



Stephen Dockery

Stephen joined Stockport Swimming Club in 1969 at the age of 6 after being taught to swim at the Petersgate Centre. Stephen mastered all four strokes and became very dedicated to the sport. In his effort to improve he sought to join a swimming squad coached by Harry Sullivan, a founder coach of Stockport Metro. His application was rejected much to Stephen's disappointment. At this time, the pool where Harry Sullivan coached was under repair, and consequently his squad was swimming in a roped off section of the public pool. Stephen learning of this went to the public session and swam at the side of Harry's squad, on the public side of the rope, following the squad's programme. After two weeks Harry relented and allowed Stephen to join the squad.

In 1975 Stephen heard about open water long distance swimming and started competing in events around the country, and winning many of the events that he entered. In 1978, Stephen took the junior record for Lake Windermere, 10½-mile swim. Stephen continued to compete when he became a senior, at the age of 16, culminating in completing an England to France crossing on the 4th August 1979 and achieving the British Gents record of 9Hrs 45min.

On the success of his Channel crossing, Stephen and his family were made life members of the club, the first time in 96 years. In 1980 Stephen was voted Sports Personality of the Year and received the "Fred Perry Trophy." In 1982 he received the Sports Personality of the Week from the Observer newspaper (The first BLDSA* member to receive this award) and the Vaux Silver Medal award for International Performance during 1983.

Stephen continued swimming representing the country in many international events and a Member of the British team

Representing the country in Holland, Belgium and Spain.

Sadly Stephen no longer swims competitively, although, in 2006, he did return to the adult swimming section of the club, for a few weeks but was unable to continue because of work commitments.

List of Achievements.

1. Lake Windermere British Mens Record 1984.
2. Morecambe Bay
3. English Channel, England to France. 4/8/79.
4. Damme-Bruge, Belgium 1978,81,83,84.
5. River Ebro, Spain 1979,81,82.
6. Lake Massapoag, Massachusetts,USA – US Title.
7. Island of Hvar, Yugoslavia, 1980,84.
8. Seal Beach, California, USA.-1981,82.
9. Quebec's Lake St John, Canada.-1980 Silver award.
10. Windermere International(16 Miles) 1982- 3rd place.

* British Long Distance Swimming Association.