



## County Honours 2015-16

Honorary Life Vice President: Mr Alan Thurlow, Wandsworth SC

Alan Thurlow came into swimming over 25 years ago when his daughter joined Wandsworth Swimming Club. WSC at the time was just beginning to move forward as a Club and with a dearth of volunteers, the Thurlow family stepped up with Maggie becoming Club Secretary, and Alan Swim21 Officer. This was probably the defining moment in Alan's relationship with swimming as the principles enshrined in Swim21 align perfectly with his demanding day job implementing major, public sector, business systems. WSC (20 years), Wandsworth ASA, The Borough Organisation (15 years), Surrey County (15 years), IAPS and local clubs have all benefited from this involvement.



As an Official, Alan became a British Swimming Referee in 2007. He now mentors new officials and is a stalwart of the County and its clubs, always helping out where possible. His contribution to WSC and WASA has been immense. He has guided the Club for many years not by dictatorship, but by encouraging others to come and share the responsibility and to buy in to his ethos. Where others have not stepped forward, he has personally filled the gaps.

Alan's relationship with Hytek is legendary. As a Meet Organiser, Alan is the engine room for meets at all levels within the County, including the Surrey championships for over 10 years, yet still takes the time to teach and advise other clubs on how to set up and use the system. Currently Chair of Wandsworth Swimming Club and Borough Associations, he continues to manage the detailed work running their Championships. A visionary, Alan believes swimming as totally swimmer-centric; all the decisions should be made for the swimmers, not the people who run the sport.

Alan's motivation for his selfless involvement, and the enjoyment derived from it, comes from enabling the swimmers to swim to the best of their ability and have fun, and in doing so has earned the complete (and rare!) support of the Coaches. Surrey County is delighted to recognise Alan's service to the sport as an Honorary Life Vice President.