# OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

(FOUNDED 1869)





**Annual Report & Accounts** 

142nd Season 2011



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### PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

2011 has been a year in which the Club's members have achieved many successes in the pool and outside. Details will be found in this excellent report, once again compiled by Barbara Woodward. My role in this brief summary is to highlight some of the major achievements and where appropriate to note some of the key individual contributions behind the scenes without which our successes might not have occurred.

Our swimmers entered numerous events among which the principal UK competitions were the GB Masters at Leeds and the ASA Masters in Sheffield. In both events, our teams won a multiplicity of medals; Dave Warren set 3 British long course records and 5 British short course in the 40-44 age group and our relay teams set several new British, European and world records. We also compete nationally in the Decathlon, wherein swimmers accumulate points in different events over the year. Our men's team won in 2011, repeating their success of 2010, while our ladies were unable to repeat last year's success and came second by a very narrow margin. We will have members competing in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, including Susie Rodgers who won 5 gold medals at the 2011 IPC European Championships in Berlin, setting new European records in two events in her category. Outside the pool, Rachel Joyce competed internationally in Ironman competitions, coming 4th in the World Championships in Hawaii and following this by winning the ITU Long Course World Championships in Arizona.

On the water polo side we run three men's teams and two ladies' teams. Our men's teams results were solid but not by previous years' standards spectacular. We are grateful to the authorities at St Paul's Girls' School for allowing our men's polo teams to train in their pool and hope that a full 2012 season of training there will impact beneficially on results. Conversely our ladies teams had a very strong season, with our 1st team competing in Europe for the first time and set to compete in Europe again in 2012.

At this point, tribute should be paid to our coaches, without whose expertise and dedication the above results could not have been achieved. On the swimming side, our Head Coach Steve Bratt, with his team of Assistant Coaches, brought the squad to competitive

peaks ahead of major competitions. I would also like to thank Lesley Davies, a qualified coach herself, who coordinates the coaching effort and coaches the team on Mondays at Shell. On the water polo side, Thibault Williams deserves especial thanks for taking on the difficult role of both coach and player for the men's teams, while the results for our ladies continue to benefit hugely from the guidance of their highly talented coach, Nick Buller.

The Club's Officers and Committee Members for 2011 are listed overleaf. Clubs do not run themselves and Otter members owe huge thanks to those who have fitted in administrative roles alongside both training and sometimes quite onerous work commitments. I am not able to mention them all, but may I single out Martin Flash, our highly experienced Hon Treasurer, who is calmly steering the Club through our current financial situation; Hannah Brown whose quiet efficiency has kept the Committee wheels turning; Gina Hobson, an outstanding Club Captain both administratively and in the water; Deirdre Ward who has handled most of the new member applications; Paul Hindle for handling fund-raising and issues on the water polo side and Cat Hasnain and Michelle Senecal running respectively the Club Handicaps and Championships. There will be changes in this team for 2012 as inevitably other work and life priorities command precedence but I hope that members will continue to offer their services. One officer, necessarily reducing her involvement is Hannah Brown who has taken on the important role of London Olympic and Paralympic Venue Transport Manager in the run up to and during the Olympics and Paralympics. Barbara Woodward's increasing work commitments will make this her last Club report. May I also note at this point, the award to Barbara of a CMG in the June 2011 Birthday Honours in addition to her previous OBE, which possibly makes her the first member of the Club ever to have been so recognised.

Although the Club exists to compete, we are also an organisation in which social aspects remain important, as is also evidenced in these pages.

**James Stewart** President



### **CLUB ADMINISTRATION**

### **Officers and Committee Members**

President: James Stewart Captain of Water Polo (Men): Leon Estrella

Hon. Secretary: Captain of Water Polo (Ladies): Lindsey Williams

Hon.Treasurer: Martin Flash

Water Polo Hon. Secretary: Ivor Sokolic
Vice Presidents: Eric Bolden

Anthony Ray
Lesley Davies Hon. Handicapper: Catherine Hasnain

Paul Hindle

Captain of Swimming: Gina Hobson Committee: Michelle Senecal Edmund Buckley
Damien Nogaledo Leonore Kelleher

Jo Alden Peggy Etiebet

Watt Burgham Deirdre Ward

Vice Captain of Swimming: Ben Thomas Marie Mulligan Roger Phillips

Jane Leighton Monica Kruesmann

### **CLUB FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION** AND MEMBERSHIP

The Club did not have a good year financially, and in part this was due to changes in membership described below. The overall finances are not in danger but corrective action has been required. In the Club's administration things were happier, and we reached an inflection point (see under Administration below) which it has taken us about 20 years to achieve.

### **Income statement**

The finances of the Club in 2011 fell into serious disarray as we recorded a substantial loss of close to £14,000. Not all of this was unpredicted: we had budgeted for a loss of £6,000 and had hoped that membership would pick up to cover the gap. It did not. Not all of either loss is a cash loss; we transfer some £3,000 every year to various reserves, all of which can be called on if needed (see under Balance Sheet below), and the loss includes a provision of £7,000 for coaching costs and swimming pool hire, bills for which have yet to be presented. The total is nonetheless shocking.

In retrospect, however, we should have reacted more strongly to the previous year's loss of £13,000, which had then been compensated by significant additions to the balance sheet. Now the Club must act, so this year of 2012 sees a rise in subscriptions and a squeeze on pool time to move the Club firmly back into the black.

The Club usually budgets to break even in normal years but, as explained in previous reports, our control of events is limited. We have only indirect control of income or, more accurately, membership and the resulting income. And our control of expenditure is effectively limited to pool time, which drives other related costs but any alterations take time to impact on the finances.

Membership and pool time were the immediate drivers of our loss. Paid membership went down slightly, as explained later in the report, which meant that income came in £6,000 under budget. Pool and coaching costs went £4,500 over budget, although all costs together actually overshot the budget by only £2,000.

For the budget as a whole, and for these two important elements of it – membership income, and pool and coaching costs- we have to keep in mind that under the current structure of pool times, which remains extensive and not much reduced by our money problems, the Club is in many way balanced on a knife edge financially. A wobble in either item creates problems.

That we do achieve some control is due to the efforts of several people. The first group of these to thank is made up of those listed below who have given the Club money over and above their subscriptions. This money goes to what is known as the Prizes and General Fund, a fund used to help with annual costs. Our thanks go the following people:

### **Prizes & General Fund Donors**

Catherine Dobson, Leon Estrella, Peter Evans, Brian Evans, Martin Flash, Jaime Forero, John Fox, Timothy Fraser, Wilton Fry, William Gebhardt, Peter Grace, Felicity Hannon, Gina Hobson, Alison Lievesley, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Andrew Louw, Fiona Marshall, Jane McMenemy, Erica Moffett, Andrew Morton, Marie Mulligan, Charlie Murray, Damian Nogaledo, Doug Payne, Stefano Picker, Avilé Rumbos, Michelle Senecal,

Elizabeth Shaw, Paolo Sirianni, Robert Stafford, James Stewart, Cliff Stossel, Mark Templeton, Robert Thomas, John Towers, Jessica Trevellick, David Warren, Lindsey Williams, Robert Williams, Sharon Wright.

In the context of running the finances, although many other people help in different ways, we should particularly thank three people. Deirdre Ward who has policed membership applications for swimmers, and ASA registration for everyone (ASA membership fees are a significant cost), Tony Ray who runs the shop which turned a useful profit this year, and Bronwen Bew who manages the pool bookings for both polo and swimming in nearly all our pools. Thanks too to Michelle Senecal who kept a steely grip on our expenditure at Crystal Palace for swimming (time we would extend if we could afford it), and Paul Hindle who has managed the men's polo pool change from expensive Porchester to the much better value in every sense St. Paul's Girls School pool in Hammersmith, a move not

Income statement - £	2011	2010
Subscriptions total	87,217	89,185
Special sessions	618	0
Prizes & general fund	1,466	1,474
<u>Members' income</u>	<u>89,301</u>	90,632
External income	5,416	4,621
Capital income	1,258	1,382
Miscellaneous income	0	(81)
Other income	<u>6,674</u>	<u>5,922</u>
<u>Income</u>	<u>95,975</u>	96,555
Pool hire costs	(52,801)	(56,480)
Equipment costs	(3,174)	(1,317)
Pools & equipment	<u>(55,975)</u>	<u>(57,797)</u>
Coaching costs	(29,010)	(23,592)
<u>Coaching</u>	(29,010)	<u>(23,592)</u>
Water polo expenses	(9.645)	(9,818)
Swimming expenses	(2,001)	(1,779)
Affiliation costs	(4,514)	(5,920)
Prizes and trophies	(896)	(1,056)
Activity costs	<u>(17,056)</u>	<u>(18,573)</u>
Dinner	(430)	(1,465)
Open water races	(810)	(1,134)
Shop sales	278	(82)
<u>Club activities</u>	<u>(102)</u>	<u>(2,681)</u>
Insurance	(2,000)	(2,000)
Post and printing costs	(3,765)	(3,073)
Tax	0	0
Miscellaneous costs	(1,959)	(1,445)
<u>Administration</u>	<u>(7,724)</u>	<u>(6,519)</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>(109,867)</u> <u>(1</u>	09,162)
Profit / (Loss)	<u>(13,892)</u>	<u>(12,607)</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 2011." Hon Auditor. James Palmer

possible without the initiative and assistance of John Goodbody.

To complete remarks on the income statement, we have changed subscriptions by no more than inflation since they last changed 3 years ago, and very few of our suppliers have kept their prices steady in that time. We have nearly as large a programme of pool time as we can reasonably staff and fill with members. Our finances might be vulnerable to small changes, but overall members get excellent value. We will try to keep things that way.

### **Balance sheet**

Unlike last year, the balance sheet took almost the full hit of our loss. The net worth of the Club declined some £10,000 (7%). That the decline was not larger is due to two factors. One has already been mentioned: various reserves the Club makes. These are a self-insurance fund for our trophies and sinking funds for future costs for spoons and for computers. Together they amount to about £3,000 per year. The second reason is the generosity of members who give money to the Club to strengthen its finances, money which reposes in the Memorial Fund, so named because it originally included only bequests in the name of past members. Our thanks go the following:

### **Memorial Fund Donors**

Martin Flash, Gina Hobson, John Iliffe, Doug Payne, James Stewart.

Sharp financial eyes will note that the operating impact of the loss is mostly reflected in the greatly reduced working capital: 2012 will undoubtedly be a year of real cash squeeze. We could of course liberate reserves to ease this, so the basic strength of the Club is not in question. Our investments are another line of defence. At yearend they stood some £19,000 above the value in the balance sheet. But as many times said before, the core issue is to live within our means, i.e. break even.

Overall the Club finances remain in good shape provided-and it is an important proviso-the Club retains good control of what it can influence and members continue to support the Club in various ways that include but are not limited to financial support.

This relates to membership: we should continue to operate at a level where we attract members because we have a high competitive reputation, we offer a congenial club environment and we have the resources to put behind our ambitions.

Balance sheet - £	2011	2010
Trophies	35,000	35,000
Fixed Assets	35,000	35,000
Investments at cost	30,142	30,142
Self insurance investment	17,581	15,452
Investments	47,724	45,594
Long term assets	<u>82,724</u>	80,594
Bank	9.083	23,255
Debtors	1,756	1,661
Stock	3,464	2,829
Current assets	14,303	27,744
Creditors	(1,983)	(9,554)
Reserves or contingencies	(8,504)	(2,200)
Current liabilities	(10,487)	(11,754)
Working capital	<u>3,816</u>	<u>15,991</u>
<u>Assets</u>	<u>86,539</u>	<u>96,585</u>
Computer fund	3,630	3,380
Spoon fund	6,338	5,738
Sinking funds	9,968	9,118
<u>Provisions</u>	<u>9,968</u>	<u>9,118</u>
Life membership fund	20,239	20,039
Memorial fund	26,481	25,684
Trophy insurance fund	14,983	12,983
Capital funds	61,703	58,706
Balance b/fwd	28,761	41,368
Capital income & reserves	0	(0)
Result for year	(13,892)	12,607
Reserve funds	14,868	28,761
Reserves	<u>76,561</u>	<u>87,467</u>
Reserves & provisions	<u>86,539</u>	<u>96,585</u>

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



### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Club welcomed 72 (65) new members this year, 16 (17) of whom are water polo players. The average month of joining was slightly earlier, June as opposed to July. We welcome the following members.

### **New members**

Daniel Abel, Jeanne Banky, Magrino Bini, Sebastien Bland, Ian Bond, Rebecca Bradbury, Francesco Bressi, Beat Cabiallavetta, Livia Carvalho, Matthew Cockill, Christopher Cook, Annette Coomer, Kevin Costello, Denes Csizsinszky, Matthew Davis, Emma Dearsley, Fabrice Deschatres, Phil Edmonds, Daniele Ferrari, Kate Frazer, Thomas Gaunt, Gail Glennie, Mark Grainge, Louisa Harris, Fiona Henderson-gough, Alexis Higlett, Lee Holland, Oliver Hussey, Billy James, Jo Jewell, Anton Pim Kalisvaart, Jennifer Kelly, John Knowles, Joao Rubens Lacava, Jean-baptiste Leverrier, Johannes Lewis, Jonathon Linn, Alison Longman, Andrew Louw, Procolo Marchese, Igor Marin, Alexander Marra, Natalie Moores, Thomas Morrow, Luca Muscato, Fabrizio Napoli, Anna Oakes, Margherita Orlando, Gergely Orosz, Joseph Pak, Madeline Parra, Stefano Picker, Hendrik Prinsloo, James Roberts, Luca Romozzi, John Rosa, Eliana Salvemini, James Scanlan, Brian Schuring, Heather Shannon, Jack Sharples, Tommy Sheldrick, Pier Luigi Spagna, Paul Stewart, Mark Templeton, Victoria Thorpe, Jessica Trevellick, Filippo Varetta, Zoe Wain, Sarah Westwood, Edmund Williams, Sharon Wright.

At the end of the year the membership of the Club, determined by those on the books who have not explicitly retired, was made up of 359 (362) members, 91 (97) of them polo members. There were 148 (141) Active swimmers, 73 (76) Active polo players, 22 (24) Country members (including 2 (4) polo players), 65 (66) Non Active members, 8 (9) Junior members and 43 (43) Life members. There were 103 (111) female members, as before about one third of the polo players and slightly less than half the swimmers. The average age of Active members was 32 (32) and the average age of the club is 40 (39).

A second tally of members is made from those who paid subscriptions, based on the accounts. The churn rate of membership is measured in money not members. Overall 313(353) members paid some sort of subscription with a churn rate 29%(31%), the main but not the only reason for which is people joining and leaving within the year. The decline in 40 paid subscriptions since the previous year is made up of about 20 active members, roughly equally polo and swimmers, men and women, and 20 members of other categories. The number of paying Active swimmers was 54(59) ladies and 84(89) men, and of Active polo ladies 29(34), and men 43(50). There were 43 other subscriptions paid, essentially those of non-active members. The difference between the sum (253), and the recorded total of 313 paid subscriptions includes unclassified members and those joining and leaving within the year.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

The inflection point mentioned above refers to ASA membership management and the Club website. The website is now the main reference for all membership, the point of entry for new members and the platform from which all communication with the Club and its various sub-sections and committees can be managed. Our

thanks are due to Andy Hudson for achieving this.

As a result, we can separate the management of the ASA membership from the Treasurer's functions. Before the 1990s, ASA membership (and indeed all membership) was the domain of the Hon. Secretary, but the IT revolution made it sensible to bring these together. Now that the membership lists and the paying of subscriptions are united and co-ordinated (so we only pay ASA membership for full and paid—up members) we can manage them apart, the function that **Deirdre Ward** fulfils. Also now that the ASA has finally automated its database (10 years after we automated ours) we can keep them tied together, eventually, we hope, even moving to automated ASA entry (it is currently paper based and cumbersome).

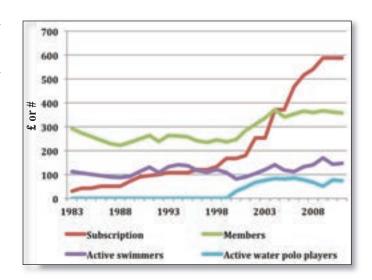
We continue to manage a large programme of pool time. There are 8 swimming sessions a week and 7 polo sessions, accounting for about 16,000 hours per year of swimming and 8,000 hours for polo, the total for 2012 being only 5% less than in 2011. Our thanks go to all the coaches and Club members who manage these sessions.

As mentioned earlier, men's polo have moved to a much better pool in Hammersmith. Ladies polo is now largely in the excellent Crystal Palace facility and, for swimming, the sessions are unchanged. The wisdom of taking a Monday session in Marshall Street in parallel with the existing one at Shell, which contributed to the annual loss (and made it no easier by sending the bills more than 9 months late), was amply justified at the year end when Shell had a long period of closure due to staffing problems. We continue to use Crystal Palace for long course training but are constrained by our finances from using it as much as we would like.

### Retrospective

**Martin Flash** has held the post of Hon Treasurer for more than 20 years. In that time, he has overseen the automation and integration of the Club's management, as well as the provision of far more readily accessible historical figures.

The graph below tracks membership numbers and subscription levels. Two things are worth noting: between 1997 and 2004 the Club expanded significantly, mainly under the influence of the revival of polo, but the swimming side also expanded and, unlike polo, continues to do so. Secondly, no doubt a consequence of these changes, subscription amounts climbed steeply between 1998 and 2008, but have since levelled out.



The Club appears to have become more transactional: people stay for less time, pay only for the time they are in the Club and only the subscription. It is difficult to see this in the figures (which admittedly may not cover enough history). About a quarter of the membership has been with the Club more than 15 years, and half of it more than 10 years. But these figures only go back some 8 years, and older membership figures are influenced both by the large numbers of Life members and Father Time! The churn rate, for which we have numbers back to 1990, of around 33% shows no trend, although it varies from time to time. And (growth in the Club size apart when it went up for a while) the numbers joining each year is pretty steady at around 70 per year. All of which would suggest that in many ways the Club has not changed that much in composition.

In these same 20 years the finances of the Club have changed in shape. Club income moved from £4,000 in 1989 to almost £96,000 this year. The importance of subscriptions in overall income has risen from 66% to 90%. As sponsorship income, mainly the provision of Shell, has not changed much in that time, the most significant drop in percentage has been in the voluntary contributions of members through the Prizes and General Fund, which in 1991 hit 12% but now provides only 2% of income. The change in total income mirrors the change in costs, the period being the one in which not only the Club expanded pool time, but had to pay more for it as the provision of it privatised, and the Club moved more firmly to have professional coaching on the pool side. Between 1983 and now coaching costs moved from 12 to 22% of costs and pool costs moved from 36 to 50% of total costs. If all this is a bit gloomy, in the same period the balance sheet value has gone from around £9,000 to near £90,000, and the Club has had a positive cash flow, with ups and downs of around £50,000 in the period. This is the base of the financial stability of the Club.

Looking forward, there are constraints on the Club's further expansion. There is effectively no or very little pool time available in Central London. And if it were we would struggle to staff it. The high churn rate of the Club will never go away, as it is a feature of any sporting activity in Central London. But with the active support of current, past and future members, the Club plans to remain a first point of call for anyone seeking high level swimming or polo when they are living in London.

### **MEMBERS' NEWS**

### **Marriages**

Laura (nee Gallop) to Phil Stocker Nicole (nee Freeman) to Jordan Womack Cat (nee Dobson) to Imran Hasnain Elisabeth (nee Attwood) to Brad Galvin

### **Births**

**Michaela Krejci, Tracy Wheeler and Jo Alden** all had baby boys this year, a warm welcome to **Daniel, Wilbur and Dominic** 

**Alison Wain** had Edward, first grandson of President **James Stewart** and his wife **Meg.** 

Elizabeth and Brad Galvin had Mary Ollivia Hayley Galvin.

### Other news

**Scott Darling,** wife **Trish** and **Isaac** (3) moved from Dubai to Hong Kong where Scott has taken up a new role as Head of Oil & Gas equity research with Barclays.

**Bert Kinnear,** whose obituary appeared in the 2010 report, was posthumously awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the British Swimming Coaches Association. His son, **lan**, collected it on his behalf at the Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony in 2011.

**Alison Lievesley,** whose 2009 Channel swim featured in that year's annual report, moved to Liverpool in 2011 and spent two weeks training medics on the Thai-Burma border.

**Andrew Morton,** a member of Otter since 1954, is also still active as an Independent member of the ASA East Region's Management Board.

**Barbara Woodward** was made a CMG (Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George) in the Queen's Birthday Honours, 2011.











Clockwise from top left: Dominic and Wilbur, already committed Otter supporters

Elisabeth Attwood marries Brad Galvin

Barbara Woodward, CMG, OBE with her award

Edward Wain, son of Alison and grandson of President James Stewart, an Otter at 27 hours old!



The Otter water polo girls at a photo shoot for Nicole Freeman and Laura Gallop's hen do. Left to right, bottom to top: Lizzie Dunn, Lindsey Williams, Sarah Tollefson, Vera Gielen, Louise Bampton, Nicky----, Jo Alden, Peggy Etiebet, Sarah Benett, Thania Tympanari, Vivi Castagna, Laura Stocker (nee Gallop) Nicole Womack (nee Freeman), Tracy Wheeler, Emma Shkurka, Roxy Hargreaves, Lee Kelleher, Alice Rogers, Sarah Holcombe, Annabelle Gourlay, Marie Mulligan, Bronwen Bew and Emily Viskovic



### **CLUB RESULTS**

### **SWIMMING**

Captain: Gina Hobson

Coaches: Steve Bratt (Head Coach); Lesley Davies, Dan Moulton, Anna Ochocinska, Enrico Hahn, Mark Grainge

### National and international events

### GB Long Course Nationals, 17-19 June, Leeds

Number of swimme	ers	26	
Records Brit	tish Individu	ıal: 3 Briti	ish Relay: 2
Individual Medals:	Gold: 25	Silver: 24	Bronze: 19
Relay Medals:	Gold: 12	Silver: 6	Bronze: 1

Twenty six Otters went to Leeds for the GB Long-Course Nationals and came home with 25 gold, 24 silver and 19 bronze individual medals and 12 gold, 6 silver and 1 bronze relay medals.

**Dave Warren** set new British records in the 40-44 years age group (50m fly, 100m fly and 200m IM) and took five individual golds. Captain Gina Hobson and masters super-star Ted Evans each took four individual golds with **Derek Parr** taking 3 individual golds.

Other gold medals went to Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Natalie Effemey, Dave Roberts, Ben Thomas, Phil Harper and Peter Kirk.

In the relays, the mixed 4x100m free 120+ team (David Roberts, Dave Warren, Gina Hobson and Natalie Effemey) and the mixed 4x100m medley 120+ team (Laure Bacher-Fuentes, Dave Warren, David Roberts and Gina Hobson) broke world records. The mixed 4x 200m free 120+ team (David Roberts, Natalie Effemey, Gina Hobson, Dave Warren) broke the British record in their relay and the men's 4x100 free 100+ team (David Roberts, Ben Thomas, Tommaso Tufarelli, Amar Shah) took gold.

### **European Masters Championships, Yalta**

Number of swimmers		1 (Lesley Cook)
Medals	Bronze: 1	

Lesley Cook, Otter's sole representative, won bronze in the 800m free and was 10th in the 100m fly, had a "reasonable" swim in the 400m free and came 7th in the open water, despite the challenges of jellyfish. As Lesley put it, "every time you put your hand in the water it felt as if you were dipping in to a jar of Haribos!"



Lesley Cook (R) with her Bronze Medal

### **European Disability Championships**

Susie Rodgei	rs (S7)		
Records: Euro	opean records	for 50m fly and 400m free.	
Medals	Gold: 5	Silver: 1	

Susie Rodgers made her first international appearance for GBR at the prestigious International German Swimming Championships for the Disabled in spring 2011. By year end, she was European record holder in two events, ranked third in the world in the 50m free and, as this Report goes to press, has already achieved Para-

Susie Rodgersat the Paralympic trials



lympic qualification or her two top events, 50m fly and 400m free, lowering her own European record to 36.64sec in the process. She still has opportunities to qualify in other events. In London, in September, Susie will go head to head with Chinese rivals and the USA's Mallory Weggemann who took 9 golds at the 2011 Pan-Pacific Championships. London will be a first Paralympics for both Rodgers and Weggemann.

Having taken a bronze and a silver medal at the 2011 British Championships (swum as multi-category), in the European Disability Championships, Susie took chunks out of her own British records in the 100m backstroke (1:28.09) and anchored the GBR to a stunning win in the freestyle relay with a 1:13.00 just missing the world record. Susie broke the British record again in the 50m freestyle (34.70) and in the 50m fly she swam just outside her record with a 38.67. Susie swam 1:14.00 in the 4 x 100 medley relay with the British beating the Spanish team to take the gold.

Susie shot to prominence at the IPC Swimming European Championships in July 2011 as one of nine newcomers to the British team. Susie's five gold medals and a silver contributed to the GB team's second place in the medal table ahead of Spain. The Swimming Times hailed "Rodgers the trigger for GB medal fest" although to the BBC she admitted that her achievements at the IPC Swimming European Championships "haven't quite sunk in yet".

Susie remained consistently clear headed and focused on training and her ultimate Paralympic goal while proving adept and charming at handling media. She's built up her training incorporating 9-10 sessions a week, including with Otter and with the Beacon (talent) programme and managed to combine that with her career at the British Council and a growing number of media and sponsor engagements. In The Daily Telegraph on 10 February 2012, 11-time Paralympic gold medallist Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson picked Susie as one of five Paralympians who could "light up the Games". "As a relative newcomer to the sport she has burst on to the scene with perfect timing...".

### **GB Short Course Nationals, Sheffield, October 2011**

Number of sw	immers	45	
Records	British: 5 (in	dividual) Euro	pean:2 (relay)
Medals	Gold: 38	Silver: 47	Bronze: 23
Individual	Gold: 28	Silver: 31	Bronze: 19
Relay	Gold: 10	Silver: 16	Bronze: 4

The Otter team of 45 competitors again enjoyed a highly successful weekend in Sheffield and returned with over 100 medals, including 38 golds.

There were spectacular record-breaking swims from **Dave Warren**, who added five British records to his collection during the weekend, and from Pete Kirk, Roger Sharpley, Derek Parr and Peter Rae who broke the British and European record in the Men's 240yr+ 4x100m medley relay. On top of a storming swim in the 200m backstroke, Katie Kerr picked up her first British and European relay record (with Dave Warren, Dave Roberts and Gina Hobson in the mixed 120yr+ 4x100m medley relay).

Paul Stewart and Dan Abel made impressive competitive debuts for the club, with Dan winning gold in the Men's 35-39yrs 50m freestyle; Laure Bacher Fuentes not only won gold in the 25-29yrs 800m freestyle but also managing a Masters personal best in every event she competed in.

Congratulations to all competitors, and especially to Otter individual national champions and gold medallists: Dan Abel, Dan Bullock, Dave Roberts, Dave Warren, Derek Parr, Phil Harper, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Ted Evans, Gina Hobson, Helen Prentice and Laure Bacher-Fuentes.

As in previous years, members of the team attended training camp in Lanzarote in September to prepare.



ASA officials for his record breaking swims at



Kerr break the British and European record for the mixed 120 vr + 4x 100 m medlev relay



Otter men's team ready for training camp



Will Wall takes a rare break a



Thomas prepares for another gruelling training session in Lanze

### **Decathlon**

The Decathlon is an annual national competition in which masters swimmers accumulate points for swims in up to 10 (of 18) different events in six categories (all four strokes, distance freestyle and individual medley). The Decathlon aims to encourage participation, competition across age groups and promote masters competition. Points are awarded for individual swims on an age-adjusted basis (using the Finnish formula), allowing competition between all masters swimmers whatever their age.

Having achieved 'the double' for the first time in 2010, with the men's and women's teams winning the Decathlon titles, both were keen to defend their crowns in 2011. For the men, 2010 team members, Dave Warren and Derek Parr, were joined by Ben Thomas and Dave Roberts, who both finished with a flourish making up their remaining swims at the Maidenhead and Barnet 1500m meets to ensure that the men's trophy was again theirs, beating Oxford and Kenilworth into second and third, respectively.

For the ladies, the team of Gina Hobson, Laure Bacher Fuentes, **Cat Hasnain** and **Michelle Senecal** tried to hold off the challenge from Spencer. Unfortunately, despite some great swims in the later part of the year, they were thwarted by the older Spencer team. Final women's team results: 1st Spencer, 2nd Otter, 3rd Kings Cormorants.

Team results were as follows:

Men's:

Dave Warren: 6830 (1st overall)

Dave Roberts: 5399

Derek Parr: 5213

Ben Thomas: 4301

Women's:

Gina Hobson: 5838 (5th overall)

Laure Bacher Fuentes: 5380

Cat Hasnain: 4862

Michelle Senecal: 4828

In the individual competition, Dave Warren picked up the individual men's title (for the third consecutive year). Gina Hobson achieved her fifth consecutive top ten finish, with fifth position.

Otter also won team of the meet at the Middlesex County Championships and at the Arfon Masters.

### Long distance swimming

English Channel: Mark Templeton, Simon Holliday

English Channel Relay: Sebastien Bland and his brother

Manhattan Island: Tullio Salvatore

Lakeside Spring 3.8k: Peter Rae, 2nd overall and age group

winner.

Eton 3k: Jane Leighton, 2nd

### **Channel Swimming**

On 12 August, **Simon Holliday** crossed the Channel in 15 hours 2 minutes in challenging conditions. Simon had started preparing for this big swim in 2010 but Football World Cup and other social commitments lead him to postpone it to 2011.

On 21 August, Mark Templeton landed in France after 14hrs 10mins. He had an early start from Dover the previous evening at around 2:30am in flat and calm waters but had to battle pretty rough seas from mid/late morning onwards. (A relay turned around with 6 miles to go as they could not handle sea conditions.)

On 25 August, **Sebastien Bland** (a.k.a. sea bass in Lane 3) and his brother completed a 2-man relay in 13hrs 22 mins.

Jamie Goodhead came within 200m of the French coast, on the jetty at Calais. His quirky autobiographical take on the experience is captured on YouTube http://www.youtube.com/user/Headleytheoriginal?gl=GB&feature=mhee. Hannah Noble, who moved to Twickenham, completed her crossing on 26 July in 18 hours and 24 minutes.

### Manhattan Island, Tullio Salvatore, 18 June 2011

Tullio Salvatore, whose Channel swim was featured in the 2010 Report, completed the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim on June 18th.



Michelle Senecal prepares for another set in Lanzarot



### **SWIMMING COACHING TEAM**

### Steve Bratt, Head Coach, Swimming

Steve joined Otter as Head Coach in January 2007. Steve started his coaching career with the Modernian National Age Group swimmers whilst Head Coach Charlie Wilson was away as the British Olympic coach in 1976. Since he joined Otter, the Club has continued to excel as the country's pre-eminent masters Club, winning unprecedented numbers of national and interna-



Head Coach Steve Bratt prepares for training

tional medals and breaking world, European and British Masters and Disability Records.

Steve has a distinguished swimming pedigree, starting with Bob Pay at Kingsbury SC and then moving to Modernians where he won Welsh 100yd freestyle and breaststroke titles. Steve moved successfully in to masters swimming, with Thornbury SC in Bristol, when he held the world 100m breaststroke and the European 200m breaststroke Masters records in the 35-39yr age group. Steve occasionally turns out for Masters meets for Otter but his main focus is now on coaching.

Steve is committed to helping his swimmers reach their full potential through promoting hard work, constantly re-evaluating goals, developing mental toughness, and ensuring optimum technical skill. When the going get tough, the tough get going.' Steve constantly re-evaluates his goals and believes in learning something new every day of his life.

Captain Gina Hobson writes: "Steve has been bringing much needed structure, planning, and incredible enthusiasm to Otter's training over the past 4 years. He continues to seek out new developments in swim training and takes up opportunities to learn from

other coaches and regimes so that Otter's swimmers can benefit. Personally, I have seen my pbs drop across all events and Steve should take much of the credit for this. Otter is lucky to have such a dedicated and motivated head-coach."

In 2011, Steve was awarded BSCA (British Swimming Coaches Association) Disability Coaching Award of Excellence.



Head Coach Steve Bratt's BSCA trophy

### **Lesley Davies**

Lesley joined Otter in 1987 from the first team at Reading. Lesley completed a Channel relay with Otter in 2001, and soloed Lake Windermere in 2005. Lesley was a regular fixture on the national podium as a member of Otter ladies biathlon (run-swim) and triathlon (run-swim-shoot) teams. Lesley continues as an active masters swimmer, and has maintained her top 10 national masters ranking in some of the most demanding events (including the 400IM) for several years. Lesley can be found fitting in her own training in many of London's pools, including the 50m open-air heated Hackney lido.

Lesley qualified as a swimming teacher while completing her degree at Nonnington College of Physical Education, University of Kent, and in 2007 passed her coaching examination. Lesley coaches Otter on Monday evenings (Shell) and is generous with her time subbing for coaches at other sessions.

Lesley has been a long-standing committee member. In 1992, she became the first woman to serve as Captain of the Club (1992-1995), has been a Vice-President of the Club since 1999 and was awarded an Otter gold pin for services to the Club.

### **Mark Grainge**

Mark had an active competitive junior swimming career, including 4 years representing Scotland, before moving to London to study aged 19. He taught swimming for 6 years before deciding to obtain a level 2 coaching qualification. He brings to Otter a wealth of experience coaching at masters level.

### **Anna Ochocinska**

Anna's passion for swimming began at an early age. She was a dedicated swimmer in her native Poland, taking part in regional, national and international events and later representing her university. Anna has a Master's degree in Physical Education and swimming coaching certificates from Poland. She moved to London to study English language and later became involved in teaching. Anna has been teaching and coaching for various schools and clubs in central London and is currently doing her level 3 coaching qualifications. Anna loves her time at Otter, which she splits between lane 3 and the coaching deck.



Coach Anna Ochocinska

### **Enrico Hahn**

Enrico has been living and swimming in London with Otter for over five years, but his connection with the sport goes back to his childhood. Enrico learned to swim in his native Germany aged 4 and has a distinguished and continuing competitive pedigree. He ranks his greatest swimming achievement as representing Otter (and ultimately Great Britain) at the 2009 World Masters Games in Sydney where he took gold in the 400m individual medley (see 2009 Otter report) and beat his PB by over 8 seconds. Enrico got his coaching licence in 2001.



### **Dan Moulton**

Dan is a regular fixture for Otters at the Queen Mother Sports Centre. For swimmers in lanes 4,5 and 6, Dan brings a welcome and effective combination of technical focus and ability to challenge swimmers to 'just another set' and 'a bit faster'.

### **WATER POLO**

### **Men's First Team**

Captain: Leon Estrella

Coach: Thibault Williams

National League Division 3: 7th (relegated)

London League Premier Division: 7th

### Otter Second (1869)

Captain: Ed Buckley

Coach: Thibault Williams

London League Division 2:6th

### **Men's Third Team**

Captain: Paul Hindle

Vice-Captain: Grant Monk

Thameside Water polo div 1

Middlesex Water Polo League, div 2

Most valuable player: Leon Estrella

Most improved player: Tom Gaunt

In 2011, Otter Men's Water Polo competed in four main water polo association competitions: the British Water Polo League (more often referred to as the National League), the London League, the Thameside Water Polo Association and the Middlesex League. The National League is without doubt the most important event in Otter's calendar. The London League fixtures serve as preparation for the National League. The Thameside competitions and the Middlesex League offer players a social and competitive mix.

### **National League**

Otter Men's Water Polo opened the National League season in Grantham against the experienced third division teams of Birmingham, South Derby and Caledonia. Three defeats sent the squad back to the training pool to re-group after a disappointing weekend.

In Walsall, Otter lost twice more, against Exeter and Worthing, but secured victory against Swindon 12 -11 only to lose the following day to University of Bristol 11-7. Overall, Otter came 7th in this first phase of competition.

In the second phase of the National League season, Otter returned to Grantham and were defeated by Carlisle, Northumbria and Swindon. After some tough pool sessions, Otter finally found form in Newport against University of Bristol. The combination of lethal strikes by joint top scorers **Spagna** and **Gaunt** and a strong defence gave Otter an 11-9 win. Otter then went on to beat Manchester Hawks 13-12, despite their strong offensive line, while strikers **Spagna, Cerri, Oliviero** and **Tachikawa** were a handful for Manchester's defenders.

Going in to the lasts series of matches, Otter could not escape relegation to division 4. They nonetheless finished the season beating Bedford 13 -11 and Cambridge 16 -11.

### **London League**

Otter fields two teams in the London Water Polo League.

In the London League Premiership Division, which is played in a tournament format similar to the National League, the Otter first team won 3 of its 14 matches finishing in 7th position in a division of 8 teams.

The Otter II (1869) team played in the in the London League second division, which is played in the more traditional home and away fixture basis. Otter were handicapped this year by the lack of a "home" pool; the team finished last in a division of 6 teams. Otter II will play next year in London League division 3.

### **Thameside and Middlesex Leagues**

In 2011 Otter III competed in:

- The Thameside Water Polo Associsation division 1 finishing mid table.
- The Thameside Water Polo Assocation handicap knock-out cup competition – losing semi finalists.
- The Middlesex Water Polo League division 2 finishing mid table.

In most games, including the most distant away fixtures, Otter III were able to field a full team of 13; a good indication of the underlying health of men's water polo at Otter.



### **WOMEN'S WATER POLO**

### **Ladies First Team**

National League Division 1:3rd

European Champions League: through to second round; qualified for 2012

British Water Polo Championships: 2nd

### **Ladies Second Team**

National League Division 3: 1st equal (promoted)

Most valuable player: Alexis Higlett

Otter First and Second (Lutra) ladies water polo teams have had another busy and successful year playing for the first time in international leagues as well as in the inaugural joint women's and men's leagues under the new name of the British Water Polo League.

The Otter ladies first team started off their British Water Polo League Division 1 campaign with a close win against Sheffield and a much more comfortable win against Leeds. The following weekend saw a disappointing defeat against local rivals Penguin Emperors, but the team came within a goal of beating Liverpool Lizards, the second top team in the country. In the next weekend of the competition impressive 13-7 and 12-7 defeats of Coventry and Liverpool Liverbirds respectively secured Otter a place in the 'Super Fives' competition in the second half of the league, giving them a chance to qualify for both the European 'Champion's League' in 2012 (repeating their feat of 2011) and the ASA British Championships.

With their place in the 'Super fives' sorted, the Otter first team then set off to compete in the European Champion's League to which they had earned entry in 2010. The first round took them to Patras in Greece where they faced the local team as well as teams from Italy, Spain and Israel. They knew they had their work cut out for them from the beginning as they were the only team at the competition who did not have any professional players in their team. In their first match Coach **Nick Buller** challenged the team to get both the first kick out and the first goal against the home team, and they stepped up to the challenge and achieved both. The game ended with a respectable score of 16 to the home team and 3 goals to Otter.

Otter continued to fare much better than the other teams had expected of an amateur team with a score of 7-2 to the Spanish team and 24-3 to the all-professional Italian team. This meant that, at the end of the competition, it came down to a do-or-die match against the team from Israel to qualify for the next round. The final match had the Otter supporters on the edge of their seats throughout, with Otter trailing 4-2 at the end of the 3rd quarter. But the 4th quarter saw the ultimate come-back where the work put in over the previous quarters to wear down their opponents paid off. Otter scored 5 goals to demolish the Israeli team and earn qualification to the



The Otters line up to face the opposition in Patras. From left to right: Lindsey Williams, Thania Tympanari, Lex Higlett,
Roxy Hargreaves, Sarah Tollefson, Peggy Etiebet, Kate Frazer, Vivi Castagna, Rebecca Mulcahy, Sarah Benett, Laura Shears and Lizzie Dunn

next round of the competition, the only British team to do so as local rivals Penguin did not progress.

So the international jet-setting continued with a trip to Imperia on the Italian Riviera to face even tougher competition. This time Otter were pitched against teams from Italy, Greece and Russia. The Greek team had finished 3rd in the European Champion's League the previous year, the Italian team included multiple Olympians from Beijing and all 3 of the teams they faced eventually went on to qualify for the semi-finals of the competition, so a pretty unlucky draw for the Otter team.

The team remained positive despite coming face to face with some of the best water polo players in the world and worked hard to improve their play and learn lessons to take back for the second half of the British water polo league. In the end, against world class, professional competition, Otter's 3 defeats meant the end of their participation in the 2011 Champion's league.

Back in the UK, it was time for the second half of the British Water Polo League - the Super Fives. The mission now was to secure a place in the British championships as well as the European Champion's League for 2012.

Their European experience didn't quite allow the Otter ladies to beat top-of-the-league Manchester, but it was pretty close at 10-6 to Manchester. Wins against Coventry and local rivals Penguin successfully secured Otter 3rd place in the table and qualification to both the British Water Polo Championships and the European Champions League again in 2012.

In the British Water Polo Championships, a competition organised by the ASA involving only the top 4 ladies teams in the country, Otter ladies went into the competition ranked 3rd, so were up against 2nd ranked team Liverpool on day 1 of the competition. Going into the match Otter had everything to play for, including a chance to qualify for the final of the competition which would give them the opportunity to improve on their ranking of 3rd in the league by guaranteeing them a top 2 place.

Otter ended the first quarter 3 goals to one down, but worked hard in the second quarter to thwart all of Liverpool's attempts on goal taking them into the second quarter level pegging at 3 goals each. In the third quarter Otter stormed into the lead finishing the quar-

ter 6-4 ahead and eventually went on to win the match comfortably 11-7. This victory meant a place in the final against 2011 British Championship winners Manchester. Otter put up a stiff competition for the defending champions, and opened well with the score at 2-2 at the end of the first quarter and deadlocked at 5-5 at half time. Otter then scored twice to lead 7-5, but Manchester responded with another 2 goals, meaning that the scores were still equal going into the final quarter. Unfortunately Manchester then scored a goal with 2 minutes to go and Otter just didn't have enough time to draw level again and force the match into extra time.

These were spectacular results for a team who only qualified to take part in the competition for the first time in 2011 and can now officially be referred to as the 2nd best ladies water polo team in Britain.

In 2012 Otter ladies water polo will have one team in the first Division of the British Water Polo League, having also earned a place in the European Champion's League for the 2nd year running, and a second team in the second division of the national league. This makes Otter not only the 3rd top water polo club in the country, but also (and crucially) the best ladies water club in London, an achievement that will help us continue to attract new members in the future. We owe a great deal to the rest of the Club who have all helped to ensure this success: we wouldn't be known for our second half comebacks if it weren't for all the extra swimming and support we get from the rest of the club!

### Ladies Second (Lutra) team

Although **Nicole Freeman**'s (now **Womack**) wedding meant that quite a number of the team were on the west coast of the USA for the first weekend of Otter Lutra's BWPL campaign, the team managed to draw with their London rivals Penguin Rockhoppers and were narrowly defeated by Liverpool. The second weekend saw the return of many key team members and a coaching debut for **Peggy Etiebet**. This return to full strength meant the team posted 3 wins out of 3, including an impressive 14-3 victory over Sunderland, leaving Otter Lutra ranked second in division 3. Two further wins in front of a home crowd in Basingstoke comfortably secured Otter Lutra a place in Championship 2 in the second half of the league, meaning a chance to compete against teams from Division 2 for a space in the higher division in the 2012 season.

Their campaign in Championship 2 got off to a challenging start with Otter Lutra showing their grit and determination to pull back from a deficit to secure a draw against the Welsh Wanderers, but after that things became a little more straight-forward with the team winning every one of their remaining matches, a very impressive feat when considering three of the teams they were playing against were teams from division 2 of the league. They finished in equal first place on points, ensuring promotion to division 2 next season.



The Otters at British Champs 2011. Front Row: (Left to Right) Nicole Freeman, Lindsey William. (Captain), Marie Mulligan, Emily Viskovic, Joanne Ayres, Joanne Alden Back Row (Left to Right) Nick Buller (Coach), Rebecca Mulcahy, Sarah Bennett, Elizabeth Dunn, Vera Gielen, Thania Tympanari, Peggy Etiebet





Roxy Hargreaves gets an excellent goal past the Spanish defence

### **Otter Ladies Water Polo Coach**

### **Nick Buller**

Nick has been pivotal in the team's growing success. This has meant progressing from having just one team in the 3rd division of the national league to being the 3rd top team in the 1st division, qualifying for a place in the LEN trophy tournament in Europe for the second time in 2012 and finishing the year ranked second in the UK, as well as having a second team now promoted to the second division this year.

He has been balancing this commitment to Otter water polo with his responsibilities as assistant coach to the youth and junior national squads and as Head Water Polo Coach of the Regional Beacon Programme at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

Ladies Water Polo players commented: "We are extremely lucky to have a coach of this quality working with our team and look forward to even greater success in the future."



Cause for celebration as the Otters defeat the Israeli team and earn their place in round 2 of ropean 'Champion's League'



Most valuable player Lex Higlett in acti



The second round of the competition brings the chance for Lindsey Williams to mark Elisa Casanova, one-time captain of the Italian national team

### **MULTISPORTS**

Otter and Great Britain's **Rachel Joyce** won the Lanzarote Ironman, her first pro Ironman win, and at "one of my favourite training venues and a run course record to boot (plus 3mins30 off Paula Newby Fraser's 1995 record". She then came 4th in an especially tough Hawaii Ironman and blogged: "Fourth. I'm usually not too emotional crossing the line but I felt a heap of emotions. Relief that I could stop running, happy that I'd gone one better than last year, proud I'd kept myself together to some degree and also maybe just a little flat. That sounds stupid. I had just completed my fastest Ironman to date, and achieved my best position at the Ironman World Champs. I guess I was disappointed that I couldn't run how I know I can but having said that, I ran as well as I could on the day and did give everything. Now, with a week's worth of perspective I feel proud to have been part of one the closest, and most exciting women's races here for a while...[and have] a new belief in myself

that my results in Kona aren't just a fluke and that I can perform to the highest level in this sport."

She went on to prove just that by winning the International Triathlon Union (ITU) Long Distance World Championships in Las Vegas. The race took on a bike/run format after the swim was cancelled due to frigid (17 degree water) conditions at Lake Las Vegas. Rachel recorded the second fastest bike split of the day and excelled on the run, taking the win in 5:34:15.



Rachel Joyce on her way to the Ironman World title

**Chris Owens** qualified for the International Triathlon Union (ITU) World Championships, held at the Ming Tombs Reservoir site, used for the 2008 Olympic triathlon, an hour's drive west of Beijing. Around 2,000 athletes took part in sprint and standard (Olympic distance) events,

The elite field raced in tough conditions, but Sunday – the age group championship day- dawned with almost perfect conditions for racing – light breeze, no cloud and, as the rain had stopped overnight, no rain, although still some wet patches on the roads. Chris's wave started at the relatively civilised time of 7:50, with a non-wetsuited swim in the 24 degree reservoir. The bike course was three laps with a perfect surface and lots of swooping turns, and a decent hill each lap. Chris finished with a solid run to claim 4th place in his first world championship (M55-59).

Chris qualified by winning the inaugural English National Championship (M55-59) in 2011.

**Alex Fraser** represented GB in the GB Youth A team in the European Modern Pentathlon Championships in Hungary in August 2011.



Chris Owens wins the inaugural English triathlon title, M 55-59

### **CLUB ACTIVITIES**

### **Pre-Bath Cup**

Every March there is a National schools relay gala held at Crystal Palace, competing for the Bath Cup, which Otter has traditionally organised. On the eve of the relay gala there is a warm-up meet – "The Pre-Bath Cup" – where a number of schools teams (16-18 year olds) compete at St Paul's Boys School in Barnes and Otter have traditionally fielded a men's team to compete.

Otter may be double their age (or more!) and on half (or less) the number of training sessions, but can still cut it when it comes to racing. 2011 was no exception with **Andy Aitken, Matt Burgham, Ollie Caldwell, Dave Roberts** and **Ben Thomas** taking up the challenge.

With some initial confusion over the start time for the gala, the Otter team used the 4x50m medley relay as their warm-up and managed a very pleasing 2nd place. Andy took on the backstroke, Matt the breaststroke, Ben the butterfly, Dave the freestyle and Ollie the IM responsibilities. The team continued in fine form throughout the competition and finished a credible place 2nd out of 12 teams.

# Club Championships Handicap Races for the G H Rope Averages Trophy

In 2011, we spread the handicap races through the year to avoid last year's over-crowded November and December. But the premise remains the same: **Cat Hasnain**, as Hon Handicapper, predicts each swimmer's time in each event, based on form, and the winner is the

person furthest inside their handicap, which allows Otters of all speeds to race against each other.

Once again winners came from across the lanes with Avile Rumbos-Rodriguez taking the 125m and 50m free, coach Anna Ochocinska the 400m individual medley and Hannah Brown the 200m free, Jason Parrish the 100m free and Alex Capon the sealed 100m free.

The open water events (see below) also form part of the handicaps. Established members Andrew Craig and Jim MacKenzie dominated the longer races with Andrew taking the quarter and half mile titles and Jim the mile.

The overall handicap crown was taken by Avile Rumbos-Rodriguez with 25 points. Anna was runner-up with 20 points and Andrew took third with 18 points (17 of which were scored in open water).



GH Rope averages trophy

The veterans' 50m free saw Francesca Wright finally break Tony Ray's stranglehold on the title to narrowly pip him to be the 2011 winner.

### **Club Open Water Races**

### Half mile, Henley

Twenty five Otters competed at Henley for the half mile. Andrew Craig won the handicap, with past President Roger Sharpley taking second and **Ric Jone**s in hot pursuit in third. (There is no scratch swim.) Thanks to Deidre Ward for organising the event.



### **Quarter mile, Hackney**

Heroic last minute organisation by the Hon Treasurer saw the guarter mile booked at London Fields on a rather chilly November afternoon. The more unusual setting of a long course pool confused some participants but not winner **Andrew Craig** or runners-up Peter Rae and Bob Palmer.

The men's scratch race was won by Chris Sutton, with Mark Chopra and Greg Camiskey taking second and third. Talented newcomer Madeline Parra took the women's scratch race, with captain Gina Hobson in second and Michelle Senecal in third. Otters followed the swim with a hearty supper at **Bob Thomas**'s nearby watering hole.

### Mile, Windsor

24 Otters took to the water to compete in the annual Otter Mile in Windsor on 1 July 2011.

After the whistle, Dave Warren and John Talbott took an early lead and battled it out down the winding course, with Dave the first across the line and winner of the Dudley Cup in 21:15. Second place was John Talbott and in third was Greg Chomiskey.

Jessica Trevellick was the first female swimmer home in a time of 23:30, securing the Forsberg Memorial Cup.

The mile swim is also a sealed handicap event and the winner of the Cunningham plate was Jim MacKenzie.

Swimmers and supporters gathered at the Bexley Arms for refreshment where President James Stewart presented the trophies.

The event was splendidly organised by **Deirdre Ward**.

### Otter Golf, May 2011

Golfing and lunching members of Otter gathered at the Royal Wimbledon Golf Club for their annual Championship for the George Rope Trophy. 27 people attended although only 11 actually played golf, but four even played a second round after lunch!

The winner of the George Rope Cup was David Gawler with 31 points with Paul Hindle 2nd, and Andrew Craig 3rd.

Many thanks to **Mark Grundy** for his usual fine organisation.



Half mile preparations, with eventual winner Andrew Craig far right

### **OTTERS AT THE OLYMPICS**



### **ANNE JONES**

'A safe and secure Games will be one of the biggest security challenges the UK has ever faced'. Anne volunteered to step outside her day job and support this work at the Home Office in the lead-up to and during Games time. But unlike tube drivers, she doesn't get paid any extra for it. Anne has a



key role in preparations taking into account a broad range of risks from terrorism, public order, serious and organised crime and non-malicious incidents such as accidents and extreme weather

### **HANNAH BROWN**

As Venue Transport Manager for the Olympic Park, her role is to ensure that transport around the Olympic Park is integrated so that Games Family vehicles (athletes, officials etc) can access the Park quickly and easily, whilst ensuring residents and businesses aren't affected



any more than necessary. She will be managing the largest temporary cycle park ever seen in the UK and running a shuttle bus from Stratford station to the security gate for those with accessibility needs, because without this the station won't cope with the additional demand for lifts and people would have to wait for about 4 hours at peak times! Hannah is also responsible for introducing parking restrictions around the whole Olympic Park so that spectators can't drive to the Games to ensure that London meets our bid promise of a public transport Games.

### **ALEX FRASER**

Alex will be carrying the Olympic flame somewhere on the leg between Portsmouth and Brighton on July 18. Alex was selected by Lloyds TSB for one of their sponsored places because he receives funding for his Modern Pentathlon training (he has been selected for the under 19 GB team) through the Lloyds Local heroes scheme.



### **JOHN TALBOTT**

John is the Olympic Venue Results Manager for Water Polo. He's responsible for all Water Polo results and statistics during the test event and Olympic Games including the Television Broadcasts, London 2012.com (expected to be visited more times than Facebook during the Olympic Games), Commentator Systems, Athlete/Officials/Press information systems, Scoreboards in the Water Polo Arena and Printed Reports.

### **SARAH (BUGSY) BENETT**

Sarah will be a volunteer Games Maker at the water polo arena. As an Athlete Services Team Member she'll be part of a team ensuring a great experience for all athletes at the venue - for example delivering tours for athletes, maintaining the athlete areas and responding to any issues the athletes have. The role will also include



stewarding access points to the competition field of play and controlling athlete seating areas.

### **BOB ISHERWOOD**

Bob is the Electrical Engineering Adjudicator on the Olympic Delivery Authority's Dispute Adjudication Panel for the construction of the 2012 facilities. Given the success of the construction to date, there has been very little to adjudicate so far. Bob is also on the ASA's Independent Disciplinary and Dispute Resolution Panel (IDDRP), and as such may be called upon to arbitrate disputes during the Games should they arise.

### **CHARLES DOXAT**

Past-President Charles Doxat will be marshaling at six events, including the men's and women's triathlon, men's and women's cycle road race, men's and women's cycle time trial.



### JOHN GOODBODY

John will be reporting his 12th Summer Olympics (making him the joint UK record-holder level with Barry Davies, BBC, and Alan Hubbard, Independent on Sunday). The photo shows John at the opening of the Olympic pool.



### FROM THE EDITOR'S ARCHIVES

Alan Blumlein (1903-1942) is recognised as the inventor of stereo sound recording and reproduction. He was also instrumental in helping EMI-Marconi drive the final nails into the coffin of Baird Television 75 years ago. It is less well known that he was a keen swimmer. His biographer (R. C. Alexander) reports that after school (Highgate) and Imperial College "... he swam for the Otter Club. He even won two cups for them..." and, sure enough, he was one of the winners of the Ladies' Challenge Cup in 1926. But his wife recalled: "He gave up the Otter Club because he wasn't one of those who would go into the bar and be hearty afterwards. He enjoyed the swimming".

He died when the plane in which he was testing a new radar system crashed in Herefordshire. If the Club archives ever see the light of day more might be revealed.



### **GIANT OTTERS**

During a visit to Guyana, this February, **Tony Ray** presented an Otter T shirt to Diane McTurk, who has been featured in various films that have been shown here on television in recent years, and who is a veteran campaigner for the conservation of giant otters in that country. As a result of her efforts, there is now a total ban on the hunting of them in Guyana, and the population is thriving again. The photo of her and Tony was taken at her home Karanambu, on the Rupununi River, which is so isolated, that you can't find it on the maps! As a large (if not giant) Otter himself, Tony feels that conservation of the species is of prime importance.



### **AFTERWORD**

After three thoroughly enjoyable years as Hon Editor, I hand over to Anne Jones and Monika Kreusman. Thank you all for your support, encouragement and contributions. Most of all, thank you for swimming, playing polo and supporting Otter – that's what the Annual Report is about!



Barbara Woodward escapes the pressures of editing the Annual Report!

### **OTTER DINNER**

Lesley Davies, Matt Burgham and their team organized the Otter Dinner on Friday 3 February. Around 90 members and guests enjoyed a three course meal, the President's annual speech and dancing in to the small hours at the Strand Palace Hotel



L to R Katherine Mearman, Lauren Edwards, Gina Hobson (captain) and Michelle Senecal at the dinne.



-R: Katie Kerr, John Talbott, Cat Hasnain



Dave Warren and Dave Roberts



L to R Derek Parr, Dave Warren, Ben Thomas, Dave Roberts: the winning men's Decathlon team

### **2011 CHAMPIONSHIP**

RACES (WOMEN)	YEAR DONATED	EVENT	WINNER
(No trophy)		50 M Freestyle	S. Westwood
		50 M Butterfly	C. Dobson-Hasnain
		50 M Backstroke	
		50 M Breaststroke	
J.R.G. Millner C.C.	1977	100 M Freestyle	K. Kerr
Club Trophy	2001	100 M Butterfly	C. Dobson-Hasnain
Club Trophy	2001	100 M Backstroke	G. Hobson
2nd Annison C.C.	1914	100 M Breaststroke	C. Dobson-Hasnain
Club Trophy	2001	400 M Freestyle	M. Parra
Edgar Salver	1952	100 M Medley	S. Westwood
Arthur Batt Trophy	1996	200 M Medley	K. Kerr
C.G. Forsberg Memorial	2001	Mile Open Water	J.Trevellick
Jackson Trophy	1993	Points Total	C. Dobson-Hasnain

RACES (MEN)	YEAR DONATED	EVENT	WINNER
(No trophy)		50 M Freestyle	D. Abel
		50 M Butterfly	D. Warren
		50 M Backstroke	D. Warren
		50 M Breaststroke	D. Warren
5th Humphreys	1911	100 M Freestyle	J. Parrish
Peters Tankard	1966	100 M Butterfly	D. Warren
Brown C.C.	1889	100 M Backstroke	D. Warren
2nd Annison C.C.	1914	100 M Breaststroke	D. Warren
Collis Brown	1899	400 M Freestyle	D. Warren
Edgar Salver	1952	100 M Medley	D. Warren
Arthur Batt Trophy	1996	200 M Medley	D. Warren
Dudley C.C.	1898	Mile Open Water	D. Warren
Buller C.C.	1905	Points Total	D. Warren

2011 WATER POLO	YEAR DONATED	WINNER
J.H.R. Haswell Trophy	1998	L. Estrella
Women's Team award	2003	A. Higlett

HANDICAP EVENTS	YEAR DONATED	WINNER
George Rope Averages	1911	A. Rumbos-Rodriguez
Frank Sachs Open Water	1923	A. Craig
Otter Golf	1923	D. Gawler

2011 HANDICAP EVENTS	YEAR	DONOR	EVENT	WINNER
Macdonald C.C.	1893	A.R. Macdonald	50 Metres	A. Rumbos-Rodriguez
Synge-Hutchinson C.C.	1931	Col E.D.B. Synge-Hutchinson	Veterans' 50m	F. Wright
Pyers-Mostyn C.C	1955	Lady Mostyn	100 Metres	J. Parrish
Ladies' C.C.	1874	Lady Friends of Members	125 Metres	A. Rumbos-Rodriguez
Baldon C.C	1934	Club Members	150 Metres	M. Kruesman
Jonas C.C.	1935	Alfred Jonas	200 Metres	H. Brown
Hodge C.C.	1970	Club Members	10 Widths	(Not swum)
Alex Ferguson Memorial	2008	J. McMenemy and A. Booth	400 Metres IM	A. Ochocinska
David Craig Salver	2004	Club Members	Sealed 100 Metres	A. Capon
George H. Rope C.C.	1923	Club Members	Otter Golf	D. Gawler
G. H. Rope Averages	1911	Club Members	Points Total	A. Rumbos-Rodriguez
OPEN WATER				
2nd Tom Batt C.C.	1948	Friends of Tom Batt	Quarter Mile	A. Craig
J.W. Rope Memorial	1921	Club Members	Half Mile	A. Craig
Cunningham Salver	1951	Club Members	Mile	J. Mackenzie
Sachs C.C.	1923	Mrs Frank Sachs	Points Total	A. Craig

### **List of Members 2011**

Honorary Active Life Members			
1946 Fitzsimon, Mr N.E. (1988)	1966 Iliffe, Mr J.K. (2003		
Life Members			
1946 Warnford-Davis, Mr D.M.	1949 Millner, Mr J.R. (1972)	1950 Cooper, Mr G.G. (1972)	1951 Milton, Mr H.P. (2004)
1951 Roberts, Mr R.N. (2004)	1952 Raw, Mr E. (1972)	1953 Gill, Mr A.G. (1982)	1953 Penny, Dr P.T. (1977)
1953 Thorogood, Mr P. (2009)	1953 Vandersteen, Mr M.H. (1999)	1954 Burn, Mr R.G. (2001)	1954 Dussek OBE, Mr I.J. (1973)
1956 Doxat, Mr C. (1999)	1959 Grundy, Mr M.D. (1997)	1960 Downs, Mr M.C. (2003)	1960 Goldberg, Mr M.D. (1980)
1960 McLachlan, Mr M.L. (1980)	1965 Thornton, Mr B. (1993)	1966 Gawler, Mr D. (2008)	1966 Thomas, Mr R. (1988)
	, , , ,	1967 Woodman, Dr M.J. (1980)	
1967 Pointon, Mr G.H. (1978)	1967 Wigginton, Mr A.B. (1991)		1971 Craig, Mr A.R. (2010)
1971 Goodbody, Mr J.B. (2005)	1971 Jones, Mr R.H. (2007)	1976 Mackenzie, Mr J. (2001)	1976 Miller, Mr D.R. (1999)
1979 Marshall, Mr F. (1998)	1980 Redpath, Mrs E.M. (2004)	1981 Courtney, Mr M. (1995)	1981 Plumley, Mr J. (2000)
1983 Woodward OBE, Ms B. (2004)	1984 Goudie, Mr P.A. (2001)	1985 Grace, Mr P.M. (1997)	1990 Williamson, Mr P.K. (2010
1992 Hopkins, Mr R. (2006)	1993 Levitz, Mr M.D. (2010)	1997 Wake, Mr M. (2009)	1998 Gallagher, Mr N.R. (2010)
1998 Vider, Mr P.A. (2007)			
Active, Non-active, Country Memb	pers		
1946 Payne, Mr D.B.	1946 Ricketts, Mr J.L.	1954 Morton, Mr A.J.	1955 Chaney, Mr A.J.
1955 Stossel, Mr C.A.	1956 Harford, Mr R.S.	1959 Kennedy, Dr W.J.	1959 Towers, Mr J.F.
1959 Williamson, Mr R.J.	1960 Lloyd-Mostyn, Dr R.H.	1960 Parr, Mr D.R.	1960 Skidmore OBE, Dr F.D.
1962 Flash, Mr M.H.	1962 Stewart, Mr C.J.	1964 Fox, Dr J.S.	1964 Gordon, Mr J.S.
1966 Nalson, Mr J.K.	1968 Palmer, Dr R.J.	1972 Foxon, Dr M.	1973 Musgrove, Mr N.
1974 Sharpley, Mr R.F.	1975 Bedford, Mr J.	1975 Turner, Mr H.	1976 Hindle, Mr P.E.
1979 Flash, Mr G.M.	1979 Kirk, Mr P.G.	1983 Musgrove, Mr I.	1984 Flash, Mr A.M.
1984 Fraser, Mr T.M.	1985 Stewart, Mrs M.J.	1986 Alderton, Mr R.	1986 Musgrove, Mr G.
1987 Davies, Miss L.	1987 Evans, Mr P.	1988 Wain, Mrs A.L.	1988 Willetts, Mr G.
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1990 Musgrove, Miss H.	1991 Gunning, Dr M.G.	1991 Kendall, Mr T.H.	1991 Owens, Mr C.
1993 McMenemy, Ms E.J.	1994 Amos, Dr M.J.	1994 Bancroft, Dr D.	1994 Murphy, Mr G.
1994 Rae, Mr P.J.	1994 Ray, Mr A.A.	1994 Tugwell, Miss L.G.	1995 Deacon, Miss G.L.
1995 Deacon, Mr L.L.	1995 Fraser, Mr A.	1995 Gallagher, Mr M.	1995 Monk, Mr A.J.
1996 King, Dr C.	1997 Bree, Dr S.	1997 Evans, Mr B.E.	1997 Fry, Mr W.G.
1997 Hardy, Mr V.	1997 Kirk, Mr J.M.	1997 Phillips, Mr R.	1997 Powdrill, Mr G.
1997 Ray, Mr A.J.	1997 Stanton, Mr T.C.	1999 Buckley, Mr E.J.	2000 Hindle, Mr J.E.
2000 Marks, Mr S.	2001 Cerri, Mr P.	2001 Marshall, Ms F.C.	2001 Shaw, Miss E.A.
2001 Freelove, Dr A.	2001 Hope, Miss K.M.	2001 Faulks, Ms D.	2001 Parrish, Mr J.
2001 Lynn, Mr G.	2002 Dean, Ms M.E.	2002 Palmer, Mr J.	2002 Monk, Mr G.P.
2002 Kerton, Mr J.E.	2002 Staines, Mr M.	2002 Mearman, Miss K.	2002 Slater, Ms S.
2003 Joyce, Miss R.	2003 Hobson, Dr G.	2003 Eden, Mr C.G.	2003 Ward, Ms D.
2003 Alden, Ms J.	2003 Juxon, Mr R.	2003 Paynter, Miss D.	2003 Murray, Mr C.
2004 Gibson, Miss A.M.	2004 Corcut, Mrs K.	2004 Toutet, Ms C.	2004 Turner, Mrs E.A.
2004 Boldon, Mr E.M.	2004 Starling, Dr A.	2004 Bew, Miss B.	2004 Mikulskis, Mr D.P.
2004 Williams, Mrs L.J.	2004 Ainley, Mr D.C.	2004 Hudson, Mr A.M.	2004 Salvatore, Mr T.
2005 Russell, Mr A.	2005 Hemsworth, Miss S.	2005 Etiebet, Miss P.E.	2005 Freeman, Miss N.
2005 Couquet, Mrs C.	2005 Buller, Mr N.	2005 Lievesley, Miss A.	2005 Moffett, Ms E.
2005 Thomas, Mr B.	2005 Comiskey, Mr G.M.	2006 Senecal, Miss M.L.	2006 Estrella, Mr L.
2006 Adams, Mr C.J.	2006 Benavides, Mr J.	2006 Krejci, Miss M.	2006 Holcombe, Miss S.
2006 Gebhardt, Mr W.	2006 Cotton, Mr D.	2006 Harrison, Mr S.T.	2006 Aldana, Mr J.F.
2006 Williams, Mr R.L.	2007 Bullock, Mr D.	2007 Proost, Mr P. 2007	2007 Stafford, Mr R.
2007 Bratt, Mr S.	2007 Capon, Mr A.	2007 Leighton, Miss J.	2007 Ochocinska, Ms A.

2007 Hahn, Mr E.	2007 Brown, Miss H.	2007 Dobson, Dr C.A.	2007 Viskovic, Miss E.S.
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2007 Chaney, Dr A.J.	2007 Cook, Mr L.	2007 Lewindon, Mr R.J.	2007 Mulligan, Miss M.A.
2007 Bird, Mr J.	2007 Nogaledo, Mr D.	2007 Rogers, Miss A.	2007 Chopra, Dr M.
2008 Carter, Mr S.J.	2008 Clements-Partridge, Mr A.	2008 Mozzicarelli, Mr F.	2008 Stocker, Miss L.
2008 Gielen, Miss V.	2008 Tollefson, Miss S.	2008 Mulcahy, Miss R.	2008 Orrock, Mr J.
2008 Roberts, Mr D.	2008 Rumbos, Miss A.	2008 Wall, Mr W.A.	2008 Mcinroy, Mr R.B.
2008 Harper, Mr P.	2008 Williams, Mr T.	2008 Kuroda, Mr K.	2008 Sokolic, Mr I.
2008 Sutton, Mr C.	2008 Whittaker, Mr M.	2008 Worsley, Mr D.	2008 Braden, Mr F.
2008 Ratveiska, Miss Z.	2008 Shkurka, Miss E.	2008 Stillman, Ms J.M.	2008 Tufarelli, Mr T.
2008 Wright, Mrs F.J.	2008 Greenberg, Mr S.M.	2009 Rodgers, Miss S.	2009 Talbott, Mr J.R.
2009 Aitken, Mr A.K.	2009 Williams, Mr M.J.	2009 Burgham, Mr M.R.	2009 Williams, Mr J.C.
2009 Ayres, Miss J.C.	2009 Gourlay, Miss A.J.	2009 Effemey, Miss N.H.	2009 Copley, Mr N.J.
2009 Hodgkinson, Mr C.	2009 Jones, Ms A.M.	2009 Zelei, Mr B.	2009 Bampton, Miss L.
2009 Forero, Mr J.H.	2009 Tickner, Mr C.M.	2009 Caldwell, Mr O.J.	2009 Ganase, Mr O.
2009 Sirianni, Mr P.	2009 Kelleher, Mr L.	2009 Shah, Mr A.A.	2009 Shakespeare, Ms S.N.
2009 Forbes, Mr W.	2009 Benett, Miss S.E.	2009 Prentice, Dr H.	2009 Jordan, Mr D.M.
2009 Ryan, Mr E.	2009 Kruesmann, Ms M.	2009 Tympanari, Miss A.	2009 Villanueva, Mr A.
2009 Warren, Mr D.	2010 Brown, Miss T.C.	2010 Holliday, Mr S.G.	2010 Burkinshaw, Mr T.
2010 Celadon, Mr K.L.	2010 Moulson, Mr D.	2010 Norfolk, Mr T.E.	2010 Cox, Mr T.
2010 Felix, Mr P.	2010 Kerr, Miss K.	2010 Pedraja, Mr G.	2010 Webb, Mr M.
2010 Isherwood, Mr R.W.	2010 Bari, Mr F.	2010 Harrison, Mr P.	2010 Chaline, Mr E.R.
2010 Garbutt, Mr K.	2010 Glover, Miss R.J.	2010 Dunn, Miss E.J.	2010 Conway, Mr B.E.
2010 Castagna, Miss V.	2010 Thompson, Mr P.	2010 Kan, Ms L.	2010 Black, Mr K.
2010 Oliviero, Mr G.	2010 Hargreaves, Miss R.	2010 Elsaadany, Mr R.	2010 Mcmahon, Miss C.
2010 Bacher-fuentes, Miss L.	2010 Mason, Mr A.J.	2010 Wyss, Mr T.	2010 Carrington, Miss J.
2010 Hannon, Miss F.A.	2010 Povellato, Ms G.	2010 Anderson, Miss R.L.	2010 Shahbazi, Mr R.
2010 Franklin, Mr J.	2010 Bassey, Mr A.	2010 Tachikawa, Mr T.	2010 Tarko, Mr H.
2010 Razaz, Miss P.	2011 Picker, Mr S.	2011 Templeton, Mr M.J.	2011 Bond, Mr I.
2011 Dearsley, Miss E.	2011 Louw, Dr A.R.	2011 Prinsloo, Mr H.	2011 Bressi, Mr F.
2011 Trevellick, Miss J.	2011 Oakes, Ms A.L.	2011 Spagna, Mr P.	2011 Bland, Mr S.
2011 Edmonds, Dr P.	2011 Romozzi, Mr L.	2011 Marin, Mr I.	2011 Costello, Mr K.
2011 Lewis, Mr J.	2011 Pak, Mr J.	2011 Schuring, Mr B.	2011 Varetta, Mr F.
2011 Holland, Mr L.	2011 Muscato, Mr L.	2011 Napoli, Mr F.	2011 Glennie, Miss G.
2011 Lacava, Mr J.	2011 Linn, Mr J.R.	2011 Abel, Mr D.	2011 Cockill, Mr M.
2011 Higlett, Miss A.	2011 Shannon, Miss H.	2011 Williams, Mr E.	2011 Deschatres, Mr F.
2011 Gaunt, Mr T.	2011 Henderson-gough, Miss F.L.	2011 Sharples, Mr J.	2011 Jewell, Mr J.
2011 Longman, Miss A.	2011 Bradbury, Miss R.C.	2011 Orosz, Mr G.	2011 Scanlan, Mr J.
2011 Knowles, Mr J.	2011 Grainge, Mr M.R.	2011 Harris, Miss L.J.	2011 Kalisvaart, Mr A.
2011 Stewart, Mr P.	2011 Kelly, Miss J.M.	2011 Carvalho, Miss L.A.	2011 Frazer, Miss K.
2011 Sheldrick, Mr T.	2011 Westwood, Miss S.E.	2011 Parra, Ms M.	2011 Coomer, Miss A.
2011 Ferrari, Mr D.	2011 Roberts, Dr J.	2011 Marchese, Mr P.	2011 James, Mr B.
2011 Csizsinszky, Mr D.	2011 Moores, Miss N.H.	2011 Bini, Dr M.	2011 Hussey, Mr O.
2011 Marra, Mr A.W.	2011 Salvemini, Miss E.	2011 Cook, Mr C.T.	2011 Davis, Mr M.
2011 Thorpe, Miss V.			
Junior Members			
1995 Fraser, Mr T.	2005 Miller, Mr R.G.	2005 Miller, Miss K.A.	2005 Miller, Miss A.T.
2005 Miller, Mr L.A.	2005 Miller, Mr B.Q. 2	010 Tafazolli, Miss B.M.	2011 Wain, Miss Z.F.

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