

RESCUE 2010

ALEXANDRIA IN EGYPT



A Volunteer Officials Diary

by Paul Moore

The first weekend in October saw a group of 13 RLSS UK Judges travel to Alexandria in Egypt for the World Pool and Ocean Lifesaving Championships.

The group arrived by air at Cairo and had a long journey to Alexandria, where they had arranged their own accommodation through the ILS website, which consisted of some shared apartments and hotel rooms.

When we arrived at around midnight, it was quite apparent that organisation and urgency had a different meaning to the event organisers.

The UK contingent held various positions during the 10 days of competition ranging from timekeeper through to referee.

The Pool was situated a small distance of about 12 Km from the accommodation. However, it took between 30-90mins to travel in the provided transport, through what were certainly interesting areas of the City of Alexandria!

The pool was a 50m open air design, with balconies on either side, which offered some shelter to the spectators, there was however, no shelter around the sides for judges. Upon arrival at 7.15am the pool looked idyllic. By 1pm, in 45°C without shade, it became a slightly different issue!

A typical day, during the swimming pool events:

- 5.30am Breakfast at accommodation
- 6.00am Transport departs accommodation
- 7.15am Officials briefing
- 8.30am Pool events start
- 12.30pm Lunch
- 1.00pm Competition starts
- 7.00pm Competition ends
- 7.30pm Transport home
- 8.30pm Arrival accommodation

This pattern continued for all three pool competitions, with one day off in the middle, the day off including the briefing for the inter-clubs competition.

The events passed without major problem, other than the National Teams SERC, where a period of two and a half hours had been allocated for 30 heats of SERC and a 16 team final to allocate points!

The RLSS UK judges were professional and fair and were a credit to the Society.

Every event of this nature requires International judges. Some nations are still

developing their judging structure and have varying levels of experience and expertise.

If our involvement in international competition is to continue, we need to encourage more members of RLSS UK to join the College of Referees and make themselves available, for this type of event.

The experience of being involved in an event that attracts so many lifesavers to one place is second to none. The only down side is that the attendance needs to be self funded presently and flights and accommodation are not always cheap.

Above centre: Paul Moore

*Top: Di Standley, Chief Executive with RLSS UK Officials Terry Draycott, Paul Moore, John Stainer, Clive Holland (former President and ILS Director), Ruth Martin, Debbie Hunt, Linda Taylor, Jo Young
Front row: Chris Lewis, Zelah Dickerson, Stephanie Andrews, Michele Weedy and Elaine Lewis*



THE RLSS UK JUDGES WERE PROFESSIONAL AND FAIR AND WERE A CREDIT TO THE SOCIETY.

