

Swim Wales

Our brief was to help Swim Wales make the most of their record six Welsh athletes chosen in the Team GB swimming squad for the Tokyo Olympics.

The aim was to enable the governing body to celebrate their swimmers' achievements within as wide an audience as possible and to use that engagement to increase awareness, build supporters and improve membership on the road towards Commonwealth Games 2022.

We would do this by producing original content, placing it through our network of media contacts, so helping gain coverage across the global, UK and Welsh media. This would be underpinned by coverage on our Dai Sport website, the Swim Wales site, and tied into social media activity.

We were given interview access with all six swimmers across two days. Initially, Swim Wales had intended only to gather quickfire responses for social media use, but we suggested that longer sit-down interviews would provide richer and more detailed material.

After the interviews, we identified two very strong storylines that had the potential to make a big impact across TV, radio, online and print media.

- 1) The commitment to success shown by Matt Richards through his use of a giant self-constructed paddling pool and bungee cord in his back garden.
- 2) The powerful personal story of Dan Jervis, who was able to show his grandfather his Team GB Olympic gear just weeks before he passed away.

We decided to use the Matt Richards story to kickstart the UK media coverage and to follow that up with Resolven-born Dan Jervis's story to stimulate the local Welsh interest. We contacted Matt's father, Simon, briefed him on possible media requests, and with his permission were able circulate his contact details and the story brief to significant editors and producers within the Welsh and UK media.

A third strand was to link the swimmers' stories with the work done by Swim Wales coaches and staff, the support from families, and the broader historical role and significance of the governing body ahead of its 125th anniversary next year..

COVERAGE DAN JERVIS

Front cover of Western Mail Weekend magazine – 24/7/21

- Circulation (ABC cert) 8,419
- Reach PLC online average reach per month 38.6m people



Inside spreads on Dan Jervis / Welsh swimming in magazine.

oddos

'When I'm in the pool I want to be a warrior...'

As the starting gun finally fires on the Toyko Olympics, swimmer Daniel Jervis speaks to Rob Cole about his inspirations and hopes for his first-ever Games...





MATT RICHARDS

Sky Sports News report – 18/7/21

• Average monthly reach – 7m



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Team GB swimmer Richards sets Tokyo medal goal







Team GB swimmer Matt Richards, 18, is targeting a medal in the 100 metres freestyle at his first Olympic Games in Tokyo.

https://www.skysports.com/watch/video/sports/olympics/12358272/team-gb-swimmer-richards-setstokyomedal-goal

Mail on Sunday and Mail Online - 18/7/21

- Circulation 971,000
- MailOnline average reach per month 34m people





https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/olympics/article-9798549/Matt-Richards-teenage-swimmer-trainedpaddling-pool.html

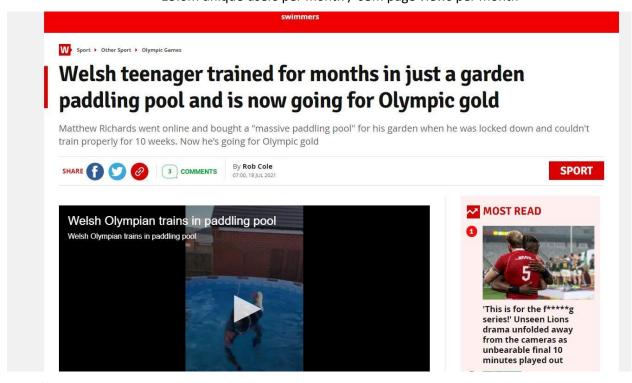
The Sunday Mirror and Mirror online – 18/7/21

- Circulation (ABC cert) 505,000
- Reach PLC online average reach per month 38.6m people



Wales Online – 18/7/21

• 13.6m unique users per month / 68m page views per month

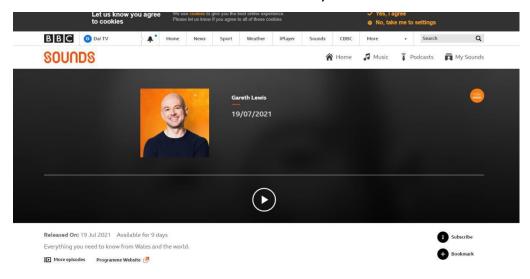


https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/other-sport/welsh-teenager-trained-months-only-21078569

BBC Radio Wales - 19/7/21

Average weekly audience – 344,000 (RAJAR)

Interview with Matt Richards' father, Simon Richards



https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000xznr

Listen from 43:00

After Matt Richards' gold medal

Sky News - 28/7/21

• Average monthly reach – 8m



https://news.sky.com/video/swimmer-matt-richards-parents-on-sons-gold-12366105 ITV - Lorraine - 28/7/21

• Average daily viewers – 1.2m



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yoz8urjEQUA

ITV – Good Morning Britain – 28/7/21

• Average daily viewers – 620,000



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= q7oD8D1-5E

ITV Wales at Six – 27/7/21

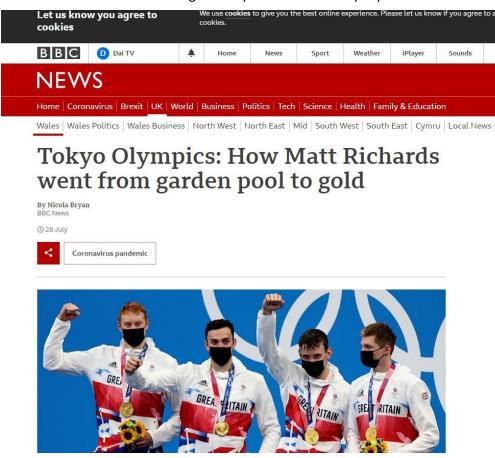
Average daily viewers – 215,000

Wales at Six: Lead item, live interviews from National Pool, Swansea with club swimmers and Swim Wales performance director Ross Nicholas.



BBC News Online - 28/7/21

Average reach per month - 310m people



https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-57994645



Tokyo Olympics: Matt Richards' parents 'overwhelmed' by gold medal

Matt Richards was so worried about lockdowns ruining his Olympic preparation, he had a small pool put in his garden to keep on training.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-wales-57999903

Pool party

The year delay enabled Richards to qualify for the Olympics and he and his family have shown ingenuity to cope with the pandemic.

Most notably after the first lockdown he trained in a cold outdoor pool at home.

How one teenager went from garden pool to Olympic gold

"I've said for a very long time, it didn't matter to us how far he got, it was helping him to get however far that's going to be," said dad Steve.



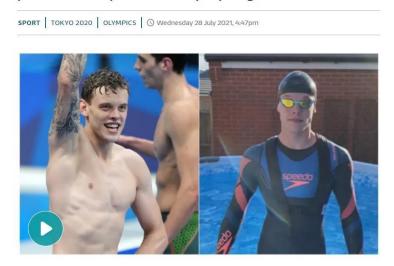
"The way swimming works, at the end of every season they have a couple of weeks off to relax and decompress and after that, Matt is already twitching and can't wait to get back into the water. So the idea of not knowing when he was going to get in the water was a real problem for him.

"When the first lockdown hannened and Covid struck plobally, that was a difficult time for him. We

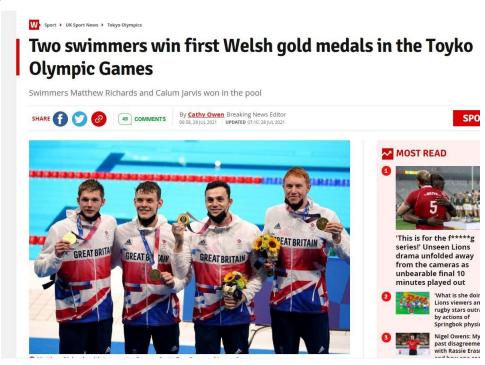
https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/wales/57994794



Matt Richards' journey from garden paddling pool to Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold



https://www.itv.com/news/2021-07-28/matt-richards-journey-from-garden-paddling-pool-to-tokyo2020-olympic-gold



https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/uk-sport-news/olympics-tokoyo-swimmers-wales-gold-21161371



https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20210729-just-gross-duck-poo-paddling-pools-on-swimmersroad-to-tokyo

CALUM JARVIS



https://www.skysports.com/watch/video/12366908/what-a-moment-5th-gb-relay-swimmer-collectsgold

Coming Home

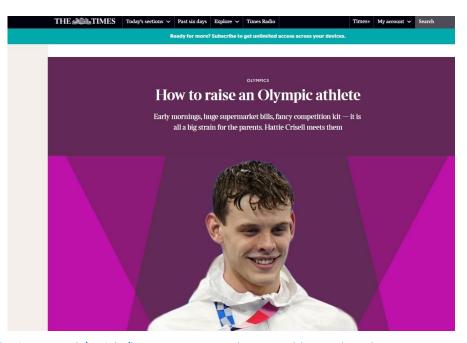


'Welcome home': Tokyo 2020 Olympic gold winner Matt Richards returns home

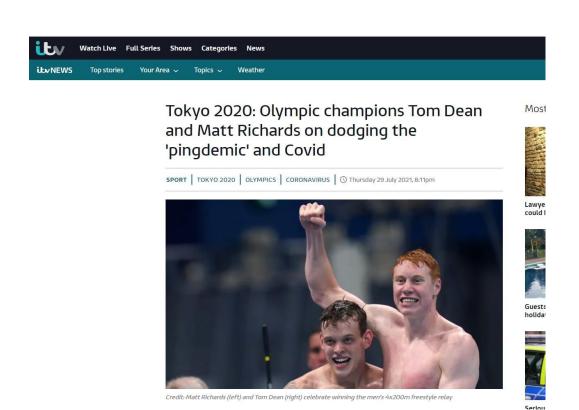


 $\underline{\text{https://www.itv.com/news/central/2021-08-03/welcome-home-tokyo-2020-olympic-gold-winner-mattrichards-returns-home}$

Follow Ups



https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/how-to-raise-an-olympic-athlete-5ch6ngkq2



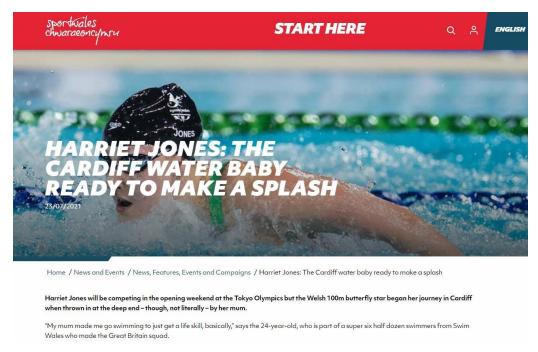
https://www.itv.com/news/2021-07-29/it-crushes-dreams-olympic-champions-dean-and-richards-ondodging-pingdemic

Kieran Bird



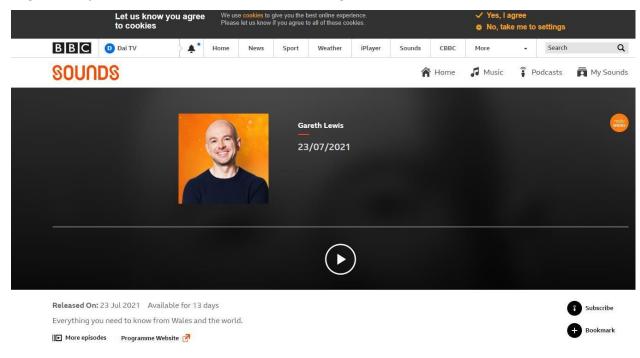
https://www.walesonline.co.uk/sport/welsh-olympic-swimmer-kieran-bird-21149883

Harriet Jones



https://www.sport.wales/media-centre/latest-news/harriet-jones-the-cardiff-water-baby-ready-tomake-a-splash/

Fergus Feeney on the hunt for Paulo Radmilovic's four gold medals



https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000y1b2

Listen from 53:30

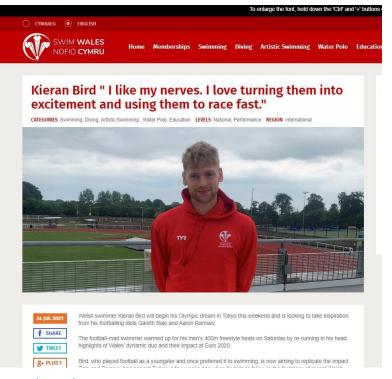
Swim Wales Website Coverage



https://www.swimwales.org/news/matt-richards-i-m-going-with-a-plan-an-aim-and-a-hope-to-comeaway-with-a-heavier-suitcase-than-i-left-with



https://www.swimwales.org/news/harriet-jones-thanks-her-mum-for-planting-the-seeds-of-herolympic-dream



https://www.swimwales.org/news/kieran-bird-i-like-my-nerves-i-love-turning-them-into-excitementand-using-them-to-race-fast



https://www.swimwales.org/news/alys-thomas-to-me-age-is-not-a-thing-i-m-still-good-enough-to-bean-olympian-and-i-am-one



https://www.swimwales.org/news/calum-jarvis-i-just-couldn-t-gather-my-thoughts-really-as-going-toan-olympics-has-been-something-i-ve-been-waiting-to-achieve-for-a-very-long-time



https://www.swimwales.org/news/daniel-jervis-this-has-been-a-dream-of-mine-since-i-was-a-youngboy

Post Race Coverage



https://www.swimwales.org/news/matt-richards-and-calum-jarvis-have-ended-welsh-swimming-s-long109-year-wait-for-olympic-gold-medal



https://www.swimwales.org/news/alys-thomas-delivered-her-fastest-time-of-the-year-to-placeseventh-in-a-rapid-women-s-200m-butterfly-olympic-final-in-tokyo



https://www.swimwales.org/news/dan-jervis-finishes-fifth-in-his-first-olympic-final-as-great-britainended-their-most-successful-swimming-campaign-in-games-history

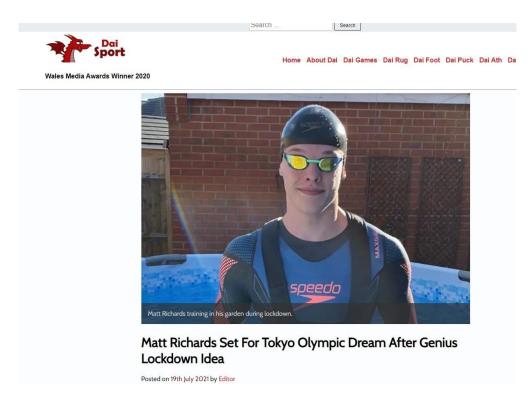
Dai Sport Website Coverage

Average monthly visitors – 42,000

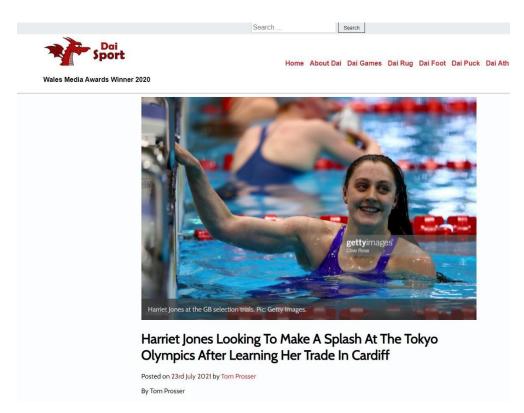
The unique part of the relationship between Swim Wales and Dai Sport is that all copy gets third-party endorsement and exposure on one of Wales' growing multi-sport websites. This provides a broader audience for stories that might not otherwise be picked up by local or national media.

Dai Sport writers covered the Olympics extensively and with the journalistic knowledge and expertise that exists within the writing team was made available to Swim Wales for the Olympic project. This included one journalist in Tokyo, two of Wales' most experienced and respected sports journalists coordinating the operation at home and three other writers.

Here is a sample of the extra coverage and exposure that was achieved for Swim Wales:



https://www.dai-sport.com/matt-richards-set-for-tokyo-olympic-dream-after-genius-lockdown-idea/



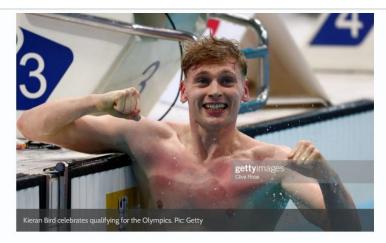
https://www.dai-sport.com/harriet-jones-looking-to-make-a-splash-at-the-tokyo-olympics-afterlearning-her-trade-in-cardiff/

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Kieran Bird Inspired By Wales' Gareth Bale And Aaron Ramsey Ahead Of The Tokyo Olympics

Posted on 23rd July 2021 by Tom Prosser

By Tom Prosser

Welsh swimmer Kieran Bird will begin his Olympic dream in Tokyo this weekend and is looking to take inspiration from his footballing idols Gareth Bale and Aaron Ramsey.

https://www.dai-sport.com/kieran-bird-inspired-by-wales-gareth-bale-and-aaron-ramsey-ahead-of-thetokyo-olympics/



https://www.dai-sport.com/alys-thomas-from-the-quirky-school-kid-with-wet-hair-to-first-time-welsholympian/

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Calum Jarvis In Touching Distance Of Achieving His Olympic Dream With Team GB In Tokyo

Posted on 27th July 2021 by Tom Prosser

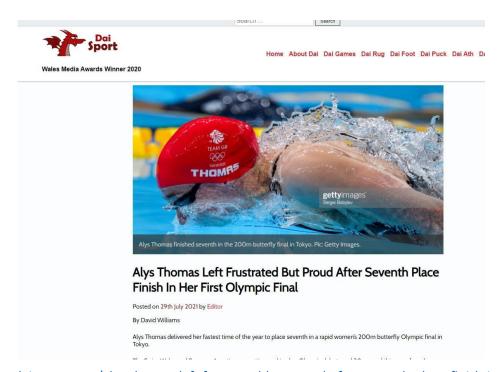
 $\underline{https://www.dai-sport.com/calum-jarvis-in-touching-distance-of-achieving-his-olympic-dream-with team-gb-in-tokyo/}$



https://www.dai-sport.com/dan-jervis-the-welshman-who-swims-for-gb-wales-grandad-pastor-santosbut-mostly-for-god/



https://www.dai-sport.com/welsh-swimmings-109-year-wait-for-olympic-gold-is-over-thanks-to-mattrichards-and-calum-jarvis/



https://www.dai-sport.com/alys-thomas-left-frustrated-but-proud-after-seventh-place-finish-in-herfirst-olympic-final/

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British Swimming Celebrates Best Olympics In History As Dan Jervis Earns Fifth Place In Tokyo Final

Posted on 1st August 2021 by Editor

By David Williams

https://www.dai-sport.com/british-swimming-celebrates-best-olympics-in-history-as-dan-jervis-earnsfifth-place-in-tokyo-final/

IN CONCLUSION

Of all the things this campaign has done, one major one was proving the old adage that content is king. Going to the Olympic Games is a big deal for every athlete. It is also a great opportunity for their sport. Our challenge was to maximise the exposure of the six Welsh swimmers.

The results were obviously boosted by the golden success of Matt Richards and Calum Jarvis. However, the identification of the back stories of all six athletes was at the heart of the campaign. Even if they had not won any medals the awareness of them had already been created. The key now is to build on that as we move into 2022 – a Commonwealth Games year for Wales and the 125th anniversary of Swim Wales.

The key components in making this a successful campaign were not merely confined to good story identification, good writing and expert media connections. The attitude within the Swim Wales organisation made it possible. Fergus Feeney, the CEO, set the agenda and his staff all played significant roles in making the plan work.

From arranging the athletes to chasing their parents for pictures and video content, Katie Genan and Amy Riley, went the extra mile to ensure the best possible results. The efficient posting of all the content on the Swim Wales website was also another huge step forward.

Director of performance Ross Nicholas also joined in enthusiastically to ensure that in the local media market Welsh swimming dominated over every other sport.

This co-ordinated approach helped to produce results that we hope have shown what is possible if you engage properly and professionally with the media.

The Olympics and Commonwealth Games are obvious rallying points, but once you have created an interest in your top talent – your heroes - there is always a better chance to push every aspect of your sport. Welsh championships that contain an Olympic gold medalist can now be properly promoted. Welsh records have more value, the sport is taken more seriously by the media and Welsh sports fans.

One of the challenges now is how best to link the success of the six swimmers, and those who will be going to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, to their clubs and local communities. Using the success of your elite performers as inspiration for other swimmers down the age group and capability scale is the next step in the exercise.

The last few weeks should be considered a line in the sand for Swim Wales and the way in which it promotes itself. We'd love to be able to play a part in ensuring it becomes a start line rather than a finish line!

Graham Thomas

Director Dai Sport

10 August, 2021



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