



Honorary Life Member: Christina Victor, Guildford City SC

Had we been known as Surrey County Amateur Self-Deprecating Association Christina would hold records in every event over all age groups, and doubtless would have been honoured as we are now doing, many years ago. Christina, “The Prof”, our Prof, has been swimming since her teenage years through Age Group and Masters, and has stalked the poolside all the way to the pinnacle of Officialdom, almost religiously avoiding the limelight and kudos with equal measure. However, her talents extend far beyond the pool and, indeed, across the world.



Prof crossed into Surrey in 2003, most probably from Ffurrock, recently renamed Thurrock, in Essex where she once led a posse of Surrey teammates to the impossibly shallow-ended pool with which she was very familiar. Her warm welcome from club and County colleagues reflected the previous successes. She started swimming in Surrey with Guildford City and has been a stalwart of the club and County.

Just before medalling in this year’s World Masters in Doha, Qatar, she revealed that way back in her age group days in Wales she was “not bad at breaststroke”. Before Doha we had perhaps regarded her as a typically crazy butterfly specialist. Masters is rife with those who make butterfly masochism look like they’re undergoing spa treatment, but Christina stood out from this bunch as a winner of many medals at National level. Her finest hour, if we focus on activities in the pool, was where she took Gold and Silver in 50 and 100 Fly, and 100 Breast bronze, at the 2019 World Masters in Gwangju, China.

Christina hadn’t done much open water swimming before being signed up for the 2005 Guildford Lido Legends English Channel Relay. The fast time swum that day proved to be the end of her EC ventures as, in her own words, “nothing could surpass it so why go again?”

In 2008 Christina started at the bottom end of the greasy pole of Officialdom. Even if the red Welsh Rugby socks did have to be replaced with ASA-compliant white ones, she has progressed to Referee at National Championships and a senior trainer of those following in her footsteps.

It would be remiss not to mention that Christina participated in many London Marathons from its inception and it was no coincidence that she departed with the elite ladies some years. The Welsh socks and indeed a rather faded red Jersey were often seen pounding out miles of training around West Guildford after morning pool training, depending on her work schedule.

This citation cannot list her academic achievements. Suffice to say our Prof is a world leader in the field of Gerontology and we all will benefit sometime from her studies on ageing and the aged.

Another of our Masters to have reached the highest peaks of success in the water and the dizzy heights as a top swimming official, the unique and evergreen Christina Victor is a well deserved nominee for an Honorary Life Member Award.