

By Royal Appointment...



Rushmoor Royals Swimming Club has appointed Emma Collings as their new Head Coach.

As assistant coach to both the Somerset ASA County Team and the prestigious Millfield Swimming Club, Collings has extensive experience coaching present and future GB swimmers.

Her coaching triumphs to date include three European Juniors qualifiers such as Robert Holderness and Karl Botha, six National Champions including Age Group British record holder James Disney-May, three British record holders, 13 GB Youth Swimmers and 50 National Qualifiers. She has also had experience with British Disability Swimming serving as a Development camp coach.

Collings is no slacker in the pool and comes from a family of swimmers. She was ranked 3rd in the World Masters Rankings in 2007 for 200 Free, Triple Masters National Champion 2007, Represented GB Open Water at the European Championships and was a British Open Water Champion at 2000m. Emma is the sister of Commonwealth Bronze medallist Sarah Collings who reigned supreme in GB at 800 and 1500 for many years.

After finishing her degree in Applied Sport Science from Loughborough University, Emma retired from competitive swimming and assisted Ian Armigar with the university team. From there Emma continued to work under some of the worlds greatest coaches such as Ben Titley, Jay Fitzgerald, Doug Campbell, Ian Turner and Joyoln Finck.

Collings enthused: "I am thrilled to be joining Rushmoor Royals Swimming Club in June. The club has a great history of producing talented swimmers and has huge potential. Millfield gave me a great opportunity to work with some of the country's most talented youngsters and I now look forward to taking my experience into Rushmoor and helping them reach the next level of success."

Royals Chairman, Gary Broad, said the club was excited to see how Collings would move the club forward. She steps into the shoes of Ben Lafferty, who has left to return to Stockport Metro as Operations Manager.

"During Ben's four and half years he changed the culture of the club. We are now geared towards achieving results at higher levels than ever before. He delivered our first international swimmer for many years and our first ever representative at the European Junior Championships 2008." said Mr Broad.

"Following on from Ben Lafferty is a big ask of anyone and we firmly believe that Emma, with her energy, enthusiasm and drive will be a fantastic leader for the Club."

His view is echoed by renown Ben Titley, Head Coach of Loughborough ITC, who believes Collings is developing into one of Britain's top young coaches. "She is forward thinking, passionate about the sport and helping young people to maximise their potential both in and out of the pool." He said.