

Media release for Active Nation Diving Programme, Southampton

TALENT IDENTIFICATION FOR DIVING

Could your child be the next Tom Daley?

The Active Nation Diving Programme, based at the Quays Swimming and Diving Complex, is looking for children aged 6 – 11 years who show an aptitude for competitive diving with a view to fast-tracking them in the sport.

During the summer term coaches from the programme have visited selected Primary Schools in a search for new talent. Children have undertaken a series of simple exercises designed to demonstrate their suitability for inclusion in the scheme. The coaches are looking for children who are up for a challenge, well co-ordinated and flexible. They also need to have a competitive streak.

In 2004 a similar search unearthed thirty children to take part in the scheme. Of these ten have competed in the highest possible national competitive programme: Junior Elites. Currently four are training with the Southern England Squad, a further one with the England Development Squad and one with the British Development Squad. Two divers have competed for Great Britain. One of the divers emigrated and is now in the Australian national team. Last week Rosie Medlock (16) took the bronze medal in the girls' platform event at the Junior European Championships.

The search was repeated in 2009 and 2010. Twenty one members of the '09 squad and seven of the '10 squad are now competing at national level. Sixteen are members of the England Talent Squad.

Lindsey Fraser, Diving Development Officer at the Quays, who heads up the scheme, has now decided to issue an open invitation to members of the public to take part in the assessment. "We are committed to searching out the children with the greatest potential to succeed," she explained. "We are incredibly fortunate in Southampton to have the resources and opportunities to take youngsters right to the top of the sport and we want to make sure that we offer that chance to anyone who is able to embrace it and make the most of their talent."

If you think your child may show the attributes needed to become a successful diver and would like them to take part in Phase 1 of testing, please contact the Diving Office (023 8072 0922 / lindsey.fraser@activenation.org.uk) to obtain an application form. At this stage children do not necessarily need to be able to swim. There will be two dates for the first stage of testing, which will take place at the Quays:

- Saturday 30th July, 4 – 5pm
- Saturday 13th August, 4 – 5pm

You will only need to attend one of these. The session is free of charge.

ENDS

For further details call the Diving Office on 023 8072 0922

Email: lindsey.fraser@activenation.org.uk

Photo opportunities can be arranged