

CHANNEL SWIMMING & PILOTING FEDERATION

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OBSERVERS REPORT RELAY SWIMS

Please complete in block letters

PILOT BOAT Aegean Blue ___ CS&PF NO. _____ 31R DATE __29th June 2004

TEAM NAME: __Harrow School

SEX: MALE-

Swimmer 1. Chris Lai AGE: 17 Swimmer 2 Kouji Urata AGE: 14

Swimmer 3. Alex Rust AGE: 14 Swimmer 4 Max Lowery AGE: 14

Swimmer 5. Patrick Boyle AGE: 15 Swimmer 6 Fergus Wilson AGE: 17

RESERVES: Angus Ropner (On Anastasia)

Any special considerations

NATIONALITY Mixed

TRAINER/HELPERS Eugene Higgins , Eric Sie

PILOT/SKIPPER Mike Oram

CREW Derek Carter

Any other persons onboard.

Javotte Blackman

High Water Dover - Time 0852 Height 5.8 Metres (SPRINGS 6.8mtrs - NEAPS 5.3mtrs)

Low Water Dover – Time _____ Height _____ Metres (SPRINGS 0.8mtrs- NEAPS 2.1mtrs)

POINT OF FINISH East of Resturant Cap Gris Nez DATE 29/06./2004.TIME 20.8 HOURS

SWIM TIME

POINT OF START Shakespeare Beach

DATE 29 06/2004 TIME 0818 HOURS

12hrs 10 mins
(time in 24 hour clock)

Reason if unsuccessful ...Change in order ,use of reserves and shorter swim intervals

I/We hereby certify that I/we accompanied Harrow School on the 29/6/04
for the duration of the swim, and that the swim was not made in accordance with the rules of the Channel
Swimming & Piloting Federation.

SIGNED:

SIGNED:

1ST OBSERVER Alison Streeter MBE

2ND OBSERVER

Observer's Report on Harrow 's Channel Relay Swim

Swimmers (in order)

1. Chris Lai
 2. Kouji Urata
 3. Alex Rust
 4. Max Lowery
 5. Patrick Boyle
 6. Fergus Wilson
- Reserve Angus Ropner

Trainers/helpers: Eugene Higgins , Eric Sie

Other persons on Vessel: Javotte Flatman (BBC)

Pilot: Mike Oram

Crew: Derek Carter

Observer: Alison Streeter

We all met at Dover Marina, there were bags and boxes all over the place, it looked like we were off for a week!!!

Once the boats were loaded we set off for Shakespeare Beach, a few hardy parents had made their way down the steps and were waiting to see the boys off.

As we came around the harbour entrance we got our first good look at the conditions, both teams agreed to go for it, even though it was not ideal (a bit cheeky in Nick's words).

High tide was 5.8m at 0852

Both teams started together on a signal from the klaxon at 0818, after a friendly handshake on the beach witnessed by the parents and all aboard the 3 boats .

Chris Lai sets off at a cracking 68 strokes per minute, but settles back to 58 spm when he is further into the hour, water temperature is 61.2 F and we have 9 knots of wind.

We are level pegging with the Eton Boys for about 30 minutes until they pull slightly ahead.

0848 All the boys and masters shout and cheer at Chris to let him know the 30 mins is up. His stroke rate is now 56. 11 knots of wind (south Westerly)

Kouji cannot wait to get in and is standing on the bathing platform with 5 minutes to go and at 0918 he jumps in, overtakes Chris and sets off, very very fast 76 spm, he can see Sea Satin ahead and starts to catch her up quickly, Mike sees Kouji looking for the boat and positions Aegean Blue so that he can see how quickly he is gaining on the Eton boys.

Just 15 minutes into the swim and we have overtaken Sea Satin, Kouji now is trying to put as much distance between the two boats as possible, maintaining his fast 76 spm.

0948 Kouji gets the 30 min cheer, his stroke rate has dropped only slightly to 74, wind is just 8 knots, we are 75m ahead of Sea satin and it looks like Kouji is enjoying himself, the water temperature has risen slightly to 61.8F

1018 Alex Starts off at 56 spm with a nice long, steady stroke.

1048 Shouts and cheers again for the 30 minutes .. ooops Alex stops and thinks he has finished!! He is quickly urged on again.

1105 Temperature has dropped from 61.8 to 61F, stroke rate is 58 but he keeps pausing. We can see 6 big tankers off to our portside, it's easy to see we have made it into the first shipping lane !

1118 Alex comes out and is very cold, Max starts off well despite having problems with his goggles He has a very very strong leg kick with one of his legs and soaks everyone sitting on the portside of the boat !.. 56 spm.

1148 30 minutes and Max is struggling and getting upset, I had noticed Mike taking off his watch and shoes ready to go in ... but luckily he listens to Mike in amongst the shouts from everyone else and calms himself down enough to swim slow breaststroke in the lee of the boat. He is speaking to us normally and his colour is good so we are not worried about hypothermia. It looks like it is a panic attack as he was struggling to breathe in the early stages. We talk to him and keep him swimming for the next 30 mins while Patrick gets ready. I told him all he has to do is keep swimming and he will be OK, but he has learnt that himself from watching Max struggle.

1245 Bodies are strewn all over the boat. Everyone is suffering from seasickness, especially poor Eugene, he seems to be the worst. Derek offers great support encouraging Patrick while he is in the water, no-one else has the energy to cheer him on.

1248 He is keeping up a steady 56 spm.

1318 Patrick is out, cold but not as bad as Alex and Max have been. Fergus is now in, another 56spm steady pace, but 20 mins later drops down to 52spm. This is not surprising as the tide has now turned and we are being bounced around in a wind against tide scenario. Before the wind was helping to flatten out the waves and we had big long swells, now we have bigger seas and white horses here and there to contend with.

Eugene wants a reserve swimmer to take Max's place, we cannot transfer people as it would be dangerous, but we can swim Angus from the other BBC boat. We radio them and ask them to make sure they are around in 2 hours time so we can use him.

1401 Fergus does a bit of back stroke and asks how much longer.

1418 Chris dives in and says well done to Fergus, who gets out in good shape, he is lucky that he has been the least affected by sea sickness

1422 Chris sets off at a fast pace, but he is heading North and away from the boat at 55 spm.

1508 Chris asks how much longer, his stroke rate is down to 48, the white board with messages has long since stopped so it is hard for the swimmer to gauge how long they have been in!

1518 Kouji takes over from Chris, he sets off very quickly again, even though it is more difficult than his first hour due to the bigger waves.

1540 Kouji keeps stopping with goggle trouble, but still trying to swim well at 68 spm.

1555 OFFICIAL SWIM IS ABORTED

1618 Angus is back and ready to get in so we swap the swimmers over, the BBC boat stays one side of him, and we are on the other side, wind is up to 15 knots, he is stroking at 68 spm, falling off the back of waves and laughing!!

1718 Fergus gets back in for 50 mins, he says could have stayed in longer, but wants to save himself for later.

1808 Patrick gets back in for 40 mins and swims well.

1848 Alex takes over from Patrick, a very brave boy as he suffered more than most the first time around, it is getting easier though as the tide has slacked off

1910 Chris gets back in, we are just 1.3nm from Cap Gris Nez, we hear over the radio that Eton have just finished and are enjoying beer in the restaurant.

1928 Kouji takes off like a rocket, we are just 1nm from CGN, 2000 yards to the beach and inside the bay, how quickly we land now depends on the swimmers, it is now flat calm in the shelter of the headland.

1948 Angus gets back in when Kouji gets cramp.

2010 Fergus gets in and swims alongside Angus to keep him company.

2028 FINISH 12 hours and 10 minutes, we are only 400 m from where Eton landed and hour and 20 minutes before Most of the team got in to Join Angus and Fergus on the beach, including Eric !!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL, A GREAT EFFORT

Alison Streeter MBE ' Queen of the Channel '

Lat and Longs from ships LOG

			TIME
0	Shakespeare Beach		0818
1	51'05.86	001'22.20	0918
2	51'05.45	001'26.39	1018
3	51'05.29	001'30.09	1118
4	51'06.15	001'33.00	1218
5	51'05.75	001'35.36	1318
6	51'04.73	001'36.61	1418
7	51'02.79	001'36.62	1518
8	51'00.47	001'35.31	1618
9	51'57.38	001'33.56	1718
10	50'55.12	001'32.71	1808
11	50'53.81	001'33.17	1848
12	50'53.39	001'33.88	1910
13	50'53.29	001'34.47	1928
14	50'53.23	001'35.70	1948
15	50'53.09	001'36.33	1957
	FINISH		2028