

2016 World Cup of Winter Swimming – Lake Windermere



Surrey Masters made a small but perfectly-formed start to the outdoor swimming season with four gold medals from four swims in the Chillswim-organised, UK round of the World Winter Swimming World Cup. Water temperature was a tropical 6.4C in a misty Lake Windermere.

2014 World Winter Swimming Champion Ellery McGowan (Godalming SC) again dominated her age group taking gold in the 60m and 120m freestyle events with times so quick they would have earned her medals in several younger age-groups.



County Committee member Jim Boucher's speciality event is the head-up breaststroke and although there was none of the creative headgear this time around, he was too quick for the rest of the 55-59 year age-group.

Chasing former (and younger) English Channel World record holder Christof Wandratch he completed the 30m dash in the

22.69 seconds followed by an even quicker dash to the warmth of the shower.





Weather conditions were not good all day Saturday and although the wind was slight, the rain rarely stopped. It failed to dampen the spirits of over 1000 swimmers competing over the weekend. Jim added 60m freestyle gold as the light began to fade. Sunday saw the winds rising ahead of Storm Imogen as swimmers took on the 240m and 1km events.



The after-swim social event saw the legendary Lewis Pugh, the “human polar bear”, famed for his extreme swims including 1km across the North Pole, speaking about his exploits and signing copies of his book. Ellery was able to advise him on what it takes to be a winning sprinter in the icy waters!

Next stop for our Winter Swimming representatives is the World Championships taking place in Tyumen, Siberia which apparently can rival Crystal Palace on a winter's evening. This event takes place in a month's time and presently the air temperature is around minus 12C. Water will be around freezing once they break a hole in the ice we are reliably informed....Updates to follow.

