



Annual General Meeting Minutes
Holiday Inn – Guildford, Tuesday 24th June 2025
7.30pm

Present

Diane Gamble (DG) Croydon Borough SA, Carmen Georgescu-Spiers (CGS) Elmbridge Phoenix, Carole Chaplin (CC) Surrey Schools' SA, Christina Victor (CV) Guildford City, Hannah Davies (HD) South Croydon, Jeni Colbourne (JC) Wey Valley SC, Jim Boucher (JB) Guildford Water Polo, Paul Finch (PF) Merton Swordfish, Justine Ryan (JR) Guildford City, Alan Thurlow (AT) Wandsworth, Nicola Brett (NB) Dorking SC, Dave Andrews (DA) Sutton & Cheam SC, Ben Rowett (BR) Guildford City, Janette Smith (JS) Guildford City, Emma France (EF) Guildford City, Jo Tierney (JT) Guildford City & Irene Holden (IH) – Woking SC

Apologies

Jane Henwood - Wandsworth SC, Collette Crow - Kingston Synchro, Fran Diaz - Star DC, South Croydon SC, Reeds SC, Chloe Irwin – Leatherhead SC, Nicky Gale – Woking SC, Rebecca Pritchard – Crystal Palace Masters, Kristie Jarrett – SE Region & James Warrener – London Region

Declaration of Interest: None

DG welcomed attendees to the AGM, she thanked all the committee for the ongoing support she has received during the year. She confirmed it was quorate under the constitution and introductions were made for BR, JS & EF who were attending from Guildford City SC.

1. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the ACM on Tuesday 25th June 2024 were approved.

Proposed – HD

2nd - CGS

2. Annual Report of County Activities (prepared by committee and published on the website)

DG said it was nice to see everyone in person, all the management meetings are held by zoom during the year but it's nice getting together for the AGM.

Main Reports from committee members are on the website but a few comments below:

Report from DG (Chair) said she has been in the post for 2 years now, she is proud that the county has provided support to athletes to attend international competitions. County Swimmers took part in the National County Comp and came 5th, thanks to Team Manager Hannah and County Coach Stuart for all their time and effort. Attended London Region AGM as a Rep for Surrey County, both Regions lack suitable competition pools and lack volunteers for both Technical & Field of Play. Confirmed that she will only remain in the post for a maximum of 2 more years and that we need new and younger people to join the Management committee and fill the roles in order for the county to exist.



HD (Team Manager) said that the main championship report will be on the website but mentioned that the development pathway is for 12 yr olds which has produced a huge increase of swimmers. 36 Swimmers were selected from 14 Surrey Clubs & Dan Burnham led the way as County coach. The Jules Burvill Trophy was awarded to Evie from Dorking SC, chosen by the coach & Team Managers.

PF (Disabilities) reported that 1 Para Training Day had taken place during 2024/2025. It took place at ACS International School but unfortunately no Surrey Swimmers took part. The next Regional Para-Swimming Training & Development Day is Sunday 12th October 9.30 – 1.30 at ACS international School, Cobham.

AT (Swimming Committee) reported that the Surrey Relays had taken place on September 8th at LAC following on from feedback & problems at K2, Crawley. Over 1,000 spectators and 800 swimmers took part across two sessions. This year's relays will take place on 14/09/25. County Champs took place on 18/19 Jan & 1/2 February. 3,783 entries were received covering 808 athletes from 28 clubs. Medal Presentations were introduced which was well received by swimmers & coaches. The dates for 2026 have now been confirmed as 24/25 January and 7/8 February 2026 and the closing date for applications will be 14th January 2026. This comp will also run a reserve list for the long distance that will be open up until the end of sign in on the day.

CC (Surrey Schools) reported that from the Secondary Gala in September, several schools were selected to swim at the ESSA National event in November at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Birmingham. Guildford High School received medals in the Junior and Intermediate events and other Surrey Schools swam well. The Secondary Individuals took place in January and unfortunately the ESSA champs normally held in March did not take place due to format changes. CC said 23 teams took part in the It's a Fish Out Lifesaving competition and Boxgrove Primary School won overall. The Primary Champs took place in March and many Surrey Schools were represented at the Nationals Champs, results on the ESSA Website. SSSA supported 3 swimmers with bursaries to attend the Under 15 World Aquatic Games held in Serbia during the Easter holidays.

DA (Water Polo) said that the League is superbly administered by Stuart Marsh and is well supported by both teams and officials though there is a shortage of officials as these tend to be ex-players rather than parents. The competition comprises of 3 Divisions of Mens teams and the lower divisions with a healthy mix of second teams & clubs. Sutton & Cheam remain the dominant club finishing 6th in the League and will rejoin Division 1 in September. Stand out individual is Mhari Nurthen who is part of the GB Ladies Squad but unfortunately will not be going to the World Championships which is taking place in Singapore in July.

JB (Masters) said that the Masters started with the Long Course Champs attended by many swimmers in the county. County Masters took place last June at SSP with 1100 individual swims and several British Records were achieved. Inter county Team comp saw surrey beating Hampshire and losing the top spot by 8.5 points to Devon. London hosted the recent 2025



Masters, Woking posted numerous successes including British and European Records. Prof Christina Victor one of the finest Masters has been elected President of Surrey County ASA for 2025/26.

JT (Open Water) Report to follow:

CCr (Artistic) Unfortunately CCR was unable to attend but DG read out her report.

It has been another very good year for Kingston and that they continue to go from strength to strength with membership remaining high and constant stream of people wishing to try out the sport. 4 teams entered the National Combo Cup competition with fab results. Masters National champs and the duettists had brilliant results to. 4 swimmers travelled to Mallorca to take part in a training camp with a renowned coach Andrea Fuentes. Rockets and Masters attended the Artistic Open Swimming champs in Malta and many received medals. Sadly, the passing of Ray Geier, HLVP died in November and he will be sadly missed. Lastly after 17 years as Head Coach Collette said she was stepping down to spend more time with her family.

FD (Diving) Unfortunately FD was unable to attend but DG read out his report.

The diving skills took place on 18/01, entries similar to 2024 though just had enough officials to run the meet. Thanks to President Nicola for attending and presenting the medals. Saddened by the closure of Morden Park DC this is due to coaching shortage and diminishing volunteer workforce. This takes the DC's to three, 2 in Surrey-London and 1 Surrey South East. Success for the divers at the National age Group champs held at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre with many making it to the podium. Likewise with the National Skills Finals where 5 divers received medals. FD mentions Lily Chandler from George Abbot who represented SE at the ESSA Inter divisional Champs and was awarded the Female Senior Title for the 2nd year.

NB (President) said she was honoured to have been elected as President and had eagerly looked forward to her year in Office. She has had an insight into the breadth of talent and commitment across the county. NB said that she had attended the Surrey Relays, Inter Counties at Pond's Forge, Surrey Age Groups, Surrey Schools as well as the Diving Skills competition at Guildford. Sadly though she said that there had been no opportunities during her year for her to attend Open Water Swimming, Water Polo or Artistic Swimming. However, she has just been invited to London Region Open Water Champs at London docklands so will attend as a guest of the new President.

3. Awards

Hon Life Member:

Max Morgan – Reeds SC

Unfortunately, MM was not in attendance as he's currently in Rome swimming with the British Team. Arrangements have been made to present his award during the Surrey Relays in September. DG read out his citation, saying he is one of a long line of talented recipients of this award but also one of the youngest. He holds many County & British records in both long course and short course for Breaststroke. In 2023 he was part of the English Team participating in the International Schools Federation in Brazil and in 2024 represented GB at the European



champs winning gold and bronze medals as part of the relay teams. This year he has been selected for the GB team to compete at this year's World Champs in Singapore so a deserving award.

Hon. Life Vice Presidents:

John Tripp – Hart SC

Emma France – Guildford City SC

Justine Ryan - Guildford City SC

Emma & Justine were in attendance and President NB presented both of them with their Awards. DG will arrange for John Tripp to receive his award as he was currently at Chester Races celebrating a family 18th Birthday. Photos and full citation for all awards to be put on the website. DG read out the citation for John Tripp saying how he has and is a "Friend of Surrey" for many years. Not only has he helped as an Official but for his regular attendance at the age Group champs and his unwavering support of our trainees. Like many officials, one session in the gallery was enough and started as a Judge 1 and became a ref in 2011 and has been an Officials trainer and Referee Course Leader for Hampshire and South East Region. He is well deserving of this award.

DG read out the citation for Emma, saying she has done so much for the county as an Official, Committee Volunteer, Masters Swimmer and contributed so much to English Channel Swimming. As a Masters swimmer, she has excelled in fly and long-distance freestyle. Medalled at World, European Masters as well as National events. Emma made her first solo channel swim in 2009. And created the Dover channel training organisation leading from the front with her teaching and coaching qualifications. She is well deserving of this award.

DG also read out the citation for Justine, starting off with that she had made her way into Surrey Swimming following her daughter through County and National selection. With the tragic loss of Jules in 2021, she stepped up filling Jules shoes as "Field of Play Manager" at short notice. She organises her team with warmth, efficiency and effectiveness. Alan Thurlow and the Technical Team could not do without her. A well deserving award.

Presidents Plate:

Fran Diaz Romero & Andy Hewat – Surrey Diving

The Presidents Plate is the choice of the President each year and NB thought these two were the most deserving. She said that she watched the setup of the diving comp in January and realised it was being done by just two people. They had an understanding of all the athletes, coaches, parents and officials were able to run the gala efficiently. She said that she had been warmly welcomed and they made every effort to explain the rules, scoring and results and it was a delight to watch the Divers. Both truly deserving of the Presidents Plate.

4. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Annual Accounts

JB presented the finance report He explained that the operating surplus is 18% higher than the year to March 2024. County Membership levy was increased which was comparable to neighbouring counties. Surplus was also boosted by lower spend on development activities due



to less requests. However, all coaching and teaching bursary requests were approved and we continue to support the county development camp within the Swim England framework. £7.5k is retained in regards to the disposal of trophies in 2024 and that money will be held in reserve until it has been agreed what to do with it. He went on to thank everyone for their help at all the galas especially Di Gamble, Irene Holden and Alan thurlow for all their help and support during the year.

CGS asked why the accounts shows 20% down on income in regards to Water Polo? JB commented to say that it might be in regards to 1 or 2 teams paying late but he would look at it and report back.

As there were no further questions the report was proposed and subject to approval and to be published on the website for transparency.

Proposed – JB

2nd – CGS

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner & Affirmation of Custodians.

JC confirmed that Jimmy Daboo, Ex KPMG partner has agreed to audit the accounts. Unfortunately, as previously due to work commitments he was unable to check the accounts before the AGM but will do so ASAP. Accounts subject to approval and will be approved at the next Exec meeting in September.

6. Election of Committee (other than executive and non-executive officers)

These were noted and approved as:

Hannah Davies (South Croydon) – Team manager role

Christina Victor (Guildford City) – Officials Co-ordinator role, Surrey Rural

Fran Diaz (Star Diving) – Webmaster role

Carole Chaplin (Surrey Schools SA) – School swimming events role

Justine Ryan (Guildford City) – Field of play manager role

Alan Thurlow (Wandsworth) – Swimming events promoter role

Proposed – JC

2nd – PF

DG said that the following individuals below have an open invitation to attend committee meetings to report and advise on matters affecting their activity:

Artistic Swimming – Collette Crow

Diving – Fran Diaz

Masters – Jim Boucher

Open Water – Jo Tierney

Disabilities/Para Swimming – Paul Finch

Swimming Officials Communications – Sharon Porter

Official Co-ordinator (Surrey London) – Diane Gamble

Official Co-ordinator (Surrey Rural) - Christina Victor

School Swimming – Carole Chaplin

Water Polo – Dave Andrews



7. Constitution Changes:

None

8. Installation of New President:

NB said that she had chosen CV to be President for 2025/2026 and she was delighted to hand over the chain to her. CV's citation was read out, stating that Prof Christina Victor has been swimming since her teenage years through age Group and Masters and has stalked the poolside all the way to Officialdom! She started swimming for Guildford City and has been the stalwart of the club and county. The citation can't list all her achievements but she is a world leader in the field of Gerontology and we will all benefit at some point from her studies on ageing and the aged. CV was then installed as President for 2025/26 and she said that she was very happy to be nominated as President. NB was thanked for her year and CV presented her with her Past Presidents badge.

9. Executive & Non Executive Officer Elections:

The following were elected for 2025-26:

Executive officers (voting)

Chairman – Diane Gamble (Croydon Borough SA)

Secretary – Irene Holden (Woking)

Treasurer – Jim Boucher (Guildford Water Polo)

Proposed – HD

2nd – JR

Non-executive officer (non-voting)

Welfare – Jeni Colbourne (Wey Valley)

Social Media – Ben Rowett – (Guildford City SC)

DG thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.

10. Any Other Business/Discussions (after meeting had closed)

10.1. Future dates were discussed and agreed:

MCM Monday 22nd September – Zoom

MCM Tuesday 2nd December – Zoom

MCM Monday 12th January 2026 - Zoom

MCM Tuesday 10th March 2026 – Zoom

AGM Prep Monday 27th April 2026- Zoom

AGM Tuesday 23rd June 2026 – Holiday Inn, Guilford.

Times TBA