



1988 HIGHLIGHTS.

The Cayman Islands Amateur Swimming Association continued its policy of encouraging swimmers of all ages and abilities, to participate for fun, fitness and competition. The sea swims, not held during the Nor'wester months for obvious reasons, attract large turnouts, often with parents and small children swimming alongside each other in this fitness-for-life sport. The age-range was from 4 to 67 years! Trophies are awarded in seven age-groups, male and female, and all finishers receive a ribbon or T-shirt etc., promoting the concept of every finisher a winner.

During the year there were four major pool meets at the Lions Aquatic Centre: in February the Lions Aquatic Centre Pool Meet, in March the CUC Pool Meet (CARIFTA Trials), in June the LIONS Club Pool Meet (National Swimming Championships) and in October the 1st. Annual Pirates Week Pool Meet. They were for youngsters up to 18 years of age. Many records continued to be broken, indicating the rising standard of competitive swimming in the various strokes and distances. Winners of the Outstanding Boy awards were Tristan Abbott (in 3 meets) and John Lawrence and Outstanding Girl awards went to Caroline Sullivan, Caroline Marr, Lucy Benbow and Lisa Abbott. A big first for Cayman was the participation of a swim team at the CARIFTA Games in Jamaica at Easter. In the 15-20 age-group were James Bush, Joan Everson and Joan Lawrence and in the 14 & under age-group: Tristan Abbott, James Bettany, Tyrone Rojas, William Jones and Caroline Sullivan. They all gained valuable experience.

The Swimming Association was involved in the swim segment of the Hyatt Regency Triathlon in April, the 3rd. Annual Nabisco Team Triathlon in May and the Milo Kids Triathlon in June.

Roland Crouch won the Cable and Wireless Half Mile Swim in April and his wife, Fran, was first female and 3rd. overall. There were 4 women in the top 10 in a field of 87 entrants.

Peter Stafford won the Lobster Pot 4th. Annual One Mile Swim in June and Frances Crouch was first female (2nd. overall). Again there were 4 women in the top ten.

In a new event in September, the Texaco Twosome Half Mile Swim, there was a an Individual category and a Family Duo category, with one member being under 16 years of age. Peter Stafford was the winner & Frances Crouch the first female (4th. overall). Edward & Martin Allen won the Family Duo category. One totally blind swimmer completed the course.

In the interests of safety, because of the increase in boats, the course was changed for the 9th. Annual Pirates Week 3 Mile Swim, the oldest and longest swimming event in Cayman. The course was from The Wharf Restaurant, (formerly Ports of Call), to the northern end of the Public Beach. All 24 competitors finished. Peter Stafford won and his wife, Claire, was first female and 6th. overall, reflecting the efforts put into their training and the benefits gained from 2 weeks at the Jack Nelson Swim Camp in Fort Lauderdale. Victor Thompson was 2nd., Frankie Flowers 3rd., 10 year old Tristan Abbott 4th. and Clarence Flowers 5th., with Martin Leggatt 7th. and second female Caroline Marr 8th. Oldest & youngest trophies went to John Davies and William Jones respectively.

The last sea swim of the year was the 4th. Annual Foster's Food Fair Half Mile Swim in November which Peter Stafford won, setting a course record. Frances Crouch was first female and 2nd. overall.

Throughout the year consistently good performances have also been put in by Victor Thompson, (men's 35 years plus winner), Frankie Flowers, Martin Leggatt, Caroline and Jackie Marr and James Bettany with Robert Jones winning the under 7 category. Tristan Abbott excelled.

In spite of lack of facilities, the young swimmers from Cayman Brac have done very well when competing in Grand Cayman, especially Samantha Erskine and Dominic Ross.

The June Borden's Pizza Youth in Action Relay on Easter Monday was aimed at Youth Club teams, as part of the Grand Cayman Yacht Club's Easter Regatta programme. Teams of 4 swam 50 metres, off Holiday Inn. Trophies were awarded to: Silver Bullets - Junior (under 12 years) Land Sharks - Youth ( under 20 years) and Goggle Eyes - Open (20 & over).

In all, it has been a year of improved performances, a good balance of males and females, as well as old and young. At every swim meet there have been new faces.