



Annual Report of County Activities 2025-26

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1. Chair

I have now been in post for three years. In that time, we have held many successful competitions for our athletes and made a number of funding awards to our athletes, coaches and clubs.

We were able to join forces with GCSC and purchase nine backstroke ledges for use at SSP for our County Swimming Championships. These ledges will be available for hire by Surrey clubs. I am proud that as a County we continue to assist our athletes wherever we can.

Success came in the form of the Surrey Masters Inter-County team who were crowned Inter-County Champions. Thanks to Jim and Laura for all their hard work. The Age-Groupers finished a commendable third in the Inter County Teams competition. Thanks to Hannah, Coach Dan and the TMs and officials for organising and supporting the team.

I attended the London Region AGM as a representative of Surrey County. Michael Laniyan (Newham & UEL SC) was appointed as President for 2026/27. Marie Atkinson-Brian (Erith & District SC) was appointed Vice-President. I remain as a Director of London Region for another year.

Christina Victor attended the South East Region AGM on our behalf.

I also attended the Swim England AGM as a member of London Region. Tom Baster (East Region) was installed as Swim England President, with Sue Dors (South West Region) as Vice President.

Both Regions continue to struggle with a lack of suitable competition pools and a lack of volunteers, both for the technical roles and field of play. It continues to be the case that the events we put on for our athletes would not happen without the teams of volunteers supporting the organisers. It is therefore imperative that our clubs encourage their members to volunteer as officials and as field-of-play personnel.



I have been very busy in my other role as London Region Officials Coordinator, delivering the latest World Aquatics Rules update. This, alongside my role on the SE Officials Training Working Group, has filled most of my waking hours, and some of my dreams – or were they nightmares?

As I said three years ago, I took on this role for a maximum of four years. As I start the final year of my tenure, it is vital that someone steps forward to take my place.

I am looking to our membership to step forward and to carry the Surrey County torch into the future. We need new people to join us on the Management Committee to provide some sort of succession planning which will enable them to step into the roles which must be filled in order for the County to exist.

Please think about what you can give to the County and make yourself known to any member of the current team.

Diane Gamble



2. Swimming

We held our County Relay gala on 14 September 2025 at the London Aquatics Centre. It is run short course at the beginning of the season to provide a fun “back to the pool” event after the summer holidays and before other short course licensed galas begin.

We had 483 relay entries from 19 clubs. This resulted in 830 swimmers. This compared to 525 relays from 21 clubs and 906 swimmers in 2024. We did increase the fees in 2025 from £12 to £15. This has resulted in no loss of revenue from the fewer relay teams entered in 2025.

We had 899 spectators compared to 1,187 in 2024. The support from the galleries was very noisy which gave the event a very energetic atmosphere. This year’s gala is on 13 September 2026. Please come along and enjoy the experience of a packed Olympic pool; or you could volunteer! The volunteering links are now open [here](#) on the meet page on the Surrey website.

We held the County Championships on 24/25 January and 7/8 February 2026. We received 4,007 entries covering 825 athletes from 28 Clubs and accepted 3,561. The rejected entries totalled 446 and were from most categories of events. We did accept all the 50m entries as these have very little impact on the overall timeline. This compares to 2025 when we had 3,783 entries covering 808 athletes from the same 28 Clubs.

We ran a reserve list again for the 1500m and 800m events which worked well and allowed rejected swimmers to fill lanes when we had withdrawals. We used a specific Telegram channel for the Long Distance waitlist swimmers and this worked much better than in 2025. We had one swimmer withdraw at 10:30pm on a Friday night and the next reserve signed in to swim at 8am the following morning.

The medal presentation protocols adopted last year were improved by providing a more simplified presentation timeline and will be continued for the 2027



championships. We awarded the Burvill Cup for the second time this year, in honour of Julie Burvill, to the most improved club at the Championships based on the percentage increase in Tinlin points from the previous year. Wandsworth were the recipients in 2026 with a 103% improvement in their Tinlin points score.

We used the Telegram channel again aimed at coaches, team managers, swimmers and parents. This enabled the events team to broadcast important messages about the event and changes to protocols and timetables.

The secondary strobe provided by the venue at the 50m start end stopped working during the second Sunday. This prevented us providing a secondary strobe for a swimmer. Our Swiss Timing start box worked correctly through both weekends.

We held the Coaches Forum on 12 February and discussed a number of issues around the venue and seating allocation. A number of parents have expressed concern about the venue and some have asked to return to the London Aquatics Centre. Our discussions with the Coaches confirmed that we will continue with SSP and look at moving the 50m races out of SSP to be held either short course at Spectrum or Long Course at either SSP or K2 on a single day on a different date.

We were very short of both Officials and Field of Play (“FoP”) volunteers for many of the sessions at this year’s championship. We prepared an analysis of both Officials and Field of Play volunteers that ranked clubs based on the number of volunteers provided per swimmer entered and asked the clubs to share the statistics with their committee.

We have also asked them to look at the actions they might be able to take ahead of the 2027 competition to avoid this situation being repeated. We have suggested that the clubs should divide their number of swimmers by 6.5 and provide at least one FoP volunteer for that number of sessions. Similarly, we



have suggested that clubs should divide their number of swimmers by 4 and provide at least one official for that number of sessions.

We have requested dates of 23/24 January and 6/7 February for the 2027 Championships at SSP.

The next gala is the County Relays on 13 September 2026 at the London Aquatics Centre.

Alan Thurlow

3. Team Manager

The development pathway at county level is for 12-year-olds (age as at end of year) and is based on times recorded on rankings for the 200IM event. This has produced a huge increase in swimmers swimming this event nationally. Selection is not only based on their times but also on their age, within the year (the year is split in two, those born Jan-June and then July-Dec). This allows the younger swimmers a chance to partake in these programmes.

This year 36 swimmers were selected from 15 Surrey Clubs (the most selected to date). We lost one swimmer during the year due to them stopping swimming.

Dan Burnham, our County Coach, led the programme and we had six skills coaches from 4 clubs, Beau, Cerys, Kirstie, Maisie, Sadie and Seb.

The in-person camps took place in November and June and concentrated on stroke skill development and turns, especially for the individual medley. Two pool sessions in a day and land training certainly tested a few swimmers, but with lots of exercises and interaction they managed to keep their focus.

In March a Zoom evening was held which centred on health, diet and mental attitude.

At the end of the last camp the Jules Burvill award was presented to Fraser from Guildford City SC. This award is given to the swimmer, chosen by the coaches and team managers, who engages with the programme and develops from the learning. There were several swimmers, Bima, Erin and Oscar in





contention for the award, but Fraser captured the attention of the coaches and team managers for his enthusiasm, commitment and development.

Dan said, “I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to lead this year’s Surrey Development Programme. The swimmers embraced the opportunity to challenge themselves, develop new skills, and learn more about the habits and behaviours that support long-term success in the sport. I was particularly impressed with the level of engagement shown by the athletes throughout both the swimming and educational elements of the camp.

“This year’s coaching team played an important role in supporting both the swim sessions and land-based activities. As the first step on the talent pathway, the county programme provides a valuable opportunity for coaches from various clubs to work alongside one another, share ideas and develop their experience.”

I would like to thank Dan for his support and experience as our County Coach. I would also like to thank Justine Ryan and Amanda Partridge who have both assisted me in the role of Team Manager, which has allowed the County to run these events.

My report from the 2025 National County Team Championships, which was posted previously on the website, can be found [here](#).

Hannah Davies



4. Masters

The 2025 Surrey County Masters were held, once again, at SSP with, as ever, a small but perfectly formed set of Officials and Meet Volunteers. It really is becoming a struggle to mobilise an adequate number on a day that needs a full complement of Officials to run as fast as needed.

With a programme unchanged from previous years, 180 swimmers from 19 clubs participated making 1175 splashes. This resulted in a busy day through the three sessions but there was a great spirit throughout the day. Woking were the Top Club although Croydon won the Men's points. Thank you to our President Christina for attending and presenting the trophies.

Last year I reported to our AGM that our Inter County Team almost reached what has seemed an untouchable peak over the years. Laura Kerrigan had marshalled the strongest team ever, only to lose the National Competition by 8.5 points to Devon after we took 2nd in our Regional Heat.

On Sunday 9th November our Masters IC Team achieved the ultimate, taking the SER Regional Round at the LAC for only the 2nd time in our history. After a week of checking incomplete data for the National results, and making rough comparisons, Swim England put us out of our misery and confirmed we had smashed it.

SURREY ARE NATIONAL MASTERS INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

Thanks to the superb organisation of Laura Kerrigan and her wing-man Connor Brunt we amassed Surrey's finest ever. When you have 30 Counties competing, a DQ or missing swimmer really can cost points. The top teams have more than a healthy rivalry in recent years, and this has revitalised what had been a bit of a tiresome event at times. Margins of victory and finishing ahead of rivals were extremely slim. If it was tough to win this year, it will be even tougher to defend and retain.



To add further cheer and glory, Jane Asher was inducted into Swim England's Hall of Fame on 29th November. This is one more honour for one of the greatest Masters Swimmers and finest ambassadors of the sport worldwide.

The British Masters Decathlon results for 2025 confirmed Woking's dominance and excellence as Mike Hodgson took the Men's Prize and Michelle Ware and Georgina Heyn made it a 1-2 in the Ladies' Event.

Jim Boucher



5. Water Polo

The County League remains under the stewardship of Stuart Marsh and is well supported by all competing clubs / teams. There remains a shortage of suitably qualified and competent officials and in particular referees. The lower divisions tend to be refereed by officials from other County clubs as part of their commitment to help the competition run smoothly.

The competition continues to comprise three divisions of Men's teams with the lower divisions comprising a mix of second teams & other clubs all with a healthy number of junior and older players competing. The Divisional winners for last season, finishing late 2025, were as follows:

Division 1. Croydon

Division 2. Kingston

Division 3. Guildford II

Tom Dwyer (handicap KO). Sutton and Cheam II

Sutton & Cheam remain the dominant club missing promotion to the all-important British Water Polo League (BWPL) Division 1 on goal difference, so will compete in Division 2 in September. Croydon remain in the BWPL and will compete in Division 3 again this upcoming season.

The County does not run a junior event, but our clubs continue to compete in the superbly run London League junior competitions. Many of the County's junior players participate in National Talent Centres and train within various national programmes.

The County does not run a Ladies' competition but again our players and clubs compete in the various London League competitions. Other ladies also play for a variety of teams in the BWPL.

Dave Andrews



6. Schools

Our first event of the season was last September with the Secondary Schools' Team event held at Guildford, Spectrum. Several Surrey schools were selected to swim at the English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA) national event at Sandwell Aquatics Centre, Birmingham on Saturday 15th November 2025. Surrey schools did exceptionally well in the Junior Age Groups team events with Guildford High placing 1st over Millfield who came 2nd in the Freestyle and were 3rd in the Medley to Millfield's 1st place. In the Junior Boys' Freestyle event Royal Grammar were 3rd, The Hawthorns in Bletchingley were 5th and Reed's was 8th. In the medley, Royal Grammar was 2nd and The Hawthorns were 3rd. Millfield were placed 1st in both events. Other Surrey schools that qualified included George Abbot, Reigate Grammar, Reed's, St John's, Caterham and Dunottar. All results are on the ESSA website.

The Secondary Schools individual championships were held in January but unfortunately ESSA will no longer hold an Interdivisional Competition as funding has now been withdrawn. All results of our Surrey Schools' competitions are found on the Surrey County ASA website under 'Schools'.

ESSA are holding their 6th Summer Open Championships over the weekend of 4th/5th July at K2 in Crawley. This is an individual event where swimmers may enter directly, through their club or their school. It is open to all secondary school aged swimmers, and primary school swimmers that have reached the age of 9 by the last day of the championships, including Para swimmers.

ESSA now have a new partnership with Hurstpierpoint College, West Sussex to expand a Schools Swimming Super League across England, allowing secondary schools to compete locally through a series of four rounds in the autumn and spring terms, before reaching an area final held before Easter. They are thinking of adding primary and prep schools in future years. More information is available from Stuart Nicklin on the ESSA website.

SSSA's next event was the ESSA Primary Teams held in March with selected winning teams taking part in the South East Divisional round in April. The National round is to be held on Saturday 20th June at Sheffield and will be



attended by several winning Surrey primary schools: Boxgrove Primary, Guildford High, Bishopsgate, Horsell Junior, ACS, Cranmore, and Notre Dame, all of whom are outright qualifiers. In addition, six more schools qualify for each event because they were the fastest finalists from all the schools participating in the SE Divisional. There are lots of Surrey schools in this category too – Caterham Prep, Hazelwood, St Dunstan's, Cleves, St Martin's C of E, Goldsworthy, CLFS, RGS Prep, The Hawthorns, Felton Fleet, Cranmore, Hoe Bridge, St Catherine's, St Teresa's, Boxgrove and Tormead. We wish them well!

In March, the annual lifesaving competition, It's a Fish Out, for Primary Schools was held in Dorking with 21 out of a maximum 24 teams taking part. Boxgrove Primary won overall once again. Next year will be the last year I will be running this competition, which is not generally known yet, but I intend to step down from the Surrey Schools' committee at the end of the academic year next year. We are looking for a replacement for me, or someone to at least organise the officials for the four galas we organise each year!

A very special mention must be made of John Stiven, who has just been honoured with an OBE in the King's Birthday Honours list. For over 46 years, he has dedicated himself to promoting aquatic sports in schools, inspiring thousands of young people to participate and helping to grow swimming and water polo across the country. This honour is a fitting recognition of his outstanding voluntary service, unwavering commitment and lasting contribution to school sport. We offer him our sincere congratulations.

Finally huge thanks must go to the Surrey officials who regularly support us, for without them, none of our schools' galas would take place. Thank you also to Michael Trotman from Guildford who has helped us this season with the electronics at Guildford. He has made a huge difference to both swimmers and the referees when running our galas!

All dates for the next academic year will be found on the Surrey Swimming website.

Carole Chaplin

7. Disability

I am pleased to report that during this last year there were two Para Training Days arranged by the South East Region, and yours truly was the Team Manager at both.

The first one took place on 12th October 2025 at ACS International School Cobham, Surrey. Unfortunately, Surrey had no swimmers taking part but a good time was had by all.

The second one was on 7th June 2026, again at ACS International School. Almost 20 swimmers attended, two of whom came from Surrey: India from Godalming and Katie from Elmbridge. It was great to see a number of Coaches from able-body clubs attend to learn more about supporting Para swimmers.

I am very pleased that the South East Region have already planned 2 more Para Training days: 6th September 2026 and 6th June 2027. If you would like to join one of these or require further info, please email Kate Hutchinson, South East Aquatics Development Officer: kate.hutchinson@southeastswimming.org or call her on 07780 332279.

I officiated at the two-day National Junior Para Swimming Meet at The Alan Higgs Centre in Coventry on 13th and 14th June. More than 100 swimmers took part, two of whom were from Surrey clubs.

Theo Wooden from Leatherhead took part in the 50M freestyle in the 17/18 age group and finished 7th with a time of 31.84. He also did the Open 100M Freestyle and finished 9th in the 17/18 age group with a time of 1.08.90. He also did the 400M Freestyle and finished 6th in the 17/18 age group with a time of 5.35.66.

Noah Huber from Godalming took part in the 50M backstroke and finished 8th overall with a time of 1.01.23. He also did the 100M backstroke and finished 12th overall with a time of 2.17.11.



Lillian Woolner from Rushmoor Royals in Hampshire also took part. Although she was disqualified in the 50M Breaststroke and the 100M backstroke, she did the 400M freestyle and finished 10th in the 14/16 age group with a time of 6.39.70.

Paul Finch



8. Diving

The annual diving skills competition took place at Guildford Spectrum on Saturday 24 January, running parallel once again during the afternoon of the first day of the county swimming championships.

We had a record number of entries, with a 50% increase on the previous year. Joining divers from Surrey-London's South West London Diving and Surrey-South East's Star Diving Club Guildford were seven 'guest' clubs from outside the county: Albatross Diving Club, Amersham Swimming Club, Dive London Aquatics Club, Havering Cormorants Diving Club, Luton Diving Club, Maidstone Diving Team and Tunbridge Wells Diving Club.

I am grateful to them for entering and helping to boost numbers, making for a more well-rounded competition experience for the athletes.

We were lucky enough again to muster up just enough officials to be able to run the meet with three-station circuits. This competition format is generally acknowledged as our most intricate with the scoreboard split three ways as divers compete simultaneously on poolside, 1m and 3m.

Competitors perform two rounds at each station and then rotate around the pool until all three have been completed (six rounds in total). The winner is the diver with the highest combined-points-total from all three stations added together.

We encountered no technology issues and the meet ran smoothly and on time. Medals were awarded to the top three county female and open competitors in each age category and to any 'guests' who ranked in the top three overall of their event. Thanks to Christina, the county president, for popping in after a hard day's slog at SSP to present awards to our evening session medallists.

There have been some noteworthy county divers' successes at national level over the past 12 months.



Last June, nine Surrey divers competed at the Swim England Diving National Age Group Championships at Sandwell Aquatics Centre in the West Midlands. More than half of them finished top six in at least one of their events, with a final medal count of two golds, two silvers and one bronze. Making it to the podium were Star Diving Club Guildford's Cai Tobin (C Open – 12/13), Sophia Harris (B Female – 14/15) and Leo Robinett (B Open – 14/15).

A number of county divers hit their qualification standard at regional skills qualifiers in the first half of last year, with six going on to compete at the Swim England Diving National Skills Finals in July. Hosted for the second year running by the East Region in Southend, more than half of these divers finished top five in their events, two of whom medalled: Barnabas Quin (D2 Open – 11) and Elodie Ladds (C1 Female – 12).

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

Francisco Diaz Romero