



Eleanor Simmonds

Date of Birth: 11/11/1994

Residence: Aldridge / Swansea, UK

Coach: Billy Pye

Paralympic Games Achievements:

Beijing 2008, Gold: S6 100m Freestyle
S6 400m Freestyle

BT Paralympic World Cup Achievements:

2009, Gold: S6 100m Freestyle



Aged just 13-years-old, Eleanor Simmonds became the youngest ever Briton to medal at the Paralympic Games in 2008 and stunned the crowds with a Gold medal and World Record in her first major international since Beijing, the BT Paralympic World Cup 2009.

Following a waterfall of honours and celebrations, the double Paralympic swimming gold medallist returned to compete in domestic competition in March last year and broke the 400m freestyle world record at the British Gas Swimming Championships, cementing her name as the number one S6 category swimmer in the world.

"It's been amazing, after breaking my own world record in the 400m in Beijing and then going on to break it again in Sheffield has been something I'd never dreamed of," said Eleanor.

As well as being appointed an MBE in the New Year's Honours list, again the youngest person ever to receive this, the now 15-year-old also won the 2008 BBC Young Sports Personality of the Year Award. Life has truly been a rollercoaster for the Swansea-based swimmer.

"I've done a lot of cool stuff since Beijing and been really lucky. It's been crazy, winning the Young Sports Personality of the Year and then the MBE and meeting the Queen twice in two weeks has been incredible.

"I've also been to McLaren and met Lewis Hamilton and went to the Louis Vuitton shop in London, it was great."

Initially tipped as a prospect for 2012, the Paralympic star relocated to Swansea with her mother from Walsall to train under the guidance of Welsh swimming coach of the year, Billy Pye, a move that has obviously proved successful for everyone involved.

On top of all this Simmonds has also been taking on the task that every other teenager finds difficult enough without the extra training and media appearances and has been continuing her studies at school, recently having to select her GCSE subjects for next year.

Simmonds who has Achondroplasia (dwarfism), is competing for the second time at the BT Paralympic World Cup this May having last year made her mark as the world's number one swimmer in the S6 100m freestyle.