

# UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

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## PRESS RELEASE

### “SUCCESS DOWN UNDER FOR GB ATHLETICS SQUAD”

For Immediate Release (25.10.05)

Great Britain's medal success continues at the World Athletics Championships in Canberra, as the 13 strong Team GB return with 6 medals.

The event, with more than 200 athletes from over 18 countries was held at the Australian Institute of sport in Canberra from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

Veteran performer, Laura Kinder (Paisley) continued her 2005 success achieving 2 silver medals in the 4 x 100m and 4 x 200m women's relay teams, with team mates Claire Ryan (Bradford), Annette Cornwall (London), Monique Davis (Croydon) and Abbie Greetham (Halifax).

Newcomer, Monique Davis (Croydon) at just 16 years old, proved her worth to Team GB in a fantastic performance which saw her scoop gold in the 400m women's race in a superb 59.59 secs and narrowly missing out on bronze in the 800m. Her closest 400m competitor Claire Ryan took silver in 1:01.29 – making it a double whammy for the British ladies team.



Medallists, Claire Ryan & Monique Davis

Success also for 400m World Record holder Allan Stuart (Glasgow), who in a typically strong performance took gold in the men's 400m ahead of Zsolt Orsos (Hungary) and silver in the men's 200m behind the Puerto Rican, Osvaldo Nieves.

Valliant performances from Claire Ryan and Philip Burns (Cumbria) in the women's 100m race and the men's 400 metres hurdles, saw both competitors just pushed to 4<sup>th</sup> place in these exciting competitions. Other performances by Neill & Tony Collins (Essex), John Jones (W Glamorgan), James Shaw (Oldham), Steven Taylor (Bradford) and Thomas Poulton-White (Bradford) saw personal bests achieved.



Jane Coia, Team Manager said *“This is a good squad, all are dedicated athletes who have put in a great deal of effort in to their preparations, and they are also supported by a very experienced coaching team. The team members are all professional athletes who rank along side any other serious athlete in Britain and the world. They train hard and with individualised programme and specialist event coaches. Every GB athlete who attended this World Championship has done*

*their best to achieve their Personal Best and the results – several medals, all of which are prized by every member of the team. This really is a team success. I would also like to recognise the support and hard work of the parents and carers who are working exhaustively in the back ground to facilitate for all the unseen jobs like fund raising, transport and emotional support that these athletes competing at an elite level need.”*

“Congratulations to the Squad” says Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports



Association, “Our thanks to the Team Manager and Coaches, who give of their time and expertise voluntarily to support these squads. The years since the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games have not been easy for anyone involved in learning disability sport – but we seem to be turning a corner as INAS-FID and IPC continue their deliberations and move forward with their research and development. Some of this team are likely to

*be part of the GB squad at the World Indoor Games in Bollnas in 2006. This is a significant step forward as it’s the first IPC sanctioned event at which athletes with learning disability will be present since the outright ban. We do recognise that inclusion is as part of the overall research plan at this stage, but see it is a real and tangible step in the right direction.”*

The International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) continue to work together to include athletes with learning disability in the next Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008, a decision on which will be taken in late 2006.

The decision to include athletes with learning disability in the IPC programme of events was taken at its General Assembly in November 2004. INAS-FID athletes although included in the IPC World Indoor Athletics Championships in 2006 for the purposes of furthering research, still await the outcome of INAS-FID and IPC discussions, to see what will be the first event at which they are fully included in their own right.

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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 was organised by the ACT Athletics, Canberra, 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](http://www.inas-fid.org)
3. Full results can be obtained from [www.actathletics.org.au](http://www.actathletics.org.au) or by visiting, [www.inas-fid.org](http://www.inas-fid.org) and following the links.
4. Staff for this event were as follows: Jane Coia, Team Manager (Wales), Paul Burns, Head Coach (Cumbria), Stephanie Johnston, Physio, (Cumbria), Christine Galloway (Halifax), Di Freeman (Hull), John Kinder (Paisley), John Wootton (Wakefield).
5. Interviews, comments, photographs and profiles of individual team members are available by contacting Tracey McCillen on the above numbers. Further details of the work of INAS-FID and IPC to re-include athletes in the Beijing Paralympics is also available.