

Young Swimming Stars Break British Records at Disability Sporting Events

Junior Nationals

PRESS REPORT

7TH-8TH MARCH 2009

Eighteen British Records were broken at the Nationwide Junior Swimming Championships with over 200 disabled swimmers aged 10 to 18 enjoyed an action-packed weekend at Ponds Forge in Sheffield. Ben Page of the Reading Cygnets attended the Nationwide Building Society and Spinal Injuries Association supported event as part of the South East team where he competed against other young British talent.

Page was lined up against Paralympic stars like **Eleanor (Ellie) Simmonds MBE** and **Sam Hynd** in the short course events (25m). Ellie broke records in both of her races in the championships- the S6 100m and 400m freestyle, which she took gold in the Beijing long course pool. The fourteen year old from Swansea clocked 1.21.26 in the 100m, beating her previous record of 1.22.34. A few hours later she was back in the water to compete in her favourite event. In the 400m she touched with a new British record of 5.47.39.

Page had an action packed weekend with a total of 8 individual swims plus relays to compete in. First race of the weekend was the 50m Butterfly which Page was lacking in preparation time due to a late arrival at the pool. Page managed to finish in bronze medal position equalling his PB in the process. Things got better in race two of session one where Page went off like a rocket over the first half of the 50m Breaststroke event where he touched out the swimmer from Northern Ireland to take silver. In session two Page kept things on a high in the 50m Backstroke where he chased, but could not make ground on the East Midland swimmer to take yet another silver. With two more bronze medals to follow in the 100m Individual Medley and 100m Breaststroke events Page's confidence was sky high. In the final session Page continued his momentum into the 100 Backstroke and 50m Freestyle events where he took two more silvers to finish an amazing event. Out of 8 individual swims Page finished up with 7 medals and made himself one of the South East Team stars.

Winners of Nationwide Junior Award in the younger age group were **Lucy Walkup** (Scotland) and **Alfie Goldsmith** (South East). In addition to Sam Hynd's older age group triumph, **Emma Hollis** (East) claimed the female award. The **East region team** were elated to take the Novotel Sheffield

team trophy back after losing it last year to the North West team. With many key performances from young up and coming stars, the region's talent development was recognised when they lifted the cup.

Maxine Taylor, Nationwide's Divisional Director for Corporate Affairs, said: "Nationwide Building Society is very proud to support DSE and all the athletes who compete at these events throughout the UK. We hope our sponsorship will enable more disabled athletes to take part in these events and that they continue to break records, both personally and internationally."

Gordon Neale, Director of Events for DSE, said: "It was a truly brilliant weekend, with so many outstanding performances from these youngsters. This event is instrumental in providing our country with future international champions and DSE is proud to be a part of their success."

Our thanks go to **Nationwide Building Society, Spinal Injuries Association, British Swimming, Water Direct, Sheffield Novotel Hotel, Ponds Forge, Within Reach** and **Sheffield City Council's Major Events Unit**. We are also grateful for the many volunteers, who helped out throughout the weekend and the spectators who turned up to support the swimmers.

Full results are available on the Reading Cygnets website
www.Reading-Cygnets.org.

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