



Spring Masters

Media release for Southampton Diving Academy

The most mature team from the Southampton Diving Academy underlined the club's ability to perform at all levels when they competed in the GBDF (Great Britain Diving Federation) National Spring Masters Championships at the Quays on Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March.

Despite having two of the strongest members of the team unable to compete due to injury and a third having to withdraw during the highboard event, the remaining group of nine divers took 7 gold, 4 silver and 2 bronze medals between them.

The competition had attracted divers from all over Great Britain and a competitor from Australia, giving the team some real opposition.

The most successful member of the team was Taz Hollingum, who took all of the three possible gold medals for the Men's 16 – 24 years age group. Sam Youles also had an outstanding weekend. Diving consistently well throughout she took two gold medals in the Women's 30 – 39 years springboard events and a gold in the novice platform competition.

For Ian Hammond this was his first ever competition, having joined the club only 2 months ago. Team mates Claire Atkin and Sarah Bayless were hardly more experienced, the event being only their second and third opportunities to compete respectively. Despite this they all put in good performances and achieved excellent results.

Coach, Chris Jenkins, was delighted with the outcome of the weekend. "Although many of the team have only taken up diving as adults," she explained, "they have all developed at a tremendous rate and are achieving excellent results at a very high level."

There are high hopes that at least two of the team, Taz Hollingum and Tony Hunter, will dive in the World Masters Championships next year.

Full results were as follows:

Taz Hollingum, 1m gold, 3m gold, platform gold; Vince Toner, 1m silver; Sam Youles, 1m gold, 3m gold, novice platform gold; Daniel Rechert, 1m silver, 3m silver, platform silver; Sarah Bayless, 1m gold; Claire Atkin, 1m bronze; Tony Hunter, 3m gold; Derek Dearden, 1m silver; Ian Hammond, 1m bronze, 3m 4th.

ENDS

For further details call the Director of Coaching, Lindsey Fraser: 023 8072 0922.

Please note photo opportunities can be arranged.