



UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION

For People with Learning Disability

PRESS RELEASE

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Medals for British Team at Global Games

Silver and bronze medals were order of the day for the Great Britain Team who returned on 4th October from the INAS Global Games, Italy where 35 nations competed in a ten day multi-sport Championships.

In swimming Craig Moate (Barking) fought hard to take silver in the 1500m freestyle and bronze in the 200m butterfly. Athletics saw Emily Rawlins (Longsight) take home bronze in the hammer.

Swimmer, Lucy Chenery (Aylesbury) the youngest member of the British Team at 16 years old, made



GB Flag bearer, Andrew Kaar

the final in the 200m backstroke and the 400m freestyle where she set a new personal best in her international debut. Stephanie Bird (Lowestoft), Claire Ryan (Bradford), Andrew Kaar (Solihull) and Stephen Morris (Cardiff) worked hard to achieve their respective sports finals, but medals escaped all on this occasion.

Tennis player Peter Miller (Tranmere, Wirral) in his debut put in some strong performances winning 9 out of 12 single matches and the Team finished 4th place overall narrowly missing out on bronze. Table Tennis saw Adam Thompson (Sale, Cheshire)

making it to the top of his group, reaching the knockout rounds eventually finishing in 16th place.

Tracey McCillen, Chief Executive UK Sports Association said “The Games were fiercely competitive as you would expect at this level. British athletes need to build on performances and move forward with strength and at pace. Given sports specific classification is in place, access to training, events, funds and the myriad of expertise through NGB’s that contribute to creating gold medallists is crucial to enable athletes with learning disability to build performances for future Championships including the London 2012 Paralympic Games.”

Sports specific classification in athletics was implemented at the Global Games representing a significant milestone in the action plan agreed by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and INAS at the 2009 IPC General Assembly where the agreement for inclusion in the London 2012 Paralympic Games was reached. Classification in swimming and table tennis was already in place.

There are just three sports in the London 2012 Paralympic Games for athletes with learning disability – swimming (S/SB14) (100 backstroke, 200 freestyle, 100 breaststroke), athletics (T/F20) (shot, 1500m, long jump) and table tennis (T11) (singles).

The Great Britain Team to the Global Games was selected by the UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA), in conjunction with the Tennis Foundation, and led by former Commonwealth Champion Verona Elder MBE. UKSA collaborates with its four Home Country members all of whom work to support athletes to progress on the performance pathway. [ENDS]

**Further info, photos and interviews available. Contact Nick Barnes, Press Co-ordinator or Tracey McCillen, CEO
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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA) is the national disability sports organisation and umbrella body in the UK for sport and people with learning disability. UKSA facilitates and supports talented sports people with learning disability in the UK to train, compete and excel in national and international sport and is the body responsible for classification of athletes from the UK. UKSA is recognised by UK Sport and is the official Great Britain member of INAS. See www.uksportsassociation.org. UKSA members are Scottish Disability Sport, Welsh Sports Association for People with Learning Disability, Disability Sports NI and Mencap in England.
2. INAS, For Para-Athletes with Intellectual Disability (formerly INAS-FID), founded in 1986, is a member of the International Paralympic Committee and is the body responsible for the international competition for athletes with intellectual disability. See www.inas.org and www.globalgames2011.it
3. Team Great Britain comprises **Chef de Mission**, Verona Elder MBE; **Table Tennis**: Alistair Feltham (Bournemouth, Dorset), Duncan Feltham (Bournemouth, Dorset), Jeffrey Jarvis (Melton Mowbray, Leics), Adam Thompson (Sale, Cheshire), Victoria Bromley (Wolverhampton, West Mids), Patrick Cox (Balby, Leics), supported by Dennis Beech (Crewe, Cheshire), Mick Vesey (Worksop, Notts), Beryl Jarvis (Melton Mowbray, Leics), Sheena Feltham (Bournemouth, Dorset) and Wendy Beech (Crewe, Cheshire). **Tennis**: Zara Jurenko (Leicester, Leics), Peter Millar (Tranmere, Wirral), Alistair Daniels (Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire), Thomas Styles (Melton Mowbray, Leics) supported by Lesley Whitehead (Clifton, Notts), Andrew Raitt (Edinburgh, Scotland). **Athletics**: James Simpson (Ulverston, Cumbria), Andrew Kaar (Solihull, West Mids), Declan Manning (Bungay, Suffolk), Stephen Morris (Cardiff, Mid Glamorgan), Owen Miller (Dunfermline, Fife), Claire Ryan (Bradford, West Yorks), Holly Durbidge (Lowestoft, Suffolk), Emily Rawlins (Longsight, Manchester) supported by Paul Burns (Barrow, Cumbria), John Wootton (Wakefield, West Yorks), Christine Galloway (Halifax, West Yorks), Marie Dixon (Manchester) and Jane Coia (Torfaen, Wales). **Swimming**: Stephanie Bird (Lowestoft, Suffolk), Craig Moate (Barking, Essex), Lucy Chenery (Aylesbury, Bucks) supported by Chris Hulse (Clwyd, Wales) and Bill Elgar (Aylesbury, Bucks)
4. Learning Disability is a term used in the UK, with intellectual disability being used internationally. Both refer to the same group of athletes. Learning disability is a “hidden disability”. It inhibits how a person learns and performs every day functions that others take for granted. It also reduces communication, understanding, social, and living skills. In elite performance sport learning disability is defined as an IQ of 75 or less; significant limitations in adaptive behaviour and age of onset of the learning disability being in the development years, ie. 0 -18 years. This definition adopted by INAS is from the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition of learning disability (mental handicap) and is in line with other internationally recognised definitions.
5. UKSA and INAS are different to Special Olympics. UKSA promotes *performance led* elite competitive sport, has just one classification group in events and is focussed on the performance and winning gold. UKSA and INAS are part of the pathway to Global Games and Paralympic opportunity. Special Olympics are a year-round sports training and competition programme for adults and children with learning disability. Special Olympics competitions are divisioned so that athletes compete with other athletes of similar ability in each sport. Special Olympics competitions are *non-elite* catering to all-ability levels. High ability athletes may progress to the Paralympic level through UKSA and INAS. Special Olympics focus is on participation and improving an athlete's quality of life. Special Olympics' pinnacle event is the Special Olympics World Games.