



I am pleased to present my report, which I hope provides an interesting summary of my year in office

One thing I have noticed this year is how much our sports rely on volunteers to run all aspects of our sport. In fact approximately 95% of all sports are run by volunteers, and we need more volunteers to keep our sport alive and offering all the different aspects your child requires to enjoy our sport.

Within minutes of becoming the new Surrey County President, I was very pleased to confirm Ron Etherington, as an Honorary Life Vice-President of our County.



Next on Friday, 25th July, 2014 at 9.30a.m I was invited to meet Masters swimming record breaker John Harrison, who was celebrating his 100th birthday with a regular dip in his local pool, Godalming Leisure Centre. This was followed by a presentation of an 'Achievement Award' from the ASA.

Two days later I was at London Region Open Water Championships, being held at Surrey Quays Water Sport Centre, where we had lovely weather.

This was only the second time it had been held and Surrey had some good results.



Well done to these swimmers and a big thank you to the Coaches, parents and Officials that I met.



I was kindly invited to the London and South East Synchronized Swimming competition at Trinity School, Shirley Park, Croydon. Even though Surrey did not have a team entered, it was great to see one of the other disciplines in our sports.



My next engagement was Kent County Amateur Swimming Association's Annual Dinner in Sevenoaks, Kent, where Kent's President Kathy Hook showed me the ropes and kept me under control, as this was my very first County Dinner!



In October, I was at the ASA's Annual Council Meeting at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole Hotel. Here I watched our very own Surrey Past President (1987 & 2001), Mr Ray Hedger, become the 2014-15 ASA President. Later I was able to congratulate both Ray and Janet (1986 Surrey President) on this fabulous and well deserved appointment.

On the same weekend I was very lucky to be at the National Intercounty Team championships at Ponds Forge, Sheffield, supporting our County Team. Surrey came an impressive 6th, one place better than last year!



On 14th December, I was at the 2014 Mixed under 14 Intercounty Water Polo Tournament at Whitgift School, Croydon. I took the opportunity to present Mark Bayliss with his



Surrey County Honorary Life Member Trophy.

In the New Year I was at Surrey County ASA Skills Diving Competition in the diving pit at the Spectrum in Guildford, where I was honoured to present medals to so many up and coming



'Tom Daleys' from Surrey and surrounding Counties. It was great to see one of Surrey's only two diving clubs winning medals in this competition.



In February, your Hon. Secretary, Jim Boucher, and I attended a Reception at

Godalming Town Hall to honour Mr John Harrison for being the only centenarian member of Surrey County and Godalming Swimming Club, plus his continued involvement in our sport.



During February and March I was at our Annual Surrey 2015 Age Group Championships which took place over three weekends at two Surrey pools and Crystal Palace. So many great results, please take the time to look at them via <http://surreyswimming.org/?p=802>.

Hannah Burvill's Ladies 100 IM was the only record broken this year. We were honoured to have the ASA President, Mr Ray Hedger, and ASA South East Region President, Mr Roger Prior, who took time out of their busy schedules to help me present the medals and large number of trophies the County has acquired over the last 123 years.





Well done to our Surrey Age Group Committee and the large number of volunteers, who organised and ran the Surrey County 2015 Age Group Championships, which could not be done without them.

Last month, (April, yes we have to write these reports before my term has finished) I am very pleased to say my wife and yours truly, were able to attend, the Sussex County ASA Dinner at Sandman



Signature London Gatwick Hotel. Present were Sussex President, Mr Anthony Gimson, (in the middle of the photo above) and the ASA President, Mr & Mrs Hedger.



I know I am visiting some water polo, Master swimming and swimming competitions, as your President, before my year finishes. I would just like to say a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers who keep our sports so alive. Please do not be afraid of coming forward to offer your time, you will find us a friendly

and professional team who will welcome you with open arms.

Mr Paul Finch
President 2014-15,
Surrey County ASA



Our year began with the 3m and Platform Championships held at Spectrum on 27th September. There were 38 entries across both championships. Good time management also allowed us to run the Surrey Schools Diving Championships during the same afternoon.

Star Diving Club was the dominant club in both championships, winning all Surrey titles. Guest entries from London/Kent club Crystal Palace helped boost numbers and broaden the events.

The second 'Surrey Skills' competition took place at Spectrum on 31st January. The meet, aimed at grassroots divers performing six rounds over dry land, 1m and 3m, was even more popular than the previous year with 80 participants.

All the Surrey medallists were from Star Diving Club and this year's guest clubs were from Albatross, Amersham, Crystal Palace, Southampton and Waltham Forest. Thanks to our President Paul Finch for joining us and presenting the medals.

The 1m Age Groups and Championships took place at Spectrum on Saturday 21 March. There were 24 entries in the Age Groups and 10 in the Championships. This time our County divers were joined by guest London/Essex club Waltham Forest.

The County JPads continue to ensure all our meets run ever smoother, and the more recent addition of a multi-media projector for use as a scoreboard is further enhances our spectators' experience.

In the past year Surrey has continued to support coach education by part-funding Level 1 teacher courses for four county divers.

Nationally, there have been some notable County diving successes over the last 12 months.

At the 2014 National Age Groups (level 3) in Sheffield in July, Star Diving Club's Lucy Maurer won gold in the Group A (16/18 years) 3m and Christopher Murray claimed a bronze in the Group B (14/15 years) 1m.

At the England Talent Games in Luton last November, Star Diving Club won four gold, five silver and four bronze medals. They also won the 'Top Girls' team trophy and finished runner-up team overall with only five divers.



After their performances in Luton, Georgia Adams, Tilly Brown and Wilfred Johnson were selected onto the England Talent zone programme.

At this year's National Age Groups in Sheffield in May (run earlier than normal), Tilly Brown won silver medals in the Group E2/D (9/11 years) 1m and 3m springboard events.

Alfie, her brother, dominated the Elite Boys C category (12/13 years) at the same meet with a hat-trick of gold medals in the 3m synchro, 3m and platform. He also won a silver medal on 1m.

To be competing and winning at this high level is a remarkable achievement from a Surrey diver whose rivals mostly train at high-performance clubs with high-spec dryland equipment and 10m facilities.

The 13-year-old, who was selected for the England Talent national squad after some brilliant results in 2014, will almost certainly be selected for the second year running to compete in the team at Bimbingamba, a summer junior international in Italy.

On behalf of our discipline I would like to thank the County for its continued support and look forward to another great year.

Francisco Diaz



Surrey enjoys a special position in UK Masters Swimming. First of all we can boast the greatest span of ages in Masters Swimming, from 18 to 100 years old. 2014/15 saw our wonderful centenarian, Godalming's John Harrison, set World Records and be recognised, not only by Her Majesty The Queen on his big day in July, but also by the ASA, Godalming Town Council and Sport Godalming.

Each year FINA updates its all-time Masters World Ranking lists and Surrey provides six of the ten UK swimmers who are ranked number one in the world for their age-group. Alongside John Harrison we salute Jane Asher, Diane Ford, Frances Penwarden, our most recent Olympian Marco Loughran, and the late Willy van Rysel.

Our clubs continue to successfully contest the major UK Masters Regional and National meets. Space does not permit the numerous successes but we should recognise the dominance of Guildford's Mike Hodgson and Michelle Ware in the ultra-competitive middle-aged groups who now regular win gold and frequently set GB records just as Jane Asher and others have continued to do for the more senior age groups. Our swimmers' focus turns to the upcoming World Masters to be held in Kazan, Russia, in August and there is great motivation around for the 2016 European Masters which will be held in the splendid London Aquatic Centre.

Our Surrey Masters Championship will again be held in Surrey Sports Park this coming weekend and once again we have a record turn-out. The 2014 Championships saw Godalming's Ladies just prevent the powerful Croydon Amphibians from securing a clean sweep in the Team Trophies.

We weren't able to raise a team for the Inter-County Masters event, but additional support has been mobilised to make sure this happens in 2015.

Jim Boucher



Ann van Beukelen and I in Surrey (London) and Christina Victor (Surrey Rural) have offered many training courses for prospective officials this year. It continues to be a disappointment that less than half of those attending ever complete the course and become licensed Judge Level 1's. This means that we continue to struggle to adequately staff all of the events that we, as a County, put on for our swimmers. If any club wishes to hold its own training course, please contact one of us to arrange a date. Otherwise please check the Surrey web site for any ad hoc courses which are run throughout the year.

Thanks must once again go to those officials who are happy to mentor trainee officials at swimming meets. Its always a challenge for us to find suitable galas to mentor candidates although three clubs have put on splash sessions which have been invaluable for testing and mentoring.

We also run Contemporary Issues sessions as required to fulfil the mandatory section of relicensing. The ASA would like all regions to include contemporary issues in the judge 1 course but we, together with other counties, felt this was too onerous and time consuming so we rejected it. Contemporary issues remains a mandatory element for relicensing, so licensed officials should endeavor to attend a session well before they have to relicense.

With the changes in requirements for officials for Level 4 meets, we are also running stand-alone Timekeeper courses. Please contact Ann, Christina or myself if you want to run a session for your club.

Remember, if you wish to run your club championships as Level 4 licensed meets, then the minimum qualification for officials is that of Timekeeper or Judge 1 trainee. It is no longer acceptable to have people timekeeping who are not qualified in any capacity.

Sadly there is still a small group of Surrey clubs who fail to provide any technical, or non-technical assistance, at Surrey events. This really cannot continue. If you do not have officials then you must provide some volunteers to help with the numerous non-tech roles that need to be filled in order for us to run successful meets for your swimmers. It really is not fair for you to turn up with your swimmers expecting others to do all the work! I trust that in future these clubs will make more effort in persuading your parents to step up to the mark and either train as an official or volunteer for a non-tech role.



Once again this year's Surrey Age Group Championships ran very smoothly thanks in no small part to the Officials who once again gave hours of their time for the benefit of the swimmers of Surrey. We continue to rely heavily on those officials who no longer have swimmers competing - without them, we would not be able to run our County Championships as a Level 2 Meet! A big 'Thank You' to everyone who gave their time so freely and it was good to see some new faces.

I would like to thank all those officials who regularly support my requests for volunteers at Surrey events - please continue to endure my seemingly never ending requests to volunteer, it really is appreciated! To those of you who have yet to officiate at a Surrey event, please volunteer to do so - we really are a friendly bunch and love to see those we have trained appear on the poolside at Surrey events - you will even get to wear one of the coveted 'Surrey Official' polo shirts!

Although this is an Officials Report, I cannot fail to mention the hardworking group that is the 'Non-Techs'! Jules Burvill and her team of helpers provide all the support that the organising committee needs to run all the swimming competitions we hold in Surrey. Whilst they may not wear white, they are every bit as important to the success of the events as the Technical Officials. Thanks Jules for all your hard work.

Special thanks must go to Ann van Beukelen for the unstinting support given to both Christina and myself, and also to the Management Committee and Age Group Sub-committee for all their efforts for swimming in the County.

Diane Gamble - Officials Secretary



Surrey has one of the largest swimming "populations" in the ASA and this gives us the annual headache that is "The Surreys", more correctly known as the County Age Group Championships. In previous years we have had to implement our own approach to managing entry numbers thus producing the Development Meet, and ensuring all of our swimmers have a chance to compete in a County event.

NGB-led redirection of the approach to age-group swimming has had a series of impacts, from National, through Regional to County events. This has made the 2015 County Age Groups even more of a logistics nightmare for our Age Group Committee. We were able to reduce the number of sessions and squeeze the competition into the allocated window. The downside was that Summer Development Meet now has grown to two weekends and the commitment placed upon our Officials and organising teams has never been greater. Getting to grips with the complexities of licensing rules, also affected by rules from on-high, and issues such as age on day etc, gave us a lot of headaches and we look forward to 2016 with a clearer way forward. The post-Surrey's Coaches' Meeting was a very valuable element of our planning for next year.

The County Age Groups again used SSP, Guildford Spectrum and Crystal Palace pools. Two County Records fell - both to Woking's Hannah Burvill - in the 100 IM and 100 Back. The Development meet saw around 900 swimmers take part over two busy weekends at the Spectrum.

For many of our swimmers the "Surreys" is the pinnacle of their achievements, but a number have gone on to record Regional and National Age Group success.

Our ASA Inter-County Team once again swam superbly in a most competitive Division One taking 6th place. In the Arena League, we congratulate Guildford City for an historic 2nd place in the Premier Final, and must not forget their Juniors' win in the National Arena Junior League.

We are also proud to have been able to support Tom Baxter with a bursary to help him attend the European Deaf Games in Saransk, Russia, in July where he ranked 9th in 200m Freestyle.

We would like to thank all the Officials and Volunteers who have given up their time to support our County Championships this year, but we need more of you!

Age Group Committee



Much has already been made of the strategic direction taken by our National Governing Body (NGB) that sees our sport, along with synchro, being critically reduced of funds. Although a Water Polo management Group has been established in the ASA, international teams, if they are allowed to play, are required to be self-funding and nowhere has this been clearer than in the case of Sutton & Cheam's GB U19 Vice Captain Brooke Tafazolli. She is trying to find support funding and sponsorship for GB's appearance in the U19 World Cup in Mexico in August.

Despite the NGB cutbacks, Junior Polo continues to be in a great state, led by our big two clubs, Croydon Amphibians and Sutton & Cheam. Guildford WPC are in discussions to try to start junior polo south of the M25. However, the major achievement of the year was Croydon Amphibians reaching the National Age Group Water Polo Boys' U19 final at the Manchester Aquatics Centre, losing narrowly by 5-4 to Manchester. We continue to urge our London Region colleagues to recognise the great achievements of a number of polo teams in their annual awards.

Domestically, Croydon's Mens' teams won all three of our Surrey League titles while Guildford won the Tom Dwyer Knockout Cup.

For those with an eye on detail, you will notice that our badge shows the County's history running all the way back to 1891. Although our "County" 125th birthday is, obviously, in 2016, some research shows that it was indeed Water Polo, through a fixture on 9th December 1890, that gave rise to the formation Surrey County Water Polo Association. Ideas for celebrating this occasion are most welcome!

Jim Boucher