

CHILDREN IN SEA RESCUE DRAMA

By ROSEMARY SMITH

FIVE WEST youngsters described today how they rescued three people from drowning while on a day's outing to the seaside.

The five, aged from 13 to 17, saved two women and a man from the sea at Porthcawl.

All the rescuers are members of Chippenham Amateur Swimming Club. Club president Mr David Chamberlain, of Providence Terrace, Chippenham, said today: "Ninety of us were on our annual club outing

back she started to panic. I saw Lesley Durham, another member of the club, near at hand and called to her to help me.

"Together we managed to pull the woman to the shore."

Julian is in the men's international lifesaving competition semi-finals at Bath in September.

He left school last month after taking his A levels and plans to go to university to study law.

'Serious'

"Our youngsters were involved in two separate rescues. Three girls rescued a man and a woman from the surf. The woman was drowning and would have died if they had not gone to her aid.

"In the second rescue a boy and a girl from our club saved a woman who got into serious trouble in the water."

Thirteen-year-olds Alison Elms, of Westmead Lane, and Nicola Swan, of Dallas Road, who both attend Hardenhuish School, Chippenham, spoke today of the rescue.

"We were just out of our depth in the sea," said Alison. "We saw some people about 20 yards away shouting and calling for help.

'Panic'

"When we reached them the woman was beginning to panic and I got her to lie on her back. I brought her in 20 yards and then I saw Sandra Amor, another member of the club. She came over and we went the rest of the way to the shore with the woman together."

Nicola went to the man who had been shouting for help. "I grabbed hold of him and towed him in about 20 yards," she said. "A boy in a canoe helped me with him for the last 10 yards to the shore."

Alison and Nicola are undergoing instruction in lifesaving by Mr Chamberlain, who organises courses for the club.

"All our classes this year were made worthwhile," said Alison.

Sandra (14) is a pupil at the George Ward School, Melksham.

The second rescue involved Julian Webb (17), of Queen's Crescent, Chippenham, who has just left Hardenhuish School, and Lesley Durham (14), of Wood Lane, in the fourth-year at School.

They saved a woman who got into difficulties in the sea.

7ft waves

Julian said today: "I was out swimming when I heard a woman near me crying: 'I can't get back!' she said.

"I told her not to panic and started to help her back to the shore. The waves were 7ft. high. On the way

Life savers take 114 awards in ten great years

CHIPPENHAM Swimming Club's life saving section is ten years old this year and the occasion is being celebrated in great style with a record 114 awards having been obtained so far.

Award winners are: Distinction award, David Hutchens and Jayne Audritt; distinction re-test, Julian Webb; award of merit, Elizabeth Bull.

Bronze awards: Paul Opie, Nicola Swann, Leslie Hampton, Lindsey Demelweek, Rona Jenkins, Brian Jenkins, Patricia Coward, Leonard Coward, Devin Gullis, Claire Simmons, Alison Elms, Kevin Hale, Caroline Bailey, Jane Thomas, Ann Jenkins, Adrian Gilbey, Robert Demelweek Sen., William Turner, Susan Kirby, Carole Oake.

Bronze medallion: Lindsey Demelweek, Phillip Self, Anthony Kirk, Michael Nelson, Michael Law, David Carey, Leslie Hampton, Paul Opie, Caroline Bailey, Jane Thomas, Paul Dudley, Alison Elms, Nicola Swann, Adrian Byatt, Stephen Byatt.

Teachers' certificates: Doreen Gullis, Glyn Marsh, Jennifer Marsh; student teachers' certificates, Adrian Cann, Ian Cary.

Intermediate awards: Ashley Brewer, Stephen Hard, Michael Hard, Ian Comley, Jean Carey, Susan Hampton, Julian Howgill, Ian Bucklar, Tony Bucklar, Derek Portsmouth, Lisa Carter, Christine Byatt,

Jeremy Barber, Sally Bird, Julie Ashman, Lynn Ashman, Debora Turner, Karen Holder, Gavin Marsh, Helen Cosgrove, Deborah Trickett.

Intermediate re-test: Rony Hard, Keith Gullis, Donna Comley, Robert Evans, Alison Baker, Jayne Coward, Mark Collis, Stephen Collis, Carol Carey, Robert Demelweek, Keith Hutchens, Jason Marsh.

Advanced resuscitation: Lesley Hampton.

Preliminary resuscitation: Stephen Hart, Andrew Opie, Michael Hard; Advanced water safety, Gavin Marsh, Doreen Gullis, Pat Coward, Jayne Coward, Len Coward, Jeremy Barber, Paul Opie, Carol Carey, Michael Hard, Karen Holder, Deborah Turner, Stephen Hard.

Preliminary water safety: Andrew Opie, Paul Opie, Michael Hard, Stephen Hard, Ashley Brewer, Deborah Turner, Laren Holder, Christopher Lewis, Jeremy Barber, David Hackett, Jean Carey, Susan Hampton.

Elementary award: Andrew Opie.

Open water medallion: Marilyn Evans, Valli Marshall, Alan Malpas, Virginia Frazer, Julian Webb, Ian Carey, Patricia Coward, Leonard Coward.

PRESENTATIONS

Thirteen teams from four clubs took part in the county championships at Chippenham on Saturday when trophies were presented by the town mayor and mayoress, Coun. and Mrs Eric Hughes, and Mr Cliff Griffiths, president of the Avon branch of the Royal Life Saving Society.

The mayor congratulated all those who took part and said he was pleased with the high standard of work.

Results: Intermediate Section: 1 Chippenham Boys, 2 Chippenham Girls, 3 Bradford girls and Bradford boys.

Bronze Section: 1 Malmesbury, 2 Chippenham boys, 3 Chippenham girls.

Senior Section: 1 Chippenham ladies, 2 Chippenham, 3 Bradford.

Since the club's life-saving section started in 1966 548 awards have been gained by members.

On September 25 the club has eight members in the national semi-finals at Bath Sports Centre and the club is hoping its life-saving season will finish at the national finals in Coventry on November 20.

In addition to all these achievements must be added the three lives which were saved by members during their day trip to Porthcawl a few weeks ago.

After their third match in Division 3 of the Moonraker League, the club's "B" team is over 100 points ahead and should be promoted next season. In this gala, Sarah Barnes, aged ten, had nine swims.

Latest club records are: Men's 880 yards free style, Stephen Cooper, 11mins. 53.2 secs.; men's 55 yard free style, Nicholas Tilley, 27.9 secs.; boys' under 13 110 yards fly, Tony Hard, 1 min. 31 secs.

The club's next competitive events are the county championships this Saturday and the following Saturday at the Milton Road Baths, Swindon.