



**SUMMER SCHOOLS** – As we mentioned last month, thanks to some very special funding we are able to hold three Summer Schools in 2009.

**PLEASE** pass the word that: -

- δ there are currently vacancies for families with a **Pre-school** severe or profoundly deaf child at both **Southport** and **Winchester**.
- δ there are currently vacancies for families with a **Primary** age, severe or profoundly deaf child at **Southport**.

#### **Dates**

- δ University of Winchester Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> July to Tues.28<sup>th</sup> July
- δ Pontin's at Southport Mon.27<sup>th</sup> July to Fri.31<sup>st</sup> July

Full details are available on [www.deafeducation.org.uk](http://www.deafeducation.org.uk) – Look under Current Events

**SUMMER SCHOOL** in many peoples mind is synonymous with **DELTA** and the Natural Aural Approach. They have given so many families over the last 25 years, the knowledge to have real hope for their children's future. For many, it has been the inspiration they needed to get on with their 'noisy' family life, and indeed we look forward each year to seeing families leave with a better understanding of residual hearing and technology and with the determination to see their children learn to listen and talk and to achieve to the best of their abilities. The parents are inspired that is, while the youngsters are looked after and having a great time.

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD AND HELP US MAKE THEM THE SUCCESS THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN.**

Whilst we have received some funding, Summer Schools are expensive, most volunteers help raise their keep money but even so

**FUNDRAISING FOR SUMMER SCHOOLS AND THE HELP OF VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL OF MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE AS WELL!**

**Please help us to make another successful year.**

### **'SPORTY'**

Last month we were able to congratulate Tom Baxter for being selected for the Deaflympics Swimming Squad.

This month we are delighted to be able to tell everyone that Richard Breen has also been selected for the Deaflympics at Teipei.

Richard is well known to all our YDAGs, and will be remembered by many families who have attended recent Lancaster Summer Schools. *(A report is to follow.)*

## ***Sporty STOP PRESS***

**SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2009**

This is taken from KT Tunstall's website

*ANYONE FOR (DEAF!) TENNIS? Hi all, My little brother Dan has taken over the grand duty of finding the best young deaf tennis players in his part of the country to train them up and help keep a strong deaf tennis team in Britain. He's holding trials for young deaf people **from 8yrs to 16yrs in Bristol on May 9th***

*Thing is, it ain't easy trying to get the message out to young deaf people, so if you know anyone, or anyone who might know anyone, get them to e-mail Dan at; - [danbentun@hotmail.com](mailto:danbentun@hotmail.com) He'll then send out additional info to apply.*

*A message from Dan the Man below!  
Thanks, love KT x*

### INTRODUCTION

This is a special day to introduce deaf tennis to as many deaf children as possible. If it is a successful day then it could be developed further in the future. It will be organised by me, Daniel Tunstall, CCA, a qualified tennis coach and member of the British Deaf Tennis Team. Since I was 12 years old, I have travelled all over the world playing for the National team. I have also played at the Deaflympics Games in Copenhagen, Rome and Melbourne. I am hoping to be picked for the team going to the next Deaflympics in August '09 in Taipei, Taiwan. Deaf Tennis has added greatly to my life and I am keen to introduce the sport to as many deaf children as I can. I will be assisted by Sydney Falconer, also a member of the present British Deaf Tennis Team.

If you know of any individuals, charities or other organisations who can either help get the message out to young deaf people, or assist with sponsorship for this event I would be very pleased if you would let me know.

Dan Tunstall

### Why Run A Marathon by John Matthews

I suppose the answer has to be, 'because I can' I doubt there is any other logical reason. After my rectal cancer had been surgically removed mid '07 I was feeling pretty unfit, not surprising one might say given I'd just had a major operation, but it was my first operation and I didn't know any better at the time. On meeting in the street an 80 year old friend who had just had a triple bypass, we shared notes and each decided that the only way was up and that meant exercise so I signed up for the local gym. After a few sessions, whilst under a desk at the Peterborough Office towards the end of the year I suffered a vertigo attack and succumbed to a virus that stopped me going to the gym for months. Once you get out of the habit....

Back at work in January some colleagues I didn't know well but who sat close in the large open plan office began talking about Mark and his 100<sup>th</sup> half marathon. The plan was to recruit 100 runners from friends and at the work place to each raise a sum for a charity in Weston Super Mare on that 100<sup>th</sup> half marathon in Bristol September '08. I ear wiggled over the fence, there's not much else you can do in that sort of office, what I had never told anyone was what had happened when I had gone to sign up at the gym three months earlier. 'So what is your target' the pretty young lady in track suit had said. I didn't really have a target I just wanted to be fitter again. However that was not good enough for her at my induction to gym land it seems so I heard myself saying, somewhat embarrassed at the novelty of the thought in my head, 'I'd love to run a half marathon next year and a full marathon the year after when I'm 70'. To my amazement she calmly wrote it down and didn't bat an eyelid and proceeded to make up an exercise plan. Well now with that in mind and for the first time in my life I was hearing the glimmer of an opportunity. I can't tell you how tentatively I hinted that I might like to have a go. Well I figured if I couldn't run I'd walk and I'd make up the numbers and.....

On the 14<sup>th</sup> February, I was working in Birmingham and in a moment that I had web access I logged on to Run Bristol and paid my OAP sized fee. I remember the date just because it was Valentines Day. Now oddly enough the 'office athletes' didn't laugh either and so it was I began to sneak out at lunch times for a walk. Now that was not too odd for me to do, in the run up to my diagnosis of cancer I had often walked at lunch times to the nearest shop and bought 'healthy food' and walked the long way back on the basis that I'd feel better if I did. Now of course I was checking out the area that I discovered they ran at lunch times and just when I thought no one could see me jogging a bit in the area with trees. I was seen of course and again instead of laughing the office chat was 'I saw John in the trees and he was walking at a heck of a speed'. The day comes though when you have to don the gear and go for a run, IN THE STREET.

So there it is 10K in London for DELTA as a preparation for the Bristol. 103 runners raised over £23,000. Then the Great North Run. OK so I'm beginning to get hooked at this stage. Even my family were getting worried, Alison Holmans had said to me on the way back from Peterborough in my wife's hearing she didn't want to run it again it was hard with the hills. So no place with DELTA. What! Undeterred I got myself a place. For MS Society at the very last hour, literally, on a late Friday afternoon. In a late October day I ran a personal best time 2 hours and 24 minutes eight minute faster than Bristol a month earlier. I guessed that convinced the family that I was mad but I probably wouldn't die and I was going to run anyway so I might as well run for DELTA.



So that's it Flora London Marathon here I come.

OK now it seems that I have the 'office athletes' on my case one of them more than 30 years my junior aiming for sub three hours at the FLM and so I have to follow his example in the snow and the ice and the drizzle and the wind all winter. In the training plan are two half marathons and after much deliberation and input from my wife Pat who is by now totally sick of running and bowels, apparently my only conversation, we choose Eastbourne and Reading the former a seaside weekend away, no bribery here, and the other our wedding anniversary, another weekend away, of course. So was the winter training worth it? Yes 2:12 followed a month later by 2:08 and now one month to the big day.

I cannot believe how much energy the preparations absorb as it gets nearer. The accommodation, the transport getting to the start early on a Sunday morning, even a Board meeting the day before and an evening with our fractious grandchildren, they are great really, but not the best timing on the eve of what is seriously the biggest physical challenge of ones life, of course lurking in the background, so to speak, are the bowels. Yes well they have been carved up and reconstructed and, OK enough detail but the prospect of 10 hours without instant access to a loo was almost as daunting as the run itself.

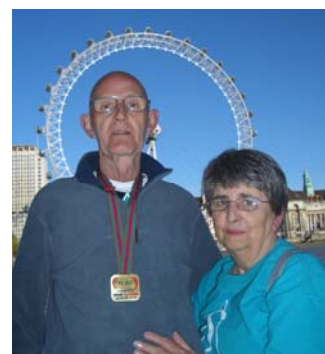
We met the intrepid few plus Steve M, Edd Stuart and Pat at a bright and chilly Greenwich Observatory, took off the outer chill reducing old clothes to reveal the legs and tee shirts for photos. Having done that I was off to find the Oxfordshire press photographer for an other photo, yes it's in all the press, I get stopped in the streets now. The preparations begin with the vast crowd of eager runners all hyper-hydrated and queuing for the porta-loos and body fuel bottles of Lucozade, down to the pens. OK so I'm a charity runner and have to start at the very back pen, pen 9, takes 20 minutes to get to the start and we're off. Of course the first few miles are easy apart from the crowded space and even this early the spectators are very encouraging and there are the DELTA support crew at six miles. I run over and share my water and run on.



It gets harder around half way but all the spectators are amazing pretty well all round the course. Mile 14 and the DELTA team reappear and spur me on. It is hot it is hard the legs are beginning to feel the strain but not too bad, I've done that distance before. The hard bit is looming, will I hit the dreaded wall? Now the legs are hurting my focus is going I start to lose the concentration all around me people are walking getting in the way, I have a conversation with a camel. Seemingly we hadn't met before. And there they are again, I spot them, its 21 miles and wave manically at the DELTA crew but this time I just keep going, no energy left for the run across to greet them.

The expected roar of the crowd as one gets back into central London is amazing as Tower Bridge and the Embankment go by the possibility of actually completing the run dawns and provides a lift. Suddenly amidst all the roar of the thousands that line the road I heard a voice, the Head of Engineering at Royal Mail has travelled to London in the hope of seeing and encouraging me! Now I know I can. I only have one aim I see Queen Victoria's statue and Buckingham Palace and the 600 metres mark and it's still so hard now there it is only 200 metres to go and I'm funnelled into the finish.

I'm SO tired, the kind volunteer almost has to lift my leg to the stool to remove the timing chip and smilingly congratulates me as so many before me. It takes SO many volunteers to make it all work. I walk ever more slowly, receive my medal and collect my bag from the lorry it's a long way still to the meeting area and I feel awful, don't want to be sick now, there's people everywhere, oh for a bit of space but there they are again the faithful DELTA few, plus a few more family and friends who came specially to the end, so crowded now at the Horse Guards but it's all over and my how much better I feel after two cup's of tea and within an hour we are dashing up the steps to the station and the journey home, still hyper-excited but five minute over 'good for age' five hours, that means I have to do it all again, can't be beaten by five minutes! Place 34<sup>th</sup> in age group, not bad for a first attempt!



*Chris Gardiner-Medwin, one of our trustees, and a very longstanding member of DELTA, was deafened in 1947 at 16 months. He was taught to speak and lip-read. We are delighted that he was accepted for the cochlea implant programme, he is one of the longest deafened people to be so. Here is the second serialised extract of his experiences:-*

Bleeping, bleeping hell! We have lift off! Chris G-M reports on progress of aural transportation! Just over 24 hours later I get down to this.... (After the Sounds of Silence)...

Low expectations very much at the back of my mind, I ambled in to have the next stage of my aural transportation made ready for lift off. The first thing was the programming by computer with a coil unit magnetically attached to the implanted receiver under the skin behind my left ear (the 'good' one!). What followed was revelation! I could hear the bleeping sounds of the various frequencies with increasing loudness until the volume was better than bearable. The exercise was repeated 12 times for a rising scale of frequencies, or perhaps dropping as I couldn't really tell the difference! I was admonished for complaining that I couldn't tell as I had only had 2 minutes! I was really staggered that the result was to be expected (or hoped for?) and that all was well with all the responses I gave.

My companion wasn't sure how all this bleeping was going to help me but she did hear the rising scales of the 12 electrode sensors! Now for the further testing; we were told to go outside with my new 'external element' (aka 'hearing aid' with cord link to coil unit) to have a walk about to try and listen for environmental sounds.

The first thing that struck me was that I could hear so much bleeping from voices and in particular myself talking! I found it very difficult to talk and would fall into giggles because of what I was hearing (loud bleeping!) when ever I opened my mouth!

Off we went out of the room and I could hear heels clacking away on the rubber flooring and a different sound on hard vinyl and again on the pavement. I saw lots of cars going by but no noise! No environmental noises at all save some footsteps and people talking.... all bleeping away! I was warned that this would be normal and that the new sounds were being transmitted to the brain for the first time and the traffic noises were subdued as the brain was ignoring them in favour of the new exciting sounds! Talk about new pastures! I was soon doing all sorts of tests to see if I could hear the sounds ... knocking on the partition walls, shuffling my feet, rubbing walls, even kissing sounds different! Back to the 'fitter' to find out more of this miracle machine and further instructions and a load of gadgets in a nifty briefcase and 'homework'!!

The return to work in my friend's car was greeted with another surprise, I could not hear the car at all but the slight whooshing of the wind past the open window and her voice bleeping away, my own too!! Back at work got the whole office agog and a lot of confused faces! Explanations over, it was back to work but soon the day was over and the evening began.

Celebration time! We duly made our way to a friend's bar which has a reputation of being extremely noisy and I was surprised that I could hear very little while my friend's ears were assailed with load music and voices. Very soon though, I worked out what the strange beat like sounds were and they were the sounds coming from the guitar and violin! I was enjoying that 'music' while all else struggled to talk and hear one another! It wasn't long before we went next door to have a meal and the relief on her face was palpable! We regained some sort of normality (for her!) and I was soon working hard at making sense of the sounds from my friend. Thank goodness I lip-read so nothing untoward there!

What is so extraordinary is that over the next few hours and the next day (today!) the bleeping became less insistent and I was working out what the sounds were! Speech is still very difficult to comprehend but at work today I was beginning to hear more and more of my colleagues and making more sense of the sounds. I feel like a baby entranced by all the new sounds and trying all sorts of noises ... clicking, thumb clicks, pencil tapping , cutlery v plate, dragging mugs on surfaces even the tapping of this keyboard etc, etc, etc! Whee! What fun! I am even getting used to my own voice!

At this stage I am ecstatic at the results.... I never expected this kind of positive result from me. I am under no illusions that it is going to be hard work for some time to get my brain to relearn the new sounds. How long no one knows but to get to this stage after 24hrs cannot be bad!

Bleeping, Bleeping Hell.... we have lift off! *To Be Continued...*



## Chatter – box

**Q.** Why should we keep talking to her then?

**A.** Many parents stop talking because they think their child cannot hear, they think it's a barrier – The Natural Aural Approach is about talking to the child so that child wants to listen, that is – natural aural – and is normal. Most parents speak a spoken language. They want to bring their child up in the same language.

**News from the Boardroom - AGM** - It is with great frustration & sadness that the Board had to postpone the AGM that was to take place on 25th April 2009 due to lack of response. We need a minimum of 20 members to attend in order to be a quorum, we usually have 9 directors attending, since we only have 2 directors re-standing for the board this makes the numbers less than usual. We currently have a membership of over 200 people and so far have only had confirmation of attendance from half the number required. As some folk have to travel a distance it is important that we are sure about numbers attending if there is any chance that we fail to make the number.

The board hope to hold the AGM now on 27th June, further details will be announced shortly and it is also planned to have a seminar and or activity organised. We will begin the process of notification and nominations again shortly.

However on a positive note we have 4 nominations for new directors, the board have co opt these directors to join the board until the AGM where elections may need to be held.

For more information about standing for election, please contact Steve Matthews. Please think about any one you know who would be suitable to join DELTA, the work of DELTA is as important now as ever it was.

And finally, our new **PERSONAL ADS** column – please contact [enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk) regarding anything you see here, or with anything you wish included. Would you or your boss give a donation for an advert?????

### FOR SALE



**'Lewis Hamilton' framed LAT photo  
(Brazil 2008)**  
Offers in region of £195.00

### WANTED

**Prizes for our Grand 25<sup>th</sup> Summer School Anniversary Raffle** (Vouchers or Gift card type are preferred please as makes posting easier)

**New members!!!!**

**Regional volunteers** to assist regional teams

**What's on info** of events around the country for aural deaf youngsters and their families

**Handmade single quilt** - A beautiful hand made quilt made and donated by the 'Dunnocks' which would cover a single bed, or make a lovely wall hanging with (there is a pole or rail hook stitched into the back)



There is a lovely matching bag, message and photo of the Ladies supplied.

Offers in the region of £250.00

**Questions????!!!!???? - For our Q & A Chatter-box**

Contact:

[enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk)

### **PRIVATE ADVERTS**

(Donation per booking)

#### **Holiday accommodation in Turkey**

Guaranteed quality, choice of Studio (from £150 per week for 2+ people) and Villa (from £350 per week for 6) with shared pool or Duplex from £250 per week for 6(quiet shared pool).

Visit [www.kalkanholidays.info](http://www.kalkanholidays.info)

#### **Weddings in Turkey?**

Qualified British Lady photographer  
Prices from £500

See [www.bohemia-images.co.uk](http://www.bohemia-images.co.uk)  
Email [bohemia.images@gmail.com](mailto:bohemia.images@gmail.com)

### **ADVERTISING**

(Paid)

This is empty, perhaps you could be here next month!

DELTA'S fundraisers are using [www.everyclick.co.uk](http://www.everyclick.co.uk) for their Internet browser

DELTA'S fundraisers are using <http://buy.at/DELTA> for their Internet Shopping