Club life ... Templemore Aquatic Sports Club

David Elliott (over 70) is the club treasurer and a founding member

HOW LONG HAS THE CLUB BEEN GOING?

It was founded in 1983 when I and a few others got together to ensure there would be a competitive swimming club.

At the time, Belfast City Council wanted to shut the Templemore complex down as the Victorian building, which was the hub of east Belfast and is rumoured to have been the location where George Best and Jimmy Ellis swam, was showing signs of decay. So we had to form a users' trust.

HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE THERE?

We have 100 competitive swimmers and we also have a swimming school within the centre, with another 100 members. Our learners often start off young, at around nine years of age.

In terms of the male-female ratio, it's about 60-40 in favour of women as it is easier to get girls interested in swimming.

WHAT'S THE CLUB PHILOSOPHY?

Although not everybody can be a competitive swimmer, almost everybody can learn to swim. It's about fitness, enjoyment and socialising and we accommodate all abilities and disabled swimmers.

BEST TIMES?

Probably when we won both competitive Ulster Leagues as a club in 2010.

Swimming opens the way to other sports and social life, but I'm more of a sprockler than a good swimmer.

WORST TIMES?

We haven't had any really bad times, just continual growth. We started off with nothing, got people learning to swim, and have had success with coaching.

WHAT DO MEMBERS SAY ABOUT THE CLUB?

Megan Conway (7) says: "I learn to swim at the club and love it. It's cool and fun."

Aimee-Louise McCullough, Masters swimmer and Cerebral Palsy Double World Champion (2005), says: "I enjoy the club because it is very family orientated."

www.templemore.org.uk

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SO, WHAT'S YOUR STORY? *Let us know if you know any local heroes? Contact: jhardy@belfasttelegraph.co.uk*