

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



**1985**

## **International Honours**

Colin Bent was selected for the U19's Great Britain water polo squad and played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Youth Water Polo Championship at Valletta Pool in Malta.

## **National Age Groups**

Paul and Jason Bailey Ian Phillips and Amanda Hewitt competed in the National Age Groups.

The 14 year old boy's team of Paul and Jason Bailey, Ian Phillips, Lee Toone and Mark Giles made the final.

## **National Triathlon and Biathlon Championships**

Peter Stevens, Dennis Price and Neil Greenwood qualified for the National Triathlon Championships and finished in third place. Christopher Mills also qualified and finished 5<sup>th</sup>.

Dennis Price and Neil Greenwood qualified for the National Biathlon Championships and Dennis finished 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Northern League**

The 18/Us water polo team were runners up in the Northern League U18's KO tournament.

## **Regional and County Water Polo Honours**

Colin Bent, Steven Davidson and Paul Jervis represented Northern Counties U19's.

Colin Bent, Matthew Holden and Scott Royle represented Northern Counties U16's team.

Steve Mazey, Steven Davidson and Colin Bent represented Lancashire County senior team.

Colin Bent, Steven Davidson, Matthew Holden, Scott Royle and Paul Jervis represented Lancashire County U19's.

Colin Bent, Steven Davidson, Matthew Holden, Scott Royle and Christopher Mills were selected for the Northern Counties training squad.

Lee Toone was selected for the Northern Counties U16's training squad.

## **County Swimming Honours**

Paul Bailey represented Lancashire County.

## **Association Honours**

Jason and Paul Bailey, Ian Phillips, Mark Giles, Amanda Hewitt, Kathryn Sutton and Tanya Williams represented Central Lancashire S&WPA in "Triad" Inter-Association Competition.

Lee Toone, Michael Toone, Paul Fletcher and Andrew Topping represented Manchester & District U16's water polo team.

## **Association Water Polo Competitions**

For the first time in the club's history a ladies water polo team were entered in a competition when a team was put together and won the Central Lancs Ladies Water Polo Competition. This was a one-off and it was 2010 before a ladies senior water polo team was formed.

The senior water polo team won the Central Lancs Senior League and were runners up in the Manchester and District Senior League.

The 14/Us were runners up in the Manchester & District 14s League.

## **Club Captains**

Tracy Toone and Colin Bent were elected Club Captains.

## **Swimming Teachers Course**

The first ASA Preliminary Swimming Teachers Course, organised by the club under the tuition of member Gwyn Pierce took place at Bolton School. Eleven members participated and all passed. Later that year two went on to become full ASA teachers. Following this success other club members through the years have qualified as ASA swimming and water polo teachers and coaches.

## **Closure of Tyldesley Baths**

As far back as November 1976, there had been rumours that Tyldesley Swimming Baths could close, as a cost cutting measure.

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



The club was advised in December 1985 that repair to the roof would take place during 1986, probably April/May, necessitating closure for a period of two to three weeks. On the 8th February 1986 Wigan MBC Leisure Department, advised the club that the baths was to be closed immediately.

Closure was due to the condition of the roof and problems with the heating system. They estimated six months work was required with August 1986 being given as the month for re-opening.

Urgent arrangements had to be made to obtain water-time at other venues: Atherton Baths, Howe Bridge Leisure Centre and Moss Side Leisure Centre, Manchester.

A lengthy period of frustration followed and at times concern that the baths would ever re-open.

The initial estimate for the repair was £30,000 later increased to £90,000 which included a heat recycling plant.

Following pressure from the club, statements were made that the baths would re-open – firstly in December 1986 and then at the end of February 1987.

The initial tender was far in excess of the estimates and an investigation was made as to the possibility of a new “shell” for the pool and to obtain a grant aid. This was found to be too expensive.

During May 1987 the club organised a petition to press for the re-opening of the baths stressing the loss of one of the few amenities in the Tyldesley area. The club also decided that if information was not forthcoming, 10,500 leaflets would be distributed to highlight the delay in re-opening. On May 20th 1987 the Council authorised acceptance of the full amount of the tender, plus further additions.

The lowest tender of £434,426 was accepted and work would begin in November 1987 - the contract period being thirty-two weeks.

Having been advised originally by Councillors that any figure over £150,00 would not be acceptable and the baths would not re-open, this latest announcement was truly a relief.

In January 1988 the opening date was given as July, 1988, later as September of that year, then 4th January 1989.

Tyldesley Baths was re-opened to the public on 31st January 1989 and the club allowed back on 20th February after a three year absence.

This joyous occasion was spoiled by officials of Wigan MBC turning away approximately fifty children. A full apology was received from the Director of Leisure, for this error.

It is to the credit of the members, who supported the club during this period, which enabled the club to survive and grow again to achieve the high standards it had enjoyed in the past.



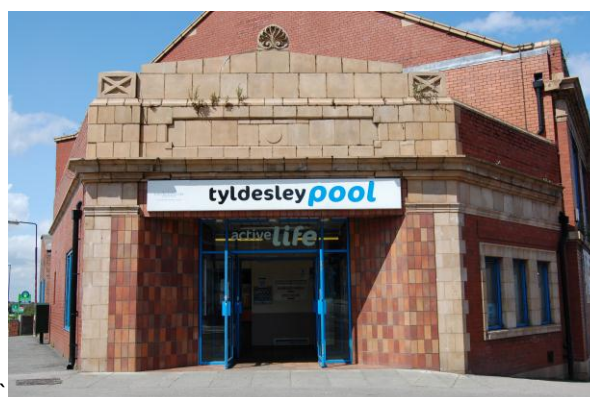
Before restoration

([www.LeighLife.co.uk](http://www.LeighLife.co.uk))



During Restoration

(Gwyn Pierce)



After Restoration

1986

## International Honours



Colin Bent (1984-6) and Matthew Holden (1987-8)  
international water polo players  
(John Davidson, 1996)

Colin Bent was again selected for the England U20's water polo squad in a four nation tournament at Crystal Palace against France, Sweden and Scotland. England finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

## National Biathlon and Triathlon Events

Chris Mills was a member of the North West team that won the National Biathlon and Triathlon Team events.

Michael Toone, Christopher Mills, Dennis Price, Neil Greenwood and Matthew Holden qualified for the National Triathlon finals and Michael Toone and Rachel Giles qualified for the National Biathlon finals.

## Inter-Counties Water Polo KO

Scott Royle, Christopher Mills, Steven Clancy and Matthew Holden were part of the Lancashire County U18's water polo team that won the ASA Inter-County Knock-out competition.

## Northern League Water Polo KO

The U18's water polo team were runners up in the Northern League Knock-out.

## Lancashire Age Groups

David Boardman, Paul Bailey and Jason Bailey made finals at the Lancashire Age Groups.

## Lancashire County Training

Colin Bent, Paul Kinsella, Stephen Davidson, Steve Mazey, Andrew Halliwell and Dennis Price were selected for the Lancashire County senior water polo training squad.

## Lancashire County Water Polo

The club were winners of the Lancashire County Grade 2 Knock-out water polo competition.

## Inter-Association Water Polo

Scott Royle, Christopher Mills, Steven Clancy, Matthew Holden, Lee Toone and Jack Davidson represented Manchester & District at U18 level and as a result Scott Royle, Christopher Mills, Matthew Holden and Stephen Clancy were selected for Northern Counties U18's training squad.

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



Daniel Toone, Lee Toone, Michael Toone, Paul Fletcher, Anthony Attack, Troy Stevens, Ian Phillips, Andrew Topping, Mark Hope and Steven Pritchard represented Manchester and District at U16's level as a result Lee Toone and Paul Fletcher were selected for the Northern Counties U16's training squad.

## **Central Lancs President**

Alan Giles was elected President of Central Lancashire S&WPA. He was a committee member and secretary of Tyldesley Swimming Club for a number of years and also taught on poolside.

## **Central Lancs Honours**

Paul Bailey captained the Central Lancashire S&WPA in "Triad" Inter-Association Competition.

Paul and Jason Bailey represented Central Lancs at the Northern Counties Festival of Swimming at Blackpool. Jason achieved silver in the 100 m breaststroke and Paul achieved two fifth places, one sixth, one seventh and one eighth place.

## **Central Lancs Age Groups**

Paul Bailey, Jason Bailey, David Boardman, Paul Blenkinship, Mark Giles, Rachel Giles, Lesley Foulds, Tanya Williams and Melanie Fairhurst were medal winners at the Central Lancs Age Groups.

## **Central Lancs Water Polo Competitions**

The U20's water polo team were winners of Central Lancs Winter League.

The senior water polo team were runners up in Central Lancs Senior League.

## **Channel Swim**

Suzanne Coleman, also a member of Howe Bridge Marlins, was part of a Channel swim relay team that broke the existing record for a breaststroke crossing.

## **110th Anniversary**

On the 10th October 1986 to celebrate its 110th anniversary, Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club held a dinner dance in the Sedgley Suite, at the Village Squash Club, Prestwich. 130 people attended. Guests of Honour being the President of Northern Counties Mr. George Harris and his wife.

## **1987**

### **National Water Polo League**

Another first for the club occurred in 1987 when the senior water polo team joined Division Four of the National Water Polo League. Matches had to be played at Varley Street, Manchester as it was a deep water pool.

### **National Age Groups**

Paul and Jason Bailey competed at the National Age Groups.

### **National Triathlon and Biathlon Championships**

Dennis Price, Neil Greenwood, Christopher Mills, Troy Stevens, Michael Toone and Daniel Toone qualified for the National Triathlon Championships at Portsmouth. Christopher Mills finished in the first six.

Christopher Mills and Rachel Giles qualified for The National Biathlon Championships at Southampton.

### **England Training**

Matthew Holden was selected for the England U20's water polo squad.

### **ASA Club Boys Northern Section Water Polo**

The U16's water polo team reached the semi-final of the ASA Club Boys Northern Section.

### **Regional and County Water Polo Honours**

Matthew Holden, Stephen Clancy, Christopher Mills and Scott Royle represented Northern Counties U20's.

Lee Toone, Paul Fletcher and Julian Glover represented Northern Counties U16's.

Stephen Clancy, Christopher Mills, Scott Royle, Matthew Holden and Jack Davidson represented Lancashire County U20's.

# History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



## **County Water Polo Training**

Colin Bent, Paul Kinsella, Stephen Davidson, Steve Mazey, Andrew Halliwell and Dennis Price were selected for the Lancashire County Senior Training Squad.

## **Association Swimming Honours**

Melanie Fairhurst, Hayley Bowker and Maria Giles represented Central Lancashire at the Northern Counties Festival of Swimming in Blackpool. Melanie won gold in the 11 years 100 m breaststroke and Hayley was reserve for the 15 years 100 m freestyle final.

Melanie Fairhurst and Maria Giles also represented Central Lancs in a Triad event against North Lancs and Cumbria. Central Lancs won the event.

## **Association Water Polo Honours**

Matthew Holden, Steven Clancy, Christopher Mills, Scott Royle, Jack Davidson, Paul Fletcher, Julian Glover, Andrew Topping and Lee Toone represented Manchester & District U20's and as a result Matthew Holden, Christopher Mills, and Steven Clancy were selected for Northern Counties U20's training squad.

Michael Toone, Mark Hope, Troy Stevens, Daniel Toone, Steven Pritchard, Anthony Attack, C. Hunt, M. Howarth and R Howarth represented Manchester and District at U16,s level as a result Michael Toone, Mark Hope, Troy Stevens, Daniel Toone, Steven Pritchard and Anthony Attack were selected for the Northern Counties U16's training squad.

## **Central Lancs Water Polo Competitions**

The club won the Central Lancs Senior League, Senior Tournament, U20's League, U18's Knock-out Cup and U16's League.

## **Central Lancs Age Groups**

Medal winners at the Central Lancs Age Groups were Hayley Bowker, Rachel Giles, Maria Giles, Rachel Hall, Lesley Foulds and Melanie Fairhurst.

## **City of Chester Open Meet**

Paul Bailey won the Best Boy award at the City of Chester Open meet winning the 100 m breaststroke and 100 m freestyle and gaining silver at 100 m backstroke, 200 m freestyle and 100 m butterfly.

## **Introduction of ASA Registration Fee**

The ASA's implementation a fee to register swimmers and water polo players, which meant additional financial strain on the club prompted them to express their disapproval.

## **Club President**

Dennis Topping was elected President of Tyldesley Swimming Club. Dennis was a former club captain, represented the club at both swimming and water polo and was part of the team that swam the Channel in 1967.