



# National Masters Championships

## Media release for Southampton Diving Academy

A team of six divers from Southampton Diving Academy travelled to Sheffield to compete in the Great Britain Masters' Summer Championships on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July.

Covering age groups from 16 – 24years through to 50 – 59 years, the team made a significant impact on the event, bringing back 11 medals with them from the 14 events they entered. Of these 4 were gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze.

Maintaining his consistent success in Masters' Competitions, Tony Hunter dived to his usual high standard to bring back gold medals in all of his three events.

The fourth gold for Southampton was won by Taz Hollingum in the Men's 16 – 24 years 3m event, despite a back injury, which later forced him to withdraw from the 1m event.

Also performing well, Derek Dearden, took medals in all of his three events in the Men's 50 – 59 years category.

Both female members of the team, Sam Youles and Sarah Bayless, were breaking new ground and moving into new areas of competition. Sam entered the Ladies' B highboard event for the first time, managing to achieve a bronze medal on her first attempt with a more challenging list of dives. She also used a new repertoire of dives which allowed her to move up from Ladies' B category into Championships on the 1m board, where she took 4<sup>th</sup> position, getting within striking distance of another medal. On the 3m board her new dives allowed her to take the bronze medal.

Sarah moved from novice into Ladies' B category on 1m, taking 6<sup>th</sup> place on her first attempt at this level of competition. On her first ever attempt at the 3m board she took silver in the novice section.

Continuing to improve his performance, Ben Toner took a silver medal on the 3m board and 4<sup>th</sup> position on the 1m in the Men's 25 -29 year age group.

Coach, Chris Jenkins, was very pleased with the outcome of the weekend. "This section of the club is going from strength to strength," she said. "They are really making a mark on the national Masters scene and are all making considerable personal progress. It is a real privilege to be able to contribute to their success."

### Full results were:

Sarah Bayless, Ladies' B 1m 6<sup>th</sup>, Ladies' novice 3m silver  
Derek Dearden, Men's 50-59 1m bronze, 3m bronze, highboard silver  
Tony Hunter, Men's 40-49 1m gold, 3m gold, highboard gold  
Sam Youles, Ladies' B 30-39 1m 4<sup>th</sup>, 3m bronze, highboard bronze  
Ben Toner, Men's 25-29 1m 4<sup>th</sup>, 3m silver  
Taz Hollingum, Men's 16-24 3m gold

**ENDS**

**For further details call the Publicity Officer, Anne Clewlow on 023 8022 1707.**

**Please note photo opportunities can be arranged.**