

## **OTTO**

Twelve-year-old Welsh National Swimming Champion, **Otto Putland**, was so moved by the story of a teenage boy and his battle with cancer that he has launched his own fundraising campaign. Otto, from Hereford, is dedicating 17 months of his life to raising money for the **Teenage Cancer Trust Laurie Engel Fund**, set up in memory of **Laurie Engel** - a boy he never met - who died of cancer aged just 13, in 2005.

## **OTTO'S CHALLENGE**

Otto is raising funds in a variety of ways. Firstly, every swimming event he takes part in, Otto paints a '6' on his arms. This denotes both the number of teenagers in the UK who are diagnosed with cancer every day and also the number of teenagers in Herefordshire expected to develop cancer each year. After each event he collects funds from competitors and spectators. Otto has gone on to challenge every swimming club in the country to raise £1,000 each by September 2007, the anniversary of Laurie's death. The clubs that raise the most money will receive signed memorabilia donated by Britain's top swimmers. Otto has got some of the bigger names in swimming to back his plans. Both Olympic medallist, **Steve Parry**, and Commonwealth medalist, **Alex Scotcher**, along with Team Bath Olympian, **Darren Mew** have pledged to support Otto in his fundraising, along with Teenage Cancer Trust's Ambassador and multiple Paralympics Champion, **Marc Woods**. **Steve Parry** said " It is amazing to see a young man with such unselfish focus. Otto really is an amazing person and will be very successful in life. If there is anyway that myself or Total Swimming can help support his extraordinary efforts we will"

## **TEENAGE CANCER TRUST AND THE LAURIE ENGEL FUND**

Money will go towards the **Teenage Cancer Trust Laurie Engel Fund**, which is working to raise funds for a unit especially for teenagers with cancer at Birmingham Children's Hospital where Laurie was treated. The Engel family, who are working closely with the charity Teenage Cancer Trust, hope Laurie's fund will make a large contribution to this project, which will substantially brighten the lives of sick teenagers. They believe Laurie would be proud. To find out more please visit [www.laurieengelfund.org](http://www.laurieengelfund.org). For more information about the Trust or Otto's challenge check out [www.teenagecancertrust.org](http://www.teenagecancertrust.org) or email Otto on [ottoschallenge@btinternet.com](mailto:ottoschallenge@btinternet.com).