



David Roberts

Date of Birth: 25/05/1980

Place of Birth: Cardiff, UK

Residence: Pontypridd, UK

Coach: Billy Pye

Paralympic Games Achievements:

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| 2008 Beijing | Gold | 100 freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 4x100 freestyle 34 pts |
| | Gold | 400 freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 50 freestyle S7 |
| 2004 Athens | Gold | 50 freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 100 freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 400 freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 4x100 freestyle 34 pts |
| | Silver | 200 indiv. medley SM7 |
| 2000 Sydney | Gold | S750, 100, freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 100 m freestyle S7 |
| | Gold | 4x100 m freestyle 34 pts |
| | Silver | 100 m backstroke S7 |
| | Silver | 400 m freestyle S7 |
| | Silver | 4x100 m medley 34 pts |
| | Bronze | 4x50 m freestyle 20 pts |



Great Britain's David Roberts will be returning to Manchester this May hoping to celebrate a gold medal in the pool as well as celebrating his 30th birthday at this year's BT Paralympic World Cup. The Welsh athlete has every chance of making that happen if history repeats itself. Not only has he won the 50m freestyle title for the past three years, but is also coming to the Manchester Aquatics Centre having rewritten the record books.

David had the competition of his life at the Paralympic Games in 2008, winning his eleventh Paralympic career title at the Beijing water cube and equalling Dame Tanni Grey-Thompson's golden medal haul.

Roberts was competing in his third successive Games after producing seven medals in his inaugural competition at the Sydney 2000 Paralympics and winning four gold medals at the Athens Games in 2004, all in world record-breaking times.

But it was Beijing that set him apart from the rest of the world, as he took a further four titles in the S7 50m, 100m and 400m freestyle events and the 4x100m freestyle relay, before being bestowed the ultimate honour of carrying the flag for Team GB at the closing ceremony.

As an eleven-year-old, David was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and took up swimming on the advice of physiotherapists as a means to contain his condition.

By 1993, the Pontypridd-based swimmer who is coached by Billy Pye in Swansea, was called upon to represent Wales and has since won a career total of 17 medals at World and Paralympic level and had an incredible performance in this very pool at the 2002 Commonwealth Games when he won bronze in the 100m freestyle, the first time elite athletes with a disability competed alongside able-bodied swimmers.

Having equaled Dame Tanni's medal haul, David has established himself as one of Britain's greatest ever Paralympians and he points to the inspirational athlete as part of his motivation:

"Tanni was probably the greatest Welsh athlete there has ever been and to have equaled her medal haul is unbelievable. It's something I never dreamt would happen but luckily it has," he said.



Last year David was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) and received his CBE off Princess Anne in a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace on Wednesday June 24, 2009. With his place in British sporting history cemented he is starting on a new journey towards a home Paralympic Games in London in 2012, with the BT Paralympic World Cup his first stop:

"Beijing was a fantastic experience, an unforgettable time in my life but I'm now on the start of a journey to London where I'm going to be greedy – I want to defend all of my titles!"