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Ex-Eastleigh boss offers Pools help

FORMER Eastleigh boss Ronnie Moore has offered to help Hartlepool United in their hour need.

Pools, who are due to face the Spitfires at the Silverlake Stadium on Saturday (3pm), have not won a National League game since November 21.

Moore holds a special place in Hartlepool hearts having famously led them to a great escape in 2014/15 when their Football League status was seriously under threat.

However, it proved to be only a temporary stay of execution as, with Moore long gone, they were relegated from League Two last May after 96 years as a Football League club.

The cash-strapped outfit are now deep in trouble on and off the pitch, having been threatened with administration and placed under a transfer embargo.

There has been talk of a takeover but it was reported this week that potential investor Chris Musgrave had pulled out.

The news broke in the build-up to Tuesday's 1-1 draw at struggling Chester, which leaves Pools 18th in the table.

Moore, 64, admits to having "sympathy" for 40-year-old manager Craig Harrison who was appointed in June from The New Saints.

He said: "It is very difficult to get things going in the dressing room when the players do not know how they can pay their mortgage."

"He (Harrison) has come out of Welsh football and this league is unforgiving."

"He is maybe looking for a little bit of help. Maybe he needs a little bit of experience to help him along, because he doesn't have that at this level."

"And hopefully whoever comes in will allow him to do that. I am always looking to get back into work."

Moore, who has been out of a job since parting company with Eastleigh in December 2016 after just three months at the Silverlake, added: "This place (Hartlepool) will always have a special place in my heart."

"It is sad for me."

"To keep them up was fantastic but it was devastating to see the team drop out of the league 18 months later."

Dolphins make off with fistful of gold

Southampton Dolphins swoop for county medals galore

David Perry

SOUTHAMPTON Dolphins swimmers completed an inspired smash-and-grab raid on the first weekend of the Hampshire County Swimming Championships in Portsmouth.

They made off with an impressive 14 podium positions and a fistful of gold.

Emily Lowther, 12, kicked it all off in style in the 400 individual medley.

She finished eight seconds ahead of her nearest rival after a huge surge ahead in the breast-stroke leg.

Emily then joined forces with Rhyseren Taylor (10), Evie Turner (10) and Isabel Turner (12) as the Dolphins were crowned county champions in the (10-12 years) 200m medley relay.

The girls added a bronze to the haul in the freestyle version of the 200m relay.

It was a remarkable start for the Shirley-based swim team as they raced to seven medal positions in the first nine events.

The Dolphins under-14 girls were nearly two seconds ahead of the chasing teams when Victoria Butler touched for gold in the 200m medley relay.

It crowned a dominant performance by Ellena Lewis (backstroke), Sophie Hawkes (butterfly) and Emily Lowther (breaststroke) on the earlier legs.

The girls narrowly missed the clean sweep, touched out to the silver medal position in a thrilling 200m freestyle finale.

Individual star of the weekend for the Dolphins was Isabel Turner, who won gold in the 400m (5.02.22) and 800m freestyle (10.15.22) to add to her relay rewards.

Rhyseren Taylor kept her company, tucking in for bronze and silver in the same events to take her sparkling medal haul to four for the first session.

Yet another Dolphin girl, Verity Telford, narrowly missed out on making it a Southampton one, two, three in the 800m.

Sophie Hawkes (14) flew off the blocks in the 400m individual medley, leading out the two Jersey Tigers swimmers in the butterfly leg only to be overhauled in the backstroke.

Fighting back in the breast-stroke leg, Sophie made up a two-



Southampton Dolphins' County Championship medal winners

ABOVE (from left): Nathan Lewis, Issy Turner, Rhyserren Taylor, Verity Telford, Evie Turner, James Cummings-Candal
BELOW: Ellena Lewis, Emily Lowther, Sophie Hawkes and Vicky Butler

second gap to come away with an impressive silver medal.

County debutant James Cummings-Candal (14) rose to the occasion, leading out the boys with silver in the 400m freestyle and a personal best fifth in the 1500m.

Nathan Lewis, meanwhile, was delighted to come away with a silver medal from the 10/11 400m freestyle.

Fourteen-year-old Kate Baxter put up a great fight in the 800m freestyle.

Saluting her efforts, head coach Chris White said: "Kate is a power swimmer, so she did well to pick up a medal against these taller girls."

"It's not her best event, she will have her moment in the coming weekends."

Delighted with his young team's performance, White was particularly pleased to see one of his protégés swim again after courageously fighting back from illness.

"Isabel (Fraser-Corbridge) had a life-threatening brain haemorrhage last year, so it's great to see her back in the pool racing again," he said. "I think the whole team is inspired by her bravery coming back to training."

