

# UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION For People with Learning Disability

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Team Bronze for British Athletes in Brazil!

For Immediate Release – (8.10.07)



**British success as Team GB bring home 7 medals, set a World Record and establish new personal bests at the recent INAS-FID World Athletics Championships in Fortaleza, Brazil.**

**3 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze medal earned Great Britain overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place behind Poland and Portugal at a competition hosting 21 nations over 5 days of fierce competition from 18-22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007.**

Comprising a solid mix of experienced athletes with some first time internationals, Team GB demonstrated their athletics expertise as they scooped medals, and achieved a new 200m record close on the heels of 1996 Olympic performances.

Scottish international, Allan Stuart (Glasgow) remained consistent and in top form establishing the impressive new 200m world record of 21.45 seconds - just 2.13 seconds behind Michael Johnson's 1996 Olympic performance. Stuart claimed the gold and was awarded "Performance of the Championships".

Rising star Monique Davis (Croydon) proved again that she is a formidable talent on the track taking Gold in the 100m, in a personal best of 13.08 seconds and silver in the 400m. Strong Team performances meant a silver for Monique Davis with Annette Cornwall (London), Claire Ryan (Bradford) and Laura Kinder (Paisley) in the 4 x 100m relay. Spurred on by an exceptional performance by experienced international Abigail Greetham (Halifax) in the 4 x 400 ladies relay with her team mates, Davis, Kinder and Ryan they scoop bronze.

A photo finish decision meant 17 year old, Calum Donkin (Sunderland), narrowly missed out on a place in the 100m final. Enthusiastic performances in the 4 x 400m relay, saw Donkin, with first time international Jonathan Kay (Birmingham), and veteran performers Thomas Poulton-White (Bradford) and Allan Stuart take 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 4 x 400m relay.

Endurance runners Andrew Kaar (Solihull) and Tony Collins (Essex) earned well deserved places in the 1500m final finishing 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> place respectively whilst James Shaw (Lancashire) and Neill Collins (Essex) finished 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> place in the 5000m and 1500m respectively.

*"This was an excellent performance from the whole team" says Team Manager and Head Coach Paul Burns, "To win 3 gold 3 silver and 1 bronze medals and finish 3rd in the medal table with only 13 athletes is an amazing performance. In addition we broke 1 World record, 2 National records and set 8 personal bests. Well done to all the athletes and staff this has set the bench mark for future competitions."*

*"This was a great competition and a great British performance", says Tracey McCillen, National Director, UK Sports Association. "Our thanks to ABDEM for hosting the event. We also owe a great deal of gratitude to the coaching professionals and support staff who take the Teams away and provide their expertise on a completely voluntary basis to make sure GB potential is realised. Like other athletes with learning disability in Great Britain, this athletics group don't receive any Government funding and must raise the money themselves to represent their country."*



World Record Holder Allan Stuart in action

*It's hard to believe that these top performers have been denied the opportunity of competing in the Beijing Paralympics and are currently not part of the plans for the London 2012 Games. It's imperative that the British Government, LOCOG and IPC sit up and take notice and ensure that this talented group of athletes are not unjustifiably excluded from London 2012. Government wants to increase participation and leave a lasting legacy for 2012 yet sport for people with learning disability is in jeopardy through lack of funding and support and the continued marginalisation of this already vulnerable group."*

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 events, including the Paralympic Games. There will be no programme for athletes with intellectual disability in 2008 Paralympics in Beijing. The decision on London 2012 remains uncertain.

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For further information, full results, interviews, comments and photographs contact Tracey McCillen, UK Sports Association, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 12 City Forum, 250 City Road, London EC1V 2PU. Tel: (+44) 0207 490 3057 Fax: (+44) 0207 251 8861. Email: [info@uksportsassociation.org](mailto:info@uksportsassociation.org)

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#### **NOTES TO EDITOR**

1. The UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability is the disability specific National Governing Body 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. 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](http://www.inas-fid.org)
3. The event was hosted by the **Associação Brasileira de Desportos de Deficientes Mentais (ABDEM)**, in Brazil under the auspices of INAS-FID and run in accordance with IAAF and INAS-FID rules. See [www.nosamamosatletismo.net/camp](http://www.nosamamosatletismo.net/camp)
4. Full details on performances available on request.
5. Photography accredited to UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability (UKSA).
6. Team GB – Allan Stuart (Glasgow), Monique Davis (Croydon), Annette Cornwall (London), Claire Ryan (Bradford), Laura Kinder (Paisley), Abigail Greetham (Halifax), Calum Donkin (Sunderland), Jonathan Kay (Birmingham), Thomas Poulton –White (Bradford), Andrew Kaar (Solihull), Tony Collins (Essex), James Shaw (Lancashire), Neill Collins (Essex). Paul Burns (Team Manager/Head Coach), John Wootton (Coach), John Kinder (Coach), Christine Galloway (Coach), John Pirie (Physiotherapist), Di Freeman (Escort), Jane Greetham (Escort), Kathy Collins (Escort), Julia Donkin (Escort)