



PRESS RELEASE

World Championship Medal Glory for Britain's Top Swimmers!

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Team Great Britain 2007

Team Great Britain bring home 24 medals and are placed 2nd on the event table during 4 days of intensive competition at the 2007 INAS-FID World Swimming Championships, Belgium.

It was a tough competition for this small Team who were set to defend their 2005 World Championship title against 18 nations. Hampered by injury, they relinquished their title to Australia, but still secured their place as one of the most successful GB Swimming Teams for years with 11 Gold, 8 Silver and 5 Bronze medals.

Individual and team performances saw this Team storm ahead with numerous medals, World records and personal bests being the order of the day. Day 1 saw an extraordinary performance from the powerhouse that is Craig Moate, Ben Procter, Dan Pepper and Nicholas Boylan as they left their competitors behind. Achieving Gold in the 4 x 200m freestyle relay competition and setting a new world record of 8.47.51, they beat the previous record by a staggering 18 seconds!

Later that day, Craig Moate and Dan Pepper took to the podium again in their personal performances in the 400m freestyle achieving Gold and Bronze respectively. Newcomer Scott Brown showed his world class when he joined, Pepper, Procter and Moate to take his place on the podium for a Great Britain Gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay.

A winning performance from Stephanie Bird saw her take bronze in the 50m backstroke, whilst strong performances from Zoe Clayton saw her swim well achieving personal bests. Veteran international Rebecca Lee swam well earning a well deserved place in the final of all 4 events but was forced to withdraw having sustained an unfortunate neck injury.

"It was a pleasure and a privilege to be the Head Coach of this GB team" says Mark Thomas. "Their performance in and out of the pool was outstanding and professional at all times. I'd like to thank all home coaches for the preparation that had obviously been given to each swimmer prior to the Championships; it made my role as head coach very rewarding."

Commenting after the event, Carol Halpin, Team Manager said *“its always a real privilege to work with such talented swimmers and what a fantastic achievement for such a small team to achieve overall second place not to mention a new World Record in the 200m freestyle relay as the opening event! I have no doubt that there would have been more medals too if we had been injury free. The Team spirit was fantastic and the overall ambiance of the Championships superb. They are all great ambassadors for Great Britain and a force to be reckoned with in the pool!”*

The impressive line up - Rebecca Lee (Fife), Nick Boylan (Ashford), Craig Moate (Barking), Zoe Clayton (Doncaster), Stephanie Bird (Lowestoft), Ben Procter (Oldham), Daniel Pepper (Poynton), Scott Brown (Bridgend). Competitors were supported by GB staff Carol Halpin (Team Manager), Mark Thomas (Head Coach), Steve Critchley (Coach) and Alan Lee (Escort/Coach).

“Fantastic result – they have done us proud”, comments Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports Association. “Hardwork, determination and pure talent a great combination supported by dedicated coaches and staff – my thanks to all the Team and their supporters in making this happen”. It’s hard to believe that this group of swimmers don’t receive any Government funding and must fundraise to finance themselves to represent Great Britain. They have been denied the opportunity of Beijing in 2008 and London 2012 hangs in the balance. It’s imperative that the British Government, LOCOG and IPC sit up and take notice and ensure that this talented group of athletes are not unjustifiably excluded from London 2012. Government wants to increase participation and leave a lasting legacy for 2012 yet sport for people



Stephanie Bird in preparation

with learning disability is in jeopardy through lack of funding and support and the continued marginalisation of this already vulnerable group.”

Discussions continue between the International Sports Federation (INAS-FID) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as INAS-FID continues to pursue the lifting of the ban on athletes with learning disability from IPC events. There will be no programme for athletes with intellectual disability in 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. The decision on London 2012 remains uncertain.

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For further information, full results, interviews, comments and photographs contact Tracey McCillen, UK Sports Association, 1st Floor, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 2PU. Tel: (+44) 0207 490 3057 Fax: (+44) 0207 251 8861. Email: info@uksportsassociation.org

NOTES TO EDITOR

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability is the disability specific National Governing Body in the UK and is the organisation responsible for the selection and management of Team GB to international events. It is also the officially recognised GB representative on INAS-FID.
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. See www.inas-fid.org
3. The event was hosted by the Belgian Paralympic Committee, under the auspices of INAS-FID and run in accordance with FINA and INAS-FID rules.
4. Medal Winners – full details attached

**BRITISH MEDAL TALLY –
INAS-FID World Swimming Championships, 19-26 August 2007**

GOLD

1)	Moate, Procter, Boylan, Pepper	4 x 200 freestyle relay	World Record
2)	Craig Moate	400 freestyle	
3)	Daniel Pepper	400m Individual Medley	
4)	Moate, Procter, Pepper, Brown	4 x 100 freestyle relay	
5)	Craig Moate	200m butterfly	
6)	Daniel Pepper	200m breaststroke	
7)	Craig Moate	1500m freestyle	World Record
8)	Ben Procter	100m butterfly	
9)	Daniel Pepper	200m Individual Medley	
10)	Daniel Pepper	100m breaststroke	
11)	Moate, Procter, Brown, Pepper	4 x 50m freestyle relay	

SILVER

1)	Ben Procter	50m backstroke	
2)	Ben Procter	100m freestyle	
3)	Boylan, Pepper, Procter, Brown	4 x 50m medley relay	
4)	Ben Procter	50m freestyle	
5)	Nicholas Boylan	200m backstroke	
6)	Boylan, Pepper, Moate, Brown	4 x 100m medley relay	
7)	Ben Procter	50m butterfly	
8)	Daniel Pepper	200m freestyle	

BRONZE

1)	Daniel Pepper	400m freestyle	
2)	Ben Procter	100m backstroke	
3)	Nicholas Boylan	1500m freestyle	
4)	Ben Procter	200m individual medley	
5)	Stephanie Bird	50m backstroke	