



Deaf swimmers seek sponsorship in order to fulfil World Championship dream

A group of talented swimmers are looking forward to achieving their dream of representing Great Britain at the 2015 World Deaf Swimming Championships in Texas, USA.

The British team, who should be focused on their final weeks of training, are instead organising and taking part in their own fundraising events in order to raise the £40,000 needed to take them to Texas.

Unfortunately deaf swimming (S15 category) does not feature in the Paralympic Games and so deaf swimmers receive no national lottery funding. This means athletes such as Danielle Joyce, who holds numerous deaf world records, have to pay their own way. Unless that is, they can find a major sponsor to help fund the British team.

The 2015 World Deaf Swimming Championships are set to take place over five days this August and the cost of sending a team of Britain's best deaf swimmers to compete is £40,000. This includes flights fares, hotel costs for fifteen athletes, plus the expenses of two coaches. So until they secure a major sponsor, everyone is doing what

they can to raise money.

Even Head Coach Sam Chamberlin is doing his bit by running the Chester half-marathon, and the team has set up a Just Giving page for online donations: Justgiving.com/GB-DeafSwimming.

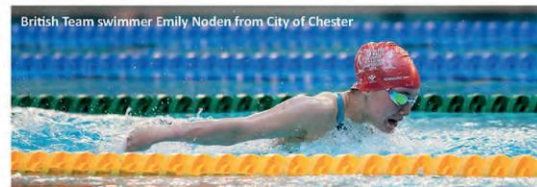
Many of the Great Britain Deaf Swimming Team took part in the National Deaf Long Course Championships at Loughborough University in April, where seven national deaf records and 17 age group records were broken. Chester's Emily Noden and Glasgow's Jack McComish each won four gold medals, with Noden setting two Welsh

records and McComish setting a new Scottish record. Evie Gallen set four new deaf records for Northern Ireland and collected three bronze medals along the way. Gold medals also went to Lucy Walkup in the women's 100m breaststroke and Oliver Kenny in the men's 200m individual medley.

Bill Baillie, UKDS Talent Officer, has worked closely with GBDeaf Swimming and added "over the last 12 months GBDS have made great progress in and out of the pool and are taking the necessary steps forward in their development as a National Deaf Sports



Jasmine Seasmarks from City of Cambridge, one of the British Team swimmers



Organisation. We are happy with the progress the swimmers are making and look forward to a strong team going to 2017 Deaflympics".

The Great Britain Deaf Swimming Team have had a great season so

far and are looking to continue this success in Texas at the 2015 World Deaf Swimming Championships. However unless they can find a major sponsor soon, it looks like most of them will be paying for the privilege of competing.

BRITISH TEAM FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP:

Danielle Joyce, Lucy Walkup (University of Stirling), Emily Noden (City of Chester), Nathan Young (Bebington), Kieran Holbrook (London Borough of Redbridge), Oliver Kenny (UEA Norwich), Matthew Oaten, Ciara Tappenden (Basildon & Phoenix), Luke Nisted (Halton), Jasmine Seasmarks (City of Cambridge), Jack McComish (City of Glasgow), James Webster (Leander), Tim Baxtor (Teddington), Emma Lees (St Albans).

Five Otters

Meet the five otters – a group of deaf ladies who love doing open water swims. One of the Otters, Wendy took on Coniston Water, a 5.25 mile swim last September. She loved it so much that Wendy has inspired the others to do the same swim this year in an ultimate swim challenge.

As UK Sport have just announced, no financial support is being given to Deaf sports this year. So the Otters have decided to take matters into their own hands and use this event to fundraise for Deaf athletes, with their efforts being particularly focused on the Great Britain Deaf Swimming team – providing an extra incentive to motivate their training sessions.

Eileen Murphy said: "My only open water swim was in 2009 at Alton Water near Ipswich. I absolutely loved it as swimming has been my life since I was two years old. I was a competitive swimmer participating in many galas, leagues and championships in Johannesburg, South Africa.

"In 2011 I did the London to Paris cycle challenge and it was one of the best things that I have done in my life. I feel that I want to achieve something again so Coniston Water will be a fantastic lifetime achievement."

She added: "I train on my own in a 25m pool which isn't easy but I get through it from encouragement and motivation on my five deaf otters' blog".

Jill Wherry said: "I was a competitive swimmer in my youth. I carried on with swimming so when I

saw a photo of Sue in the Great Swim event. I decided to try that and I was then hooked with Open Water Swimming.

"I began in 2011 and have been doing it since then. I have also done Triathlons which I love doing. The Lake District Swim will be a fantastic challenge to complete and amongst friends too."

Sue Brown said: "In 2009 Eileen Murphy, who is my sister, suggested that we try the one mile swim at Alton Water in Suffolk. Since then I have taken part in several open water swimming events. Doing a 5.25 mile swim will be a huge challenge".

Asked about training for the event Sue replied: "My training buddy is Jane Newman. We train with the Bridge Open Water club and Greenwich Tritons. I am a qualified timekeeper and inspector of turns and often judge at my son's swimming club and other competitions. Soon I hope to complete my next assessment and qualify as judge Level 2 Inspector of stroke and finish. I am passionate about the Deaf Swimming team GB and would like them to compete abroad."



Wendy Scott said: "I entered a Triathlon event some years ago with two friends as a relay and became hooked! The two friends were pleased the event was over and said never again whilst I was looking to book again for the following year! I am slow and steady and aim to finish with a smile rather than do things competitively. I enjoy the atmosphere the Triathlon and the swimming events brings and I am so pleased I have 4 other Otters joining me for the Coniston Swim! It will be a total of 26.25 miles altogether!"

Jane Newman said: "My first open water swim was back in 2012 and I'm hooked. I am a member of The Bridge Open Water Club where I train weekly in the summer months. I train with the Greenwich Tritons to improve my stamina as well as technique. To pass the finishing line at the 5.25 mile mark will be my greatest achievement."