

Jubbly 664

14th May 2009

Tom Takes Silver in World Series

Tom Daley was in action last weekend at the World Series Leg Three in Sheffield. He had managed to make the final in Changzou, China in Leg Two and took bronze there. In a thrilling competition in Sheffield he once again made the final of the men's 10 metre platform, this time along with the current Olympic Champion, Matt Mitcham from Australia.

The stage was set for an awesome final competition with Tom and Matt joined by Qui and Liang from China who also finalled in Changzou. The lead changed hands all the way through the event with Tom taking the lead before the final round sending the crowd into a screaming frenzy! And so it came down to a nail biter last round with Tom having the lowest degree of difficulty so needing something amazing. Liang actually dropped his twister slightly but Qui pulled up a bit with his. Mitcham was too far behind at this point to do anything.

Tom stepped up with his 3.4 tariff and did his utmost to stay in front but was pipped by 0.70 of a point – how agonizing! He did however beat his nemesis Qui into third place. Qui has beaten him by 2 points in all of their other three encounters – the most notable being the Junior World Championships last year. So Tom was pleased to take silver with another personal best score!

G Star Championships 2009 – Leeds

Plymouth Diving returned from the G Star Championships in Leeds with a gold, silver and two bronze medals. Star of the weekend was Shanice Lobb who made two finals and took a gold and silver respectively in the 1 metre and 5 metre events. This bodes well for the British Elite Junior Championships at the end of May in Sheffield where Shanice will go up against the country's best 10 and 11 year olds in four events. Shanice has made steady improvements since last year and also shone at the Armada Cup, Plymouth in February. All this and she has only been diving for a little over 2 years after she was 'identified' from a schools talent search.

Also grabbing two medals was Matthew Dixon, who at only 9 years of age (just!) was competing against 10 and 11 year olds. He made all three of his finals and then went on to win two bronze medals in the 1 metre and 3 metre events. Matthew was also identified in the same talent search as Shanice two years ago and to make it a family affair – the two are also cousins! Matthew also makes his debut at the Junior British Championships this May and will probably be the youngest diver at the event – a fantastic achievement!

Emma Barrow was diving in the girls/ladies 16+ platform event and once again put in a strong performance – in this her final year in the sport! Emma has added some tariff this year by learning an inward two and a half somersaults piked from the 10 metre platform and also has strong chances of a medal the British Juniors. Emma finished 4th at the G Star event but was diving against a couple of senior divers so she needs to steady her nerves for the British finals and see how well she does!!

Also making a final was Harry Glover in the tough boys/men's 16+ platform event. Unfortunately for Harry this was a knockout competition and his first dive was not good enough to beat off the other five divers so he had to settle for 6th place on this occasion.

★ STAR OF THE WEEK! ★

Tom Moore – Skills/Z

Tom Moore, another newcomer to the sport has sprinted through the badge scheme completing all 9 grades comfortably in about 5 months, combining Skills Group diving with Z squad. He has been duly rewarded with a place in Club Group A and all his coaches have been mightily impressed with him! Well Done Tom!

It's Tough at the Top!

Well occasionally it's not so bad! Tom Daley, Tonia Couch, Brooke Graddon and coach Andy Banks were all recently in Florida preparing for the Fort Lauderdale Grand Prix.

Sounds awful doesn't it???? The four spent one week training at Coral Springs where some divers on the Great Britain team were undergoing trials for selection to the World Championships in July.

With Tonia and Tom already selected, Brooke still had to wait until a fitness report comes back on Sarah Barrow (formerly Plymouth, now Leeds). Sarah has a back injury that she is battling with and Brooke could have been given a call up to the GB squad for July if Sarah didn't recover in time. This is especially disappointing for Sarah who had a terrific British Championships in February where she took the British title.

AS YOU MAY ALREADY KNOW – TOM WON THE MENS PLATFORM TITLE IN A PERSONAL SCORE OF 554 POINTS WHICH PUTS HIM RIGHT IN THE RECKONING FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE IN JULY! WELL DONE TOM!

TONIA AND BROOKE BOTH MADE THE SEMI FINALS OF THE WOMENS PLATFORM AND JUST MISSED OUT ON PLACES IN THE FINAL.

HOWEVER, AS JUBBLY GOES TO PRESS – IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT BROOKE HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!

Assessments

There have been a number of successful movements up the training structure by Skills and Club divers recently and all Skills divers will be re-assessed at the end of May so that we can move any more that pass the appropriate grades.

Skills B to move to Skills A – must pass Level 5 and Skills A divers are assessed d at Level 7 to see if anyone has an appropriate number of skills to move to the competitive side of the programme – Club group.

<u>CALENDAR - WHEN</u>	<u>WHERE</u>	<u>WHO</u>
<i>National Age Group Champs – 3-5 July</i>	<i>Leeds</i>	<i>Selected divers from C & Club A Squads</i>
<i>World Championships – 17-25 July</i>	<i>Rome, ITALY</i>	<i>Tom, Tonia, Andy</i>
<i>Women's Platform – 17th July</i>		<i>Tonia & Brooke</i>
<i>Men's Platform – 20th July</i>		<i>Tom</i>