took his first "little dip" swimming as a team member for the Phoenicians successful relay team Fr to Eng, 9-58, new record, and I broke my hand playing water polo a week before an E-F attempt having yet again spent six months training! I was as sick as the proverbial parrot.

### **The fastest was Mick's in 1966.**

Another bad year weatherwise and very cold water. Only five successes F – E and one E – F (me!). Mustafa Etaati 15-04 became the first Iranian and Denize Le Pennec 20-50, just sixteen, the first Channel Islander. Abdul Malek, 13-42, hoped to achieve his fellow Pakistani countryman Brojen Das' iconic fame and success but there was only one Brojen!

So it was left to me in my new-on-the-market 'Speedos' with their advertising slogan ..... 'The only thing faster than Speedos is your skin'.....of course we all now know it isn't..... to add a decent time and some respectability. As my swansong I attempted Jensen's E – F 10-23 record. I had a good crack at it but fog near the Goodwins had Capt H stop me for 20 minutes, but even so I was only two miles off Cap Gris Nez in just over seven hours. I needed to be a bit further west and a bit further in though. That lost twenty minutes had cost me. It got rough, strong tide swept me east and out and I landed at Sangatte in 12-59, then the third fastest E – F. "Been there," I hear some of you cry!



*"Before and After"*

*Norman Trusty applies the lanolin filmed by AVRO TV*

*Sangatte, 1966, and M et Mme Dubois buy me an ice cream.*

Dutch AVRO TV hired Capt H's other boat and filmed my swim for their sports programme, making me a very generous payment. I was invited over to Hilversum and interviewed live before it was shown on TV. Afterwards about ten people went out to dinner and I was sat next to Fanny Blankers Koen, Holland's greatest-ever sportsperson. Four golds at the 1948 London Olympics and at one time holder of twelve world athletics records, what a lovely lady. I thought, "Am I dreaming?" But please don't tell anybody I was paid. I don't want to lose my amateur status! The only other thing I was paid for was making a TV advert for South African Airways in mid-February at St. Margaret's Bay, arranged for me by John Unicum Wood. Well £120 was a lot of money! Worth a dose of pneumonia and hypothermia.

This young Kevin was desperate to get in the channel again and it was strongly rumoured he made application to be a member of the Girl Guides Association relay, F – E 13-10, but was turned down! I can't imagine why.

Not Channel swimming actually but it was reported Ted Erikson had died on a swim from the Farallon Islands to San Francisco, about 30 miles, in the dreaded 'Red Triangle'....big sharks! He was unconscious for a long time and no pulse was detected. Amazingly and fortunately he was revived. Asked whether he had 'seen the light at the end of the tunnel' he said he thought he did but it turned out to be just the gleam of another gold medal! There are some great 'You Tube' clips of Greta and Ted, now both in their eighties, joshing with each other.....AND...incase anyone forgot..... **England won the World Cup**.....Viva Bobby Moore, viva!

### **Big Merv's in Heaven in 1967.**

Watch out Brojen Das, Mervyn Sharp, another of Tom Watch's boys, wants your King of the Channel<sup>®</sup> title and made a start with a F – E 18-34, the first of his seven successes, to claim the title in 1974. Rosemary George became the first British lady to swim in both directions with a F – E 17-50, Linda McGill was back (I knew she would be!) and did two F – E swims, 13-02 and 9-59, a new ladies overall world record, beating the world record 10-24 set by Elaine Gray (GB) a little earlier. Elaine, a trainee librarian, trained with canvas boots on and a 5lb brick strapped to her middle. Her world record was her third attempt when presumably she remembered to take them off! The shade temperature on her swim registered 90 degs plus and the Cadbury's chocolate factory closed because of the heat. TV star, Philip Gollop, for a boy, did a terrific 13-45 E – F making him the youngest to have done it in both directions, and Tom Hetzel (USA), a Texas oil baron I think, (or was he a policeman, because he was friendly with Bill Floyd) gushed in to do the first of his eight swims F – E 18-54. Sadly Tom died in 2011. A great loss to USA swimming.



*Merv "The Swerve" Sharp*



*Elaine Gray*



*Dr. Tom Hetzel*

So, a great year with exciting results, but for me the greatest result of all was my pal Norman Trusty, F – E 12-05. We have been pals since boys, still are. Norman went on to do three successful swims, served on the CSA Committee for a number of years and was recognized by the IMSHOF for his

swimming. My mum thought I was safe when out with Norman, a sensible boy, if only she knew.....Ha!

I went on so many swims with Capt H that year, some of them heart-breakingly unsuccessful, others complete no-hopers, talking of which Ravindu Ali Rhaina deserves a mention. In Ceylon (Sri Lanka) manacled swimming had some sort of religious significance, hands and feet chained together. Ali was thinner than a stick insect but could he shift. He swam on either side, legs doing a sideways dolphin kick, arms pulling strongly. He lasted about four hours before the cold got him. Then he sat cross-legged chanting and praying all the way back to Dover, still chained, his trainer giving him hell and not allowing him a drink. Different! The CSA wouldn't have ratified it anyway.

### **They were all English mate, in 1968.**

**“Cry God for Harry, England and St George.” (Henry V, Shakespeare).**

Wonderful, just six successes and all of them **ENGLISH**. Tom Watch's little darlings were out there again, Mervyn doing his first E – F 17-52 and Philip his second E – F 18-10, the score now Philip 3, Mervyn 2. Amazingly Tom Watch trained Godfrey Chapman, F – E 13-02 in 1951. That's sixty years of training Channel swimmers and he's not finished yet. He introduced me to a lovely young girl, whose name I can't remember, at last year's CSA Dinner and whispered in my ear ... “This kid's gonna beat the world, Mick.” Watch this space!

Barry Watson had a crack at Jensen's E – F 10-23 but only managed a disappointing 15-38. Ron Kellerman battled across E – F in 14-40 and the only F – E swim that year was a very creditable 12-04 by Ann Longworth. Many were called but only the English were chosen.

This young Kevin popped up again, a bit more experience under his belt now. Serious stuff this time and he swam a rock-solid no fuss E – F 15-15. I was on the swim with Capt H and in the swim as I remember. Sitting on the church wall opposite the chippy where we always refuelled with cod and chips on the way home I asked him what he thought of the swim. Never one to lavish praise he said, “He's got something, that Kevin, I think we might see a bit more of him.” The understatement of the century!



*Harry Hinken USA*



*Kevin Murphy*

Harry Hinken was the first paraplegic, a polio victim unable to use his legs and wheelchair bound, to attempt the Straits. An ex paratrooper and as tough as old boots, he was 6'5" and as he used to joke 5'4" of him was above the waist! He had Stan Tinkham, world-famous USA Olympic coach as his trainer. He made two valiant attempts but without success. Nobody could have tried harder.

### **Foolishly spinning a line in 1969.**

Flying fishes by the score and mackerel galore, we even cooked them on a steel hatch top in the 80 degs plus, delicious. But Robert Fletcher (ENG) wasn't out there for a picnic. The hottest day of the year, flat calm sea and laziest tides ever saw him zip across F – E in 10-24. His track was the straightest line Capt H had done and it was the second fastest F – E. In harbour a keen, young Dover newshound was given full details and then he asked, “What stroke did he use?” “**Butterfly**,” I called out and he was off before I could stop him. Next day it made big news in all national newspapers and was toted world-wide. Ted Erikson even phoned Capt H to see if it was true! Robert in fact swam crawl!

The CSA put out an apology and I was given a dressing down by Ray Scott. His last words stung me....."You've been a very silly boy, Michael." Guilty as charged I'm afraid.

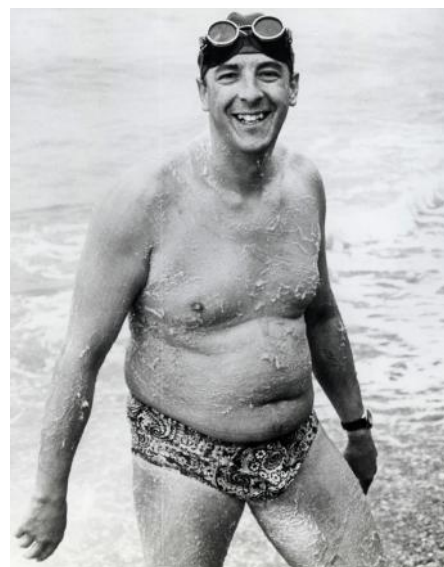
Philip and Mervyn made it four each with E – F swims and Peter Bales, an estate agent, was the first South African with E – F in 13-38. My mate Margot Orford thrilled me with her F – E 15-53. She made me all sorts of promises last year if I joined her Rugged Wrinklies Relay Team 2011. "Sorry Margot, I'm a respectable married man", I told her, but having excitingly improved her offer she has nailed me for her 2012 "One Foot in the Wave" team of senior citizens.....August 24<sup>th</sup>. .....can't wait. The team name was to be "Two Strokes and a Heart Attack", but one doesn't like to tempt fate. Watch this space!

But there were two new 'kids on the block' destined to make great names for themselves. Firstly, Jon Erikson, famous son of famous father Ted (Father Ted?) did a F – E 11-22 later progressing to two 2-ways and the first ever 3-way non-stop in 1981, 38-27. A famous swimming family who even had a dog, Umbra, that could out swim both of them.



*Jon Erikson*

*Michael Read  
(1979)  
"King of the Channel"<sup>®</sup>*



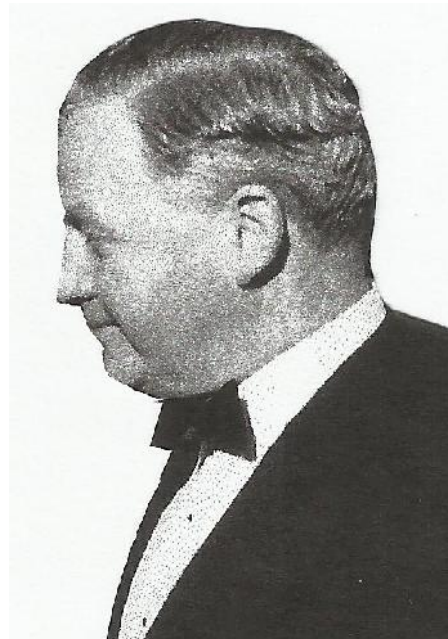
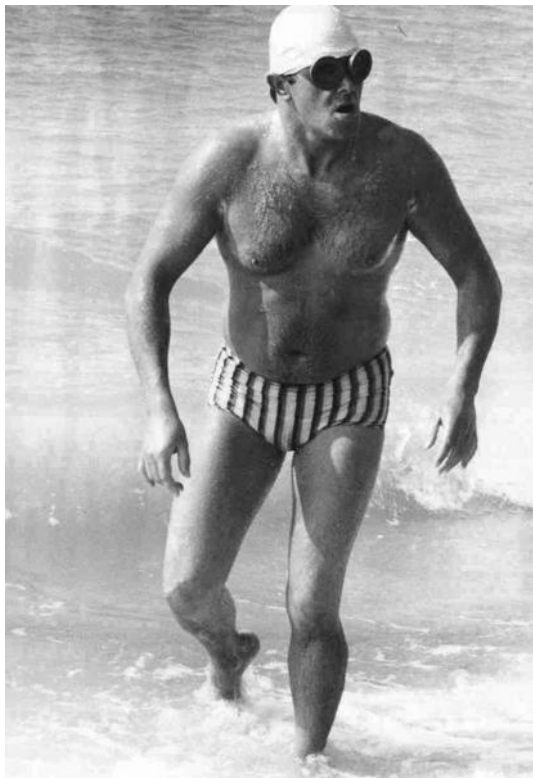
The other, our very own illustrious President, Michael Read, with many more Channel swims to follow, not to mention about a hundred or more difficult swims elsewhere in the

UK and world-wide, and still competing at international level, nipped in before the end of the decade with his first F – E 12-10. He was twenty eight now, a 1960 GB Olympic representative and he felt the time was ripe to abandon his sprint career for pastures new and longer swims. And how! And on his way to long-term 'King of the Channel'<sup>®</sup> with 33 successful crossings, recognition in the IMSHOF and THE International Swimming Hall of Fame. We may well be competing against each other in the World Championship Masters 3K Open Water event in Riccione in 2012. He has the edge by three years.

For me particularly and Channel swimming in general, ten wonderful years. Sadly many persons mentioned have now passed on but I'm left with lovely memories and world-wide friendships lasting to this day. I have purposely made no mention of ten years of love, romance, hanky-panky or slap and tickle, which, being a bit of a nosey begger, yes, even then, I kept abreast of (no pun intended). Far be it for me to divulge secrets or besmirch a maiden's reputation, but here were some of the world's fittest swimmers all congregated together in one small town and all we were supposed to do was swim!? Come on, this was the 'Swinging Sixties', hippies reigned, free love, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones cavorted (I played basketball with Mick Jagger and his dad) and you could buy a 'reefer' for 6d! Don't worry my friends, your secrets are safe with me ... that is, of course, unless a well-known red-topped tabloid newspaper considerably increases their offer! Memorable and exciting finishes in Calais with Pierre, Boulogne with Rosemary, Deal with Dorothy and Hythe with a relay team means I saw more of the English Channel than most in the 1960s decade.

Apologies for slipping into 1970 but there were Capt H and myself sitting on the church wall again opposite the chippy having just spent 35-10 with Kevin on his first 2-way. (I read the whole of

Tolstoy's 'War and Peace' with one eye, whilst keeping the other on him!). "So, Captain", I ventured, "you said we might see a bit more of 'that Murphy' but if you had to say who was the greatest of the 1960s, who would it be?" Quick as a flash he replied, "Brojen Das, even in 1960 he was capable of going under nine hours, just never had the luck, nobody to touch him. Mind you if you get me another piece of cod and a few more chips I could be persuaded to say you, Michael" "Want salt and vinegar on them, Captain?"



*Capt. Len Hutchinson  
(Always immaculate)*

1966. The first person to swim the English Channel in 'Speedos' and Fire Brigade goggles. Are you sure we have not seen that swimsuit somewhere before? Compare swimming trunks with Rosemary's swimming costume!! Was he the FIRST? Or is this an early example of 1960's commitment to recycling and saving the planet?

**MICHAEL JENNINGS , November 2011.**

## **A sad note**

### **Karen Toole**

It was with great sadness that we learned that Karen Toole, who swam the Channel from England to France in 1983 at the age of 20, in the superb time of 9 hours 6 minutes, and who was an inspiration to so many, died in December. We send her family and friends our deepest condolences.

## **News from our Members**

### **Dogan Sahin**

Dogan Sahin from Turkey sent all members his best wishes for the New Year and his apologies for being unable to attend the Annual Dinner, but more from her in our next newsletter.

## **Debbie Gowan**

We were delighted to make contact with Debbie Gowan after over 30 years. Debbie made 3 very courageous attempts as a 13 year old, but more from her in a future newsletter.

## **Brenda Fisher**

Last year was Brenda's 60th anniversary of her swim and we were sorry that she was unable to join us at the Annual Dinner, however, her local paper produced an excellent article about her, but more from her in a future newsletter.

## **Philippe and Sebastien Bland 2 Person relay 2011.**

Bruce Bland writes, My two sons, Philippe and Sebastien Bland officially and successfully swam the English Channel with your organization. On the 25th August 2011 they did it, in a 2 man relay, in 13hours 22minutes. I believe this may be a world record for the first brothers to have achieved this ( and if the first, then also the fastest ). If they are not the first then possibly the fastest. Could you kindly confirm what I believe to be true is correct or not.

Thank You and Kind Regards,

We believe that it is correct to say that they are the first brothers to do a 2 person swim, but if it is not, we are sure someone will correct us.

## **6 Hour Swims**

Our Secretary writes

Just a note to say that swimmers can always arrange to do their 6 hour swims in Lake Windermere with me, if they so wish. Julie Bradshaw

Please do not forget that NEW this year, relay team members will now be required to complete a 2 hour swim in cold water.

## **The Top Ten Masters swim results....over 40's...E/F...Beginning of 2011**

We have had a few requests for a top ten Masters swim results league table. This would be reasonably easy to construct if we knew the ages of all our swimmers, but unfortunately we are missing the ages of about 40% of our swimmers. In this news letter we list the results for the over 40's as we have them. If you believe you should be in the list please let us have your Date of Birth and we will adjust the data accordingly.

Men Over 40 E/F Up to 01/01/11

				<b>Time</b>		<b>Age</b>
<b>Stanislav</b>	<b>Bartusek</b>	<b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Dickerson</b>	<b>(South Africa)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Dave</b>	<b>Parcells</b>	<b>(USA)</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Steve</b>	<b>Yates</b>	<b>(Australia)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>42</b>

<b>Rob</b>	<b>Copeland</b>	<b>(U.S.A.)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Scott</b>	<b>Lautmann</b>	<b>(USA)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Brent</b>	<b>Hobbs</b>	<b>Canada</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Hassan Abdel</b>	<b>Rehim</b>	<b>(Egypt)</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Steve</b>	<b>Yates</b>	<b>(Australia)</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Selmer</b>	<b>(U.S.A.)</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>49</b>

Ladies Over 40 E/F Up to 01/01/11

					<b>Time</b>	<b>Age</b>
<b>Gail</b>	<b>Rice</b>	<b>(U.S.A.)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Penny</b>	<b>Palfrey</b>	<b>Britain</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Penny</b>	<b>Palfrey</b>	<b>(Australia)</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Sophia</b>	<b>Psilolignou</b>	<b>(Greece)</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Susan</b>	<b>Fraenkel</b>	<b>(South Africa)</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>05</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Suzanne</b>	<b>Dods</b>	<b>(USA)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Sophia</b>	<b>Psilolignou</b>	<b>(Greece)</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Nuala</b>	<b>Muir-Cochrane</b>	<b>Eire</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Cathy</b>	<b>Marco</b>	<b>(France)</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>00</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Kikuko</b>	<b>Ikuyama</b>	<b>Japan</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>44</b>

## Would you like to become a CSA Observer?

Every year we need more Observers, if you think you would like to be one please contact us and gets the facts and any training, if necessary. We are already planning our 2012 annual meeting for existing and potential Observers at the Burstin Hotel in Folkestone. Please register your interest with Mike Read or Joan Metcalfe [joanmetcalfe@btopenworld.com](mailto:joanmetcalfe@btopenworld.com).

### Light sticks/Nightlights:

Wondering where you get your nightlights from, wonder no longer, just look on the web site under regalia and order from the secretary. Price £9 delivered to your home. You will need at least two, preferably three and after your swim you can use them for all sorts of things. I am sure you will have your own ideas, they come with replaceable batteries which last a long time and children love them.

### Handbook

Those of you who have taken the occasional glance at the web site will be aware that the CSA Handbook is available. A wonderful present, Why not stake a claim to your copy of the 2009 edition whilst there are still a few available. The stock is almost exhausted.

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**Over 100 photographs**

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**Mike Read  
9 Church Crescent  
Sproughton  
Ipswich IP8 3BJ  
UK**

## **Standing Order Form**

It is never too late to get your Standing Order form completed. A big thank you to all those of you, who this year, have already filled in the membership standing order form. But we would still like many more of you to do it. It saves you time remembering to renew your membership each year and it ensures that we get your membership subscription in early January, which is greatly appreciated. Just take this opportunity to fill it in and send it to your bank, forget about it and let the bank do the rest. A Standing Order form is on the last page.

## **News cuttings and photos:**

We ask for your news and what you are doing and we are delighted to pass the information on. Please keep the news coming in. The more often we get news, the more often you will get a newsletter.

We are always pleased to receive copies of newspaper articles and photos. Please keep us up to date with your publicity. The more information you give us, the more we will have to pass to your grandchildren.

## **Member's Fund raising efforts:**

We know that many of you have been involved in raising very considerable amounts for good causes and we would like to keep your details up to date, in case we are asked. Please do not be shy in keeping us up to date with what you have raised and for whom.

## **Lapel pins:**

The CSA crest is available, as a discreet enamelled lapel pin, which is now available at only £2 inc. p&p...

## **We would like to keep in touch with you;**

People move, members even change email addresses, if you don't tell us where you have gone, we cannot keep in contact and that is a shame. We appreciate that this newsletter does not reach everyone, whilst others may receive two or more copies. If you get too many copies please let us know and we will try to make sure that you only get one copy. If you know someone who has not received it and would like too, please let us know their email address and we will make sure that they are added to the list.

### **A message from the Secretary: To All Swimmers for 2012:**

"NOW THAT THE FESTIVE SEASON IS OVER I HOPE THAT YOU ALL BACK IN THE SWIM AND WORKING OFF ANY EXTRA POUNDS!  
PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ANY 2012 SWIM APPLICATIONS IN FULLY COMPLETED AND PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS BEFOREHAND. HERE'S TO ANOTHER FANTASTIC CHANNEL SWIM YEAR."

Julie

**How to contact our Secretary:** Preferred communication is by email.

Dr. Julie Bradshaw MBE  
381 New Ashby Road  
Loughborough  
Leics  
LE11 4ET  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1509 554137  
E-mail: [Swimsecretary@ntlworld.com](mailto:Swimsecretary@ntlworld.com)

**And a date for your diary.....**

**The CSA Annual Dinner and Presentation Evening and AGM 2012**

**3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

With our best wishes to you all,

CSA Board, January 2012.

## **Membership forms for 2012 below:**

No changes in membership fees at the moment.

Please remember that membership renewal was due by 15<sup>th</sup> January latest.

If you'd rather we didn't keep  
in touch this way, feel free to unsubscribe by emailing me at  
[read.michael2@sky.com](mailto:read.michael2@sky.com)

**CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION Ltd**

**Founded in 1927**

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**Application for election to**  
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**(For the period 1st January to 31st December 2012)**

**2012**

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E-mail: .....

Club/Relay team name: .....

I hereby make an application for/ wish to renew my Associate Membership;

**I enclose remittance of Annual Associate Membership Subscription Fee £21.00 (Junior: £15.00)**

Signature..... Date ...../...../2012

Only one mailing of information will be sent for a club's use. Members of a club, which has Associate membership can become individual associate members by paying the one year subscription fee. Associate membership has no voting rights.

Membership fees are due by the 15th January each year or on joining in the year of membership.

**NOTE: You only need to be proposed and seconded by Full Members of the Association on your initial application for Associate Membership.**

**1. Proposed by (Name) ..... Signature .....**

**2. Seconded by (Name) ..... Signature .....**

I/we wish to pay by Cheque/Credit Card. Please charge my/our account card no: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ security digits \_\_\_\_\_

Signature ..... Date ...../...../2012

For Association use only      Date received.      /      / Membership number ....

Application approved ..... Chairman/ Sec. ....

Company Limited by Guarantee – The successor of the CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION  
Registered in England – Registration No 3868395  
Registered Office Address: Larking Gowen Ltd. Chartered Accountants, Unit 1, Claydon Business Park,  
Great Blakenham, Ipswich, IP6 0NL, UK.

**CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION Ltd**  
**CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION**  
**Founded in 1927**  
**President: Michael Read MBE. King of the Channel®**

**Application for election to**  
**ANNUAL FULL MEMBERSHIP**  
**(For the period 1st January to 31st December 2012)**  
**2012**

Secretary: Dr Julie Bradshaw MBE,  
381New Ashby Road,  
Loughborough,  
Leics LE11 4ET  
UK  
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1509 554137  
E-mail: [Swimsecretary@ntlworld.com](mailto:Swimsecretary@ntlworld.com)

(Please use **block letters**)

Name: ..... Nationality: .....

ADDRESS .....

POST CODE ..... Telephone number: .....

By providing my e-mail address below, I agree to receive Company business electronically.

E-mail: .....

Club/Relay team name / e-mail address: .....

Signature..... Date ...../...../2012

I hereby make an application for election to Full membership;

**One Year Full Membership (to expire 31st Dec 2012 and does not convey a right to renewal)**  
**I enclose remittance of £23.50 subscription.**

Membership fees are due by the 15th January each year or on joining in the year of membership.

I/we wish to pay by Cheque/Credit Card. Please charge my/our account card no:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ expiry date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security digits \_\_\_\_\_

Signature ..... Date ...../...../2012

**For Association use only**      **Date received. / / .**      **Membership number**  
**Application approved .....** **Chairman/ Sec. ....**

**Company Limited by Guarantee – The successor of the CHANNEL SWIMMING ASSOCIATION**  
**Registered in England – Registration No 386839**  
**Registered Office Address: Larking Gowen Ltd. Chartered Accountants, Unit 1, Claydon Business Park,**  
**Great Blakenham, Ipswich, IP6 0NL, UK.**

Cannot remember if you are still a member, stop worrying, simply fill out this Standing Order Application Form, date it for early in January, drop it into your bank and forget about it.

## Standing Order Application Form

### Standing Order;

Should you wish to pay your membership by standing order, please find below a standing order form to complete and to take to your bank;

**PLEASE SET UP the following Standing order and debit my/our account accordingly;**

Account Name ..... Account Number .....

Account Holding Branch .....Sort Code .....

Name of Organisation you are paying: *Channel Swimming Association Ltd*

Sort Code: 5 2 -4 1 -4 2

Account Number of CSA Ltd: 5 0 8 2 7 4 2 1

Payments are to be made; *Yearly on the 15<sup>th</sup> January.*

Initial Payment **£23.50**

Date of First Payment: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please pay until further notice (*payments will be made until you cancel this instruction*)

*Confirmation: Customer Signature(s); .....*

*Date: .....*

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Great Blakenham, Ipswich, IP6 0NL, UK.