# 2001 DNV Scottish Open Water Swimming Championships

## Loch Lubnaig - 21st July 2001

This year's Loch Lubnaig Championship saw a few changes from previous years. The senior event was included as the Scottish leg of the inaugural British Open Water Swimming Grand Prix which also included nine events in England. This was perhaps one of the reasons for the increase in the number of swimmers from south of the border, particularly from Scarborough and Halifax. This resulted in possibly the highest standard the event has seen with the three fastest men recording times which put each of them in the top four "all time" list. The honours went to James Leitch with an excellent swim which saw him beat of strong competition from Scarborough's Adam Harvey and Aaron Yeoman.

The women's event was also strongly contested with Janet McLeod, in only her second open water swim, defeating Dee Llewelyn and last year's champion, Andrea Gellan.

There was a new record in the girl's event when Anglo-Scot Katie Sowersby (Scarborough) bettered the Scottish mark. Second place went to defending champion, Sarah Hughes (Lochaber) with Mhairi Murdoch (City of Dundee) picking up the bronze. In the boys event Anthony Cura (Whitehall) took the boys championship.

For the first time, the juvenile event for swimmers aged 9-11 was also held at Loch Lubnaig. A sizeable crowd followed the youngsters down the 500 metre course to see Peterhead swimmers, Peter Buchan and Kimberley Summers take the trophies in their first attempt at an open water event.

Among those in attendance were by SASA President, Sandy Brunton, SASA Chief Executive, Paul Bush, Swimming 2000 editor, Bill Black and Donald Brown of sponsors DNV. This too reflected the growing importance of the event.

**Getting Ready for the start at Lubnaig**

## Results

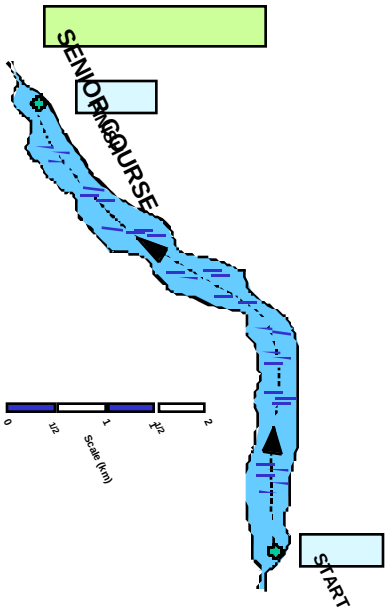
Water Temperature : 14.5º C

Men's Senior Championship – 3_ miles

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | James Leitch | REN 96 | 1:10:04 |
| 2 | N/A | Adam Harvey | Scarborough A.S.C. | 1:11:38 |
| 3 | N/A | Aaron Yeoman | Scarborough A.S.C. | 1:13:57 |
| 4 | 2 | Brian Bain | Bon Accord Thistle A.S.C. | 1:19:22 |
| 5 | N/A | Geoff Taylor | Halifax S.C. | 1:40:50 |
| 6 | 3 | Rick Wells | Easter Ross A.S.C. | 1:43:35 |
| Retired | | Alastair Preiss | Perth Masters | N/A |
| Did Not Start | | Chris Grabham | REN 96 | N/A |

Women's Senior Championship – 3_ miles

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Janet McLean | Glenrothes A.S.C. | 1:18:40 |
| 2 | N/A | Dee Llewellyn | Halifax S.C. | 1:21:03 |
| 3 | 2 | Andrea Gellan | Carnegie A.S.C. | 1:30:22 |
| 4 | 3 | Jane Evans | Upper Deeside A.S.C. | 1:36:10 |
| 5 | 4 | Colleen Blair | Dundee Arnhall | 1:40:37 |
| 6 | 5 | Denise Yeats | Silver City Blues M.S.C. | 1:42:11 |
| 7 | 6 | Morag Hughes | Lochaber A.S.C. | 2:04:06 |



## Boy's Junior Championship – 3_ miles

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Anthony Cura | Dundee Whitehall | 2:17:44 |
| Retired | | Andrew Gellan | Carnegie A.S.C. | N/A |

## Girls's Junior Championship – 3_ miles

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Katie Sowersby | Scarborough A.S.C. | 1:26:01* |
| 2 | 2 | Sarah Hughes | Lochaber A.S.C. | 1:43:23 |
| 3 | 3 | Mhairi Murdoch | City of Dundee | 2:09:05 |
| Did not Start | | Heather Cura | Dundee Whitehall | N/A |

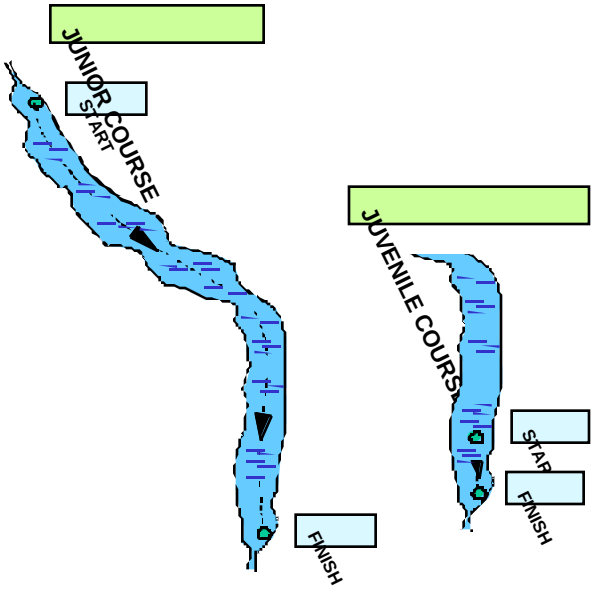
* New National Record

## Boy's Juvenile Championship – 500 metres

| Position Open | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Peter Buchan | Peterhead A.S.C. | 13:31 |

## Girls's Juvenile Championship – 500 metres

| Position Open | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Kimberly Summers | Peterhead A.S.C. | 12:13 |
| 2 | Nina Murdoch | City of Dundee | 13:54 |
| 3 | Ailsa Gellan | Carnegie A.S.C. | 19:03 |
| Did not Start | Lucy Holloway | Bradford Dolphins A.S.C. | N/A |



## Loch Rannoch - 4th August 2001

The longest race in the Scottish Calendar takes place over the 9_ mile length of Loch Rannoch in the central highlands. The venue is particularly remote but very scenic. "Rannoch" also has a reputation as being one of the colder lochs. This year the temperature was 14 C (57 F) and weather conditions were not ideal with some choppy water to contend with.

Three men and two women tackled the course. James Leitch (REN 96) quickly established a lead and maintained a fast pace to the finish to set a new course record of 3 hours 24 minutes and 44 seconds, just under a minute inside the previous open record. Second place was fought out between Brian Bain (Bon-Accord Thistle) and England's Simon Lee, a veteran of more than 100 swims at this distance or above. They took rather different courses down the loch before converging on the finish buoys with Brian taking the silver medal with a mere 30 seconds to spare.

The women's event resulted in a win at her first attempt for Andrea Gellan (Carnegie) in just over 5 hours.

This year a junior championship was added to the day's activities. This was intended to be a course of about 2 miles which crossed the loch twice. However, conditions were judged to be too difficult in that they would have required the young swimmers to go at right angles to the choppy waves for almost all the course. As an alternative the course was greatly shortened to around 800 metres and went with the prevailing conditions. This resulted in a fast race among the twelve starters with wins for Andrew Davie (Arbroath St. Thomas) and Shona Douse (Carnegie). For both swimmers this was their first experience in the open water championships and there were some encouraging performances from some of the other newcomers.

### Results

Water Temperature : 14º C

Men's Senior Championship – 9_ miles

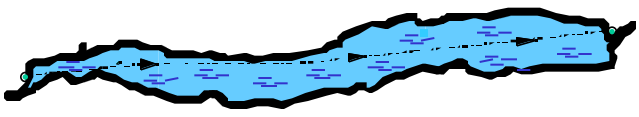
| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | James Leitch | REN 96 | 3:24:44* |
| 2 | 2 | Brian Bain | Bon Accord Thistle A.S.C. | 3:54:40 |
| 3 | N/A | Simon Lee | Solent | 3:55:11 |

* New Open and National Record

Women's Senior Championship – 9_ miles

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Andrea Gellan | Carnegie A.S.C. | 5:02:33 |
| Retired | N/A | Denise Yeats | Silver City Blues A.S.C. | N/A |

The Loch Rannoch Senior Course



## Boy's Junior Championship – 800 metres approx

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Andrew Davie | Arbroath St. Thomas | 8:34 |
| 2 | 2 | Andrew Gellan | Carnegie A.S.C. | 10:46 |
| 3 | 3 | Anthony Cura | Dundee Whitehall | 12:15 |

## Girls's Junior Championship – 800 metres approx

| Position Open | Position Scottish | Name | Club | Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | Shona Douse | Carnegie A.S.C. | 9:08 |
| 2 | 2 | Elizabeth Gasken | Duns A.S.C. | 9:28 |
| 2 | 3 | Sarah Hughes | Lochaber A.S.C. | 10:34 |
| 4 | 4 | Lynn Watson | Aquanauts Livingston | 11:09 |
| 5 | 5 | Mhairi Murdoch | City of Dundee | 12:06 |
| 6 | 6 | Jamie Cargill | Dundee Whitehall | 12:22 |
| 7 | 7 | Heather Cura | Dundee Whitehall | 13:47 |
| Retired | N/A | Kirsty Tulloch | Aquanauts Livingston | N/A |
| Retired | N/A | Anna McIlwraith | Cumbernauld A.S.C. | N/A |