

Day 5 - records come tumbling

It was another perfect day in the Blue Hole, whose glassy surface was like the lens covering a deep blue iris. The tarpon have become accustomed to the gangly forms that scurry down and up through the middle of their watery vault, and they cruise languidly out into the open water between the lines to play chicken with the divers as they fall and rise.

Georgina Miller was up too late litigating with a mosquito, so she renounced her dive this morning, and is on a plane back to Great Britain - the 50 mark will have to wait for now! Mads was still feeling squeezed, and Kathryn had noseclip issues, so after three DNS's (did not starts), Megumi Matsumoto (below) was the first to dive, and she landed her first national record of the competition, with a comfortable 58m in free immersion. After a slow start due to an untimely cold Meg is back, and will bear down on the remaining Japanese records she has lost over the last year.



Kerian Hibbs (below) has been chasing qualification for the AIDA World Champs, and he grabbed it today with a super quick 75m CWT dive. There is plenty more in the tank, but equalisation is the rate reducing step.





Davide Carrera (above) made his 4th national record of the competition, with 98m in constant weight. He is running out of whole numbers in the 90's now, and his Italian supporters are begging him to announce something with 3 digits.

The star of the day was again Herbert Nitsch (below being filmed by Dan Burton with a 3D camera), who claimed his second world record, this time in Free Immersion with 109m, breaking the 108m record set by William Trubridge at Vertical Blue 2008. There have been criticisms of his technique (off the bottom his distance gained per arm-pull is 1.5m), but if results justify methods then Herbert cannot be doing anything wrong.





Ryuzo Shinomiya didn't follow through with his 107m attempt, while William Trubridge logged his first positive dive after a stressful week, with a straightforward 101m CWT in 2:53.

Walter Steyn (below) became the first Australian below 300 feet, with a 2:43 constant weight dive to 92m. In the picture below he has already removed his goggles and noseclip in the last few meters of the ascent, and is raising his hand to make the OK sign as he comes to the surface. Just as long as he knows that he can't say "I am OK" while still under the water...



Lucky Leo was last today, and continued his inexorable climb downwards.. Today he turned early at 75m in free immersion, with Rob's national record only 5m away.



All photos courtesy of Frederic Buyle www.nektos.net

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