

## Swimming clubs merge

CHRISTCHURCH-based Seagulls SC have merged with their neighbours New Milton Torpedoes in a move which will create a significant force in Dorset swimming.

They will in future be known as Christchurch and New Milton Seagulls.

The merged club will have its first outing in the first round of the Speedo League West at Littledown, Bournemouth, on 14th October, when their Division Three South opponents include Bournemouth Dolphins' B team.

The merger gives the club a pool of 200 swimmers, including 80 whose registration has been transferred from Hampshire to Dorset. Seagulls' full-time chief coach Barry Alldrick will head the combined coaching team.

Alldrick said: "This is a really exciting time. In competitive terms, I think the merger will put us on a par with Poole.



**TOASTING THE FUTURE:** Club chairmen Phil Fletcher (New Milton Torpedoes, left) and Kevin Roberts (Seagulls, right) toast the merger with coach Barry Alldrick

"The next step is to catch up Bournemouth Dolphins and Ferndown Otters and that's a challenge I am really looking forward to." Ironically, the move comes just three weeks after Bournemouth Dolphins suspended their own merger talks with Ferndown.

● Seagulls have won

promotion from the Rother League Division Three after victory at Alton made them divisional champions by four points.

Stacey Angliss and Chris Chamberlain were each involved in four wins as the Christchurch club secured 17 victories in the 50-race programme.