



Honorary Life Vice-President: Emma France, Guildford City SC

“You’re standing on a beach near Dover, it’s pitch black, you look out into the distance and notice the moon sparkling off the water, the lights of passing boats in the distance. You raise your arm and hear the horn from the boat as you step purposefully into the water, excited to take the first stroke to finish the adventure of a lifetime”

— Together we can do this, Emma France [Founder, Dover Channel Training]

Emma would be far too modest to add the thoughts of many of her fellow English Channel swimmers which could be summarised succinctly as “...and you will have a much better chance if you’ve been supported and guided by Emma France.”

Emma France is unique in having done so much for the County as Official and Committee Volunteer, so much as a Masters Swimmer and, above all, contributed so much to English Channel swimming and beyond.

On the face of it, it’s difficult to find a common thread that links Emma’s multi-faceted swimming career but, after some deliberation, I’d suggest it’s that she thrives on challenges and has made a career of setting herself goals and challenges and dealing with others that have been pushed upon her.



As a Masters Swimmer, she excelled in fly and long-distance freestyle. If sheer willpower and tenacity brought her medal successes in her fly races, it was her metronomic pacing of distance freestyle that showed she had talent waiting to be tapped beyond the perimeter of a swimming pool. She was always up for the 5K and 10K Swimathon and summer 100 x 100’s in Guildford Lido. She medalled at World and European Masters events as well as our Nationals. Emma Muchos-Mariposa, as she was affectionately known to her team-mates, was always great fun to be with on our trips abroad and to the SE Nationals.

Her business career, initially as an accountant, provided further challenges and Emma rose up through her employers’ ranks before deciding that there was a greater challenge beyond accounts. Emma moved into a role as world-wide process manager for a major international corporation where she applied her numerous skills into organisational transformation. Somehow, amongst juggling her sport, family and career, she found time to join the ranks of swimming Officialdom and rose to the heady level of BS Referee. This was not quite enough to fill her days, and she also served time on our County Committee.

Emma made the first of her three English Channel solo swims in 2009. She has completed the most EC relays – 20. As well as round Jersey and Lake Zurich solo swims. Her greatest challenge was to take over from her great friend and mentor, Freda Streeter, when “The Channel General” stood back from her ruthless coaching of English Channel hopefuls in Dover Harbour. Emma’s professional and organisational skills, including NLP training, provided a much more systematic, scientific, professionally-organised approach to training which enabled hundreds of swimmers to realise their



dreams. Emma created the “Dover Channel Training” organisation leading from the front with her teaching and coaching qualifications.

For her swimming achievements and contribution to the sport on poolside as well as in the committee room, and as a legend in the world of open water swimming, Emma France is a well-deserved nomination as Honorary Life Vice President.