

UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

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PRESS RELEASE

“Talented Athletes lead Great Britain in search of Italian Gold!”

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In search of Gold medals, a group of 5 talented athletes with learning disability head to the INAS-FID European Indoor Athletics Championships in Ancona on 17th March 2005.

Leading the way for Great Britain is British Open Champion, Laura Kinder (Paisley) with team mates, Alan Davidson-Page (Bradford), Nathan Wells (Leeds), Steven Taylor (Bradford) and Anthony Snowden (Shipley)



England Coach, Di Freeman, has been selected to lead the Great Britain Team - *“This is the first international appearance for the majority of the Squad. I’m delighted they have been given the opportunity to compete at this level. Laura Kinder is the exception. She is a proven competitor at this level – her experience will no doubt spur the others on. They have all trained hard and the newcomers are ready to break into the International scene - I know they’re all capable of springing a surprise or two! This is my first international Team Management role too, so I’m looking forward to the challenge!”*

Great hope lies with 60m World Champion (2003), and 2004 Scottish Champion, Laura Kinder, the only female competitor in this years GB line up. With an impressive athletic resume, Laura hopes once again, to add to her medal tally.

“I’m really looking forward to it”, says Laura “I hope that my hard work gets me the Gold medal again. My advice to the others is enjoy yourself and just do your best – I’m looking forward to all the pizza and pasta too!”



At just 17 years old, Anthony Snowden (Bradford) is the youngest member of this line up. Competing in 3 events, Anthony hopes to improve on his performance in the 2004 English Nationals where he achieved a good performance in the triple jump.

“The UK Sports Association wishes all the athletes and staff every success whilst in Italy” says Tracey McCillen, National Director, “amongst other things, ability, dedication and team spirit is needed in abundance. We have the benefit of a group of dedicated professionals giving their time voluntarily to support GB athletes - Experienced staff and dedicated athletes – a perfect recipe for success!”

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.

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 still await the outcome of INAS-FID and IPC discussions, to see what will be the first event at which they are welcomed back by the IPC. Some detail on progress is expected at the INAS-FID General Assembly on 31st March 2005 in Budapest.

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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 by the FISD Comitato Regionale Marche, Italy, 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. The organising Committee comprises members of the Italian Paralympic Committee and Italian Athletics Federation.
4. Further information on the Event can be obtained by visiting, www.inas-fid.org , or www.fisd-marche.it
5. Interviews, comments, photographs and profiles of individual team members are available by contacting Tracey McCillen on the above numbers.
6. A full detailed report of the events up to and post the ban on athletes with learning disability from IPC and the Paralympic movement is available on the INAS-FID website at 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 The INAS-FID hold its General Assembly on 31st March 2005 when it is hoped a clear direction on progress to Beijing 2008 will be given.