

UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

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PRESS RELEASE

British Athletes Medal at European Athletics Championships in France

For Immediate Release

14 British athletes returned from the 2006 European Athletics Championships with 8 medals to add to the 2006 British Tally. 1 Gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze medals were taken in fierce competition over the course of 5 days.

With a winning blend of experienced talent and newcomers enthusiasm, athletes in the British Team went from strength to strength with GB represented in 25 finals throughout the competition.

Scottish international, Allan Stuart (Glasgow) took another gold in the 400m race in a time of 49.63, and silver in the 200m, adding to his already impressive medal history. Although disappointed with 7th in the ladies 400m, Claire Ryan (Bradford) worked even harder and achieved bronze in the ladies 200m in a time of 27.49.

Sarah Olney (Orpington), took her place on the podium picking up bronze in both the Javelin and Hammer, with Heather Sayer (Leeds) narrowly missing a medal opportunity, but performing well in the High Jump achieving 4th place.



4 x 400m ladies Medallists

The powerful combination of Laura Kinder (Paisley), Monique Davis (Croydon), Claire Ryan and Annette Cornwall (London), saw the GB ladies taking a silver medal in the 100m relay, losing out on gold, not on pace, but to the more superior changeover style of the Polish Squad.

A new, but strong, competitive men's 4 x 400m team challenged their opponent's well achieving 8th place, with experienced performers, Tony Collins (Essex), Steven Taylor (Bradford), James Shaw (Oldham) and first time international Calum Donkin (Sunderland).

"Well done and thank you to all the athletes, the Team Manager Coaches and medical staff with this Squad", says Paul Burns, GB Head Coach. "It's no co-incidence that the Team performs well when we have the correct back up services as well as having such

dedicated and skilled volunteers. The Team demonstrated amazing enthusiasm and team spirit. It was a very successful and enjoyable event for Great Britain, and an impressive medal haul from a small Squad.”



The event for athletes with learning disability took place in Dreux, France between 5th and 10th July 2006 and was organised under the auspices of the International Sports Federation (INAS-FID).

“The Team have again performed well”, comments Tracey McCillen National Director UK Sports Association, “we need to continue to work with each athletes’ Home Country Association to maintain and improve their performances further so Great Britain can continue to take their place on the podium. This was a good mix of athletes, those with many years experience and the rising stars of the future – I hope that their achievements will be recognised at home and this strong British talent encouraged.”

Discussions continue between the International Sports Federation (INAS-FID) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) as INAS-FID continues to pursue the lifting of the ban on athletes with learning disability from IPC sanctioned events including the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games.

ENDS

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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 organisation responsible for the selection and management of Team GB to international events. It is also the officially recognised GB representative on INAS-FID.
2. The event is organised under the auspices of INAS-FID, the Intellectual Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability. INAS-FID, founded in 1986, is a member of the International Paralympic Committee. See further information at www.inas-fid.org
3. Further information on the Event can be obtained by visiting, www.inas-fid.org ,
4. Interviews, comments, photographs and profiles of individual team members are available by contacting Tracey McCillen on the above numbers.
5. Team GB comprised
Team Manager Di Freeman
Head Coach Paul Burns

Coaches	John Kinder, Christine Galloway, John Wootton, John Matthews
Medical Team	Stephanie Johnston (Physiotherapist)
Medical Team	Janet Horncastle (Sports Masseuse)

ATHLETES

Tony Collins (Essex)	1500m, 5,000m
Kevin Lewis (Bridlington)	10,000m
Thomas Poulton White (Bradford)	Discus
James Shaw (Oldham)	10,000m, 5000m
Allan Stuart (Glasgow)	400m
Steven Taylor (Bradford)	High Jump
Annette Cornwall (London)	100m, 200m
Monique Davis (Croydon)	400m, 800m
Abigail Greetham (Halifax)	200m, 400m, 400m H
Laura Kinder (Paisley)	100m, 200m, LJ
Sarah Olney (Orpington)	Javelin
Claire Ryan (Bradford)	100m, 200m, 400m
Heather Sayer (Leeds)	High Jump
Calum Donkin (Sunderland)	100m

Neil Collins (Essex) selected, but due to injury withdrawn.

Personal Escorts: K Collins, L Davis, G Donkin, J Greetham

6. Medal Winners

Allan Stuart	Gold 400m, Silver 200m
Claire Ryan, Annette Cornwall, Laura Kinder, Monique Davis	Silver 4x100m
Laura Kinder, Claire Ryan, Abigail Greetham, Monique Davis	Bronze 4x400m
Laura Kinder	Bronze, 100m
Claire Ryan	Bronze 200m
Sarah Olney	Bronze, Javelin, Bronze Hammer

7. Other Performances

Heather Sayer	High Jump, 4 th Place
Steven Taylor	High Jump, 9 th place, Long Jump 14 th
T Poulton White	Discus, 7 th place
Tony Collins	1500m, 7 th place; 5000m 7 th place
James Shaw	10,000m 5 th place
Kevin Lewis	10,000m 10 th place
Calum Donkin	100m, 7 th place