



Annual Report of County Activities 2022-23

1. Swimming

2. Masters

3. Schools

4. Diving



1. Swimming

The events team decided, in consultation with the Coaches Forum, that we wanted to bring the sprint events back up to a County standard. This would mean that the LAC would not be financially viable so we would need to accommodate all the events at SSP.

The qualifying times were made faster and we succeeded in handling the number of swimmers at SSP. This did mean using half of the seating for coaches and swimmers so the option to charge for seating wasn't available to us. We took the relays out of the championships and will be holding them in our first relay gala at K2 in September. They will be run short course as a preparatory meet for the coming season.

The 2024 Championships will be using a similar programme to last year with adjusted qualifying times. It was noticeable that the 12 and 13 year olds have been particularly badly affected by COVID lockdowns so we will be easing the QTs where we can for the 13 and 14 year old age groups in 2024.

We have requested the same weekends at SSP but have yet to receive any confirmations.

Alan Thurlow



2. Masters

2022 saw the return of the annual Surrey Masters Championships, once again held at SSP. We were honoured to have our President attend but also compete. This will happen again this year as our incoming President is an accomplished swimmer. It is nice to flag up Presidents setting a precedent!

The event was dominated by Woking SC who took all the trophies – albeit virtually, as we will no longer continue with the rather corroded collection of metal. Just under 150 swimmers participated in a busy afternoon, and 2023 will be even busier.

The British Swimming Masters Decathlon Competition, an aggregation of points for highest placings in 10 events during the year was, once again, won by Surrey's finest. Evergreen Jane Asher and outstanding Mike Hodgson repeated their dominance of Masters swimming at home and abroad.

At the recent British Masters Championships Woking set a World Record for the Mixed 4 x 200 Free Relay while British Records were set by Mike Hodgson (Woking) and Roger Billing (Guildford). Woking's strength was reflected in their 3rd place in the Cupar Trophy (Team points).

Laura Kerrigan (Spencer) took on the task of mobilising the Inter County Team. Our local Regional Heat is always tough and we



finished 4th. However this was good enough to secure us 8th place in the National consolidation, our best for many years.

Jim Boucher



3. Schools

We are a very small committee of five people – two retired teachers, two practising teachers and a very willing volunteer from Woking Swimming Club, who strive to organise several school galas through the year.

Our first event of the season was last September with the Secondary Schools' Team event. Several Surrey schools were selected to swim at the ESSA national event at LAC on Saturday 19th November 2022, which although predominantly dominated by both Mount Kelly and Millfield, Guildford High School were placed third, twice to them, in the junior freestyle and medley events and George Abbot was placed third in the girls' intermediate freestyle event.

Mention should also be made of Reigate Grammar, St Catherine's, St Teresa's, Downsend, Reed's, Notre Dame, Royal Grammar School and St John's who were all placed in the top 30 schools at this event, with both Woking High and Howard of Effingham selected as reserves.

The Secondary Schools individual championships were held in January with a South East division team (consisting of swimmers from Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Isles, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Sussex, Surrey and Kent, excluding London Boroughs), selected to swim on 11th and 12th March 2023 at Coventry at the ESSA Interdivisional Championships.



They did exceptionally well this year with an overall finishing place of 2nd. They secured 1st, 2nd or 3rd place in all age groups, both for boys and girls, (except for one), and this also included the two para events for boys and girls.

Our next event was the ESSA Primary Teams held in March with selected winning teams taking part in the South East Divisional round on May 13th. The National round was held last on 17th June at Sheffield. Although the results of this competition are not as yet on the ESSA website, I have been told that Surrey schools took 3 of the 4 overall trophies and Goldsworth Primary School got the President's Award for the highest placed state funded school, which has been introduced this year for the first time.

In March, the annual lifesaving competition, It's a Fish Out, for Primary Schools was held in Dorking with 23 out of 24 places for teams taking part, which is a great improvement from last year. I hope schools will continue to support this fun, skills based competition.

As an aside, the electronics at the Spectrum in Guildford have now been replaced, and the old scoreboard is now connected up with the new system, although we have experienced many teething problems with the new set up. Willing volunteers from Guildford Swimming Club attended a training session and we almost had it all up and running by the time of our last gala this season in May. It makes such a difference to the swimmers when they can immediately see



their finish times. We are very grateful to all who helped make this work.

Finally huge thanks must go to the Surrey officials who support us, for without them, none of our schools' galas would take place.

All dates for next season will be found on the Surrey County ASA website.

Carole Chaplin



4. Diving

The ninth edition of the Surrey diving skills competition took place at Guildford Spectrum on Saturday 21 January. We held the meet a week earlier this year to avoid a secondary schools' swimming gala from clashing with one of the county swimming championship days. While the swimming championships were underway on one side of Guildford, there was diving at the other. Although I had some initial concerns about whether bringing the meet forward would be too near to the start of the new year for clubs, we ended up with more entries than the year before.

Our meet runs in a circuit-style format, with groups of divers competing simultaneously on poolside, 1m and 3m. The divers perform two rounds at each station and then rotate around the pool until all three stations are completed.

I was pleased this year that we had entries from Surrey's two 'active' clubs: Star Diving Club Guildford and South West London Diving. Friendly competition from outside the county came from guests Albatross Diving Club Reading, Amersham Swimming Club, Crystal Palace Diving Club, Luton Diving Club and Maidstone Swimming Club. They helped to boost numbers and made for a better competition, which is necessary in a niche and small sport like ours. Medals were presented to the top three county boys and girls in each age category and to any guests who ranked in the top three overall. Unfortunately, the county president was unable to attend this year.



There have been some noteworthy county divers' successes at national level over the past 12 months. At the National Age Group Championships in Plymouth last June, Star Diving Club's Lyra Guise Tucker took bronze on platform and silver on 1m, 3m and 3m synchro (with Lucy Parker, Luton).

South West London Diving's Cai Tobin took bronze at the National Skills Finals in Leeds last July. At the same meet Star Diving Club's Eva O'Reilly and Leo Robinett won their events, Tegan Fookes and Sophia Harris claimed silver and there were two other top 10s (Libby Edelson and Florence Brindley).

Star Diving Club's Florence Brindley and Sophia Harris competed at the Swim England Talent Games in Leeds last November. The two-day competition involves dry-land skills on day one and pool-based skills on day two. Sophia claimed bronze in the combined results and was subsequently selected on to the Swim England Talent Z Squad.

This just leaves me on behalf of our discipline to thank county members for their ongoing support and I look forward to another dive-tastic year!

Francisco Diaz