

## **Media release for Southampton Diving Academy**

# **National Age Groups**

A team of 18 divers from the Southampton Diving Academy, based at the Quays, travelled to Sheffield from 30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June to compete in the ASA National Age Group Diving Competitions and came back with a total of 11 medals between them.

The most successful member of the team was Max Brick (12) who took a gold on highboard, silver on 3m springboard and with team mate Chris Mears (also 12) silver in the 1m synchronised event. Chris also dived well to take a bronze medal in the individual 3m event for his age group.

Max's result also earned him the right to a place in the prestigious Junior Olympic Programme, a national initiative which is open only to those who make very challenging scores at designated competitions. He had already earned the opportunity to represent Great Britain in the Germany and to attend a training camp at the new Olympic facility in Beijing earlier this year. In July he will be travelling to Australia with the Junior British Squad.

Diving in the B Group for boys, Jack Clewlow (14) was recognised as the most improved diver at the meet when he took two bronze medals and two 4<sup>th</sup> positions in a very competitive field. He competed in the 3m synchronised event with Luke Hazelton (also 14) from Luton, forming a new and promising partnership.

Chris Farrow (13) was unlucky on platform where a disastrous last dive cost him a medal, but he made up for this by diving really well on 3m and taking a well deserved bronze medal.

His performance with a great list of optional dives secured Dayne Mulford (16) a bronze medal also on the 3m board, but an injury during the 3m synchronized event unfortunately meant that he and team mate Patrick O'Reilly (17) had to withdraw after a promising start.

Patrick also took a bronze medal on the highboard, using his new reverse 2 ½ somersaults on 10m to good effect.

Teaming up with Stephanie Higgins from Leeds, Emily Alderman (13) did well to take the silver medal in the 1m synchronized event.

The competition was an opportunity for many of the team to qualify for the various national training programmes. Chris Mears and Chris Farrow both re-qualified for the National Junior Talent Programme. Some outstanding performances in particularly tough events should secure many of the younger members of the team places in the Junior Talent Programme's regional squad.

Many of the divers achieved scores which already qualify them to compete in the National Age Groups Competition next year. For those that have not yet done so there will be further opportunities at County and Regional competitions.

Director of Coaching, Lindsey Fraser, was pleased with the results. "I am delighted that we have such a large squad capable of representing the club at this level," she said. "They were able to give a good account of themselves and it is always very satisfying to come home with a good medal haul."

Many of the group will be representing the club alongside team mate Peter Waterfield, Olympic silver medallist, at the Senior National Event to be held at the Quays on 17 – 19<sup>th</sup> June. Spectators are welcome and entrance to the viewing gallery is free.

Full results were as follows:

**1m:** Georgia Wingrove, 6<sup>th</sup>; Bethany Watts, 7<sup>th</sup>; Rachel Holland, 12<sup>th</sup>; Emily Alderman, 5<sup>th</sup>; Ellie Steel, 7<sup>th</sup>; Anna Bennett-Britton, 10<sup>th</sup>; Stephen Lingard, 11<sup>th</sup>; Alexander Cameron, 13<sup>th</sup>; Max Gennings, 14<sup>th</sup>; Ciaran Allen, 15<sup>th</sup>; Chris Mears, bronze; Chris Farrow, 4<sup>th</sup>; Max Brick, 9<sup>th</sup>; Jack Howsham, 13<sup>th</sup>; Jack Clewlow, 4<sup>th</sup>; Adam Purkis, 12<sup>th</sup>; Dayne Mulford, 4<sup>th</sup>; Patrick O'Reilly, 6<sup>th</sup>

**3m:** Georgia Wingrove, 8<sup>th</sup>; Bethany Watts, 9<sup>th</sup>; Rachel Holland, 12<sup>th</sup>; Emily Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup>; Ellie Steel, 13<sup>th</sup>; Stephen Lingard, 16<sup>th</sup>; Alexander Cameron, 12<sup>th</sup>; Max Gennings, 13<sup>th</sup>; Ciaran Allen, 15<sup>th</sup>; Chris Mears, 9<sup>th</sup>; Chris Farrow, bronze; Max Brick, silver; Jack Clewlow, bronze; Dayne Mulford, bronze; Patrick O'Reilly, 5<sup>th</sup>

**Highboard:** Georgia Wingrove, 9<sup>th</sup>; Bethany Watts, 10<sup>th</sup>; Rachel Holland, 11<sup>th</sup>; Emily Alderman, 6<sup>th</sup>; Ellie Steel, 7<sup>th</sup>; Anna Bennett-Britton, 7<sup>th</sup>; Stephen Lingard, 15<sup>th</sup>; Alexander Cameron, 10<sup>th</sup>; Max Gennings, 13<sup>th</sup>; Ciaran Allen, 12<sup>th</sup>; Chris Mears, 5<sup>th</sup>; Chris Farrow, 6<sup>th</sup>; Max Brick, gold; Jack Howsham, 10<sup>th</sup>; Jack Clewlow, 4<sup>th</sup>; Adam Purkis, 5<sup>th</sup>; Dayne Mulford, 4<sup>th</sup>; Patrick O'Reilly, bronze

**Synchronised:** Stephanie Higgins (Leeds) & Emily Alderman, silver; Georgia Wingrove & Rachel Holland, 5<sup>th</sup>; Kate Hicks & Bethany Watts, 7<sup>th</sup>; Anna Bennett-Britton & Melissa Harley, 6<sup>th</sup>; Max Brick & Chris Mears, silver; Chris Farrow & Jack Howsham, 6<sup>th</sup>; Alexander Cameron & Max Gennings, 8<sup>th</sup>; Luke Hazelton (Luton) & Jack Clewlow, bronze

**ENDS**

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

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