

HCASA Diving Annual report 08/09

Although this was another very busy year for Divers in Hampshire there were again no Hampshire Diving Competitions as it is very difficult to persuade the only active Club to find time in what is a busy diving timetable.

The highlights of the year obviously was the Beijing Olympic Games. Hampshire was represented by 1 Coach, Lindsey Fraser, and 3 Divers, Peter Waterfield, Blake Aldridge and Stacie Powell. Three divers was the highest number of divers sent by any club in Great Britain. Stacie Powell was one of only 3 divers on the British team entered for more than one event in Beijing and she is one of only 2 British female divers to have made 2 Olympic finals at the same Games.

Gary Hunt competed in the world high diving series, taking 4th place overall.

Twelve members of Southampton Diving Academy (SDA) made a significant impact at the British and English National championships at the Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield from 5th to 7th February 2009. They took an amazing 13 British and 15 English medals including 6 British golds and 7 English golds. They also won the Men's team championship and were Women's runners-up.

At the English Schools Diving Competition in November, Division 12 were the winners and all members of the team are members of Southampton Diving Academy.

Young Southampton diver Max Brick has taken a huge step towards the London 2012 Olympics, winning a silver medal at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in Sydney, in the synchronised 10 metre event. Max, 16, took silver alongside partner James Milton, 14, and in doing so became the first diver from Southampton ever to win a medal at the event.

In his first appearance at the Youth Olympics, Max performed well in his first event - the 10m individual platform - finishing just outside the medals in fourth place.

At the recent British Junior Elite Championships divers from Hampshire collected 4 Gold, 15 Silver and 8 Bronze medals and on the strength of her performance, Georgie Wingrove and Rachel Holland have been confirmed by the Selection Panel to represent Great Britain at next month's Junior European Diving Championships in Budapest, Hungary (July 1st – 5th). Georgie is selected to dive in the 1m and platform Girls B events and Georgie and Rachel will be diving Platform Synchro.

Masters diving is still active in Hampshire with divers taking 13 Gold and 22 Silver medals at the 3 GBDF National Competitions in the last 12 months.

Frank Clewlow
HCASA Diving Secretary