

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

# **Schools' Diving**

Pupils from over 40 schools in Southampton and the surrounding area took part in the third Southampton Schools' Diving Competition held at the Quays on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. In all there were over 80 entrants from children in school years 1 – 8.

The event was opened by Peter Waterfield, Olympic silver medallist and Commonwealth gold medallist, demonstrating a spectacular dive from the 10m board. This was followed by dives from a number of the most successful members of the Elite team of the Southampton Diving Academy and a comedy routine. After the lunch break members of the Academy treated spectators to a stunning display of dives in a cleverly choreographed routine to music. Members of the 'A' team led by Alison Farrow also featured in the poolside demonstration.

Peter later joined other officials from the diving academy on the judging panel for several of the events.

For many of the entrants this was their first competition experience. Opening with two rounds of jumps from the bath side and concluding with one skill from the 1m springboard, the most complex dive executed was a back dive, attempted by only three of the competitors.

The most successful competitor was Senna Leighton (10) who took the gold medal in the boys' year 5 & 6 category with a record score for any event of 122.3 points, almost 30 points ahead of the previous record.

Other gold medallists were William Rigelsford (7), Bryony Robins (6), Sam Bass-Cooper (9), Eleanor Phillips (8), Danielle Beckett (11), Joshua Smith (12) and Beverley Angove (12).

The winning Primary School team was St Monica Junior, with three of their members in the top 6 of their events. Sam Bass-Cooper took a gold medal in the year 3 & 4 category, Ryan Strudwick (10) a silver in the year 5 & 6 event and Hannah Milam (10) took the rosette for 6<sup>th</sup> place also in the year 5 & 6 age group.

The Secondary School trophy went to Woolston Language College. Team members Beverley Angove (12) and Luke Jakes (12) took gold and 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Medals and trophies were presented by the mayor of Southampton, Councillor Edwina Cooke and Tim Haynes from Tim Haynes Ltd Yacht Riggers and Consultants, the company sponsoring the event.

Other guests at the event included Councillor Anne Milton.

The competitors experienced a day to remember. Parents were delighted with the success of the event. "I would like to pass on my congratulations to you and every one else who put so much work into the diving competition on Saturday, my whole family really enjoyed the day!" was the emailed comment of one.

Lindsey Fraser, Director of Coaching for the Southampton Diving Academy, was very impressed by the standards achieved. "Twenty five of today's competitors surpassed the score of last year's record holder," she said. "This is a clear indication of the impressive improvement in standards that I have been seeing across the diving scheme here in Southampton."

The talent identification programme initiated by British Diving in Southampton in November last year contributed half of all the medallists in the primary section of the competition, although they only represented 21% of all entrants. Steve Gladding, recently seconded to the club as an Elite Coach, sponsored by lottery funding, thinks this new approach will have a significant impact across the whole of the sport in Southampton. "This is a very exciting new initiative," he explained. "Even in the few months since the programme has been launched here in Southampton we can see it has had a significant impact on the levels our children are achieving. The standard of diving I saw here today was very impressive. I think every one of those youngsters we saw performing today should be very proud of what they can do, particularly bearing in mind how new they are to the sport. It was a wonderful event."

Full results were as follows:

### **Girls**

Bryony Robins (St Patrick's Primary), gold; Carrerra Lydon (St John's Infant & Nursery), silver; Lucy Baines (Hiltingbury Infant), bronze; Fatima Zahid (Hamble Primary), 4<sup>th</sup>; Eleanor Phillips (Springhill), gold; Kate Howsham (Foxhills Junior), silver; Martha Fairman (St Patrick's Primary), bronze; Eleanor Gennings (Abbotswood Junior), bronze; Bethany Gibbons (Shamblehurst Primary), 5<sup>th</sup>; Louise Brown (Abbotswood Junior), 7<sup>th</sup>; Annabelle Harris (Bitterne Park Junior), 8<sup>th</sup>; Francesca Beckett (Cupernham Junior), 9<sup>th</sup>; Elizabeth Wood (Springhill), 10<sup>th</sup>; Olivia Hookings (Bitterne Park Junior), 11<sup>th</sup>; Ellie Hemsley (Abbotswood Junior), 12<sup>th</sup>; Emma Whiteley (Hamble Primary), 13<sup>th</sup>; Kadia Rose (Bitterne Park Junior), 14<sup>th</sup>; Jennifer Ashton (Berrywood Primary), 15<sup>th</sup>; Danielle Beckett (Ludlow Junior), gold; Julie Atkinson (Netley Abbey Junior), silver; Anna Stonehouse (Hamble Primary), bronze; Megan Pugh (Crofton Hammond Junior), 4<sup>th</sup>; Sophie Botting (Weston Park Junior), 5<sup>th</sup>; Hannah Milam, (St Monica Junior), 6<sup>th</sup>; Jessica Barnes (Foundry Lane Primary), 7<sup>th</sup>; Avril Ward (Nightingale Primary), 7<sup>th</sup>; Daisy Haynes (South Baddesley Primary), 9<sup>th</sup>; Roisin Hickson (Abbotswood Junior), 10<sup>th</sup>; Laura Steege (Ludlow Junior), 11<sup>th</sup>; Rachael Reed (Bitterne Manor Primary), 12<sup>th</sup>; Bethan Phillips (Springhill), 13<sup>th</sup>; Grace Riley (Springhill), 14<sup>th</sup>; Jessica Puckett (Tanners Brook Junior), 15<sup>th</sup>; Emily Westmore (St James Primary), 16<sup>th</sup>; Danielle Barnes (Foundry Lane Primary), 17<sup>th</sup>; Kate Freeman (St Monica Junior), 18<sup>th</sup>; Beverley Angove (Woolston Language College), gold; Jade Wellstead (Hamble College), silver; Kerri Audoire (Mountbatten), bronze

## **Boys**

William Rigelsford (Bitterne Park Infant), gold; Brendon Coe (Foundry Lane Primary), silver; Benjamin Holland (Hazelwood Infant), bronze; Daniel Whitehead (Stoke Park Infant), 4<sup>th</sup>; Lewys Oakley (Weston Park Infant), 5<sup>th</sup>; Luke Baker (Stoke Park Infant), 6<sup>th</sup>; Jordan Gregson (Bitterne Manor Primary), 7<sup>th</sup>; Sam Bass-Cooper (St Monica Junior), gold; Brandon Parker (St Mark's Junior), silver; Bradley Horton (Sarisbury Junior), bronze; Elliott Pope (Hollybrook Junior), 4<sup>th</sup>; Bradley Bennett (Tanners Brook Junior), 5<sup>th</sup>; Callum-Lee Barnes (Mansel Junior), 6<sup>th</sup>; Thomas Braxton (Cupernham Junior), 7<sup>th</sup>; Antony Hockey (Tanners Brook Junior), 8<sup>th</sup>; Connor Deighton (Heathfield Junior), 9<sup>th</sup>; Hassen Zahid (Hamble Primary), 10<sup>th</sup>; Senna Leighton (Locks Heath Junior), gold; Ryan Strudwick (St Monica Junior), silver; Jordan Owton (Foundry Lane Primary), bronze; Andrew Tilson (Bitterne Park Junior), 4<sup>th</sup>; Mitchell Bennett (Springhill), 5<sup>th</sup>; Connor Oakley (Weston Park Junior), 6<sup>th</sup>; James Smith (Tanners Brook Junior), 7<sup>th</sup>; Alex Woods (St Patrick's Primary), 8<sup>th</sup>; Jamie Munday (St James Primary) 9<sup>th</sup>; David Harris (St Monica Junior), 10<sup>th</sup>; Elliott Olsen (Abbotswood Junior), 11<sup>th</sup>; James Adam (Foxhills Junior), 12<sup>th</sup>; Richard Day (Rownhams, St John's), 13<sup>th</sup>; Dan Sharpe (St James Primary), 14<sup>th</sup>; Thomas Penny (St James Primary), 15<sup>th</sup>; Daniel Wiseman (Charlton House), 16<sup>th</sup>; Joshua Smith (Bellemoor), gold; Daniel Blake (Bay House, Gosport), silver; Charlie Rigelsford (Bitterne Park Secondary), bronze; Luke Jakes (Woolston Language College), 4<sup>th</sup>; Nick Wiseman (The Westgate, Winchester), 5<sup>th</sup>; Thomas Pocock (Noadswood), 6<sup>th</sup>

## **Primary Teams**

St Monica Junior, 1<sup>st</sup>; St Patrick's Primary, 2<sup>nd</sup>; Foundry Lane Primary, 3<sup>rd</sup>; Springhill Catholic Primary, 4<sup>th</sup>; Hamble Primary, 5<sup>th</sup>; Ludlow Junior, 6<sup>th</sup>; Foxhills Junior, 7<sup>th</sup>; Abbotswood Junior, 8<sup>th</sup>; Stoke Park Infant, 9<sup>th</sup>; Bitterne Park Junior, 10<sup>th</sup>; Tanners Brook Junior, 11<sup>th</sup>; Weston Park Junior, 11<sup>th</sup>; Bitterne Manor Primary, 13<sup>th</sup>; Cupernham Junior, 13<sup>th</sup>; St James Primary, 14<sup>th</sup>

## **Secondary Teams**

Woolston Language College, 1<sup>st</sup>

**ENDS**

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

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