

# **Scottish Paralympic Athlete profiles 2012**

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### **Jim Anderson OBE**

Sport: Swimming

Home Town: Broxburn, West Lothian

Games attended: Beijing 08, Athens 04, Sydney 00,

Atlanta 96, Barcelona 92

Coach: Kerry Wood Date of Birth: 14/04/63



Jim 'the swim' Anderson is one of the most experienced members of the British team having competed at every Paralympic Games since Barcelona 1992. London will be his sixth Paralympic Games.

Jim was introduced to swimming when he went to the pool with his family and he enjoyed the freedom it offered him. Jim developed his love for swimming as a member of the Splash club in Broxburn and has been competing since 1991. He now trains with Stirling swimming club.

First went swimming as a child when he went swimming with his family. Attracted to it as it was something he could do on his own. Jim's greatest achievement was winning four gold medals in Athens, competing in the 50m Freestyle (S2), 100m Freestyle (S2), 200m Freestyle (S2), 50m Backstroke (S2).



### **James Clegg**

Sport: Swimming Home Town: Stockport

Trains: East Lothian Swim Team

Coach: Matt Trodden

Date of Birth: **05/01/94** 



James is one of the teenagers on the London 2012 Paralympic team seemingly improving with every swim. His best performance over the two Trials was in the MC 100m Butterfly at the British Gas Swimming Championships in London Aquatics Centre, improving on Ian Sharpe's 12-year old British S12 record to scoop silver in 1:01.46.

Clegg's time from the British Champs would have placed him fifth in the 2011 world rankings. James has also shown promise in the S12 50m and 100m Freestyle, lowering his personal best in the former to 26.36 at the British International Disability Championships. His British record in the latter stands at 57.16 - also set this season at the Scottish Gas National Age Group Championships.

James' sister Libby will also be competing at the London 2012 Paralympic Games - she is a world T12 champion sprinter.

In the swimming world, James regards Ian Thorpe and Michael Phelps as two of his sporting heroes.



# **Craig Connell**

Sport: 7 a side Football

Home Town: Glasgow Date of Birth: 18/12/88



Craig has been playing football since he was 10 years old and has been competing at national level for over five years.

Craig proudest moment was being awarded Goalkeeper of the tournament at the 2010 CPISRA European Championships held in Glasgow. His sporting hero is Peter Schmeichel.

Craig has strengthened his place as Scotland's number 1 but he is now also Great Britain's number 1 and hopefully will play a key role in the Paralympic Games. Craig is a fantastic shot stopper and will be the man to beat in London this year



### **Murray Elliot**

Sport: Archery

Home Town: **Bo'ness, West Lothian** 

Coach: Hazel Elliot Date of Birth: 17/10/61



Murray has been shooting for over 20 years and trains with the Balbardie Archers. Murray joined the GB Archery team in 2007 and represented Great Britain in high profile major events including the European and World Championships in 2009 and 2010.

Murray says he loves the buzz and excitement of competing and he describes selection to compete at the London 2012 Paralympic Games as the pinnacle of his sporting career.

One of Murray's career highlights is his victory in the men's Individual Recurve (Standing) at the 2011 Stoke Mandeville International Invitational when he beat the reigning World Champion to win gold.

'Taking part in such a massive sporting occasion has been my dream since before Beijing four years ago, and for me, the dream has come true.' Murray Elliot



#### **Neil Fachie**

Sport: Cycling Home Town: Aberdeen

Lives: Altrincham, Cheshire

Trains: Manchester
Games attended: Beijing 08
Date of Birth: 12/03/84



After narrowly missing out on the 100m and 200m finals in athletics, Neil decided that he needed a change in his sporting career. Describing himself as a life-long cycling fan, Neil was introduced to the competitive element of the sport at the Manchester Velodrome in 2008. He thrived on the high speed and high adrenaline of the sport, joining the Para-Cycling team in April 2009.

Shortly afterwards, Neil entered his first major international competition at the 2009 BT Paralympic World Cup and the Manchester Velodrome. Neil, piloted by Dave Readle, won two silver medals. Since then, Neil has represented Great Britain at two World Championships, winning four gold medals and breaking two world records.

With his training base in Manchester, Neil is a keen supporter of Aberdeen FC and cites Mark Cavendish as his sporting hero.

In 2006, Neil graduated from the University of Aberdeen with a Bachelor's degree in Physics. He won the Aberdeen Sports Person of the Year for his achievements in 2009.

Neil has a congenital eye condition, Retinitis Pigmentosa.



### **Sean Fraser**

Sport: Swimming
Home Town: Edinburgh
Trains: Manchester
Coach: Mick Massey
Date of Birth: 30/04/90



Sean burst on to the scene in time for the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing where he - as an 18-year old rookie - he won S8 100m Backstroke bronze. The following season he won his first British Champs title over MC 100m Backstroke then lifted three bronzes medals (S8 50m Freestyle, 400m Freestyle, 100m Backstroke) at his first European Championships in Reykjavik. In 2010, Sean won British Champs gold in the MC 100m Freestyle before representing Scotland at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, setting the S8 100m Freestyle British record of 1:00.77 to win silver.

Sean added to his medal collection with 34pt 4x100m Freestyle Relay bronze at the 2011 Europeans in Berlin last year before being selected for his second Paralympic team, having won MC 100m Freestyle gold at the 2012 British Gas Swimming Championships in London.

Sean comes from a sporty family - his father Richard runs marathons and his sister also swims.

He lists three of his sporting heroes as Ian Thorpe, Roger Federer and Valentino Rossi.

Sean insists he would be involved in another sport if he wasn't a Paralympic swimmer - probably motor racing.



# **Blair Glynn**

Sport: **7 a side Football**Home Town: **Tranent, East Lothian** 

Date of Birth: 11/08/86



Blair has been playing Football for over 18 years.

He was part of the Scottish team that finished 6th at the 2011 CPISRA World Championships in the Netherlands. His most memorable moment on the pitch was scoring his first goal for Scotland against Canada.

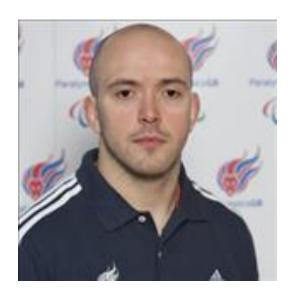
Blair has a HND in Sports Coaching and Development from Telford College and currently works as a leisure assistant for East Lothian Council.



# Sam Ingram

Sport: Judo

Home Town: Edinburgh
Games attended: Beijing 08
Date of Birth: 22/08/85



Sam burst onto the international scene in 2007, competing at the European Championships in Belgrade, Serbia where he finished 5th. Sam then went on to win a bronze for ParalympicsGB in Beijing 2008.

Sam is one of two sets of brothers currently competing in visually impaired judo, with his brother Joe also training with the squad and competing in his first Paralympic Games in London. In 2010, Sam competed at the IBSA World Championships in Antalya, Turkey where he won a silver medal.

In 2011 Sam also won his first VI European title of his career at the IBSA VI European Championships in Crawley, UK, in the under-90kg category.



### **Michael Kerr**

Sport: Wheelchair Rugby

Home Town: Glasgow Date of Birth: 13/10/82



Mike started competing in Wheelchair Rugby in 2002, when he began playing for a local club.

Having been a lifelong Rugby fan, Mike took to Wheelchair Rugby because it is a fast and aggressive full-contact sport. He made his debut for the British team at the 2006 Demolition Derby in Alabama, USA.

Mike greatly admires his ex-team-mates Steve Palmer and Jason Roberts, stating that he has learned a great deal from both players.

At the London 2012 Paralympic Games Mike is most looking forward to competing in front of a home crowd.

Mike is classified as a 1.5 player and now plays with the North East Bulls.



# **Craig MacLean**

Sport: Cycling (tandem pilot)
Home Town: Grantown-on-Spey
Lives: Wilmslow, Cheshire

Trains: Manchester

Games attended: Athens 04, Sydney 00

Date of Birth: 31/07/71



In 1995, he decided to focus on building his career and specialise in Track Cycling. He quickly progressed to be a key member of the British Cycling squad, representing Great Britain in the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and the 2004 Athens Olympic Games. He also competed at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester and the 2006 Games in Melbourne.

Craig suffered a back injury in 2007 and announced his retirement from the team at the UCI World Cup in 2008. Since then, Craig has worked on several projects for the BBC as a commentator and in 2010 he joined the GB Para-Cycling Team as a Tandem Pilot.

In 2011, Craig teamed up with Neil Fachie and in 2011 the duo won gold in the Tandem Sprint and the Tandem Kilo at the Para-Cycling Track World Championships in Montichiari, Italy.

Craig Maclean is the Tandem Pilot for Anthony Kappes at the London 2012 Paralympics.



### **Scott McCowan**

Sport: Boccia
Home Town: Dundonald

Coach: Julie Broadhead

Date of Birth: 17/07/91



Scott made his international debut at the 2009 European Championships in Porto, Portugal, where he finished in 17th place.

Scott won Scottish National titles in 2009, 2010, and 2011 and the Scottish Open Champion in 2008 and 2011 in Individual competition. At the 2011 World Cup in Belfast, Northern Ireland, he achieved 6th place.

His proudest achievement to date was winning the Cheshire Open, beating three world top 10 sides in the process, including the world no. 2 BC3 team from Portugal and the World Cup silver medallists from Belgium. This was the first time that a British BC3 team had beaten Portugal, confirming the progress of the British BC3 athletes during a tournament where GB Boccia won a trophy in every single category.

Scott is currently studying psychology and sports studies at Stirling University.

'The Paralympic Games is the pinnacle of disability sport and to be honoured with the privilege and responsibility of representing ParalympicsGB and GB Boccia is an unbelievable feeling!' Scott McCowan.



# **Gary McCowan**

Sport: Boccia
Home Town: Dundonald
Date of Birth: 30/01/64



Gary is a ramp assistant for his son Scott. He is an integral part of the BC3 team as when on court he has responsibility to position the ramp and balls as directed by Scott in order for a successful shot to be executed. Gary has no sight of the court as he sits with his back to the court throughout play.

This is the first occasion that ramp assistants in the Paralympics will be eligible for a medal.

Gary has been very heavily involved in the sport since his two sons started to play and perform five years ago. He has been a ramp assistant with Scott at European and World level completions over the years and still manages to hold down a full time job.



#### **Peter McGuire**

Sport: Boccia
Home Town: Hamilton
Coach: Jim Thomson
Date of Birth: 24/10/82



Peter was introduced to Boccia by his brother and enjoys the competitive element of the sport. He will be making his Paralympic debut in London.

Peter cites his greatest achievement as winning the BC4 Pairs silver medal at the World Championships alongside his brother Stephen at the 2010 World Championships in Lisbon, Portugal.

In Individual competition, Peter won the Scottish and British titles in 2008. At the 2011 Europa Cup in Hamar, Norway, he won a bronze medal in the BC4 Individual.

In pairs competition Peter won the BC4 pairs silver medal at the 2010 World Championships in Lisbon, Portugal and the BC4 pairs gold medal at the 2009 World Championships.

'It's been a seven year journey for myself and my brother after just missing out on Beijing... the Paralympic Games is the pinnacle event in an athlete's career.' Peter McGuire



### Stephen McGuire

Sport: Boccia
Home Town: Hamilton
Coach: Jim Thomson

Date of Birth: 18/08/84



Stephen will be competing for ParalympicsGB for the first time in London, in both the Individual competition and alongside brother Peter in the Pairs event.

In Individual competition, Stephen won a silver medal in the BC4 Individual at the 2011 Europa Cup in Hamar, Norway. He also won the BC4 Individual silver medal at the 2010 World Championships in Lisbon, Portugal, and a gold medal at the 2009 Czech Open in Prague, Czech Republic.

He is also a three-time Scottish Champion and Scottish Open Champion. Additionally, he is a five-time British Champion.

In 2005 Stephen went to compete in the European Championships but could only compete in the Individual event as there were no other British athletes competing in the newly formed BC4 category. This encouraged his brother Peter to get involved.

Together, they have won the BC4 Pairs silver medal at the 2010 World Championships in Lisbon, Portugal and the BC4 Pairs gold medal at the 2009 European Championships in Porto, Portugal.

'Being selected to represent ParalympicsGB at a home Games in London, alongside my brother Peter, is one of the proudest moments in my life.' Stephen McGuire



#### **Andrew Mullen**

Sport: Swimming
Home Town: Glasgow
Trains: REN 96

Coach: Andy Jackson

Date of Birth: **29/11/96** 



Andrew is Great Britain's brightest young prospect in the lower classifications, having made his international debut as a 15-year old at last year's 2011 European Championships in Berlin. He rose to the challenge in Germany, scooping two medals - bronze in the SM5 200m Individual Medley and silver in his favourite event, the S5 50m Butterfly.

With Paralympic qualification standards sky high for London 2012, Andrew was left with a task on his hands to secure the S5 50m Butterfly time, but after coming close at the 2012 British Gas Swimming Championships, he ducked under the time at the second attempt at the British International in Sheffield, lowering the British record in the process.

After winning two medals on his international debut as a 15-year old at last year's European Championships, Andrew was named Scottish Disability Sport Athlete of the Year.

He is a big fan of American sports and holds the likes of LeBron James and Kobe Bryant as two of his sporting idols, as well as boxer Floyd Mayweather.

Away from sport, he likes listening to music by rapper Mac Miller or eating his favourite meal - spaghetti and meatballs.



#### **Jonathan Paterson**

Sport: **7 a side Football** 

Home Town: Motherwell
Games attended: Beijing 08
Date of Birth: 15/01/88



London 2012 will be Jonathan's second Paralympic Games, having led the team out at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games where Great Britain achieved a 9th place finish.

Jonathan first got involved in the sport six years ago at the 2006 CP European Championships in Dublin. His proudest moment was being selected as Scotland and GB captain.

The most influential person in his life is his brother Nicki Paterson, who is a professional footballer in the United States. Jonathan's sporting hero is David Beckham.

Jonathan has SFA coaching badges at youth level 1-3 and also has an HNC and HND in Sports Coaching and Development.



#### **Gordon Reid**

Sport: Wheelchair Tennis

Home Town: Alexandria
Lives: Helensburgh
Trains: Gannochy

**National Tennis Centre** 

Games attended: Beijing 08
Coach: Karen Ross
Date of Birth: 02/01/91



Gordon first began playing Wheelchair Tennis in 2005, when he was introduced to the sport at Scotstoun Leisure Centre in Glasgow. He was acknowledged for his sporting credentials in 2006, when he was among the 10 shortlisted finalists for the BBC Young Sports Personality of the year.

In 2007, Gordon became Britain's youngest MS National Champion and he was also part of Great Britain's winning junior team at the 2007 World Team Cup. He feels his greatest achievement was representing ParalympicsGB at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games when he was just 16 years of age.

Gordon also enjoys Wheelchair Basketball and he previously represented Scotland as part of the under-25 team.

When he was younger, Gordon combined his training commitments with his studies and he was awarded Uppers (A-Levels) from Hermitage Academy in 2009 in Maths, English and Biology.



### **James Richmond**

Sport: **7 a side Football** 

Home Town: **Tullibody**,

Clackmannanshire

Date of Birth: 19/07/80



James says that he has been playing Football for as long as he can remember and describes it as the best game in the world.

James has been playing with the cerebral palsy, head injury or stroke team for eighteen months after seeing a poster in McDonalds and was selected for the Scottish National Squad almost immediately. His most memorable and proudest moment was representing Scotland at the 2011 CPISRA World Cup, held in the Netherlands.

James said "It's been hard work juggling family commitments, work and training but I am delighted to represent Great Britain and excited at competing in my first Paralympic Games in front of a home crowd. I can't wait for the Games to start".



# **Craig Rodgie**

Sport: Swimming Home Town: Dunfermline

Club: Edinburgh University

Coach: Chris Jones

Date of Birth: 9/11/89



Craig learned to swim in the Inverkeithing HS Community Use 20m swimming pool before moving to his first club, INCAS, age five. Craig is a member of a very talented swimming family and at age nine he moved to Carnegie Swimming Club before settling with the Performance Squad at the University of Edinburgh when he turned 20.

Craig's opportunity to challenge for a place in the highest levels of disability sport was created by the UK Sports association for Persons with a Learning Disability (UKSA). His first representative honour for Great Britain was being selected for the 2008 INAS FID European Championships in Poland where he won silver and bronze medals in 100m butterfly and 100m backstroke and was also a member of the 200m freestyle relay team which broke the world record. Craig's next major selection was for Great Britain at the 2009 Global Games in the Czech Republic where he was in the 100m relay team which broke the world record. Each of these world records still stands to the present day.

Craig remains Scotland's record holder in freestyle, butterfly and backstroke and is the current British record holder for 50m backstroke. Craig says that his greatest achievement was winning the gold medal at the 2009 IPC European Championships in Reykjavik, Iceland, competing in the 100m Backstroke (S14).

'For it to be my first Games and a home Games is something you can't really ask for or imagine. The home crowd is always fantastic. We had a taste of it in March for the first trials and that was something else, but to have 17,500 spectators on your side - I can't wait.' Craig Rodgie

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### **David Smith**

Sport: Rowing
Home Town: Dunfermline
Lives: Aviemore
Date of Birth: 21/04/78



David first represented Great Britain at the 2009 Varese International Regatta in the Legs Trunks and Arms adaptive mixed coxed four (LTAMix4+) where he won gold on both days. He raced in the same boat class for the Munich World Cup, winning gold.

Dave went on to win gold in the adaptive mixed coxed four at the 2009 World Championships in Poznan; this success was achieved by a crew with two rowers and the cox completely new to World Level rowing this year, David being one of those new members of the Adaptive Squad in 2009.

At the 2011 World Rowing Championships in Bled, Dave won Gold in the LTA mixed coxed four with crewmates Pamela Relph, Naomi Riches, James Roe and (cox), Lily van den Broecke.

In Munich at the first World Cup of 2011, Dave raced in one of two GB LTAMix4+ boats to take gold with Germany in 2nd and the other GB boat taking bronze.

Dave is a keen sportsman as he has previously competed for Great Britain in Karate (1993-1999) and Bobsleigh (2002-2008).

Dave graduated from the University of Bath with a Bachelors Degree in Sports Performance in 2009.



# **Libby Clegg**

Sport: Athletics
Home Town: Langholm
Lives: Loughborough

Games attended: **Beijing 08**Coach: **Keith Antoine** 

Date of Birth: 24/03/90



Libby joined the Macclesfield Harriers Athletics Club in 1999, bursting onto the international scene aged 16 at the 2006 World Championships in Assen, the Netherlands, when she won a silver medal in the T12 200m.

Libby made her Paralympic debut in Beijing in 2008, winning a silver medal in the T12 100m. Later that year, she was awarded 3rd place in the BBC Young Sports Personality of the year.

Libby had a hugely impressive IPC European Athletics Championships in Holland this year winning double gold in the T12 100m and 200m respectively. Libby Clegg was a member of the Great Britain Team at the IPC World Athletics Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand in February 2011 where she won gold for 100m and bronze in 200m.

Libby is not the only athletic member of her family. At London 2012, her younger brother James will represent ParalympicsGB in Swimming.

Previously a student at the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh, Libby is now based in Loughborough on a full-time basis.

In 2011, Libby was awarded a NVQ in Personal Training and Soft Tissue Therapy from Loughborough College. In the future, she has ambitions to set up her own sport therapy clinic.



#### Karen Darke

Sport: Cycling H2
Home Town: Halifax
Lives: Inverness
Date of Birth: 25/06/71



Karen has an adventurous spirit and, amongst other achievements, she has cycled the length of Japan on her Handbike, climbed El Capitan and been crowned the 2009 World Para-Triathlon Champion.

In 2009, Karen won a bronze medal in the Para-Cycling World Cup and she went on to join the British Para-Cycling team in 2010. Her achievements to date include winning two silver medals at the 2011 Para-Cycling World Cup in Sydney, Australia, in both the women's H2 Road Race and Time Trial events.

At London 2012, Karen is most looking forward to competing in the Time Trial. After the Games, she's set herself the challenge of skiing to the South Pole.

In addition to her sporting achievements, Karen was awarded a doctorate in Geology from the University of Aberdeen in 1996. She also has a MA in Development Training and diplomas in Performance Coaching and Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Karen is an athlete with a spinal cord injury, which she acquired in a rock climbing accident.



#### **Fiona Duncan**

Sport: Cycling (tandem pilot)

Home Town: Glasgow
Lives: Aberdeen
Date of Birth: 30/12/76



Fiona's husband Andy introduced her to cycling in 2003, and when she demonstrated obvious talent she joined her local cycling club Ythan CC. Initially Fiona entered L'Etape de Tour and then some local time trials; she went on to be selected to represent the GB Police team (PSUK) at the European Police Championships in 2008 where the ladies team won silver. She then went on to win the Scottish Police College fitness prize twice.

Fiona was introduced to Tandem Piloting in 2010 after meeting Para-Cyclist Tandem Sprinter, Neil Fachie. She started riding the tandem with Lora Turnham that year, and they won a silver medal at the Para-Cycling Track World Championships in 2011 after riding together for just 6 weeks.

The highlight of her career to date is winning a first Gold medal together with Lora in the World Cup Time Trial in Segovia, June 2012.

Fiona is taking a career break from Grampian Police to train full time with Lora Turnham for 2012.



### Aileen McGlynn OBE

Sport: Cycling
Home Town: Paisley
Lives: Manchester

Games attended: Beijing 08, Athens 04

Coach: Chris Furber Date of Birth: 22/06/73



Aileen describes the greatest achievement of her career to date as winning two gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games and setting a new World Record in the 1km Time Trial, an event in which she also claimed the gold medal when she made her Paralympic debut at the 2004 Athens Paralympic Games.

At the 2011 World Track Championships Aileen won silver in the 1km time trial with her pilot Helen Scott. At the 2012 World Track Championships in LA, the pairing came away with 3 silver medals in the 1km time trial, the 3km pursuit and the tandem sprint. Aileen's ambition is to defend her Paralympic titles in London with her new pilot Fiona Duncan. She trains with the British Cycling Team in Manchester and cites Sir Chris Hoy as her sporting inspiration.

In addition to her sporting achievements, Aileen has graduated with a degree in Mathematics, Statistics and Management Science from the University of Strathclyde.

Aileen has a visual impairment.



# **Kate Murray**

Sport: Archery

Home Town: Hawick, Roxburghshire

Games attended: Beijing 08
Date of Birth: 30/08/48



At London 2012, Kate will be competing at her second Paralympic Games.

Kate first tried Archery after a friend bought her a training session as a Christmas present. She enjoys the inclusive nature of the competition, and she has now been competing for over nine years. She trains with Eastcote House and Border Bowmen. Kate's greatest achievement to date was winning bronze at the 2007 World Championships in Cheongju, Korea.

In addition to Archery, Kate has a keen interest in Equestrian sport and used to compete in horse driving trials. She also enjoys Wheelchair Basketball and Wheelchair Rugby.



#### **Stefanie Reid**

Sport: Athletics

Home Town: Aukland, New Zealand

Lives: Texas
Games attended: Beijing 08
Date of Birth: 26/10/84



Stef has dual nationality as her parents are British, whilst she was raised in Toronto. Whilst studying for a degree in Biochemistry and Life Sciences at Queen's University, Toronto, in 2004, Stef was invited to try track and field with the Varsity team.

Specialising in sprint events and the Long Jump, Stef was selected to represent Canada at the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games, winning a bronze medal in the T44 200m and finishing 5th in the F44 Long Jump. She took the decision to compete for Great Britain in 2010.

Stef has aspirations to work as a nutritionist and be a successful speaker once she has retired from competition. She is married to Canadian Brent Lakatos, a T53 Wheelchair Racer.

Stefanie is a lower-limb amputee after a boating accident when she was 16 years old.



# **Claire Harvey**

Sport: Sitting Volleyball

Home Town: **Gillingham** Lives: **Ashford, Kent** 

Date of Birth: 19/02/72



In 2009, Claire was spotted at a BPA Talent ID Day and quickly took to Sitting Volleyball, enjoying the fast, physical and dynamic aspects of the team sport. She later made her debut for the women's Sitting Volleyball team at the 2010 Kent International in a match against China and has now earned over 40 caps for Great Britain. The sitting volleyball team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the 2012 WOVD Inter Continental Cup, Cairo, Egypt and 7<sup>th</sup> in the 2011 ECVD European Championships, Holland.

Outside of her sporting achievements, Claire graduated from Cambridge University in 2006 with a masters degree in Criminology. She now works in Financial Services as a Head of Corporate Responsibility. She can communicate in British Sign Language and German. She also enjoys canoeing and spending time in the outdoors.

She had a spinal cord injury, with paralysis in her right leg below the knee. She is classified as a D athlete. Her dominant position on the court is Setter.