TEAM PROFILE

Stephen Thomas

VITAL STATISTICS			
Name:	Stephen Thomas		
Class:	Sonar		
Position in boat:	Mainsheet		
DOB:	5 January 1977		
Born:	Bridgend, Wales / Bridgend, Wales		
Currently Living:	Weymouth		
Started Sailing:	Aged 26 in Newcastle with John Robertson in early 2003		
Duration in current class:	Since 2003		
Sailing partners:	John Robertson and Hannah Stodel		
Coach:	Mark Rushall		
Greatest strength in sailing:	Physical qualities, motivational		
Greatest weakness in sailing:	Tactical knowledge		
Biggest Goal:	To win a Paralympic gold medal		
Who has been the most influential person in your sailing career:	My current team mates		
Personal sponsor:	Little Britain Challenge Cup		
Other interests away from sailing:	Ice Sledge Hockey also cinema, socializing.		
	Paralympics Games Beijing 2008 6th		
Career highlights:	Athens 20046thWorld ChampionshipsBronze2012Bronze2011Silver2010Silver20097th2006Gold2005Gold2003Bronze2012 record:Skandia Sail for Gold RegattaSkandia Sail for Gold RegattaGoldRolex Miami OCR RegattaGoldHyeres RegattaGoldSkandia Sail for GoldGoldHyeres RegattaGoldRolex Miami OCR RegattaGoldHyeres Regatta4thRolex Miami OCR RegattaGold		



MEET THE SAILOR...

66	Who is Stephen Thomas?	A double World Sailing Champion and Paralympian, action man Stephen also represented Great Britain in Ice Sledge Hockey at 2006 Paralympic Winter Games in Torino, Italy as well as having played rugby for Wales under 18s. Stephen is a double below the knee amputee as a result of meningococcal septicaemia in 1996.	
		He cites Sir Steven Redgrave as his sporting hero and says that their toughest competition comes from the German, Norwegian, American, Greek and Israeli teams. Stephen says his most embarrassing sailing incident occurred on the last leg of the first race of the 2004 Paralympic Games, with the finish line in sight, when the sheet he was hanging off of came out of the cleat and he ended up overboard.	