



# the flamingo pool

## News release and photo

### Grant funded starting blocks tested by Commonwealth Gold Medallist at the Flamingo Pool

Former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Matthew Clay returned to his roots to run two master-class sessions for Chard & District Swimming Club at Flamingo Pool, Axminster.

Matt, now 33, started his swimming career as a young schoolboy training at the Flamingo Pool and went on to win gold in the 50m backstroke event at the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

Matt returned to the Flamingo Pool to train swimming club members, specifically at improving starts and turns, both valuable skills in successful competitive swimming. The starts were from the brand new starting blocks, funded by a grant from Spectrum Housing Group and a donation from Axe Vale Festival.

Club members aged between 7 and 20 attended the workshops with Matt. Despite some younger members being too young to remember Matt, they were all very excited to meet him and to be shown the gold medal that he had won at the Commonwealth Games.

The Flamingo Pool Manager, Steve Buxton said "It was great to see Matt back at the pool, where he has previously trained, and to give inspiration to the new generation of swimmers who train at the pool".

"Thank you to Axe Vale Festival and Spectrum Housing Group for helping to fund this equipment, we hope it will breed more future champions".

The Flamingo Pool, a self-funded charity, was brought to reality by a massive community effort to raise funds following a lottery reversal of decision to fund the project. Local residents opened the 25m pool and the country's first 6m2 hydrotherapy pool open to the public.

Since opening, the Flamingo Pool has installed one of the few Aquagym facilities in the country open to the public, and has piloted a fully funded GP referral scheme helping the elderly, those with disabilities and medical conditions.

The Flamingo Pool embraces eco-friendly technology to lower their carbon footprint and save money. This allows them to provide more activities at the pool.

Both pools are disinfected by Ultra-Violet (UV) light so that the level of chlorine in the pools is approximately a third of a normally disinfected pool.

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**Notes to Editors:**

**The Flamingo Pool**

- The Flamingo Pool is a self-funded charity and community pool widely used by local residents, schools and swimming clubs.
- Website - [www.flamingopool.co.uk](http://www.flamingopool.co.uk)
- Follow us on Twitter - @poolflamingo
- Visit our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/flam.pool](http://www.facebook.com/flam.pool)