



Making a Splash at the British Nationals

Media release for Southampton Diving Academy

Members of the Southampton Diving Academy made a significant impact at the British Diving Championships held at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield from 7th – 9th February.

In total 10 members of the Southampton club traveled north for the event, coming back with a total of 4 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals between them.

Not surprisingly Pete Waterfield was the most outstandingly successful member of the group, taking gold both on 1m individually and on highboard in the synchro event. In addition to this he also gained the silver medal on 10m highboard.

In the 10m synchro event, diving with his established partner Leon Taylor, Pete set a new British record, taking first position with a massive 358.86 points. This bodes well for their world challenge later this year, particularly now that training together has become so much easier with the provision of suitable synchro facilities at the Quays.

Despite conceding first place to his synchro partner in the individual 10m event, Pete still managed to be the first European diver ever to score over 100 points on a single dive, which he achieved with his back two and a half somersaults with two and a half twists.

At the other end of the age spread Ellie Steele (11) was one of the youngest girls diving in the Junior Olympic Programme Trial. She managed to achieve a bronze medal on 3m and 4th places on 1m and highboard.

"This was an excellent result for Ellie at this stage in her diving career," said a delighted Lindsey Fraser, her coach. "She has recently been selected to take part in the prestigious World Class Start programme and that selection was certainly shown to be justified this weekend."

The other medals that came home to Southampton were won by Luke De Ste Croix and Ciaran O'Reilly, who took the bronze position in the junior 3m synchro event and Charly Tomkys and Natalie Hill, who took the gold in an uncontested highboard synchro event and silver in the 3m synchro, scoring a personal best for this event.

Natalie and Charly were also both ranked second in their respective age groups on the 1m board, whilst Gary Hunt in his first year as a senior took 6th places on 1m and highboard and 9th place on 3m.

To come in the top six nationwide is a considerable achievement and every member of the team succeeded in doing just that in at least one of the events they entered.

Full results were as follows:

Natalie Hill, 9th senior & 6th junior on 1m, 7th senior & 4th junior on platform, 5th senior & *silver* junior on 3m synchro, *gold* on junior platform synchro, **Charly Tomkys**, 6th senior & 4th junior on 1m, 5th senior & *silver* junior on 3m synchro, *gold* on junior platform synchro, **Anna Bennett-Britton**, 16th senior & 12th junior on 1m, 15th senior & 10th junior on platform, 7th senior & 4th junior on 3m synchro, **Patrick O'Reilly**, 15th senior & 9th junior on 1m, 13th senior & 5th junior on 3m, 4th on 3m junior synchro, **Gary Hunt**, 6th on 1m, 8th on 3m, 6th on highboard, **Luke De Ste Croix**, 17th senior & 11th junior on 1m, *bronze* on 3m junior synchro, **Ciaran O'Reilly**, 16th senior & 10th junior on 1m, 14th senior & 6th junior on 3m, *bronze* on 3m junior synchro, **Robert Appleby**, 11th senior & 8th junior on 1m, 11th senior & 4th junior on 3m, 4th on 3m junior synchro, **Peter**



Waterfield, *gold* in 1m, *silver* on highboard, *gold* on 10m synchro, **Ellie Steele**, 4th on 1m, *bronze* on 3m, 4th on platform

ENDS

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

Please note photo opportunities can be arranged.