

Leisure

Football

Beeston's own international footballer returns undeterred

JEREMY Millensted, from Beeston, is Nottinghamshire's latest football international. Jeremy, 24, made his debut playing football for the Great Britain Deaf Football team in 2010, in the 9-1 2-leg qualifier win against Israel for the 2011 European Deaf Football Championships. Jeremy, having worked hard to be selected for the squad to play in the finals, had a fabulous time in Odense, Denmark in July. "It was a brilliant feeling to put my shirt on and play against the other countries. I was awarded man of the

match in the first game in the group stages against Germany," he said.

Quarterfinals

In the group stages, Jeremy played all 90 minutes as Great Britain (GB) fought valiantly to defeat rivals Germany 1-0. Wins against Holland and Poland saw GB win the group and qualify for the quarterfinals. Jeremy continued: "We won the group stage with a 100 percent record and progressed to the quarterfinals. Our opponents, Ireland, started well and were leading 2-0 at half

time. Under pressure in the dressing room at half time, we managed stay calm and focus on the game. We then fought back and thrashed them 4-2 after extra time. I played the whole 120 minutes, and I was so thrilled and amazed."

Semi finals

The semi-final pitched GB against the Deaflympics holders and favourites, Ukraine. Extremely hot weather and a very dry pitch on the day made flowing play difficult. GB worked hard through 90 minutes and kept fighting to the end,

but disappointingly lost 3-1. The team manager asked the squad to keep their chins up, because there was still the third place play-off for the bronze medal to think about.

GB had one rest day, and the players were very tired and had stiff legs after the Ukraine battle. The third place play-off turned out to be a re-match against Germany. Jeremy said: "We were positive and ready to beat them again. However, it was another big disappointment as we lost 4-0. This match was totally different to the first game and I was annoyed that we

didn't win, as we really wanted the medal. Overall, though, I'm so proud of what the team and I achieved as this was my first proper international tournament. Now I will look forward the World Cup in Turkey in 2012 and hope to bring gold back to our country."

World Cup 2012

Jeremy had to raise funds himself to be able to travel with the team. He finally made it helped by a donation from the Nottinghamshire County Council Councillors Divisional Fund. Local Cllr Eric Kerry said: "I am really

pleased to have played a part in helping Jeremy achieve his target. His enthusiasm is infectious and he has expressed just how grateful he is to have realised his dream. I know he will excel in the future and represent Beeston well."

By achieving fourth place, GB gained qualification to both the 2012 World Cup in Turkey and the 2013 Deaflympics (pending appeal from several countries) so watch this space.

Wildlife Watching

Local news and views of the natural world

ONE of the things that people find most attractive about the world of wildlife is its sheer diversity.

Even in this country, a short walk in a wildlife rich area on, for instance, a summer's day can reveal a wide array of life – in particular insects – but this is almost nothing compared to that found to some of the most wildlife rich areas of the world.

The question of the number of wildlife species on earth is one that has puzzled scientists for many years and there have been a number of attempts to come up with an answer with estimates ranging from 1 to 100 million species!

The latest estimate is 8.7 million but how do you count this number, given that we haven't actually discovered all these species yet? It all comes down to the use of an interesting

mathematical model. The researchers analysed the taxonomic classification used to describe all life: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species, and found that the numbers of each followed a regular pattern. By analysing groups that we have a detailed understanding of, such as mammals and birds, the number of each descending category of life in the taxonomic classification follows a predictable numeric formula.

If we accept the resulting figures one thing becomes clear – just how little we know about the earth's wildlife. Although the data suggest that around 75 percent of the predicted number of plants have already been discovered, for all other types of life the percentage is much lower. Overall, of the 8.7 million creatures on this

planet, including 2.2 million in the sea, 91 percent of underwater inhabitants remain to be classified as well as 86 percent above the oceans.

Although it would be correct to assume that many of these species would be small and difficult to find, or living in places that make their study difficult, they do not necessarily have to be both. Readers may recall a BBC programme covering an expedition to a remote extinct volcano in Papua New Guinea. This catalogued for the first time 40 new species, including 16 species of frog, at least three new species of fish, 20 species of insect and spider and one new species of bat. The 'star of the show' was a three foot long giant woolly rat provisionally named the Bosavi woolly rat after the region in which it was found and, again, previously unknown to science.

You might not have to go as far as this to discover a new species of wildlife – it might be lurking in your garden. This was the case in a long study of an ordinary garden in Leicester which revealed many species found in this country for the first time and two which had never before been identified. Trying to emulate this in your own

garden would be no easy task but anyone wishing to try could be greatly assisted by online identification resources such as the ispot website. Don't bother sending them pictures of any rats that you might see – they are probably not of the giant woolly variety!

The main requirement for the discovery of new wildlife species is to have someone looking for them. There was an increasing supply of naturalists to do this through the earliest days of the study, identification and classification of wildlife and especially during the Victorian period. Some undertook this for

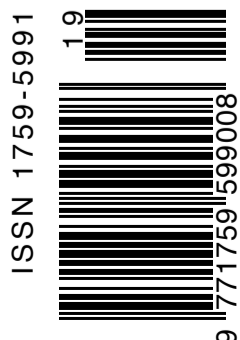
serious scientific reasons, others more as a hobby but the work that they did provides the basis for much of the knowledge of the diversity of wildlife that we have today. This type of research is now carried out almost exclusively by specialists and whilst much is being done, our comprehensive surveys of unstudied areas, such as that undertaken by the BBC team at Bosavi, are still too rare.

The other major requirement for these discoveries is that those seeking to make them need to get to the habitats of unknown species before they are damaged or destroyed

by man. Habitat loss is the principle cause of extinctions but climate change is just one of a number of factors that can play a part. This, together with the difference between the predicted number of species and those that have already been recorded, means that unknown species, whether in rainforests, oceans or somewhere much closer to home, have and will become extinct before their existence is recorded.

A pretty poor result for (supposedly) the most intelligent species of all!

Jack Smith
Local ecologist



Thought for the Fortnight

A banker is a fellow who lends you his umbrella when the sun is shining and wants it back the minute it begins to rain.

Mark Twain (1835-1910)