

Newsletter Issue 9 Spring 2009



Welcome to the Mencap Sport quarterly Newsletter. In each issue, we will bring you all the latest news and competition information.

Further progress towards Paralympic re-inclusion



In the past month, both INAS-FID (the International Federation for learning disability sport) and the International Paralympic Committee have endorsed a joint-action plan for developing and testing a sport-specific classification tool.

Commenting on the progress, IPC President Sir Philip Craven said “The [IPC] Board was very satisfied with the progress made by the IPC-INAS working group on the development of an on-site sport-specific assessment tool”.

The development of a sport-specific classification system is a requirement for all disability groups participating in Paralympic competition.

Meanwhile, at INAS-FID's General Assembly, the membership gave its unanimous support to the action plan and authorised the INAS-FID Executive to “take whatever steps are reasonable to secure Paralympic re-inclusion”.

Dr Bob Price, INAS FID President commented “There is still much work to be done before the IPC General Assembly meets in November but, with both parties clearly committed to making it happen, a favourable outcome is now a reasonable expectation”.

Mencap Sport Staff

National Sport Manager: Nick Parr
National Administrator: Kathy Anstey

Mencap Sport Volunteers:

Mencap Sport Athletics:

Paul Bums
Di Freeman
Christine Galloway
John Wootton
Kathy Collins
John Matthews
Stephanie Johnston
Michael Coltherd
Marie Dixon
Greg Simmons
Ian Eaton
Verona Elder
John Pirie
Vic Collins
Paul Smith
Margaret Smith
Stan Bellaby
Ian Nolan

Mencap Sport Swimming:

Carol Halpin
Steve Critchley
Francis Dart
Gemma Ripley
Mark Thomas
Beryl Horton
Stephen Meanwell

Mencap Sport Table Tennis:

Wendy Beech
Dennis Beech
Mick Vesey
Kevin Watt
Gail Bromley
John Stoneley

Mencap Sport Football:

Pete McLaughlin
Mark Summers
Pete Bickers

Classification Officer

Vesna Cramer

UKSA Representatives:

Karon Nicol
Nick Parr

IPC European Swimming Championships

The European Swimming Championships will be the first IPC event to include athletes with a learning disability on a full medal basis, as part of the INAS-FID/IPC joint action plan (see front page).



The event takes place in Reykjavik, Iceland between 14th – 26th October and British Swimming have confirmed that GB swimmers with a learning disability (S14) will be selected from the British International Disability Swimming Championships held recently at Ponds Forge, Sheffield.

The event will be used to further test and evaluate the classification of athletes with a learning disability, including the new sport specific component, ahead of the IPC's decision on 2012 inclusion in November.

Sport England lays down challenge

Mencap Sport welcomes the announcement from Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, who recently challenged everyone in sport to do more to encourage participation by people with learning disabilities.



Participation rates for people with a learning disability are consistently shown to be lower than for non-disabled people, opportunities are harder to find and access, and there is less media and public recognition for achievements.

However, Mencap Sport would like to see a whole-sport approach to increasing participation rates, working with all organisations and all pathways – including those leading to INAS and Paralympic sport – which have been particularly under-prioritised in recent years.

Nick Parr, National Sport Manager commented “The recent whole-sport planning process (through which National Governing Bodies of Sport apply for their lottery and exchequer funding from Sport England) provided an excellent opportunity to set specific targets for inclusion by people with a learning disability, yet few did this. There is still little commitment to improving opportunities for participation in sport, identifying talent, and supporting elite athletes with a learning disability”.

Playground to Podium kicks off



'Playground to Podium' is the new national strategy for the identification, development and support of talented young disabled athletes, developed by the Youth Sport Trust, Sport England, UK Sport and the British Paralympic Association.

Playground to Podium forms a pathway which will take young disabled people from PE, through participation, to high level performance and competition with the ultimate aim of producing our next Paralympian's and elite disabled athletes.

A key element of the programme is the roll-out of County Assessment Days. These began recently and are taking place across the country throughout 2009, providing an opportunity for National Governing Bodies of Sport to identify talented disabled athletes identified by School Sport Partnerships.

Though based around the Paralympic pathway, it is expected that up to 30% of athletes selected will have a learning disability. Talented athletes will be sign-posted to opportunities including those offered by Mencap Sport and INAS-FID.

For more information about Playground to Podium, visit your [county sport partnership website](#) or visit the [Sport England website](#).

Geneva Football Team announced

Each year, Mencap Sport supports a team of Mencap members to take part in a Football competition in Geneva.



This year's team were selected at the annual trials in Warwick and includes:

Leighton Richards, Ryan Kirby, Rhys Eynon, Christopher Broom, Matthew Thompson, Steven Ellis, Wayne Midgely, Benjamin Johnson, Ian Land, Robert Martin, Gary Haynes, Samuel Booth, Yosief Temelso, Rhys Williams, Gary Watts.

The team is managed by Mark Summers and supported by Pete McLaughlin, Keith Smithson, Stephen Moore, Richard Howe, Simon Type and Andy Gray.

We wish the team every success for the competition, which takes place between 29th & 30th May.

2009 INAS Global Games

This summer sees the 2nd INAS Global Games take place for athletes with a learning disability.



The event, which replicates the feel of the Paralympic Games, features World Championship competition in 7 sports – Athletics, Swimming, Table Tennis, Basketball, Cycling, Futsal and Tennis.

The event will also feature demonstration events in Indoor Rowing and Judo, for the first time.

More than 1300 athletes and coaches from across the World are expected at the championships, which take place between 5th-14th July in the Czech Republic.

Great Britain will compete in 4 sports - Athletics, Swimming, Table Tennis and Cycling, yet despite being amongst the best athletes in the world, each athlete must raise in excess of £1300 to represent their country.

The GB Team have been confirmed as:

Swimming - Dan Pepper (Poynton), Ben Procter (Newquay), Nicholas Boylan (Ashford), Craig Moate (Barking), Craig Rodgie (Fife), Matthew Bell (Newtownards), Jack Thomas (Swansea), Stephanie Bird (Lowestoft)

Table Tennis - Neil Handley (Rochdale), Alistair Feltham (Bournemouth), Duncan Feltham (Bournemouth), Jeffrey Jarvis (Melton Mowbray), Adam Thompson (Sale), Victoria Bromley (Wolverhampton), Jacqueline Smith (Chelmsford), Jessica Bromley (Wolverhampton)

Cycling - Scott Walker (Inverurie)

Athletics - Allan Stuart (Glasgow), Neill Collins (Rainham), James Simpson (Ulverston), Andrew Kaar (Solihull), James Shaw (Tameside), Monique Davis (Croydon), Claire Ryan (Bradford) and Abbie Greetham (Halifax).



For further information, visit the [Global Games website](http://www.inas.org.uk).

England's got talent



Talent days are being held by the Football Association (FA) to find potential England footballers with a disability of the future.

The FA has teamed up with the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) to host a series of talent days that will identify up and coming players for England's successful disability squads.

The FA runs seven national disability teams that cover Blind, Cerebral Palsy, Deaf Men & Women, Learning Disability, Partially Sighted and Amputee football with England regularly competing in World and European Championships across the globe.

"Disabled people often think that they can't play the game because of their disability but that couldn't be further from the truth," said Jeff Davis, the FA's National Manager for Disability Football. "There's an opportunity for everyone to play and, if you're good enough to make it through to the England squads, then there's a chance to see the world as well."

And Davis is hoping that college and university staff can play their part in identifying new players: "We want people to nominate players who have the potential to wear the Three Lions of England.

"The series of talent days will focus on players with sensory or physical disabilities and it really is an opportunity of a lifetime and shouldn't be missed."

The talent days will take place in June on the following dates, running from 10.30am – 1.30pm:

- 1 June – Nicholls Football Centre, Manchester College, M12 6BA
- 2 June – Bridgwater College, Bridgwater, TA6 4PZ
- 3 June – Henley College, Coventry, CV2 1ED
- 4 June – Hillingdon Athletics Stadium, Uxbridge, UB8 1ES
- 5 June – Charlton Athletic Training Ground

All trials will take place on third-generation (3G) or sand-based astro-pitches and players must bring their own kit, boots, trainers plus refreshments.

If you'd like to nominate someone for a talent day then contact:

james@jameswatkinsconsulting.co.uk

Entry forms available for 2009 events

Each year, Mencap Sport supports a programme of national championship events, building on the regional events which take place year-round across the country.



This summer's events include:

- 5-a-side Football Championships, Leeds – 6 June
- Marion Smith National Netball Championships, Hitchin – 13 June (organised by England Netball)
- National Athletics Championships and Festival, Watford – 27 June
- British Learning Disability Swimming Championships & Festival, Sheffield – 22/23 August

Further events in the autumn include the National Table Tennis Championships, and National Cross Country Championships – details of which will be in the next issue of Mencap Sport News.

For more information and entry forms, visit the [Mencap Sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport) website.

Swimming added to UK School Games programme

The UK School Games is a competitive event for elite young athletes from across the UK. It aims to provide talented young sports people with the opportunity to compete in an event which replicates the feel of a major multi-sport event such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games.



Events for athletes with a learning disability were initially excluded from the programme due to the ongoing exclusion from the Paralympic Games. However, after support from Mencap and other organisations, Table Tennis became the first inclusive UK School Games competition in 2008.

As part of the continued development of the Games it has been confirmed that athletes with learning disability (S14 disability category) will also be eligible to compete in swimming at the 2009 event, which takes place in Wales in September.

Mencap Sport is pleased to see that progress is being made towards full inclusion, but is disappointed that Athletics continue to exclude people with a learning disability, despite the progress being made by INAS and IPC to resolve the Paralympic issue.

Runners wanted!

The University of Birmingham Sport have chosen to support Mencap at their annual corporate relay challenge.

The event take place at the University campus on Wednesday 17th June, and we are looking for teams of either 3 (women) or 4 (men and mixed) competing a mile each of the relay course.

For more information, call 0121 708 3037 or email philip.hetherington@mencap.org.uk at Mencap.



Volunteers wanted!

Volunteers are needed to support our annual events programme. If you can spare a few hours to help at our national athletics or national swimming championships, then please contact us. Details of the events can be found below, and we have many and varied roles available!

Volunteers can claim travel and other out of pocket expenses, and receive an event t-shirt and programme.

Mencap Sport Training

Mencap Sport training has been developed to help overcome the barriers to the inclusion of people with a learning disability in sport and leisure.

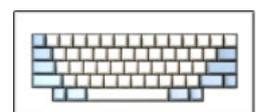
The 5 hour course looks at understanding learning disability, classification in sport, communication, and ideas for improving accessibility and promoting inclusion.



More information, including booking forms, can be found on the [Mencap Sport website](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport).

Mencap Sport Email News

Sometimes we send out information about events and competitions by email. If you would like to be added to the mailing list then email us at sport@mencap.org.uk putting the words 'mailing list' in the subject line.



2009 Calendar



International Events

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
• INAS European Cross Country Championships	12-16 February	Portugal	INAS
• INAS World Indoor Athletics Championships	4-8 March	France	INAS
• Geneva 11 a side Football Champs (Mencap members only)	28 May – 1 June	Geneva	Mencap Sport
• INAS Open European Half Marathon	March	Rome	INAS
• 2 nd Global Games	5-14 July	Czech Republic	INAS
• Geneva Swimming Gala (Mencap members only)	October	Geneva	Mencap Sport
• IPC European Swimming Championships		Iceland	British Swimming
• 1 st Cricket World Cup	November	Australia	INAS

National Competition Calendar

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
• Mencap/Gateway Football Trials	15 Feb	Warwick	Mencap Sport
• National Junior Swimming Championships	7-8 Mar	Sheffield	DSE
• National Special Olympics Table Tennis Championships	April	Crewe	Special Olympics
• Grand Prix Athletics 1	18 April	London	CP Sport
• DSE National Mini Games	8-10 May	Stoke Mandeville	DSE
• BTTAD National Table Tennis Championships	May	Sheffield	BTTAD
• Grand Prix Athletics 2	16 May	Bristol	CP Sport
• British Open Long Course Swimming Champs	15-17 May	Sheffield	DSE
• Mencap National 5-a-side Football Championships	6 June	Leeds	Mencap Sport
• Grand Prix Athletics 3	20 June	Wigan	CP Sport
• British Open Athletics Championships	13-14 June	Manchester	DSE
• Marion Smith National Netball Championships	13 June	Hitchin, Herts	England Netball
• Open National Athletics Championships	27 June	Watford	Mencap Sport
• National Junior Athletics Championships	4-5 July	Blackpool	DSE
• Grand Prix Athletics 4	22 August	Gateshead	CP Sport
• British Learning Disability Swimming Champ's & Festival	22-23 August	Sheffield	Mencap Sport
• UK School Games	3-6 September	South Wales	Youth Sport Trust
• National Table Tennis Grand Prix	5-6 Sep	Stoke Mandeville	DSE
• Grand Prix Athletics 5	19 September	Nottingham	CP Sport
• National Snooker Championships	10-11 October	tbc	DSE
• National Table Tennis Grand Prix	3-4 October	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• DSE National SC Swimming Championships	21-22 November	Sheffield	DSE
• National Cross Country	tbc	tbc	Mencap Sport
• Merseyside Open Table Tennis Championships	13 Dec	Liverpool	LCC
• Welsh National SC Swimming Championships 2007	Dec	Cardiff	Disability Sport Wales

Regional Competition Calendar

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
• West Midlands Regional Swimming Championships	10 Jan	Rugby	DSE
• North East Regional Swimming Championships	10 January	Middlesbrough	DSE
• South East Regional Swimming Gala	31 st January	Southampton	DSE
• East Regional Swimming Championships	7 February	Braintree	DSE
• North West Regional Athletics Championships	25 April	Birkenhead	DSE
• West Midlands Regional Athletics Championships	10 May	Birmingham	DSE 
• Yorkshire Regional Athletics Championships	12 May	Doncaster	DSE
• East Regional Athletics Championships	16 May	Chelmsford	DSE
• South East Regional Athletics Championships	16 May	Crawley	DSE
• South West Regional Athletics Championships	20/23 May	tbc	DSE
• North East Regional Athletics Championships	22 May	Gateshead	DSE
• East Midlands Athletics Championships	6 June	Nottingham	DSE
• Yorkshire Regional Swimming Championships	June tbc		DSE
• South East Regional Swimming Gala	4 October	Guildford	DSE
• London Regional Swimming Championships	12 October	Bromley	DSE
• East Midlands Regional Swimming Championships	19 October	Grantham	DSE
• North West Regional Swimming Gala	9 November	Birkenhead	DSE
• South West Regional Swimming Championships	tbc		DSE
• London Regional Athletics Championships	tbc		DSE

National Mencap Squad Training Calendar

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
• Athletics Squad Day	24 January	Leeds	Mencap Sport
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	24/25 January	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	28/29 March	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	23/24 May	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	27/28 June	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	19/20 September	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• Athletics Squad Trial Day	September	tbc	Mencap Sport
• Swimming Squad Day	Autumn	tbc	Mencap Sport
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	21/22 November	Crewe	Mencap Sport
• Athletics Squad Day	Winter	tbc	Mencap Sport

More information and links to entry forms can be found at www.mencap.org.uk/sport

To list your event, please email us at sport@mencap.org.uk