

## OBSERVERS REPORT

### Willi-eeters Relay For St Piers Charity

25<sup>th</sup> July 1992

10 hours 55 mins

Observer.. Frank Richards

#### TEAM (SWIM ORDER)

Karl Streeter

Lee Williams

Alison Streeter MBE

Neil Streeter

Cy Williams

David Williams

We Started 45 minutes after High water from Shakespeare Beach The sea temperature was a constant 61F just jumping up to 62 on the French side .

06.46 Karl enters the water and the swim starts , it is a nice warm morning. Mike Oram left with a solo swimmer about an hour ago and is about 1.5 miles in front of us going well

07.04 Fine swimmer is Karl and he is going like a train . we have not taken the boat out of gear yet ! we got past a work boat anchored of shore doing channel tunnel work

07.46 Good changover and Lee goes in , the mighty atom has been chomping at the bit to get into the water , what a little gem of a swimmer this girl is (Brenda is sick )

08.05 'Aegean Blue' is dead ahead Cy Williams is sick , I don't think the smell of bacon and toast wafting up from down below in the galley is helping much . les is cooking breakfast for himself and Barrie . I stick to my grapefruit and musili , Karl is scoffing doughnuts , Alison and David are laid out in the front in the sun .Cy , still looking pretty poorly joins them .

08.46 Lee is out after a good swim (2.5 miles ) she didn't want to come out – climbed aboard and said ' I was just getting into that ' Alison the swimming 'mean machine ' is now in.

09.46 What a good hour by Alison (2.8 miles) we are catching up with Aegean Blue. Neil is now in . David lays down for a sleep , weather is cooler now and we have cloud building up.

10.16 We are abreast of Aegean Blue we give the lady swimmer a cheer . Brenda is sick over the side again Dave is very disappointed that she stopped before he could film her.

10.46 Cy in. He made a fuss about the water being cold , after a bit of banter he settled down and got on with the swim.

11.30 Brenda being very sick again , into the wind so got it back , David shot his film !!

11.36 Cy looking at his watch , we yell at him that there is 10 minutes to go yet.

11.46 David is in now , he swam on the port side in the lee of the wind but then changed to starboard . It is now very windy and the sea is rough.

11.55 More wind now and the sea is even rougher , we call David in closer to the boat as he is too far away in these conditions . We are rolling badly , anything loose is on the floor.

12.46 God effort from David , he plugged away well in these rough seas . Karl is in again , he is a powerful swimmer and fast at 85 strokes per minute , we are now in force 5 to 6 winds. Barrie has picked up the contents of his chart table and other stuff strewn on the floor when we rolled , only to have it all over the floor again from another big swell, as for the fridge , it has slid down inside the panelling so we have lost it temporarily!

13.46 Great swim by Karl , the coast of France is looming large now as Lee goes in These are big seas , and she loves it !. Wind is now force 6 and we are being chucked all over the place . Charts , instruments, boxes of food are all over the floor , meanwhile poor old Brenda is heaving over the side again .

14.46 Alison dives in and Lee comes out after another fine stint . Boat is pitching wildly as she tries to board , once safely on the deck her first words were ' I'm starving'. Alison ploughs through all it can throw at her , these are 9 to 10 fot seas now kicked up by winds against tide . We hope they will flatten out a bit when we get within the shelter of Cap Gris Nez which is to the west of us.

15.46 Good swim by Alison and we are going into Wissant Bay with the tide taking us eastwards towards Blanc Nez . Neil is in now and there is probably 3 miles or so of swimming to go for a landing.

16.35 Cy prepares to go in for the final mile and a bit , and he feels a bit queasy still. He shot up on deck and was sick over the side , he is suffering a bit from nerves too I think We tell him he will be OK once he is in.

16.46 In he goes after a nice effort from Neil who says the water feels reasonably warm. Cy does a couple of breaststrokes then gets into his crawl and strikes on manfully .... Much to our relief.

16.50 Cy seems determined to get in and finish , he is going very well.

17.30 He is almost there , the boat got to within ¼ mile of the beach and Cy struck out for the beach alone.

17.41 He has made it , he seemed to be wading and surfing in for ages in the shallows but he is clear of the water now , on a dry beach . The rest of the team swim in to join him and share the pleasure of making the landing , a good good team effort in far from ideal conditions (a gross understatement) and a happy and satisfactory ending to a happy day (except poor Brenda that is)

Congratulations all ... Frank Richards.