

OTTER SWIMMING CLUB

FOUNDED 1869



ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

143rd SEASON 2012





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PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

2012 was a year inevitably dominated by the London Olympic and Paralympic Games. However, our members were no less active for it. This excellent report, compiled by our new Editor Anne Jones, covers not only the key events in our season and the many successes enjoyed, but also other updates across our membership base. Sadly, this year also includes the loss of two long-standing members, the legendary Double Olympian, Ron Roberts and our hugely respected former President, Norman Fitzsimon.

Last year's report profiled members who were active behind the scenes in the Games, including those who gave their time as Games Makers and helped make the Games a success. As a club of course we had an additional interest with one of our members, Susie Rodgers, being selected for GB's Paralympic swimming team. Susie writes of her experiences later in this report. Having viewed from a respectful distance the intensity that this young lady brings to her training in our club sessions, I can say that her success is nothing less than richly deserved.

Just as the volunteers made the Games, it is our members who generously give their time in the background who make this club. My thanks go to all who helped – on and off the committee. Special thanks go to: Martin Flash, our Honorary Treasurer, who has guided us through recent difficult financial circumstances; our highly efficient Honorary Secretary, Monika Kruesmann, who brought order to our committee meetings; the Swimming and Water Polo Captains; Dave Warren, who handled our swimming handicap races; Lesley Davies, whose willingness to step up when needed has made her such a valued member; and of course all coaches, whose expertise is key to our continuing success.



*Alex Fraser (left) James Stewart (right)
with Alex's Olympic Relay Torch.*

Competitively, 2012 has been a good year for the club: we were joint winners of the top club trophy at the Long Course Nationals. Our twelve-member team achieved a number of top-ten finishes at World Masters, with Dave Warren winning three silver medals. Ten members won events in their age groups at the Short Course Nationals, with Dave Warren achieving three British records and the club winning a number of relays. The combination of these and other members' results meant that our men's and ladies' teams both won the

National Decathlon Competition, repeating a double success first achieved in 2010.

While our swimmers compete within five-year age bands, our water polo teams compete against the best of all ages nationally. Coached skilfully by Nick Buller, our ladies' First Team came second in the British Water Polo League (BWPL) Super 5s (the top five clubs in the country) and qualified for the European Champions League in 2013. Our ladies' Second Team won the BWPL Championship 2 title and retained their position in Division 2. In men's polo, following several years in which fortune didn't smile on us, there has been a resurgence under the guidance of coach/player Brian Whitlock. Our men's First Team reached the higher levels of the London League Premier Division and put in some strong performances, coming fourth in BWPL Championship 3 (narrowly missing out on a promotion spot), while our men's Second and Third Teams finished the season with a very creditable 21-13 win-loss record.

Out of the pool, a number of our members have participated in open-water events and triathlons. As the ensuing pages will show, it has been a very active year.

James Stewart, President





CLUB COMMITTEE

President James Stewart	Club Captain Ben Thomas	Committee Filippo Bari Ed Buckley Matt Burgham Chris Eden Anne Jones Marie Mulligan Damian Nogaledo Roger Philips Emma Shkurka Jess Trevellick
Honorary Secretary Monika Kruesmann	Club Vice Captain Catherine Hasnain	
Honorary Treasurer Martin Flash	Captain of Polo (Men) Leon Estrella	
Vice Presidents Lesley Davies Paul Hindle Gina Hobson Anthony Ray Roger Sharpley	Captain of Polo (Ladies) Lex Higlett Honorary Secretary, Polo Ivor Sokolic Honorary Handicapper Dave Warren	



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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The Club returned to financial health this year and made a small gain, the main reasons being a recovery in membership levels and better cost controls in polo. Subscriptions were increased by a minimal amount to consolidate this return. With no major structural changes planned for 2013 this should set a firm base for future years.

The Club continues to budget to break even in normal years, although our control of events is limited, with only indirect control of membership and the resulting income, and our control of expenditure is effectively limited to pool time.

Administratively there has been little change. The Club website is now the main point of reference for prospective, new and existing members and the platform from which all communication with the Club and its various sub-sections and committees is managed, with thanks to Andy Hudson for maintaining it. In 2013 John Talbot will manage a revamp

of the website, with the primary objectives of streamlining club management and making it easier for members to access information. However, members will continue to receive Club communications by hard and soft copy.

INCOME STATEMENT

The Club had a surplus of three per cent of income as a result of better general cost controls, particularly in the area of ladies' water polo, and a rise in membership.

This was the first year that the Club received match fee contributions from the ladies' polo players. The higher proportion of student members in ladies' polo accounted for weaker subscription income. Entering one of the European club competitions and having two teams entered in the National League added to costs. Members still cover the cost of their individual competition entries, travel and accommodation, but the Club pays team entry costs, such

as relays for swimmers and competition charges for polo players. The Club aims to continue competing at the highest levels, but as this does not affect all members equally, some level of personal contribution has been considered to be the fairest approach.

Another reason for the surplus was a generous level of donations from members over and above subscriptions. This money goes to what is known as the Prizes and General Fund, a fund used to help with annual costs.

Prizes and General Fund donors – our thanks to the following:

Chris Adams, Nicolas Barber, Kerry Black, Nick Buller, Dan Bullock, Matt Burgham, Alessandra Canepa, Vivi Castagna, Greg Comiskey, Chris Cook, Matthew Davis, Martha Dean, Mike Downs, Bryce Eather, John Fox, Wilton Fry, David Gawler, Valeria Gissi, Peter Grace, Chris Grey, Felicity Hannon, Vic Hardy, Roxanne Hargreaves, Cat Hasnain, Lex Higlett, James Hindle, Xavier Imbs, Bob Isherwood, Lee Kelleher, Katie Kerr, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Andrew Louw, Dan Mikulskis, Erica Moffett, Andrew Morton, Damian Nogaledo, Doug Payne, Avilé Rumbos, James Scanlan, Roger Sharpley, Liz Shaw, Paolo Sirianni, David Skidmore OBE, Rob Stafford, James Stewart, Cliff Stossel, Brooke Tafazolli, Bob Thomas, John Towers, Tommaso Tufarelli, Liz Turner, Dave Warren, Garry Willetts and Rob Williams.

On the cost side things changed little, with pool costs going up and coaching costs coming down by similar amounts. There was no real change in pool hire structure this year, and frequent closings of Shell made the use of Marshall Street a wise decision. However, some pool billing has been inconsistent and this issue remains unresolved at the time of going to press. The Club still offers eight swimming and seven polo sessions per week, accounting for about 16,000 hours per year of swimming and 10,000 hours of polo.

In this context, our thanks go to: Cat Hasnain, Ben Thomas and Deirdre Ward, who have policed membership for swimmers; Peggy Etiebet and Lex Higlett, who have done that and more for ladies' polo; Leon Estrella and Paul Hindle, who have done similar work for the men; Deirdre Ward, for also taking care of ASA registration for everyone; Tony Ray, who runs the shop and manages competition entries; and Michelle Senecal, Paul Hindle and Bronwen Bew, who manage the pool bookings.

BALANCE SHEET

The balance sheet regained strength on the basis of the improved income statement. As in previous years we have continued to set aside various reserves. These are a self-insurance fund for our trophies, and sinking funds for future costs for spoons (handicap prizes) and 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. This money is kept in the Memorial Fund, as club capital.

Income statement - £	2012	2011
Subscriptions total	96,153	87,217
Special sessions	924	408
Match fees	4,477	210
Prizes & general fund	1,739	1,466
Members income	103,292	89,301
External income	8,936	5,416
Capital income	1,428	1,258
Miscellaneous income	396	0
Other income	10,760	6,674
Income	114,052	95,975
Pool hire costs	(59,295)	(52,801)
Equipment costs	(1,838)	(3,174)
Pools & equipment	(61,133)	(55,975)
Coaching costs	(25,116)	(29,010)
Coaching	(25,116)	(29,010)
Water polo expenses	(8,892)	(9,645)
Swimming expenses	(1,491)	(2,001)
Affiliation costs	(5,328)	(4,514)
Prizes and trophies	(749)	(896)
Activity costs	(16,460)	(17,056)
Dinner	(115)	430
Open water races	(753)	(810)
Shop sales	(66)	278
Club activities	(933)	(102)
Insurance	(2,000)	(2,000)
Post and printing costs	(3,894)	(3,765)
Tax	0	0
Miscellaneous costs	(1,054)	(1,959)
Administration	(6,948)	(7,724)
Expenses	(110,590)	(109,867)
Profit / (Loss)	3,462	(13,892)

"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 2012." Hon Auditor. Chris Eden



CLUB PERFORMANCE WATER POLO

Balance sheet - £	2012	2011
Trophies	35,000	35,000
Fixed Assets	35,000	35,000
Investments at cost	30,142	30,142
Self insurance investment	19,738	17,581
Investments	49,880	47,724
Long term assets	84,880	82,724
Bank	18,435	9,083
Debtors	4,983	1,756
Stock	3,295	3,464
Current assets	26,713	14,303
Creditors	(4,288)	(1,983)
Reserves or contingencies	(8,750)	(8,504)
Current liabilities	(13,038)	(10,487)
Working capital	13,675	3,816
Assets	98,554	86,539
Computer fund	3,880	3,630
Spoon fund	7,038	6,338
Sinking funds	10,918	9,968
Provisions	10,918	9,968
Life membership fund	21,295	20,239
Memorial fund	28,876	26,481
Trophy insurance fund	16,983	14,983
Capital funds	67,154	61,703
Balance b/fwd	14,868	28,761
Capital income & reserves	2,152	0
Result for year	3,462	(13,892)
Reserve funds	20,482	14,868
Reserves	87,636	76,571
Reserves & provisions	98,554	86,539

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

Memorial Fund donors – our thanks to the following:

Dan Bullock, Mike Downs, Martin Flash, David Gawler, Mark Grundy, John Illiffe, Andrew Morton, Roger Sharpley, David Skidmore OBE and James Stewart.

The working capital also returned to a healthier number. Its largest component is cash in the bank. The Club needs nearly two months of average expenditure of cash to cover swings in income and costs. The tightest time comes in the second and third quarters, after the flood of annual payment

subscriptions early in the year and as the various bills for affiliation, competitions and so on start to come in. The Club's investments at year-end stood at nearly twice the value carried in the balance sheet (where they are held at cost). The Club's finances should remain in good shape provided we continue to exist within our means.

Lastly, a word of thanks to our auditors: James Palmer stood down this year, and was replaced by Chris Eden. An audit on the Club accounts in the statutory sense is not feasible, but the auditors still have to satisfy themselves that the accounts represent a true and fair reflection of the Club's activities and financial position. The Club is indebted to them for their efforts.

MEMBERSHIP

The Club welcomed 79 new members in 2012 (compared to 72 in 2011), 33 of whom are water polo players (compared to 16 in 2011). The average joining month is still July. The average number of new members over the last 11 years has been 76 with a standard deviation of six. All new members are included in the list of current members attached at the end of this report.

The Club had a churn rate (people joining and leaving during the year) of 28 per cent (compared with 29 per cent in 2011), which affects how the membership levels noted above translate into net membership income. The average age of active members is 32 (32 in 2011) and the average age of the Club is 38 (40 in 2011). Of the overall membership, 25 per cent have been members longer than 15 years, 30 per cent longer than five years and 60 per cent longer than two years. This means 40 per cent of the club have been with us only two years.

The breakdown of the Club membership is shown in the following table.

	2012	2011
Active swimmers	149	148
Country swimmers	22	20
Non-active swimmers	48	53
Life member swimmers	34	35
Junior swimmers	7	7
Total swimmers	260	263
Active polo	75	73
Country polo	4	2
Non-active polo	20	12
Life member polo	8	8
Junior polo	8	1
Total polo	115	96
Total members	375	359

LADIES' POLO

by Lex Higlett and Emma Shkurka

The Otter ladies' First Team had another successful year in both the European and British Water Polo Leagues. After finishing the 2011–2012 season with a silver medal at the ASA British Championships, Otter started this season ready to prove that it was again one of the top ladies' teams in the country.

Division 1

With new Otters GB Captain Fran Leighton, and GB international Vicky Bowen and Japanese international Yoko Kimura joining the ranks, the team started their BWPL campaign with three decisive victories against Sheffield (12-7), West London Penguins (14-3) and Liverpool B (14-2). Their dominant form continued in Watford. Wins again st Liverpool A (11-5) and Bristol (16-3) secured Otter a place in the Super 5s competition with two games in hand.

The final weekend of Division 1 saw Otter clash with top-of-the-table rival Manchester, and third-ranked Coventry. Despite a disappointing last-minute draw (6-6) to Coventry and a (5-9) loss to British champions Manchester, Otter finished the first half of the season in second place. Captain Lex Higlett was Division 1's top goal scorer, with 30 goals.

Division 2 and Championship 2

Otter Lutra (the ladies' Second Team) faced a new challenge, beginning the season in Division 2 of the BWPL after gaining promotion last year and welcoming a number of new Otters:



Championship 2 winners.

Matilda Williams, Emily Grant, Juliet Edey and Hannah Pratchett. The team started the season with a number of disappointing losses, probably due to a lack of match practice and experience playing together. The second weekend proved to be the turning point, when Otter Lutra beat Solihull (17-8). This momentum continued into the final weekend with a win against top-of-the-table (and previously undefeated) Caledonia and a draw with old rivals Cardiff. Unfortunately this late form was not sufficient to enable entry into Championship 1.

Two weekends later Otter Lutra were back in the pool, beginning their Championship 2 campaign. Now playing very well as a team, they beat London rivals Polytechnic (11-3), Liverpool (12-8) and Southampton (15-3) to cement their position at the top of the table. Their dominant form



continued in Manchester as they beat Hucknall and second-placed Tyldesley. The final weekend saw Otter Lutra beat Solihull (11-8) to win Championship 2 with a game to spare.

Centre Forward Matilda Williams was the team's top goal scorer, making it on to the BWPL table. The aim for the coming year is to be competitive from the very start of the season and qualify for Championship 1.

LEN Trophy

With their place in the Super 5s secured, the first team set off to Seville (Spain) to compete in the Ligue Européenne de Natation (LEN) Trophy. A demanding schedule saw the team play against six of the best professional teams in Europe in four days, with some respectable results: GC Ikaklis Apollo Greece (6-13), ZVL Leiden Netherlands (4-24), Galatasaray Istanbul Turkey (7-7), Shturm Russia (3-18), Lille University France (4-12) and Dos Hermanas Sevilla Spain (7-12).

Super 5s

Back in England, it was time for the second half of the BWPL, the Super 5s. Otter kicked off its second Super 5s campaign with a (12-9) win against third-ranked Coventry and a tightly contested (4-8) loss to champions Manchester. Two weekends later they were back with an impressive (18-2) thumping of London rivals West London Penguins and a nail-biting comeback against Liverpool that ended in a draw (8-8).

In December Otter took on champions Manchester for the third time this season. Jumping out to a three-goal lead Otter looked poised to beat Manchester for the first time in Otter history, before a late Manchester goal saw the game finish in a (4-4) draw. While the team were disappointed not to win, they were the only team to take a point from the Manchester side this season and returned the next day to defeat Coventry (7-6) in a great team effort.

On the last weekend of the season Otter showed why it was one of the top two teams in the country with a (16-0) shoot-out against West London Penguins. With one game remaining Otter needed to win or draw against Liverpool A

Lex Higlett in training match against Hamburg.



Women's 2nd Place – London Otter.

to finish the season in second place. The two teams traded goals in the first half before Otter's superior firepower, speed and teamwork saw it pull away for a (9-5) win.

The win secured Otter second place in the BWPL's top division for the first time. It also qualified Otter for both the 2013 ASA British Water Polo Championships and the 2013 European Champions League. Otter finished the season as the best ladies' water polo club in London for the second year running – an achievement that will continue to help us attract new members in the future.

We'd like to thank the club for its ongoing support, without which our results this year would not have been possible.

MEN'S POLO

First Team by Chris Eden

As in recent years, the 2012 season was full of highs and lows, but more in the way of highs this time around. We welcomed Benny Whitnall and Mate Nyaka to the team and also Jason Eckert, who made a welcome return to Otter after five years in his home country, the US.

Otter achieved a creditable record of five wins, two draws and seven losses in the London Premier League (which largely features opposing teams that play in the top two divisions of the BWPL). Most notably, included in those were two draws against West London Penguins and three wins from the last four games. Otter finished sixth out of eight.

Under the guidance of coach/player Brian Whitlock, the team's strategy was based around solid defence and started to come together just as the BWPL season kicked off. In 14 games across the first Division phase and the second Championship phase, Otter won eight and lost six, although the losses were typically closely fought games. Eric Boldon was core to this defensive success and he was voted Player of the Season as a result. Otter finished fifth out of eight.

Team highlights include conceding just three goals in a 15-3 win over University of Bristol in the Division phase and two ten-goal trouncings of Watford (19-9) and Bridgefield (20-10) in the Championship phase, as well as a solid all-round performance against Worthing (unbeaten at that point).

Player highlights were Ivor Sokolic (goalkeeper), Eric Boldon and Leon Estrella – ever solid in defence, Brian Whitlock (scoring 39 goals in ten BWPL games) and new goal-scoring additions Nikos Roussos, Nuno Cerqueira and Orion Ganase who, as well as having the dubious honour of Major King, periodically put goals away from the halfway line.

Thanks must go both to coach/player Brian Whitlock and the management team (Leon Estrella, Ivor Sokolic, Paul Hindle and Damian Nogaedo) for expertly ushering us through the season. Thanks also go to Pierre Cerri, whom we bid farewell to after a decade as a core member of the team. We wish him and his wife Rhona the best of luck in Geneva.

Men's Second and Third Teams by Paul Hindle

During the 2012 season the Otter Second and Third Teams made great leaps forward. Each had a winning season, though sadly without promotion or silverware to show for it.

The Otter Second Team finished third in the London League Division 3, with the best goals scored and goal difference records. The fate of the whole division came down to our last game of the season, a home fixture against the Sutton and Cheam Second Team. A win would have secured automatic promotion, while a draw would have given us the right to a promotion challenge match against the penultimate finisher in Division 2. Frustratingly, however, we lost by one goal.

The Otter Second Team lost in the first round to the West London Penguins Second Team (26- 37) in the London League Referees Cup handicap knock-out competition. The competition was ultimately won by the Watford First Team.

The Otter Third Team finished the season in the Middlesex



Otter keeper Ivor Sokolic meets Italian Captain and keeper Stefano Tempesti at the Olympics Semi-Final.

Water Polo League Division 2 in equal first position on points, losing out on the trophy to the West London Penguins Second Team on goal average.

The Otter Third Team finished third in Thameside Water Polo Association Division 1 and reached the finals in the handicap knock-out competition of the Thameside Water Polo Association, ultimately finishing in third position.

During the 2012 season the Otter Second and Third Teams played a total of 34 games with a fantastic 21-13 win-loss record. Over 35 members represented the club in these competitions alone; a truly international effort with players from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, France, Spain, Italy, Japan, Croatia, Sweden, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, Guatemala, Portugal, Greece, Brazil and Yorkshire. In most games, including many of the most distant fixtures, we were able to field a full team of 13.





CLUB PERFORMANCE SWIMMING

BRITISH MASTERS SWIMMING DECATHLON

by Cat Hasnain

Ten swims: one on each stroke up to 200m, one Individual Medley (IM) and one distance freestyle. The four next top-ranking swims: one each from four of the six categories. The prize: glory and a cash reward for the club. And then ... the anticipation, when the results are not updated until mid-January!

A Herculean last-ditch effort from David Roberts, Michelle Senecal and Matt Davis in mid-December, when many of us were consumed only with the question of how many sleeps it was until Christmas, meant that both the Otter ladies' and men's teams won their respective decathlons. This was the third time for both teams (ladies': 2009, 2010, 2012; men's: 2010, 2011, 2012) and the second time the club has dominated both competitions.

The ladies were led by Gina Hobson (4th lady, 6,033 points) ably assisted by Laure Kearns (12th, 5,548), Cat Hasnain (26th, 4,927) and Michelle Senecal (32nd, 4,825) to beat Camden Swiss Cottage by 21,333 points to 20,260. The men were pushed by Exmouth until the last event of the season to win by 23,402 points to Exmouth's 21,124, with a team made up of Dave Warren (2nd man, 6771 points), Matt Davis (20th, 5212), Dave Roberts (25th, 5103) and Derek Parr (26th, 5099). This has certainly set the bar high for 2013.

HANDICAPS

by Dave Warren

The annual handicap trophy is awarded to the cumulative points winner across 11 handicap events combining pool and open-water swims run by the club throughout the year. These are mainly freestyle events and do include some non-standard distances, such as the 10 widths (at Shell), and the 5 lengths (125m at QMSC). Some events have their own individual trophies.

Most events begin with a pre-seeded start time for each competitor, the exceptions to this being the open-water mile and the sealed 100m freestyle. The start times are set in advance by the Honorary Handicapper based on previous known swims, and new swimmers must swim any three events before being eligible for handicap points.

The winner is the person most under their pre-seeded handicap time, being awarded eight points towards the overall competition, then seven for second, six for third, and so on

down to one point for eighth place and for everyone else who has swum. This means a swimmer swimming all 11 events would gain a minimum of 11 points. This year a total of 95 swimmers were listed within the overall handicap results.

First event of the year, in February, was the 200m freestyle, won by Ed Williams. The next events during the summer months were the mile, won by Ben Thomas, the half-mile, won by Richard Jones, and the quarter-mile won by Michelle Krecji. The remaining events were staggered around the National and Club Championships, with the 100m freestyle taking place in October, ten days before the National Championships – a good training opportunity for those competing in Sheffield, and the handicap was won by Jennifer Kelly.

The sealed 100m freestyle, determined by the results of the main Club Championships 100m freestyle in November, was won by Nima Vaziri. The Vets 50 freestyle for over-45s only (not included in the overall handicap trophy) was won by our coach, Steve Bratt.

The remaining events were held throughout November and December, although due to the closure of QMSC the week before Christmas the final two events were postponed until February 2013. Winners were Anna Ochocinska for the 150m freestyle, Andrew Craig for the 10 widths at Shell, Victor Estella Perez for the 5 lengths at QMSC, Joana Gauer for the 50m freestyle and Jean-Louis Benavides for the 400m IM.

With no single swimmer winning more than one individual event, this led to a very close final result with the top four swimmers separated by just one point: Avilé Rumbos won with 20 points and Lex Higlett, Ramtin Shahbazi and Francesca Wright all tying for second with 19 points.

Open-water handicap

The Sachs Challenge Cup is awarded to the most highly placed handicapped swimmer over the three open-water races. Lex Higlett won with a total of 10 points by finishing fourth in the mile (5 points), 16th in the half-mile (1 point) and fifth in the quarter-mile (4 points).

Joint second for this trophy, just one point behind Lex on 9 points, were Ben Thomas and James Stewart.

NATIONAL LONG COURSE MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Cat Hasnain

In a departure from normal, a somewhat depleted team headed to Sheffield's Ponds Forge for the GB Long Course

Championships in May – after the planned location, Plymouth, failed to open in time for the original March event.

The undoubted star of the weekend was Gina Hobson, who celebrated her new age group with a hat-trick of British records in the 50m fly, and 50m and 100m freestyle. If that was not enough, she took the 50m freestyle record twice in one weekend, once lowering it to 28.00s to lead off the winning ladies' 120+ team in the 4 x 50m freestyle. Then, the following day, she raced her individual event and took it down still further to 27.83s – all not fully tapered.

Another honourable mention goes to Jessica Trelvelick, debuting in her Otter Nationals hat and taking bronze medals in the 100m and 200m freestyle and 200m IM and gaining great times in her remaining events. All this after commenting 'I'm a bit tired after Wednesday's session' – imagine what a taper would do?

Top-three placings were also gained by Roger Lloyd-Mostyn (including gold in the 100m fly), Andrew Louw, Enrico Hahn, Bob Thomas, James Stewart, Tony Ray, Ted Evans (with gold in the 50m backstroke), Ian Bond (taking the no-training approach to win gold in the 50m fly), Peter Rae, Laure Bacher-Fuentes, Michelle Senecal, Cat Hasnain and a brace of golds for Derek Parr in the 50m and 100m fly.

As ever, Otter was well represented in the relays and placed well in all of them. Golds were won by the 280+ men's 4 x 50 freestyle (Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Ted Evans, Bob Thomas, James Stewart), 120+ men's 4 x 50 freestyle (Andrew Louw, Ian Bond, Nicolas Barber, Enrico Hahn), men's 240+ 4 x 100 medley (Paul Goudie, Roger Sharpley, Derek Parr, Steve Bratt), women's 120+ 4 x 50 freestyle (Gina Hobson, Michelle Senecal, Laure Bacher-Fuentes, Cat Hasnain) and mixed 240+ medley (Lesley Davies, Liz Shaw, Derek Parr, Ted Evans).

Despite the small team, Otter took the top club trophy (held jointly with Birmingham Masters) – and a huge thanks goes to James Stewart, who secured this victory with his 800m freestyle.

MIDDLESEX MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Cat Hasnain and Ben Thomas

Congratulations to all Otters who took part in the Middlesex County Championships at Enfield in May. A large contingent was able to retain both the men's and the overall Top County Club titles, and this year with a massive effort from our ladies we were also able to take home the ladies' Top Club title by a mere 14 points – a fantastic result.

There were some really good swims by all involved, representing all training lanes with all individual and relay swims helping towards our Top Club title. This included first competitive swims by: Jeanne Banky, Madeline Parra, Jennifer Kelly, Eliana Salvemini and Ramtim Shabazi. We

would like to make special mention of and ask the following Otters to look after the county trophies on the team's behalf:

Men's Team Trophy: Roger Philips – Not only for the contribution he made in his individual swims, but for his athletic ability during the relays. Also for running from one end of the pool to the other in numerous men's and mixed relays and putting up with being given three sets of conflicting instructions in the space of 20 seconds and still smiling afterwards.

Women's Team Trophy: Jane Leighton – Undisputed 'sprint specialist' Jane put the club first by taking part in a sprint competition, when her favoured races would be in open water and at least another kilometre or more, helping the women's team to take victory over Camden by the narrowest of margins.

Top Club Trophy: Jess Trelvelick – For winning individual and relay county titles, plus always having energy for another race and another relay.

A heartfelt thanks goes to those who preferred not to swim relays at all but did anyway and, as ever, to Steve Bratt for getting us into shape for the event and Tony Ray and Gina Hobson for helping organise the relay teams.

FINA WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Gina Hobson

A small yet perfectly formed pod of 12 Otters headed to Riccione, Italy for the 14th World Masters Championships in June for a mixture of pool and open-water swims. Around 8,000 other swimmers had entered, making it the largest aquatic event ever organised when you include water polo, diving and synchronised swimming. It also meant long days at the pool. However, the organisation was pretty smooth considering the numbers and, with the sun shining the majority of the time, there were worse places to be.

However, best not to discuss the recorded times for the open-water swims with ex-Otter, Ruth Morrison (now Barnes), who saw her first time of 38 minutes extended to 41 minutes, which was quite a distance from the 34 minutes recorded by her coach. Perhaps it was Dave Warren who benefited most when he was moved from 50-something place to bronze and then silver medal position overnight. The open water was particularly popular, with Peter Rae, Dan Bullock and Lesley Cook flying out for the rather pleasant 3km sea swim.

Swimmer of the meet was arguably Dave Warren, who came away with three silver (100m fly, 200m fly, 3km open water), two bronze (200m IM, 400m IM) medals and four more British records (100m fly, 200m fly, 200m IM, 400m

IM). Top tens were also achieved by Derek Parr (7th, 100m fly) and Gina Hobson (6th, 100m freestyle; 8th 50m fly; 9th 100m fly), with the relay teams of Ross Croasdell, Dave Warren, Michelle Senecal and Gina Hobson picking up 6th and 7th in the mixed medley and freestyle respectively.

Andrew Louw (50m and 100m freestyle), Tommaso Tufarelli (200m freestyle) and Liz Shaw (100m breaststroke, 50m freestyle) all improved on their recent Long Course National swims, demonstrating that two successful tapers in a relatively short period is possible. Lesley Davies took on the unenviable challenge of 200m backstroke outdoors early in the week. And thanks to Stefano Picker, who used his local knowledge to find a very friendly and well-located hotel, and congratulations on his season's best in the 800m freestyle.

BARNETT COPTHALL SPRINT MEET

by Andrew Louw

We're always told to give 101% when we race. On 9 September 2012 at Barnet I decided to give 102% and after my final race suffered a cardiac arrest, almost drowned and was clinically dead for a few minutes. A young lifeguard, poolside defibrillator and fellow swimmers saved my life.

Of course it wasn't quite as simple as just having pushed too hard in the pool. I may have had a pre-existing heart condition, a viral infection or used my asthma pump too much. But I was pushing too hard in general: too many hours at work, over-training, not enough sleep, too much caffeine and too many races on the day ... Sound familiar?

Unfortunately, it's frightening how many fit and healthy people die during athletic events. As this report goes to press, two men aged 29 and 37 have died during the swimming leg of the South African Ironman 70.3. This doesn't mean that you won't survive the next practice (although I haven't seen the set), but it does mean that there is an upper limit to the amount of exercise that you can safely

Andrew Louw at the FINA Masters Worlds.



do. Remember that Phidippides of Greece, the first man to run a marathon, died straight afterwards

It's highly unlikely that any of you will ever have a problem, but there is still plenty you can do to minimise your risks. I'm 33 years old and learned the hard way that being safe in the water is about preventing the possible, not just the probable.

- Keep your emergency contact details up to date (through the Otter website).
- Let the coaches know if you are taking any medication or have any medical problems.
- Don't race or train if you are unwell.
- Get lots of rest.
- Have regular check-ups.
- Don't overdo it.

I am very grateful to be here and would like to say a MASSIVE thank you to all of you for keeping me alive on the day and being there during my recovery. I've always thought of swimming as an individual sport, but I have been humbled by the love and support of everyone at Otter and in the Masters swimming community. Otter is more of a family than a club and we have a duty to look after one another. See you in the pool!

THE OTTER MILE

by Dave Warren

The 2012 annual Otter Mile in June saw 24 swimmers being taken by boat one mile up the River Thames from the Windsor Sports Centre. A fast tide led to a quick race. After a close start, Dave Warren edged ahead and continually pulled away from the main group, winning in a time of 16 minutes 17 seconds, almost five minutes quicker than his winning time the previous year. Ben Thomas was second in a time of 17:29, with Mike Reys close behind in a time of 17:40. The first lady was not far behind: Madeline Parra crossed the finish line in a time of 17:57. The next two swimmers to finish were the women's runners-up: Lex Higlett (18:05) and Gina Hobson (18:08).

Although the race is a flat start, with both sexes and all abilities starting together, there is also a handicap trophy awarded to the swimmer deemed to have made the greatest improvement from a predetermined start position and time. This year the winner of the Cunningham Plate was Ben Thomas.

The traditional after-event drinks and food were hosted in a nearby pub, with club President James Stewart awarding the trophies. In his speech special mention was given to Liz Redpath, who we believe became the oldest-ever female finisher of the mile. Thanks go to Chris Sutton for organising.

THE OTTER HALF MILE

by Dave Warren

The annual half-mile race took place in July, three weeks after the mile, in the River Thames at Henley – again kindly



It was another beautiful evening in Henley.

hosted by the Henley Sailing Club. The timing of the event was in some doubt due to heavy rain during the preceding two weeks, which had caused fast currents and the presence of excess debris in the river. Otter organiser Roger Sharpley was in regular contact with the Sailing Club and regularly updated participants about the conditions. It wasn't until the morning of the race that the event was confirmed.

The half-mile is a handicapped start event, with the start times for each competitor staggered by the handicapper from slowest to fastest – with the expectation of everyone crossing the finish line at the same time. The prior heavy rain did result in a very fast race, but the fastest time of 6 minutes 55 seconds by Mike Reys was not quick enough for him to catch the early starters. The first three across the line were Richard Jones, 21 seconds ahead of Felicity Hannon, followed another 15 seconds later by James Stewart. The rest of the 27 starters were closely bunched behind.

Many thanks to the Sailing Club for their hospitality, to Roger Sharpley for organising the event, and to all non-swimmers who attended and assisted with the timekeeping and places.

THE OTTER QUARTER MILE

by Chris Eden

As in 2010, the quarter-mile was held at the unheated Parliament Hill Lido in August as a joint event with a social water polo game. Sunny weather on the day helped ensure that the lack of heating was not an issue. Handicaps established, the competitors lined up for two heats and were set off. The second wave produced the eventual winners, with Michelle Krecji taking first place over Christelle Gautran by just one second! Filippo Bari finished eight seconds later in third place.

A social water polo match followed, giving the swimmers the chance to find out whether it's as tough as the polo players maintain it is. The verdict? Maybe ... but it certainly brought out the competitiveness in the swimmers.



Otters brace themselves for the Half Mile.

The group then retired to The Vine for food, fun and frivolity! Thanks go to Emma Shkurka and Filippo Bari for organising.

NATIONAL SHORT COURSE MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Cat Hasnain and Ben Thomas

A team of 36 Otters made the journey up to Sheffield again for the Masters Short Course Nationals Championships in October. It was another very successful meet, with many Otters smashing their personal bests over the course of the three-day meet. There were too many excellent races to mention each one individually, but here are some of the many highlights.

Sarah Westwood's dominant display in the 100m IM: Sarah stormed to the front on the butterfly leg and then further increased her lead on each 25m, beating her nearest rival by a massive seven seconds. Tommaso Tufarelli swam a personal best in every event this weekend, collecting a brilliant bronze in the 800m freestyle at the end of a gruelling schedule of races. On the way to winning three national titles, Laure Kearne produced some impressive displays all weekend, particularly in the 200m backstroke, dropping her already swift personal best time by three seconds. Paul Goudie stepped up and took one for the team by swimming the 100m fly leg in two relays, dropping four seconds off his 100m fly split from the relay on Friday to the relay swim on Sunday. Sprint specialist Ollie Caldwell recorded personal and season's bests throughout, leaving Sheffield as a multiple national medallist. And to top off all the Otter successes, there were a further three British records for Dave Warren, in the 100m butterfly, 400m freestyle and also the 200m breaststroke (surprisingly the first time Dave has held a breaststroke British record).

Other individual national champions included Cat Hasnain, Charles Doxat, Derek Parr, Gina Hobson, Pete Kirk, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn and Ted Evans. Relay national champions

included the men's 280+ 4 x 100m medley, 4 x 100m freestyle and 4 x 50m medley team of Ted Evans, Charles Doxat, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn and James Stewart; the men's 100+ 4 x 100m freestyle team of Ian Bond, Ben Thomas, Victor Estella Perez and Tommaso Tufarelli. And commiserations to the ladies' 72+ 4 x 50m freestyle team, who had to take on the Loughborough kids and scared them for the first 100m.

Thank you, as ever, to Tony Ray for his hard work herding all the relay teams to their relevant heats and lanes and to Steve Bratt for all of his hard work and effort coaching the squad this year.

THE LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES

by Susie Rodgers

You could feel the floor vibrating beneath your feet. The roar was so loud that I found it hard to sit still. Close your eyes and take in the energy ... Focus on what you need to do.

Any athlete knows that the call-up area, or the waiting room for races, is a pretty nerve-wracking place: sitting in a clinically white room, surrounded by officials and rivals from the top swimming nations in the world, the noise from the crowd on the 'main stage' so loud it was impossible to ignore. The European Championships in 2011 did not prepare me for this.

The preparations of course started long before the Games. I had competed nationally at university in my second year at Newcastle before deciding to focus on my degree. After that my job came first, but after securing a job with the British Council in London, I decided to join Otter in 2008. Then I watched Ellie Simmonds swim to two golds in Beijing and I thought well, why not compete again?

I had lost my British record in the 50m freestyle four years after setting it in 2002, so I wanted to see if I could get it back. By 2009 I had established myself on the national team, but I still had a lot to learn about the politics of British

Anne Jones with the Otter support flag watching Susie's heats at the Aquatic Centre.



swimming, the intricacies of the International Paralympic Committee and the classification system. Looking back on those days, I realise I also had a lot to learn about competing, racing and training.

In 2010 my biggest motivation came when I missed qualifying for the World Championships at trials. I was once again the British record holder for numerous events, but because I didn't hit the correct times in the right competitions, I was not selected. I was on a mission to make that team for the European Championships 2011 in Berlin, where I ended up swimming faster than another S7 taken to the World Championships, hauling five golds and one silver completely unexpectedly. I felt ready for 2012.

But the training was draining: with nine two-hour sessions and three weights sessions, I would get to the end of the week and collapse. I went part-time at work to allow myself the desperately needed recovery time. A great friend and supporter, fellow Otter Rob Williams, helped me through the year by letting me stay with him in Crystal Palace for training, something for which I am eternally grateful.

The plan was coming together though, working hard with both my coach Ron Philpot at Beacon in Crystal Palace and, of course, Otter Head Coach Steve Bratt. Then three months out I tore cartilage in my one knee – less-than-perfect timing? Well, actually, it was. As it turned out I had torn the cartilage back in January but now it had become stuck in the knee joint during a backstroke start at a Masters event. Apparently this could have happened at any point, so at least I had enough time for surgery and rehabilitation. At that point I really did think it was over but I didn't panic: all I wanted was to make the Games no matter what the outcome.

And I did, after all the rehab and the pain and the hard work. I was there. The first time I walked out of the call-up room, my soul lifted. I felt like a rock star. I smiled but was terrified. I went up to the blocks, took off my leg, followed my procedure. The first race was the 100m backstroke and, understandably after the injury, now my least-favourite event. I raced it in a numb state, so making the final really boosted my confidence. I came fifth in the evening and I was pleased: first race done. Back in bed in the Village sleep was hardly possible due to adrenaline, loneliness and nerves.

The next day was the 50m butterfly, my favourite. I went in ranked second in the world and came ... fourth, the worst position. Here I learned at the biggest lesson of the Games: everyone is ready, but the mind wins the race. I sobbed after that race, feeling that I had let everyone down. Fortunately, a great team was there to throw positivity at me: Steve, my parents, my sister and her fiancé, as well as Ellie, saying 'You know now how it feels to be fourth, so don't let yourself feel that again.'

Two days later I was ready for 'Bronze Monday', as I now call it. I was told that day that I would be in the relay, so when



I raced the final of the 100m free, all I could think of was the relay just one hour later. I didn't even realise David Cameron had been shouting my name during the race; it felt unreal and when I touched in for bronze, to me it felt like gold. It was a relief, but I had to keep calm because of the imminent relay race. I went straight past media to the ceremony room to get ready, still wearing my race suit underneath. The following relay was a tough race, but it was great to share the podium with the girls I love so much for my second bronze of the night.

By Thursday and my final race, the 400m freestyle, I was ready to finish. Still, it was the race I had put myself through such punishing training for. Knowing that a big Otter contingent was there that night, I thought to myself 'After this you can enjoy the atmosphere, have a drink and really relax for the first time in a year ... but for now, give them something to cheer about.'

We walked out on to the main stage to a deafening roar – thank you, Otter! It made me smile to hear it. I got on to the blocks and knew my race plan: stick to Courtney like glue – and I did, the whole punishing way. In the last 50m I had nothing left; I was in pain and my lungs on fire, but I heard the roar as I got closer to Courtney. I tried so hard for the silver but she just out-touched me. I wasn't upset though – I had just swum a four-second personal best and set a new

European record. That podium experience was the best of the week, because I truly felt I deserved it for that race and for everything I had put in over the previous year.

All that remains for me to say is a HUGE thank you to those of you who came to support me in person, to roar me home on that final 50, and to those who watched on TV or on their computers at work. Thanks Otter. And a huge, huge thank you to Steve, who put so much hard work into my training over the past four years and who throws positivity at me when I am at my most self-critical.

Susie with her coaches Steve Bratt and Ron Philpot.





CLUB PERFORMANCE OTHER EVENTS

Anne Jones made a return to the water after extensive shoulder joint replacement surgery at the Civil Service National Swimming Championships, where she took the women's title over the 1500m and 400m freestyle as well as golds in a number of individual Masters events – before more surgery and a more sustainable return to swimming for Otter.

OPEN WATER

Deirdre Ward swam the English Channel on 26 July, with her husband Mike and parents Ronan and Liz as support crew, and Chris Osmond piloting the *Sea Farer II* as her support boat. At times battling force-five winds, with speeds gusting at 30 knots, and four-foot waves, and tides taking her away from shore for hours, she landed after 14 hours 38 minutes on the sandy beach of Fort Mahon, by Ambleteuse.

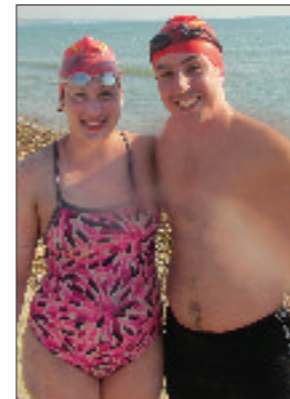
Tory Thorpe swam the English Channel on 13 August in 12 hours, 14 minutes and raised £7,000 for the Alzheimer's Society and Alzheimer's Research UK in the process. Tory was accompanied by support vessel *Pace Arrow* (and Pilot Paul and his team). On board, Team Tory was a group of fellow swimmers from the Serpentine swimming club.

Peter Rae swam the Gibraltar Strait at on 10 July in 3 hours 35 minutes. While out there waiting for the swim he met Philippe Croizon, an amazing limbless Frenchman who swam the English Channel in 2011 and attempted the Strait later that week. He swam the Strait with Paul Metson, a training mate from RADs – he's the other chap in the photo who, unlike Peter, did it in a wetsuit.

Tory Thorpe (front) during her Channel crossing.



Anne Jones with Trophy for 1500m CSSC win.



Deirdre Ward reaches France with her husband.

Lesley Davies swam Lake Coniston and assures us that this is how it's done:

- Head up the M6 to the west end of Lake Coniston.
- Find yourself a buddy in a canoe.
- Ensure your entry has been accepted by the British Long Distance Swimming Association.
- Stop your teeth chattering and put your head down.
- Start singing 'The Grand Old Duke of York' and don't stop until you make the beach at the east end of the lake ... which is five miles away.

While the water was a bit nippy and the weather could have been better (she 'did not expect to be surfing waves') this was a really enjoyable swim. She also got sunburnt in the process, though she is still trying to work out how that happened, as it was rainy all day.

Peter Rae (right) prepares for his early morning swim of the Gibraltar Strait.



Gail Glennie swam the Human Race 'Marathon' 10k at Eton Dorney, famous as the Olympic Games rowing venue, in the summer. Although simply pleased and proud she completed it, she did it in under three hours – an impressive time.

Tullio Salvatore swam the 25th International Marathon Swim from Rapperswil to Zurich (26.4km) on 5 August in a time of 8 hours 15 minutes. Storms threatened to halt the event but on the day only rain materialised. Other participants included former Otters Paul McCann (solo) and Pippa Cronk (part of a three-person relay).

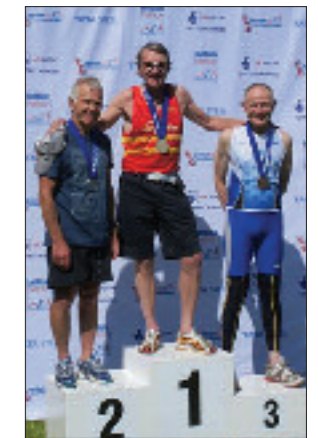
Tullio was also involved in the dress rehearsal of the Olympic 10k marathon swim in the Serpentine the day before the official event, together with a small group of other wannabe Olympic swimmers. He proudly impersonated Italian Martina Grimaldi and swam one and a half laps of the official course, complete with a photo-finish with the swimmer impersonating Keri-Anne Payne, who was awarded gold in the rehearsal event but unfortunately didn't have the same luck on the day.

TRIATHLON

Rachel Joyce had a great year in 2012, competing in a number of new races – Ironman Melbourne, Kansas 70.3, Challenge Roth and Muskoka 70.3 – and winning three of them in the process. Having Challenge Roth, the 'other' legendary Ironman-length triathlon, among those wins was



Tullio Salvatore at registration for the Olympic open water swim rehearsal.



Charles Doxat wins his age group at the British Triathlon Championships.

a real treat. Twice going sub-nine hours only underlined her credibility as a contender to win Ironman Hawaii in Kona, although unfortunately illness got in the way of that this year. Follow her progress on her website, www.racheljoyce.org.

Charles Doxat took up triathlon at age of 49 thanks to Martin Flash, who had a good friend who did them. Having won national titles at V50, 55, and 60 he decided – after a gap

Rachel Joyce wins Challenge Roth.



of ten years since his last one – to have ‘a last hurrah’. He won easily in the end by eight minutes, fastest in all three disciplines. The main reason for his success, apart from training of course, was his two-stone weight loss.

Becky Glover decided at the start of 2012 to step it up – after having raced for several years at Olympic-distance triathlons – to race half-Ironmans (70.3s). Her target race for the year was the UK 70.3 in Wimbleball, Exmoor. After a very cold swim, the tough hilly bike course soon got her going before she headed out on the half marathon through the mud and over the hills, posting the fastest age-group female run time of the race and storming ahead to win her age group by 30 minutes and finish sixth age-group female overall.

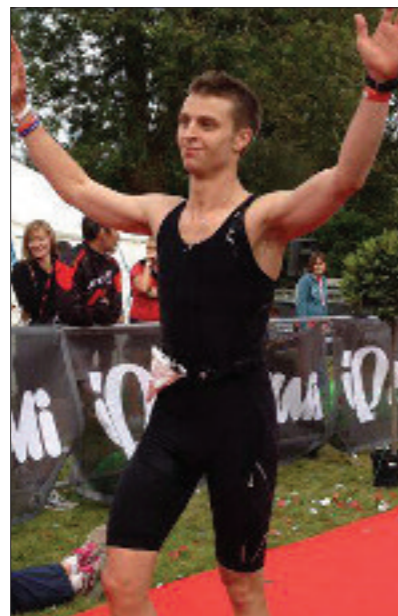
Three weeks later was the British Middle Distance Triathlon Championships in Milton Keynes, where Becky had a strong swim, exiting the water in the top ten females. After the 92km bike race, she pushed through the field on the run to claim a silver medal in her age group and fifth lady overall. The season ended on a high, with Becky improving on her bronze medal in last year’s ITU Age Group World Duathlon Championships to take gold, becoming the 25–29 age group World Duathlon Champion.

Tom Burkinshaw also had a successful year. After coming second in his age group at the Marlow Middle Distance triathlon in June, he had high hopes for the Ironman UK (IMUK) in Bolton: IMUK had been his first triathlon back in 2010. With a time of 11:23 he missed qualifying for the World Championships by three minutes; he returned in 2011, narrowly missing qualification by seven minutes with a time

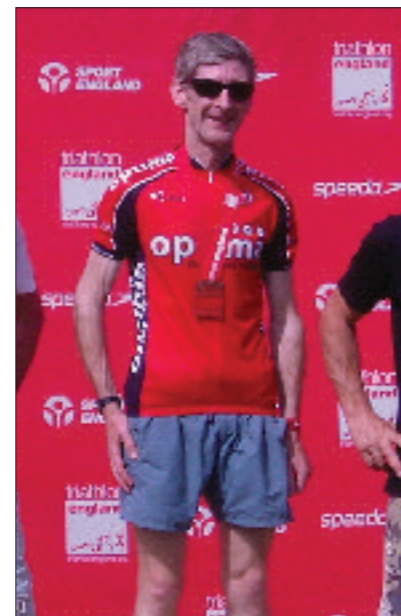
Becky Glover wins her age group at the Ironman 70.3 Wimbleball.



Tom Burkinshaw wins his age group at Challenge Henley.



Chris Owens, the new English Champion (again).



of 10:10. To have been ill the week before the race and then see the race fall apart in front of him, finishing in 10:29, was devastating – despite being placed fourth.

To make up for this, he wanted to have a solid and well-executed race without the additional stress of trying to qualify, and raced Challenge Henley (another Ironman-distance triathlon) instead of attempting qualification again at the Ironman Wales race, where this time he came first in his age group.

Chris Owens won his age group at the English Triathlon Championships in August for the second year in a row – always amusing for a Scot to be named English Champion! Of course, he says, it’s the dynamic training at Shell on Monday night that helped improve his swim in spite of a torn ligament in January cross-country skiing. With flying transitions he nailed the race on the run in 39 minutes, an impressive time that had felt strong, even if his remarks afterwards were ‘I ought to have been snorting blood, not thinking “this feels stylish”.’

OTTER TRAINING CAMP

by Ben Thomas

In September a group of 28 Otters made the trip to Club La Santa in Lanzarote for some warm-weather training and a week of sun, sea, sand and ... swimming!

This was a great training camp, with people improving their fitness levels, honing their skills for Short Course Nationals, or just enjoying the sunshine and the vast array of activities on offer at La Santa. The ‘Javes’ – Dave Roberts ably assisted by Jane Leighton – organised a great week away for the team,



La Santa Training Camp Group.

with everyone coming back to the UK feeling a lot fitter, swimming a lot faster and sporting a great suntan.

Competition was not only confined to the swimming pool; many Otters also took part in windsurfing, kayaking, open water swimming, tennis, beach volleyball, duathlon and triathlon competitions over the course of the week. This was on top of ‘Team Ab-attack’, ‘Fit Ball’ and up to two two-hour swim sessions a day ... and we called this a holiday? There was also plenty of time for relaxing on sun loungers, with the biggest question on everyone’s lips being which flavour of ice cream to buy that day.

Roll on the Otter training camp at La Santa 2013!

OTTER GOLF AND LUNCH

by Mark Grundy

Another splendid day took place at Royal Wimbledon Golf Course on 16 May, when a group of 25 Otters and friends attended this annual function. The weather relented and it was a great sunny day for the athletic members who took part in the golf, despite a very slow group ahead of us who took some five hours to complete a round. I am glad to say that the Golf Club apologised and without being asked reduced the bill by £30. Perhaps I should offer this to the two members who, rather than risk missing any of the lunch, arrived early ... but I have decided the Otter club needed it more (all complaints to Martin Flash).

The winner of the golf, and thus the G.H. Rope Trophy,

was Paul Hindle with 34 points. Second was last year’s winner, David Gawler, with 29 points and third was Charles Doxat, with 23 points. Congratulations to all. The lunch that followed was as good as ever and, owing to the usual over-indulgence, only one Otter could be found trying in vain to get someone to play a second round in the afternoon.

The day was a great success but we still failed to get younger members to attend – apart, of course, from those ‘youngsters’ Matt Staines and Fiona Marshall, and Andrew Craig. Perhaps there will be better luck next year for whoever will be organising it.

Finally, thanks to all who attended, especially those who came from Cornwall: Paul Thorogood; Colin Ball, after a long period of absence; and, despite travel problems, Bob and Sheila Burn; and of course the many past Presidents of Otter.

VISIT OF DR PONG PIN SEAH

by James Stewart

On 20 September 2012, John Fox convened a small gathering at his home to meet Pong Pin Seah, who was making his first visit to UK since his competitive days as a club member. Pin represented Singapore at the Commonwealth Games and, while at University of London, swam for Otter with great distinction in the years 1961 to 1966 inclusive. James recalls him coming fifth in the 110 yards breaststroke final at the National Championships in Blackpool, then televised nationally, in the early 1960s. Pin, whose full name means ‘Bringer of Peace’, took time out of a University of London reunion to join a few former friends.



Visit of Dr Pong Pin Seah.

Standing, from left to right, are Charles Doxat, Drew Grundy, Roger Lloyd-Mostyn, Roger's partner Elizabeth, John Fox, Jeannette Towers, John Towers, Sheila Burn, an un-named university friend and James Stewart. Seated, from left to right, are Mark Grundy, Pin Seah and Bob Burn. Behind the camera was Meg Stewart and also out of shot were Denis Warnford-Davis, who was having trouble with his camera, and our hostess Maureen Fox, who masterminded the catering.

CYCLING THE WORLD LOOKING FOR OTTERS

by Eric Boldon

Back at the end of June 2010 I packed up my life in London into storage, loaded what was left on to my shiny new touring bike and hopped on a plane to New York for a year of exercise, adventure, work and all those friends that had previously left me behind. After almost eight years in London I'd seen far too many friends come and go, mostly through the Otter water polo scene, where I had accidentally become a near-permanent fixture.

Otter is not just about the great friends you make at the club, it's also about the amazing contacts we have worldwide; so it was that I jumped into a cab at JFK and headed across the river into New Jersey to stay with Kevin, a friend I first met when playing for an Otter team at the Desert Duel in Phoenix, Arizona. Before I hit the road there was one more thing to attend to – I met up with Nicole Freeman in Manhattan to drop off my suit (more of which later), which made a great excuse to grab a few beers in the neighbourhood bars of 1st Street – and before long, another ex-Otter, Paula Croxson, popped in.

The first days on the road saw my new tent survive its first use despite a thunderstorm and me fully loaded taking a 'short-cut' with 10–20 per cent grades up hill after hill with the thunderstorm still going. Fortunately the sun came out later in the day and stayed with me as I cruised through the Finger Lakes of northern New York State, across the River Erie at Buffalo and into Canada, to Toronto – where ex-Otter

Alex Kovatchev was waiting to greet me with his wife Jen, young son and a feast of food.

From Toronto I headed west, knocking out 80–100 miles a day across the rolling plains of southern Ontario, across the St Clair River by boat at Marine City into Michigan, and by ferry from Muskegon to Milwaukee. After Iowa I hit the road in earnest. Starting in South Dakota, I cruised across the vast landscape, through the spectacular Badlands National Park, into Wyoming where I skirted Devil's Tower, mounted the Bighorn Mountains at over 9,000ft, and had to dodge a herd of bison on my way through Yellowstone National Park. Idaho and Montana brought high prairie, leaping antelope, gold towns, the Continental Divide. On across Washington heading north through the Rockies I picked up some more Otters at the Canadian border as Xavier Williams, Spencer Corrigan and Ed Buckley joined me to ride the final few miles into Vancouver. Ever competitive, they raced off on their light-as-a-feather racing bikes and almost left me behind! In 24 days, with only one full rest day, I'd made it from South Dakota to the Pacific.



Eric and Alex Kovatchev.

Celebrating reaching Vancouver.



An Otter Wedding - Nicole Freeman and Jordan Womack.

Ed and I enjoyed a few days exploring Vancouver Island and we even got in a couple of polo training sessions with UBC before, a week later, I headed south, following the boulder-strewn Oregon Coast towards LA. Again I had to motor, as I had a timetable to keep: my next date was a wedding in Novato where I caught up with my now oversized suit as Nicole, the bride, delivered it to me. A whole host of Otters flew in for a fantastic few days in the sun; a welcome break from the road.

The last section of my journey saw me catch up with Megan Icanberry in San Francisco, then follow Highway 1 all the way down to LA. Three months and 6,800 miles after leaving New York I rolled through Malibu and into Hollywood to conclude the adventure.

Flying into Auckland, I caught up with Otter's New Zealand-based contingent, staying with Emily Viskovic and Cat Cassidy, then sharing beer and fishing trips with Rob Tindall, Jacques Venter and Greg Posa. I even guested in a couple of local league matches. With the Rugby World Cup going on, and we were joined by several Otters from London to see England scrape past Scotland.

Over to Australia, and I stayed with Loch Pollard in



Loch Pollard lends Eric his old work shirt in Brisbane.

Brisbane and shared dinner with Nicole Mahoney. In Sydney I stayed with Todd Sunderman and his ever-expanding family. For three months I played water polo for Sydney University with Ian Hammond and his teammates, before jumping back on the bike to cycle to Melbourne for Christmas. I then spent four months playing the occasion pick-up game with Todd's old team and enjoying everything Melbourne has to offer,



including a few nights at the AFL – one with Rob Grey, who'd left Otter and London for Melbourne and now Perth. All good things have to come to an end, however, and at the end of May I once again packed up my bike and flew up to Hanoi, Vietnam to resume the cycling.

Before finally returning to the UK there was still time for a couple of days in Singapore. There I managed to catch up

with Timmy Cosulich, who dragged my emaciated body into the pool to train with his triathlon club. Later in 2012, Timmy qualified for and competed in the half-Ironman World Championships in Las Vegas, so it wasn't the easiest session. Finally back in the UK, it took the Otters three days to drag me back into the pool for a London League game; it was almost as if I'd never left.



OTTER REGISTRY

BIRTHS

Juliette and Jason Eckert welcomed baby Jacques on 5 June.

Fiona Marshall and Matt Staines welcomed baby Sam on 27th October, a brother for Joe (2yrs).

Lupe and Juan Aldana welcomed baby Cristina on 1 November.

Lindsey and Ed Williams welcomed baby Lucy on 25 November.

MARRIAGES

Thibault Williams, former men's polo player and coach, and Joanna Dawes were married on 29 September 2012.

Andy Bloxam and Sophie Hemsworth were married on 31 December, six years after meeting in lane 4 at Otter.

Thibault and Joanna.



Joe and Sam.



Cristina.

Andy and Sophie.



OBITUARIES

Ron Roberts by Charles Doxat

Ron Roberts was one of the Otter 'greats' and probably our finest post-war swimmer.

Ron was raised in British Guiana, before coming over to Britain at the start of World War Two to volunteer to fight for the Allies. After Dunkirk a new elite force of 'storm' troops was formed, and Ron became one of the first of the brave Commandos for the British Army in Europe (including on the infamous Dieppe raid) and the Far East. After the war he joined the Metropolitan Police and Otter. Many clubs were after him but he remained utterly loyal to Otter throughout his life.

Ron was a 'late developer', with his first international in 1951 (against France) at the age of 29. Those were the days

before professional swimmers, when it was unusual to continue swimming competitively, at least at elite level, beyond school or university. He was famous for his straight-arm, loping style that looked effortless – something he always denied. His training, not untypical in those days, comprised no more than 2,000 yards three or four times a week. Otter then provided just one session a week, on Tuesdays.

In 1951 he hit the sports headlines in a match against Russia, winning an amazing blanket finish (58.1s). His fame as the 'swimming policeman' grew rapidly in 1952, when he reached the semi-finals of the 100m freestyle (59.5s) at the Helsinki Olympics. Four years later at the Melbourne Olympics he was the swimming team captain. He again reached the 100m semis (58.9s) and was in the 4 x 200m

freestyle team that came sixth in the final (his split was 2m 13.8s). There were no other relays in those days. By now he was just two weeks short of his 35th birthday and the oldest swimmer by a margin.

He won numerous national titles over 110 and 220 yards in the 1950s, helping the Otter team to several national titles and a reputation as the strongest elite club in the country along the way. When Masters swimming came along he was frankly unbeatable over his favoured distances. Although his style might have worked well over longer distances, anything over 200m was anathema to him.

He retired from the police and moved to Yorkshire. Although we saw less of him, he still regularly attended social functions, where he regaled us with highly interesting and equally amusing stories of his war-time experiences and swimming at world level in another era.

He was a big man, big-hearted, and softly spoken but brave – a remarkable life. All of us who were privileged to know him will miss him greatly. His wife Freda and son Ian predeceased him, and he leaves behind his daughter Jo, four grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Norman Fitzsimon by James Stewart

For over a quarter of a century Norman (often accompanied by his late wife Peggy) seemed part of the fabric of Otter. He joined in 1946 and won his First Team swimming colours in 1947–1954, featuring in national winning teams in 1948 and 1950 along the way. He also won his Second Team swimming colours in 1955 and 1959–1960. During this period he was elected Vice Captain from 1954–1955 and Captain from 1956–1958. He went on to be elected President from 1968–1971 and was elected an Honorary Life Member in 1986.

On a personal note, I first got to know Norman when I joined the committee in the early 1960s and then served myself as Vice Captain in 1967–1969 and Captain in 1970, spanning three of Norman's four years as President. He was an easy man to respect and I recall the courtesy that he always extended to younger committee members, to whom he was an excellent role model. As a trained lawyer, he was superb at focusing committee discussions. He continued



Ron Roberts (centre right) at the Otter Dinner November 1992 (above) and Flag from 1952 Olympics (below).



for many years to support club functions, and John Goodbody's 1994 Club History shows Norman resplendent in club blazer at the half-mile at Henley. When Meg and I stopped receiving his Christmas cards two years ago, we feared that all might not be well, as we now discover. We will miss him, as will Otter.

Len Gocke, a good friend of the club, passed away in November 2012. He was Vice Commodore of Henley Sailing Club for a very long time and was the contact point for organising the half-mile for years. In return, he and his wife Enid attended the Otter dinners. His wife Enid died a couple of years ago, and Len is survived by his two sons, Brian and Stephen.



COACH BIOGRAPHIES

Steve Bratt, Head Coach

Steve began swimming at the age of 12 at West Bromwich Swimming Club, before moving to Australia, where he trained in Sydney with the Forbes Carlile Group, and eventually returning to the UK at the age of 17 to train more seriously with Maindee Olympic SC in Newport. Despite this, he considers that his greatest achievements have been as a Masters swimmer, when he was the Welsh Champion at 100m freestyle and breaststroke, US Masters' Champion at 50m, 100m and 200m breaststroke, and European Masters' Champion at 200m breaststroke.

Steve began coaching at 24 and has never looked back. He is proud to be able to say that he coaches the best Masters' team in the country (so no pressure for Nationals, folks!). His coaching inspirations are the late, great, Richard Quick, coach of Stanford Ladies Squad and Head Coach of Auburn University. He also admires Eddie Reese, coach of the Texas Longhorn's men's squad, who Steve was fortunate enough to meet poolside at QMSC, during the recent Olympic Games.

Steve plans the Otter training cycle with meticulous precision, aiming to work to a peak twice a year for the key competitions: long and short course nationals, but also Scottish, European or World Masters' Championships. He encourages everyone to race, whatever their standard, and aims to get a strong (and large) team to the Middlesex Championships every June to beat Camden Swiss Cottage



Steve Bratt.



Anna Ochocinska.

and Cally Masters to the three team trophies.

Steve has to balance the wealth of ambition and goals across the pool (competitions, open-water, triathlon and fitness swimmers). In the process he is a passionate advocate of getting the basic skills right and racing with top-notch technique, firmly believing that the quality of miles swum is more important than sheer quantity.

Anna Ochocinska, Swimming Coach

Anna began swimming at the age of seven and competed at county, regional, national and international events as a junior swimmer. Later she represented her university, before taking time out to study and then move to London, when

she joined Otter. Her greatest achievement as a swimmer these days is managing to finish Steve's sessions, which we all know are tough, though in the past she received an award for the Best University Swimmer 1995–1998 and represented Otter at the 2008 World Masters Championships in Perth.

As well as coaching at Otter she also works in a prep school for girls in Notting Hill – combining two roles as a SEN Assistant and a PE Department Teacher – as well as coaching at Chelsea and Westminster Swimming Club alongside Dan Moulson, another Otter coach. The best things for her about coaching and swimming with Otter are the pleasure of meeting every single swimmer and being able to motivate them, regardless of the lane they swim in.

Anna is a great fan of Otylia J'drzejczak, who won the 200m butterfly in Athens in 2004 and became the first Polish swimmer to win gold – and Susie Rodgers, who is a great example that all the sacrifice and hours spent training can pay off. Anna believes her greatest achievements as a swimmer and a coach are yet to come.

Daniel Moulson, Swimming Coach

Growing up in East Yorkshire, Dan was a member of a small swim club but was more interested in football and tennis, until he became a lifeguard at 16 and got back into swimming. With a tendency to want to try every sport but never actually devoting enough time to one thing, he's never been one of the stronger swimmers ... though he's got a pretty mean forehand in tennis and given a decent BMX bike he's pretty quick on the track.

After school Dan worked as a sports leader for the local youth club, teaching swimming as well as football, basketball, badminton, tennis and so on. After auditioning for drama school he moved to London, but after four years realised he wasn't particularly good at theatre. At that point he undertook Level 2 Swim Teaching and Level 3 Personal Training and Sports Massage courses, and returned to working in sport.

For the last five years Dan has been teaching/coaching swimming full-time, but fortunately does not have much chance to get bored because he teaches a variety of ages and abilities. He has been coaching and occasionally competing with the Otters for a few years now and enjoys their ability to have a laugh as much as they like to work hard in the pool.

Mark Grainge, Swimming Coach

Mark has been coaching for a couple of years – mainly at Masters clubs such as OutToSwim, and of course, the one and only Otter! Although he's been a swimming teacher for a number of years, his first foray into age-group coaching was quite a learning curve – but all good, nonetheless! He was swimming with a few of the Masters clubs in London and competing in Europe in places such as Stockholm and



Daniel Moulson.



Mark Grainge.

Paris until he broke his wrist mountain biking in Chamonix in summer 2012. He fully intends to get back in the water in the next few months though and start practising what he preaches ... Watch this space!

Lesley Davies, Swimming Coach

Lesley started her swimming career at Reading Swimming Club, competing in the Speedo League Division 1; she has been teaching swimming for 37 years and coaching for 32 years. She was part of the Otter team who were national champions at Biathlon and Triathlon (Modern Pentathlon) for a number of years. Other successes include crossing the Channel as part of a relay in 2001, swimming Lake Windermere in 2006 and swimming Lake Coniston in 2012.

Behind the scenes Lesley is of course best known for her efforts as Coach Liaison and Vice President on the committee.

Brian Whitlock, Men's Water Polo Coach

Brian joined Otter at the end of the 2011 season, fresh in from California to manage sales in the EMEA region for software company SugarCRM. Apparently the second thing he did after landing was find a polo team (the first was finding a good Mexican restaurant). Initially he joined as a player, but took up the coaching mantle from Thibault Williams at the start of 2012.

He has been playing polo for 14 years and has achieved the distinction of being an All-American in the 20 and under age group. He played in the Division 1 team at Pepperdine University (consistently top ten during that period, and as high as third nationally). At Pepperdine he was coached by his role model, Terry Schroeder, who is currently the US Men's National Coach and won three silver medals and one bronze while a member of the US team in the 1970s and 1980s. Brian began coaching at university with a local high school in Malibu, and considers his greatest coaching achievement to be getting four of his players into Division 1 university programmes.

Brian cites the best things about Otter as being the camaraderie and the people that play for the team.

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LIST OF MEMBERS 2012

Honorary Active Life Members

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)
 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 Pointon, Mr G.H. (1978)
 1967 Wigginton, Mr A.B. (1991)
 1967 Woodman, Dr M.J. (1980)
 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 CMG.OBE, Ms B.
 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 Phillips, Mr R. (2012)
 1997 Wake, Mr M. (2009)
 1998 Gallagher, Mr N.R. (2010)
 1998 Vider, Mr P.A. (2007)

Active, Non-active, Country Members

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 Gill, Mr A.G. (1982)
 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 C. (1999)
 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.
 1990 Musgrove, Miss H.
 1991 Kendall, Mr T.H.
 1991 Owens, Mr C.
 1993 McMenemy, Ms E.J.
 1994 Amos, Dr M.J.
 1994 Bancroft, Dr D.
 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 Fraser, Mr T.
 1995 Gallagher, Mr M.
 1995 Monk, Mr A.J.
 1997 Bree, Dr S.
 1997 Evans, Mr B.E.
 1997 Fry, Mr W.G.
 1997 Hardy, Mr V.
 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 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 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 Hudson, Mr A.M.
 2004 Salvatore, Mr T.
 2005 Russell, Mr A.
 2005 Miller, Mr R.G.
 2005 Hemsworth, Miss S.
 2005 Etiebet, Miss P.E.
 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 Sazama, Miss M.
 2006 Holcombe, Miss S.
 2006 Cotton, Mr D.
 2006 Harrison, Mr S.T.
 2006 Aldana, Mr J.F.
 2006 Williams, Mr R.L.
 2007 Bullock, Mr D.
 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 Chaney, Dr A.J.
 2007 Cook, Mr L.
 2007 Mulligan, Miss M.A.
 2007 Nogaledo, Mr D.
 2007 Chopra, Dr M.
 2008 Carter, Mr S.J.
 2008 Clements-Partridge, Mr A.
 2008 Mozzicarelli, Mr F.
 2008 Gielen, Miss V.

2008 Mulcahy, Miss R.
 2008 Roberts, Mr D.
 2008 Rumbos, Miss A.
 2008 Wall, Mr W.A.
 2008 McInroy, Mr R.B.
 2008 Williams, Mr T.
 2008 Kuroda, Mr K.
 2008 Sokolic, Mr I.
 2008 Sutton, Mr C.
 2008 Worsley, Mr D.
 2008 Braden, Mr F.
 2008 Ratveiska, Miss Z.
 2008 Shkurka, Miss E.
 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 Balachandran, Mrs J.C.
 2009 Gourlay, Miss A.J.
 2009 Effemey, Miss N.H.
 2009 Copley, Mr N.J.
 2009 Jones, Ms A.M.
 2009 Bampton, Miss L.
 2009 Caldwell, Mr O.J.
 2009 Ganase, Mr O.
 2009 Sirianni, Mr P.
 2009 Kelleher, Mr L.
 2009 Shakespeare, Ms S.N.
 2009 Benett, Miss S.E.
 2009 Prentice, Dr H.
 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 Kerr, Miss K.
 2010 Isherwood, Mr R.W.
 2010 Bari, Mr F.
 2010 Harrison, Mr P.
 2010 Chaline, Mr E.R.
 2010 Garbutt, Mr K.
 2010 Tafazolli, Miss B.M.
 2010 Glover, Miss R.J.
 2010 Dunn, Miss E.J.
 2010 Conway, Mr B.E.
 2010 Castagna, Miss V.
 2010 Black, Mr K.
 2010 Oliviero, Mr G.
 2010 Hargreaves, Miss R.
 2010 Elsaadany, Mr R.
 2010 Kearns, Miss L.
 2010 Mason, Mr A.J.
 2010 Wyss, Mr T.
 2010 Hannon, Miss F.A.
 2010 Shahbazi, Mr R.
 2010 Basse, Mr A.

2010 Tachikawa, Mr T.
 2011 Picker, Mr S.
 2011 Bond, Mr I.
 2011 Dearsley, Miss E.
 2011 Louw, Dr A.R.
 2011 Trevellick, Miss J.
 2011 Wright, Miss S.E.
 2011 Oakes, Ms A.L.
 2011 Spagna, Mr P.
 2011 Edmonds, Dr P.
 2011 Romozzi, Mr L.
 2011 Costello, Mr K.
 2011 Schuring, Mr B.
 2011 Glennie, Miss G.
 2011 Lacava, Mr J.
 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 Longman, Miss A.
 2011 Orosz, Mr G.
 2011 Scanlan, 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 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.
 2012 Thomson, Mr N.
 2012 Wilson, Mr O.M.
 2012 Cerqueira, Mr N.
 2012 Gautran, Miss C.
 2012 Ronseaux, Mr F.
 2012 Eather, Mr B.C.
 2012 Gissi, Miss V.M.
 2012 Canepa, Mr L.A.
 2012 Grey, Mr C.
 2012 Barber, Mr N.
 2012 Cordebar, Mr A.
 2012 Naismith, Ms E.
 2012 Imbs, Mr X.N.
 2012 Farr, Miss B.A.
 2012 Reys, Mr M.
 2012 Wise, Miss L.
 2012 Clarke, Mr M.

2012 Cotro, Mr N.
 2012 Gillespie, Mr C.
 2012 Whitlock, Mr B.P.
 2012 Eckert, Mr J.
 2012 Rimbach, Mr W.
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 2012 Vaziri, Mr N.
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 2012 Webb, Mr R.M.
 2012 Whitnall, Mr B.
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 2012 Finlay, Mr T.
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 2012 Gillespie, Miss M.
 2012 Campbell, Miss H.
 2012 Coaten, Miss S.S.
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 2012 Subat, Mr H.
 2012 Kalisvaart, Mr A.
 2012 Vandemoortele, Mr A.
 2012 Evans, Miss M.
 2012 Mancini, Mr F.
 2012 Sousa, Ms A.P.
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 2012 Campion, Miss H.C.
 2012 Rhall, Mr T.
 2012 Roussos, Mr N.
 2012 Sirianni, Mr A.
 2012 Von Herberstein, Mr E.
 2012 Downey, Miss E.
 2012 Florez Atehortua, Mr L.
 2012 Garcia Fernandez, Mr D.
 2012 Hansen, Miss L.A.
 2012 Nyaka, Mr M.J.
 2012 Robertson, Mrs K.A.
 2012 Cosani, Mr O.
 2012 Kimura, Miss Y.
 2012 Milsted, Mr M.
 2012 Shrimpton, Miss K.
 2012 Campisi, Miss G.
 2012 Barone, Mr B.
 2012 Parker, Mr W.

Junior Members

2005 Miller, Miss K.A.
 2005 Miller, Miss A.T.
 2005 Miller, Mr L.A.
 2005 Miller, Mr B.Q.
 2011 Wain, Miss Z.F.
 2012 Wain, Mr E.V.
 2012 Nurthen, Ms M.L.
 2012 Grant, Miss E.L.
 2012 Edey, Miss J.
 2012 Patchett, Miss H.N.
 2012 Williams, Miss M.S.
 2012 Shears, Miss L.C.



TROPHY WINNERS

2012 CHAMPIONSHIP RACES [LADIES]	YEAR DONATED	EVENT	WINNER
(No trophy)		50m Freestyle	A. Higlett
		50m Butterfly	G. Hobson
2nd Annison C.C.	1914	100m Breaststroke	A. Ochocinska
Edgar Salver	1952	100m Medley	S. Westwood
J.R.G. Millner C.C.	1977	100m Freestyle	L. Higlett
Jackson Trophy	1993	Points Total	G. Hobson
Arthur Batt Trophy	1996	200m Medley	H. Prentice
Club Trophy	2001	100m Butterfly	G. Hobson
Club Trophy	2001	100m Backstroke	H. Prentice
Club Trophy	2001	400m Freestyle	H. Prentice
C.G. Forsberg Memorial	2001	Mile Open Water	M. Perra

2012 CHAMPIONSHIP RACES [MEN]	YEAR DONATED	EVENT	WINNER
(No trophy)		50m Freestyle	T. Rhail
		50m Butterfly	D. Warren
Brown C.C.	1889	100m Backstroke	M. Davis
Dudley C.C.	1898	Mile Open Water	D. Warren
Collis Brown	1899	400m Freestyle	D. Warren
Buller C.C.	1905	Points Total	D. Warren
5th Humphreys	1911	100m Freestyle	D. Warren
2nd Annison C.C.	1914	100m Breaststroke	D. Warren
Edgar Salver	1952	100m Medley	D. Warren
Peters Tankard	1966	100m Butterfly	D. Warren
Arthur Batt Trophy	1996	200m Medley	D. Warren

2012 WATER POLO	YEAR DONATED	CATEGORY	WINNER
J.H.R. Haswell Trophy	1998	Men's Best Player	Eric Boldon
Doug Woo Trophy	2004	Men's Most Improved Player	Bryce Eather
Ladies' Team Award	2003	Ladies' Best Player	TBD

HANDICAP EVENTS 2012	YEAR DONATED	EVENT	WINNER
Ladies' C.C.	1874	125m Handicap	V. Perez
Macdonald C.C.	1893	50m handicap	J. Gauer
George Rope Averages	1911	Handicap Points Total	A. Rumbos-Rodriguez
J.W. Rope Memorial	1921	Open Water Half-Mile	R. Jones
Frank Sachs	1923	Open Water Points total	A. Higlett
G.H. Rope C.C.	1923	Otter Golf	P. Hindle
Syngé-Hutchinson C.C.	1931	Veterans' 50m	S. Bratt
Baldon C.C.	1934	150m Handicap	A. Ochocinska
Alfred Jonas C.C.	1935	200m Handicap	E. Williams
2nd Tom Batt C.C.	1948	Open Water Quarter-Mile	M. Krecji
Jack Cunningham Salver	1951	Open Water Mile	B. Thomas
Pyers Mostyn C.C.	1955	100m Open Handicap	J. Kelly
Hodge C.C.	1970	10 Widths Handicap	A. Craig
David Craig Salver	2004	100m Sealed Handicap	N. Vaziri
Alex Ferguson Trophy	2008	400m Individual Medley	J-L. Benavides

A MASTERS SWIMMER'S GUIDE TO WATER POLO

by Chris Eden

If you have ever wanted the opportunity to channel that lane rage we all feel sometimes in a more productive way, water polo just might be the sport for you! Here are the basics to get you started:

- Teams comprise seven players per side in the water, including one goalkeeper, with a maximum of six substitutions on the bench.
- Proper competition pools are deep enough so that no one can stand. You move the ball up the pool either by swimming with it or passing it to a teammate.
- You can only hold the ball with one hand. You're allowed to tackle someone holding the ball, but if you pull them back while they are swimming, or sink or tackle them with excessive force, the referee should 'sin bin' you for up to 20 seconds.
- A match consists of four quarters of eight minutes with two minutes' break in between. Because the clock stops at the whistle and starts when the ball is played, games tend to last around an hour. Players continue to move at these 'dead ball' times, so you will potentially be sprinting back and forth and wrestling with your opponents for that entire hour. But like basketball, you can substitute out and rejoin the game later, so a high tempo of play can ensue.
- There are a variety of leagues and cup competitions, with the main one being the National League (now branded the British Water Polo League, or BWPL). The league consists of four divisions of eight teams plus a feeder league of five teams for the men. Women only have three divisions of eight teams.



- The BWPL season starts in September and continues until December/January, with matches played at shared venues throughout, so each team might have six weekends of up to three games each weekend.
- In the first phase of the season, you play every other team in your division once. The position you are in after this round-robin determines where you will compete for trophies in the second phase. All results from the first phase are reset.
- For Division 1, both men's and ladies', the top five teams after the first phase go forward to a Super 5s division, and play each other two more times to determine the National League champions.
- The bottom three teams of each division and the top five in the division below form new Championship groups of eight teams to determine who takes the three 'promotion' spots and who takes the five 'relegation' spots.





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www.otterswimming.com

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