1. DBSwim Version 1.2

Introduction

LSA dbSwim is a Windows-95 program that allows you to build a complete database of all the swimmers, meets and results in an entire league such as a USA Swimming Local Swimming Committee (LSC) or a high school or college league. You start by importing the USS LSC registration database and update it from time to time, as new swimmers are registered. If you do not have access to such a database, or if your swimming organization is not part of United States Swimming, you can also configure dbSwim to add new swimmers from meet results or manually.

You can then use dbSwim to

- Import meet results in SDI, HyTek CommLink or LSA SwimMeet format.
- Check for unregistered swimmers
- Print out the top times in any event and age group
- Create "Top 25" web pages for any combination of swimmer events.
- Create web pages of the current team names and the swimmers they currently have currently registered.

Since the database is a standard Microsoft Access-95 database, you can also use Access or Crystal Reports to create any kind of custom reports you like.

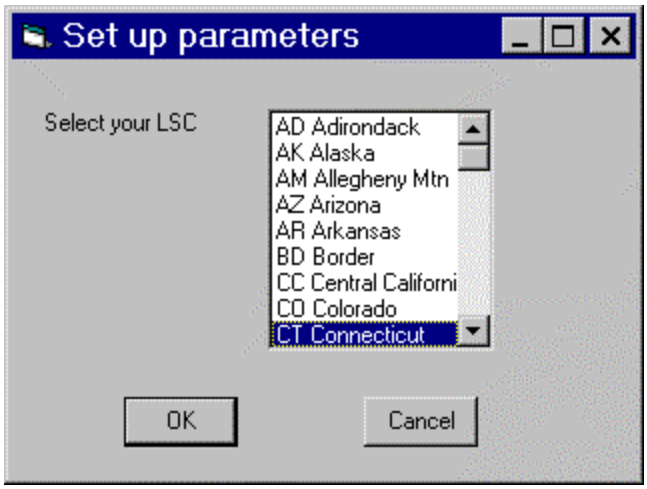
Installing dbSwim

DBSwim is provided as 4 diskettes or diskette images. Copy the images into separate directories (disk1, disk2, etc.) or copy them to 4 diskettes. Insert the first diskette and select ***setup.exe*** from the Explorer. Follow the installation instructions. If you have installed LSA SwimMeet, you can install dbSwim in the \swim4 directory it creates. You can also install it in any other convenient directory.

Since dbSwim 1.1 utilizes the new USS 14-character ID numbers, it utilizes a new database format. This format is not compatible with last year's dbSwim 1.0 database. You need to create a new database from your LSC's data for this season. The new program installs as dbSwim11.exe and does not remove the older version.

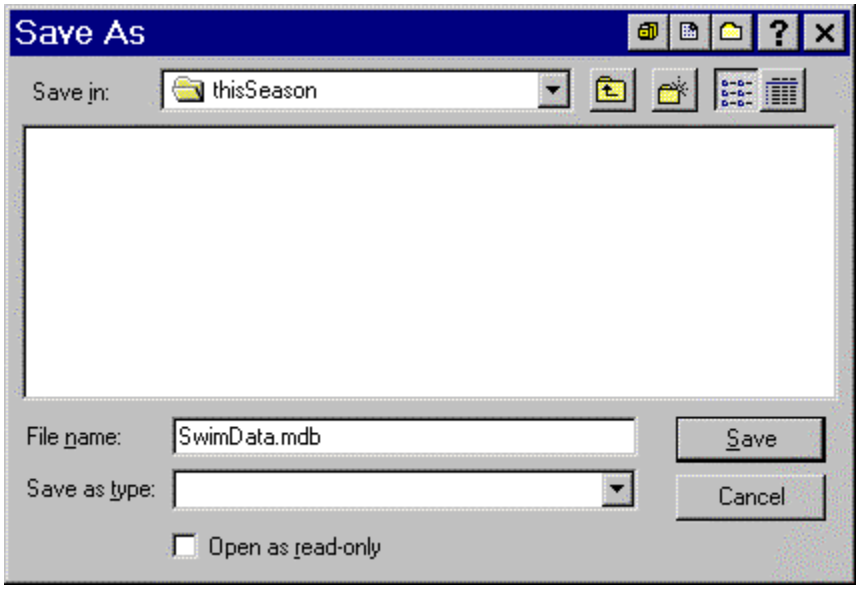
Starting and Configuring dbSwim

Start dbSwim from the Windows 95 (or 98) start bar. The first time you run it, you should select **Setup | Setup LSC Parameters** and select the name of your LSC. dbSwim will then only select swim results from swimmers from that LSC or those where the LSC field is blank. Teams from other organizations or countries can modify the file **lsclist.dat** to include appropriate two-letter combinations



Creating the Database

Now you should create a folder for an empty database. Then you will import the LSC registration files. First select **File|Create**



Here we show creating a new folder called **thisSeason** and saving the database using the default name **SwimData.mdb.** After you click on **Save**, dbSwim will create and initialize the tables in the database and store it on disk

Getting Swimmers into Your Database

There are 3 ways to get all of the swimmers in your organization into the database.

1. Import them from a USS LSC database
1. Import them from meet results
1. Type them in by hand.

Importing Swimmers from your LSC registration data

Installing the LSC Database

If your swim organization is an USA Swimming LSC, you should obtain your LSC's registration database files from your Registration Chairman to use as the starting point for your swimmer database. This database consists of 3 files:

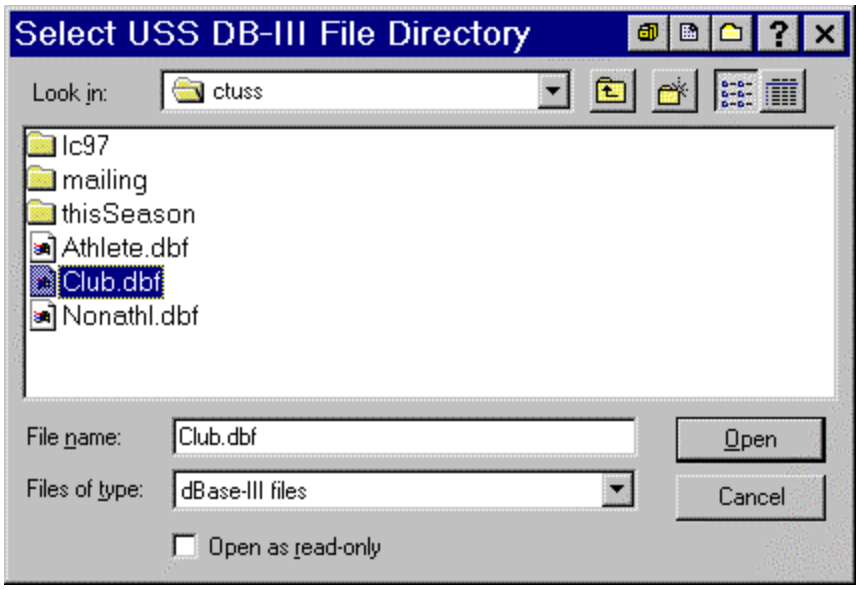
- Athlete.dbf
- Clubs.dbf
- Nonathlete.dbf

You will actually only need the first two.

Using the Explorer, create a directory called USSdb and copy these files into it.

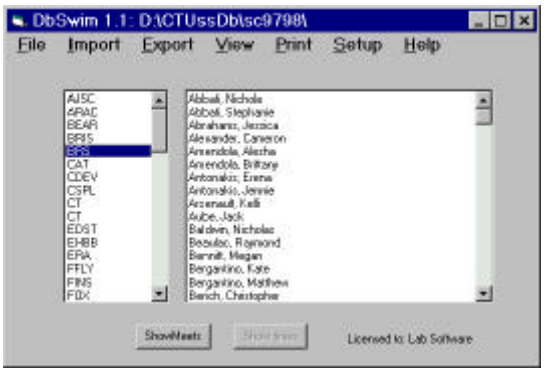
If the group of teams you are keeping records for is a United States Swimming Local Swimming Committee (LSC) you can import all of the swimmers in your LSC at once from the LSC Registration database. This step adds all of the currently registered clubs and swimmers in your LSC into the database. You can repeat this step at any time to update the list to include new registration information. This will not cause any loss of meet result data.

First, select **File | Update from USS Files | Update clubs.** Select the folder which contains the LSC registration ".dbf" files, and click on "club.dbf".



Then select **Open.** DBSwim will read in the club data and display the club initials in the left-hand list box.

Next, select **File | Update from USS Files | Update swimmers.** From the file dialog box, select **athlete.dbf** and click on **Open**. DBSwim will read in all of the swimmers and then display them. DBSwim automatically converts all swimmer's names to mixed case, based on a simple formula which recognizes "O'", "Mc" and "Mac" as well as double and hyphenated names. If the guessed capitalization is wrong, you can easily change it as we will see below.



Note that you can click on any club name in the left column and the names of the swimmers on that club will be displayed in the right column.

Importing Email Addresses

The team address table in dbSwim contains a column for an Email address for each team. Since these data are not part of the LSC registration database, we provide a way for you to read in these addresses from a text file. Use the Wordpad editor to create a text file called **email.txt** and put the team initials in the left column followed by a space followed by the email address, with one team per line:

```
ABCD abcdteam@splash.com
SLOW seaslow@mud.net
```

The teams may be listed in any order.

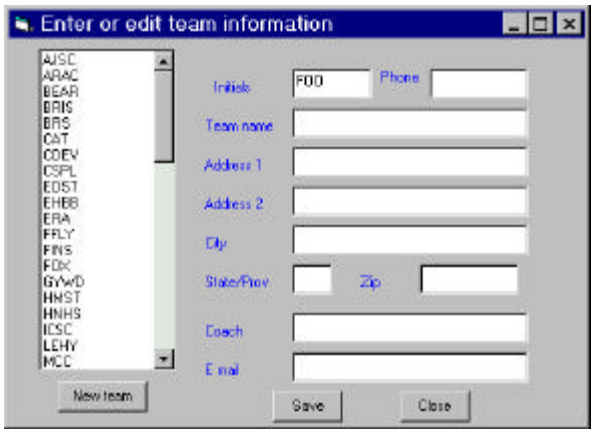
Then to read the file in, select **Import | Import Email addresses** and then select the file **email.txt** and click on **Open**. You can update this list at any time using this procedure. You will find it valuable when you create the web site team list to include any Email addresses you are aware of.

Converting Team Information to Mixed Case

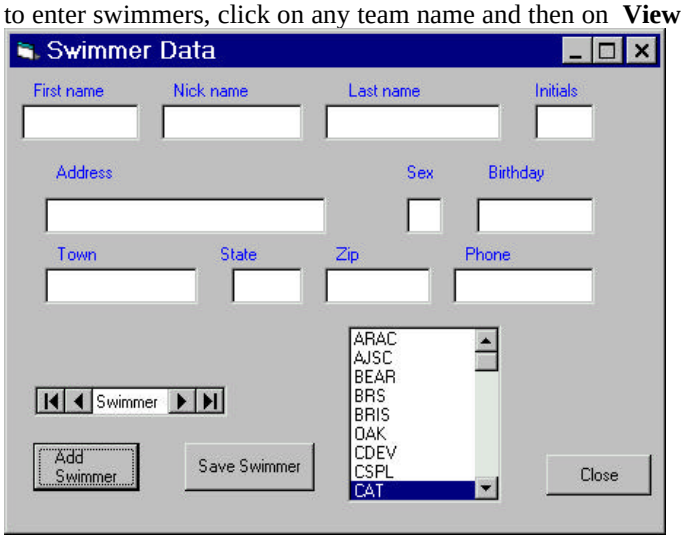
Many LSCs keep their team information all in upper case. This can be a little hard to read when you make up a list of the teams and their addresses, so dbSwim allows you to convert them to mixed case. Just select **File | Convert | Club names to mixed case**.

Entering Swimmers into the Database Manually

For a small organization, such as a college or high school league, you can enter the swimmers manually. Start by entering the names of all the teams in your league. Select **View | Teams** and click on **New Team**. This will bring up a panel where you can enter a team's name, initials and address and coach information:



After you enter each team, click on **Save**. When you have entered all of the teams, click on **Close.** Then, to enter swimmers, click on any team name and then on **View |Swimmer details**.



Add Swimmer to clear the screen of any previous swimmer, and after adding all the information, click on **Save Swimmer**.

Adding Swimmers from Meet Results

You can also add swimmers to your database by reading in meet results, indicating that the program should add any swimmer it does not already have recorded. This is discussed below under importing meets results.

Importing Meet Results

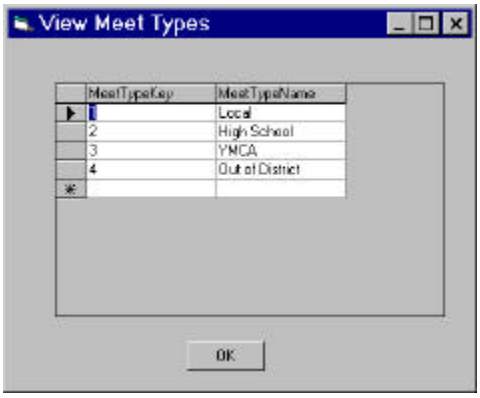
LSA dbSwim can import meet results from meets run using LSA SwimMeet, HyTek Meet Manager and exported using CommLink, or any program that can produce SDI (USS defined Standard Data Interchange) format files. To import LSA data, you select **Import | LSA Files** and to import SDI or Hytek CommLink files, select **Import | SDI Files.**

Importing LSA SwimMeet Result Files

After you select Import LSA Files, dbSwim displays the file dialog, so you can select the folder containing the meet data. You will need the five ".rc5" files and the meet file (.mt6) copied into some directory on your PC. Typically we recommend creating a main folder for a meet season such as **sc97** and then creating folders (directories) for each meet inside that folder.

If you check the box **Add unmatched swimmers**, any swimmer on one of the teams you specify will be added to the database from the meet results.

DBSwim requires that you enter a meet location and date. You can select any type of meet you like from the dropdown: Local, Regional, Out of state, YMCA or High School. You can also add any new meet types to the Meet Types table using **View | Meet Types**

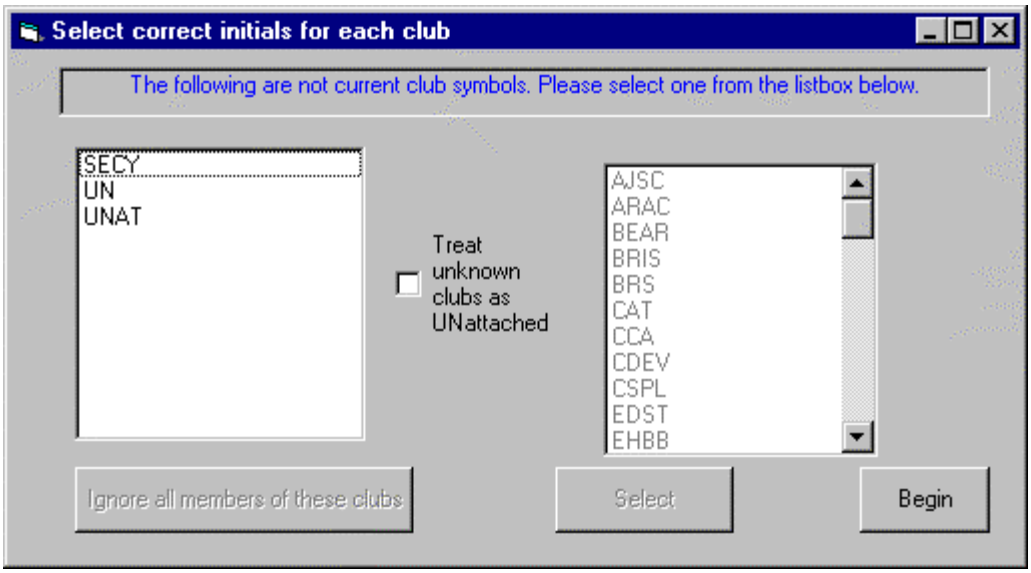


If you select the **Require LSC=xx** box, then the program attempts to match swimmers by USS number and name without respect to team, as would be the case where a swimmer swims in a Zone level meet representing the LSC but not a particular team..

If you select **Add only one team**, you can use dbSwim to keep records of a single club's records. You specify the team in the listbox that appears. The **Select course** option buttons should normally be set correctly from the meet file, but you can override it in cases where prelim's and finals are swum in different courses.

To begin importing, click on **Begin Import**. If you select the **Import splits** checkbox, the program imports only those splits which are meaningful shorter event times. It also imports the lead-off split of any relay where the leadoff swimmer is identifiable and adds that time to their records.

If dbSwim detects teams which are not part of the LSC, it displays them in a listbox as shown below.



If a club name is misspelled, you can select a club on the left and the correct spelling on the right and click on **Select** to make the assignment. If the club is from outside your district, just click on each of them and then on the **Ignore all members of these clubs** button. For the case where swimmers times from another squad, such as a high school meet, can be accepted, just check the **Treat unknown clubs as Unattached** checkbox. This will recognize all the swimmers but enter their times as having been achieved while unattached to the regular club.

Once you have removed all teams from the lefthand list box, importing will begin. For a typical meet, this can require 3–4 minutes. Each swimmer's name will be displayed as it is imported. Matching takes place by

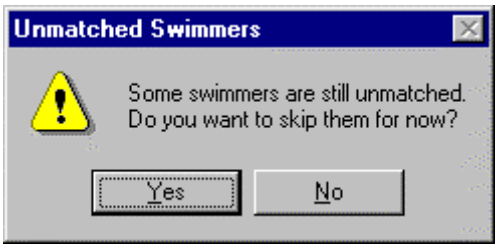
- USS number
- Last name, first name and club
- Last name, nickname and club

Assigning Unmatched Swimmers

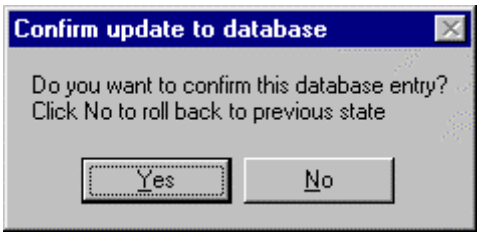
When the meet is completely imported, dbSwim will present you with a list of swimmers it could not match. These are swimmers who do not have USS numbers in the meet results files and whose names are somehow misspelled:

To assign swimmers to their correct names, click on a swimmer, and see if a similar name appears on the right. If it doesn't, click on **Show entire club**. Then scroll down to names similar to the one on the left. Here we see a simple spelling error: "Siegel" instead of "Siegal." Click on **Assign** to assign that swimmer and remove it from the unmatched list. Each time, the program will prompt you to make sure you haven't made an error:

DBSwim will not allow you to assign a swimmer of a different sex. When you have assigned all the swimmer you are able to recognize, click on **Close**. This will then bring up the dialog



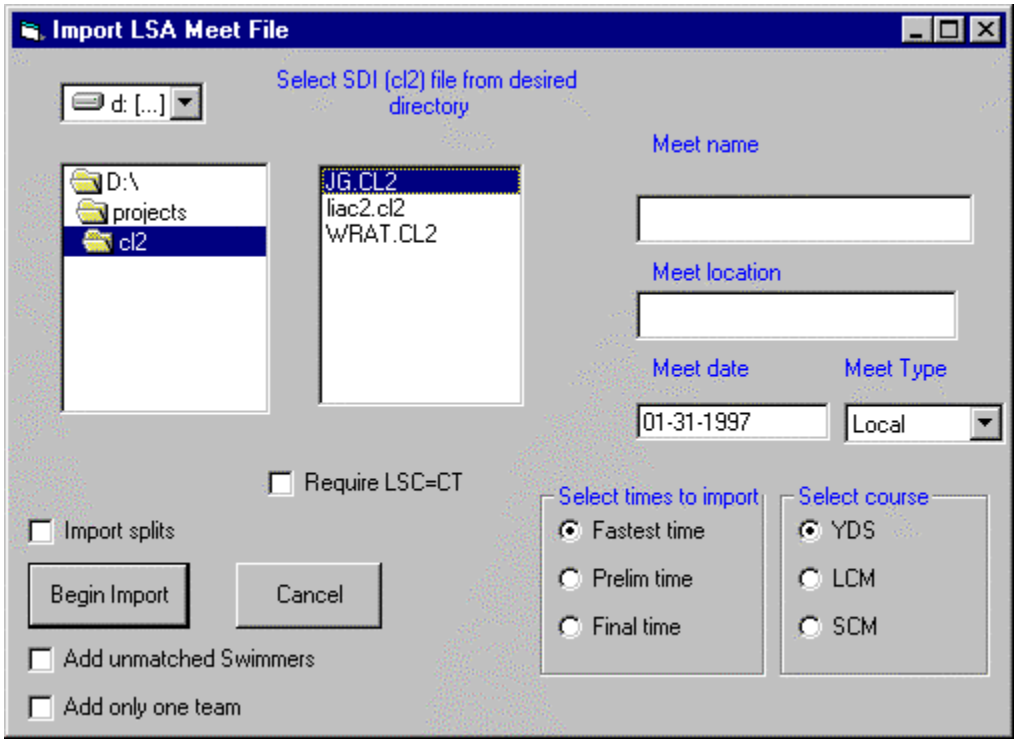
If you click on **Yes**, dbSwim will then ask you



This is your last chance to undo this import if you have made a mistake. If you click on **Yes,** but later realize you imported this meet in error, you can always delete it from the **View | Meets** menu command.

Importing SDI or Hytek Meets

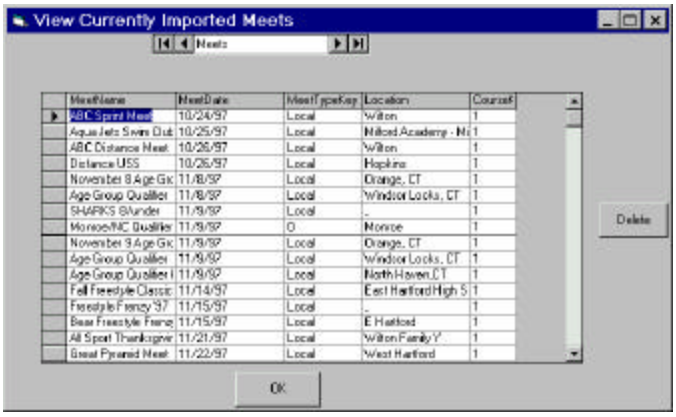
Meets from any number of software vendors can be exported into a format called SDI for "Standard Data Interchange." In Hytek's case this is accomplished by a program they call CommLink. The files it produces do not actually meet this standard, but dbSwim can read them anyway. To import such a file, click on **Import | SDI Files**. This brings up a dialog quite similar to that shown above. Select a directory and data file.



Because there is no real opportunity in the program to give it a unique name, many Commlink files are named **cfile01.cl2**. Be careful not to let one overwrite another by mistake. Further, many operators neglect to put in a meet name and location. Be sure that you type one in before trying to continue. Once you click on **Begin Import** you will be able to proceed exactly as above.

Viewing Meets Imported

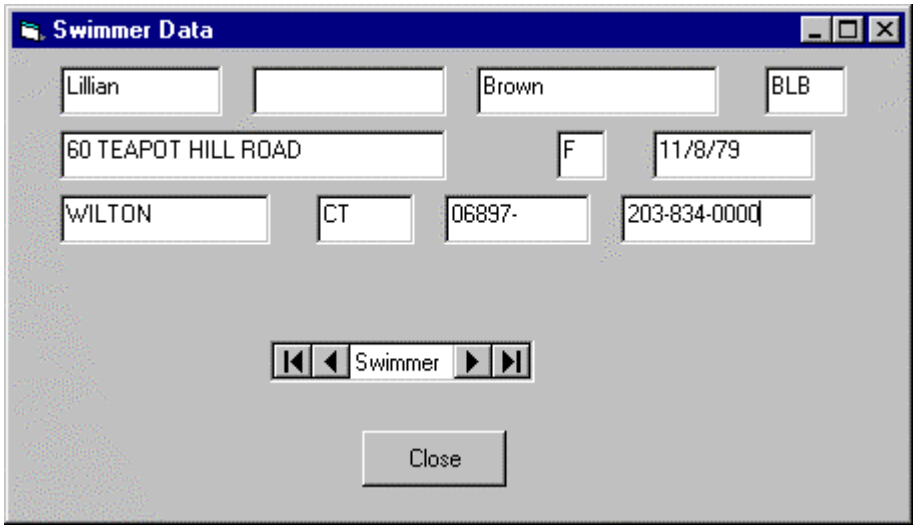
To see the list of meets that have been imported, click on **View | Meets Imported.** This brings up a list of those meets:



You can also use this display to delete an entire meet, by highlighting it and clicking on **Delete**. Be sure you have backed up your database before deleting it, as this is an irreversible step.

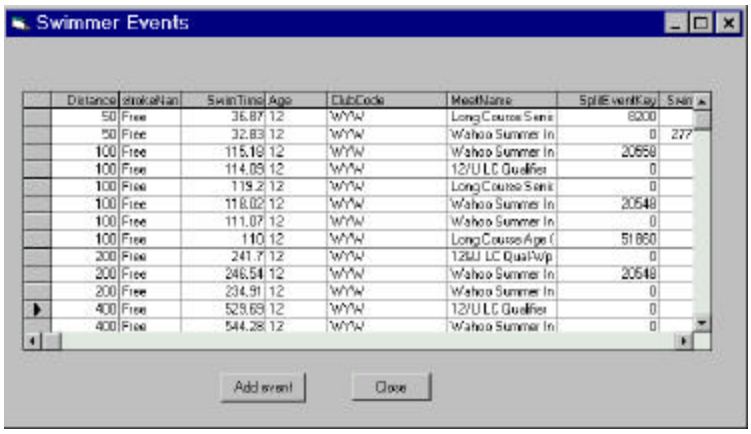
Viewing Swimmer Details

To view or change a swimmer's name, address and birthday, click on the swimmer, and then on **View | Swimmer details**. This will display detailed swimmer data. You can type in any changes and save them



Viewing Swimmer Times

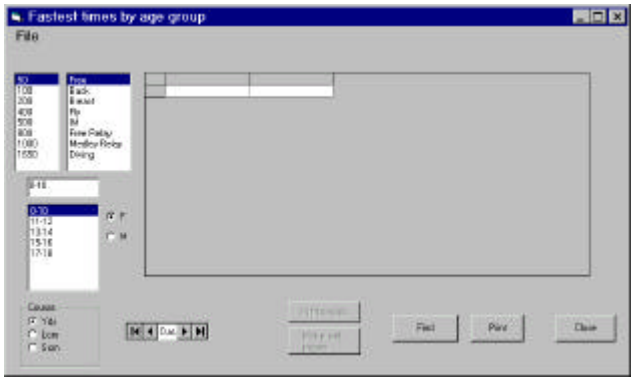
To display the best times for a swimmer after you have imported a number of meets, just double click on that swimmer's name



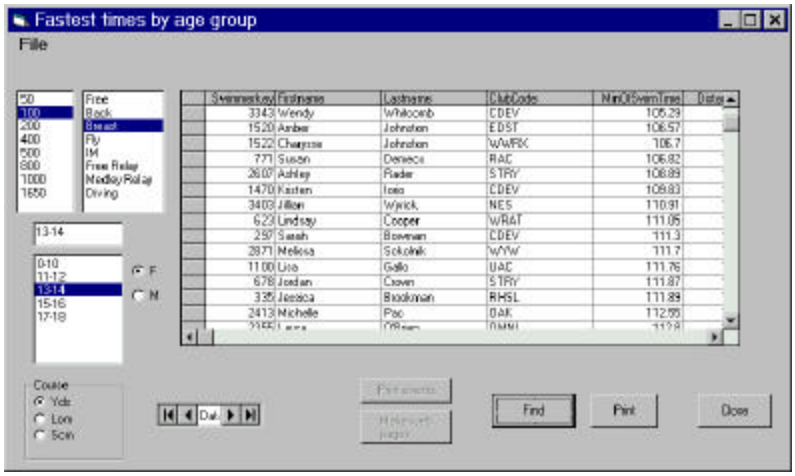
Any time that is displayed with a non-zero value for the "SplitEventKey" is a split time from a longer event.

Best Times per Event

To view the best times achieved in an event, select **View | Best times** from the main menu. This will bring up the display:



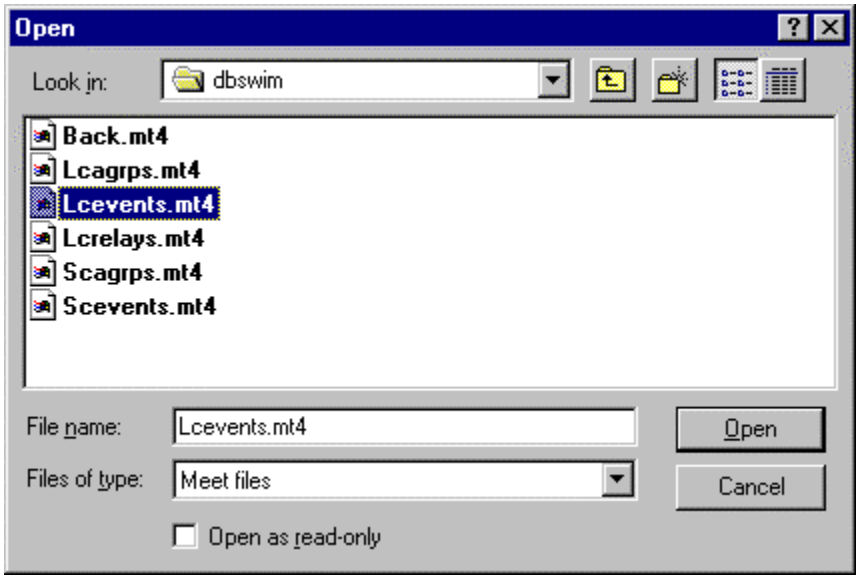
Select a course, age group, distance, sex and stroke and click on **Find.**



This brings up the top 25 times for swimmers who were in that age bracket during the meet they swam in, regardless of the age bracket of the events they entered. To print a report for that event, click on **Print.** To exit from the display, click on **Close**.

Print a Series of Events

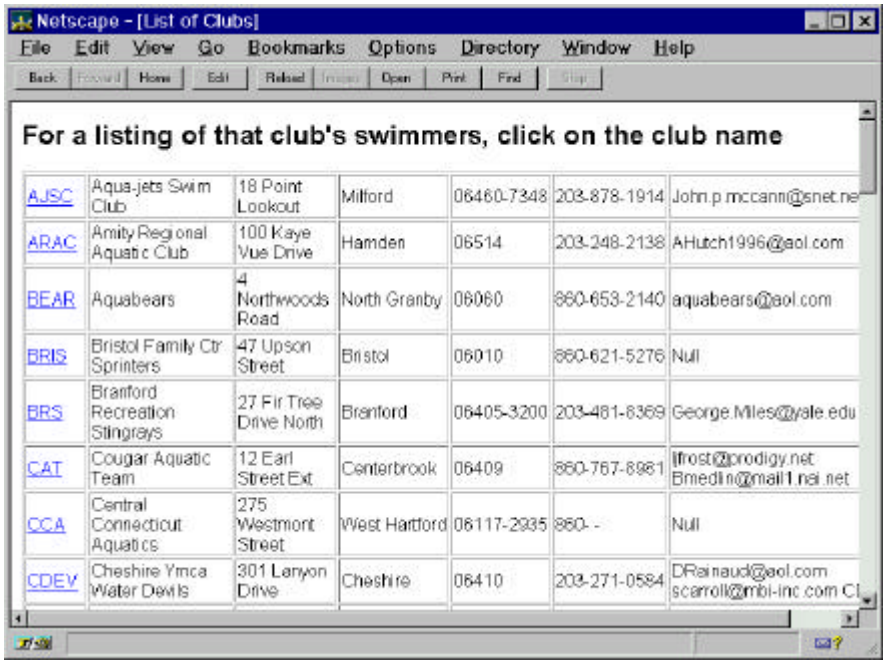
You can print out a series of events for which you would like reports, by using LSA SwimMeet to define these events. The meets **scevents.mt4** and **lcevents.mt4** are provided with dbSwim. To select one of these events, from the Fastest times screen, click on **File | Open Meet** and select a meet.



The **Print events** and **Make web pages** buttons will become active. To print out the best times, click on the former button.

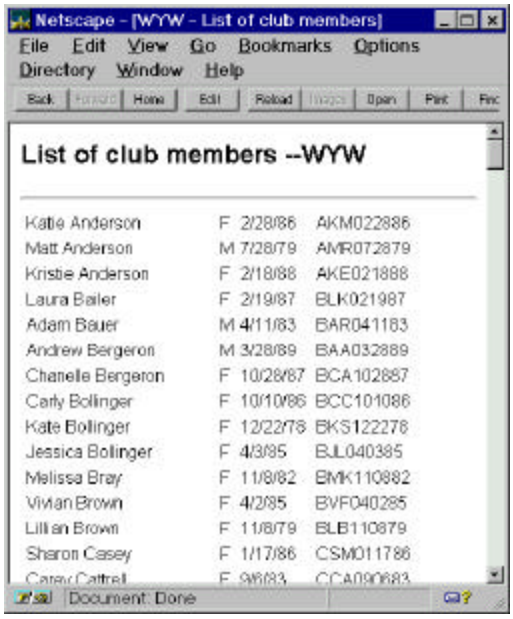
Making a Web Page Index of Your Teams

You can generate a web page table of all of your clubs with their addresses, phone numbers and Email addresses using the command **Export |Clubs**.



You can see the results of this export at http://ctswim.org/clubs/clubs.htm

Each set of team initials is a active link to a list of that team's swimmers, including their full names, birthdays and USS registration numbers, such as that you see at http://ctswim.org/clubs/wyw.htm.



Making Web Pages of Best Times by Age Group

You can use dbSwim to create a web-page based report of the top 25 swims in each age group and event which you can easily upload to your LSC's web site. Teams can use this for the same purpose on a local level. This has a great advantage over the database queries and CGI scripts often used for this purpose, in that you do not have to be knowledgeable in these arcane issues and you do not need to have a special and expensive relationship with your web service provider. You simply upload a series of HTML files which contain all this information, and update them on a weekly basis.

You can see the results of such a report at http://ctswim.org/database/sc9697/fset.htm

Working just as above, select a meet which describes the events you want to display on web pages. Then, just click on **Make web pages** and select a directory for the files to be generated in from the file selection box which is displayed. Then just wait a few minutes while dbSwim generates the web pages.

To upload the files to your web server, create a subdirectory for them on your server and upload all the files into that directory. Then create a link to the file **fset.htm** from the main page.

Summary

DBSwim is a powerful, modern tool for managing swimming data for a large group of clubs, such as a USS local swimming committee. LSA will continue to provide updates to this program as new data handling requirements and data representation methods evolve. To keep up with developments, watch our web site http://www.labsoftware.com, and keep in touch with us by Email: support@labsoftware.com