



UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

PRESS RELEASE

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Great Britain's Bronze Return

Great Britain returns home with a bronze medal courtesy of the Ladies team event featuring Victoria Bromley (Wolverhampton), Jessica Bromley (Wolverhampton) and Jacqueline Smith (Essex) at the 5th INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championship in Ciechanow, Poland. In a tight, hard fought match the British Ladies lost narrowly in the fifth game to the eventual gold medal winners and hosts Poland. Spain came out on top in the men's singles competition where GB gold medal hopeful Adam Thompson (Cheshire) was defeated by Spanish and world number 1 ranked player Eduardo Cuesta.

Despite there not being any British gold's, Team Manager Dennis Beech was pleased with the performance *'The ladies team did exceptionally well to gain a bronze medal in a competition where the standard has been very high, indeed I would say standards have improved by about 30 percent on the previous tournament. With more hard work and dedication I'm sure we can build on this performance to compete well in future tournaments'*

Also attending the tournament were the British Table Tennis Association for People with a Disability (BTTAD) who were observing the performance of British athletes in anticipation of the London 2012 Paralympic selection process. UK Sports Association Chief Executive Tracey McCillen enthuses *'Congratulations to our medal winners – its always rewarding to see another British medal. The next few months are crucial for our British players as some of them focus on achieving Paralympic selection. I look forward to continuing to work with BTTAD to see athletes with learning disability from the UK competing in the London 2012 Paralympic Games.'*

The event was especially significant given that it was the first to feature sports specific on site testing under a system managed by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

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Further information, including interviews available by contacting Nick Barnes, Press Coordinator at the UK Sports Association, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 2PU. Tel: 0207 490 3057 Fx: 0207 251 886
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NOTES TO EDITOR

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA) is the disability specific 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 the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID), a member of IPC. See www.uksportsassociation.org
2. INAS-FID, the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability. 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-fid.org
3. The 2010 European Table Tennis Championships take place in Ciechanów, Poland 21st – 28th November 2010. The Championships are organised by Sprawni-Razem under the auspices of INAS-FID (Europe) and under ITTF rules. Sports specific classification will take place in the first 2 days of the event.
4. The British Team comprises Adam Thompson (Cheshire), Victoria Bromley (Wolverhampton), Jeffrey Jarvis (Leicestershire), Jacqueline Smith (Essex), Jessica Bromley (Wolverhampton), Alistair Feltham (Dorset), Duncan Feltham (Dorset), Neil Handley (Lancashire) and Simon Green (Bedfordshire), supported by Dennis Beech, Team Manager (Crewe), Mick Vesey, Head Coach (Nottinghamshire), John Stoneley, Coach (Crewe), Wendy Beech, Team Support (Crewe) and Escort, Sheena Feltham (Dorset).
5. INAS-FID and IPC, plus the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) have developed the sports specific criteria as part of the eligibility and classification procedures for London 2012. Further details are available from INAS-FID or by contacting Prof. Yves Vanlandewijck, PhD, PT, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven – Faculty of Kinesiology and Rehabilitation Sciences, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, Tervuursevest 101, B 3001 Leuven Belgium. Tel + 32 16 32 91 06 E-mail: yves.vanlandewijck@faber.kuleuven.be
6. The ban on athletes with learning disability competing in the Paralympic Games was lifted in November 2009. UKSA led a campaign since the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games to have the ban lifted, athletes reinstated and given access to the sports programmes, including the UK School Games and the millions of pounds of investment made by Government to develop Paralympians for London 2012.
7. 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 the context of the elite performance pathway, 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-FID is from the World Health Organisation (WHO) definition of learning disability (mental handicap) and is in line with other internationally recognised definitions.
8. UKSA & INAS-FID is different to Special Olympics. UKSA promotes *performance led* competitive sport, have just one classification group in events and focus on first passed the line and winning gold. Special Olympics focuses on participating in sport and all participants are awarded medals to celebrate their achievement.