



National Intermediate Competitions

Media release for Southampton Diving Academy

Twelve youngsters from the Southampton Diving Academy's Elite Squad represented the club at the Amateur Swimming Association's National Intermediate Age-Group Competitions held at Crystal Palace on Friday 18th to Sunday 20th July.

One of the most successful clubs at the event, they took 11 medals in the 18 events they entered between them: 4 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze awards.

Dayne Mulford (15), one of the oldest members of the team, had a particularly successful weekend. Diving with greatly improved consistency he took a bronze, silver and gold medal in his three events.

At the other end of the age range Max Brick (10), the only other team member to compete in three events, took gold on platform, bronze on 3m and a 5th position on 1m after hitting the board with his feet during his back dive. This was a particularly outstanding result, having achieved 21st on the 1m board just two months ago in the National Novice competitions, which is the standard below intermediates.

"I am thrilled with his result," enthused his coach, Charly Tomkys. "He is making remarkable progress and has great potential for the future."

Melissa Harley (15) also performed very well, taking gold on 3m and silver on platform. Her 3m result was particularly creditable, since it represented an average score of 29.6 points per dive in comparison to the 23.25 points average she had scored in the National Age-Groups Competitions at the end of June.

The fourth gold was taken by Stephen Appleby (13) on 3m, showing very good form and tackling a range of challenging dives.

Chloe Hendy (13) had a very dramatic start to her 3m competition when the breakdown of the car in which she was travelling to the event resulted in her arriving on poolside just as the official announcement of her withdrawal from the competition was being made! Despite having to undress and go straight into her first dive of the competition without benefit of any practice on the boards, Chloe went on to take the silver medal only a few points behind the gold position. Later in the weekend she added another silver to her haul on the 1m board.

Several divers were hampered by injury at the weekend. Adam Purkis and Kate Hicks were unable to compete due to wrist injuries and Kim Purkis was confined to the 1m board, where she took a silver medal, due to problems with her ears. Nevertheless, the weekend was another success for the club.

Senior coach for the meet, Chris Jenkins, was in no doubt about the outcome. "I am delighted with this result," she said. "Almost without exception they made significant steps forward this weekend. I would hope that the majority of this team will be beyond Intermediates and securely in the Age-Groups bracket by this time next year."



Full results were:

Chloe Hendy, 1m silver, 3m silver
Steve Appleby, 3m gold
Stephen Lingard, 1m 11th
Jack Howsham, 1m 8th
Max Brick, 1m 5th, 3m bronze, platform gold
Dayne Mulford, 1m silver, 3m bronze, platform gold
Vicky Jones, 3m 4th
Kim Purkis, 1m silver
Melissa Harley, 3m gold, platform silver
Robert Knight, 1m 7th
Emily Batt, 1m 12th
Ellie Hill, 1m 9th

ENDS

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

Please note photo opportunities can be arranged.