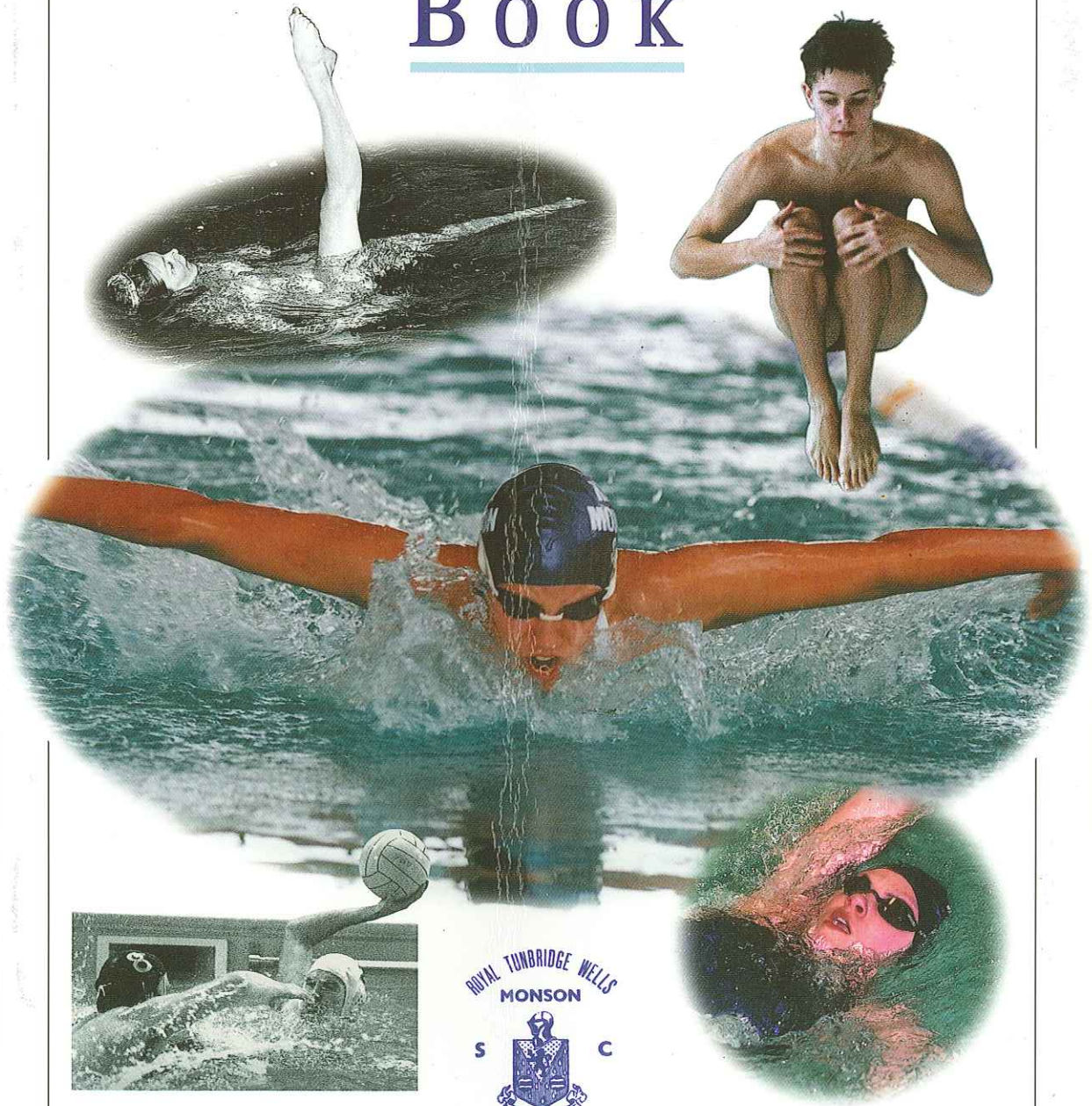


RTW MONSON

# CENTENARY YEAR BOOK



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
MONSON



1901 - 2001

Royal Tunbridge Wells Monson Swimming Club

## CENTENARY HANDBOOK

Trying to cram one hundred years of information about RTW Monson Swimming Club, and the people who have supported it into 32 pages has been an impossible task. What I hope we have achieved is an 'at a glance' look at some of the landmarks and people that have helped earn the club such an outstanding reputation over so many years.

My thanks to Daphne Geer and Dennis Knight who have helped me put this handbook together and a special thanks to John Twiggs, of Ticktock Publishing and Garry Jeffery of Printwells who have kindly sponsored the entire cost of this publication.

Lastly, my thanks, on behalf of the Club, to all the people past and present who have contributed to the success of the Club but who, due to space restrictions, are not mentioned personally.



Laurence Smith  
*Club Chairman*



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### A Message from the President

When I joined the Royal Tunbridge Wells Monsoon Swimming Club as an enthusiastic junior I never for one moment would have expected to be its President during 2001, the 100th year of activity.

The re-opening of the Club after the 1939/45 war saw the Ladies and Mens sections swimming on separate evenings, with only two evenings a week, and the biggest interest was in the Water Polo section.

Times have undoubtedly changed and the Club has developed over these past fifty years from an almost recreational Club to a highly respected competitive one, now competing in all disciplines of the sport, producing swimmers and a diver up to Olympic representation.

This development has been due to a very dedicated team of coaches working with one aim: to produce continued excellence at all levels, whether it be teaching the raw beginner, improving the techniques of those already swimming, and preparing competitors for the Club teams.

We look forward to the next century and hopefully we can continue with the same enthusiasm and high standards that have been achieved over the past 100 years.

Michael D Geer  
*President*

## TEAM PHOTOGRAPHS



Mid sixties club team with trophies won during the year.

Club team winners of the Calais Open Gala.



A & B Club teams – Woodgate Water Polo Tournament.



Monson medal winners at Southend Open Meet.



Club team that won the North Kent Junior League Division 1.

Dijon Trophy Gala winners.



Monson medal winners at Eastbourne Open Meet.

# TEAMS

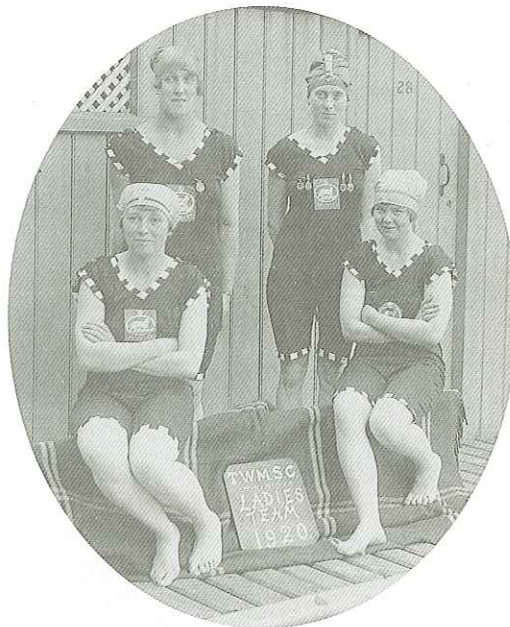
## 1901 – 1939

**1901** Monson Swimming Club was formed. The name came from the Monson Road Baths, which were the headquarters of the Club.

**1906** Monson won the Sussex Junior League Water Polo shield. (This was the first time a Club had been entered in both the Kent and Sussex Leagues).

**1908** The first Swimming Club of Tunbridge Wells, Cygnus – approached Monson concerning amalgamation. No records show if this happened, but not long after this Cygnus did not feature in any further records.

**1921/2/3** Monson won the Kent County Water Polo Senior Championship.



1920 Ladies team



1920 Mens Water Polo team

1901-1939

## 1901 – 1939

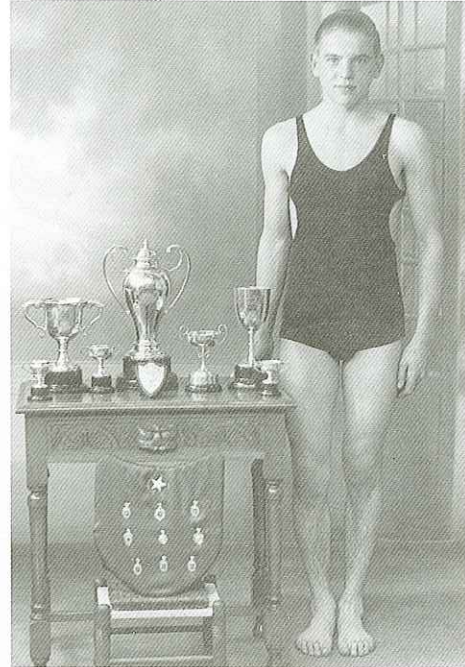
**1923/4/5** Monson won the Kent County Water Polo Junior Championship.

**1925** The first annual Schools Gala was promoted by Monson.

**1928** The start of the Club successes by various members who won Kent County Diving and 440 yards Freestyle awards.

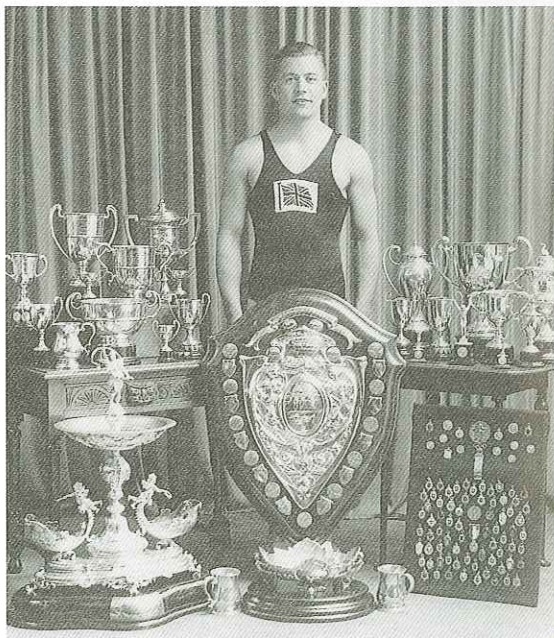
**1937** Kent County ASA formed Ladies and Mens Diving Leagues, of which Monson were founder members.

**1938** Monson won the Kent County Boys Team Race Championship.



1936 Tom Harvey Club Champion 110yds, 220yds freestyle

# 1901-1939



### PROFILE

#### Fred Dove

Joined Monson in 1927

#### *Achievements:*

- 1933** 1st Place Southern Counties 100yds Breaststroke, Backstroke & Freestyle
- 1934** 4th Place 100yds Freestyle British Empire Games
- 1934** 2nd Place 100yds Freestyle European Games
- 1936** Represented Great Britain at the Olympic Games, Berlin
- 1962** Became the Club President

## 1945 – 1959



Monson Swimming Pool, Monson Road

### PROFILE

#### Amy Baddeley (née Dove)

Joined Monson in 1926 and was a keen competitor both before and after the war. Amy was involved in teaching swimming and diving from 1946 onwards, and carried on until the early 1970's. She was the Club's President in 1976.

#### WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*"My memories of Monson go back over seventy years – life revolved around the club, swimming and diving. Also home and away matches, the County Championships and having fun travelling on the coach with the Water Polo team!"*

1945 September 13th. Special Meeting called to reformulate activities after the Second World War.

1946 Club Championships held.

1947 Membership numbers were back to pre-war levels, and the Junior Section was almost double that of 1939.

1950 Membership numbers topped 200.

1950 Graham Bournes competed in the National Championships in Blackpool.

1950 Start of swimming school with training schedules drawn up by Peter Benians and held on Monday evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm.



## 1945 – 1959

1952 Monson placed 2nd in Kent Mens' Diving League and 3rd in Kent League for Water Polo.

1955 Graham Bournes won all the Kent County Freestyle Championships, including the Long Distance held in the River Medway.

1956 Club badge re-designed from the Otter to the present badge depicting the then Tunbridge Wells crest.

1956 Dennis Knight was appointed Club Coach in 1956 a role he held until 1966. He became the Club's first professional Coach in 1974.



*Fred Bournes President presenting his son Graham Bournes with 440yds Championship Trophy*

# 1945-1959

### PROFILE

#### Gladys Cheeseman (née Watson)

Joined Monson the day she was born 8th December 1920

##### *Achievements:*

- 1937 Appointed Junior Committee member
- 1964/65 Club President for two years
- 1973 Made a Life Member
- 1979/2000 Membership Secretary
- 1962 to Date Monday evening club admissions



##### MONSON MEMORIES

*"Performing in a "fancy" swimming team at home galas. Twelve or more of us would do somersaults in water and make patterns. This was all long before synchronized swimming was thought of".*

## 1945 - 1959



1957 president with Club Committee at annual dinner and dance

1957 Club Annual Dinner  
Dance reintroduced.

1959 Club subscription rates:  
Adults 7/6d; Juniors  
(Under 16) 4/-

1959 Monson win George P  
King Trophy Gala in  
June 1959.

# 1945-1959

### PROFILE

#### David Reeves

Joined Monson in 1950

#### Achievements:

- 1950 Monson Executive Member
- 1954 Kent County President
- 1967 Southern Counties Executive
- 1982 Southern Counties President
- 1983 ASA Committee Member  
Appointed team official to  
Olympic Games in Moscow,  
Los Angeles and Seoul
- 1985/94 Appointed Secretary to ASA



Left to right, Daphne Geer, David Reeves and  
Linda Horne before flying to the World  
Championships in Belgrade

### PROFILE



#### Dennis Knight

Joined Monson in 1945

#### Achievements:

- 1946 Southern Counties  
Diving Champion
- 1956 Kent Diving Team  
Winners  
Club Coach 1956-1966  
& 1974-1976
- 1953/59 Club Diving Champion  
for 6 years
- 1969 & 1987 Club President
- 1974 Appointed Monson Life  
Member
- 2001 Chairman Monson  
Centenary Committee



## Message from the Kent County ASA President

I am delighted to be asked to say a few words on the prestigious occasion of the Centenary of RTW Monson Swimming Club.

In the many years that I have known the Club, they have produced not only Olympians and Paralympians as well as national and international Swimmers and Divers, but have also provided at various times International Team Managers and Head Coach.

The Club is always well represented in County and District Teams and the representatives have been and always are a credit to their Club, County and District. There are also successful Diving, Synchronized swimming and Water Polo Sections, and a thriving teaching section in the Club.

It has always been a happy and hardworking Club and deserves the success it achieves, particularly due to the dedication of the Coaches and administrators and all those other officers and helpers necessary for the efficient running of the Club.

The RTW Monson Swimming Club has a history to be proud of, and no doubt we will be even more proud of the Club's achievements in the future.

*Kay Grimshaw*

Kay Grimshaw  
President, KCASA

## 1960's

The beginning of the 1960's saw our swimmers again entering the National Swimming Championships. Boys and Girls from Monson were also representing Kent County, Southern Counties and English Schools. In 1961 Monson had its first Great Britain swimmer, Gaynor Foy, since Fred Dove in the 1930s.

**1961** 10 Monson swimmers gained County colours. Stuart Marsh was the first Monson swimmer selected, with the Club Coach, to attend the ASA Advanced Swimming Training Course at Loughborough.

**1962** The Junior Water Polo team, in their second year of the competition were the winners of the Southern Counties Junior club water polo championship, Monson being the first club in Kent to win this trophy. The captain of the junior team, David Coleman was appointed the Captain of the Kent County Junior Water Polo team.



Junior Water Polo team - Southern Counties winners.  
Back row, left to right, Geoff Everard, Dick Pepper, Pat Fleming, Derek Hassell. Front row, left to right, Desmond Hassell, David Coleman, Alvin Hill, Keith Dix, David Reeves, Team manager.

### PROFILE



Gaynor Foy (front row left) with other Monson members at the National Championships

### Gaynor Corlis (née Foy)

Joined Monson in 1958

#### Achievements:

- 1961** Kent Championships  
Bronze 110yds Freestyle,  
4th 220yds Freestyle
- 1962** Kent Championships  
8 Gold Medals, Kent  
Swimmer of the Year
- 1962** Represented Great Britain  
in 110yds backstroke against  
East Germany
- 1963** National Age Group  
Championships  
One Silver and two  
Bronze Medals
- 1963** Kent Championships  
10 individual Gold Medals

#### WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

"Monson was an important part of what I am today, helping me to form lifelong relationships with family and friends".

**1963** Saw the start of the age group championships which are now part of our swimming year. During this year, Pat Fleming broke Fred Doves' 1935 100 yards freestyle record with a time of 54.9 seconds.

**1965** Monson became one of the founder members of the London League now the Speedo Swimming League. The Club Secretary, Ron Wheeler was one of the prime movers in the setting up of this competition, which is still running today, and competed for nationwide. Worthy of special note in 1965 was the fact that Monson won the Keith Gillman trophy for the annual team race across Dover harbour. The club obtained a notable achievement in the swim when their four swimmers gained the first four places thus obtaining

## PROFILE

Pat Fleming (left),  
Stuart Marsh (right)



### Stuart Marsh

Joined Monson in 1959

**MOST MEMORABLE PERFORMANCE:**  
2nd Place Boys 110yds  
Butterfly – National Championships 1963

#### WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*“Established many friendships which still flourish today, and taught me that a work hard mentality will bring results in work & pleasure”.*

maximum points, the individual who completed the course in a new record time was Pat Fleming .



1968 Monsons first visit by an overseas team from Sweden

## 1960's

**1966** The senior water polo team won the Norman Beadle knock-out cup beating their old rivals Beckenham in the final. The junior water polo team still holds the record of beating Eton Otters 28-0 in the final of the Southern Counties Championships.



*First Channel Swimming Team. Back row left to right, Ian Marsh, Derek Hassell, Kevin Nutt. Front row, left to right, Philip Hulme, Chris Chandler, Ray Harris.*

**1966** On the 24 September, 1966 under the direction of John Wrapson, the new Club Coach, after many hours of training at Dover and Folkestone, the team from Monson were successful in crossing the English Channel, only just missing the record by 16 minutes. The team were given a civic reception by the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells on their return.

**1966** Monson started their first synchronized swimming club sessions.

**1966** Under the direction of the new club coach John Wrapson Monson was the first club in the South to run a four day intensive training course.

**1967** Six 12 year old Monson swimmers set a record for the youngest team to swim the English Channel. Channel Swimming Association rules stated you must be 12 years old before you could attempt to swim the channel. This record is still in the Guinness Book of Records today.



*Second Channel Swimming Team. Back row, left to right, Jonathan Marsh, Kevin Tetmar, Peter Burns, Dennis Knight, John Wrapson. Front row, left to right, Stephen Underdown, Richard Field, David Young, Peter Chapman, Kim Taylor.*

During the 1960s a lot of lobbying was carried out to try to persuade the Council to build a new swimming pool. In 1966, the membership peaked at 983 with over 83 children on the waiting list to join the Club.

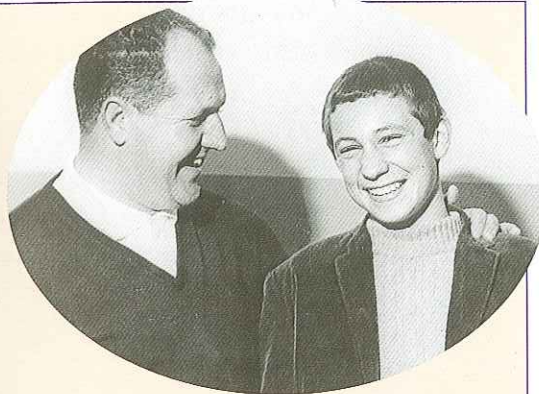
PROFILE

**Chris Bassi**

Born 1956 – Died 1969

Joined Monson in 1964 and progressed quickly to win the National 12/13 years 110yds Breaststroke Championship in 1968. Tragically just a year later in 1969 Chris died.

His brother Graham, also a Monson Club member and now Club Coach of Lincoln Vulcans SC has fond memories of Monson:



*Mick Geer with Chris Bassi.*

*"Monson was part of daily life for the Bassi family, especially Chris, who dedicated himself to his swimming. Even now, Monson still has a special place in our hearts".*

1960's

WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*"Great fun. Nationals – scary and exciting, super friends, teamwork, dedication, enjoyment, self discipline, galas, coach trips and chips!"*

Anne Fahy (née King)



*Monson Ladies Medley Team 1966. Left to right Heather Kingsland, Barbara Mitchell, Mary Wheeler, Anne King,*

PROFILE

**Mary Bartley (née Wheeler)**

Joined Monson in 1958



*Achievements*

- 1966** Became Kent Ladies 100 yards Backstroke Champion
- 1997/98** Appointed Club President. Also worked as Swimming Coach and on the Social Committee for several years

WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*"Monson was my life – training everyday – hard yes, but brilliant fun. Monson provided my friends, fitness, love of sport and love of life".*

## 1970's

**I**nternational honours came to our officials in 1971. Daphne Geer was appointed the Chaperone to the England team for the Bologna Trophy, David Reeves was the Team Manager for the GB Water Polo Team and Raymond Harris was Captain of the GB World Student Games team. From the new synchronized swimming section Linda Horne, was awarded the Kent County Synchronized Swimming Champion of the Year trophy. The club and age group championships were well supported this year with over 500 entries and 19 new Club records.

1973 During 1973, Linda Horne the synchronized swimmer, was invited to join the Great Britain synchronized swimming squad. In the Four Nations competition in Paris, and later that year, she competed in the first World Championships held in Belgrade.

1974 July 13th – The opening of the new pool in St John's Road and the Club laid on a display of all aspects of our sport to an invited audience. Now with a diving pit, the diving section was able to start again under the direction of Al Williams, the Great Britain Team Coach.



WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME  
"Hard work, red eyes, but great fun too.  
Achievements I wouldn't have gained without  
the Club's backing. Thank you Monson".

Linda Fowler (née Horne)

## 1970's

Early in 1972 another Monson first. Who would have thought that a swimming club could produce a first class professional pantomime in our old pool. All sections of the club participated in the pantomime 'Mother Goose', under the production and direction of Derek Horne. He developed acts of comedy and the aquatic displays and effects were a delight.



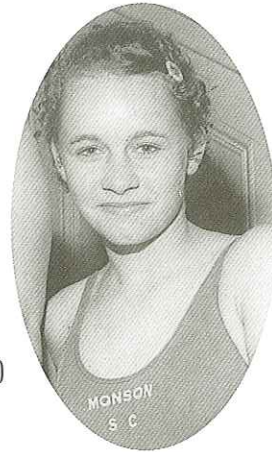


1975 To the delight of the Diving section, the Club diving Championships were competed for, the first time since 1963.

1976 Mick Geer is appointed as Club Coach.

**MONSON MEMORIES**  
*"The first time I swam butterfly for the club in the London League I was 12 or 13 and swam in an older age group. To my surprise I won!"*

Sue Hodge (née Swan)



# 1970's

## PROFILE



### Mick Geer

Joined Monson in 1946 and has held many positions within the Club during the period 1946-2001, including Team Manager, Club Coach, Chairman, Diving Coach and Secretary, Water Polo Captain, Dinner Secretary, President 1971 and 2001 and Life Member.

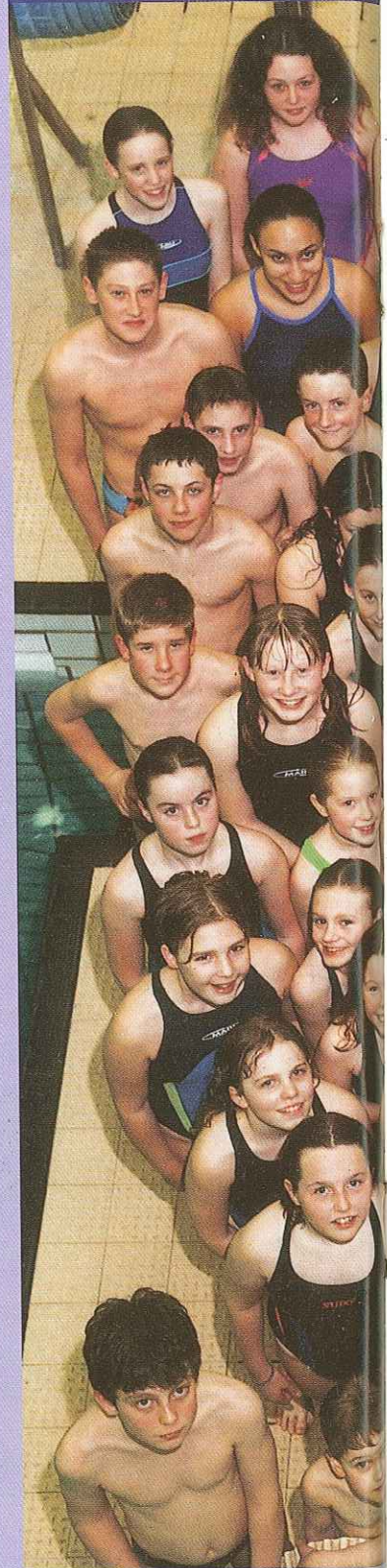
#### *Achievements:*

- 1960 Invited as Team manager to take the Club on a two week tour of Sweden
- 1976 Appointed Club Coach
- 1979 to Date Appointed Kent County Head Coach
- 1983/87 Coaching Suki Brownsdon, through the Club system from the Learn to Swim to an Olympic Games final for 100 metres Breaststroke in Moscow
- 1988 Appointed Honorary Life Member of Kent County ASA
- 1992 Coaching the Girls 12 years team to be National Age Group Championship winners
- 1993 Seeing Roberta Stellini gain a bronze medal in the 200 metres butterfly in the Games of the Small Nations of Europe for Malta
- 1993 Winner of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council 'Coach of the Year' Award
- 1994 Winner of the Greene King Coaches Award
- 1996 Honoured by the Club with a surprise party in recognition of 50 years active membership
- 2000 Appointment of Head Coach to the British Paralympic Swimming Team at the Sydney Olympic Games
- 2001 Attended Buckingham Palace on the 14 February for a reception being given by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in honour of the British Paralympic Team

# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS MARCH/APRIL 2001



# CLUB



CLUB TRAINING NIGHT – MARCH 2001



## 1970's



1976 National Biathlon Champions. Left to right Andrew Bruce, Paul Thornby and Nick Young.

accommodate Top Squad, giving them a realistic amount of training time and leaving space on a Monday evening for more members to participate in the training. The same year, the Club introduced a Monson Swimming Club Highboard Diving Championship. Also in this year, Monson Synchro girls wiped the board at the County Championships with Sonia Brunton and Kay Bradley winning the Senior and Junior titles between them and Brian Hunt won the National Lifesaving Championship.

**1976** With all the new facilities, 1976 was the time when the Club once again started to get some better results in the swimming world. Twenty new girls and twelve boys club records were recorded in 1976. Paul Thornby was the first Club member to go under 60 seconds for the 100 metres freestyle and Gavin Wells beat the record for the 4 x 100 metres Individual Medley by 48 seconds. In the National Swimming championships, our Girls won a silver medal in the 16/17 years 4 x 100m. freestyle.

**1977** The Club had to introduce a permanent waiting list. Too much pressure had been put on the Club Coach and his assistant to find places in the early classes. This resulted in the Club now having to hire facilities at the Tonbridge School pool to

## 1970's



### MONSON MEMORIES

*"Jersey '75 was great as we were the only team ever to have beaten the home team in their freezing outdoor sea pool".*

Kim Buckingham (née Knight)

1978 Pride of place in 1978 must go to Gavin Wells, another home produced swimmer, who achieved international honours by being selected to represent GB in the European Youth Championships which were held in Florence. Also in 1978 Daphne Geer had been selected as Ladies Chaperone to the English Swimming team



at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Canada and then for the Great Britain team competing in the World Championships in Berlin.



**WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME**  
*"Monson for me represents a lifetime of enjoyment in competing and teaching swimming and water polo and perhaps, as importantly, many lasting friendships".*

Brian Hunt

1970's

**PROFILE**

**Daphne Geer (née Findlay)**

Joined Monson - 1946

*Achievements:*

- 1967 Elected to Kent County ASA Executive
- 1969 Passed ASA Officials Examination
- 1970 Chaperone ASA Advanced Course at Loughborough
- 1971 Great Britain Chaperone at European Junior Championships
- 1973 Great Britain Chaperone to the Senior Team - First World Championships, Belgrade
- 1974 President Kent County ASA
- 1974 Assistant Team Manager, Commonwealth Games, England Team - Christchurch, New Zealand
- 1975 GB team World Championships, Cali, Columbia
- 1976 Assistant Team Manager, Olympic Games, Montreal
- 1976 Team Manager, GB Team Six Nations, Malmo, Sweden
- 1977 GB team - European Championships, Jonkoping, Sweden
- 1978 Assistant Team Manager, Commonwealth Games, England Team - Edmonton, Canada
- 1978 GB Team - World Championships, West Berlin
- 1980 Assistant Team Manager Olympic Games, Moscow
- 2000 President Kent County ASA



## 1980's

*The 80's must go down in the history of Monson as the decade when our presence was felt at Kent County, National and International levels. All the hard work over the last four years by the Club Coach, Mick Geer, was now paying dividends.*

1980's

**1980** Sadly in 1980 Fred Dove, the first Tunbridge Wells Olympian died. He would have been so proud to have known that Suki Brownsdon, the first Monson Club swimmer to go through the Club system from learn to swim, lengths, Top Squad, County, National and International level had been selected to represent her country at the Olympic Games in Moscow. The same year Suki became the first British swimmer to win a Gold medal at the European Junior Championships.

**1981** Water polo was on the up again with three teams in the top half of the Kent County Water Polo league. In the Kent County Championships, our entries were 77% up on the previous year. Our swimmers reached 35 finals breaking 8 County records. In 1981, the membership was again on the increase with over 788 members.

Another first for Monson – Peter Lerpiniere won a Gold medal in the 100 metres Backstroke at the European Police Championships.

### PROFILE

#### Suki Brownsdon

Joined Monson in 1975

#### Achievements:

**1980** Olympic Games –  
Moscow 100m  
Breaststroke 6th

**1981** European  
Championships –  
100m Breaststroke  
– Silver medal

**1982** Commonwealth Games –  
Brisbane, Silver & Bronze medals

**1984** Olympic Games – Los Angeles  
100m & 200m Breaststroke

**1986** Commonwealth Games –  
Edinburgh 100m Breaststroke,  
Gold medal

**1988/89** World Cup Breaststroke and I.M.  
Champion

**1992** Olympic Games – Barcelona, 100m  
& 200m Breaststroke

**1980/1992** 25 British National Titles

**1989/90** Captain GB Womens Swimming Team



## 1980's

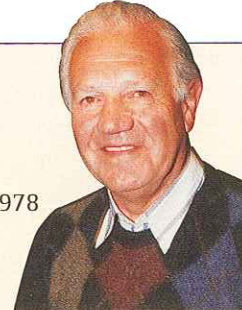
Also in 1981 Beverley Bailey won every Girls Kent County Diving Championships as well as the Ladies Highboard Championship. Monson also won the Mens and Ladies new Kent County Inter-Club Championship.

**1982** The Club had its best results for many years in the Speedo Swimming League. Monson qualified for the National finals coming 6th overall.

**1985** Our divers were becoming known at National level with Hayley Allen and Amanda Prentice. This year Monson proved they were the top diving club in Kent, winning eight gold medals, six silver medals and two bronze medals. In the same year, Andrew Hibbens represented Great Britain at Macon in France. Monson also won the Kent Diving League for ladies and were 2nd in the Kent Diving league for men.

### PROFILE

#### Tom Paradise



Joined Monson in 1978 after moving from Derby to Tunbridge Wells. In his youth, Tom was an international water polo player and Derbyshire County swimming champion. Whilst at Monson, he has held a number of positions – Club President, Chairman, General Secretary, Trophy Secretary, Water Polo Secretary and Coach.

#### MONSON MEMORIES

*"At the ripe old age of 24, being presented with trophies for the 100m & 50m freestyle events at the Club Championships in 1984 by the Club President Mrs S Brunton (my mum)".*

Jayne Dadswell (née Brunton)

### PROFILE

#### Pam Hunt

Joined Monson in 1978

#### Achievements:

- 1982** Coached first diver Amanda Prentice to National standard
- 1984 to date** Chairman Kent County Diving Committee
- 1989** President, RTW Monson
- 1993 to date** RTW Monson Executive Committee
- 1993/97** ASFGB National Diving Development Squad Coach
- 1996** Team Manager, coach and chaperone to England Youth Diving Team to Walkraiburg
- 1996** Kent Coach of the Year Award
- 1999** President, Kent County ASA



## 1980's

## 1980's

**1987** The synchronized swimming squad wiped the board at the Kent County Synchronized Swimming Championships by winning eight Gold medals.

**1988** Not to be outdone by the swimming and synchronized swimming sections the divers won 39 medals at the Kent County Diving Championships, 14 golds, 14 silvers and 11 bronze and in nine events, Monson were placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

**1989** In 1989 all sections of the Swimming Club did exceptionally well, but pride of place must go to Hayley Allen, for the third year running she was the GB Junior Diver of the Year, also the Southern Counties and Kent County Diver of the Year. In the same year, 1989, Hayley was selected to dive for GB in the Junior European Championships in the highboard event.

# 1980's

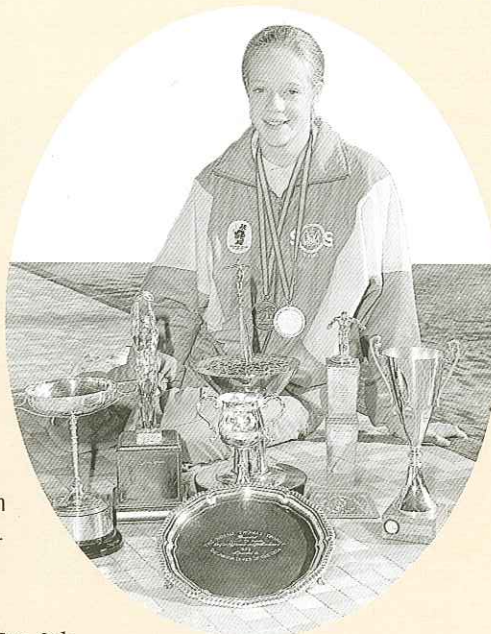
### PROFILE

#### Hayley Sotheran (née Allen)

Joined Monson in 1982

#### *Achievements:*

- 1985** Kent team – Inter Counties Championships
- 1986** ASA Nationals 12 years – Bronze medal
- 1989** Junior European Championships – Bronze medal
- 1990** Senior International Moscow – top British junior
- 1992** Olympic Games – Barcelona – 12th
- 1993** World Age Group Championships – 10m Platform – Bronze
- 1994** Commonwealth Games – Canada
- 1996** Olympic Games – Atlanta Ladies 10m 9th
- 1999** Monson Life Member



#### WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*"Monson means to me everything that it has given me; support, care, encouragement and the feeling of belonging to a winning team".*



**T**he 1990's started where the 80's had left off with Hayley Allen continuing her success in diving, whilst in swimming, Simon Handley helped Monson start the decade off with international honours, attending the European Championships in 1991 and selection for GB in 1992.

**1990** The Water Polo team won the Southern Counties Tournament in 1990 with several of the players who had been prominent some 15 years earlier!



1990 Water Polo team

**1991** The strength in depth which has become the hallmark of the Club's swimming squad was apparent in 1991 when 46 Kent Championship medals were won – 25 girls and 21 boys.

**1992** Helen Prentice, Lindsay Edwards, Laura Clarke and Pippa Cook achieved a gold medal in the girls 12/13 years 4 x 100m freestyle relay event at the National Age Group Championships in Leeds.

Back row, Alice Rose, Ted Valder.  
Middle row, Laura Clarke, Pippa Cook.  
Front row, Lindsay Edwards, Helen Prentice

## PROFILE

### Simon Handley

Joined Monson in 1987



#### Achievements:

- 1988 Selected for ESSO Squad
- 1992 Selected for GB Squad
- 1989/92 Kent Swimmer of the Year
- 1995 World Student Games
- 1997/99 World Championships

#### WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*"I am eternally grateful for the platform that Monson gave me, helping me to achieve international swimming success and lifelong friendships".*



## 1990's

1993 In synchro, Jennie Vanns was selected for the Kent Synchro team whilst in swimming Lindsay Edwards won two gold medals in the 100m and 50m freestyle events at Southern Counties.

### PROFILE

#### Emily Manktelow

Joined Monson in 1987



#### Achievements:

- 1992 First gold medal – Kent County Competition
- 1994 First National medal – Silver in the 5m Highboard
- 1995 First ASA National Gold medal
- 1996 First International, England Youth Team to Walkraiburg
- 1996 Joint winner ASA – Junior Diver of the Year
- 1997 Member National Diving Development Squad

With Ted Valder now established as Team Manager, forging a very strong partnership with Mick Geer, the junior swimmers complemented the established swimmers – Simon Handley, Ian Wynne, Darren Tobin, Richard Benn, Jackie Luckings, Lara Whitfield, Roberta Stellini to form a formidable team capable of beating most other clubs in South East England.



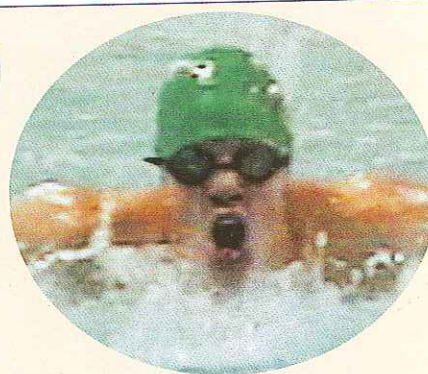
Kent Synchro team – Jennie Vanns (second left)

### PROFILE

#### Jonathan Bone

Joined Monson in 1994

- 1996 Gold Medal 100m F/S Kent Championships
- 1999 Kent Selection – Ontario Canada
- 2000 Olympic Trials – Sheffield
- 2000 Division 11 and Kent County team Captain
- 2001 Selection for England South
- 2001 10 Gold Medals Kent Championships



#### MONSON MEMORIES

*“One of my most memorable team memories since joining Monson was winning the Kent Junior League so convincingly in 1996”. “On an individual basis, my most memorable performance has to be competing in the Olympic trials in the 200m freestyle”.*

## 1990's



Kent Junior League Winners of Division 1. 1996

1994 With Monson's junior squad developing fast, the Club joined the North Kent Junior League in 1994 starting at the bottom in Division 3. The Club were promoted in their first year to Division 2, and went on to get promotion to Division 1. In their first year in Division 1 in 1996 they won the League beating Beckenham by a margin of 11 points.

1995 In diving, a clutch of new names began to hit the headlines with Emily Manktelow and Amy Renton achieving considerable success. Emily obtained her first medal in the Nationals at the age of 12.



1996 Monson Kent County Winners

### PROFILE

#### David Bartley

Joined Monson in 1986



1994 Kent Junior 1500m Champion

#### WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

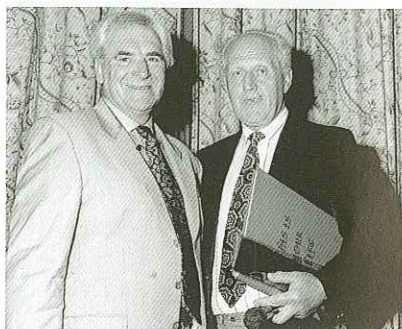
*"Monson is not just about swimming, but social development, confidence and discipline building and great people".*

1996 The strength of Monson's swimming squad was confirmed in 1996 at the Kent Championships when the Ladies team won the Points trophy by a massive margin of 138 points. Members of the Ladies team included Cassie Smith, Toni Stevens, Clare Stevens, Helen Prentice, Candice Baptiste, Claire Serjeant, Laura McConnachie, Amy Mitchell, Tamsin Gwynne and Emily Bone. The performance was achieved again in the following year in 1997.

## 1990's

1997 In June 1996, Mick Geer celebrated 50 years as a member of Monson and friends and colleagues arranged a surprise party at the Spa Hotel to which nearly 300 people attended. Party Organiser Mary Bartley was quoted in the Courier.

*"In the end we had to limit the numbers. It is a tremendous statement about the man and the respect and affection that all those in swimming have for him".*



Dennis Knight and Mick Geer

Betty Allen,  
Team manager at  
the European  
Championships  
in Aachen 1997



## 1990's

1998 The Annual Report for 1998 indicates that in most areas it was a fairly quiet one for the Club.

*"The past year for the diving section has been one of consolidation".*

*"The synchro section has had a relatively quiet year".*

*"This has been a steady period for the Water Polo Section".*

But in swimming, the pinnacle of the year in 1998 was reaching the Speedo League final for the first time since 1981.

### PROFILE

#### Cassandra Smith

Joined Monson in 1990

#### Achievements:

- 1994 Kent Selection – Madeira International Meet
- 1994 & 1996 Tunbridge Wells Sports Achievement Award
- 1995 5 Gold Medals – Kent Championships
- 1996 11 Gold Medals Kent County Championships and Age Group Champion
- 1996 3rd & 4th places in 100m Fly & 200m freestyle National Age Group Championships – Crystal Palace
- 1996 Selected for ASA Swim 2000 Squad
- 1997 10 Gold Medals – Kent Championships – Age Group Champion



**A**s the nineties drew to a close, the Club remained intrinsically strong with the emergence of two new International swimmers, Clare Stevens and Darren Leach ensuring that the club entered the new Millennium at the highest level.

PROFILE



**Darren Leach**

Joined Monson in 1995

*Achievements:*

- 1998 World Championships Spain (International Blind Swimming Association)  
3 Team Gold medals, Silver 100m breaststroke
- 1999 European Championships (International Paralympic Committee) Gold 50m Freestyle, Silver 100m Freestyle, Bronze 100m breaststroke
- 2000 Paralympics - Sydney Silver medal 50m freestyle, Bronze medal 100m breaststroke, Bronze medal 100m freestyle, Silver 4x100m Medley team

PROFILE

**Clare Stevens**

Joined Monson in 1995



*Achievements:*

- 1997 10 Gold Medals in Kent Championships, 5 Silver medals in Southern Counties
- 1998 12 Gold medals in Kent Championships, 1 Gold medal in Southern Counties
- 1999 2 Gold medals in Ontario State Junior Long Course Championships in Toronto representing Kent, 1 Gold medal, 2 Silver medals in National Age Group Championships, 3 Nations at Cambridge representing England
- 2000 6 Nations in Grundstadt (Germany) representing Great Britain, 3 National Age Group Gold medals at Coventry
- 2001 Selected for World Class Potential Programme, Great Britain England Schools in Wrexham (March)

WHAT MONSON MEANS TO ME

*"When I joined Monson 6 years ago. I never realised then the impact that swimming would have on my life. The camaraderie and friendship amongst club members makes for a good club - all pulling together. It has given me a very disciplined life which will be, I feel sure, to my benefit in the future. The club, under the helm of Mick Geer, has gone from strength to strength and I am proud to be a part of it".*

## 2000-2001

### MONSON MEMORIES

*"In 1974 our eldest daughter Zanda joined RTW and Dennis Knight was swimming coach. It was with sincere thanks to him I became involved (as did so many other parents) with helping on the poolside and my swimming partnership with Mick began. In 1990 I took over the team manager position. Our successes have been numerous and I feel privileged to have been involved. In November 1995, came my proudest moment when I was awarded Life Membership of RTW Monson SC".*

Ted Valder



Club Championships 2000

### Club Championship Winners 2000

- Girls 10 years Alice Rendall
- Boys 10 years Oliver Smith
- Girls 11 years Rebecca O'Brian
- Boys 11 years Sam Durnell
- Girls 12/13 years Kerry Pinnington
- Boys 12/13 years Kieran Fenn
- Girls 14/15 years Laura McConnachie  
& Emily Bone
- Boys 14/15 years David Giles
- Girls Open } Clare Stevens
- Ladies Open }
- Boys Open Alex Bridges
- Mens Open Jonathan Bone



## 2000-2001



2001 Top Squad

Training for Top Squad Swimmers consists of five morning and four evening sessions, in addition to land training and starts and turns. In a typical hour long programme swimmers are expected to cover 3000/3500 metres.



### Coaching Staff

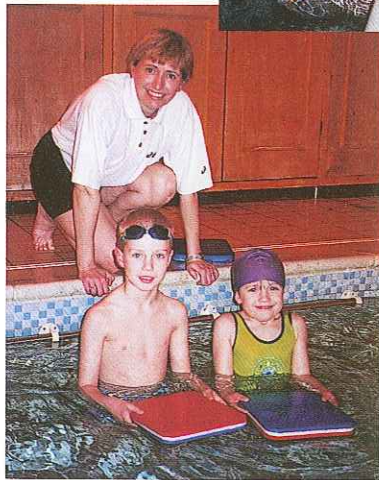
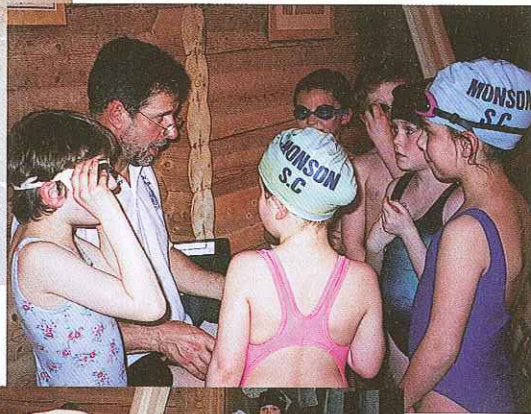
Back row, left to right, Mick Geer, Kim Taylor, Andy Gregory.  
Middle row, left to right, Tim Price, John Twiggs, Pete Bailey, Millie Curry, Pam Hunt.  
Front row, left to right, Jo Fox, Betty Allen, Linda Bone, Judith Rich.

March 2001: Coaching staff on the rare occasion when Ted Valder was not on poolside!

# 2000-2001

## LEARN TO SWIM

**M**onson's 'Learn to Swim' provides teaching for children aged 6-10 years through four ability groups. On leaving, the children enter the main body of the club at 'lengths' level. During lessons 'water skills' are encouraged promoting safety and confidence in the water and ASA badges and certificates are awarded.





## LOOKING AHEAD



Kent county 2001 Champions – Gold Medal Winners. Back row, left to right, Kerry Pinnington, Clare Stevens, Emma Allington, Matthew Hinton. Front row, left to right, Leanne Hunt, Jonathan Bone, Charlie Millen, Georgina Redman.

### PROFILE

#### Kerry Pinnington

Joined Monson in 1999

#### *Achievements:*

- 2000 Kent Selection – Germany, 3 Golds, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
- 2000 National Age Group Championships Freestyle – 5th
- 2000 Ranked Top Female 12 years 50m Freestyle (Nationally)
- 2001 10 Gold Medals – Kent Championships



## OFFICERS - ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS MONSON SWIMMING CLUB

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1901-04	C. STEVENSON-BARTON	H.G. WHIBLEY	T.R. BENHAM	1966	D.A. REEVES	MRS D.J. GEER	MRS D. HASSELL
1905	C. STEVENSON-BARTON	T.J. HAYWARD	T.R. BENHAM	1967	MRS A. BADDELEY	MRS D.J. GEER	MRS D. HASSELL
1906-07	C. STEVENSON-BARTON	F. WOODGER	T.R. BENHAM	1968	J.G.W. LUSTED	MRS D.J.; GEER	MRS D. HASSELL
1908	C. STEVENSON-BARTON	H. SAXBY	T.R. BENHAM	1969	D.E.A. KNIGHT	R.W.C. WHEELER	MRS D. HASSELL
1909-14	J.B. SNELL	H. SAXBY	H.C. CHAMBERS	1970	H.P. HARVEY	R.W.C. WHEELER	MRS.D. HASSELL
1919.	J.B. SNELL	S.G. WAGHORN	H.C. CHAMBERS	1971	M.D. GEER	R.W.C. WHEELER	P. BURNS
1920-23	J.B. SNELL	P.R. CARTER	H.C. CHAMBERS	1972	P. ROBBINS	R.W.C. WHEELER	P. BURNS
1924-26	J.B. SNELL	P.R. CARTER	P. WATSON	1973	P. ROBBINS	R.W.C. WHEELER	F.G. SWAN
1927	J.B. SNELL	M. WATKINS	P. WATSON	1974	J. WRAPSON	R.W.C. WHEELER	F.G. SWAN
1928	L.M. PINK	M. WATKINS	P. WATSON	1975	MRS A. FOY	MRS D.J. GEER	F.G. SWAN
1929	DR. P.G. LOCK	A. TWORT	P. WATSON	1976	MRS D.J. GEER	MRS D.J. GEER	R. FAIRCHILD
1930	P. WICKENDEN	A. TWORT	P. WATSON	1977	F. BUSS	MRS D.J. GEER	R. FAIRCHILD
1931	E.J. STRANGE	A. TWORT	P. WATSON	1978	F. FOY	MRS D.J. GEER	R. FAIRCHILD
1932	E.B. WEEKES	A. TWORT	P. WATSON	1979	A.E. BUSS	MRS D.J. GEER	R. FAIRCHILD
1933	F. WHITE	R.A. FOUNTAIN	P. WATSON	1980	MRS O.M. MARSH	MRS D.J. GEER	R. FAIRCHILD
1934	SIR WALTER WILLSON	R.A. FOUNTAIN	P. WATSON	1981	W.H. HULME	MRS D.J.. GEER	R. FAIRCHILD
1935	SIR WALTER WILLSON	R.A. FOUNTAIN	A. AVARD	1982	A. JEFFERY	D. RAMSDEN	R. FAIRCHILD
1936	SIR WALTER WILLSON	R.A. FOUNTAIN	L. GAINSFORD	1983	R. FAIRCHILD	D. RAMSDEN	R. FAIRCHILD
1937-38	P. WICKENDEN	R.A. FOUNTAIN	L. GAINSFORD	1984	MRS S. BRUNTON	D. RAMSDEN	R. FAIRCHILD
1939-40	P. WICKENDEN	R.A. FOUNTAIN	MRS G.J.SCHULTE	1985	MRS D.J. GEER	J. BURTON	R. FAIRCHILD
1946	P. WICKENDEN	R.A. FOUNTAIN	MRS. MOASE	1986	MRS B. REVELL	J. BURTON	R. FAIRCHILD
1947	R.L. PAINE	A. AVARD	C. CHEESEMAN	1987	D.E.A. KNIGHT	J. BURTON	R. FAIRCHILD
1948-49	W.T. CAVES	A. AVARD	C. CHEESEMAN	1988	MRS V. ATHILL	J. BURTON	R. FAIRCHILD
1950-51	W.T. CAVES	F. DOVE	C. CHEESEMAN	1989	MRS P. HUNT	J. BURTON	R. FAIRCHILD
1952-53	W.T. CAVES	J.G.W.-LUSTED	C. CREESEMAN	1990	MISS J. LUCKINGS	T.H. PARADISE	R. FAIRCHILD
1954	W.T. CAVES	J.G.W. LUSTED	J. REEVES	1991	B.R. SHORT	T.H. PARADISE	MRS C. WYNNE
1955	W.T. CAVES	D.A. REEVES	J.G.W. LUSTED	1992	P. BAILEY	Temp.MISS J. LUCKINGS	MRS C. WYNNE
1956	W.T. CAVES	D.A. REEVES	A. KEMP	1993	T.H. PARADISE	Temp.MISS J. LUCKINGS	MRS C. WYNNE
1957	P. WATSON	D.A. REEVES	A. KEMP	1994	P. MASON	L. SMITH	MISS J. LUCKINGS
1958	F.V. BOURNES	D.A. REEVES	MRS S.M. GRACE	1995	MRS G. WHEELER	L. SMITH	MISS J. LUCKINGS
1959	R.A. FOUNTAIN	D.A. REEVES	MRS S.M. GRACE	1996	MR G. LUCKINGS	L. SMITH	P. STEVENS
1960	MISS P. CHANTLER	D.A. REEVES	MRS S.M. GRACE	1997	MRS M.C. BARTLEY	L. SMITH	P. STEVENS
1961	T. BARNES	D.A. REEVES	MRS S.M. GRACE	1998	MRS M.C. BARTLEY	L. SMITH	P. STEVENS
1962	F. DOVE	D.A. REEVES	MRS M. REEVES	1999	B. HUNT	Mrs A. HUNT	P. STEVENS
1963	C.D. REICH	D.A. REEVES	MRS D. HASSELL	2000	E. VALDER	Mrs A. HUNT	P. STEVENS
1964-65	MRS G.M. CHEESEMAN	D.A. REEVES	MRS D. HASSELL	2001	M.D. GEER	Mrs A. HUNT	P. STEVENS

### ASSOCIATED LADIES BRANCH

YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER	YEAR	PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1919-23	MRS J.B. SNELL	MISS E.BLACKMEN	MRS A. CHALKLIN	1928	MRS WESLEY SMITH	MRS J. MAXWELL	MISS M. WEEKS
1924	MRS J.B. SNELL	MISS P. CHANTLER	MISS D. JONES	1929	MRS P.G. LOCK	MRS WOODHAMS	MRS J. MAXWELL
1925	MRS J.B. SNELL	MISS O. TYE )	MISS M. WEEKS	1930	MRS P.G. LOCK	MRS BUTCHER	MRS J. MAXWELL
		MRS J. MAXWELL )		1931	MRS P.G. LOCK	MISS G. BATES	MRS J. MAXWELL
1926-27	MRS J.B. SNELL	MRS J. MAXWELL	MISS M. WEEKS	1932	MRS P.G. LOCK	MISS G. BATES	MRS J. MAXWELL

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*Kelly Mc Connachie and Helen Prentice  
after winning the Dijon Trophy Gala*

**RTW**  
**MONSON**