

PRESS RELEASE FROM SOUTHAMPTON DIVING ACADEMY

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SOUTHAMPTON DIVERS DOMINATE IN DUBLIN

Young divers from Southampton Diving Academy took the Irish Open National Championships by storm at the weekend. For many it was their first international competition, with Dublin hosting teams from the UK, Italy and Latvia. But that didn't knock them off their stride, heading home with 12 gold medals on board.

Sophie Kinnard showed tremendous potential taking home two Golds and a Silver in the 10/11 age group.

Leading the charge amongst the boys was Jordan Gregson who totally dominated the Boys 12/13 years event, winning Golds on all three boards. On the 1metre board, Southampton scored a clean sweep with Keiron Sharley taking Bronze and Thomas Wrightson taking the first of his three Silvers.

Brandon Foster was also on top form in the 10/11 age group with two Golds on 3m and Platform with Silver on the 1m board.

Angus Kerr won Gold in the 8/9 Novices event and as Seb Sheath won Silver the coaches remarked on a confident first appearance in a national competition. Harry Talbot took Gold in the same event for 14/15 year olds, hitting his target scores for the next level.

For the Girls, there were two Southampton clean sweeps. The first came in the 10/11 Novices with Champion Lucy Hawkins being followed by team mates Zoe Griffin winning Silver and Charlie Edmonds taking Bronze. Not to be outdone, the 10/11 Age Group divers took all the medals in the Platform event led by a Gold from Phoebe Cartwright, a Silver for Sophie Kinnard and a Bronze for Ellen Morrow. Sophie's success continued the next day, taking Gold on the 1m and 3m boards. These events were a clear demonstration of the strength of Southampton's young girls where the results of the grassroot Southampton diving programme were very clear. In the older 12/13 Age Group, Katya Sheath showed great consistency winning Silver on all three boards.

Caitlyn Crumpler won the Girls 12/13 Novice event against a field of home divers.

Lead Coach Fran Godfroy said "What shone through was the depth of the potential across our team. For the youngest divers especially, diving in an international competition was a new experience and they stepped up to the mark with considerable confidence to top a great overall team performance."

Southampton medallists were: Kieran Sharley (12/13 1m Bronze; Platform Bronze; 3m 4th); Thomas Wrightson (12/13 1m Silver; 3m Silver; Platform Silver); Jordan Gregson (12/13 1m Gold; 3m Gold; Platform Gold); Theo Barnes (10/11 3m Silver; 1m Bronze; Platform Bronze); Brandon Foster (10/11 3m Gold; Platform Gold; 1m Silver); Astou Sidibe (8/9 Novice Silver); Lucy Hawkins (10/11 Novice Gold); Zoe Griffin (10/11 Novice Silver); Charlie Edmonds (10/11 Novice Bronze); Katya Sheath (12/13 1m Silver; 3m Silver; Platform Silver); Caitlin Crumpler (12/13 Novice Gold); Angus Kerr (8/9 Novice Gold); Sebastian Sheath (8/9 Novice Silver); Phoebe Cartwright (9/10 Platform Gold; 3m Silver; 1m 4th); Sophie Kinnard (10/11 1m Gold; 3m Gold; Platform Silver); Ellen Morrow (10/11 Platform Bronze; 1m 5th; 3m 4th); Callum Weldon (14/15 Platform Bronze; 1m 6th; 3m 5th); Tom Balysz (12/13 Novice Silver).

Other members of the Southampton Diving Academy team were: Tyler Lane (10/11 1m 4th; 3m 4th; Platform 5th); Lauren Bailey (8/9 Novices 4th); Jade Brindley (10/11 Novices 4th); Dylan Lakeman-Brown (10/11 1m 5th; Platform 4th); Charlotte Lemon (10/11 1m 7th; 3m 6th; Platform 4th).





Dublin 2011