

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



1981

## Ernest & Jennie Chadwick

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March 1981 Tyldesley and Atherton's "Mr Swimming" Ernest Chadwick sadly died. He was sixty, for many of those years he had dedicated himself to Tyldesley Swimming Club and its members. He was honest, cheerful and of exemplary character, a man who set very high standards.

As a young man he was a team swimmer and water polo player with Tyldesley. When war broke out in 1939 he joined the Royal Engineers and was posted to Nigeria, where a serious arm injury cut short his swimming and water polo activities. He was eventually discharged from the army because of this injury and in 1943 married Jennie Whittle, herself an athlete, and since 1939 a club member.

When war ended, Ernest was elected onto the committee and Jennie followed twelve months later. They both worked hard for the club. In the late 1940's Tyldesley Swimming Club were members of Manchester and District and Bolton and District Swimming and Water Polo Associations. In those days Tyldesley Swimming Club had a boys and mens squad plus a water polo team. Then Manchester and District passed a resolution that its member clubs had to have a girls and ladies squad within the next twelve months. Ernest wrote to Miss A. Green the headmistress of Tyldesley Senior Girls School, now Fred Longworth High School, asking if she would provide the names and addresses of decent girl swimmers. Ernest and Jennie then visited parents of these girls, cycling from Atherton to Tyldesley, Astley and Boothstown. They got their girls and ladies teams!



Ernest and Jennie Chadwick

(Photograph supplied by Mrs Jennie Chadwick)



The photo shows Jennie Chadwick receiving the plate from a Salford College lecturer in the foyer of Tyldesley Pool.

Out with swimmers and the water polo team, sometimes three and four nights a week, their service to swimming in general soon got Ernest and Jennie well known, and they became respected figures in the "Swimming World".

Jennie was the first lady to referee a polo match in the North when she took charge of the away match between Tyldesley and Trafford Park.

Ernest became the best known swimming administrator, and though approached by some associations, with a view to Presidency, refused saying "He was only interested in Tyldesley Swimming Club". In 1975 after twenty one years as secretary he became Club President, and in 1978, he finally relented and accepted Presidency of Lancashire County. He was again elected President of Tyldesley Swimming Club in 1979 and Jennie took over from him in 1980.

After Earnest's death a collection was taken by his work colleagues and Jennie requested that the money be used to buy a silver salver, this is called "The Ernest Chadwick Memorial Plate" and is competed for each year by local swimming clubs.

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



First winners during Tyldesley Festival week in May 1981 were Tyldesley, who beat teams from Hindley, Atherton, Wigan and Howe Bridge. Over 200 swimmers competed in this gala and many spectators had to be turned away. It was decided in future years that only three teams would compete. Jennie proudly presented the trophy to her own club captain and since its inception has done so thirteen times in twenty one years.

In 1987 Jennie decided it was time for a change and a rest, she stepped down as President. Jennie continued to regularly attend Management Committee Meetings until 2002, giving the club the benefit of her experience, diplomacy and a wealth of swimming and water polo knowledge.

## **International Honours**

In 1981 Michelle Giles won gold in record time swimming for Great Britain at the European Catholic Games in Vienna, in the thirteen years old 50 metre butterfly event. She also swam in the winning freestyle team.

## **European Catholic Games**

Mark Chew swam for the Ezzo England Youth Squad in Denmark in the 100/200 metres freestyle and in Sweden in the 100/200 metres and 1500 metres freestyle.

## **National Age Groups**

Mark Chew and Tracy Toone competed at the National Age Group Competition.

## **National Biathlon Championships**

At the National Biathlon Championships Samantha Hicks gained 8th place and Andy Chew 9th place. Michelle Giles and Joanne Quinn finished 2nd in the team event (1 year out of age) and Tracy Toone finished 3rd in the team event.

## **English Schools Finals**

At the English Schools National Final Michelle Giles attained 4th in the 100 m butterfly.

## **Regional Honours**

At water polo Colin Bent was selected for the U/16s Northern Counties squad.

## **Northern Counties Festival of Swimming**

The club finished overall 2nd in the Bolton & District Age Group for the second year in succession in the process won outright the 9, 10 and 13 years old boys and girls age groups. Following on from this 17 members were selected to swim at the Northern Counties Festival in Blackpool and these swimmers between them swam some 60 events on behalf of Bolton and District.

## **Association Swimming Competitions**

In the Bolton & District mini league club girls won the trophy in the preliminary rounds and finished overall third in the final.

The club won the Central Lancashire Junior Swim League picking up one gold and four silver medals. The club also won the Central Lancs Age Group Knockout Trophy beating some 16 clubs in the process. Tyldesley girls won the Central Lancs Warbuton Trophy.

## **Association Water Polo Competitions**

The junior water polo teams were winners of the Manchester and District U/15 winter league and runners up in the Central Lancs John Boyd competition and Bolton and District U/16 Knock Out. Almost every team player received representative honours at association level.

## The Club's Motor Coach



(slipperywhenwet)

In August 1981, it was decided by elected officers and the Committee, to purchase a "K" registration 1972 forty-five seater motor coach for £3600. The coach was painted in the club colours. For a number of years it did stalwart service taking swimmers on trips, to swim meets and water polo matches. However, due to vandalism, parking problems and spiralling maintenance costs it had to be replaced in 1990 by a more modern fifty-three seater coach which cost £7000. In 1994 this coach became too costly to run and was sold.

## 1982

### Tyldesley Swimming Club Leaves Bolton & District Swimming & Water Polo Association

Tyldesley Swimming Club had been Bolton and District members for seventy-three years and were stalwarts of league, age groups, water polo and championship competitions during that lengthy period.

On the 19th July 1982 Tyldesley swimming club resigned from Bolton and District S&WPA in protest at the way the association had handled a dispute between Wigan Wasps and local clubs. On the same date letters were sent to the Central Lancashire S&WPA seeking permission for the club to be accepted into its age group competitions and to the Northern Counties ASA for their consent on the change.

At the time of the resignation they had qualified for the semi-finals of the mini-league and junior water polo competitions respectively.

In August, 1982 a letter was received from Bolton and District accepting Tyldesley's resignation but asked them to re-consider. Tyldesley would not relent and on the 5th September 1982 the letter sent to the Northern Counties ASA was read out at a meeting and passed. The change from Bolton and District to Central Lancashire was to take place in 1983.

So ended another chapter of the club's history, or so it seemed.

The passage of time alters circumstances, opinions and feelings towards certain events and in 1994 Tyldesley Swimming Club applied, were accepted and were again affiliated to the Bolton and District S&WPA.

### International Honours

In 1982 Mark Chew was again selected to swim for Great Britain Youth Team in the 200/400 metres freestyle events in Switzerland.

### National Age Group Competition

Mark Chew, Michelle Giles and Tracy Toone competed at the National Age Group Competition with Mark Chew making the finals.

### National Biathlon Final

Tracy Toone achieved 3rd place at the National Biathlon final at York. Tracy was also the North West Under 15's Biathlon Champion and the team of Tracy, Joanne Quinn and Michelle Giles won the North West Triathlon (Under 15's Team).

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



## Regional Honours

Colin Bent, Paul Jervis and Craig Pierce were selected to represent Northern Counties.

### Northern Counties Inter-Association Water Polo Competition

At water polo Colin, Pau Bent, Craig Pierce and Ian Walker were selected to represent Manchester and District.

### Northern Counties Festival of Swimming

Several swimmers were selected to swim at the Northern Counties Festival in Blackpool at which Mark Chew, Michelle Giles and Tracy Toone reached the finals.

### Association Swimming Competitions

The club finished overall 2nd in the Bolton & District Age Group for the third year in succession and in the process won outright the 9 and 14 years old boys and girls age groups.

For the second year running the club won Central Lancashire Junior Swim League this time picking up three gold and one silver medal. Also for the second year running the club won the Central Lancs Age Group Knockout Trophy beating Marple in the final at Tyldesley.

In the Central Lancashire Senior Swim League the girls freestyle team won gold and the girls medley and ladies freestyle teams won silver.

## 1983

In 1983 Mark Chew won three medals in the National Age Group Competition, in which Tracy Toone and Michelle Giles also competed.

Christopher Mills became the North of England and North West Triathlon Champion.

The club won the Central Lancashire Junior Swimming League overall trophy for the third successive year and the Central Lancashire Senior Swim League, for the first time.

At water polo Colin Bent captained the Manchester and District Under 18's and also represented Lancashire. Matthew Holden, Scott Royle and Paul Jervis were selected for the Northern Counties Under 16's and Ian Walker was also selected for Lancashire County.

The club won the Central Lancashire under 18's and Senior Water Polo Leagues and entered the Northern Senior League for the first time.

In 1983 Tyldesley Swimming Club joined the Penguin Learn to Swim Scheme, sponsored by United Biscuits, who provided the participating clubs with badges, certificates, grants and equipment. At the end of 1986, 200 clubs were involved.

## The Whelmar Gala

Hi-Tec came in 1983, when on the 22nd and 23rd January at Broughton Pool, Salford, Tyldesley ran the whole gala on computer, from initial invitations, through to printing of the programmes, results sheets, heat slips and entry cards.

The computer programme was written specifically to deal with the one gala by Vic. Jackson, at that time a member of the Swimming Club Committee.

Seventy-one swimming clubs were invited and out of these twenty-three participated from as far afield as Liverpool, Rochdale, Oldham, Romily, Bolton, Preston and Wigan.

Information about 262 swimmers including full name, date of birth, strokes entered, date entry forms received etc. was stored into the powerful desktop computer system in approximately four hours, by an essentially non-typist. The gala, which was organised by club secretary Alan Giles, for eight, nine and ten year old boys and girls had a tremendous atmosphere with over a thousand spectators during the two days. Four strokes plus medley and freestyle team events, meant in all there were thirty-six events and thirty-six finals.



The Whelmar Gala Programme, 1983



Computerisation enabled entry closure at 1-45 pm and heat slips printed out by 2 pm. Result sheets were available approximately three minutes from the end of each event.

The boy and girl in each age group with the best performances over the four strokes received a BMX bike purchased from the £500 sponsorship by Whelmar Homes. A trophy was provided by Mr. And Mrs. Norman Gleave of Cleworth Hall Farm, Tyldesley. The winners of the Whelmar Team Trophy being Liverpool Penguins.

Tyldesley Swimming Club was praised on its organisation and running of the gala and much interest was shown in the new Technology which helped achieve this.

## 1984

### INTERNATIONAL VISITORS AND VISITS

In May 1984, twenty-four young swimmers from the East York Golden Seals Swimming Club of Toronto, Canada visited Tyldesley Swimming Club. The visitors spent some time with Rochdale Aquabears and then the remainder of their stay in England as guests of the club. Families of club members provided accommodation and took the visitors on trips to places of interest. The club organised a swimming gala and also a social evening for the Canadians at Formby Hall.

In the National Age Group Swimming Championships of 1984 Tyldesley Swimming Club were represented by Amanda Hewitt, Paul Bailey, Ian Phillips and Mark Chew. Teams from Paul and Jason Bailey, Ian Phillips, Lee Toone and Johnathan Sweeney produced a first for the club in reaching the finals of both freestyle and medley team events, thirteen years of age.

Tanya Williams, Amanda Hewitt and Nicola Toone gained gold medals at the Central Lancashire Age Groups.

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Christopher Mills was again North of England and North West under fifteens Triathlon Champion. He represented the Northern West in the Inter-region Biathlon Championships, gaining first place.

Chris Mills, Matthew Holden, Lee Toone and Ian Phillips won the Under 15's Team North of England Triathlon Championships.

In Senior Triathlon Neil Greenwood, Steve Mazey, Andrew Grundy and Peter Stevens won events in the North of England and North West. Chris Mills, Neil Greenwood and Steve Mazey were invited to train with the Modern Pentathlon Association.

The Junior Girls Team of Tanya Williams, Rachel Hall and Katherine Sutton also won the North of England and North West Biathlon Championships.

Colin Bent was selected for the under twenties Great Britain Water Polo Training Squad.

Chris Mills, Matthew Holden and Scott Royle were chosen for Northern Counties under sixteens. Scott, Paul Jervis and Stephen Davidson were also selected for Lancashire County.

The Senior Team were winners of the Central Lancashire Senior Water Polo League. The Under 16's and Under 20's teams were winners of the Central Lancashire Winter League.

## **Loss of Hire Charges**

To assist the club the old Tyldesley UDC allowed the club free water time to enable top swimmers more training time, however in the Local Authority re-organisation, Tyldesley became part of Wigan Metropolitan Borough. The new authority allowed the club 25% discount on pool hire charges to compensate for the loss of "free water time".

During 1984 a proposal was submitted by the Department of Leisure to phase out the discount by reducing it to 15% for 1985/6 and to nil for 1986/7. This proposal was accepted and passed by the Council without notice to the club.

Following strenuous objections the Council agreed to hold the discount at 15%, the decision on the loss of the initial 10% could not be reversed. On the re-opening of the baths in 1989, after its three year closure, the club had to pay full hire charges. In 1995 hire charges stood at a staggering £13,000 per annum, this had risen to £17,760 per annum in 2001 and will without doubt increase in the future.

The original concession allowed by Tyldesley UDC had now been lost forever.