

NEW CLUBHOUSE—CHRISTCHURCH S.L.S.C.

Sunday, 16th May, was a major step forward for Christchurch when the new clubhouse was opened by the Mayor Mr. J. S. C. Morgan, President of the club.

Those present included club members, members of the public and cub scouts who had presented a fire extinguisher to the club in gratitude for the instruction they had received in safety awards.

The club marched along the beach to assemble on ground overlooking the clubhouse; the Mayor unveiled the plaque which was followed by a wet run demonstration

Readers may recall the story of how the new clubhouse came into being in Issue No. 45 of Newsletter. Dave Hopper was put in charge of the project because he had some experience in building "an outside LOO for an Esso oil rig." Some Loo, Dave!



Christchurch Clubhouse

HOME BASE FOR LIFESAVERS

"A MAGNIFICENT effort" said the Mayor, Coun. John Morgan, describing Christ-church Lifesaving Club's feat in building their new headquarters entirely in members' spare time, when he formally opened the door to the new hut at Friars Cliff beach.

Over £1,500 has been raised to build the hut, which is to act as a headquarters, training hut and store for the six-year-old

club.

With the voluntary assistance of only one experienced builder, Steve Stillman, club members have erected the hut themselves, turning out in all weathers.

As the Mayor pointed out, nearly all the money raised has gone towards material for the HQ, with very little spent on the most expensive commodity of all — labour. It would be safe to say that at least £1,500-worth of

work in the form of labour has been put in by the club," Coun. Morgan said.

Five hundred pounds, though, are still needed to complete the building. But Mr. Morgan added his encouragement by presenting a cheque to club chairman Neil Crompton at Sunday's opening.

A parade by lifesavers formed the prelude to the opening ceremony, seen by a large crowd that included

several local councillors.

Surf Life Saving Association examiners joined club members in welcoming the Mayor and Mayoress to the newly-completed hut, and following a short speech, Coun. Morgan opened the door, revealing an attractive buffet laid on.

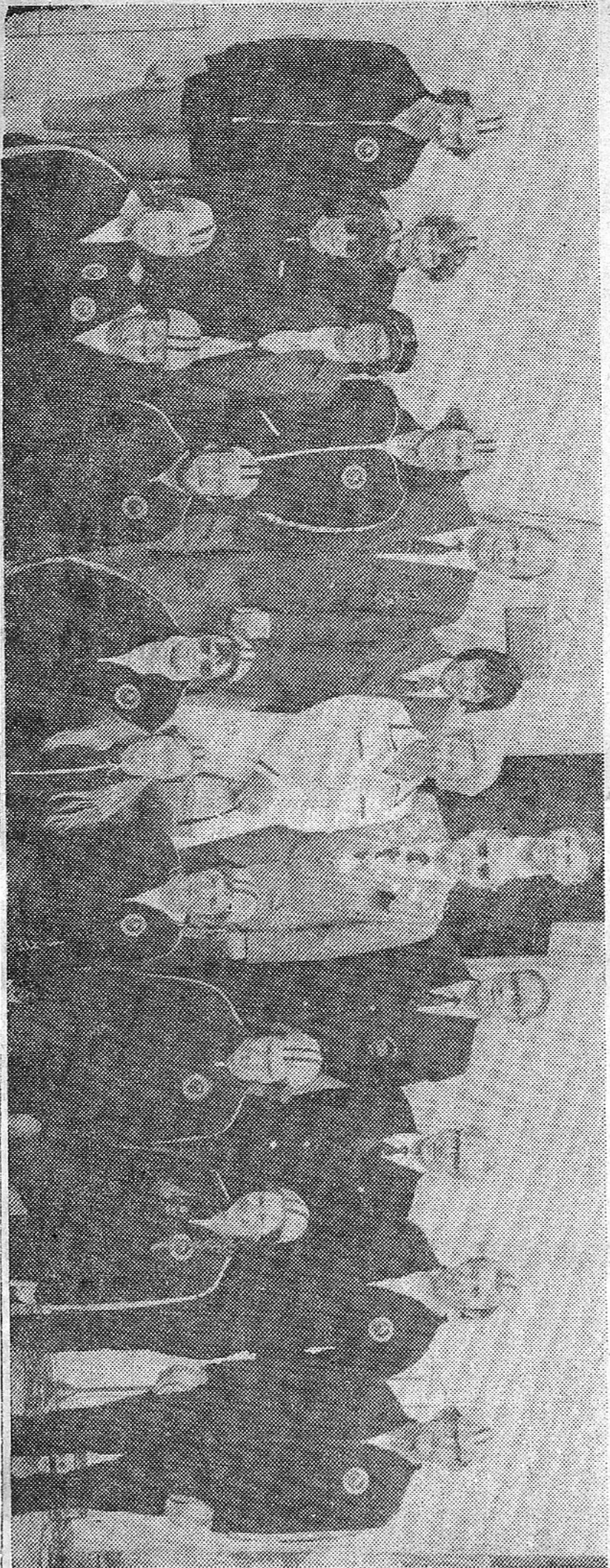
Further tributes were paid to two men who formed the backbone of the building — Steve Stillman and club captain Dave Hopper,

who both received special mementoes.

There were thanks too, for a local senior citizen, Mrs. Bastable, who alone raised over £45 for the hut.

And a welcome donation from Mudeford Sea Scouts, who after the opening ceremony presented the club with a fire extinguisher.

Picture shows assembled dignitaries and club members at the opening. Photo: G. Armit.





The swimmers and other club members. Photo: G. Armit.

Lifesavers swim

for funds

MEMBERS of Christchurch Lifesaving Club took a dive into Christchurch swimming pool on Saturday night—so that they would have less to dip out.

Anxious to keep down the club's running costs they gathered at the Bridge Street pool for a sponsored swim in aid of their funds.

And to increase the total they were joined by friends and local Cub Scouts who took a sponsored plunge on their behalf.

The club trains at the pool

once weekly—and in the summer maintains a vital lifeguard patrol at Friars Cliff beach.

In addition to their inflatable rescue boat some members plan this year to operate a canoe patrol in the area. Adding their support to the lifeguard rota will be several lads from the Junior Leaders Regiment at Bovington.

Julie pouts Pam in the shade

BAYWATCH babes have been outshone by the gold and silver medals hanging round the neck of Christchurch life-saver Julie Willis, just back from the world championships in South Africa.

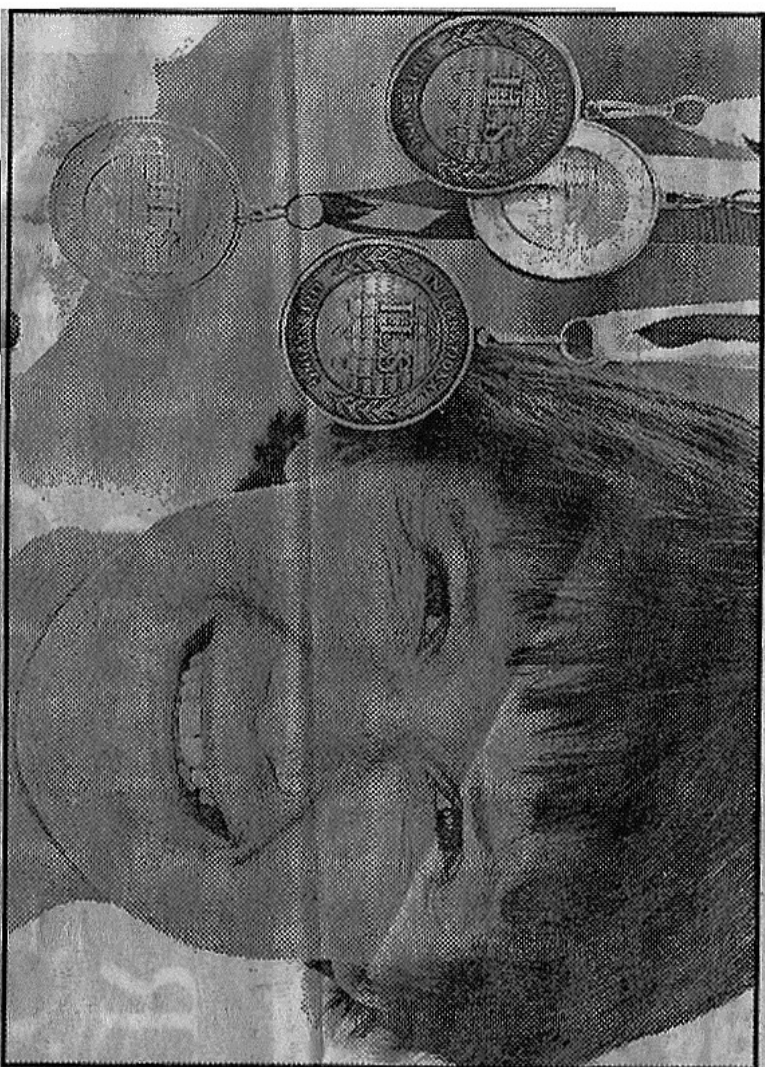
Now patrolling the beach at Priors Cliff with Christchurch Life Saving Club as she has done for the past 17 summers, Julie won two gold and two silver medals in Durban after quitting her job with the Royal Ocean Racing Club in Lynton to take part in the championships contested by some 3,000 lifesavers from all corners of the world.

Competing in the masters category Julie, 36, who lives at Sway, topped the board race and the iron woman

Report by Robin Thompkins

event—a grueling combination of board, ski and swimming races punctuated by running on the sand—and was runner-up in the ski race and elimination flag race.

A keen sailor, Julie was secretary of the lifesaving club and is a former Surf Life-saving Association southern region secretary and is a regular competitor in national competitions as well as taking part in



● Julie Willis with her medals events in Hawaii, Australia and Canada.

And she will be proving her fitness again on July 21 when she joins fellow Christchurch lifesaving Club stalwart Paul Hindley in a 1.4-mile sponsored swim from Boscombe to Bournemouth Pier for the British Heart Foundation.

Riding the waves...

— with sights set on Canada

LIFEGUARDS from the area put their skills to the test yesterday in preparation for next month's international aquatic conference and championships in Canada.

A team of ten representatives from Bournemouth Lifeguard Corps, Poole Volunteer Lifeguard and Christchurch Lifesaving Club under the banner of Wessex will compete with lifeguards from across the globe at the five-day event in Vancouver.

Training was held at Rournemouth Lifeguard Corps' Durtley Chine station under the guidance of team captain Mr. Martyn Rees.

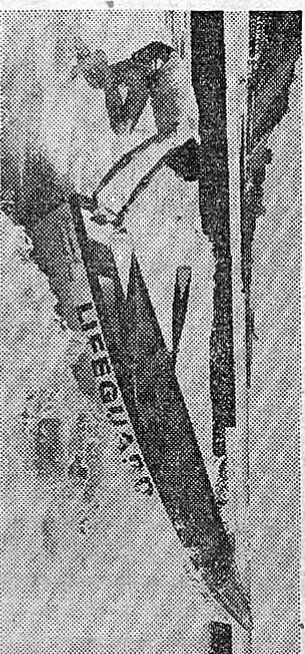
Speaking about the event, which is scheduled for May 12-17, Martyn said: "We are extremely proud to have been invited by the Royal Life Saving Society to represent our country, along with Sussex, in Rescue '86."

And with the three clubs experience in competing at local and national level, he was confident that they would do well.

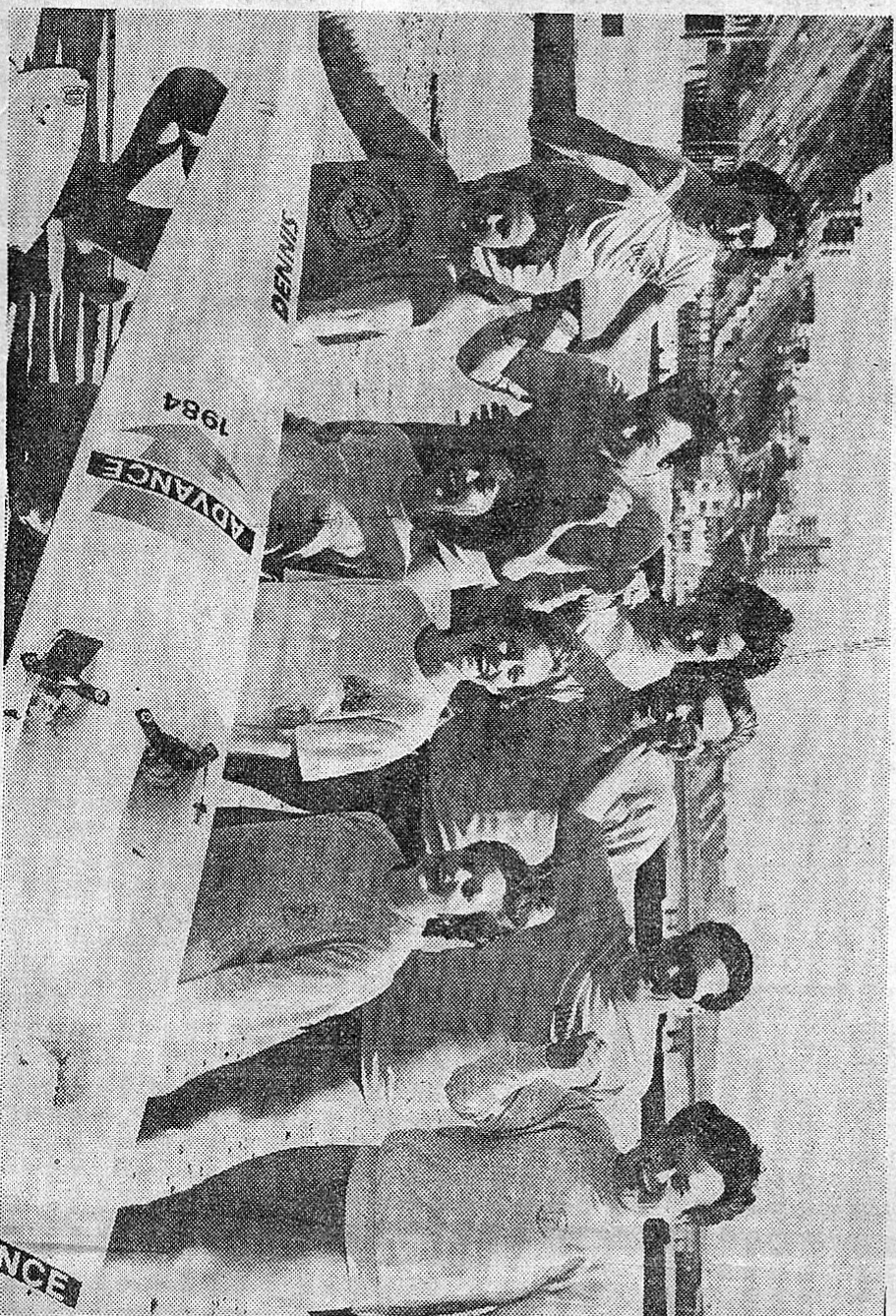
PRAISE

He praised the efforts of Poole Volunteer Lifeguard member, 21-year-old Lisa Baskett, who has raised £113 from a recent fancy dress disco to help with expenses.

"All the team members have financed themselves, but we would be grateful to hear from any sponsors," he said.



INTO THE WAVES . . . a lifeguard boat is launched as part of the training. — Echophoto.



Canada, here we come, say these lifeguards — Echophoto.



NEIL Crompton and Gillian Aslett received two of the only four gold medals of the Surf Lifesaving Association of Great Britain on Saturday night.

Both are members of Christchurch Lifesaving Club, and they completed the arduous training in the cold waters of the Solent and the run,

whereas the other two gold medalists trained in America and Australia.

Neil and Gillian received their medals from their club president, Coun. John Morgan, at a concert organised by Mudeford Ladies' Lifeboat Guild in St. Mark's Hall, Highcliffe. Photo: G. B. Armit.

Two find gold in the surf

Gold medals for

two

TWO of the only four gold awards of the Surf Lifesaving Association of Great Britain will be presented in Highcliffe tomorrow night.

Gillian Aslett of Elizabeth Avenue, Christchurch, and Neil Crompton, of Burton Road, will receive their awards during a concert organised by the Mudeford Ladies' Lifeboat Guild at St. Mark's Hall, Highcliffe.

The gold award winners had to complete a theory test, an essay and three consecutive rescues from 300 yards offshore in rough sea.

The awards will be presented by Coun. John Morgan, president of the Christchurch Life Saving Association.

Other members of Christchurch Lifesaving Club, David Patterson, Peter Lack, Clive Hindley, Les Chidley, Derek Lester and Stephen Barnes will be presented with medals from the Surf Lifesaving Association.

PORTRAIT OF COURAGE



This girl overcame an enormous physical setback to gain the highest honour in life-saving. See Back Page.

BRAVO GILLIAN, FIRST GOLDEN GIRL

BY MICHAEL GOODEY

GILLIAN ASLETT, of Christchurch, took up swimming to get her legs working again when she lost her kneecaps and cartilages in operations.

Her story is one of sheer guts and determination . . . crowned by success, for Gillian has become the first woman in Britain to win the Surf Lifesaving Association's gold medallion.

Gillian, of Elizabeth Ave., makes light of the trouble she has suffered with her legs over the past 12 years. "I just forget about them," she says.

Certainly the examiners were none the wiser when she was qualifying for her gold in the sea off Friars Cliff beach.

The toughest part of her lifesaving activities—Gillian is vice-captain of Christchurch Lifesaving Club—is the reel and line work which involves kneeling.

The club can now boast two surf gold medallists among their ranks. There are only four in the whole country.

CAPTAIN

The other is Neil Crompton, of Burton Road, Christchurch, their captain, who when he joined them less than three years ago was hardly an experienced swim-

mer—a length of the pool was his limit.

Gillian, a shop assistant, previously belonged to Bournemouth Lifeguards and already had lifesaving qualifications when she joined the Christchurch club on its formation in 1970.

It was not until she was 15, however, she was allowed to take to the water at all. She gained her first swimming awards as a guider.

Neil (26), married with three children, is a partner in a Bridge Street motor firm. He joined the club because it sounded fun—"and found out later you can have fun and do a bit of good at the same time", he said.

During their short life the club have gained an enviable reputation chasing medal honours. They have six or seven silver medallists, out of only 36 within the national Surf Lifesaving Association, and at the associations' championships last year their team finished third.

If need be their members will be putting their training to good use at Friars Cliff beach again this season, where their patrols started last weekend.



Beach safety aid

To help increase the service provided by Christchurch Life Saving Club, a new safety patrol boat has been bought.

On Tuesday some members went to Max Marine, on Poole Quay, to have a look at the new craft. Pictured, from left to right, are Jacqueline Marchant, of Wood Drive, Highcliffe; Suzanne and Vivienne Keeble, of Wortley Road, Highcliffe; Elizabeth Stevenson, of Oak Avenue, Christchurch; gear steward Les Chidley, of Somerford Road, Christchurch; club captain Neil Crompton, of Bridge Street, Christchurch, and Jennifer Potter, of Stony Lane, Christchurch.

On the right is Mr. Roger Axford, managing director of Max Marine Ltd., and sitting is Life Saving Club mascot Sylvester Brosch.

The problem now, of course, is paying for the boat and to help do this, the club is running a sponsored swim at the Pier Approach Baths, Bournemouth, on February 26.



On crest of a wave

CHRISTCHURCH Life Saving Club are on a winning wave, celebrating a hat-trick of victories at the Thames Ski Race, the Surf Life Saving Association's top contest of the year.

The pressure was on Christchurch, the reigning champions, at this year's event, with a record challenge mounted by 200 competitors from 16 other clubs around

the country.

But it failed to crack the confidence of their 17-strong team. They surged ahead to their third successive victory, with an overall four points lead over runners-up Rhosee Club, from Wales. Host club Serpentine Lido were third.

Led by Simon Chambers and Alison Brindle, their training in the fast flowing

waters of The Run at Muddford paid off for they met similar conditions in the race, with a strong spring tide running along the course between Fulham and Chiswick.

As well as gaining a number of individual class medals and the Ladies' Shield, the team returned home with a prize of a new £350 surf

rescue ski — to add to the other two skis awarded to them in 1982 and 1983.

The result was all the more to their credit for their captain, Eric Millman, and several other members, stayed behind to take part in the annual sponsored swim for the British Heart Foundation at Arnewood Sports Centre, New Milton.

THEY PASSED EXAMS

Since February of this year both Junior and Senior members of the Christchurch Life Saving Club have been attending lectures on First Aid with a view to becoming qualified First Aiders. I am happy to say that there has been a 100 per cent pass in both Junior and Senior exams and this means that most members of the club are now qualified to practice First Aid whenever needed. We would like to thank the Red Cross for all the help they have given us in our training.

Recently ten members represented the club at a training weekend at Barton Hall in Torquay, where the club was praised for its high standards in Life Saving.

C. M. CHIDLEY (Miss)
84 Somerford Road,
Christchurch.

Lifesavers scoop awards

SWIMMERS on Friars Cliff beach can rest safe in the knowledge that Christchurch lifesavers are some of the best in the country.

At the national lifesaving championships in Cornwall the Christchurch Life-saving Club scooped nine medals and produced both the senior men's and senior

ladies rescue ski champions.

Ladies gold medal winner Julie Britton also took silver in the senior ladies board, single racing ski and iron lady event and bronze for Malibu board and beach flags.

Christchurch lifesaver Simon Chambers was the men's champion and part-

nered Graham Briars to win silver in the double ski event.

The four-man Christchurch team faced stiff competition from more than 900 other competitors and despite being outnumbered in most events still produced the best results achieved since the club was formed in 1970.

During the summer the club provides voluntary lifesaving cover at Friars Cliff beach. Training sessions are held at the 2 Riversmeet sports centre swimming pool on Tuesday evenings.

CHRISTCHURCH LIFE SAVING CLUB

CHRISTCHURCH Life Saving Club who voluntarily patrol at Friars Cliff beach at weekends during the summer months have had their best success yet at the Surf Life Saving Association of GB National Championships held at Praa Sands, Cornwall over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The Team of four competitors won a total of 9 medals. Julie Britton became the Senior Ladies Rescue-Ski Champion by taking the Gold Medal. She also took the Silver Medals for the Senior Ladies Board Race, the Single Racing-Ski

and the Iron Lady events and Bronze Medals in the Malibu Board Race and Beach Flags.

Gold Medal

Simon Chambers became the Senior Mens Rescue-Ski Champion by taking the Gold Medal, making him the Club's first Mens Gold Medalist at the Championships since the Club was formed in 1970. In the Senior Mens Double-Ski event Graham Briars teamed up with Simon and they won the Silver Medal.

"When we talk about Rescue-Skis and Surf-Skis

we don't mean water skis towed behind boats" - explained SLSA Examiner, Roy Davison. "These are specially made craft, a little longer than a canoe, which one sits on (rather than inside) and paddles along. They require very good balance and are frequently used for lifesaving." In competitions, Rescue and Racing Skis are paddled from the beach, round a series of buoys and back to the beach.

Judges

Fierce and enthusiastic competition throughout the Bank Holiday weekend also included surf swimming and beach athletics. With 930 entries the judges were kept extremely busy.

Two SLSA Examiners from the Christchurch club Mr Roy Davison and Mr Les Chidley, who had officiated at the Championships, agreed that the team had bought credit to the Club and Southern Region, especially as they were very much outnumbered in most of the events.

25 YEARS AGO

I was delighted to receive an invitation to the Christchurch Lifesaving Club's 25 years celebration on Sunday, 28th May at their Headquarters on Friars Cliff Beach.

As soon as I arrived, I was warmly met by other founder members and we were soon reminiscing, turning back the clock to the days of hard training. We had so many memories, the beach patrols, practice sea rescues with reel and line, examinations to pass, etc. It was heartwarming to see so many young people carrying on where we left off, some now with children of their own who may become Lifeguards of the future. Christchurch is fortunate to have a band of volunteers dedicating their time to supervise our beach.

Obviously, I am not as fit as in those days, but like many of my colleagues some rescue skills have never been forgotten and with prevention being better than cure, we are constantly aware of potential danger wherever there is water.

It is comforting to know that when the red and yellow flag is flying, the beach patrol is in operation and ready for any emergency. I think we all know when the red flag is flying, it is a warning that it is unsafe to swim.

I returned home feeling very proud to have been a founder member of the Lifesaving Club 25 years ago.

RENÉE VALE

Life saving club's mission given cash boost by masons

CHRISTCHURCH Life Saving Club was presented with a £1,200 cheque by Hampshire and IoW Freemasons at its annual awards night.

The donation, made by New Forest Lodge No. 319 and via the Tom Langton Fund which was set up to help non-masonic charities in the community, was presented by Roger Slade and accepted on behalf of the club by its patron Chris Chope MP who attended with his wife Christo.

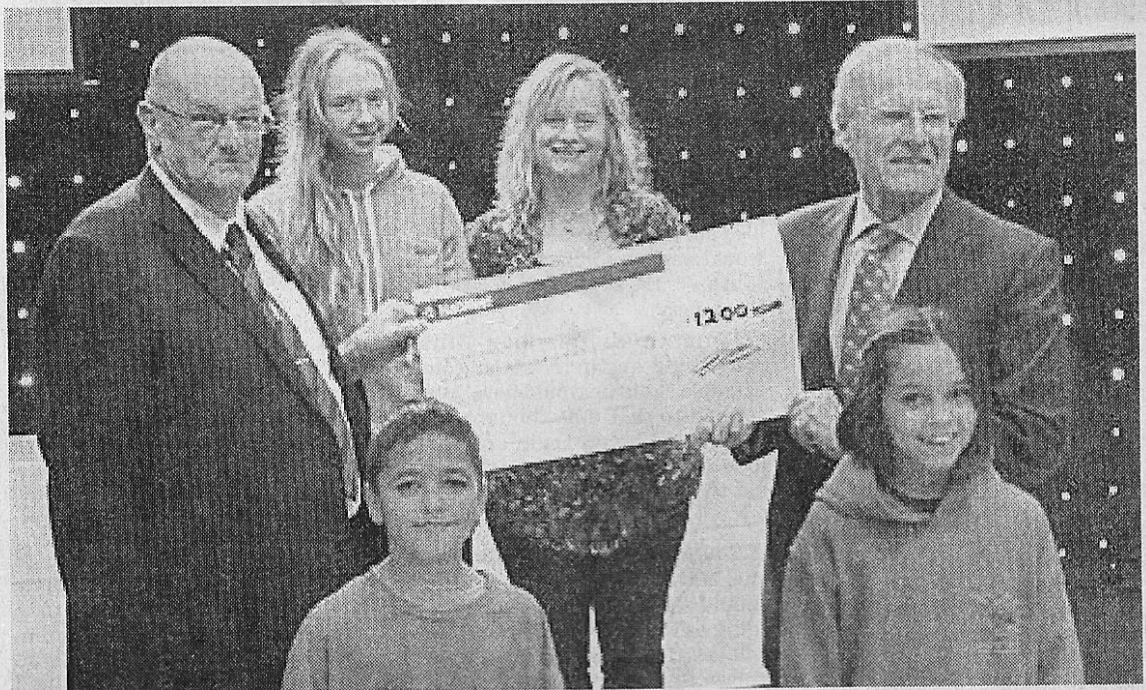
Mr Chope also mingled with members and later gave out awards to honour their achievements, including a Special Recognition Award to Jake Cross who helped avert a very serious rescue situation with a child off Hengistbury Head during the summer.

Based at Friars Cliff beach, the club's mission is to give local youngsters aged from seven to 18+ the opportunity to learn valuable sea and life skills and to gain qualifications that enable them to become fully fledged lifeguards. Training is provided in a safe, fun and organised environment from the club's hut situated behind the Beach Hut Café at Friars Cliff.

All equipment is provided and due to the nature of the training requires regular repair and replacement, which can be expensive.

Accepting the donation on behalf of the club, chairperson and trainer Jenny Frisby said: "The money will be used to replace equipment that we use to help our children learn how to save lives on local beaches. Without the kindness of such benefactors the club would not exist and people using our beaches would be less safe as a result."

Created in 1970, Christchurch Life Saving Club is now operating at full capacity with over 130 active members and also has a waiting list for new entrants. It has a strong community focus and holds regular

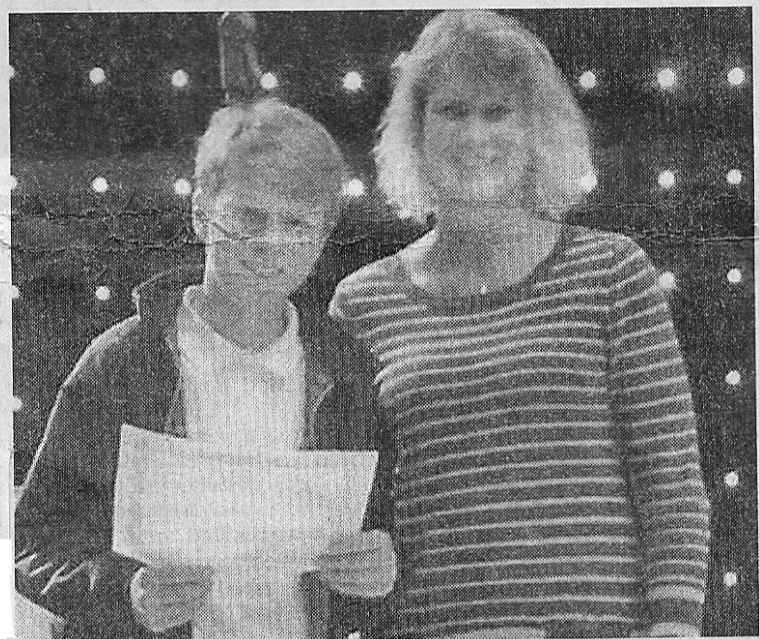


Donation: Roger Slade (left), Jenny Frisby and Chris Chope with members

events to raise funds for other good causes including Macmillan Caring Locally and The British Heart Foundation.

It is embarking on ambitious development plans in 2016 and is currently trying to raise funds to rebuild the outdated clubhouse. As part of this, the club's committee and members, who are all volunteers, are working hard to publicise their campaign.

To find out more about the club's work go to <http://www.christchurchlifesavingclub.org.uk/> where you can also make contact with the team or donate money. You can also follow the club via its twitter account at @ChristchurchLSC, like them on Facebook at /ChristchurchLSC and on Instagram at christchurchlsc



Special award: Jake Cross with mum Paula Rayson

1970

CLUB DOESN'T FEAR THE COLD WHEN LIFESAVING

HALF a dozen members of Christchurch Lifesaving Club went in for a dip at Avon Beach on Sunday—with the water temperature around 40 degrees they were out to prove that members weren't afraid of the cold when it comes to saving lives.

On Sunday morning the Mayor, Coun. John Morgan, went with the Mayoress, Mrs. J. Morgan, to present the club with a reel and line to help with lifesaving work. The club decided to make an occasion of it.

One member, Miss Gillian Aslett, swam out from the beach and "got into difficulties". Five others sprang into action, carrying the reel to the water's edge and running out a line. One swam out with this line to the swimmer "in distress" and brought her back to the shore.

There was another demonstration on the beach before the group returned to the warmth of their

beach hut. A squad of members gave a display of reel and line drill and manual resuscitation. Four cadet members planned to demonstrate the club's six new rescue torpedoes, which are taken out to a swimmer in difficulties. But three of the cadets had colds, so the display was called off.

'ENDLESS LIST'

The new reel and line, which cost £75, and the torpedoes are among the first of the equipment the club has acquired. Secretary Mr. Keith Rhodes said the club had an "endless list" of useful equipment it could do with, but the immediate need was to extend the first aid facilities and to buy binoculars and sound signals.

"Ideally, we could do with a boat and outboard motor, more reels and lines, stretchers and training equipment, but it will take time to get them," he said.

The sole source of income so far, apart from members' subscriptions, has been a grant of £99 from Christchurch Council. However, the club has other plans. At present it is in the process of forming a fund raising and financial committee to help pay for new equipment.

The club has 37 members at present, and would welcome more. Of the 37, about two dozen are swimming members—the ones who patrol Avon and Friars Cliff beaches.

PATROLS

It was formed last April and began with patrols of the beaches on Sundays and bank holidays. This year, from Whitsun onwards, patrols on Saturday afternoons as well are planned.

Most of the members are in their twenties, although there are quite a number of cadets—those between 12 and 15 years old.

In examinations of the Surf Lifesaving Association and of the Royal Life Saving Association, the club has had 100 per cent success. An examination session was organised in the autumn for 12 members. Eight won RSLA bronze medallions, one gained a silver medallion, two qualified for SLSA certificates, and one, Keith Rhodes, qualified as an instructor.

'INCIDENT RESCUES'

So far their services have not been needed for a full scale rescue, but there have been eight "incident rescues" as Mr. Rhodes describes them—where prompt action by lifesavers saved the need for a full scale rescue. For example in one case, a child had travelled out too far from the shore on a air bed, so a member swam out and towed the child back.

This year the club will be better equipped to deal with emergencies on the beach—the equipment is stored in the beach hut provided for the club by the borough council.

Anyone wishing to join the club should contact Mr. Rhodes, 48 Victoria Avenue, Winton, Bourne-mouth 53017.

Lifesavers on the crest of a wave

CHURISTCHURCH Lifesaving Club, whose members introduced Bondi Beach methods of lifesaving to Christchurch this summer, have ended their first season in triumph.

Of their 12 members who took Surf Life-saving Association examinations at Avon Beach recently, all have passed. The club now boasts 10 of the 11 holders of bronze medals in surf life-saving on this part of the coast.

Their secretary, Mr. Keith Rhodes, of 48, Victoria Avenue, Winton, gained his instructor's award and the silver medal went to Clive Musgrove.

Bronze winners were Pat and Gillian Aslett, Renee Vale, Elizabeth Stevenson, Maurice De-Ste-Croix, Les Chidley, Neil Crompton and Ken Harrison, the club's chairman.

Qualifying awards went to Ann Brooks and Colleen Hemsley.

The club, who put in 638 hours of patrols on Sundays and Bank Holidays from May to September at Avon Beach, hope to increase their membership by next season so they can extend the work to cover Saturdays as well.

Although not needed for any major incidents in the water, Mr. Rhodes said that there had been six occasions when had they not taken action a full-scale rescue might well have resulted.

Training problem

The club are at present finding difficulty in obtaining a swimming pool in the town for winter training. They need to spend at least one hour in the water each week—and they don't profess to be quite as keen as Bournemouth Spartans in patronising the sea all the year round.

Another winter activity may be fund-raising to pay for more equipment for next year. This season they were given £75 by Christ-

church Council to purchase a reel and line and were also provided with a hut on the cliff top.

Next most essential items they need are binoculars, a gas horn and loud hailers. To be fully equipped they also want a motorboat, a double surf ski for paddling out quickly to bathers in trouble in shallow water, another reel and line, a "Resusci-Annie," and a pair of fibreglass canoes.

Mr. Rhodes said that they had received a great deal of goodwill from firms this year in supplying them with such items as blankets, whistles and T-shirts.

Residents at Friars Cliff had co-operated by allowing them to park their cars in their driveways before other arrangements could be made. One woman had stored their equipment in her garage before their hut was ready, and another resident had made his telephone available.

Mr. Ken Derham and his staff on the beach had also helped them.

One of the keenest of the club's 33 members is Mr. Freddie Abliges who cycles from his home in Wimborne each week for training. During the season he made similar journeys at weekends for patrol duty.

Anyone interested in joining them should contact Mr. Rhodes.

27th December 1970

Mock rescue at Mundeford

MEMBERS of Christchurch Life Saving Club braved freezing weather to stage a mock rescue in the sea at Avon Beach, Mundeford, on Sunday.

But at least Gillian Aslett, the "casualty," and Vernon Hartshorn, the rescuer, found the temperature in the water of about 40 degrees a good deal warmer than it was on the beach.

The incident followed the handing over to the club by their president, the Mayor of Christchurch, Cllr. John Morgan, of a reel and line bought at a cost of £75 with a grant from Christchurch Council.

MANUAL METHODS

The Mayor also watched a demonstration with the equipment and of manual methods of resuscitation, in which young cadet members took part.

Another demonstration planned in the water by the cadets using new torpedo-shaped rescue buoys, also paid for with money from the council, was cancelled as several of the cadets were suffering from colds.

The demonstrations were under the supervision of the club's secretary and instructor, Mr. Keith Rhodes.

I was prepared to accept the statement from "Big Vernon" of Christchurch Life Saving Club that the temperature of the sea was higher than that of the air on Sunday at Avon Beach.

After demonstrations of land drill connected with the life saving service, one of the female members of the club plunged into the sea and simulated being in difficulties and was "rescued" by "Big Vernon" who was using the life saving apparatus (which I officially handed over at the beginning of the proceedings) that had been purchased from funds provided by the borough council.

As is the case in the summer

and throughout the year, the beach itself was quite safe; it is the water wherein the danger lies. I am sure that this life saving service will do much in the summer months to prevent accidents amongst bathers as well as being on hand to make such rescues as are necessary.

Lifesavers have pool problem

ON the crest of the wave at their first annual meeting were members of Christchurch Life-saving Club. Reports of their activities since they were formed last April spelt out progress and success.

But the club have a problem at present—where to train?

Christchurch has no public swimming pool and in past months they have been using a private pool at the Highcliffe home of Mr. Clive Brearley-Smith, head of a local firm of pool builders. This will not be available much longer, however, due to repairs.

The meeting heard Bournemouth's Pier Approach Baths would be too expensive at £3 an hour and it was felt the Kinson baths, used by Christchurch Swimming Club, were too shallow for their purpose.

It was decided to ask all members if they would be prepared to join the Linden Hall Sports Association so the pool there could be used.

HIGHLIGHT

Secretary Mr. Keith Rhodes said the highlight of the year was their 100 per cent. success in the Surf Lifesaving Association exams—especially so when the 11 members who took part had hardly heard of the association six months previously.

AWARDS HAD ALSO BEEN GAINED FROM THE ROYAL LIFESAVING SOCIETY.

"Now the pace is set, let us hope we can continue in the same vein," he commented.

Members had put in 626 man-hours patrolling the Beach at Friars Cliff and Mudeford last summer. Several incidents had occurred, but due to quick-thinking and action no fatalities or full-scale rescues had resulted.

They had also attended several swimming galas and given a number of demonstrations.

A fund raising committee had been formed and was planning ways and means of boosting finances.

GROWTH

Retiring chairman, Mr. Ken Harrison, said they now had 44 members. It was encouraging to see such growth in so little time, and even more encouraging to see the effort put into the club and the happy environment.

Of their many awards obtained during the year he commented they must not get carried away with the

idea they might be "the club with the most awards."

He would rather see no awards than this and 100 per cent. beach rescue activity for which the club was solely formed.

Treasurer Mrs. P. Rhodes said they had received grants from Christchurch Council, the Wates Foundation, and Hampshire and IoW Playing Fields Association, of which £171 was still available.

With the money from the council they had bought a reel and line and four torpedo floats, and from the Wates Foundation, training handbooks and a loud hailer.

DONATIONS

Donations had also been received, including £50 from Christchurch Round Table for the purchase of other equipment. They had ended the year with balances totalling £75.

AWARDS

The Mayoress, who presided, presented the Surf Life Saving Association's bronze awards to Gillian Aslett, Pat Aslett, Neil Crompton, Les Chidley and Elizabeth Stevenson. Qualifying certificates went to Colleen Hemsley and Ann Brooks.

Officers elected were: president, the Mayor; chairman, Miss Gillian Aslett; secretary, Mr. Rhodes; treasurer, Mrs. Rhodes; captain, Mr. Crompton; gear steward, Mr. Chidley.

Committee: Miss Pat Aslett, Mr. and Mrs. A. Smith, Miss Hemsley, Mr. Maurice De St Croix; Mr. Vernon Hartshorn; Mr. Harrison, Miss Pauline Wakeling.

1973

Rescue exercise left a

nasty taste . .

TAKING PART IN THE ANNUAL ALD. MCINNES POLICE LIFESAVING COMPETITION AT WICK FERRY, CHRISTCHURCH, YESTERDAY, LEFT A NASTY TASTE IN THE MOUTH FOR SOME BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL-CHILDREN. THE CULPRIT — OIL POLLUTION.

The youngsters, aged 9-12, had gamely volunteered to act as casualties for the police lifesavers to rescue. But their time in the water was curtailed when it was found they were getting oil in their mouths.

They were each prepared to go into the river three times as the incident staged for the competing teams was repeated. They made it only the once.

But the pollution—a by-product of the river's popularity with motor craft—caused no other upsets and the competition, in which 18 teams from 12 forces showed their mettle, was completed in fast time.

COLLAPSED

All the "casualties," however, found the water surprisingly cold and one of them, Jennifer Potter, of Christchurch Lifesaving Club, collapsed on the foreshore after one of her dips. She quickly recovered after first-aid from the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

It is doubtful whether the teams had much time to think about the temperature for they had nine casualties to sort out in a maximum of six minutes.

By the time they were hurriedly throwing off their uniforms and running headlong into the emergency down the Bournemouth bank of the river this is what was supposed to have happened.

A speedboat towing a kite flyer (water skier with wings) had run into two swimmers, causing them serious injuries. The airborne flyer lost height as a result and fell on to another boat with a mother, father and three children aboard.

BROKEN LEG

The boat overturned, throwing the family into the river. Mother was unconscious and submerged, father was suffering from

facial injuries and struggling, and the children, unable to swim, were hysterical.

As if that wasn't enough the kite flyer was in the water with a broken leg and the speedboat driver was in a state of shock.

From the frantic cries for help that resounded across the water the police might well have thought the "casualties" were in real peril. Realism was obviously the thing.

Teams of women and cadets were competing alongside the men. The women proved a force to be reckoned with—one of their number from Kent, WPC Sonya Saunders, winning the George Ferneythorpe trophy for the best individual performance.

Sussex Constabulary were overall winners to receive the Ald. McInnes trophy from the Assistant Chief Constable of Dorset and Bournemouth, Mr. R. K. Brown. Winners also in 1971, they had a clear points lead over the runners-up, the Dorset and Bournemouth team, who claimed the Wick Ferry Trophy.

HOLIDAY

In third place were Leicester and Rutland Constabulary with Hampshire close behind in fourth. The Holbrook challenge cup for the leading cadet team went to Bristol City.

Added prizes of a week's Pontins holiday for two went to each of the winning teams and WPC Saunders.

It was the 14th year the competition had been staged by Dorset and Bournemouth police. Among the spectators were the Mayor and Mayoress of Bournemouth, Cllr. Major Bertram Dillon and Mrs. Dillon, and the Mayor of Christchurch, Cllr. Tom Staniforth, and his mother, Mrs. Ada Staniforth.

Life Saving Club's great achievement

TO come third in the National Championship Competition for which entry was open to the whole of Great Britain, and that within the first three years of a club's existence, was the great achievement last week-end of the Christchurch Life Saving Club.

The competitions were held on Saturday and Sunday at Porthmeor Beach, St. Ives. A party of 29 travelled there from Christchurch comprising a men's team under the captaincy of Clive Hindley and a ladies' team under the captaincy of Gillian Aslett.

They were beaten in the finals only by Perranporth, of Cornwall, who have won the major award for rescue and resuscitation in seven successive years, and Devon and Cornwall Police who came second. Only six points separated the winners and Christchurch.

In addition the Christchurch Club was awarded the W. D. & H. O. Wills' 'Maiden Plate', awarded only to clubs which have not been in existence for more than three years. The trophy was first presented in 1965.

Points scored in the whole of the Championship Competitions placed Christchurch seventh out of 17 entrants.

The Christchurch men's team which was mainly responsible for

this very fine achievement in the National Competitions consisted of Clive Hindley (captain), Leslie Chidley, Derek Lester, Peter Lack, David Patterson, Stephen Barnes, with Keith Benton and Ian Wilkinson as reserves.

The ladies' team were responsible, of course, for adding a useful contribution to the aggregate marks.

The Club recently held Surf Life Saving exams on Avon Beach with the following results:—

Bronze awards: Jennifer Potter, Susan Spiller, Peter Lack, David Patterson.

Silver award: Clive Hindley.

Instructors awards: Neil Crompton, Gillian Aslett, Pauline Wakelin, Leslie Chidley.

Some members of the Junior Leader Regiment at Bovington Army Camp attached to the Christchurch Life Saving Club also were successful in gaining their Bronze awards.

ANOTHER LIFE SAVED

Recently whilst the Christchurch Life Saving Club were on their normal Sunday Patrol on Friars Cliff Beach they were called to the assistance of a lady who was not drowning but had passed out and was vomiting, (partly due to eating a heavy meal and then more or less straight afterwards going from sitting in the sun into the still cold water). Fortunately due to the First Aid training and the efficiency of the Life Saving Club the lady was prevented from choking to death and she was soon on her way to hospital.

So please be careful and sensible when you are on the beach and you will help us as well as helping yourselves.

CAROLE CHIDLEY,
(Public Relations Officer),
84 Somerford Road,
Christchurch.



Many people gathered on Avon Beach, Mudeford, when the priest-in-charge of All Saints' Church, the Rev. Michael Beavor, held a special service on the beach to bless Christchurch Life Saving Club at the beginning of its season's patrols. Pictured are some members of the club.

Club on crest of success

Christchurch Life Saving Club has something to shout about this week — it achieved a major success in the national championships of the Surf Life Saving Association of Great Britain.

Not only did the Christchurch team win the Maiden Plate, awarded to clubs less than three years old, but it came third in the main event of the championships weekend, the rescue and resuscitation.

This has never before been achieved by such a young club. Winners, for the seventh year running, were Perranporth, the second were Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. Christchurch was just six points behind.

First attempt

The championships were held at St. Ives, Cornwall, over two days and this was the club's first attempt at them.

"We have done very well," commented a club member, "but next year we intend doing much better."

Team members were: Clive Hindley (captain), Leslie Chidley, Derek Lester, Peter Lack, David Patterson, Stephen Barns. Reserves: Keith Benton and Ian Wilkinson.

Club members recently held exams on Avon Beach and passes were: Bronze awards — Jennifer Potter, Susan Spiller, Peter Lack and David Patterson. Silver award — Clive Hindley. Instructors' awards — Neil Crompton, Gillian Aslett, Pauline Wakelin and Leslie Chidley.



Christchurch Life Saving Club members go into action in the championships.

1973

Mc Innes Police Lifesaving Competition

Wick Ferry



The scene in the water around the kite and the overturned boat.—

Casualties from Christchurch Lifesaving Club

Jenny Potter, Pat Aslet, Gill Aslett,
Derek Lester, Ian Wilkinson