

STAR DIVING CLUB NEWSLETTER



Issue No.14 Autumn Term 2006

Wally Clark 1920 - 2006

Aquatics grandfather figure with a passion for diving

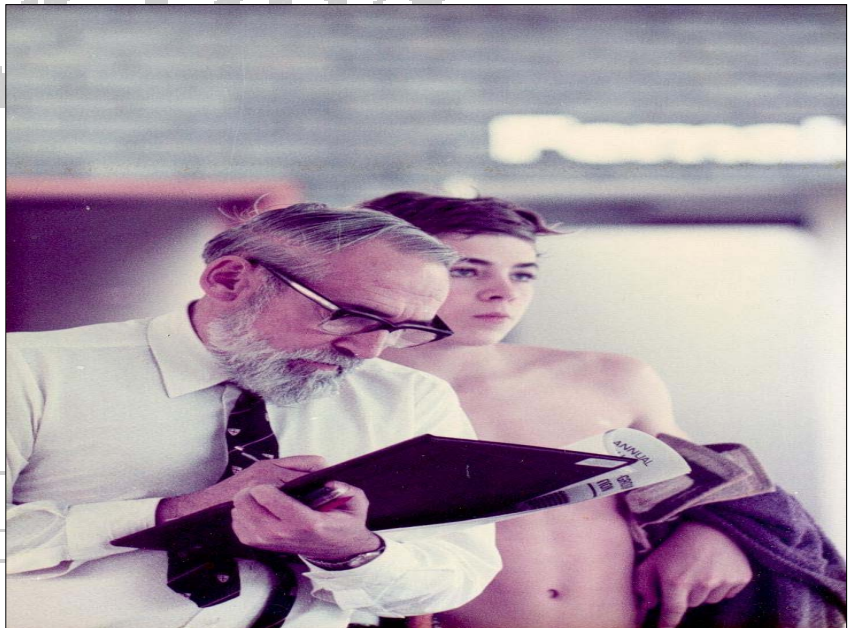
THE sport of diving in this country has been deeply moved by the recent passing of one of its life-long stalwarts, Wally Clark, a founder member of the Star Diving Club in Guildford and head coach of Merton School of Diving and Trampolining. He was 86.

With the sad announcement of this tragic loss occurring just a few days prior to this year's Surrey County Water Polo and Swimming Association combined Plain, Novice and Highboard competitions – fixtures which he had organised for many years, a commemorative silence was held in his honour at the beginning of the day's events at the Crystal Palace national sports centre on October 14.

Ricky Smith, the competitions' chief referee, gave a heartfelt tribute to Wally's outstanding life-long involvement with an emotional address to the crowds of divers, officials and parents, citing him as one of his biggest, personal influences in the sport.

Similar marks of respect had been observed elsewhere around the country. At the three-day Southampton Invitational meet one week later, a one-minute silence was led on the first day of competition by Lindsey Fraser, Southampton Diving Academy's director of coaching, at the Eddie Read swimming and diving complex.

Floods of tributes have also been paid by many others from within the sport. Sydney Boothroyd from the north-east, one of the country's most senior diving judges, who sat with Wally on the ASA's technical diving committee throughout the 1980s, described him as one of diving's



Wally Clark pictured with one of his divers, James Roose, in November 1980

“unsung heroes.”

Anne Green Jessel, president of the Albatross Diving Club in Reading, Berkshire, and author of the lighthearted book *So Dive In*, first met Wally in 1967.

“He was astute, patient and understanding,” she told the Star newsletter. “Oh yes, he could be abrupt and probably that was the cue you'd overstepped the mark, but on the other hand that also was his way. Straight to the point and no messing.

“He was a great listener, and inspired confidence, and was a source of inspiration. He demonstrated untiring support and dedication, striving for the good of diving and helping others. He was a fab coach and set fine examples. He was a true ambassador,” she recalls of him fondly.

Andy Banks, a leading national diving coach based at Plymouth Diving in Devon, also remembers Wally with great affection during his primary years as a diver, suggesting that had it not been for him in his early years' participation, he would not be where he is today.

Wally's illustrious career in aquatic sports can be traced all the way back to 1937, when he first began instructing swimming and diving. And with an exemplary track record spanning near on seven decades, there was little that Wally had not been involved with to do with diving. He founded Merton School of Diving and Trampolining in south-west London in 1964 and later, circa 1973, helped form the Star Diving Club in Guildford.

Wally will be sorely missed by all his friends in the world of diving.

Sunday Diving

A REMINDER to divers and parents of all Sunday classes that there will not be any diving at Spectrum on November 19th, nor December 3rd because of swimming galas taking place over those weekends. All sessions resume the weekends after.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

THIS YEAR'S annual general meeting takes place in the conference room at Spectrum on Wednesday 22nd November from 8pm. With many very important issues up for discussion, it is vital that as many parents, members, coaches and divers come along as possible to support their club and have their say.



Fun Night

THE 2006 club fun night will be taking place at Spectrum on Friday 8th December from 6pm. The once-a-year event, which is traditionally held on the run-up to Christmas, is open to all club divers from its sessions at Guildford and Leatherhead. Simply turn up and join in the fun and games being organised that evening. Admission is free for all.

End of Term

THE LAST week of term is the week starting December 11th, with the very final sessions being on Sunday 17th December. All diving returns after the Christmas and New Year holiday period, the week commencing January 8th.

Dive Recorder makes its debut at annual club competition

Automatic recording technology to be used for the first time at this year's event

THE STAR annual club competition, which takes place at Spectrum on Saturday 25th November, is shaping up to be one of its best yet.

At this year's event, for the first time in its history, the electronic recording programme *Dive Recorder* will be making its debut and operating and managing the scores and results for the entire afternoon – that is provided there are no technical glitches along the way.

Functioning from a portable laptop computer on the recorders' table, the system is capable of automatically calculating a diver's score within a split-second of all the judges entering their awards into wireless, hand-held devices known as j pads.

The central hub will be connected directly to an LCD projector that will display the scores immediately onto a large screen for spectators to view.

The ingenious, hi-tech recording programme, which had been created specifically to improve the scoring management of a diving competition, was invented in Scotland some years ago by Malcolm Taylor, a former diver, official and administrator of the sport, and is now the benchmark at most major diving fixtures nationwide.

However, although this modern technology signals a move away from the traditional method of recording – whereby two recorders working side-by-side take note of the judges' awards and then calculate the divers' scores using ready reckoners – the automated system does not in any way eliminate or supersede the first-hand skill of manual recording.

Frank Clewlow, a chief recorder of the Southampton Diving Academy in Hampshire and an accomplished operative on *Dive Recorder*, reaffirms this very point, telling the club newsletter that a meet utilising electronic recording equipment must always have a recorder working manually alongside it in case of any unexpected malfunction midway through an event – as was

the case earlier this term at a competition in Southampton, when the programme crashed and manual recorders had to take over until the system had been restored.



Dive Recorder operates directly from a laptop computer on the recorders' table

Andy Hewat, Star's chief coach, has prepared this year's competition conditions in consultation with the other club coaches. The events have been divided into four categories: Basic Skills, Advanced Skills, Age Groups and the Open.

Gold, silver and bronze medals will be presented to first, second and third places in all ages of the Basic Skills, Advanced Skills and Age Group events, and cups being awarded to the first-place winners of the Age Groups and Open competitions.

The diving pool will be open for training from 12.45pm, with the first competition beginning around 1.30pm. And despite there being no diver entry fee for this year's entrants, admission will be via a £1 competition programme payable on entry.

Parents and divers are reminded that there will be a buffet in the studio opposite the diving pool afterwards, so do remember to bring some food, snacks and refreshments with you and some paper plates and plastic cups.

A raffle will also be taking place during the buffet, so if you have something suitable to be raffled please contact the club's general secretary, Jayne Parker, via e-mail at jayniac@hotmail.co.uk or telephone her on 01483 854815.

Love To Dive Competition

LOVE TO DIVE is a brand new competition on the diving calendar which is being unveiled at the Quays in Southampton on Saturday 16th December, targeted at novice and recreational divers and those aspiring to reach the national skills level in the future.

"This event will be completely unique," says Southampton Diving Academy's director of coaching, Lindsey Fraser, "and designed with enthusiastic divers at the lower level of the sport in mind.

"There will be separate categories for springboard and highboard, divided by gender and age group. Awards will be given to the top six divers in each event and the top team. There will also be some random spot prizes to add to the fun."

The conditions on springboard require competitors to perform a series of jumps and line-ups from the 1 metre and / or 3 metre board, plus several optional dives with a limit on the degree of difficulty that can be used.

The conditions for the highboard are similar to that of the springboard. Divers will have to perform a series of jumps and line-ups from 5 metres, plus two optional dives with a cap on their degree of difficulty.

Divers who have entered or attained qualifying points for this year's ASA national skills finals are not allowed to enter.

The conditions for this event can be downloaded directly from the club website in the 'competition information' section at www.stardiving.org. The deadline for entries is Friday 1st December.

Annual General Meeting (AGM), Wednesday 22nd November

*Funding raises new possibilities for Star,
explains club chairman, Mark McGlade*

THIS YEAR'S annual general meeting (AGM) will be taking place in the conference at Spectrum on Wednesday 22nd November from 8pm. All members, parents, divers and coaches of the club are invited to come along and show their support by having their say as to its running.

High on the agenda at this year's AGM will be the possibility of funding to help develop and progress the club in the medium to long term, says Mark McGlade, Star's chairman.

"We have been applying for grants and accreditation to local and national bodies which will undoubtedly benefit the club in terms of development, and could provide some of the financial assistance we need in getting some part-time funded administration help. This is an ongoing process but could take some time to complete the various hurdles we need to cross.

"In the meantime, it came to our attention in the summer that some potential funding could be available through the Community Sports Coach Scheme (CSCS). This scheme is being coordinated locally by Active Surrey with funding coming from national governing bodies, Sport England and the national lottery.

"The Star Diving Club submitted a speculative application for CSCS funding in July. The aim of CSCS is to establish across the country 3000 paid, qualified community sports coaches working at local level by the end of 2006. The scheme will make partial payments – up to 50% – for a full or part-time coach, with the remainder of the salary being carried by the club. The club must contribute money to the coach position. CSCS funding is available for three years from the start of employment.

"Star submitted an application to CSCS based on the benefits to the club of having a part-time (24-hour week), qualified diving coach who could plan, supervise and coach our members and provide the training, support and

mentoring for our other assistant coaches. In addition, a qualified coach would provide the national governing body liaison for future club development and growth for all of our young and older divers to reach their full or desired potential in the sport.

"Based upon the case made by the Star Diving Club, I am pleased to announce that I have received written notification from the Active Surrey operations manager that we have been successful in our application and have been awarded £24,000 by the governing bodies if we will match partner funding of £27,000 over a three-year period.

"It has the potential to totally change the development opportunities of the club for the future"

"We have two months to accept the terms of the offer, which includes that we find a mechanism to employ the coach on a part-time basis and commit club funding to the project for three years. Money will be available from January 2007.

"This is a huge amount of money for the Star Diving Club and has the potential to totally change the development opportunities of the club for the future. However, this is also a huge commitment for the club and will require that we find ways to ensure that we can match the funding required each year.

"I would also stress that we have made no commitment to accept the award offer, and that this will need to be put to the members and the committee for approval before any decision is made."

Autumn competition results

<i>Diver:</i>	<i>Age group:</i>	<i>Place:</i>	<i>Points:</i>
Peter Waterfield Novice Diving Invitational, the Quays, September 30th			
Madeline Parker	D	2nd	284.80
Michael Christov	D	1st	293.85
Catherine Frena	C	7th	275.40
Charlotte Nash	C	11th	264.50
Izzy Bishop	C	13th	256.70
Joe Edgar	C	5th	266.40
Star Diving Club	Team points	4th	30
SCWPSA Plain Diving Competition, Crystal Palace, October 14th			
Paige Latham	D1	2nd (closed)	51.60
Naomi Littleboy	D2	7th= (closed)	55.20
Hope Latham	D2	6th (closed)	58.80
Connor Gardner	D2	3rd (closed)	85.80
Joe Lucern	D2	12th (closed)	54.00
Jessica Mills	B	1st (closed)	110.45
SCWPSA Highboard Championships, Crystal Palace, October 14th			
Madeline Parker	Female (junior)	Guest	104.10
Madeline Parker	Female (senior)	Guest	120.10
Joe Edgar	Male (junior)	Guest	108.15
SCWPSA Novice Diving Competition, Crystal Palace, October 14th			
Madeline Parker	D2	2nd (closed)	90.10
Michael Christov	D2	1st (closed)	114.30
Catherine Frena	C	1st (closed)	81.15
Charlotte Nash	C	4th (closed)	71.40
Francesca Wyllie	C	5th (closed)	68.80
Joe Edgar	C	4th (closed)	77.70
Southampton Invitational, the Quays, October 21 – 23rd			
Madeline Parker	D – 1 metre	17th (preliminary)	77.30
Madeline Parker	D – 3 metre	12th (preliminary)	100.55
Madeline Parker	D – 5 metre	9th (preliminary)	107.90
Michael Christov	D – 1 metre	9th (preliminary)	113.15
Michael Christov	D – 3 metre	8th (preliminary)	129.65
Catherine Frena	C – 1 metre	14th (preliminary)	113.90
Catherine Frena	C – 3 metre	15th (preliminary)	103.25
Izzy Bishop	C – 1 metre	17th (preliminary)	100.45
Charlotte Nash	C – 1 metre	15th (preliminary)	110.15
Charlotte Nash	C – 3 metre	13th (preliminary)	108.55
Joe Edgar	C – 1 metre	13th (preliminary)	125.50
Joe Edgar	C – 3 metre	14th (preliminary)	119.80
Joe Edgar	C – 5 metre	13th (preliminary)	129.40
Star Diving Club	Team points	11th	17.00
GBDF Winter Masters, Maidstone, November 11 – 12th			
Anita Cresswell	Novice (16 – 29 years)	5th	103.00
Lauren Kisbey-Green	Novice (16 – 29 years)	6th	100.40
Stephen Hewat	Men's masters (16 – 24 years)	2th	182.75
Tom Pollitt	Men's masters (16 – 24 years)	4th	152.70
Alan Brough	Men's masters (16 – 24 years)	5th	146.00
Kirsteen Mitchell	Ladies' masters (16 – 24 years)	6th	183.05
Sonya Edwards	Ladies' masters (30 – 39 years)	5th	184.45
K.Mitchell / S.Hewat	Synchro	6th	133.45
E.Pattinson / S.Edwards	Synchro	14th	114.35