



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **“EUROPEAN SPORTS ASSEMBLY ELECT BRITONS TO KEY EXECUTIVE ROLES”**

**For immediate release**  
**(16.12.04)**

At their General Assembly, in Lisbon, Portugal, INAS-FID (Europe), the European Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability, elected two Britons to key roles on their Executive Committee. The elections come at key time, when the world is focussing on international sport for people with learning disability.

Dr Geoff Smedley and Chris Hindley FCCA were elected to the positions of Vice President and Treasurer respectively.

*“I feel very pleased and privileged to have been elected to the position of Vice President for INAS Europe, says Dr Smedley. “We have a great deal of work to do to ensure our athletes return fully to the IPC family and take their rightful place in the Paralympics of 2008 in Beijing. I will do my utmost to support INAS-FID in this ambition”.*

Chris Hindley said *“I am delighted to have been elected as Treasurer of INAS Europe and look forward to working with and supporting my colleagues in INAS in this most important time for athletes with learning disability”*

Both elected positions are for a period of 4 years and compliment the list of positions already held by representatives from the UK on both the Executive and Technical Committees of INAS Europe and INAS-FID.

*“This is great news for the UK Sports Association and sport for people with learning disability in the UK”, comments Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports Association, “it means that not only are the UK privileged to hold the Presidency of INAS Europe, but these recent elections to key positions on the Executive show how valued the UK’s input and influence in international sport really is”.*

Work is already underway between members of INAS and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), in light of the decisions taken at the November IPC General Assembly advocating the gradual inclusion of athletes with learning disability back into IPC sanctioned events and future Paralympic Games.

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## NOTES TO EDITOR

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability is the national body that co-ordinates sport for people with learning disability in the UK and is the official GB representative on INAS-FID for athletes with learning disability.
2. INAS-FID is the Intellectual Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability. INAS-FID, founded in 1986, is the body seeking full and permanent membership of the International Paralympic Committee. INAS-FID is the world representative for athletes with intellectual disability. See further information at [www.inas-fid.org](http://www.inas-fid.org)
3. INAS (Europe) represents the European membership of the world body, INAS-FID. The Presidency of INAS Europe is held by Bernard Atha OBE, who is also President, UK Sports Association and resident in the UK.
4. Dr Smedley is the voluntary Chief Executive of the UK Sports Association. He has worked in special education for many years taking a career change twelve years ago to work in disability sport. Initially he worked for Sport England liaising with a number of National Governing Bodies of Sport to advising on issues of disability sport. He was member of the working party that established the English Federation of Disability Sport and for a short period was a national development officer.
5. Chris Hindley is the senior partner in a firm of Chartered Certified Accountants and is the current treasurer of the UK Sports Association. After qualifying in 1973 he spent 25 years in the Telecoms and IT industries as both Managing Director and Finance Director.
6. Other key positions within INAS Europe are held by the UK. These include, Presidency, Technical Director-Swimming, Technical Director - Gymnastics, Technical Director-Football.
7. A full detailed report of the events leading pre and post the ban on athletes with learning disability from the Paralympic movement is available on the INAS-FID website at [www.inas-fid.org](http://www.inas-fid.org) together with details of the full submission to IPC. Further details on the recent IPC decision is also available from [www.paralympic.org](http://www.paralympic.org)