



# Surrey County ASA

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## **Honorary Life Vice President: Ron Etherington (Wimbledon SC)**

Somewhere within the swimming world you must have come across Ron Etherington. It might be on the poolside of a Surrey County Gala, Schools Gala or a RLSS Lifesaving Course when Ron would be the Examiner. Ron has served swimming in many capacities and different disciplines for over 67 years and has been on our poolside as a loyal volunteer giving his time and energy to Surrey swimming.

Ron has been a member of Wimbledon Swimming Club from 1946. In 1958 he trained as a Judge and Timekeeper when we were known as Surrey County Water Polo & Swimming Association (SCWP&SA).

Ron also served Surrey School Swimming Association (SSSA) from 1955 for his 30 years performing most roles in the organization including Treasurer, and President. A qualified ASA Swimming Teacher from 1957, he served 20 years with the English Schools Swimming Association (ESSA) including spells as Treasurer and Chairman for Division XI.

Ron's other long time passion is Life Saving which started with the Bronze Medallion back in 1950. He continually updates this but he did not stop there and in 1957 he became a Teacher and Examiner for the Royal Lifesaving Society (RLSS, UK). In 1962 he became an Examiner for Surrey and 30 years later Chief Examiner. In 1994 he became a UK Advisor and Specialist Examiner for the National Rescue Award for Swimming Teacher and Coaches plus Rescue Tests for Supervisors of swimmers with disabilities.

In 1997 he was made an Honorary UK Life Member of R.L.S.S for services rendered. In 1998 he was appointed the Branch Lifesaving Co-ordinator for Surrey and Quality Assurance Officer. In 1995 Ron became the President of Surrey and in 2003 R.L.S.S gave him the 'Bar to The Medal of Distinction', in 2005 Ron received his R.L.S.S Long Service Medal for 50 year of dedication to the R.L.S.S.

In 1991 Ron organised the Centenary Festival for SCWP&SA, which went on throughout the year.

During all this time Ron was doing a full time job as a school teacher, including 8 years being Deputy Head for numerous schools, plus 21 years as Union rep for Merton. In 1990 he was School Governor and 1992 to 1996 Chair of Governors.

If the above was not enough, Ron also gave over 20 years to the Police service as a Special Constable in W Division rising to the ranks of Acting Sub Inspector. Between 1946 and 1956 Ron worked on 48 films, including famous ones such as African Queen (starring Humphrey Bogart) this included working for famous film companies such as Warner Brothers and Metro Goldwyn Mayer. Ron even gave 10 years of his time as a Warranted Scouter for the Scout movement. Ron still teaches First Aid, Anaphylactic Shock and C.P.R to N.H.S doctors, dentists, etc.

