

Jubbly 658

19th November 2008

Raining medals in Dublin

Plymouth Diving team takes the Irish Open Diving Championships by storm with 18 medals!

Plymouth's top diving juniors were in action in the Irish capital Dublin over the weekend and went up against not only the Irish but also strong contenders from England and Scotland. Taking top honours, **Elliott Hatherley** 17, who was diving in the senior events, took home an impressive three gold medals beating his team mate **Harry Glover** also 17 into second place in a great battle over three different diving boards. Elliott known as a platform specialist also won the two springboard events showing great versatility. **Aaron Walters** aged 15 and **Matthew Dixon** aged 8 came out with two gold medals and a silver medal each in their respective age groups.

Aaron who is the current English national silver medalist in his age group added two Irish Open titles to his collection and following in his footsteps, tiny Matthew Dixon was competing in the same events and took his medals in the 8/9 age group. Both boys look to be contenders for the British Elite Junior Championships next May. Also taking medals were **Shanice Lobb**, **Ashley Hendrick** and **Drew Cunningham** in the 10/11 and 12/13 age groups respectively. Shanice has made the jump to age group diving from novice diving over the past few months and has an impressive set of dives at a young age. Most of these were new dives and she was trying them out for the first time in competition. She came away with silver and bronze medals in her age group and also hopes to compete in the British Elite Juniors next year.

Ashley and Drew were in direct competition in the 12/13 age group and it was a great battle between the two with Ashley just beating Drew by 3 points in the 1 metre event and the platform events with the boys collecting the silver and bronze medals in the latter. In the 3 metre springboard Ashley dived great to take the silver medal in his least favourite event. Both divers will hope to have enough skills in their repertoire for next May's big event.

Plymouth also had medalists in the Novice events. **Matthew King** took gold in the boys 14 + age group, **Milly Wood** took the silver medal in the girls 14 + age group and **Laura Grubb** took bronze in the girls 12/13 age group. All these divers will be working hard to see if they can compete in the English National Age Group Competitions next year. Young **Ollie Piper** aged 8 was competing in the 8/9 years event and had a ding-dong battle with a diver from Crystal Palace in London where the lead changed hands several times over the course of the 12 skill event. Ollie eventually was an agonising 0.15 from the gold medal and had to settle for silver but will now be looking to expand his repertoire of dives to also compete at the English National Age Groups next year.

Other results from the team were: **Abbey Douglas**: 8th place 8/9 Novice, **Greg Kennedy**: 5th place 10/11 Novice, **Summer Herbert**: 19th place 10/11 Novice, **Alfie Wills**: 11th place 12/13 Novice, **Laurence Coath**: 13th place 12/13 Novice, **Jenny Bunsell** 3 x 5th places 10/11 Junior, **Charlie Wood** 7th & 8th places 14+ Junior, **Connor Figg**: 5th, 10th & 13th places 14+ Junior, **Mark Shute** 6th place 14+ Junior, **Charlie Cooke** 9th & 11th places 14+ Junior, **Ashleigh Thatcher** 2 x 5th places Women's 1m & 3m.

Fito is World High Dive Silver Medalist!!!

Fito was recently in action over in Mexico at the 2008 World High Diving Championships diving on a platform that had been temporarily built on the end of a pier at the top of a scaffolding tower, a whopping 26 metres in the air!

The last time Fito had competed at this level was over 7 years ago and his only training had been from our own 10 metre board at Central Park. He had to compete three different dives and his choices were reverse somersault piked, reverse triple somersault with tuck and back double somersault with 4 twists! (see pic) He nailed all three dives and finished in a fantastic 2nd place behind former World Champion Steve Black from Australia. Fito was second ahead of Laurent Fischer from France. Well done Fito!



White Rose 2008

Plymouth returned from the White Rose competition in Leeds with some excellent results and some new rising stars in the making. Max Tipping in the Club A group made it into the boys 10/11 years final in 5th place but dived brilliantly in the final and pulled up to the silver medal position in the final. Ryan Wills from C squad was diving in the boys 12/13 year age group and justified his recent promotion by winning his age category after finishing 3rd in the preliminary. Joanne Cowen from Club A group was diving in the girls 14+ age group and had also won the Harrogate Hydro Novices title earlier this year so was looking for victory again. She qualified in third place over the longer list of dives but did three excellent dives in the final and won easily ahead of competition from Leeds, Halifax and Bradford. Other results from the Plymouth team: Abbie Braddon (12/13) 9th, Olivia Dixon (12/13) 19th, Tierney Figg (12/13) 21st, Lucy Allan (12/13) 22nd, Shana Vallance (10/11) 20th, Katie Rollinson (10/11) 25th, Becky Wardle (10/11) 35th, Jessica Lidstone (8/9) 8th, Eloise King (8/9) 14th, Owen Weymouth (10/11) 7th, Thomas Dixon (10/11) 13th, Euan Cunningham (8/9) 8th.

Club Christmas Development Competitions 2008

The Christmas Club Development Competitions have been arranged for the 13th December and there will be events for all levels from Flip n Fun up to Senior level. Look out for entry forms from your teachers/coaches. Events start at 11.30am.

Armada Cup 2009

Yes it's that time of year again! We are now focusing on our Armada Cup competition which is scheduled for 19-22 Feb 09. As ever we are looking for volunteers to help with recording, marshalling, selling programmes etc. If you would be able to help for a portion of the weekend (or all of it!) then please let us know at plymouthdiving@aol.com. Thanks everyone!

COACH FOCUS!!! *FALLON PERKS*

Fallon is now the lead coach at Club Group level and will be working the divers towards the Skills events over the coming year. Fallon started volunteer coaching in 2002 and became one of the regular coaches soon after. She is currently finishing her university degree in Sports Coaching and Conditioning and spends most of her week commuting between Plymouth and Gloucester!!

Another interesting fact about Fallon is that she has a Black Belt in Taekwondo and also competed at international level!!