

Gavin Brown 'Love to Dive' - 26th February 2011

Poole based, Wessex Diving Club, once again entered a team in the annual Gavin Brown Love to Dive competition held at the Southampton Dive Academy.

The competition saw nearly 100 young divers compete from 7 different clubs based from Luton to London, diving in memory of Gavin Brown who tragically died in 2007, aged just 22 years, following a hit and run accident.

Wessex took 5 medals between them, proving their talent against some much larger clubs.

Our youngest diver, having just turned 10, Caitlin Hodges, was taking part in her first big event. She held her nerve managing to acquire over 100points. An impressive score but still only enough to place her 19th in this category, this set the high standard for the day.

Kai Poxon, also 10, rose to the challenge, scoring 8.5 from one judge for his forward pike fall, the highest score of the day for an individual dive for the club. He finished a credible 5th out of 10 divers, the top 4 places taken by the hosts, Southampton.

The girls 12/13years category also proved to be great event with an extremely high standard being set. Wessex diver Renata Feilla gained her best scores to date and finished 10th.

The Clubs best performances were saved for last in the 14-18 years events. The girls' competition saw Wessex divers Sian Davies, 16, and Kathryn Lawrence, 14 later this year, give 2 consistent performances leaving just half a point between them - Kathryn just pipping Sian to 3rd place and the bronze medal.

For the boys, Ryan Dewey, also 14 later this year, scored 126.40points leaving him in bronze medal position. 16year old Leon Watts however performed to his usual consistently high standard achieving the 2nd highest score of the day. 168.00 points was enough to give him the gold.

It was a great experience for all the divers and a great day for the club. Despite only being a team of 7, Wessex still managed to be placed fourth out of the 7 teams competing. Coaches Pete Morris and Beth Stannard were extremely pleased and proud with the level achieved by all the team. The competition is well organised and great fun and Wessex look forward to competing again next year giving more divers a chance to compete on their first big event!