

# Case study



Limbformation



## Thomas – Age 10

*Thomas was born with a congenital limb difference, with his left leg bent at 90 degrees and surgery was unable to straighten it. Thomas and his family opted to have an amputation in the summer of 2019.*

**Thomas is sports-mad and loves spending time with his friends. At just ten years old this chatty and quietly confident boy has already had to make some difficult decisions about his future. A congenital condition meant that Thomas was born with his left leg bent at 90 degrees which he was unable to straighten.**

His family have watched Thomas endure several procedures to straighten and lengthen his leg, including soft tissue release surgery, serial castings and the use of an Ilizarov Frame, an external fixation device. By the time he was nine, Thomas was frustrated at being held back and wanted to find a solution. It was Thomas who first suggested the idea of amputation to his parents: “Just chop it off; I can either carry on like this or I could be Jonnie Peacock”, he told them. Paralympian sprint runner, Peacock is just one of Thomas’s sporting heroes.

Thomas had the operation to amputate his leg just a few months later. Rachel Morris, LimbPower Trustee and British Paralympian who has won gold medals in both cycling and rowing came to visit Thomas in hospital shortly after his operation, bringing her medals with her. She could see how important sport was to Thomas and would later go into his PE lessons at school to help both him and his teachers.

As well as his prosthetic, Thomas also has a running blade, which has given him the freedom to play more sport and try new activities. He can now do things he couldn’t before: mountain biking and playing football, cricket and tennis. Thomas played golf before, he’s now able to play with his prosthetic on, which has made a huge difference to his technique. Thomas has made amazing progress in his PE lessons and recently joined a residential outdoor

adventure trip with his schoolmates.

In addition to Rachel Morris and Jonnie Peacock, Thomas met fellow amputee Billy Monger at Silverstone at a LimbPower Junior event. Billy is a young professional racing driver who became a double amputee as a result of a devastating motor racing accident; Billy is back racing and won his race. Seeing what is possible is inspiring Thomas to set goals for himself. He’s currently training for his first district cross country competition, but his sights are very firmly set on becoming a Paralympian in the future. We have absolutely no doubt that we’ll be cheering on Thomas as a future member of Team GB!



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 Department of Health