



Surrey County ASA

Honorary Life Member: Miss Hannah Russell (Guildford City)

Hannah Russell, who has a visual impairment, took up swimming at the age of five, first joining Woking Swimming Club before moving to Guildford City Swimming Club at the age of twelve. She was educated at Gordon's School in West End in Surrey, before switching to Kelly College in Tavistock. In 2010 she was scouted through the 'Playground to Podium' initiative, a British system of spotting sporting talent in young people with a disability.

After being classified as S12 in 2011, she entered the 2011 IPC European Championships, in Berlin. There she won two medals, silver in the 100 m backstroke and bronze in the 100 m butterfly. In 2012 she took part in the 2012 British Championships, taking another two medals, taking gold in the 100 m backstroke and silver in the 400 m freestyle.

During the British Championship, Hannah broke the European record in the S12 class 100 m backstroke, with a time of 1:09.52. Later that month, at the Nationwide Junior and Youth Swimming Championships in Sheffield, she broke two S12 world records, in the 400 m freestyle and the 100 m backstroke.

Although aiming at qualification for the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio, Hannah's results were good enough to make the Great Britain swimming team for the 2012 Games in London. At 16 years old, she was one of the youngest members of the team, and was entered into five S12 events: the 50 m freestyle, 100 m freestyle, 400 m freestyle, 100 m backstroke, and 100 m butterfly. In her first event, the 400 m freestyle she swam a personal best of 4:38.60 to take the silver, her first paralympic medal. She won her second medal of the Games, a bronze, in the 100 m butterfly and took a further bronze in the 100m backstroke.

There was no slowing down in Hannah's achievements after London 2012 and she took five medals at the 2013 IPC World Championships in Montreal, Canada:

- 100m Freestyle (S12): silver
- 100m Butterfly (S12): silver
- 50m Freestyle (S12): silver
- 400m Freestyle (S12): bronze
- 100m Backstroke (S12): gold

Hannah has seen further success in 2014 returning from the World School Games in Brazil with Gold in the 100m BK in a new WR (S12) and Gold in the 50m FC. Surrey County ASA is delighted to propose this young superstar for Honorary Life Membership.

