

Cheshire County 7th Open Water Championship – 10th July 2010

This year we held both a 1km short race and the main 3km Championship. Unfortunately, once again we only had a few entries for the main 3km Championship. However the short 1km race included 12 swimmers from Cheshire in the total entry of 65 swimmers. 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. The Open water event has become a very popular national event, this year there were 176 swimmers taking part.

This year I was very pleased to see three of last year's competitors returning to take part in the 3km Championship. Also very pleasing to note was that all four swimmers came from four different clubs.

The concern I held prior to the start was that following the publication in the 'Times' that Bala was one of the best places to swim in the world and the article included details of the swim, I had visions of hoards of people turning up to swim the 1km race. In fact, as a result of the 'Times' article, I had become something of a national broadcaster making it to stardom by being on the Jamie and Louise breakfast show on BBC Wales. Strangely nobody during the weekend asked for an autograph!!

The day itself started with registration and a briefing at 9:30, the swim started at 10.00. The weather was on the dull side and there was a breezy which resulted in the water being a little choppy. However, the water temperature was high at 17C.

There was some very fine swimming with some excellent times produced, Arron McCloskey (first Cheshire swimmers home) was 5th overall in the 1km race and Bethan Corley produced an excellent time for the 3km Championship.

Next year I will be organising an additional 500m swim on Sunday 10th July 2011. This short event is mainly aimed at youngsters. Clearly 500m, 20 lengths of most pools is an easily achievable distance. This is in addition to the 1km swim and 3km swims held on Saturday 9th July 2011.

Open Water swimming has now become a popular event, with some events filling quickly. The Dee Mile in Chester, 140 swimmers, was full within hours of opening. The Great North Swim had 9000 entries this year. Entries to the events at Bala next year will open in March. Hopefully I'll be able to report that a large proportion of them were from Cheshire.

See you over the weekend of the 9th & 10th July 2011.

Andy Wright
Open Water Co-ordinator
July 2010

Cheshire County Water Polo & Swimming Association

3km Open Water Championship

Bethan Corley	Senior Lady	Hoylake ASC	00:40:57
Stacey Waterman	Senior Lady	Winsford ASC	00:45:47
Toby Molyneux	Junior Gent	Nantwich Seals	00:54:40
Kevin Saunders	Senior Gent	Warrington Dolphins LDSC	01:00:51

1km Short Swim

Arron McCloskey	Junior	Satelites	00:15:17
Louise Fielding	Junior	Stockport	00:15:51
Dawn Andrews	Junior	Dane Valley ASC	00:15:52
Julie Pettener	Senior	Hoylake Swimming Club	00:18:00
Kevin McCloskey	Senior	Satelites	00:18:09
Ben Maloney	Senior	Halton SC	00:18:47
Kay Gorzko	Senior	Warrington Dolphins LDSC	00:22:55
Steve Kirkham	Senior	Alsager Bridgstone	00:23:00
David Molyneux	Senior	Nantwich Seals	00:26:48
Eileen Sharman	Senior	Warrington Dolphins LDSC	00:33:59
Barry Walker	Senior	Halton SC	Retired
tzania walker	Senior	Halton SC	DNS