

OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

(Founded 1869)



Annual Report & Accounts

138th Season 2007



Otters at the Short Course National Championships, Sheffield



Jane Leighton at Ponds Forge



Steve Bratt in Kranj at the European Championships



Tim Lam in the 50m fly at Ponds Forge



Otter 1869



Andy Hudson, Gina Hobson, Matt Staines, Fiona Marshall and Michelle Senecal at the European Championships in Slovenia



Club Finance & Administration

The Club in 2007 effectively broke even, although making a small loss. We have nonetheless moved subscriptions up slightly for 2008 as a consequence of this year's result because coaching and pool costs (which constitute 80% of our costs) are always on the move. The basic wealth of the Club remains strong, and the Club is still tremendous value for a committed or regular swimmer or polo player.

Income statement

The income statement has few surprises. In the first year of the regained uniform membership cost for polo players and swimmers, subscription income was generously supplemented this year by the donors to the Prizes & General Fund, to whom we owe many thanks.

Prizes & General Fund

Sam Billett, Alex Capon, Mark Courtney, Matt Dempsey, Ian Dussek OBE, Ted Evans, Tom Finlay, Wilton Fry, Peter Grace, Richard Grauel, David Haig, Rhys Hopkins, John Illiffe, Rachel Joyce, Robert Juxon, Conrad King, Alison Lievesley, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Sasha Maese, Rhian Martin, Lindsey McFarlane, Jane McMenemy, Grant Monk, Andrew Morton, Charlie Murray, Bill Myers, Anna Ochocinska, Desmond Plummer Kt.TD.DL., Becky Porter, Philip Proost, Peter Rae, Jim Ricketts, Johann Schnaus, Liz Shaw, David

Skidmore OBE, Rob Stafford, Ron Stead, James Stewart, Cliff Stossel, Bob Thomas, Paul Thorogood, John Towers, Martin Vandersteen, Jennifer White, Mike Woodman.

On the expenses side both coaching and pool hire came in more or less on budget, but water polo expenses were above budget, due to the expense of running more teams in higher leagues. In physical terms we hired more or less the same total pool time as last year despite the closure of Crystal Palace for a year's refurbishment. We have started to swim at Mile End, which if a success will draw the natural pull of the Club to the East. In swimming the head coach structure with Steve Bratt is a great success, and thanks are due both to him and his team. Equipment costs continue to be significant and recurring. The investments this coming year will primarily involve renewing our equipment cages for stronger versions. The expenses related to Club activities and administration were largely unchanged at a low level.

Overall the income statement reflected a healthy Club activity.

Balance sheet

During the year we placed the Club's investments in a nominee account, the objective being to get away from Club investments being held in the name of Club officials, who are both mortal and changing from time to time. This explains the movement in the investments' value because one of them had to be liquidated in the process.

<i>Income statement - £</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>
Subscriptions total	82,464	72,588
Special sessions	0	0
Prizes & general fund	1,096	1,953
<u>Members income</u>	<u>83,560</u>	<u>74,540</u>
External income	5,715	5,358
Capital income	1,061	1,285
Miscellaneous income	149	874
<u>Other income</u>	<u>6,925</u>	<u>7,516</u>
<u>Income</u>	<u>90,485</u>	<u>82,056</u>
Pool hire costs	(46,049)	(40,161)
Equipment costs	(1,627)	(1,469)
<u>Pools & equipment</u>	<u>(47,677)</u>	<u>(41,630)</u>
Coaching costs	(24,975)	(25,131)
<u>Coaching</u>	<u>(24,975)</u>	<u>(25,131)</u>
Water polo expenses	(5,935)	(3,782)
Swimming expenses	(1,752)	(1,976)
Affiliation costs	(4,420)	(4,420)
Prizes and trophies	(1,384)	(1,108)
<u>Activity costs</u>	<u>(13,492)</u>	<u>(11,286)</u>
Dinner	108	135
Open water races	(234)	(587)
Shop sales	(487)	(40)
<u>Club activities</u>	<u>(613)</u>	<u>(491)</u>
Insurance	(800)	(1,200)
Post and printing costs	(3,421)	(3,783)
Tax	0	0
Miscellaneous costs	(1,223)	(1,227)
<u>Administration</u>	<u>(5,445)</u>	<u>(6,210)</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>(92,200)</u>	<u>(84,749)</u>
<u>Profit / (Loss)</u>	<u>(1,715)</u>	<u>(2,693)</u>

"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 2007." Hon Auditor. James Palmer 20/1/2008



<i>Balance sheet - £</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>
Trophies	35,000	35,000
<i>Fixed Assets</i>	<i>35,000</i>	<i>35,000</i>
Investments at cost	30,142	31,209
Self insurance investment	10,201	7,299
<i>Investments</i>	<i>40,343</i>	<i>38,507</i>
<u>Long term assets</u>	<u>75,343</u>	<u>73,507</u>
Bank	11,664	9,593
Debtors	4,031	4,055
Stock	3,786	4,225
<i>Current assets</i>	<i>19,482</i>	<i>17,873</i>
Creditors	(5,690)	(5,061)
Reserves or contingencies	(6,824)	(6,473)
<i>Current liabilities</i>	<i>(12,514)</i>	<i>(11,534)</i>
<u>Working capital</u>	<u>6,968</u>	<u>6,339</u>
<u>Assets</u>	<u>82,311</u>	<u>79,847</u>
Computer fund	2,180	1,930
Spoon fund	3,938	3,338
<i>Sinking funds</i>	<i>6,118</i>	<i>5,268</i>
<u>Provisions</u>	<u>6,118</u>	<u>5,268</u>
Life membership fund	11,489	10,739
Memorial fund	19,697	19,306
Trophy insurance fund	7,983	7,000
<i>Capital funds</i>	<i>39,169</i>	<i>37,045</i>
Balance b/fwd	37,534	40,715
Capital income & reserves	1,205	(488)
Result for year	(1,715)	(2,693)
<i>Reserve funds</i>	<i>37,024</i>	<i>37,534</i>
<u>Reserves</u>	<u>76,193</u>	<u>74,579</u>
<u>Reserves & provisions</u>	<u>82,311</u>	<u>79,847</u>
Investments #: Brunner Investment Trust 2517, Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust 7465, Flemming Claverhouse Investment Trust 1530, Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust 2854.		

The investments themselves are recorded at cost, and at current market prices are worth twice that figure.

The insurance fund is a self-insurance fund for our trophies (and our other physical assets).

We had the most valuable trophy, the gold George Rope Trophy pictured here, re-valued and this has confirmed that the overall figure is slightly (15%) underestimated.



Changes in the insurance account are explained by the allocation of the liquidated investment referred to above, and the allocation of some unclaimed reserves. To act as a true self insurance fund the capital needs to equal at least one third and preferably more than one half of the insured (or balance sheet) value of the trophies and other assets

Our working capital remained approximately stable and probably cannot go much lower in practical terms. The provisions have increased by the amount we put aside each year for computer costs and for replacing the silver spoons used for prizes in Club races.

Our long-term capital has been increased by the annual charge to our trophy self-insurance fund, by some increase in Life members, and by donations. We owe our thanks to the following;

Memorial Fund

Alan Chaney, Ted Evans, John Iliffe, Andrew Morton, Bill Myers, Desmond Plummer Kt.TD.DL., Liz Shaw, David Skidmore OBE, Ron Stead, James Stewart, Paul Thorogood, Mike Woodman.

Overall the financial worth of the Club has increased slightly, retaining our ability to fund well thought-out initiatives, provided that overall we continue to aim to breakeven.

Last year's Hon. Auditor Tim Fraser stepped back from his functions, having overseen the change to a fully integrated set of Club records and accounts. The Club owes him many thanks for his efforts. The role of questioning the probity and methods of the Treasurer has bravely been taken up by James Palmer. For this daunting task Members owe him also many thanks, and they will be relieved to know he found no cause for complaint.

The accounts are largely cash based, and therefore mostly transparent. However in the income statement some costs are phantom. The Shell pool for example is free but recorded as both a shadow cost and as external income. The costs for spoon prizes, self insurance and computers are recorded costs but are in cash terms transfers from the income statement to the balance sheet.

On the balance sheet the only 'fudge factor' is the Reserves and Contingencies, which represents costs set aside for un-presented bills, or income, for the year. If these reserves are



not realised the balance is not put into the next year's income statement but recorded as Capital Income and Reserves in the Balance Sheet. The only other changes to the balance sheet which are not driven by the income statement, are Life membership fees and Memorial Fund donations.

In truth the wealth of the Club can only be increased significantly by generating surpluses, or by generous donations such as that by James Stewart last year. All the other manoeuvres referred to above are audited, and in total change little, but they serve to present a true picture of running the Club year to year.

Adminstration

Streamlining of our combined database (accounts and member records) continues. New members can now join on the web, and this year we will start having personal details there under controlled conditions. For all this work we owe many thanks to Andy Hudson. The Club Handbook will also be transferred to the website and if successful, this year may be the last year it is produced on paper.

For both polo and swimming we would not be able to have achieved what we have without our dedicated band of coaches. We owe many thanks to all of them, plus several volunteer members for these and other tasks without which the Club would not function. All these volunteers could always use help.

Membership

At the end of the year the membership of the Club was made up of 374 (353) members. There were 131 (110) Active swimmers, 80 (85) Active polo players, 27 (24) Country members, 84 (77) Non Active members, 14 (20) Junior members (now aged 16 or less rather than 21) and 38 (37) Life members. There were 120 (112) lady members, as before about one third of the polo players and slightly less than half the swimmers. The average age of Active members went down one year to 31. The average age of the club is 38, the youngest member Amelie Courtney being of age 2. The mantle of doyen of the Club now falls on Desmond Plummer, both the oldest and longest serving member (since 1933). Lord Plummer of St Marylebone TD DL – to give him his full title – is the name that greets all those who travel South through the Blackwall Tunnel, which was opened by Desmond when he was Chairman of the Greater London Council, the precursor to today's position of Mayor, held by Ken Livingstone. He is a faithful supporter of the Club, although when last seen on the side of the pool most of his stories of the events of yesteryear were unrepeatable in this publication, although none the less the amusing for all that.

Within the overall numbers are 82 (77) new members 20 (32) of them polo players) and we welcome the following to the Club.

New members

Graham Allison, Rosie Anderson, Josep Auladell, Ian Beach, James Bird, Steve Bratt, Greg Brewer, Hannah Brown, Charmaine Brown, Chris Brown, Dan Bullock, Rhys Campbell, Alex Capon, Michael Cartmill, Zoe Catchpole, Richard Chambers, Russel Champion, Alistair Chaney, Nic Charlesworth, Mike Cheshire, Mark Chopra, Lesley Cook, Pippa Cronk, Andrew Czyzewski, Rob Deakin, Elizabeth Denyer, Cate Dobson, Isobel Ewart, Lisa Falzone, Katie Fay, Bryan Field, Claudia Gamboni, Justin George, Berk Goksal, Bernard Greenwalker, Enrico Hahn, Nick Holt, Kerry Jones, Neil Jopson, Rudolphe Julien, Anne Keller, Annabel Keville, Tim Lam, Philippe Leboeuf, Jane Leighton, Gilles Leonard, Richard Lewindon, Fernanda Masri, Neil McMahon, Sarah McMahon, Daniel Molinard, Faye Morris, Martina Muehlenbernd, Marie Mulligan, Anthony Mulloy, Damian Nogaledo, Anna Ochocinska, Ossian Olsén, Alessandro Porro, Becky Porter, John Porter, Athanasios Pozantzis, Bridget Prince, Philip Proost, Alice Rogers, Amber Schmidt, Johann Schnaus, Mark Sears, Jennifer Selden, Rob Stafford, Ian Steuart, Ian Stewart, Claire Troakes, David Tudury, Ed Turley, Thania Tympanari, Stuart Ventham, Emily Viskovic, Lucy Wilson, Lisa Wujec.



Members are no doubt aware that we keep on record members' occupations. Why we do this is lost in the mists of time but one reason, which still holds, is that it enables us to encourage contact between people of similar interests. The data is not kept truly up-to-date, nor is it completely standardised, but the main figures covering 75% of the Club are given here. The most striking figure is for students. Allowing for the Junior members the implication is some 20% of the Active Members are students.

STUDENT	64
CONSULTANT	29
BANKER	26
LAWYER	26
RETIRED	20
IT	20
ACCOUNTANT	19
ENGINEER	18
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER	11
FINANCE	9
SURVEYOR	8
CIVIL SERVANT	7
TEACHER	6
JOURNALIST	5
ARCHITECT	4
COMPANY DIRECTOR	3
ADVERTISING	2

Members' news

We lost two steady supporters this year. Just before 2006 finished we lost the doyen of the Club Denis Lean, member since 1923 and age 98. Denis remained an active Club supporter to the end from his home in Perth (Scotland) and was a representative of a bygone age. In the middle of the year Jean Craig, wife of David, mother of Andrew, passed away. Jean had been a steady Club supporter and was the first lady to be awarded a gold broach for her efforts, made especially for water polo and during the centenary year, all before the Club had lady members. Both are a great loss.

We gained two new Life members, Richard Jones and Peter Vider, part of a contingent from Oxford University in the 1960s that includes Derek Parr, Tich McLaglan and Mike Foxon, all still Club members.

There are various bits of news on older members. David Haig is back in Scotland and very complimentary on the Club, indeed wishing that he had something similar North of the border. Ted Evans in Derby is still putting in sprightly appearances for us in meets but less frequently in London. Conrad King is still refereeing, but rarely crossing our teams from his base in Walton-on-Thames. Andy Morton has stepped down from ASA East Region President, and after 17 years and just when there was plenty to write about the Club, stopped writing the Swimming Times water polo news. His congratulations are extended to the whole polo section.

Peter Williamson now back in Australia has kept up the swimming and did the 400 & 800 state competition in Melbourne at the Commonwealth Games pool, swimming for Powerpoints, his club back there. Alan Rotsey is also down under, playing for A-Grade club Rivercity in Brisbane. Hazel Musgrove, daughter of Neil and member more or less since birth, has made it into the GB Junior water polo squad.

During the year several marriages occurred. Sue Hill became Sue Reeves and later produced a daughter. Katie Hope, intrepid channel crosser, at the end of the year gave up her single status. Hugh Turner (a winner of the London water polo region over 40s competition for Middlesex) and

Liz Gibson, Otters both, became Mr and Mrs shortly before Christmas (see below).



In other family news, Dan Cotton increased his family from two to three. Aileen Brown became a mother to wee baby Georgia.



Swimming

2007 was another very successful year in the pool for Otter swimmers. We picked up large medal hauls at all the major meets, including the European Masters Championships (Slovenia), and the GB Long and Short Course National Championships (Manchester and Sheffield). British Records were attained in both relay and individual events. Read on for more details!

Gina Hobson
Otter Swimming Captain 2007

Manchester

GB Long Course Masters, 15-17 June 2007

Fiona Marshall

A team of around 22 Otters made the trip to flood-affected Manchester for the Long Course National Masters Championships. It was great to see Otters not seen for a while – Pete Kirk, fresh from La Santa; Peter Rae, returning from shoulder injury; Catherine Couquet, over from The Netherlands; Liz Redpath, fitting us into her hectic summer schedule between Ascot and other events.

Otter of the meet

Dan Cotton in his Masters nationals debut and return to competition after over 10 years, took the triple in the backstroke, silver in the 200IM and almost a GB record in the 400IM with his goggles full of water. Dan was without doubt the swimmer of the meet for the Otters.

Gold, Gold and more Gold!

The marvellous Derek Parr took out the butterfly triple as usual, and entered a punishing programme of distance freestyle and even a medley. With self-confessed lack of preparation and sporting a wild new hairstyle, his impact on the event was as flamboyant as ever.

Swimmer	Group	Event	Time
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	J	100 FLY	1:22.82
DEREK PARR	H	50 FLY	0:31.97
DEREK PARR	H	200 FLY	2:57.20
DEREK PARR	H	100 FLY	1:11.78
DEREK PARR	H	100 IM	6:46.52
LIZ SHAW	D	100 BR	1:29.90
MICHELLE SENEAL	B	200 FLY	2:37.56
GINA HOBSON	B	200 BACK	2:41.50
GINA HOBSON	B	100 BACK	1:13.62
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FREE	1:02.66
FIONA MARSHALL	B	50 FREE	0:28.84
FIONA MARSHALL	B	50 BR	0:36.02
DAN COTTON	B	200 BACK	2:15.33
DAN COTTON	B	100 BACK	1:01.93
DAN COTTON	B	400 IM	4:54.94
DAN COTTON	B	50 BACK	0:29.31
JANE LEIGHTON	A	800 FREE	10:06.99
JANE LEIGHTON	A	400 FREE	4:55.76
STUART VENTHAM	X	200 BACK	2:33.23

2007 Manchester Gold Medallists

Last year's captain Fiona Marshall was also amongst the gold medal winners, securing the coveted gongs in the 50 free and 50 breaststroke. Gina Hobson won gold in the 100 & 200 backstroke and also the 100 freestyle. Jane Leighton (in her nationals debut for Otter) took gold in the 400 and 800 freestyle and Michelle Senecal won the 200 fly, Stuart Ventham (our X-age group representative) won the 200 backstroke. In a brief appearance, Jason Parrish posted masters PBs for his swims, and even sneaked a silver medal in the 200 freestyle.

The tough age groups...

Jane McMenemy without doubt has the toughest competition in any age group, being pushed back to 3rd and sometimes 4th place with three of the fastest women overall in her events and age group – often racing each other to GB and European records. Jane's times frequently would win the younger age group categories, although not her own. Catherine Couquet also faced some tough opposition, but came away with a bronze medal in 100 free. New Otter from Leatherhead, Neil McMahon, was unfortunately head to head with Dan Cotton for almost all of his events, but managed some medals and might even be convinced to taper next time.

The relays... (and the records that weren't)

We fielded a full complement of age groups in the relays, and won some medals to show for it. We also managed to break GB records in 3 events – the mixed 120+ freestyle and medley, and the ladies 120+ medley – but all teams had a



non-Brit swimming one leg, so none will be recognised. It was very satisfying to post the fastest time overall and beat the younger teams in these events, and great to have Dylan Malagrino on the team, albeit for the last time.

Kranj, Slovenia

XI European Masters, 28 August -2 September 2007

Katie Goodall

A fighting-fit band of twenty Otters made the trip to Slovenia to compete on the grandest European stage.

Kicking off the medal-winning performances in a masterful display of freestyle swimming was Otter leading lady Gina Hobson, who breezed into the wall in a 3s PB of 2:16.95 to take bronze in the 200m. Not satisfied with one podium-worthy performance, the Ladies' Captain went on to do the double, taking bronze in the 200m back in 2:41.10.

Not to be outdone in the medal stakes were resident breaststroke specialists Fiona Marshall and Ruth Morrison. Both ladies romped home in sensational style in the 50m to take gold in their age groups in 35.71 and 35.52 respectively. It might well have been another double medal winning performance in the 100m were it not for a slightly ambitious start from Morrison which failed to go unnoticed by the judges. Fiona nevertheless rose to the occasion and brought it home in 1:20.42 to claim bronze in the 30-34 age

group. Liz Shaw also produced a commanding performance in the 40-44 year old age group, coming home 13th in a long course season's best of 1:29.77.

200m long course butterfly is Michelle Senecal's specialist event and she overhauled the opposition to take silver in 2:33.37. In the men's event, it was Derek Parr and Rob Williams who set the standard – in pain-barrier busting performances, Parr took bronze in 2:58.33 and Williams took 10th in 2:43.94. Never one to shirk from swims that strike fear into lesser mortals, Lesley Davies put in solid performances in the 200m IM, 400m free and 200m breast.

Roger Phillips produced his best performance of the meet in the 50m free, coming home in a new PB of 31.46 to take 15th place in the men's 60-64 age group. Well done Roger! Sneaking in under the radar to make a special guest star appearance in the 50m back was none other than Steve Bratt. Coach Steve took 19th place in 41.11.

Flying the flag for the Otter sprint fraternity was Andy Hudson in the 100m free and 50 fly. In his usual PB per performance style, Andy took over a second off his Manchester time to break the minute barrier in the 100m free and a half second improvement saw him skate under the 30 second mark in his 50m fly.

The Showdowns

An Otter gala would not be complete without a few decent intra-Otter showdown events. The first such race saw Gina

Hobson and Jane McMenemy go head-to-head in the 400m free. Despite going eyeball to eyeball for almost the full race, Hobson pinched top spot a mere 0.16 seconds ahead. In the same event, Jane Leighton and Michelle Senecal then fought over the spoils with Senecal taking silver to Leighton's bronze. Leighton had her revenge in the 200m breaststroke, fighting off the pack (including Otter Ruth Morrison) to come in three seconds clear.

The Relays

Making up the women's 100+ freestyle team were well known sprint specialists Michelle Senecal and Katherine Mearman accompanied by Katie Goodall and Lauren Edwards. Stunning PB performances by Michelle (sub 28 seconds) and Katherine (sub 30 seconds) saw team Otter snatch gold in 2:01.40. It was a similar story in the medley (Goodall, Leighton, Senecal and Edwards), where the ladies left all challengers in their wake to notch up their second title of the Championships.

For the more experienced 120+ team (Hobson, Marshall, McMenemy, Morrison), it wasn't just titles on offer but records too. Storming performances by the Otter ladies in the freestyle relay saw them steam past a very tall Hungarian team to take gold in a new British record time of 1:55.05 (a huge 1.5 seconds under the old Otter-held record). It was a sterling performance in the medley as well – a new GB record and a silver medal to boot. Top times ladies!





Relay gold medallists at the European Championships

It was a pleasure to welcome back to the pool Otters Ross Croasdell and Matt Staines. Unrelenting in their commitment to the Otter cause, their preparation had been nothing short of punishing. Training at altitude for much of the week Croasdell and Staines pushed the envelope with their unremitting regime of tobogganing, sunbathing and strudel consumption. Magnanimously forsaking fastskin (Ross) and individual glory, it was all about taking one for the team for this dedicated pair.

The Otter 120+ mixed free team (Croasdell, Staines, Marshall, Hobson) stormed to silver in a time of 1:48.54. Exchanging the girls for Hudson and Williams, the men clocked up more impressive swims in the fiercely contested 120+ relay events, taking 7th and 9th in the free and medley respectively.



Sheffield

National Masters, 26-28 October 2007

Lovingly ripped off an article by James Palmer

As usual a hardy group of Otters made the annual pilgrimage to Sheffield. Braving poolside temperatures in the mid forties, most swimmers were keen to dive into the plunge pools just to cool down. Any Personal Bests bagged along the way were purely incidental.

Star VIP performance of the weekend went to Mark Foster who proceeded to lay waste to the 50m freestyle world record (35-39 age group) with a time of 21.53. Star performances from Otter swimmers were certainly not in short supply, however...

Captain Gina Hobson led from the front and bagged four individual gold medals and a silver. There is nothing like a bit of intra-club rivalry – pride of place was the 100m backstroke where a good Otter head to head with Catherine Dobson helped to inspire some additional effort. Gina was up first and set a PB at 50m before taking two seconds off her 100m time in 1:10.12. Not to be outdone, Catherine also set off at a furious pace and looked to have it in the bag before being touched out with a time of 1:10.40 to take silver medal in her age.

Swimmer	Group	Event	Time
DEREK PARR	H	400 IM	6:23.71
DEREK PARR	H	200 IM	2:55.05
DEREK PARR	H	200 FLY	2:48.11
DEREK PARR	H	100 FLY	1:09.39 †
DEREK PARR	H	50 FLY	0:31.05
JANE MCMENEMY	C	100 FREE	1:03.10
MICHELLE SENECALE	B	200 FLY	2:31.38
GINA HOBSON	B	200 FREE	2:15.86
GINA HOBSON	B	100 BACK	1:10.12
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FLY	1:08.38
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FREE	1:01.63
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 BREAST	1:15.68
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 IM	1:09.86
RACHEL JOYCE	A	800 FREE	9:33.62
RACHEL JOYCE	A	400 FREE	4:40.75
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 IM	2:33.41
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 BACK	2:29.70

† Denotes GB Record

2007 Sheffield Gold Medallists

Perennial crowd pleaser Derek Parr staggered home with 5 golds despite protestations of lack of training due to his dramatic commitments as Henry V. This didn't stop him scooping the GB record in the 100m butterfly and join the sub 1:10 elite – ahh we few, we happy few! Fighting alongside King Henry in the same age group, Roger Philips took silver in the 50m Fly and bronze in the 50m freestyle while Tony Ray had strong placings in the 100m backstroke and 50m freestyle. Rick Jones also put in a fleeting appearance at the battle and just missed out on a medal in the 200m breaststroke.

Once more unto the blocks came Jane McMenemy in her second most important event of the weekend (the most important of course being the poster girl on the front of the event programme). Jane romped home to take silver in the 200m butterfly in a new PB and provide the photographer with plenty more material for next year's program. Michelle Senecal is a big fan of this event and managed to go one better, taking a gold gong home (and we reckon there is plenty of time to be gained on those turns!).

Not content with just medals, Rob Williams spent the weekend bagging national records. Macedonian masters records, that is. Well done Rob.

Also taking a bevy of medals was Rachel Joyce who proved again that she is undisputed distance queen with golds in the 400m and 800m free. Rach also proved she's no slouch over the shorter distances and was fastest female Otter in the 100m free – just missing out on the glory of the sub-minute performance. Taking the fastest Otter prize overall was Dan Mikulskis whose 100m freestyle time of 0:53.39 was not only an awesome PB but also good enough to win bronze in a highly competitive age group. Dan also had fantastic swims in the 100m IM and the 100m breaststroke.

Other Otters who slipped under the minute for 100m free included Andy Hudson (0:57.85) who goes from strength to strength in this event, Jason Parrish (0:57.02) who was then never seen again and Adam McCarthy (0:58.79) who proved

that you can do great times by shouting at other swimmers rather than doing it yourself.

Other gold medallists were Jane Leighton (200 backstroke and 200 IM), whose amazing backstroke performance led many to question why she bothered with all that breaststroke training, Jane McMenemy (100 freestyle) and Fiona Marshall (100 breaststroke and 100 IM).

First time swimmers for Otter at Sheffield should also get a mention including Ana Ochocinska, who set down some tough targets to beat, Andy Bloxam, whose running training clearly worked in the pool, Lisa Wujec (aka Mrs Silver Fox), Tim Lam, Sophie Hemsworth, Catherine Dobson, Lesley Cook (in Otter colours, at least!), and Adam McCarthy.

Crawley

South East Regions L/C Champs 24/25 March 2007

Gina Hobson

The slightly saner members of the Club decided to forgo the Cold Water Champs in Tooting and head slightly further afield to the new 50m pool in Crawley for the South East Region Long Course Champs. A minibus full of Otters, masterfully driven by Coach Steve, embarked on a weekend of firsts.

There were first Otter swims for newbies Dylan Malagrino, Rob Williams, Jane Leighton, Stu Ventham, Dan Cotton and

Enrico Hahn, with Flavio Rusconi coming back for more having first represented Otter at the Cambridge relay gala last year. Tony Ray and Roger Phillips revealed the first appearance of their new go-faster suits... and while it may have not been a first, for Tony at least, both he and the recently returned Katie Goodall showed off impressive tans following their rather extended holidaying.

Swimmer	Group	Event	Time
STEVE BRATT	G	50 BACK	0:40.32
PETE KIRK	F	50 BACK	0:35.19
DAN COTTON	B	50 BACK	0:30.39
FIONA MARSHALL	B	50 BREAST	0:37.78
GINA HOBSON	B	100 BACK	1:15.51
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FREE	1:06.55
GINA HOBSON	B	200 BACK	2:45.27
GINA HOBSON	B	50 FLY	0:32.73
MICHELLE SENECA	B	100 FLY	1:13.73
MICHELLE SENECA	B	400 FREE	5:05.07
FLAVIO RUSCONI	A	100 FLY	1:02.04
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 BREAST	2:53.29
JANE LEIGHTON	A	400 FREE	5:00.56
ROB WILLIAMS	A	200 FLY	2:39.51
ROB WILLIAMS	A	400 FREE	4:45.71
STUART VENTHAM	X	200 BACK	2:29.64
STUART VENTHAM	X	200 FREE	2:11.25
STUART VENTHAM	X	400 FREE	4:49.59

2007 Crawley Gold Medallists

In the swimming, Gina Hobson demonstrated a trait only normally seen on the dancefloors of Cambridge and attempted to remove all of her apparel during a 400m freestyle. First the goggles came off over the first 50m, then it was the nose clip, and by the end she was fighting to keep her hat on at the turns. Who knows what would've



happened if it had been 800m. And with Enrico on hand to record the team's activities on camera, Gina was glad she only had eight lengths to swim!

By the middle of Sunday the team needed some motivating, and Michelle Senecal was glad to have the words of James Palmer, via Fiona Marshall, ringing in her ears as she got onto the block for the 200m freestyle. Apparently, 'you've got to hit rock bottom before you can come up'. Like a real trooper, Michelle dug that little bit deeper.

Fortunately, Otters showed their usual prowess in the relays. According to Jane, like Popov, Otter relay teams are 'unbeatable on a good day and unbeatable on a bad day'! With renowned sprinters, Jane McMenemy and Michelle Senecal, in the team, along with the well-tapered Katie and Gina, all challengers were found wanting in the ladies fc and medley races. The 160+ men's team (with special thanks to Mike Wake for making the trip just for the relays) also claimed two golds. The boys 72+ team deserved two golds, but had to settle with a gold and a silver, when, despite making up a 10m lead on the last Spencer swimmer, Dylan wasn't quite able to touch him out. Fantastic last leg though. The mixed 72+ and 160+ teams (Gina, Fiona Marshall, Flavio and Dylan; Liz Shaw, Katie, Bob Palmer, Steve, Pete Kirk, Mike) also demonstrated commanding performances.

Dorking

Relay Sprint, 10 March 2007

Katherine Mearman

On Saturday morning eleven Otters arrived at Dorking Aquatics Centre for the annual relay swim in aid of Cancer Research.

With teams of six required, Otter was a swimmer short – arbitrarily it was decided to place all the distance swimmers into the five person team ("Team Enduro") and all the sprinters (and Matt Staines) into the six person team ("Team Sprinto"?). For the first fifteen minutes the plan worked well. Both teams were neck and neck. Then it all went wrong and the cunning plan was suddenly not so cunning....

Fresh out of surgery, Captain Hobson was forced to retire from Team Sprinto when it seemed her wound hadn't magically healed overnight. Both teams were now matched at five personnel each. In the water, however, the two were very much not matched – like Duracell batteries, Team Enduro simply kept on going and going while all other batteries (or Otters) ran out of steam.

Even the speed of newcomer Dan Bullock couldn't save Team Sprinto and slowly Team Enduro lapped them not once, but twice. However, the lap counter took pity on Staines and his attempt at one last 50m 'sprint' awarded them an extra lap. Final score 103 vs 104 for the two Otter

teams, with Team Enduro finishing only 2 laps behind the overall winners, Dorking, despite their one man advantage.

At the end of the swim Otters had raised £600 for Cancer Research and celebrated this and the event being over for another year with a feast at the local Pizza Express.

Cork

Irish Masters, 5-6 May 2007

Andrew Bloxam

Although only five intrepid Otters made the journey to Cork in Southern Ireland for the Irish Masters it came perhaps as a surprise that all came away with medals and even the Best Overseas Visiting Team trophy.

Following the young Otters' poor team performance in the five mile Avis Hire Car Challenge, driver and navigator team Alex Starling and Sophie Hemsworth were hoping for a better result in the 200m freestyle. There were certainly no complaints with the subsequent age group placings; Alex claiming gold in 2:17.60 and Sophie taking silver in 2:34.40. 'Super' Ted Evans and Tony Ray also took gold and bronze respectively in this event, with Tony claiming a PB in 2:55.21.

Sophie and Ted then went head-to-head in the 100m backstroke; it was a case of age over beauty as Ted



narrowly triumphed with a burst of speed down the final length – not enough to beat his 2005 all-comers Record, but enough for both to take gold in their age groups. Andy Bloxam also managed to scrape gold in this event in his first meet since 1995.



Tony Ray and Ted Evans in action in Cork

Sunday's races were tinged with controversy. Despite apparently touching out Alex in the 50m freestyle, Andy was denied by the official electronic pad results which clocked the two tyros at 0:28.12 and 0:28.27 respectively. It was

more Otter glory in the afternoon with golds for Alex in the 50m fly (0:31.27) and 100m freestyle (1:01.09).



Best Overseas Visiting Team – Cork 2007

Further medals from the rest of the team (Ted claiming a fantastic clean sweep of five golds from five swims) just nosed Otter into the lead, seeing the London club sneak the Best Overseas Visiting Team by just 14 points.

A great team – and a great team effort.

Club Championships

The Club Championships were won by Gina Hobson (75 points) and, in his last season before moving to Australia Dan Mikulskis (59 points).

The runner-up lady was Jane Leighton (61 points) with Lisa Wujec (32 points) in third place. In the men's event, Rob Williams (58 points) took second place, only just falling short of Mikulskis' tally. Stuart Ventham (43 points) took third place.

Club Handicap

Alison Lievesley (27 points) was victorious in the Club Handicap, claiming victory by a substantial margin. Alison secured maximum points in the 5 lengths and 200m competitions.

James Palmer and Anna Ochocinska (20 points) shared second place, Anna winning both the sealed 100m and the 400 IM. James didn't win any events but steadily accumulated points throughout the season. Andy Bloxam (19 points) followed closely in the rankings having claimed the full eight points in the 100m.



Water Polo

Men's First Team

Carl Ainley

It has been a season of ups and downs for the first team. At first glance it would appear that we (yet again) managed to yo-yo back out of National League Division One after only a single season.

However, that simple summary unfortunately masks many of the success stories of the first team's season. Unfortunately some hard-earned points were stripped from us midway through the season after an administrative error that saw us play an "unregistered" member. While we arguably also did not perform to our full potential this season, having fielded possibly the strongest on paper team that Otter has ever fronted, we did come away with a number of solid results.

The Men's sides managed to win both the first and second divisions of the tournament in Marbella during the pre season tour organised by Nicole Freeman and Fernanda Masri.

Wins in the national league were notched up over Portobello, Penguin and Poly with close games against the Welsh. Had it not been for the administrative error the team would have

solidified the club's position in the top flight with a credible 8th place finish.

The issue of our unregistered player also raised its ugly head in the London League, seeing us again stripped of a substantial number of points and missing out on claiming our position as winners of the Premier Division.

<i>Phase II Top</i>	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Bristol	17	14	0	3	210	150	28	60
Lancaster	17	12	2	3	266	155	26	111
Cheltenham	17	11	2	4	247	181	24	66
Manchester	17	8	0	9	195	175	16	20
Rotherham	17	8	0	9	211	204	16	7
<i>Phase II Bottom</i>	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Penguin	17	8	3	6	149	172	19	-23
Welsh Wanderers	17	9	1	7	201	189	19	12
Polytechnic	17	4	1	12	117	183	9	-66
Portobello	17	2	0	15	158	251	4	-93
Otter	17	4	1	12	161	255	3	-94

2007 NWPL Men's Division I

It has been a tough season – with a number of setbacks – for the first team but I believe we did ourselves proud in a number of ways in the last few weekends of the national league, putting up a gallant fight to salvage something from the season.

Huge thanks must go to Tim Kendall, our embattled coach, for tolerating the rag tag bunch of foreigners, locals, egos and opinions and navigating us through a difficult season.

If there is one thing that our guys can probably take away from this season it would have to be that in this, the fine land of bureaucrats, we must always cross our Ts, dot our Is and learn not to speak out of turn... a harsh lesson for our many free spirited Otters! Hopefully 2008 will bring more success and see us return with a more organised and cohesive approach to the league.

Men's Second Team – Otter 1869

Chris Eden

Another season, another foreign captain, and another chance for the Otter Second Team to show the strength in depth that the club has in Men's Water Polo. New additions (giant Canadian centre-forward Spencer Corrigan, speedy Huw Riley and young goalkeeper Rob Padden) bolstered the squad early season and with the core from the past few years still present, there was much evidence to suggest that more success would come our way following second place in London League 1 and winning National League division 4 at the first attempt.

As usual, the season proper started with the London League. Excellent attendance at training by the whole squad meant that the team kicked off their first match against Hornchurch in better shape than ever. The result was never in doubt, with Otter winning in style 18-9. An away game against Penguin II was awarded to us as the opposition



didn't have enough players, but it was a good chance for everyone to get a run-out.

The first big game of the season came in May in the form of Reading. Relegated from NL division 2 and the London Premier League in 2006, the opposition would clearly have experience and ability, and would be a good indication of our current level. After a shaky start, Otter pulled it together and came out with an 11-11 draw, which could easily have been a win. This spurred the team on as perennial local enemies, Ealing, arrived at ULU three weeks later, themselves having been promoted from LL 2 with a perfect record of 12 wins from 12 matches.

However, despite their obvious size advantage, Ealing lacked in fitness and team cohesion and were easily disposed of 10-4. Further home matches against Kingston and Cranleigh resulted in two more easy wins, 17-6 and 21-6. The gulf in standard across the teams in this division was quite distinct. Reading away would be a wake-up call.

Or would it? Again, Otter started warily but good shape, fitness and determination led the team to a convincing 15-5 victory, the biggest win at Reading in recent history by either Otter I or Otter II. Another couple of victories followed, with the team seeing off Penguin II 15-11 at home and Cranleigh away.

The away match at Ealing was a shock to the system. Indiscipline within the team and an inability to contest

Ealing's physical game led to a narrow 9-5 loss and a re-assessment of the team's training habits over the previous two months. It was starting to look as though the missed point against Reading would cost us the league while Ealing continued to win all of their matches. All we could do is win our remaining two games and hope another team did us a favour.

The first part was easily achieved. Hornchurch declined to make our home fixture and Kingston away was comfortable enough 12-8 win in the end. The second was achieved thanks to Reading who went 9-5 up at home and the Ealing tantrums started, at which point the game was abandoned and the win awarded to Reading.

So, one trophy in the bag and another season with silverware.

National League came earlier this year, starting at Ponds Forge in Sheffield the second weekend in September. An opening fixture against the 2006 Division 3 promotion challengers Newton Abbot was expected to be a tough match, especially considering their goal-scoring prowess. The Margetts brothers always feature in the top-scorers list in any of the divisions they play in and with some promising young blood in their side, this was unlikely to change.

In the absence of usual man-marker Pierre Cerri, Leon Estrella and Greg Pienaar were given the dubious honour of marking the two key opposition players. That they only

scored 8 goals between them (including 3 penalties) when, across the course of the season they average around 8 each was a testament to the excellent jobs done by these two. After trading goals, the score stood at 6-6 at half time and Newton Abbot were only 13-11 at the start of the fourth quarter. However, poor concentration in the final period resulted in the final result of 18-13. Captain Yannick Gaudio scored 4.

Sunday's match against Bedford was expected to be a totally different affair and so it proved to be. With one of their danger-men wrapped for violent play early in the first period, the victory was an, albeit hard-earned, formality. A 5-1 opening quarter and four-goal hauls from Jason Eckert (in his final appearance for the team), Estrella, Gaudio and Chris Eden contributed to an 18-11 victory. Free from marking duties, Pienaar chipped in with the other two.

Except for Newton Abbot and Bedford with 2 wins/2 losses, respectively, each of the other teams finished with a win and a loss each. Therefore due to goal difference, Otter 1869 was in the runner-up place. The second weekend of competition was a sharp comedown from such dizzy heights. Missing starting players Cerri and Ollie Holman, the team travelled up to Nottingham to face three tough teams – South Derbyshire, Caledonia (relegated from Division 2 along with Reading in 2006) and familiar National League rivals Invicta Marlins.



The Saturday game against Derby started slowly. 1-1 at half time and 3-1 down at the end of the third smacked of a tired and under-staffed Otter team. Derby finally broke clear with a 5-2 final period. Corrigan, Pienaar and Eden netted for Otter.

Scottish team Caledonia was the first challenge on Sunday. As with Newton Abbot, it was close all the way through and only 8-7 down with the final 8 minutes to play. But with only three players on the bench, there was not enough depth and the Scots pulled clear, finishing 13-8 ahead. The performance in the Sunday afternoon game against Invicta was, again, defined by a small bench compared to Invicta's comparative legions of players and Otter went down 14-8.

With Bruno Fabre having switching down from the first team due to work commitments and recently joining Spaniard Damian Nogaledo, plus the proper return of Cerri and Holman, the team was back to full strength and made the trip down to Marlborough confident that the Nottingham weekend could be forgotten.

With the strongest squad yet available, the first match against South Derbyshire showed what we were capable of. 4-0 up by half-time (Padden pulling of a series of solid saves), the final result of 8-3 was an exact reverse of the Nottingham score. The goals were spread around in an excellent team effort.



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The second Saturday game against Reading was expected to be a formality and this mentality saw Otter sink to the plodding Reading style of play, forgetting the hard swimming and discipline that earned the win against Derby. Still, 7-6 up with four minutes to play, the game was still in our control. But Reading's main shooter was allowed space and time too often and, with a last period hat-trick, turned the game 9-7 in Reading's favour.

The final opposition for the weekend was Warley, which featured players very experienced in National League and it was not expected to be an easy contest. Despite falling 2-0 down early in the first period, Otter pulled back through Holman and Pienaar and even gained a 5-4 lead half-way through the game with another goal from Pienaar and scores from Riley and Gaudio. A disastrous 1-5 third quarter was the turning point and despite opportunities in the final period, we finished the match 8-11 down.

And so to the penultimate weekend at Walsall, and Otter 1869 in the relegation play-off position, urgently needing some inspiration to resuscitate the season. Invicta was first up and one of the league's top scorers to deal with. Centre-backs Estrella and Sarpel Ustunel carried out their task admirably, helped by excellent dropping defence, keeping this threat goal-less. Corrigan helped himself to four goals. But after losing the first period 2-0, we could only tie the remaining periods 3-3, 3-3, 3-3 – a decent result, if still disappointing.

Next up Caledonia, pushing for the league title, raced to a 4-0 lead in the next fixture and a 9-5 advantage with the last period to play. Yet, helped by the calming influence of coach Paul McCann, for the first time this season Otter pulled back from a significant deficit to tie the game 10-10, and even spurned a chance for the win with a man-up opportunity 30 seconds from time. Gaudio led from the front with 4 goals.

Finishing off against Warley, again the opponents gained an early advantage, 3-1. But buoyed by a new-found belief from the Caledonia game, the team fought back to 7-7. Riley and Holman each got a two.

As with 2006, the season would climax at Crawley. Again, the full squad was available and, as it turned out, the top half and the bottom half of the league were playing each other. We had pulled just ahead of Reading to start in sixth place and survival was in our own hands.

Newton Abbot would be up first and with the Margetts brothers jumping off the relatively shallow (at 1.8m) pool floor, seemingly ignored by the referees, their threat was far more evident than in Sheffield. A re-invigorated Otter side would not stay behind for long, with only a couple of goals in it at most at any one time. With the score tied at 15 apiece and the clock running down, keeper Ed Buckley, having played most of the game after Padden retired, injured, launched a pitch-length pass to Gaudio who was breaking down the pool. Gaudio lobbed and brought a roar from the bench as he put Otter 16-15 up. Everyone glanced towards

the clock – 2 seconds to go. Surely this must be Otter's match! Restart from the centre; pass back to A. Margetts; Rocket into the top corner. The unfortunate Buckley never had a chance and it finished 16-16 after an epic battle.

With Bedford and then Reading left on the Sunday, the question remained – after three consecutive draws was could we get the wins that seemed so elusive?

	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Invicta Marlins	14	10	2	2	195	156	22	39
Caledonia	14	10	1	3	209	143	21	66
Warley	14	10	1	3	167	141	21	26
South Derbyshire	14	8	1	5	186	126	17	60
Newton Abbot	14	6	1	7	242	254	13	-12
Otter 1869	14	4	3	7	143	146	11	-3
Reading	14	3	1	10	147	201	7	-54
Bedford	14	0	0	14	127	249	0	-122

2007 NWPL Men's Division III

Bedford should have been a simple yes but early nerves meant a stuttering start as we struggled to score. Superior fitness and overall playing quality showed through in the end, though, and the final 15-6 result was half-way towards our Sunday goal.

We were not going to make the same mistake as before against Reading. Their main shooter was shut down by Cerri and the pace of our game was maintained. Otter never fell behind, ending 13-9 ahead, and sixth place in the division secured.



As it transpired, this season was about consolidation. With the loss of Gaudio back to his homeland, it will be down to the new skipper, the remaining team and any new recruits to build on the past few years' work.

Thanks, again, go to Tim Kendall for coaching throughout the year and, especially, to Paul McCann who inspired the team in the last two weekends to approach the performance levels that we all expect of ourselves.

Ladies' First Team

Cat Cassidy

2007 saw a few changes for the Otter Ladies water polo team. Newly promoted to Division II, we started training in earnest in May for the upcoming season, relishing the upcoming challenge.

Our steady core from last season was boosted by newcomers Marie Mulligan (a recruit from Sheffield B), Emily Viskovic (New Zealand), youngster Alice Rogers (only 15!) and Anthanasia Tympanari (Greece). Our weekend training session moved from awkward Sunday lunchtime at ULU to Crystal Palace on Saturday morning – which, despite the early hour, proved worthwhile as the grounds allowed for a land training session before the pool session. Two nice three-hour-long sessions per week (plus compulsory swim

sets during the week) makes for a fit and strong – if slightly tired – Ladies polo team.

Warm-up to National league included tour to a tournament in Marbella. Here, we came second out of four, losing in final to a team in the Spanish National League Division 2. The Spanish hospitality was enjoyed, with the Saturday night spent at a beach party with the rest of Spain to celebrate St Juan's day.

	PLD	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	GD
Tisbury	14	11	0	3	127	86	22	41
Liverpool C	14	10	1	3	121	79	21	42
Solihull	14	9	2	3	129	97	20	32
Haywards Heath	14	7	2	5	136	121	16	15
Otter	14	6	3	5	103	103	15	0
Leeds	14	5	0	9	101	116	10	-15
Liverpool B	14	2	0	12	63	117	4	-54
Penguin B	14	2	0	12	78	139	4	-61

2007 NWPL Ladies' Division II

London and Winter leagues gave us a chance to work on tactics, experiment with different styles of play and develop newer players. Otter entered a revamped London League in April 2007. Otter II entered the Winter League and Basingstoke friendly tournament and achieved success in both.

As for the National League – we acquitted ourselves well in our new division, finishing 5th of the eight teams, though competition between the top teams was very tight with only a few points in it throughout the whole season. All but a few of

our matches only had one goal in them, showing how tight competition in this league was.

Sadly this season marked the end of an era. Susan Pearce, captain for the last five years, retired on work grounds just before the start of National League. We thank her for all the work she has put in over the years – both behind the scenes and in the water. Susan has been in the Otter Ladies team since the start: we owe her no small measure of thanks for her tireless work. Tracy Wheeler stepped up to the challenge of captaincy, with Lindsey Williams also replacing Cat Cassidy as Vice Captain, with Cat moving to fill the post of Ladies' Secretary.

Many thanks to Nick Buller for coaching the Ladies again – under his guidance there seems to be constant improvement. We really appreciate his dedication, the hours he puts in and his patience. Thanks are also due to Martin, Roger and Hugh and the rest of the swimming club for their continuing support.

Finally, we pass on our congratulations to Ruth Bickerton (née Dunkerley) and Lindsey Williams (née McFarlane) this year on their nuptials. More congratulations are due to KFC (Katie Fawcner-Corbett) on her engagement this year.



Open Water Swimming

Club Open Water Trophy

Adverse weather contributed to a foreshortened itinerary for this season's Open Water Trophy, with the half mile being unfortunately cancelled due to monsoon conditions.

Ed Buckley (14 points) won the Trophy with second place finishes in both events, with Bronwen Bew and David Miller (8 points) sharing second spot with wins in the mile and quarter mile respectively.

Cold Water Championships

South London S.C.

The 2007 open water kicked off in March with the re-opening of Tooting Lido and the 2nd annual Cold Water Swimming Championships. Perhaps unsurprisingly it was a small (yet no doubt elite) group who competed in the 7°C waters of Tooting Lido: Katherine Mearman, Tim Fraser and Katie Hope flew the flag for Otter in this event.

The first medal of the day came in the "head up breaststroke" event with Katherine Mearman taking bronze

in the 21-30yr age group. But it was the 30m freestyle where the Otters triumphed – Katie Hope was placed 3rd, Tim Fraser took home the silver medal and Katherine Mearman won gold in their respective age groups. Big smiles and shivers all round. A fantastic day and great kick off for the year ahead.

Champion of Champions

BLDSA

Mid June saw the Champion of Champions event take place in Dover Harbour. This consists of a 5mile swim, followed by a 3mile swim and then finishing up with a 1mile swim – just for good measure.

This year there were 5 Otters amongst the 70+ entrants completing various combinations of the 3 swims: Katherine Mearman, Katie Hope and Rob Deakin completed all three. Sandy Wilson swam the 5 & 3 mile swims and Deirdre Ward made the trip down to Dover for the 3 & 1 mile swims.

The highlight of the day was the final swim which, in true Otter style, ended up being a head to head between Rob and Katherine who both charged round the course to finish neck and neck, somehow managing to pull out a 20min mile for the 9th mile of the day.

Weymouth

ASA Open Water

Weymouth open water weekend includes a 10k, 5k and 3k swim over one weekend and competitors can choose to enter one or all of the events. Katie Hope and Deirdre Ward were the Otter representatives at this event. The 16°C water temperature and some tough weather conditions for the 10k forced many of the competitors to retire before the end of the race. However, Deirdre and Katie proved that they were made of stronger stuff as they battled through the wind and chop to finish the race, taking home silver and gold respectively.

After her success in the 10k, Katie stayed on to attempt the 5k the next day. In better conditions and with only half the distance to swim, Katie flew around the course to pick up her second gold medal of the weekend. A fantastic achievement for both Otter Ladies.

Coniston Water

BLDSA

John Iliffe swam Coniston (8km) for the fifth time. He was presented with the BLDSA Arthur Ayres Trophy 'for endeavour', which summed it up fairly well. Presented by Warrington Dolphins S.C., the 10kg bronze trophy (which after three hours in the water took some effort to hold up) is



probably unique in the swimming world in bearing an inscription from Plutarch.

The English Channel

Channel Swimming Association

In 2007 Otters continued to attempt (and succeed) in completing the biggest swimming challenge that is out there – the English Channel.

Relay Swims

Katie Goodall was the first Otter across this year. Swimming as part of a six person relay team, Grand Boucle, Katie was using this experience to test the waters for attempting a solo swim in 2008. Katie and her team set off at 4.58am on a Monday morning from Shakespeare Beach and 13hrs and 3 mins later landed on the French shore at Wissant breach. Despite managing to convince herself that she was being followed by a shark during one of her swims Katie obviously enjoyed the experience as she has decided to go back in 2008 for her solo attempt.

Solo Swims

Otter had three successful solo attempts in 2007: Sandy Wilson, Rob Deakin and Ian Stewart.



Sandy Wilson is watched by his (cold) support crew

Sandy Wilson got the ball rolling on the 11th July and kept on swimming until he reached France, completing the swim in 12hrs 38mins.

Rob Deakin did not let the weather deter him when his tide was completely blown out, forcing him to attempt the swim on a low spring tide. Rob set off in pitch blackness at 11.40pm from Dover and arrived in France 12 hours 36 minutes later having covered in excess of 30 miles. Rob commented that "I am now the proud owner of a 'one width' badge".

The final Otter swim of the season was Ian Stewart, who completed his successful channel swim on 5th August. The conditions meant it was a tough swim but Ian stuck with it to finish in 13hrs 14 mins.



Ian Stewart with the finishing line in sight

In a sport that has such a low success rate – for Otter to produce three successful Solo Channel Swimmers in one year is an amazing achievement. Congratulations to Sandy, Rob and Ian – all that training (pool & sea) certainly paid off!

Lake Zurich

On Sunday 5th August several Otters (past and present) took part in the Lake Zurich 26.4km Marathon Swim.

Katherine Mearman & Katie Hope both completed solo swims. Katherine finished in 8hrs 7mins as the 2nd fastest female swimmer and 3rd fastest overall. Katie proved just how determined a swimmer she is by completing the swim in 9hrs 50mins despite suffering from suspected sun stroke. But all her efforts paid off as she was awarded 3rd place, making it an Otter 2nd & 3rd in the women's race.



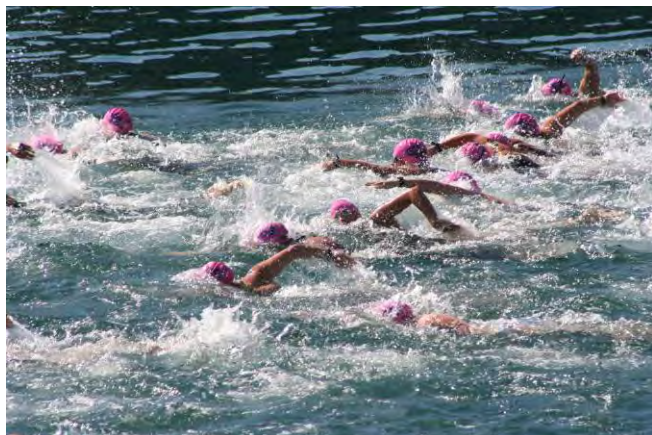
Scott Darling and James Kerton also both completed the swim in 3 person relay teams (the Big Guns and the Small Guns). With Scott and the rest of the Big Guns team coming home in 7hrs 12mins to take 3rd in the relay team race.

Ex-Otter, Richard Grauel, on home turf, and with the help of a couple of ex-Olympic swimmers as team mates, won the race overall in a speedy time of just over 6hrs.

Peter Kirk & Laura Lopez-Bonilla also made the journey out to Zurich for the swim. Peter completed the swim in a two person relay and finished the swim as the 4th fastest relay team and first duo team home. And Laura and team had a great swim – making the most of an enjoyable day out on the lake.

Bled, Slovenia

Having dominated in the pool at the European Championships, the Otter ladies took to the Lake to show their European cousins what open water swimming was all about. Open water veteran Mearman (10th) was flanked by newcomers Leighton (4th), McMenemy (6th) and Marshall (16th).



The Otter ladies battle it out in the lake swim in Slovenia



Fiona Marshall and Katherine Mearman take the plunge



Matt Staines takes flight in the relay races in Slovenia



Annual Dinner

St James', 15 February 2007



Records, Times and Statistics

Event	Group	Time	Position
MIXED FREE	100+	1:45.90	SILVER
FIONA MARSHALL, ROB WILLIAMS, GINA HOBSON, DAN MIKULSKIS			
MIXED MEDLEY	100+	1:58.77	BRONZE
CATHERINE DOBSON, DAN MIKULSKIS, GINA HOBSON, ROB WILLIAMS			
LADIES FREE	100+	2:03.09	BRONZE
CATHERINE DOBSON, SOPHIE HEMSWORTH, LISA WUJEC, JANE LEIGHTON			
LADIES FREE	120+	1:53.38	GOLD
GINA HOBSON, JANE MCCMENEMY, RACHEL JOYCE, MICHELLE SENEAL			
MEN MEDLEY	100+	1:56.85	BRONZE
ADAM MCCARTHY, DAN MIKULSKIS, ROB WILLIAMS, JAMES PALMER			
MEN MEDLEY	240+	2:29.96	SILVER
TONY RAY, STEVE BRATT, DEREK PARR, ROGER PHILLIPS			
LADIES MEDLEY	100+	2:07.21	GOLD
CATHERINE DOBSON, JANE LEIGHTON, MICHELLE SENEAL, GINA HOBSON			

2007 Sheffield Relay Medallists – GB Short Course

Event	Group	Time	Position
MIXED FREE	100+	1:56.10	BRONZE
ROB WILLIAMS, ENRICO HAHN, MICHELLE SENEAL, JANE LEIGHTON			
MIXED FREE	120+	1:46.90	GOLD
DYLAN MALAGRINO, DAN MIKULSKIS, FIONA MARSHALL, GINA HOBSON			
MIXED FREE	160+	1:55.36	SILVER
JASON PARRISH, PETE KIRK, LIZ SHAW, JANE MCMENEMY			
MIXED MEDLEY	100+	2:08.61	BRONZE
ENRICO HAHN, JANE LEIGHTON, MICHELLE SENEAL, JASON PARRISH			
MIXED MEDLEY	120+	2:00.13	GOLD
DAN MIKULSKIS, FIONA MARSHALL, GINA HOBSON, DYLAN MALAGRINO			
LADIES MEDLEY	120+	2:11.51	GOLD
GINA HOBSON, FIONA MARSHALL, MICHELLE SENEAL, JANE MCMENEMY			
MEN MEDLEY	100+	1:57.39	SILVER
DAN MIKULSKIS, ENRICO HAHN, ROB WILLIAMS, DYLAN MALAGRINO			
LADIES FREE	100+	2:00.10	GOLD
FIONA MARSHALL, GINA HOBSON, MICHELLE SENEAL, JANE LEIGHTON			
MEN FREE	100+	1:44.09	SILVER
DYLAN MALAGRINO, DAN MIKULSKIS, ROB WILLIAMS, ENRICO HAHN			

2007 Manchester Relay Medallists – GB Long Course

Date	Trophy	Event	Donor	Winner
1874	Ladies' C. C.	5 L Handicap	Lady friends of Members	A. Lievesley
1889	Brown Challenge Cup	100m Backstroke (M)	G. S. Brown	D. Mikulskis
1893	Macdonald C.C.	2 L Handicap	A.R. MacDonald	S. Ventham
1923	Sachs C.C.	Open Water points total	Mrs Frank Sachs	E. Buckley
1898	Dudley C.C.	Mile Open Water Scratch (M)	Dr. J. G. Dudley	E. Buckley
1899	Collis Brown C.C.	400m Freestyle (M)	Maj. W.A. Collis-Brown	N. McMahon
1905	Buller C.C.	Club Championship (M)	W.A.H. Buller	D. Mikulskis
1911	5th Humphreys C.C.	100m Freestyle (M)	Jack Humphreys	D. Mikulskis
1911	G.H. Rope Averages Trophy	Handicap points total	Club Members	A. Lievesley
1914	2nd Annison C.C.	100m Breaststroke (M)	F.E. Annison	D. Mikulskis
1914	2nd Annison C.C.	100m Breaststroke (W)	F.E. Annison	J. Leighton
1921	J.W. Rope Memorial	Half mile Open Water	Club Members	Void
1923	George H.Rope Cup	Golf competition	G. H. Rope	D. Miller
1931	Synge-Hutchinson C.C.	Veterans 50m handicap	Col E.D.B.Synge-Hutchinson	M. Courtney
1934	Baldon C.C.	150m Handicap	Club Members	S. Billet
1935	Jonas C.C.	200m Handicap	Alfred Jonas	A. Lievesley
1948	2nd Tom Batt C.C	Quarter Mile open water	Friends of Tom Batt	D. Miller
1951	Cunningham Plate	Mile Open Water Handicap	Club Members	B. Bew
1952	Edgar salver	100m Individual Medley (M)	Club Members	D. Mikulskis
1952	Edgar salver	100m Individual Medley (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson
1955	Pyers Mostyn C.C.	4 L Handicap	Lady Mostyn	A. Bloxham
1966	Peters Tankard	100m Butterfly (M)	Nigel Peters	R. Williams
1970	Hodge C.C.	10 Widths handicap	Club Members	R. Williams
1977	Millner C.C.	100m Freestyle (W)	J.R.G. Millner	G. Hobson
1993	Jackson Trophy	Club championship (W)	Richard Jackson	G. Hobson
1996	Arthur Batt Trophy	200m Individual Medley (M)	A.G. Batt	N. McMahon,
1996	Arthur Batt Trophy	200m Individual Medley (W)	A.G. Batt	D. Milkulskis
1998	J.H.R. Haswell Trophy	Water Polo	Mrs G. Haswell	G. Hobson
2001	Club championship	100m Backstroke (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson
2001	Club Championship	100m Butterfly (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson
2001	Club Championship	400m Freestyle (W)	Club Members	J. Leighton
2001	C.G. Forsberg Memorial	Mile Open Water Scratch (W)	Club Members	G. Hobson
2002	Alex Ferguson Memorial	400m I.M. Handicap	J. McMenemy & A. Booth	A. Ochocinska
2003	Water Polo Cup	Women's Team award	Club Members	E. Viskovic
	No Trophy	50m Butterfly (M)		R. Williams
	No Trophy	50m Butterfly (W)		G. Hobson
	No Trophy	50m Freestyle (M)		R. Williams
	No Trophy	50m Freestyle (W)		G. Hobson
2004	David Craig Salver	100m FS Handicap	Club Members	A. Ochocinska

2007 Club Trophy Winners



Swimmer	Group	Event	Time	Position
DEREK PARR	H	400 IM	6:23.71	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	200 IM	2:55.05	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	200 FLY	2:48.11	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	100 FLY	1:09.39 †	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	50 FLY	0:31.05	GOLD
JANE MCMENEMY	C	100 FREE	1:03.10	GOLD
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	200 FLY	2:31.38	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	200 FREE	2:15.86	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	100 BACK	1:10.12	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FLY	1:08.38	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FREE	1:01.63	GOLD
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 BREAST	1:15.68	GOLD
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 IM	1:09.86	GOLD
RACHEL JOYCE	A	800 FREE	9:33.62	GOLD
RACHEL JOYCE	A	400 FREE	4:40.75	GOLD
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 IM	2:33.41	GOLD
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 BACK	2:29.70	GOLD
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	K	1500 FREE	23:54.42	SILVER
ROGER PHILLIPS	H	50 FLY	0:34.22	SILVER
JANE MCMENEMY	C	100 FLY	1:10.66	SILVER
JANE MCMENEMY	C	200 FLY	2:40.92	SILVER
GINA HOBSON	B	50 FLY	0:30.78	SILVER
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 FREE	1:02.22	SILVER
ROB WILLIAMS	A	800 FREE	9:13.50	SILVER
RACHEL JOYCE	A	200 FREE	2:10.78	SILVER
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 BREAST	2:45.57	SILVER
CATHERINE DOBSON	A	50 BACK	0:32.46	SILVER
CATHERINE DOBSON	A	100 BACK	1:10.40	SILVER
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	K	50 FLY	0:34.28	BRONZE
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	K	100 FLY	1:23.82	BRONZE
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	K	200 FLY	3:22.78	BRONZE
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	K	50 FREE	0:32.18	BRONZE
ROGER PHILLIPS	H	50 FREE	0:32.11	BRONZE
DEREK PARR	H	100 IM	1:19.29	BRONZE
ROBERT ALDERTON	E	50 BACK	0:31.31	BRONZE
JANE MCMENEMY	C	50 FLY	0:31.60	BRONZE
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	200 FREE	2:19.00	BRONZE
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	100 FLY	1:09.91	BRONZE
ROB WILLIAMS	A	200 FLY	2:25.26	BRONZE
JANE LEIGHTON	A	100 BREAST	1:17.46	BRONZE
DAN MIKULSKIS	A	100 FREE	0:53.39	BRONZE

† Denotes GB Record

2007 Sheffield Medallists – GB Short Course

Swimmer	Group	Event	Time	Position
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	J	100 FLY	1:22.82	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	50 FLY	0:31.97	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	200 FLY	2:57.20	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	100 FLY	1:11.78	GOLD
DEREK PARR	H	100 IM	6:46.52	GOLD
LIZ SHAW	D	100 BR	1:29.90	GOLD
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	200 FLY	2:37.56	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	200 BACK	2:41.50	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	100 BACK	1:13.62	GOLD
GINA HOBSON	B	100 FREE	1:02.66	GOLD
FIONA MARSHALL	B	50 FREE	0:28.84	GOLD
FIONA MARSHALL	B	50 BR	0:36.02	GOLD
DAN COTTON	B	200 BACK	2:15.33	GOLD
DAN COTTON	B	100 BACK	1:01.93	GOLD
DAN COTTON	B	400 IM	4:54.94	GOLD
DAN COTTON	B	50 BACK	0:29.31	GOLD
JANE LEIGHTON	A	800 FREE	10:06.99	GOLD
JANE LEIGHTON	A	400 FREE	4:55.76	GOLD
STUART VENTHAM	X	200 BACK	2:33.23	GOLD
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	J	1500 FREE	25:00.22	SILVER
ROGER LLOYD-MOSTYN	J	50 FLY	0:34.23	SILVER
DEREK PARR	H	800 FREE	11:59.97	SILVER
PETER KIRK	F	100 BACK	1:17.51	SILVER
LIZ SHAW	D	200 BR	3:13.75	SILVER
JASON PARRISH	C	200 FREE	2:12.08	SILVER
ANDY HUDSON	C	50 FLY	0:30.02	SILVER
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	800 FREE	10:17.99	SILVER
GINA HOBSON	B	400 FREE	4:58.93	SILVER
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 BR	1:21.25	SILVER
DAN COTTON	B	200 IM	2:20.56	SILVER
ROB WILLIAMS	A	200 FLY	2:33.51	SILVER
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 BR	2:50.11	SILVER
STUART VENTHAM	X	1500 FREE	19:59.42	SILVER
LIZ REDPATH	J	100 BACK	1:50.40	BRONZE
CATHERINE COUQUET	G	100 FREE	1:23.39	BRONZE
PETER RAE	F	800 FREE	10:55.89	BRONZE
PETER RAE	F	400 FREE	5:03.29	BRONZE
LIZ SHAW	D	50 FREE	0:31.88	BRONZE
JANE MCMENEMY	C	200 FREE	2:20.42	BRONZE
JANE MCMENEMY	C	100 FLY	1:14.29	BRONZE
JANE MCMENEMY	C	100 FREE	1:05.04	BRONZE
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	400 FREE	4:59.39	BRONZE
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	100 FLY	1:12.85	BRONZE
GINA HOBSON	B	50 FLY	0:31.97	BRONZE
ROB WILLIAMS	A	400 FREE	4:39.83	BRONZE
ENRICO HAHN	A	400 IM	5:31.06	BRONZE
DYLAN MALAGRINO	A	200 FREE	2:06.92	BRONZE
DYLAN MALAGRINO	A	100 FREE	0:56.00	BRONZE
STUART VENTHAM	X	200 IM	2:33.86	BRONZE
STUART VENTHAM	X	400 FREE	4:49.39	BRONZE

2007 Manchester Medallists – GB Long Course

Swimmer	Group	Event	Time	Position
RUTH MORRISON	A	50 BREAST	0:35.52	GOLD
FIONA MARSHALL	B	50 BREAST	0:35.71	GOLD
JANE LEIGHTON	A	200 BREAST	2:49.57	GOLD
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	400 FREE	4:51.81	SILVER
MICHELLE SENECAI	B	200 FLY	2:33.37	SILVER
JANE LEIGHTON	A	400 FREE	4:58.15	BRONZE
DEREK PARR	H	200 FLY	2:58.33	BRONZE
GINA HOBSON	B	200 BACK	2:41.10	BRONZE
GINA HOBSON	B	200 FREE	2:16.95	BRONZE
FIONA MARSHALL	B	100 BREAST	1:20.42	BRONZE

2007 Kranj Medallists – European Masters Long Course

Endnote

If you enjoyed reading this Annual Report and would like to help getting future such documents off the ground, it would be great to hear from you. It doesn't take that much effort and ~~too many cooks spoil the broth~~ many hands make light work.

We need people to write reports, compile stats, edit layout, bring in sponsorship, provide sponsorship (!), take photos, edit photos, ... whatever your skillset, we can provide a role for you!

All the best for 2008!

The Editor

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