

Honorary Life Vice President: Mr Richard Garfield, Chief Coach, Guildford City SC

Richard Garfield took over as Head Coach of Guildford City in 1998, when the club was heavily in debt and a lowly 10th in the County. Since then he has presided over, and directed, the club's rise to its 2015 second place in the National Arena Swimming League. Setting a goal of being the number one club in the County, he achieved this in 2002, and from 2004 has sustained a continued top ranking in the County. From 2006 his Club have consistently appeared in the Arena League Final, catching up and overtaking great names, but also metropolitan swimming organisations operated by local authorities, along the way.



Success as a Club has seen a succession of elite swimmers rising through the ranks of National Age Group successes, selections for European Junior teams and ultimately the highest level where his charges, Hannah Russell, Marco Loughran, Julie Gould to name a few, have represented GB, England and Wales at World, Olympic and Commonwealth Games.

Guildford City's strength in depth has not only provided it with success as a Club, but underpinned Surrey's strong finishes in the top division of the National Inter-County Competition. Since regionalisation, Richard has served as our County's representative on the SE Region Coaching Group and has served as coach to GB Junior Squads.

Richard would be the first to say that success has come from a massive combined team effort with committee, coaching staff, swimmers and parents all working together. As he turns 65, his colleagues have noticed no diminution of his passion and hunger for continued success and his appetite for managing the day to day running of a membership based club. We as a County have benefited from this pursuit of excellence and today honour Richard as an Honorary Life Vice President.