

1988

International Water Polo Honours

Matthew Holden represented the Great Britain Water Polo Squad in Veenendaal, Holland.



Melanie Fairhurst (1993-5) and Nicola Toone (1988-9) international ladies water polo players
(Photograph by Mr. John Davidson, 1996)

Nicola Toone a member of the club but playing for Stretford was selected for the England Ladies Water Polo Squad Under Twenties to play in Holland.

International Visitors



In 1988 Holland's premier water polo team the "Polar Bears" from Ede stayed with Paragon of Stoke-on-Trent and Tyldesley Swimming Club, member's families played host to the officials and players. This visit proved to be a tremendous success.

The following year Tyldesley's senior water polo team visited Ede. The four day tour began with a formal reception at the town hall. The players were billeted with the families of the "Polar Bears" and several matches were arranged between the two sides. The tour also included sightseeing trips to the Airborne Museum near Arnhem and there was plenty of free time for the players to toast their Dutch friends.

The Dutch team had such a great time and established so many friendships that they paid the club another visit in 1991.

Tyldesley Swimming Club received an invitation to the 50th anniversary of the "Polar Bears", who incidentally won the Dutch National League in 1995, and Tyldesley Swimming Club invited them to their 120th anniversary in October 1996 but neither club were able to make the trip at that time.

The "Polar Bears" made another return visit in 2009.



Russians also visited Tyldesley Swimming Club in 1988. A squad of water polo players plus a few swimmers came from Leningrad as guests of Manchester and District S&WP but it was Tyldesley Swimming Club who played host to the party of water polo players. Two historical events took place the week of the visit: The Russian team was allowed to stay with families, and not housed together under strict supervision, their home city changed its name from Leningrad back to St. Petersburg.

Water Polo

After just one season in Division 4 of the National Water Polo League the senior water polo team were promoted to Division Three. Colin Bent was named as the Division Four player of the year.

The senior water polo team also won Northern Counties Senior Grade 2 KO, were runner up in the Northern League KO, finished third in the Northern League and won the Manchester & District Senior Water Polo League.

Matthew Holden and Christopher Mills represented British Polytechnics at water polo.

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

Andrew Topping and Lee Toone were selected for the Lancashire County U18's water polo squad.

Paul Fletcher, Mark Hope, Mark Howarth, Richard Howarth, Daniel Toone, Lee Toone, Michael Toone, Andrew Topping and Try Stevens represented Manchester & District U18's.

U16's team were winners of the Manchester & District U16's Water Polo League and Central Lancs U16's Water Polo League.

Michael Toone, Troy Stephens and Mark Hope represented Northern Counties U16's.

Chris Hunt, Steven Pritchard, Daniel Toone and Michael Toone represented Manchester and District U16's.

Swimming

Melanie Fairhurst swam in the 100 m breaststroke at the National Age Groups and represented Central Lancs at the Northern Counties Festival of Swimming finishing third in the 100 m breaststroke. She also represented Central Lancs in the Triad competition finishing second in the butterfly and breaststroke

Life Member

Mrs. J Cleworth was elected a Life Member.

History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



Club Captain

G. Pritchard was elected as girl's club captain for 1988-89.

Teaching of Swimming – Public Meeting

A report by the Director of Leisure to the Recreation and Amenities Committee of Wigan MBC on the 29th February 1988 recommended that the responsibility to teach non-swimmers be that of the Leisure Department. This recommendation caused, great concern to all swimming clubs in the authority and their future existence was considered to be in doubt if the intake of non-swimmers was withdrawn.

Following various meetings and discussions to stress the implications of such a recommendation, Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club arranged a public meeting at Tyldesley Labour Club on 30th November 1988. Letters of support were received from members of Parliament, ASA, local Swimming Associations and from many other sources, in particular Hamilton "Hammy" Bland.

Hamilton Bland was the chief coach to the British Olympic team from 1958 to 1972. He was known as the "Voice of Swimming" due to him being the BBC swimming commentator from 1975 until they dropped him in 1998.

The public meeting was attended by over 250 people which included local residents, councillors and officials, past and present members, representatives from Swimming Associations, and swimming bath employees displaying placards, as they thought their employment was in jeopardy.

Many people had to be turned away as the hall was full to capacity.

A heated meeting was chaired by the clubs President Dennis Topping and the case for the club to continue to teach non-swimmers was highlighted by Gwyn Pierce.

The majority fully supported the club's stance.

The recommendation put to the council was not accepted, and the continuance of teaching non-swimmers by the club for over 100 years was maintained.

Financial support was given by Atherton ASC and Wigan ASC again showing the friendship between local clubs. This support was badly needed, as the club was experiencing financial difficulties due to the extended closure of the baths. Fund raising events were organised to raise extra monies.

1989

International Honours

Matthew Holden was again chosen for Great Britain in a Ten-nation Water Polo Tournament at Ronneby, Sweden. He also represented England in the European Championship at Papandal, Holland.

Nicola Toone was again selected to play for Great Britain Ladies Water Polo Team, this time the Seniors in a Seven-nations Tournament in Holland.

National Water Polo League

Again in 1989 after only one season in Division Three of the National Water Polo League, Tyldesley Swimming Club's Senior Water Polo Team were promoted to Division Two, after a play off. Stephen Davidson was the top scorer in Division Three.

National Age Groups

Melanie Fairhurst competed in the National Age Groups.

Regional, County and Association Water Polo Honours

Michael Toone represented the Northern Counties U16's, Lee Toone and Andrew Topping represented Lancashire U18's and nine members represented Manchester and District.

Northern Counties Age Groups and Long Course Championships

Melanie Fairhurst won gold in the Northern Counties Age Groups also won gold medals at the Northern Counties Long Course Championships and in the Central Lancashire Age Groups.

Lancashire Age Groups

Rachel Giles achieved gold in the Lancashire Age Groups.

Central Lancashire Age Groups

History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



Rachel Giles, Leanne Stafford, Jennifer Fairhurst and Melanie Fairhurst achieved gold at the Central Lancashire Age Groups..

1990

National Age Groups

Melanie Fairhurst reached the final at the National Age Groups.

Inter-County Water Polo

Lee Toone and Andrew Topping represented Lancashire County U20's and Troy Stevens, Matthew Percival and Steven Pritchard Lancashire County U18's.

Inter-Counties Swimming Competition

Melanie Fairhurst represented Lancashire County in the Inter-county Swimming Competition.

Northern Counties Age Groups

In the Northern Counties Age Groups Melanie Fairhurst won two gold medals; Jennifer Fairhurst won two gold medals and Leanne Stafford won one gold medal.

Lancashire County Age Groups

Leanne Stafford won four gold medals and Melanie Fairhurst won one gold medal.

Association Honours

Leanne Stafford and Samantha Berry were selected to swim for the Central Lancashire Team in France.

Central Lancs Water Polo

The U20's water polo team won the Central Lancashire Water Polo competition.

Association Age Groups

Melanie Fairhurst won nine gold medals; Jonathan Stafford won three gold medals; Leanne Stafford won one gold medal and Stephen Davidson won one gold medal in the Central Lancashire Age Groups.

Rachel Giles won one gold in Manchester and District Age Groups.

North Wales Shrimp Gala

Tyldesley Swimming Clubs young swimmers won the top club trophy at the North Wales Shrimp Gala against twenty six other clubs.

1991

National Age Groups

Swimmers Jennifer Fairhurst and Leanne Stafford reached the National Age Group Finals. Leanne's brother Jonathan also competed in the Nationals.

County Water Polo Honours

1991 marked the water polo centenary at Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club, players who represented the club during that year included Stephen Davidson, Christopher Mills and Colin Bent who were in the Lancashire County Senior Squad. Stephen Pritchard also captained the Lancashire County U18's squad.

Northern Counties Swimming Competitions

Jennifer Fairhurst and Leanne Stafford won gold medals in the Northern Counties Long Course Championships. Jennifer also won gold in the Northern Counties Age Groups.

County Swimming Honours

Jennifer Fairhurst, Leanne Stafford and Jonathan Stafford represented Lancashire County.

Lancashire Age Groups

Jennifer Fairhurst won gold in the Lancashire Age Groups.

History of Tyldesley Swimming and Water Polo Club



Central Lancashire President

Mike Harrison, who had worked hard for the club as a committee member, swimming teacher, coach and swim team manager was elected President of the Central Lancashire S&WPA.

Central Lancashire Honours

Eleven swimmers from the club were selected for central Lancashire Swimming & WPA in a competition in France against teams from France and Belgium.

Melanie Fairhurst captained the Central Lancashire Team at the Northern Counties Festival of Swimming.

Central Lancashire Age Groups

Jennifer Fairhurst, Leanne Stafford, Jonathan Stafford and Phillip Stout won gold medals at Central Lancashire Age Groups,

1992

If 1991 was a good year, 1992 was even better for the club's top swimmers.

ESSA Schools

Leanne Stafford represented District Seven in the English Schools Championships.

National Age Groups

Jennifer Fairhurst won the gold medal in the National Age Group 400 metres freestyle and Phillip Stout and, Leanne and Jonathan Stafford also competed.

Northern Counties Water Polo Honours

Stephen Pritchard represented Northern Counties U20's.

Northern Counties Triad Competition

Melanie Fairhurst was appointed Assistant Manager for the Central Lancashire team in the "Triad" competition.

Northern Counties Age Groups

In the Northern Counties Age Groups gold medals went to Phillip Stout, Leanne Stafford and Jennifer Fairhurst.

County Swimming Honours

Jennifer Fairhurst, Phillip Stout, Leanne and Jonathan Stafford were selected to represent Lancashire County.

County Water Polo Honours

Stephen Pritchard represented Lancashire County U20's.

Lancashire Age Groups

In the Lancashire Age Groups Philip Stout won the "Best Boy Swimmer Award" with four golds. Leanne Stafford and Martin Barrett also won gold medals.

Association Swimming Competitions

The club won the Central Lancashire Jubilee Shield.