



## UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

### NEWS RELEASE

- For Immediate Release -

#### Gold Rush continues on Day 2 for Team GB in INAS-FID European Swimming Championships



Sensational results for Team GB on Day 2, with a further 7 Gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze medals taking Team GB's overall tally to 20 medals in just 2 days at the INAS-FID European Swimming Championships in Poland.

The relay powerhouse of Ben Procter (Oldham), Daniel Pepper (Poynton), Nicholas Boylan

(Ashford) and newcomer Craig Rodgie (Dalgety

2008 Medallists, Craig Rodgie & Ben Procter

Bay), came head to head against the guesting South African Team in the 4 x 50m medley, but stormed to the finish taking gold, making this the third relay gold of the Championships for Team GB.

Ben Procter with one of the hardest fought races of the day took gold in the 100 freestyle, going on to earn a second individual gold in the 50m backstroke with 13 year old Jack Thomas (Swansea), although not medalling, swimming a personal best in the same event. Stephanie Bird (Lowestoft) scooped another gold for Team GB in a stylish performance in the 50m butterfly and bronze in the 100m breaststroke. Craig Moate (Barking), in a race that was his from the start, took gold in the 1500m freestyle with a superb performance by Nicholas Boylan earning him silver and Matthew Bell (Newtownards) taking Bronze for a British triple whammy!

*"It's been very good and I'm very proud to be part of the Team for the first time" says Craig Rodgie "my highlight of all my swimming so far and maybe of the competition would have to be the 4 x 200 freestyle World Record which I was so pleased to swim in".*

*"A sensational performance, my congratulations to all the staff and swimmers in the Team". says Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports Association for People with*

Learning Disability, *“It is a travesty that these swimmers aren’t in Beijing now preparing for the Paralympics next week – they undoubtedly would add to the overall British medal tally. LOCOG<sup>(3)</sup> and Government should insist that athletes with learning disability are re-admitted to the Paralympic Games now and use their influence to make it happen. The 2012 countdown starts in just 4 days time – I hope*



*Head Coach, Mark Thomas with Nicholas Boylan*

*they support these talented British athletes and help them secure the Paralympic opportunity, recognition and funding that the Team has without questioned earned.”*

The INAS-FID European Swimming Championships in Ostrowiec Swietokrzyski, Poland, 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> August, are run under INAS-FID and FINA swimming regulations at the Olympic pool and are attended by swimmers with learning disability from across Europe.

The ban on athletes with intellectual disability competing in the Paralympic Games, imposed after the Sydney 2000 Games continues. The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the International Sports Federation (INAS-FID) continue to discuss how and when athletes with intellectual disability will be re-admitted. There is no programme for athletes with intellectual disability in the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. The situation for London 2012 remains undecided.

The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA), working with its members and other organisations across the UK, has been leading a campaign since 2001 for the ban to be lifted. UKSA continues to urge Government to address the lack of funding for athletes across the UK as a result of the continued IPC ban and to ensure that this group of athletes are re-admitted in time for London 2012.

**ENDS**

20th August 2008

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#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA) is the disability specific National Governing Body in the UK for sport and people with learning disability. UKSA is a national umbrella charity that co-ordinates and promotes sport and recreation for all people with learning disability across the UK. UKSA is recognised by UK Sport and is the official Great Britain member of the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID), a member of IPC. Its members are Scottish Disability Sport, Welsh Sports Association for People with Learning Disability, Disability Sports Northern Ireland and Mencap

Sport in England. All are working together through UKSA to ensure that this group of athletes compete in the Paralympic Games.

2. INAS-FID, the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability. Founded in 1986, is a member of the International Paralympic Committee and is the body responsible for the international competition for athletes with intellectual disability. This event is run under the auspices of the European region See [www.inas-europe.org](http://www.inas-europe.org)
3. LOCOG is the 2012 London Organising Committee of the Olympic & Paralympic Games.
4. Team GB is led by Wendy Thomas (Swansea), supported by Head Coach Mark Thomas (Swansea), coach Mark Watson (Pembrokeshire) and support officer, former Paralympian, Francis Dart (Reading).

5. Team GB Medals - Day 2

<b>Gold</b>	4 x 50 medley relay	D Pepper, B Procter, C Moate, C Rodgie	(2:03.36)
	200 butterfly	Craig Moate	(2:26.22)
	50 butterfly	Stephanie Bird	(33.55)
	50 backstroke	Ben Procter	(31.23)
	100 freestyle	Ben Procter	(56.43)
	200 breaststroke	Daniel Pepper	(2:37.30)
	1500m freestyle	Craig Moate	(17:35.65)
<b>Silver</b>	1500m freestyle	Nicholas Boylan	(18.48.44)
	200 breaststroke	Nicholas Boylan	(2:45.94)
<b>Bronze</b>	100m freestyle	Craig Rodgie	(59.29)
	100m breaststroke	Stephanie Bird	(1:35.78)
	1500m freestyle	Matthew Bell	(19.41.57)

Team GB Medals – Day 1

<b>Gold</b>	4 x 200m relay	D Pepper, B Procter, C Moate, C Rodgie	WR
	4 x 100m relay	D Pepper, B Procter, C Moate, C Rodgie	
	400 freestyle	Craig Moate	
	100 backstroke	Ben Procter	
	50 breaststroke	Dan Pepper	
	400m Medley	Dan Pepper	
<b>Silver</b>	50 freestyle	Stephanie Bird	
	100m backstroke	Craig Rodgie - correction from Day 1, silver not bronze as reported.	

6. The ban on athletes with learning disability was imposed by the IPC following an incident at the Sydney Paralympic Games in 2000 when a group of adult non-disabled athletes infiltrated the Spanish learning disability basketball team. The IPC banned every athlete with learning disability across the world from competing at future Paralympics and IPC sanctioned competitions as a result. This has had the additional impact of funding being stopped across the UK and some athletes not having the financial means to continue in their sport. UKSA has since Sydney 2000 been working with the British Paralympic Association, INAS-FID and other agencies, plus throughout 2007 with the former Disability Rights Commission to have the IPC ban removed.
7. Learning Disability is a term used in the UK, with intellectual disability being used internationally. Both refer to the same group of athletes.