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New twist for swim club's championship

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MEMBERS of Yeovil District Swimming Club took part in their annual club championships at the Oxley Sports Centre in Sherborne on Sunday, June 11. Every year the club competes in a variety of events with ages ranging from six years to adult. This year was the first championships held under the guidance of new head coach Rebecca Richards.

She decided to freshen up the event by splitting the swimmers into two opposing teams which battled it out throughout the day.

In the end the team led by senior captain Aaron Bartlett and junior captain Georgie Paine were victorious and received the winners shield.

Yeovil District Swimming Club dates back to 1889 when Yeovil Men's Swimming Club was formed. By the 1970s it had amalgamated with the Ladies' Swimming Club and became Yeovil District Swimming Club.

The head coach from that time until 2003, supported by his wife Doreen who was club secretary for 25 years, was well

known swimming instructor Derek White. His legacy lives on with one of his former swimmers, Paul Perry, now a prominent volunteer coach at many squad training sessions. Paul's commitment and enthusiasm for the club inspired Mr Richards to name the Spirit Award after him.

Mr Richards awarded the Perry Spirit Award to the team who demonstrated the most sportsmanship on the day and this was accepted by team captains Ben

Card and Isabella Moore.

Mr Richards said "I believe that to be a good swimmer you need to be a happy swimmer and you can only achieve that by being part of a great team. That's why this sort of event is so important to our programme, strengthening the bond between teammates, coaches and families, the whole support network around our young athletes".

Since Mr Richards arrival at the beginning of the season and assistant head coach Aaron Rickhuss at the start of this year, the club has seen some very positive changes. Recruiting talented younger swimmers from age six who join the squads where good



Members of Yeovil District Swimming Club take part in their annual club championships at the Oxley Sports Centre in Sherborne.

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technique is the focus, through to the senior swimmers, some qualifying for national championships and international events for the first time under the clubs new regime.

Training takes place seven days a week in swimming pools and out in both Yeovil and Sherborne.

The new Yeovil District Swimming Club Learn to

Swim programme launches in September and places are filling fast. Anyone interested can contact the club to secure a place if they have a child who wishes to learn to swim.

