

Deaf Sports Update

JANUARY 2009

Monthly Updates from Deaf Sports Australia
PASSION THROUGH SPORT



World Records to Craig Morgan!

Congratulations to Craig Morgan on his world record swims which are now recognised by the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf

At the Australian Short Course Championships in Melbourne, during September 2008, Craig broke two world records in the:

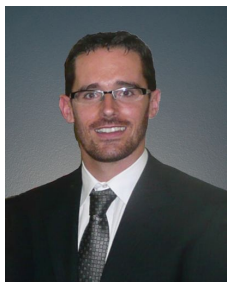
50m backstroke - 28.45; and

100m backstroke - 1:00.76

Congratulations Craig!



President's Report...



A belated Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had an enjoyable start to 2009, which shapes to be an extremely busy year for us all!

This edition of the E-News is by far the largest edition we've ever produced so enjoy reading each article and story.

As per our Constitution, the Board is required to elect a President and Vice President at the first Board Meeting after each AGM. I am pleased to say that I have been re-elected President for a fourth year running, and David Peters will continue to be Vice President.

DSA is currently advertising for two positions - a Manager and a Sports Development Officer. Both positions are full-time and fixed for 15 months. This is an exciting opportunity to work for a dynamic organisation and contribute to the progress of deaf sports in Australia! The Manager position is funded by the Australian Sports Commission while the Sports Development Officer is a newly created position, co-funded by the Department of Health and Ageing and Sport and Recreation Victoria. This position will focus on developing partnerships between National Sport Organisations and National Deaf Sport Organisations, developing pathways to participation at all levels of sport etc. Further details about those vacancies can be found elsewhere in this E-News.

DSA is continuing our efforts to raise funds for the Australian Deaflympic Team to participate in the Taipei Deaflympic Games in September. We have approached every State and Territory Government as well as the Federal Government. At the time of writing, the Northern Territory Government has pledged \$1000 per local athlete/official and we are in discussions with other Governments. We are delighted the Northern Territory Government has shown their support and we hope other Governments will follow suit. The current economic climate has made our fundraising campaign even more

difficult than ever - however we are continuing discussions with corporate and community organisations to seek support.

We will hold a Training Camp for the Australian Deaflympic Team in Melbourne during 24-26 April 2009 and planning is in full swing. We hope to organise a public event that weekend so members of the community can meet athletes and officials of the Australian Deaflympic Team. We are grateful that the Department of Health and Ageing has provided funds for this Training Camp.

Furthermore, DSA has entered into a partnership with Vicdeaf to organise a Gala Ball on Saturday 18 July 2009 at the Rydges on Swanston Hotel, Melbourne. This Ball will have two purposes: to celebrate 125 years of the Victorian Deaf Society, and fundraise for the Australian Deaflympic Team. Keep this night free! Further details will be sent out shortly.

David Peters, in his role as International Events Director, travelled to Perth in late January to sit in the Organising Committee for the World Deaf Lawn Bowls Championships, to be held in 2011. This follows on the success of the recent World Deaf Golf Championships, also held in Perth. DSA looks forward to supporting and promoting this global event for deaf lawn bowlers.

The Board of Directors, after a well-deserved break over the festive season, is back in full swing. A two day Retreat is planned - one day in March and one day in April. This will allow the Board to review outcomes of 2008 and plans for 2009 and beyond. A number of critical issues, raised at our Summit (August 2008) and AGM (November 2008) will be discussed in depth - namely the hearing loss threshold for national sports and the affiliation structure of our membership base.

I will stop here and let you read this bumper edition.

Brent Phillips
President

Employment Opportunities

Two exciting opportunities exist to join a dynamic and driven organisation that is committed to facilitating and supporting the participation of all deaf and hard of hearing Australians in all levels of sport.

MANAGER (full-time)

This position is funded by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

Length of position: 15 months (1 April 2009 - 30 June 2010). This position will be reviewed prior to 30 June 2010, subject to annual funding from ASC

Salary: \$55,000 + 9% superannuation

Reports to: DSA President & Board of Directors

Location: East Melbourne, Victoria

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (full-time)

This position is funded by the Federal Government (Department of Health and Ageing) and the Victorian Government (Sport and Recreation Victoria).

Length of position: 15 months (1 April 2009 - 30 June 2010)

Salary: \$45,000 + 9% superannuation

Reports to: DSA Manager

Location: East Melbourne, Victoria

Applications for the above two positions close at 5.00pm on Wednesday 25 February 2009.

Only electronic applications will be accepted. All applications are to be sent to: dsa@deafsports.org.au

Interviews will be held during the week beginning Monday 2 March 2009 in Melbourne.

Please refer to separate Position Descriptions for both positions. For a copy of the position descriptions, please contact dsa@deafsports.org.au

Any queries can be directed to:
Brent Phillips
President
brent.phillips@deafsports.org.au

Come & Try Deaf Friendly Track Cycling

Sunday 15th February @ DISC
281 Darebin Road, Thornbury, Victoria

FREE!!

Fun and Fitness for the whole family
Expert Coaching All Equipment Provided All Ages WELCOME
90 Minute Sessions Deaf or hearing impaired Caters For All Abilities

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL: gail.miller@cycling.org.au

3rd National Deaf Eight Ball Championships

Perth, Western Australia 9th to 12th April 2009

Welcome Night

When: Thursday 9th April
Time: from 6pm
Where: WA Deaf Society
Suite 46 / 5 Aberdeen Street
East Perth
Bar Open

The Deaf 8Ball Australia Inc
Annual General Meeting
will be held on this night
starting at 8pm.

For more information, please contact Belinda
Maggs, Secretary Deaf8Ball Australia at
d8ba@hotmail.com



Match days:

When: Friday 10th to Sunday 12th April
Time: 9am to 6pm
Where: POT BLACK
Family Pool & Snooker Centre
Southside Drive
Hillarys Boat Harbour
Sorrento WA

Presentation Dinner:

When: Sunday 12th April
Time: from 6pm
Where: POT BLACK
Family Pool & Snooker Centre
Southside Drive
Hillarys Boat Harbour
Sorrento, WA

2009 Australian Deaf Golf Championships

When: 10th April to 13th April 2009

Where: Pacific Dunes Golf Club, Newcastle, NSW

Proudly Organised by NSW Deaf Golf Association

For more information, please contact Gavin Balharrie, Deaf Golf Australia
gbalharrie@wtpartnership.com.au

Registration closes 28 February 2009



Queensland Deaf Cricket Association

We would cordially invite you to join us in celebrating the (belated) Half Century of the establishment of the deaf-run Deaf Cricket Club Committee.

This special event will be held:
Sunday May 10th, 2009

“The Pavilion” Allan Border Field
1 Bogan Street
Breakfast Creek QLD

At this special event, we will have a long lunch (10.00am to 4.30pm) and the menu will be a delicious high quality BBQ & Grill.

Beverages will be at your own expenses.

Dress code for this occasion will be smart casual in the high standard possible.

The first 50 fully-paid ticket holders will receive a special gift to mark this special occasion.

Tickets: 50.00 dollars per person

For more information and/or ticket purchases:

Secretary, 3/40 Lauder St, Mt Gravatt QLD 4122 or qlddeafcricket@gmail.com



Deaf Table Tennis NSW

Our DTT NSW had a open meeting on 24 October 2008. There was a very few people (8) attending the Open meeting The President, Trevor Boyle would like to announce the DTT NSW will continue to have the 2 care takers - Trevor Boyle and Ian Rogers are the care takers for process with the issues of DTT NSW.

About AWD Leslie Noonan is continuing to contact with AWD in the future. AWD - 2009 Might be held at Canberra or Melbourne. If you are interested in playing table tennis, please contact Leslie Noonan.

About Veterans - If you are interested in playing table tennis to competition with Veterans in the future. So far, the 7 Deaf people are interested in playing table tennis. Please contact Leslie Noonan if you are interested in playing table tennis.

Bonita Slinn gave a talk about Life Membership of DTT NSW, lovely story about Trevor Boyle's life in his past time with Table Tennis for many many years. To be honored to Trevor Boyle. Bonita gave Trevor a beautiful pictures of Trevor's table tennis Life Membership. Trevor was so surprised to receive the Life Membership of DTT NSW. It was a lovely evening.

Please tell your friends about the news as above. Welcome to join DTT NSW if interested in join the DTT NSW.

All the Best for 2009.

Trevor Boyle - tboyle.mgirke@bigpond.com
Caretaker of DTT NSW

Blayney swimmer named Deaf Athlete of 2008

Blayney Chronicle

9 January 2009, By MICHELLE COOK

Blayney's champion swimmer Craig Morgan had extra reasons to celebrate during the festive season.

The Deaf swimmer received national and international recognition for his achievements in the pool during 2008.

In early December last year his TAFE class was interrupted when he received a text message from the Deaf Sports Australia swimming coordinator telling him he'd be named the Male Athlete of the Year.

"I was so surprised," Morgan smiled.

"It's amazing. It wasn't just out of the swimmers - it was from all sports. It's one of the biggest achievements in my swimming career."

Included in Morgan's list of achievements for the award were the six gold, one silver and one bronze medals he won at the 2008 Australian Deaf Games.

His open men's 4x50m freestyle and 4x50m medley relay teams swam Games records at the event and he was named the male swimmer of the meet.

In August 2007, he set a Deaf world record for the men's 50m (27.40 seconds) at the NSW Short Course Championships.

Amazingly, his two Deaf world record swims at the 2008 Australian Short Course Championships were not taken into account when selecting Morgan for the national award.

Shortly after Christmas Morgan received another text message telling him to look at the award winners on the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf website.

Morgan did not claim the 2008 Sportsman of the Year prize but was named as one of the nine top finishers in the international award.

"I was very impressed," Morgan said.

"It's nice to know my training has paid off."

The 20-year-old plans to top his achievements in 2008 this year.

He'll start in March when he'll contest the Australian Long Course Championships in Sydney.

His results there will determine which events he will contest at the Deaflympic Games in Taipei in August.

This is not the first time Morgan has represented Australia in the Deaflympics.

He was in the Australian team when the Games were held in Melbourne in 2005.

Morgan said he wants to compete in the backstroke and butterfly events at Taipei.

He also hopes to compete at the Arafura Games in Darwin as a way to experience the sort of humidity they will have to compete in at Taipei.

He will have at least seven training sessions a week to make sure he is prepared for the national and international meets.

Morgan admits not having a 50m pool to swim in during the winter makes his preparations more difficult but he'll do his best.



LOOKING GOOD: Blayney's Craig Morgan has a new way of looking at things after being named the Deaf Sports Australia Male Athlete of the Year. Photo: JUDE KEOGH

Working Out: WA Deaf Seniors 50+ Club

The West Australian Health+ Medicine
Healthy Ageing
Wednesday January 14 2009

Interpreters help give a unique group access to healthy exercise. Gemma Nisbet reports.

For people who are profoundly deaf or affected by severe hearing loss, staying active can be a challenge, particularly since most mainstream fitness centres are not equipped to deal with their special requirements.

However, a program run by the Council on the Ageing (COTA) recently gave a group from the West Australian Deaf Society the chance to learn how to use gym equipment at the Loftus Recreation Centre in Leederville.

Personal trainers and sign language interpreters were on hand to help with correct technique and easy communication.

The session was part of COTA's Living Longer, Living Stronger program, which provides strength training to more than 6000 people aged over 50 in 70 locations across WA.

"It is wonderful for deaf and hard of hearing people to have qualified instructors to guide, encourage and support them through the exercises, ensuring correct techniques are used," said Marissa Powell, WA Deaf Society marketing and development manager.

"It is very difficult for them to access facilities such as fitness centres because there is no provision for interpreters."

In attendance were about 40 members of the society's Deaf Seniors 50+ Club, aged between 50 and 85.

Members have been meeting once a month since the club began in 2001, and with interpreters go to places of interest and have guest speakers on wellbeing issues. WA Deaf Society community officer Jenny Pupich, who runs the club and is deaf herself, said the group had been eager to take part in the fitness program.

"It's good for them to keep fit and get an introduction to how the equipment works," Ms Pupich said.

In addition to improving general fitness, strength training is good for weight management and cardiovascular health, and can reduce the risk of injury in everyday life by increasing bone strength, muscle tone, coordination and balance. It can also prevent health conditions such as osteoporosis, arthritis, hypertension and diabetes. Furthermore, strength training can have mental and emotional health benefits, an aspect very much in keeping with the Deaf Seniors 50+ Club's aim of fostering wellbeing through social interaction.

"The club is a community, it's like a big family," Ms Pupich said.



Working out: Richard Lebitzke, 85, joins in the WA Deaf Society group in the gym.
Picture: Kerry Edwards

Working Out: WA Deaf Seniors 50+ Club (continued...)

At 85, Richard Lebitzke is one of the oldest members of the club.

Whilst he was active as a young man, playing tennis and table tennis and swimming, he now relies on gardening to keep fit.

“I came just because of the seniors’ group, to find out what it’s like at the gym here. I’ve been enjoying it, it’s very different, “ he said, joking that he still preferred sleeping to exercising.

Club member Janice Wright said she had also enjoyed the orientation to the gym the session provided. “I know I should be doing it, so it’s good to have a look at what’s available and have a look around in the gym,” she said.

The 67-year-old, who now walks to stay fit, said she had regularly attended a gym in the past, but found mainstream fitness centres hard to negotiate without having someone to interpret for her.

“I liked it when someone went with me, and my daughter used to come, but she got too busy and it became too much, “ she said.

The presence of an interpreter is what made the Deaf Seniors 50+ Club so beneficial, Mrs Wright said.

“The interpreters are always there to clarify things and it’s very interesting learning new things, plus it’s good getting together as a group.”

However, Ms Pupich said the cost of hiring interpreters was a significant limiting factor when organising events.

The Deaf Society and COTA hope that the one-off gym event, which was funded by the Premier’s Physical Activity Taskforce, will become a continuing event, enabling deaf and hearing-impaired people to get into the gym on a regular basis.

“For us, it’s all about getting people active, it doesn’t matter who it is, we want everyone to be active,” said Michelle O’Brien from the taskforce.

“We’d really like to see people with disabilities in mainstream gym settings and we’d like to see every recreation centre taking up these opportunities.

Tidbits

Vale Gilbert Girke

Deepest sympathies go to the family of Gilbert Girke, who passed away in January. Gilbert was a long-time administrator of Deaf Cricket Australia.



Deaf experience netball success

By Netball Australia/Deaf Netball Australia
<http://www.netball.asn.au/>

Kate and Naomi are two deaf sisters aged 14 and 15 who live in Toolamba, approximately 20 kilometres outside of Shepparton in country Victoria. Like many girls in the country, the girls are a part of their local netball team, where football and netball clubs work alongside. The two girls talk about their experiences being deaf and playing netball.

What teams do you play with?

Kate: I play for my school local team, Shepparton High School Netball Club.

Naomi: I played with the Smurfs at the Margo Allen National Deaf Netball Club Championships in Adelaide in September 2008, the Australian Deaf Games with the Victorian Vipers in January 2008, and I also play for Shepparton High School Netball Club for four years playing in the Shepparton Netball Association.

What are your favourite positions to play in netball?

Kate: I like to play in attacks especially Centre and Wing Attack. Defending is fine for me too as I can do well at it.

Naomi: I like to play anywhere except in goals because I'm weak at shooting goals.

What are some difficulties you have faced on the netball courts with players, umpires or coaches?

Kate: With umpires, I always keep on playing, even when the umpire has blown the whistle. Everyone has to get my attention so I stop playing. My coach from last year with my local team was a very talkative person and she always thought I understood everything she had said to me which made it a bit difficult at times.

Naomi: Well with a Deaf coach, no problem at all but with hearing coach, it is pretty hard because I have to get Mum to interpret everything the coach has to say to me and of course whatever the team says too.

What deaf netball events have you been involved in?

Kate: I played in the Australian Deaf Games 2008 at the Gold Coast and the National Deaf Netball Club Championships in Adelaide 2008.

Naomi: I was involved in the Australian Deaf Games and the Margo Allen National Deaf Netball Club Championships.

What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of playing with either a hearing or deaf team?

Kate: The advantage of a hearing team is that they're able to hear me when I yell, for the ball. The disadvantage is that sometimes you feel you don't fit in because they are talking and you're always missing out on something. With a Deaf team the advantage is that they all feel the same, and treat everyone evenly. It's also fun and challenging. But the disadvantage is that it gets frustrating when you try to get their attention to pass the ball to you.

Naomi: Well there are some things that I find frustrating in both areas. When I play in the deaf events, I have to remove my hearing aids because that shows equality and fairness in deaf sports. I use my hearing aids when I play in the hearing competition but I don't actually feel really comfortable playing with hearing people because I can't communicate in my language (Auslan) with them. I can only use my voice and lip read which I'm terrible at it.

What are your future goals with netball?

Kate: This year I'm playing for my school Under 15 Team and will be involved with the Margo Allen National Deaf Netball Club Championships in Ballarat in October.

Naomi: My goal with netball is hopefully play in the World Deaf Netball Championships. That would be fantastic!

In 2009, Netball Australia will be partnering with Deaf Sports Australia and Deaf Netball Australia to improve participation opportunities and pathways for deaf or hearing impaired Netball players. For more information about Deaf Netball in your area, please visit the Deaf Sport Australia website at www.deafsports.org.au.



Check out Jackie Chan on YouTube -
Power in Me

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?
gl=AU&hl=en-GB&v=DP3PaauJsfA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?gl=AU&hl=en-GB&v=DP3PaauJsfA)



Taipei mayor inaugurates 2009 'Deaflympics Year'

Friday, January 2, 2009

By Dimitri Bruyas, The China Post

TAIPEI, Taiwan -- Taipei City Mayor Hau Lung-bin kicked off yesterday the city's "Deaflympics Year," vowing to upgrade Taipei as a "truly international city" through the 2009 Summer Deaflympic Games, taking place Sept. 5-15.

Speaking at an event held at Taipei Arena — one of the main locations of the forthcoming competition for hearing-impaired athletes — he stressed that the 2009 Summer Deaflympics will help promote the visibility of Taipei City on the international scene.

The Games' official slogan, "Power in Me," is indicative of the government's resolve to showcase Taipei as a major venue for international events, he pointed out.

The first Summer Deaflympics were held in Paris in 1924.

In 1995, the Games received official recognition by the International Olympic Committee. Today, 96 national deaf sports federations are members of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.

Named host city for the 21st Summer Deaflympics in 2003, Taipei will be the first Asian city to host Deaflympics Games.

During the last Deaflympics held in Melbourne, Australia, Taiwan ranked fifth among all participating countries, with nine gold medals, four silvers and three bronzes.

"We have great confidence in Taiwan's competing athletes," said Hau, expressed certainty that they will achieve even better results this year because of their home field advantage.

Dana Tai, minister of the Cabinet-level Sports Affairs Council, also pledged that prizes for Taiwanese medalists this year will be higher than those given at the Melbourne games.

She said a gold medalist this year will receive more than NT\$1 million, up from the previous award amount of NT\$750,000.

Further, the event's art director Stan Lai expressed his faith that the opening and closing ceremonies he is in charge of organizing "will allow the whole world to witness Taipei's power and strength."

According to the organizing committee, the 20 events of the Deaflympics will be held in 27 venues scattered around Taipei City and Taipei County, while the swimming events will take place in Hsinchu County and shooting events will be held in Taoyuan County, both in northern Taiwan.

Around 4,000 athletes from 81 countries are expected to compete, according to organizers.

Deaflympics Taipei 2009 expected to draw over 10,000 foreign

Central News Agency
February 5, 2009

Taipei, Feb. 5 (CNA) The Deaflympics 2009, scheduled to be held in September in Taipei, is expected to attract over 10,000 foreign visitors, the city government said Wednesday.

The visitors will include 3,600 athletes from 81 countries, as well as their coaches and families, said Taipei Deputy Mayor Wu Ching-chi.

He said Taipei is very honored to have the opportunity to host the games, which he said will "let Taiwan embrace the world and the world embrace Taiwan." The event will also help Taipei become more disabled-friendly, he added.

The deputy mayor made the remarks in a news conference held to introduce the Deaflympics lantern zone at the upcoming annual Taipei Lantern Festival.

This year's festival -- celebrating the Year of the Ox -- is slated for February 6-15 at several venues, including the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall, Taipei City Hall, and the section between Civic Plaza and the Renai Traffic Circle.

In addition to the Deaflympics, the festival will feature a variety of other themes, including tradition, happiness, prayer, love and global scenery.

(By Y.F. Low)

Mindshare to drive marketing for Taiwan Deaflympic

by David Blecken
6 January 2009

<http://www.brandrepublic.asia/>

TAIPEI - The Deaflympics Committee has awarded Mindshare a US\$2.5 million brief to develop marketing and media strategy for the launch of the Deaflympics, previously known as the World Games for the Deaf, in Taiwan later this year.

The government body selected Mindshare after a pitch process that lasted a year and included Carat, Dentsu, Initiative, Bright, Toplan and BROS Sports Marketing. The GroupM agency will be responsible for implementing creative and public relations and sponsorship strategy, as well as for media planning and buying.

Upon making its Taiwan debut, the Deaflympics, which is organised under the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is expected to include twenty sports, such as badminton, basketball, football and Greco-Roman wrestling, and will attract an estimated 3,500 athletes. It will take place in September.

Deaflympic news...

Local firm to provide services for Deaflympics

Originally published February 05, 2009

By Ed Waters Jr.
News-Post Staff
Frederick NewsPost.com

A company with operations in downtown Frederick has become the exclusive provider of communications technologies for the Deaflympics.

Viable, a deaf-owned and operated provider of video relay services, will provide videophones and other communications equipment for the September event in Taiwan.

Based in Rockville, Viable was founded in 2006 and has developed innovative equipment for communication among deaf users and nondeaf users.

In a prepared statement, Donalda Adams, president of the International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, said Viable was the right partner for the Deaflympics.

She said the two share common values.

"Viable proudly exhibits a 'can-do' attitude, shows diversity throughout its products, services and employees, and never offers second-best -- they will provide the best or nothing," Adams said.

John T. C. Yeh, Viable founder and president, agreed it was a good fit.

"They are deaf-operated from the top down," Yeh said of the Deaflympics committee. "They showcase the very best from the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Their events and athletes demonstrate that with dedication and hard work, and by removing communication barriers, we can even the playing field."

Summer Deaflympics: Athens 2013

Posted on January 28, 2009

<http://greeceinfo.wordpress.com/2009/01/28/summer-deaflympics-athens-2013/>

(GREEK NEWS AGENDA)

The president of International Committee of Sports for the Deaf, Dr Donalda Ammons and the president of the Organising Committee of the 22nd Summer Deaflympics 2013 Marianna Vardinoyiannis signed on January 20, in Athens, a memorandum of cooperation. Deputy Minister of Sports Yannis Ioannidis said that at least 5000 athletes from 100 countries and their 10,000 companions and officials will participate in Deaflympics 2013, making it "another great sports event hosted by Greece" which is certain "to have a success, comparable to that of the Athens 2004 Olympics Games." The first "silent Olympics" took place in Paris in 1924, bringing together 9 nations and 133 competitors.

England

Deaf girl who couldn't hear teachers telling her to stop running during sports day wins discrimination case

By Daily Mail Reporter
07th January 2009

A deaf teenager has won a landmark discrimination case after she was humiliated on sports day because she could not hear announcements telling her to stop running, it has emerged.

Laura Trudgill, 13, is profoundly deaf but was not provided with an individual signer on sports day to help her understand the complicated rules of 24 team activities.

She stood when the rest of the school sat, ran when others stopped and did activities incorrectly because she could not hear the teacher telling her she was wrong.

The event was designed to forge bonds between deaf and hearing pupils but led to deep embarrassment for Laura who became an object of fun.

A special education needs and disability tribunal (Sendist) found Colman Middle School, in Norwich, had unlawfully discriminated against Laura.

Laura's mother Karen Park, 35, and dad Gary Trudgill, 50, of Norwich, fought the case with the backing of the National Deaf Children's Society (NCDS).

Karen, a part-time volunteer for East Anglia's Children's Hospices, said: 'Laura might as well

have been lumped in with a load of Russians on sports day.

'The effect would've been the same - she wouldn't have had any idea what was going on.



Humiliated: Laura Trudgill, 13, was not given an individual signer during sports day and could not hear announcements which told her to stop running

'It was excruciating for her. The staff claimed they were giving her independence, but that's equivalent to giving a paraplegic independence by taking away his wheelchair.

'Laura needs to communicate to make choices.'

A total of 240 pupils in years 4 to 7 took part in the school summer sports day on July 18, 2007. Nine of the pupils were deaf.

The children were placed in 24 teams of 10 with each team's score contributing to the overall score of one of four school 'houses' - green, yellow, red and blue.

Laura Trudgill

Landmark case: Laura's mother Karen described the incident as 'a massive blow to her confidence at a crucial time for her personal development'

Every team had to perform 24 activities, arranged in a circle, with each activity taking four to five minutes during which the children had to score as many points as possible.

Deaf girl who couldn't hear teachers telling her to stop running (continued)

A staff member counted down the end of the each activity on a tannoy from 10 to one to tell the pupils to stop.

Laura could not hear the tannoy and therefore kept going with her activity after the other children finished.

Nor could she hear instructions on how to perform each activity - which ranged from mini assault courses to throwing balls at hoops.

The school had provided five staff members who were qualified signers but distributed them on three activity stations and two water stations.

As a result no signers were at hand on most activities to explain the rules.

Sports-mad Laura, who loves hockey and football, had been looking forward to sports days thinking the activities would, for once, put her on an equal footing with hearing pupils.

Karen said: 'It was a massive blow to her confidence at a crucial time for her personal development.'

The tribunal found, in a report published on August 29, that the school was well intentioned but failed Laura by allocating the signing staff to all the children, instead of to the deaf children.

It stopped short of penalising the school as it had 'taken matters seriously' and had been trying to help Laura gain more independence.

Headteacher Carolyn Sayer said: 'Decisions about the level of support to provide to children are always very finely balanced.'

'We want to ensure that children can be included as fully as possible, while also giving them the opportunity for independence and integration with the school's other pupils.'

'We continually review our practice to ensure we are doing the best for our pupils and welcome the suggestions from the panel about how we can improve the event further.'

Laura has since the school and currently attends City of Norwich School. Her case is the first of its kind to be won by the NCDS.

NDSOs and SDSOs

Listed below are full members of Deaf Sports Australia. If you wish to contact one of these associations or organisations, their contact details can be found on DSA's website by clicking on this link - http://www.deafsports.org.au/members_comm/

National Deaf Sporting Associations (NDSO)

- Australian Deaf Darts Association
- Australian Deaf Lawn Bowls Association
- Australian Deaf Squash Association
- Australian Deaf Tennis Association
- Australian Deaf Tenpin Bowling Association
- Deaf Aquatics Australia
- Deaf Basketball Australia
- Deaf Cricket Australia

- Deaf Eight Ball Australia
- Deaf Football Australia
- Deaf Golf Australia
- Deaf Netball Australia

State Deaf Sporting Organisations (SDSO)

- Deaf Sports Recreation Queensland
- Deaf Sports Recreation South Australia
- Deaf Sports Recreation Victoria
- Western Australia Deaf Recreation Association

Deaf Sports Australia

Level 3
340 Albert Street
East Melbourne VIC 3002
AUSTRALIA

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E-News

2009 Deadlines for Submissions:

MARCH	Friday 27 February
APRIL	Friday 27 March
MAY	Thursday 30 April
JUNE	Friday 29 May
JULY	Friday 26 June
AUGUST	Friday 31 July
SEPTEMBER	Friday 28 August
OCTOBER	Wednesday 30 September
NOVEMBER	Friday 30 October
DECEMBER	Friday 27 November

All submissions/contributions are to be emailed to Jennifer Grant, Editor, on jennifer.grant@deafsports.org.au

To subscribe, send an email to dsa@deafsports.org.au