

The Michael Matthews Foundation

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Ref. David Hill --- C.C. 306716

Dear

Nina,

Firstly, may I please extend my personal thanks for your marvellous support for David and his ambition to win a Paralympic Gold Medal.

We have all come a very long way over quite a long period of time with David, from August 2000 to the present day. All of your tremendous support is reflected in his continuing progress and success and he continues to amaze.

When I reveal details of his most recent results at the Disability Sports Events in the National Junior Championships held in Sheffield recently, the results speak for themselves. This was the last Major Championships in which David could compete as a Junior.

David competed in all 11 events open to him in the programme. He gained 8 Gold Medals and 3 Silver Medals in the 11 events, including Seven P.B.s. His personal aim in these championships was to set some records that would stand for some time and he did not disappoint, setting 5 new Junior Records and 1 Senior British Record in the 50 M Butterfly event. Quite an impressive performance !

Apart from the Backstroke, which is David's main event, he has become a remarkably talented all round swimmer and is very competitive in all disciplines and an excellent candidate for the Relay Squads. Indeed watching him swimming in the butterfly, I am truly amazed as the event requires tremendous shoulder strength and pulling power in both arms.

As I have mentioned previously, David in Athens finished 8th in the final. He was 6th in the world rankings last year and is currently 4th.

After the Sheffield competition, his coach at Kelly College, Robin Brew, stated that "This was a great weekend for David. My aim was to test him to the limit by entering him for all the 11 events over the two days including the heats and the finals. It was an opportunity to judge how well he was prepared both physically and mentally for the very intensive programme in which he was engaged. The aim is of course Beijing in about 15 months time and David must close the gap on the top 3 in his main event the backstroke with the trials coming up in about 12 months time".

I was speaking to David recently and he said he was going to Macau for some training shortly, which is designed to give the competitors some experience of the conditions they will face in Beijing. It is planned that Macau will be the Base Camp for the Olympic Athletes prior to the Games in 2008.

He is also in the final days of taking his A levels and the academic and physical demands are just incredible, and, to his credit, neither is neglected.

The Headmaster of Kelly College, Mr Mark Steed, has agreed to David continuing his training for the Olympics at Kelly College with Robin Brew over the next year.

I must, as always, point out that none of this would have been possible without your support over these years. I am totally aware, as are David and his family just what a debt of gratitude we owe to all those people who have contributed, assisted and encouraged him.

We would like to send our grateful thanks to everyone for their wonderful help and it is very pleasing to me to be able to show through these letters just how much you are and have been able to assist in David's progress. The results from Sheffield, 7 P.B.s, 8 Gold and 3 Silver medals clearly reveal a very positive, dedicated and hard working young man.

The aim has always been Beijing and his qualification for Athens was a truly amazing achievement along the way .I truly hope that the many of you who have supported him over the past years will please continue for the final year, thank you...

My one regret is that my wife who died quite suddenly in March will not see the end result of all this work and support for David.

May I please send everyone my kindest regards and best wishes.

Thanking you

Yours Sincerely



Lionel C.Rigby

Hill breaks GB record



■ From back page

David is still supported by the Michael Matthews Foundation at Kelly College and is very grateful for their continued support. Michael Matthews lost his life descending from the summit of Mount Everest in 1999. He had become the youngest person to summit the mountain.

David would like to take a gap year next year so he can concentrate on his swimming before deciding on any future plans and is at present looking at the plans and how to fund this with his coach.