



Surrey County ASA

2013 ACM - Annual County Report

Age Group Swimming

The main event of our swimming year is “The Surreys”. By this I mean our Age Group Championships which ran over five weekends. Starting out at Surrey Sports Park for the distance events, and moved down through the 200 and 100m events at Guildford Spectrum. We finished with the Sprints and Relays days at Crystal Palace as it is the only place which could cope with the vast number of entries.

Despite the constraints on pool time, and the ASA-designated “windows” for County Meets, we have, yet again, managed to accommodate an increase in numbers and we have again achieved our objective of having as many swimmers as possible swim in their County Championships. We know how exacting the qualifying times have to be to make the Championships both manageable and fair to the team of volunteers and Officials. Surrey is demographically one of the largest ASA Counties and to ensure we give as many swimmers the chance to compete at County level, we ran our Development Meet in July.

The standard of swimming has once again been excellent and I’m always happy to see the delighted faces of swimmers winning medals and achieving personal bests. Achieving the qualifying times, just to be here, is no mean feat and once again all our competitors are a credit to their parents, their clubs and their coaches.

Guildford City retained the Tinlin Trophy for the Top Club. In doing this they have equaled the record of 10 successive wins by Leatherhead.

We were delighted to have Mr Ray Hedger (SER President) and Mr Steve Baker (President-elect, London Region), together with Jane Asher, our Masters World-record holder, assist me with the presentations.

The success of our Age Group Meets is due in no small way to your County Age Group Committee and the team of swimming officials and volunteers that has worked tirelessly, almost from the moment we packed up here last year. We are indebted to all of them and I’d like to pay particular tributes to the work of Alan Thurlow – management of thousands of entries and hundreds of heats and finals results - and Julie Burvill for mobilising so many volunteers

The best of our County’s 11-16 year-olds go forward to the annual ASA InterCounty Team Championships held at Ponds Forge in October. Surrey performed brilliantly, improving upon last year’s result to finish 5th. Many thanks to Tracy Pearson for organizing the Team and supporting Officials. As we strive for an even higher finish this year, we have created the role of a County Team Coach. Martin Jurco was selected for this year and we look forward to more great results.

It would be remiss to ignore the 2012 Olympics and the feelgood factor imparted to the nation. In Surrey we had every reason to feel good and great, as Marco Loughran qualified for the 200m backstroke and all who know him were delighted to see him walk out to compete.

More success followed as Guildford City’s Hannah Russell reached the finals of all five of her Paralympic events. Highlights included her bronze medal-winning performance in the



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100m Butterfly (S12), where she took 1.46 seconds off her British record to secure a time of 1:08.57. In the 400m Freestyle (S12), Hannah knocked 3.5 seconds from her British record to qualify fastest from the heats. She subsequently reduced this by another three seconds in the final to touch in a time of 4:38.60 and take silver. In the 100m Backstroke (S12) she also took bronze, bringing her medal tally to three. Louise Watkin (Redhill & Reigate) equalled her British record with silver in the 50m freestyle.

As a result of her performances at the GB Olympic Trials, Emma Day was selected for the European Junior Championships in Antwerp where she made the semi finals in the 200m and 100m Butterfly and was 1st reserve in the 200m Butterfly final. She missed out on a semi final place in the 200IM but was selected for the Butterfly leg in the heats of the medley relay. The final team secured the silver medal in a very exciting race and Emma was rewarded with a medal too.

Emma has again made the team of 24 elite junior swimmers selected to compete at the 2013 European Junior Championships (EJCs) to be held in July in Poznan, Poland.

Diving (Fran Diaz)

We began with the Surrey Schools Diving Championships held at Guildford Spectrum on Saturday 22 September 2012. There were 39 entries in total, a 50% increase on 2012. Smart planning allowed us to run the Surrey 3m and Platform Championships on the same day. We were delighted to see the latter run after a five year break.

Divers from Star Diving Club in Guildford were the dominant force in both these championships, winning all the titles in both the male/female and junior/senior categories.

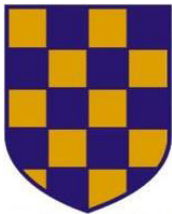
The 1m Age Groups and Championships followed, again at Spectrum on 9 February. There were 60 entries, 18 more than last year. The meet was supported by Surrey's two active clubs – Star Diving Club and Merton School of Diving – with representation from farther afield provided by Haringey Aquatics and Waltham Forest Diving Club.

The JPads, wireless hand-held judge keypads that the county purchased in 2011, continue to ensure all our meets run ever smoother. In the last 12 months the County has continued to support growth and development by contributing towards Level 1 teacher training and coach talent identification CPD, which took place in Leeds in March.

Nationally, there have been some notable county diver successes in the past year:

- At last year's National Age Groups in Sheffield (Level 3), Star's Hannah Allchurch won gold on 3m and silver on platform in Group A.
- This year she became the first county diver to step up to Level 4, competing at the Elite Junior Championships in Leeds in March.
- This is a tremendous achievement given that 8/9 out of every 10 divers at this level usually train at a high-performance club.
- At the National Skills in Plymouth in May (Level 2), Lucas Nunez won bronze in Group C and Christopher Murray silver in Group B+. Both are Star divers.

On behalf of our discipline I would like to thank everyone for their continued support – and we look forward to another action-packed year.



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Masters (Jim Boucher)

The concertina effect on lesser meets, imposed by the once-in-a-lifetime event that was the Olympics, caused us to move the 2012 Masters to September, but with the bonus that we were able to use the Surrey Sports Park for the first time. We continued with the 14 event programme that includes something for everyone, and everything for some people! As a result of the changed date, some teams had less swimmers than in previous years, but this was offset by the, very welcome, increased support from clubs such as Barnes and Farnham, the latter making a reappearance after 15 years.

Guildford dominated the mens' events and were clear winners over Dorking and Godalming for the Mens Points Trophy. Godalming's massed ranks of ladies edged out Croydon to take the Ladies Points Trophy by just 17 point. Dorking's shrewd choices of relay teams saw them win the Relays Points Trophy. There was always a sense that the combined, overall points competition would be tight and Godalming's Ladies' performance saw them overhaul Guildford by 41 points to end the latter's recent domination of the Championships.

The annual Inter-Counties Masters Competition is an annual headache for more than just Surrey's organiser. Availability, social commitments and injury all took their toll on but we fought hard and made the most of our strengths.

We have always been pushed for swimmers in the 18-24 group but this year, at least in the Mens' events, we mobilised some of the strongest swimmers ever to represent Surrey. We were able to deploy three of our biggest beasts for this meet: Olympian Marco Loughran, Olympic Triallist and veteran sprint specialist Owen Morgan together with Mike Hodgson, World Masters Medallist and oft-times British Record Holder for the 45+ age group. These three plus other "Galacticos" gave us more than our fair share of wins but overall points were always going to be impacted by our absentees and we could well have seen our 6th place challenging for 4th. Everyone who competed swam their heart out and with a lot of relays to swim much energy was required all round. Thanks to Joan Swain for officiating and thanks to all of the Surrey Team who turned out. Well done to Mike and Marco, and the 100yr Medley Team who took first place in the national results consolidation.

We returned to SSP for the 2013 Masters on 8th June. Word had got out about the amazing range of events, the friendly atmosphere, the warm-down pool and we had a bumper entry of 170 swimmers, 33% up on any previous meet. Our Officials did a fantastic job in keeping us running to time. We are seeing a wider range of clubs, with a greater number of swimmers and it is a meet that is the envy of other Counties. Godalming and Croydon Amphibians turned out in large numbers but it was the latter who swept the board taking all the trophies. We covered the widest possible range of swimmers with ages from 18 to 98 on display. Next year we intend to make the most of our first competitor in the 100-104 age group!

Surrey continues to stand on the top of the podium at National and World Masters events. Jane Asher's prowess and record-breaking in the pool are only outdone by her sparkling personality on the poolside. Mike Hodgson is tearing up British records almost every time he swims and he is our Open County Champion at 50 breast.



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In such a great year there were moments of sorrow too. Godalming will miss their Coach, David Dix, and all of us who knew Lis Hartley will miss the great contribution she made to Masters and SE Region swimming as a whole.

In conclusion, may I warmly thank all the Surrey Masters swimmers for making it yet another enjoyable year. I congratulate you all on your performances and join with you in a big thank you to all the Officials and Volunteers who support our meets.

Open Water (Phil Sears)

The National Youth and Age Group Events were held in July. The number of entries for these is very low and does not match the growth in OW swimming experienced up and down the country. Nevertheless a number of Surrey swimmers did make the journey and we had a silver in the 12yr from George Brown (Wandsworth).

The SER OW race series took place but the main SER Race at Portsmouth was again the victim of inclement weather and rough sea. This year there are 6 events in the series and the SER Championship event, which includes our own Surrey OW Championship, will take place in Westhampnett Lake where we hope the race can go ahead even in adverse weather.

Julian Chan Quee Lin and Archie Mitchell, from Dulwich Dolphins, were selected to take part in the Portuguese 10km National championships in May as the GB selection process for 18th the World Championships in Barcelona. Julian has also been selected to represent GB at the European Olympic Youth Festival in Holland this summer.

In marathon events we had high hopes for Lucinda Bayliss (Croydon Amphibians), but when within 300m of the French Coast her Channel solo was curtailed due to a dense fog. Her despair was soon lifted by husband Mark's World-record Marble Arch to Arc de Triomphe "triathlon". Not only a world record time, but a first for a non-wetsuit Channel Swim. Godalming's Ellery McGowan continued her amazing marathon feats, first by leading the "Swinging Sixties" relay team – average age 66 – across the Channel. In August she added the 17.5 mile New York "Ederle Swim" to her list of age records and has just finished the 28.5 mile Manhattan Island circumnavigation in the most severe conditions the event has known. Jim Boucher also completed the Ederle Swim and added one more Channel relay for good measure.

Water Polo

Awareness of Water Polo was raised by the GB Teams' appearances in the Olympics and Surrey was honoured to have Matt Holland (Sutton & Cheam) as one of GB's goalkeepers.

Men's Polo continues to have patchy support from the ASA at top level, but Surrey has a tradition in the sport, maintained by the presence of Sutton & Cheam and Croydon Amphibians in the National Leagues.