


# TAKING THE PLUNGE



**IN AT THE DEEP END:**  
Radzi Chinyanganya  
with Abi Collier at  
Xarifa Underwater  
Hockey Club.

A Blue Peter host dived in to gain an insight into the world of underwater hockey.

BBC presenter Radzi Chinyanganya was shown how to play the sport by Xarifa Underwater Hockey Club member Abi Collier.

Having played the sport for three years, Abi familiarized Radzi with each piece of equipment and then introduced him to the skills necessary to play the game efficiently.

Having been given the basic techniques, Radzi was then able to play amongst the kids during their normal

Friday night session.

Abi, from Ashton, heaped praise on Radzi's performance.

She said: "He did amazingly well, and after the initial messing about, he seemed to be very capable."

Underwater hockey, also known as Octopush, is a limited contact sport in which two teams compete to manoeuvre a puck across the bottom of a swimming pool into the opposing team's goal by propelling it with a pusher.

Although it was Radzi's first attempt at playing the sport, he

needn't have been daunted by the practice, given the club's wealth of experience that spans a lengthy 30 years.

Xarifa regularly enter teams in all four junior categories of the national championships and many of the adults play for the Lancashire Squad.

Despite the club's laudable reputation, they also cater for inexperienced players on Tuesdays at Wright Robinson College, from 7-8pm. The junior club trains every Friday at Dukinfield Swimming Pool.