



## **FIRST DIVING CLUB RECEIVES SWIM 21 ACCREDITATION 06 Sep 2007**

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Based on the principles of Long Term Athlete Development, Swim 21 encourages clubs to specialise in one of four disciplines; Teaching, Skill Development, Competitive Development and Performance.

Launched in 2002 and amended at the beginning of 2006 to incorporate all aquatic disciplines, Swim 21 links in with Sport England's Clubmark scheme and is the ASA's quality mark for clubs.

Albatross, which celebrates its 30th birthday next year currently caters for almost 60 divers and has been working towards swim 21 accreditation since early last year. The club achieved Skill Development accreditation at the end of August, recognising their work with junior athletes, fine-tuning their skills as they take a step towards competitive diving.

Albatross Coach and Swim 21 Co-ordinator Marianne Mullen is delighted to be part of the first diving club in the country to gain this prestigious mark.

"Gaining Swim 21 accreditation is a fantastic achievement for the club," she said. "It represents both the passion and determination of the coaches and parents who support the club in their bid to build a sound future for all those wanting to participate in the sport of diving."

Regional Diving Development Officer for the South Joanna Calvino is pleased with the club's achievement and hopes it has set a standard that others will follow.

"Albatross are the second club to gain Swim21 accreditation for Diving, but the first stand-alone club to go through," she said. "This is a great achievement for a club who has worked extremely hard to gain the Skill Development accreditation."

"It is great to see our smaller clubs leading the way with Swim21 which is helping our clubs improve and strengthen their already existing structures, and that's partly what Swim21 stands for."

"Albatross is a well-established club based in Reading at Central Pool and are really active in developing both athletes, coaches and Diving's Long Term Athlete Development Pathway. The club is hoping to continue to develop and all involved should be proud of their achievement."