

A word of welcome from our President, Mr Paul Finch (Merton Swordfish SC)



Welcome to the first weekend of the Surrey County ASA Summer Age Group Championships. We are delighted to, once again, be at Guildford Spectrum for both weekends of this competition and we give a big thank you to Simon Tomlins and the Spectrum staff.

Surrey's competitive swimming population is one of the largest in the country and as many of you will appreciate, it is a challenge to our Meet Organisers to be able to fit everyone into the competition structure. The current two-weekend format was introduced last year and its success in promoting inclusivity has seen it retained for 2016. Yet again the standard of swimming has improved this year and we have seen around 2500 swims – an increase over last year.

2016 has seen our own County Championships come and go, and then be followed by the British Swimming Championships and Olympic Trials including the Para-swimming events too. Surrey swimmers have appeared in these and also the European Masters Championships held at the London Aquatic Centre at the end of May.

These two weekends provide a stage upon which our junior and emerging swimmers can take their first steps on the County's competition ladder. We welcome you all today – swimmers, parents and coaches – and hope this will be the start of a long and happy journey.

It is great to see so many people helping out as helpers, non-technical and technical Officials, many of whom started just like you, watching their children take part.

Just like your local club we need all types of people to fill the wide range of volunteer roles. You all have skills which are invaluable to us to keep swimming supported and viable. This is my 53rd year in swimming and I would love to pass on my skills to YOU.

My time as your President requires travelling around our County and sometimes beyond, and I have really enjoyed meeting swimmers, officials and volunteers in our sport. At our Annual Council Meeting on 9th June, I will hand over my Chain of Office to Mrs Carole Chaplin and I am sure you will join me in wishing her as enjoyable a year as I have had.



Paul Finch
Surrey County ASA President

News from the County

Surrey County ASA is “run” by a couple of Committees, again staffed by a dedicated group of volunteers who manage the administration of the County as well as our competitions:

- County Age Group Championships
- Summer Age Groups Meet, 4/5 & 11/12th June
- Surrey Youth Games, Sunday 19th June, SSP
- Surrey Masters, Saturday 25th June, at SSP

As Paul has mentioned, there is a wide range of volunteer roles that need filling, with plenty of “stuff” to done. Details of the above are on the website, or will be published in due course - <http://surreyswimming.org/> In addition you will also find details on development funding, including bursaries to cover teaching and coaching qualifications.

Our Annual Council Meeting (ACM) will take place on 9th June 2016, and we encourage all clubs to ensure they attend and are represented. Details are on the website <http://surreyswimming.org/?p=1769>.

We are in a unique position as one of a few “split” counties who have clubs in two ASA Regions, London Region and South East Region. Both regions have active Club and Regional Development Officers whom I hope you hear from regularly. Our two “parent” Regions have provided information on their activities, and their own bursary schemes and communications channels in the following pages.

As the cold of winter gives way to Spring and hopefully Summer, I am reminded by our Open Water Secretary, Phil Sears, that The ASA has recognised (Swimming Times February 2016) this to be the fastest growing area of our sport, and explains some of the reasons. We may not all become top sprint pool swimmers, but may show the physical and mental toughness for distance OW events – and all the enjoyment and sense of achievement that brings! Has YOUR club yet appointed a dedicated officer for OW Swimming?

Every year the SE Region promotes its “Grand Prix” of OW swims at south coast venues – Dover, Eastbourne, Brighton, Southsea – and their own Regional OW Championships over various distances at a marvellous lake venue near Chichester. This latter takes place on 9th July 2016 and also hosts the Surrey County OW Championships, with a number of Surrey clubs sending participants from 13 to 70 years to enjoy the challenge with great spectator support! This event also acts as qualifier for the ASA National OW Championships held as a Festival of OW Swimming at Rother Valley Country Park, near Sheffield on 23rd July (Masters and 1500m Challenge), 24th July (Age Groups). Add your details to the Surrey database as a potential swimmer or Club Co-ordinator at pmsears@btclick.com and keep informed. Watch the SER and County websites for further information and dates as they are published.

Enjoy this Summer Age-Group Meet, but Surrey swimming and aquatics goes a lot further than just this weekend and the next. Get involved, be it as participant, volunteer or Committee member!

Best wishes

Jim Boucher

Hon Sec.



Vision of the ASA Region:

“To ensure our region is a place where clubs, athletes and volunteers can flourish.”

We will do this by:

- Investing in the future of clubs, athletes and our volunteer workforce by providing development opportunities
- Nurturing talented athletes
- Delivering effective and well run competitions
- Supporting the sport through the services of professional staff
- Keeping the whole aquatics community informed about what we are doing

Our two main forms of communication are;

Through the new website at www.southeastswimming.org and

Monthly club update – this is emailed to all club secretaries to share with their members, this can also be found on the website.

Volunteers

- Team Manager Training
- Time to Listen courses
- Annual Team Manager Forum
- Swim 21 support/ networks.
- Swimming Officials training

Coaches

- Coach Development workshops
- Coaches Conference
- Coaches Forum
- Coaching and teaching bursaries for Swim 21 Clubs
- So far in 2015/ 2016 the region has given clubs £29,279 for level 1 and 2 courses. Surrey has accessed £2,328

Athletes

- Regional talent camps for 11/12 years
- Off – shore camp
- Young Volunteer Programme
- Travel Bursaries

Surrey currently has two representatives on the regional board. Chris Lee, Farnham Swimming Club and Jim Boucher, Guildford City/ Guildford Water polo Club.

Useful contacts

Bryony Gibbs, ASA South Division Office Manager,

bryony.gibbs@swimming.org /01823 666792

Helen Mack, South East Region Regional Club Development Officer,

Helen.mack@freedom-leisure.co.uk /07780 332279

Kristie Jarrett, South East Region Regional Club Development Officer,

Kristie.jarrett@freedom-leisure.co.uk/07725201601

Rosa Gallop, ASA Club Development Officer – South East,

rosa.gallop@swimming.org /07824 390075



Who are we?

London Swimming is a region of the ASA and are responsible for developing swimming in London. London Swimming has an independent management board elected by its members. The London Swimming Region comprises the 32 London Boroughs plus the City of London.

Our vision; to be an inclusive, innovative and sustainable ASA region that nurtures our athletic and volunteering talent, meets the needs of our members, and supports our clubs and affiliates.

Within the London region we have 29 Surrey clubs in the boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Wandsworth,

Richmond, Merton, Sutton, Kingston-Upon-Thames and Croydon. We also have 4 representatives from Surrey clubs on the London Management Board which ensures the needs of our clubs across all parts of London are met.

In London we have 2 dedicated Club Development Officers; Sophie Joinson sophie.joinson@swimming.org and Esther Hill esther.hill@swimming.org who are your first point of contact, along with our administrator Gita Sheth – london@swimming.org

What do we do and what can we do for you?

Some of the areas that we can support clubs on are as follows;

- **swim21** – this is the ASA’s quality mark accreditation for clubs. Approximately 1/3 of our Surrey clubs in London are already accredited and we currently have 2 more working towards it. We also have a bursary available to swim21 clubs which will cover up to 50% off course costs for the ASA UKCC Level 2 Coaching Swimming
- **Volunteer training** – we are currently finalising an annual workforce training delivery plan which will ensure we run enough of the courses and workshops that the volunteers and coaches at our clubs need. We hope to run these at various venues to ensure clubs don’t have to travel too far and at a subsidised rate (if not free).
- **Club networks** – in order to ensure we can deliver the above mentioned training plan, we are looking to create numerous club networks where clubs can share best practice, work more closely with us to voice their specific needs and training requests, and to create a better partnerships with leisure operators locally.
- **Funding** – as well as the swim21 bursary there are also lots of other sports grants and bursaries available, which we can help you find and even support in writing applications etc. We have also arranged 2 club workshops on Funding and Sponsorship for Feb/March, delivered by London Sport, which we will be advertising details of shortly.
- **Athletes** – as well as working with clubs themselves, we are also here to ensure there is a good swimmer pathway and that we assist with the development of talent. To support this we deliver regional talent camps, off-shore camps and a young volunteer programme.

How can you find out more?

Following feedback from our clubs, we have recently created a brand new website www.londonswimming.org which is more user-friendly, has relevant and up to date information and we hope will be more widely used by everyone engaged in aquatics in London.

We also produce a monthly Club Update e-newsletter which gets sent to all Club Secretaries. If you are not receiving this, or would like it to be sent to additional people at the club then please get in touch with the contact details.