

"Members Hidden Gems"

Maurice Dowling



At 35 years of age with my first wife and two boys swimming in the deep end of the pool and me standing in the shallow end shivering I decided I would learn to swim.

I have great empathy with people who are frightened of the water because at the time I feared it.

Working in Windsor at the time I went to the leisure pool every morning for about six weeks. This pool suited me as it was designed as a beach side pool, going from nothing to 2 metres. At the end of my six weeks I managed a width which was about 17metres wide, a great achievement to me. After another month I managed to do six widths.

From that point I found I liked swimming and graduated to doing full lengths of the pool.

I even managed to do 2500 metres for a sponsored charity swim in 1 hour 6 minutes.

Later, I trained as a Scuba Diver (PADI) but that's another story.

My swimming style needs improving but I think it might be you can't teach an old dog new tricks.

Now my wife and I swim every morning, Monday to Fridays at New Milton Swimming pool and I manage 50 lengths and Susan does a tremendous 64 lengths. (1 mile)

Maurice Joined Probus in 2014. Social Secretary 2015 to 2016, Secretary 2016 to 2019, Vice President 2019, President 2020

