

## **ASA ENGLAND TALENT - TID GAMES DIVING COMPETITIONS**

### **LEEDS INTERNATIONAL POOL NOV 2012**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> TID Games for Diving was held this year at the John Charles Sports International Sports Centre in Leeds. Every year the ASA England Talent Programme undertakes a massive search throughout English Primary Schools looking for potential diving champions. Tens of thousands of children are tested each year and come together at the TID Games for an exciting introduction to competitive diving in a fun, friendly and encouraging environment.

The Southend Diving Program regularly carries out talent identification tests in our local Primary Schools and is encouraging children to try the exciting sport of diving that was made even more popular during the Olympics with the great overall results of GB Diving – and a certain young superstar, Tom Daley!

The Southend Diving programme, operated by Parkwood Community Leisure on behalf of Southend Borough Council at their World Class Diving centre, was extremely proud to have a Team of 16 young divers entered in this prestigious annual event.

The divers competed in both the gym and in the pool. In the gym sessions they had to demonstrate their skills on the trampoline, springboards and a diving movement specific floor routine. In the pool they were tested on diving skills on the poolside, 1m & 3m springboards, and the 5m platform. The accumulated scores from each of the three disciplines determined the medals in the Gym and medals in the Pool. The totals points for all the divers in both gym and pool then determined the overall Team placings.

Getting Southend off to a flying start in the Gym Girls 9yrs/under, young Jessie Milham 7yrs put in a fantastic performance that demonstrated the considerable benefits of strength and conditioning gained from her gymnastic background. Out of the 25 divers competing in her group Jessie was consistent throughout and despite strong challenges from some more experienced divers she finished with a very well deserved Gold Medal. In the pool Jessie demonstrated that her gymnastic skills also transfer well to diving when she first qualified for the finals in 6<sup>th</sup> place, and then continued to dive consistently to earn another medal – this time a Bronze. In the same age group Sasha Brook and Lily Widows placed 14 & 17<sup>th</sup> respectively in the Gym and 12<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> in the Pool.

In the Boys 9yrs /under it was the turn of Hudson Lawrence, 9yrs to fly the flag for Southend again in the search for success in both the Gym and Pool. Hudson's strength and determination paid dividends against tough opposition from Crystal Palace and Sheffield divers in a field of 16 youngsters fighting for places in the finals. Hudson made both Finals and finished with a Bronze medal in each section. Young Regan Humphreys, 7yrs, won the hearts of many with his sterling efforts and boundless enthusiasm. In the gym he placed 5<sup>th</sup> and in the pool he narrowly missed making the Finals finishing in a creditable 7<sup>th</sup> place.

In the Girls 10/over events the field was astonishingly strong with 37 entries, and it proved to be a battle field! Southend had 10 girls qualified, demonstrating the depth of talent developing in that age group. In the Gym pride of place and a Bronze medal went to Rebecca Kirby in 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by

Maddy Lister 6<sup>th</sup>, and Olivia Blower 8<sup>th</sup>. Tigi Whitehouse was 13<sup>th</sup>, Lexie Bushnell 14<sup>th</sup>, Nadia Todor-Ward and Francesca Rogers were joint 18<sup>th</sup>, Lily Miles 21<sup>st</sup>, Ceri Ewing and Syreha Allen joint 26<sup>th</sup>. In the pool it was a close fight for the top 6 divers to go qualify for the final. Eventually it was Maddy Lister making it in 5<sup>th</sup> place with team mate Rebecca Kirby missing out by just 5 points in 7<sup>th</sup> spot, with Tigi Whitehouse just behind her in 8<sup>th</sup>. Maddy was determined to move up a few places in the final but everyone else moved up a gear too and despite putting in a brave performance in this her first serious competition she finished in a very respectable 6<sup>th</sup> place out of the field of 37. Other Southend divers: Francesca Rogers finished 17<sup>th</sup> Ceri Ewing 19<sup>th</sup>, Olivia Blower 20<sup>th</sup> Syreha Allen 26<sup>th</sup> Lily Miles 28<sup>th</sup>, Nadia Todor-Ward 29<sup>th</sup>, and Lexie Bushnell 30<sup>th</sup>.

In the Boys 10/11yrs gym competitions Colin Longhurst was the only Southend diver in the field of 15 youngsters. Showing cool composure throughout Colin put in a good performance to qualify for the Final in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Colin then went one better to improve his scores and earn a great 4<sup>th</sup> place - just off the Bronze medal. In the pool Colin was unfortunate not to make the final and settled for a well-earned 8<sup>th</sup> place.

To round off a very successful weekend for the Southend Team it was announced that they had finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall – on just their second appearance at the prestigious TID Games, this was a remarkable achievement. Coach Bill Clark said – ‘Our young divers put everything into the competitions and made us all very proud no matter where they placed. Each did their very best and had a great time mixing with divers from all over the UK. We were delighted to finish in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and would thank all the Southend Primary Schools who have participated in the talent testing program, the School Sports Partnerships, and the Team at Garon Park who helped make it happen. It is through this joint initiative that we are able to offer so many children the opportunity to try diving both for leisure and potentially for competitive diving. We look forward to the next sessions of testing due to start early next year, and to be able to thank the Schools ourselves.’

Southend Schools currently participating in Talent Testing:

Blenheim Primary, Bournemouth Park, Bournes Green Junior, Chalkwell Hall Juniors, Darlington, Earls Hall Juniors, Fairways, Friars Primary, Hamstel Infants & Juniors, Heycroft, Hinguar Primary, Leigh North Street, Milton Hall Primary, Prince Av Foundation, St Georges Primary, Temple Sutton Primary, Thorpe Greenways, Thorpedene Primary, Westborough, Westleigh