



Surrey County ASA

2014 ACM - Nominations for County Honours

Honorary Life Member: Mr. Tom Baxter (Guildford City)

Tom Baxter was advised to take up competitive swimming by Jane Asher who had coached him for a couple of years at Kings Cormorants. His swimming career moved to Leatherhead where he was coached, firstly by Pat McCrea, then subsequently by Sue Philpot.

Tom's talent became apparent to all and it was at this stage that something clicked, leading to his selection for Team GB at his first Deaflympics in Taipei 2009. This led to an invitation onto the ASA's Advanced Apprenticeship in Sporting Excellence - the first deaf swimmer to do so. Tom subsequently went on to be named as the disability student of the year in 2012.

Following his move to Guildford City in 2010 he continued to progress and was selected for GB for the European Championships in 2010 (Germany), the World Championships in 2011 (Portugal) and, once again, the 2013 Deaflympics in Sofia, Bulgaria.

This year Tom has, for the first time, won both the 50m and 100m Free at the British Deaf Championships. The picture shows Tom proudly holding the 100m trophy. He has been selected for this year's European Championships that will be held in Saransk, Russia, departing on 19th June and returning 30th June. This is the fifth time that Tom has represented GB at a major championship.

Throughout his international career Tom has been very well supported by Leatherhead, Guildford and Surrey. This has been vital as British Swimming do not provide central support for our Deaf swimmers. Tom has also turned out each year in our Surrey Age Groups and, with a sustained presence in GB national Deaf Teams, Surrey County ASA is delighted to propose him for Honorary Life Membership.

