

Cheshire County 6th Open Water Championship – 11th July 2009

This year's Championship was blessed by a lake with the water temperature which was above 17°C. As a result no one got out. The Cheshire Championship is run within the British Long Distance Swimming Association's Bala Championships which enables the County to run the event without the need to sort out safety arrangements ourselves. Open water swimming this season has boomed due to the Olympics and the Great North Swim. As a result there were a total of 140 swimmers taking part in the BLDSA Championship at Bala. However, for the Cheshire 3km Championship there were only 3 swimmers. This year it was decided to hold a county 1km Championship which attracted 7 swimmers.

Perhaps swimmers from the county didn't appreciate that there were some of the county's top swimmers in the water with them. One of these swimmers was Jennifer Jackson who came third in the Great North Swim last year.

From what I gathered from speaking to swimmers after the event they all enjoyed themselves.

I have to confess I'm a little puzzled as to why Cheshire Clubs don't encourage their swimmers to take part in this low key, fun event. This was until I received an email from a parent of a swimmer saying that their child was withdrawing from the 1km event as they had just got his first national qualifying time and that meant they could compete in national open water competitions. I can only conclude that there is a huge lack of understanding in some swimming circles. I perhaps should explain that there are black lines to follow in lakes and the water temperature is artificially high in pools. This event is an ideal place to gain experience of swimming straight and learning how to swim outside navigation yourself. How what do I know about the subject? We had a prime example at the Olympic of someone losing a place by swimming of course!!

Anyway, now that I've got that out of my system, back to the swimming, for the third year in a row Toby Molyneux entered the 3km Championships, still a junior. This year all the training and experience gained resulted in him cruising around the course and he won the junior gents 3km championship.

Now to the 1km event, this event could be pre-entered or could be entered on the day. Looking at the times swimmers from the county produced, they did particularly well, which is a fantastic sight to see. The first lady home was Lucy Grainge and the first gent was Andrew Corley.

Now concluding this year's report, it's time to thank all those who helped. As usual I have to thank my long suffering wife, Sandra who continually and quietly helps in the background. Secondly, I'd like to thank all those helpers from the BLDSA who provided timekeepers and safety cover.

A final note, the provisional date for next year's swim will be the 10th July 2010.

Andy Wright
Open Water Co-ordinator
July 2009

Cheshire County WP & S Association - 6th Open Water Championships

Senior Ladies 1km Race

1	Lucy Grainge	Swim Trafford	Senior	00:11:38.85
2	Bethan Corley	Hoylake ASC	Senior	00:11:39.30
3	Heather Lawson	Swim Trafford	Senior	00:12:50.20
4	Stacey Waterman	Winsford ASC	Senior	00:14:22.00
5	Emma Thomas	Hoylake ASC	Senior	00:16:23.85

Senior Gents 1km Race

1	Andrew Corley	Hoylake ASC	Senior	00:12:23.65
2	John McGivern	Hoylake ASC	Senior	00:24:06.50

Junior Gents 3km Race

1	Toby Molyneux	Nantwich Seals	Junior	00:56:10.15
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Senior Gents 3km Race

1	Andrew Wright	Warrington Dolphins	Senior	00:49:43.65
2	Kevin Saunders	Warrington Dolphins	Senior	00:51:56.15