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Dedicated John splashes out



John Dewit

After 36 years of selfless dedication and commitment to swimming coaching in New Milton, Christchurch and formerly Surrey, John Dewit has finally hung up his whistle and flippers.

John, 77, has taught hundreds of children, adults and even pensioners in their 70s to swim. He started his swimming teaching career at Rutslip Swimming Club in 1972 where in addition to his teaching he set up a 'learn to swim' group with his wife, Sally, to help with much needed fund raising for the club. John stayed with Rutslip for 16 years remaining committed to the swimming coaching and branched out to teach Life Saving and snorkelling at the sub-aqua club.

In 1988, John and Sally moved south to Highcliffe and over the last 20 years he has dedicated much of his free time, on a voluntary basis, to teaching at New Milton Torpedoes S.C and latterly when the two clubs merged with Christchurch Seagulls.

John has not only been a poolside coach, helping children learn and improve their swimming skills, but he has also had a major role in the tuition of lifeguarding. He has introduced many children to competitive swimming and with his training and guidance they have competed successfully for Torpedoes.

Many of the children he has coached have gone on to achieve county, district and national rankings, but John saw the need for more than just winning races. He strove to ensure that each child achieved their potential while having fun and inspired them to feel proud to be part of a team and as a club member.

A spokeswoman for the swimming club said: "John's passion, dedication and commitment to the teaching of swimming has been unquestionable and unfailing. Thanks go to him from the many children and their parents who he has helped over the years together with the club coaches who worked alongside him. He will be greatly missed at the swimming baths and will be remembered fondly by current and ex members of the club."