Memories of Ian from Louis Stewart

Sue and Ian

From the first time I walked through the King Alfred leisure centre doors aged just 8 I was lucky enough to experience the best coaching team possible which included Ian, Sue and Karen. They made me feel welcome for the very first moment I was allowed to swim within the ‘big pool’ as I used to call it back then. They were all such loving characters, who always had a smile on their face. I’m sure every single swimmer no matter what age who turned up had a broad range of feelings and emotions before there training session. They would make you feel warm and comfortable even in a cold pool.

I’m sure every swimmer and parent would have lots of memories together with Ian. One major part of building my relationship with Ian came on one the swimming camps the club put on. Ian was the first to come up to me, auntie and gran at the airport at 5 in the morning and welcome them onto the trip. He explained to them that it would be hard work for all 7 days within the pool and out of the pool. He also made sure that if they had any questions or needed any help they would know who to ask. This was so caring and lovely to see for me, this is what he was all about within every aspect of Shiverers swimming club.

Ian had his funny moments which we should all remember even if it got him into trouble with a few of the officials at times. At every competition and gala you could think of he’d be there supporting every swimmer. I remember my very first race at the club championships, before my race a large burst of ‘mooooove it‘ coming from Ian himself echoed around the swimming pool. I’m sure this would make every swimmer smile and would get rid of any nerves we might of had.

At all the swimming camps I went on there would always be a round of bingo put on by Ian. He would go out to get the prizes, some good some bad. I remember this being an experience, one table or team always used to win, maybe this was down to his card shuffling skills only he will be aware. It was important to rest and recover but he knew that when the time was right it was vital that the whole team was around having a laugh together.

He also had so much success in developing swimmers become better and reaching their goals. This would have been different for everybody but Ian always knew who needed what time or some advice on what they could do better. After a race he would be so easy to talk to even if you think you preformed bad. He’d be the first one to find you and have a chat and make you feel better to uplift your spirits going into the next race. Ian made this look incredibly easy whilst watching other swimmers race. He made numerous county, regional and national champions which also should be remembered this has given so many different people opportunities for success within their lives. He’s allowed people to study at elite colleges and universities all around the world and further their experience within the sport and in all places of life which we can all thank him for.

If you have had a conversation about Ian or with Ian you would have always talked about his jokes, these were interesting I have to say. Most left you confused, some wouldn’t be funny but would make you smile and there was very few that would really motivate you to be the best you could be which was so so important.

This must also include Sue Medlock, where ever you saw Ian you knew Sue would be just behind, and vice versa. They were such a good team offering their support across all lanes and all swimmers within every session. They always had little tips and tricks that would be really useful even if they weren’t about swimming, this is what made Shiverers so successful for many years.

I am still in shock along with my many friends that I have gained through Shiverers swimming club. We all loved Ian and sue, whether this was early morning before school or in the evening just before bed, it got to the point where I saw them more than some of my family. Lucky enough I had another great family swimming for such a good swimming club.

My heart goes out to Amy and Dave, Amy led by example she was such a great club captain, she offered so much support and guidance to all ages of swimmer. When I took up the role in my later years I was trying to do exactly what she was doing. Ian and sue were Shiverers legends and should be remembered for ever. They will always be remembered by my family and the Shiverers family.

The things I would do to hear one more big ‘movvvvvve it’ from them both.