

36 Hour Swim – Day 1

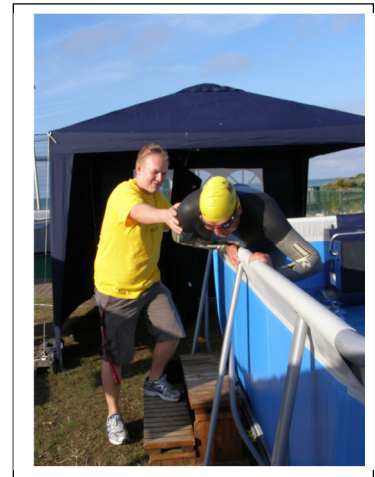
The week leading up to the swim seemed surreal – we were making final arrangements – like setting up the pool, arranging safety barriers to be put round the night before, arranging 24 hour access to the site, collecting boxes, banners etc etc. The list seemed endless but it still didn't seem to be only hours away!

The morning of Friday 5th dawned bright and sunny. Dean, as ever excited about the challenge, had been down during the night to make sure that all was well. His only concern was that the pool was filling up very slowly – too slowly! Indeed at the start it was so shallow his knees knocked the bottom of the pool whilst he swam. Another concern was how cold the water was – enter a man with 'hot water' from B.G.Drains. He gave us a tank full of hot water and went away and got a second tank full.



Left – Dean
just before
8am on 5th
August.

Right – Lee
helping Dean
into the pool



The next challenge was the depth of water – enter The Fire and Rescue Service who filled the pool up for us. So by 9.45am everything was sorted and Dean was well away.



It was Pirate Day and the weather was good so a lot of people passed by, stopped to find out what Dean was doing and why and then kindly donated towards our new rescue boat. There were a lot of people who knew Dean and The Lifeguard Club so came along to see how he was getting on. The pump in the pool needed a rest about each hour so Dean had a 'bungy' round his waist. This time gave him the opportunity to look around and chat to the passersby. It also gave the opportunity to take on fluid and food – a carefully worked out strategy to ensure Dean stayed hydrated and fed throughout the 36 hours. During the whole 36 hours Dean didn't put his feet down once.



During the Pirate challenge there was a huge crowd passing Dean, many stopping to ask what he was doing and asking if he was 'mad'!! Friday evening was quite busy with lots of friends and club members coming along to wish Dean well.

Darkness fell and we got ready for the night shift. The wind had got up so we moved the gazebo a little to protect Dean from the wind chill, with a tank of unheated water we were constantly aware of maintaining Dean's body temperature. We were amazed by the number of people who came along during the night – several wanted to get in the water with Dean!! It was good entertainment keeping Dean and the rest of us awake.

This is a good place to record our extended gratitude to Adventure Golf. We were grateful to them for giving us the location for our pool and the necessary power and water. However during the 'small wee hours' those of us who were there supporting Dean were even more grateful for the provision of the trampolining kiosk to make tea and the use of toilets – thank you so much!!

It was good to see the dawn, albeit a cloudy and dull one with a hint of rain but with two thirds of the challenge successfully completed it made up for grey start.