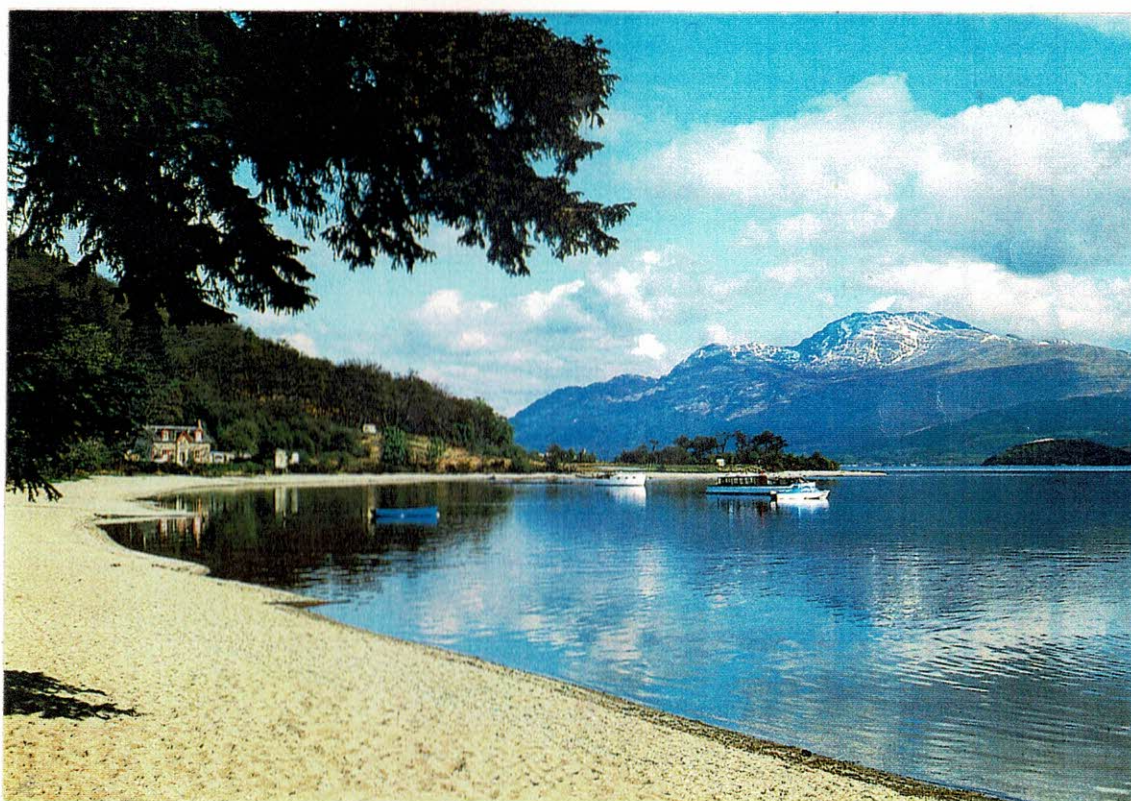


long distance
centenary
event.



loch lomond.

programme.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF SWIMMING



INTRODUCTION

ONE HUNDRED YEARS is a minute time in the history of mankind but a long time in the world of contemporary sports. It is a time in which successive generations have worked to bring swimming in Scotland from humble beginnings to the well organised and widely popular sport which exists today.

The decision to form the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association was taken at a meeting of club delegates in Edinburgh on 28th January 1888. The Association can look back with pride on what has been achieved in one hundred years.

The programme of events which has been arranged to mark the Centenary Year demonstrates the extent of the activities now available to the members and their involvement in international sport.

The Association is deeply appreciative of the encouragement and support it continues to receive from the Scottish Sports Council, the Local Authorities of Scotland and its Sponsors, many of whom are directly involved in the special events associated with the Centenary Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Peter Heatly". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Peter Heatly CBE, DL
Chairman of the Centenary Committee.



THE LOCATION

Loch Ness apart, Loch Lomond presents the ultimate challenge in endurance swimming. It truly is a marathon, from Ardlui in the north, to Drumkinnon Bay and Balloch at its southern end. There stretches between 23 miles of water, in fluctuating depths up to 600 feet at Tarbet and Inversnaid, with a water temperature averaging the middle 50 's. Funnel-shaped in the northern-half, the loch widens out at Luss, though the conception seems otherwise because of the islands, which lie like some giant stepping stones of an ancient causeway, straddling the loch from Luss to Balmaha. Beyond there comparative shelter, the broad exposed reaches of Drumkinnon Bay beckon, and always subjected to the vagaries of wind, a daunting prospect if blowing against at the end of a gruelling swim. There are stretches of wild grandeur, where the slopes of Ben Lomond and the uplands roll down to the waters edge, with a shoreline of rare beauty, which gives credence to the popular ballad. There are centres of intensive aquatic activity, particularly at Luss and the Islands, and lone stretches where only the isolated fisher may nod in the passing. Luss itself of course has been popularised as the village round which the T.V. series, "Take The High Road" is located, and is one of the gems of Lomond-side. Considering all the pressure put upon it, the Loch remains a scenic miracle with a waterway vital to our future economy.

These were the traditional lands of Lennox, one of the great Earldoms of Scotland. The ruins of the castle on the largest island, Inchmurrin, date back to the days of Wallace and Duncan, Earl of Lennox, who plotted the destruction of Edward's armies within its ancient walls. McGregors and McFarlanes roamed the surrounding hills and the Loch's shores have seen more than their share of blood-letting from the Clan wars, which were an unfortunate part of Scotland's heritage.

It is to this historic setting, Scotland's premier Loch, that I welcome you today, and I hope you enjoy your stay.

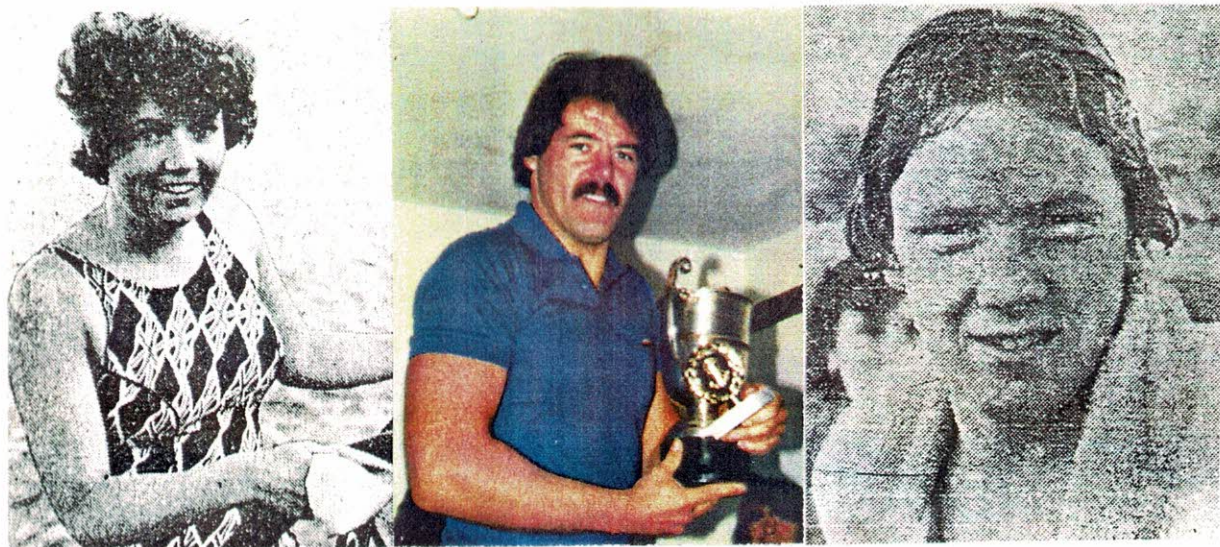


THE PAST

I feel that this is an appropriate occasion to recall the past and mention a few of the Greats and the Plodders, the Brave, the Worthies and the Characters, who have contributed to the progression of the sport, across the years. Not for most of them an international cap or media adulation - just the enjoyment of the challenge and personal satisfaction in their achievements; but without their contribution we probably would not be here today, celebrating this remarkable birthday.

I wonder if a certain John Barrowman from Broughty Ferry, knew what he was starting when he accepted the office of first Chief Ancient of Ye Amphibious Ancients back in 1884. He and his committee have certainly a lot to answer for, as do the early enthusiasts of Portobello, Greenock, Dunbar, Kirkcaldy and Bon Accord in Aberdeen. Certainly they knew they were trail-blazing in 1899, when John Shaw and Bob McMillan made the first crossing of the River Tay, and Bill Blair when he swam over and back in 1905, but did they think that easily a thousand more would do it after them? Did two young Ferry lads, Angus Smith and Dennis Sullivan realise, when they set off to compete in the first Torbay Championship that they were setting a mould, that their pawky humour and infectious enthusiasm would be so catching; or for that matter Bob McGauchie of Gourock and James Clancy from Dundee who took part in the first Windermere Championship. And that wonderful character, Ned Barney - did he dream that a tartan army, fired by his success, would follow him south at intervals to bid for the Blue Riband of the English Channel. A small army true, but how well they have performed. An exceptional talent, Mary Yeats, came from sprint-swimming to take the Windermere Championship, the English Channel and Egypt in her stride, and all in one season. I can recall two young boys who had apparently reached the cross-roads in the pool-hall, being coerced into an open water event in Holland, where both excelled themselves in a class-field, and regained the confidence and inspiration they so badly need. Douglas Campbell was to have a distinguished career, culminating in the Olympics, while Bruce Beckett went on to win the Windermere Championship and be the first Scot to swim Loch Lomond. Bill Stein, recuperating from a brain operation, bravely swam to France as part of his fight back to fitness. Hamish Winter held the Torbay record, amongst others, and was consistently placed in the first three for many years. Ian Reid, another Channeller, who went hunting in Ireland and most successfully, would regard his wife Wendy as his greatest prize from that country. Ian is the current Scottish Champion. Kevin McIntosh, our youngest Channel swimmer, who in the space of ten days in 1984, swam eighty miles to set a prodigious record, with the 2-way Windermere, Perth to Broughty Ferry, Loch Ness, the only Scot to do so; and between times won his club's Tay Championship and came second at Loch Earn. Ron McDonald, the expatriot with the R.A.F. was next to do the Channel. Finally Margaret Kidd who last year swam from England to France, the 2-way Windermere, Loch Rannoch, Earn, Loch Lomond and Windermere again, all in a month, a feat which earned her the title, "Swimmer of the Year", from the British Long Distance Swimming Association.

We are proud of you all and on this special day we salute you for your efforts. The fact that this event is being staged at all is due in no small way to you and the many more I have been unable to mention. Together with the legions of helpers, committee members and officials, support crews, parents and friends, who have played a part down the years, our grateful thanks.



THE ENTRY

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Club and Attainments</u>
1.	Simon Lee	23	Solent S.C. Loch Earn Champion '87. Loch Rannoch Champion '87. 2-way Bala, Torbay. Lake Windermere Champion '87.
2.	David Morgan	24	Scarborough Castle. English Channel, 2-way Loch Ness. Loch Lomond, Catalina Straits, U.S.A.
3.	Kevin McIntosh	23	Ye Amphibious Ancients Bathing Association. English Channel, Loch Ness, Loch Lomond, 2-way Windermere, Scottish Team Member, Egypt '87.
4.	Kevin Murphy	39	B.L.D.S.A. 2-way English Channel, Loch Ness, Loch Lomond, Lake Balaton, Hungary.
L1.	Carolyn Clark	23	Dover S.C. Lake Windermere Champion '87. Galway Bay Champion '88.

Relay Teams

1. Senior including
Neil Foster, Bruce Beckett, Robert
Mitchell, Donna Milne, Linlay
Agley, Joan Metcalfe.
2. Junior including
Robert Saunderson, Liam Sullivan,
Erica Metcalfe, Shannon Blair.

THE PROGRAMME

Briefing Meeting/Dinner
Lomond Park Hotel, Balloch
Decision on direction of swim,
according to winds prevailing,
will be announced

1900hrs. Friday 26th August.

Swim start, Ardlui or Balloch

0600hrs. Saturday 27th August.

Swim finish

No time limit set

Luncheon/Presentation
Lomond Park Hotel, Balloch

1400hrs. Sunday 28th August.

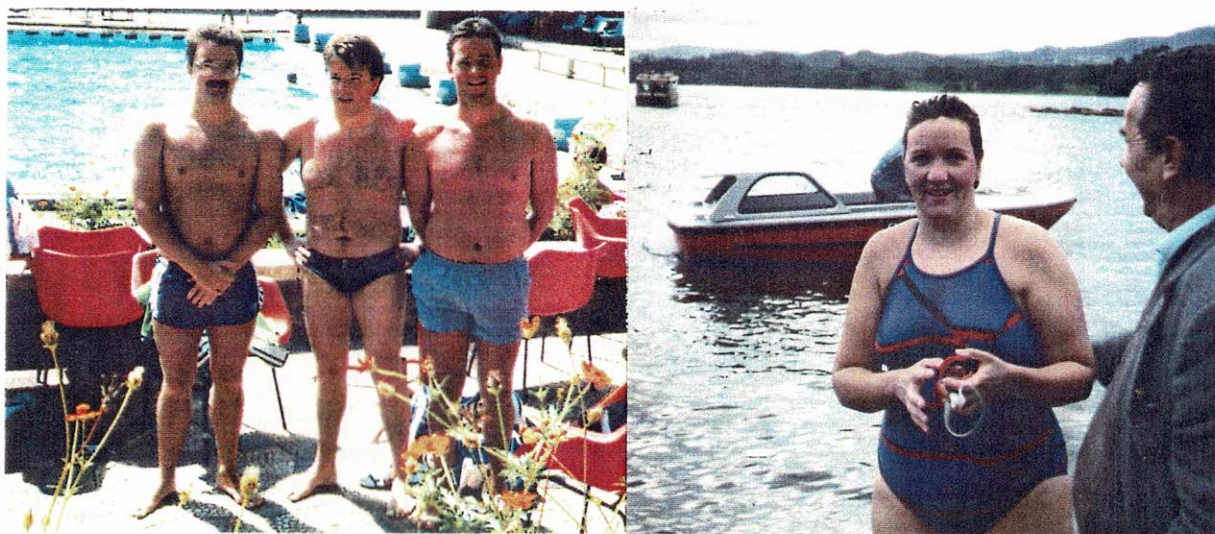
The presentation of Awards will be made by the President, Scottish Amateur Swimming Association, Peter Heatly, C.B.E., D.L.

THE OFFICIALS

Race Steward	D Sullivan.
Starter	I McIntosh.
Timekeepers	L Hastie, A Taylor, I McIntosh.
Rescue	J Saunderson, P McGowan.

The Association would take this opportunity of thanking the Lomond Park Hotel for the hospitality extended by management and staff and to everyone who contributed or helped in staging the event. We would also wish to thank the Dumbarton District Council for their very handsome donation of £100, towards the cost of the event.

Where else in sport would you find the winner of a race, staying on the beach to congratulate each swimmer as they finish, and there could be hours to wait, but it happens here. Where, could you picture a competitor holding back to encourage a rival who is going through a bad patch; I've seen it here. This is a sport that produces a unique form of camaraderie which would be hard to find anywhere else in the very competitive world of sport today, but it is marvellous to watch and it does happen. The swimmers know that though the race is paramount, one and all have to battle the distance and the conditions, and this remains the ultimate challenge. Amongst themselves, there is no distinction made between winners and losers -the ability to survive and to conquer is satisfaction enough, and if they can, they are considered an equal member of the club. A rather elite club and long may it remain so.

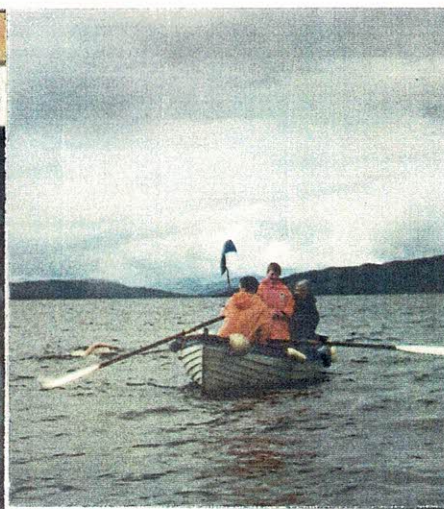


THE PRESENT & FUTURE

Since the inception of long distance as an S.A.S.A. officially backed discipline two years ago, steady progress has been made, and under the enthusiastic direction of Past-President Andrew Taylor and Vice-President Donald McGillivray, the committee has achieved a fair measure of success. Four Scottish Championships have been organised, the seniors at Loch Rannoch with a short-course at St. Andrews for the sprinters, the junior at Lochore Meadows, and a juvenile event on the River Tay. The first Scottish Long Distance Team attended the Galway Bay International in Ireland in '87 where two comparative newcomers to open water distinguished themselves. Neil Foster won the event and Donna Milne was third lady home. A Scottish team was invited to Egypt to swim in the World Championship at Ismalia in October. Neil Foster again swam well, while Ian Reid, Kevin McIntosh and Margaret Kidd did enough to earn Scotland fourth place in the team event.

This year, as the instigators of a home countries Junior International, we played host at Loch Lubnaig for the inaugural event, which has been promoted to give youngsters a taste of international competition in a friendly atmosphere. Wales, England and Ireland hopefully will take their turn on an annual basis. Miss Linlay Agle, won the Junior Championship a year ago, and so far this season, as a first year senior, has won on the Tay, at Loch Rannoch, been selected for the G.B. team in Belgium, and came third at Galway Bay with Donna Milne placed fourth.

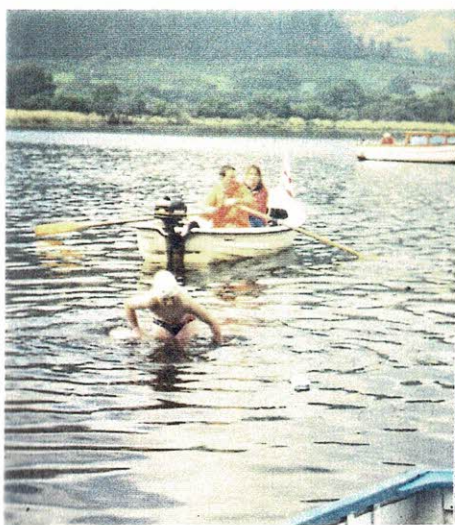
All the more reason therefore to express disappointment in the turn-out for today's event. The original entry has been decimated by withdrawals and the initial interest generated has not materialised. Sadly too; only one Scot will probably line-up at the start. However it is hoped that a Scottish senior and junior relay teams can be organised, and the junior team from Lubnaig will all be here.

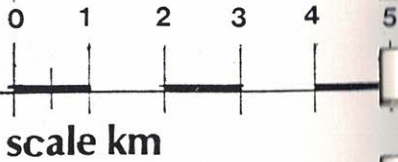
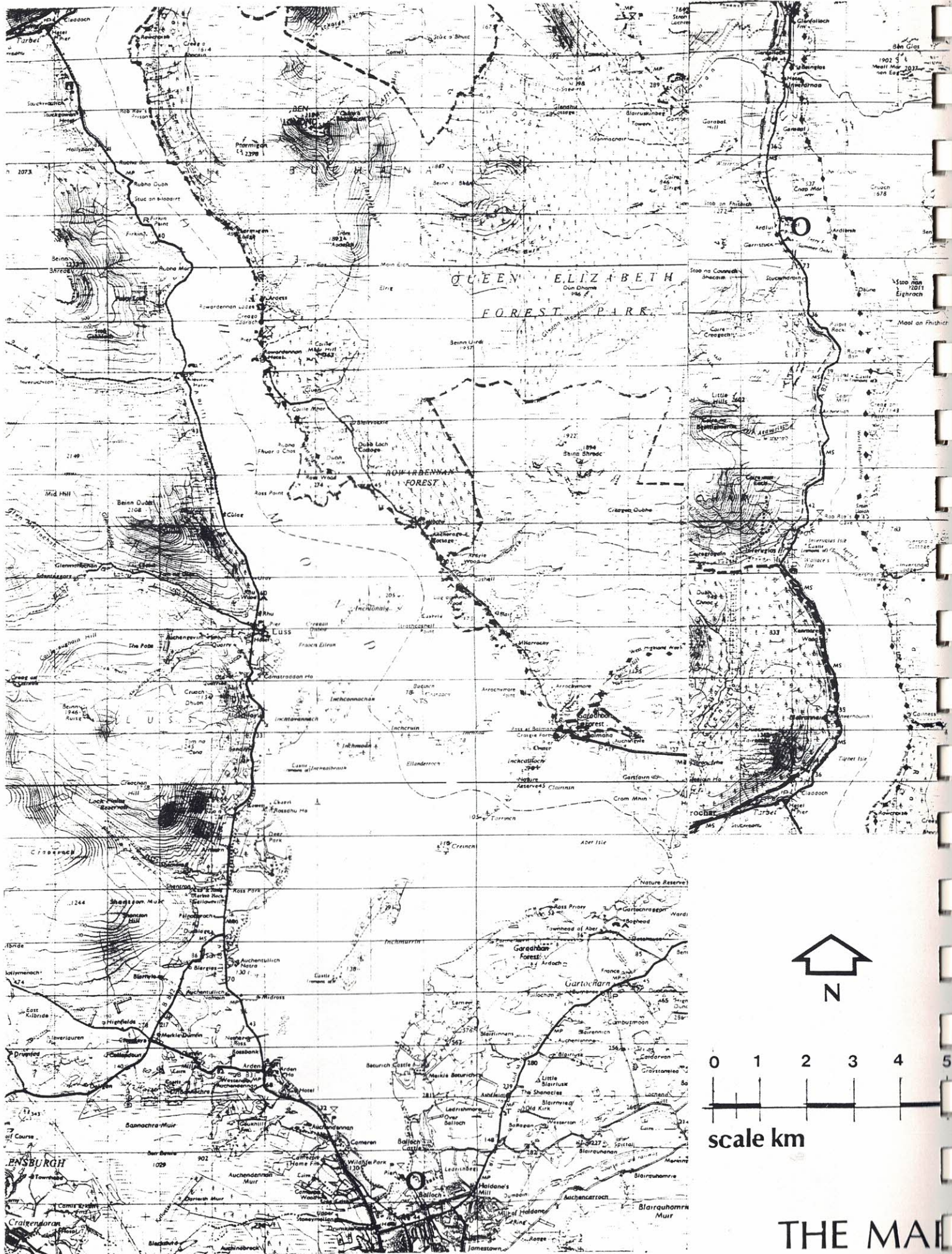


As we move towards Barcelona 1992 however, and the likely inclusion of long distance as an Olympic discipline, a more professional approach will be required if Scotland is to gain G.B. representation. Over the past three years England have developed a formidable squad, who, had the World Championship in Egypt '87 been the Olympics, would have won gold and silver in the mens, and gold in the ladies. Three out of four is tremendous, but it has only been achieved by sacrificing virtually all domestic competition, for an elite squad, who have concentrated on swimming principally abroad at the highest level of competition.

It is a popular misconception, that at a moment's notice, you can pluck a sprint swimmer out of the rarified and artificial conditions of a pool and pool-swimming, put he or she in an open water event and have instant success. Apart from the exceptional talent, it does not happen like that. It takes a lot of hard work and conditioning, both mentally and physically, to develop an open water swimmer of quality, and above all he or she has to enjoy it. Alright perhaps for a 1500m dash, but realistically they are facing a 25km swim, not a compilation of 25m, going flat out with all the elements can throw at them, and even in Barcelona, the weather will be fickle.

Fortunately there are encouraging signs. Amongst the girls and ladies we have the beginnings of a more than useful squad, with Donna Milne, Linlay Agley and young Shannon Blair all coming through and several more on the sidelines showing real promise. There is however a shortage of potential amongst the boys, and the old-guard cannot be expected to go on forever. I don't have the answer, but an influx of new blood is essential. Read this as a vacancy ad., if you wish, but any aspiring sprint swimmers who perhaps doesn't have the talent or the technical ability to make it to the top flight indoors; please consider the transition. Qualifications essential - ability to withstand cold, meaning the honed-down fashion must be sacrificed to join the more roly-poly brigade, and a thorough knowledge of the pop-charts to dispel the boredom. I'm being serious!





THE MAIL