

# Newsletter Issue 3 - July 2007

# Mencap SPORT



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

## Largest event programme ever!



In 2007, Mencap Sport will oversee its largest calendar of events ever with no fewer than 5 national championships taking place throughout June and July alone.

This summer, we have already seen some great performances by talented sports men and women from across the country and more than 500 young people with a learning disability will take part.

Whether competing to be the best, or simply to enjoy taking part in a sporting competition, there is something there for everybody,

Mencap Sport would like to thank all the volunteers, staff, officials, helpers, school teachers, funders, facilities and stadiums, but most of all the athletes, for helping us to make the 2007 calendar one of the most successful ever.

### 5 a-side Football, 9 June - Leeds



On one of the hottest days of the year, teams from across the country competed in advanced, intermediate and novice sections with Barnsley, Sheffield, and Stoke proving eventual winners respectively.

There was also a women's competition, where it was Hartlepool who emerged the eventual winners after a hard fought contest with Stoke Dolphins.



### Mencap Sport Staff

**National Sport Manager**  
Nick Parr

**National Administrator**  
Kathy Anstey

### Mencap Sport Volunteers

#### **Mencap Sport Athletics:**

Paul Burns	Di Freeman
Christine Galloway	John Wootton
Emma Foden	Kathy Collins
John Matthews	Stan Bellaby
John Pirie	Vic Collins
Stephanie Johnston	Janet Horncastle
Marie Dixon	Greg Simmons
Graham Pilkington	Ian Eaton

#### **Mencap Sport Swimming:**

Carol Halpin	Christine Linekar
Steve Critchley	Francis Dart
Gemma Ripley	Mark Thomas
Steven Meanwell	

#### **Mencap Sport Table Tennis:**

Wendy Beech	Dennis Beech
Mick Vesey	Kevin Watt

#### **Events Working Group:**

Beryl Horton	Pete McLaughlin
Mark Summers	Pete Bickers
Steve Ramage	

#### **EFDS Representative:**

Dave Agnew

#### **UKSA Representatives:**

Karon Nicol	Steve Ramage
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## **National Table Tennis Championships, 14/15 June - Crewe**



A week later, it was the turn of the table tennis players as more than 50 players with a disability descended on Crewe, Cheshire.

With competition in singles, pairs and an open heat, it was a good competition, with Ella Booker (West Bromwich) and Ian Thomas (Bristol) eventually being awarded the Senior Players of the Tournament awards, and Hannah Coulthurst and Krysten Coombs the Junior Players of the Tournament awards.



The event is part of a grand prix series of 5 events held in partnership with Disability Sport Events, BTTAD, ETTA, UK Deaf Sport and CP Sport.

## **National Netball Championships, 23 June - Nottingham**



After Table Tennis, we then moved onto Nottingham for the Marion Smith National Netball Championships, hosted in partnership with England Netball.

This was the 3rd annual event, and each year the competition grows.

This year it was Alfriston School who showed themselves to be worthy champions in the Under 17 category, whilst Selly Oak took the senior trophy.



## **National Athletics Championships, 30 June - Watford**



And then it was down to Watford for the 10th National Athletics Championships. This is the largest event in the Mencap Sport calendar and this showed why, with an entry of more than 100 athletes battling it out in rainy conditions.

Events still to take place this year include the British Short Course Swimming Championships and Festival of Swimming for People with a Learning Disability, which takes place in Sheffield in July. The event, now in its second year, has attracted an incredible entry of more than 180 swimmers competing in the elite or festival section.

The event is organised by Mencap Sport in partnership with Special Olympics and the Down Syndrome International Swimming Organisation (DSISO) and for the second year running is sponsored by Westfield Health, Sheffield. An event report will appear in the next issue of Mencap Sport News.



The 2007 calendar comes to a close on 10 November with the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Cross Country Championships. Information can be found on the website at [www.mencap.org.uk/sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport)

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# News



## Paralympic campaign

Since the Sydney Paralympics in 2000, athletes with a learning disability have been banned from the

Paralympic Games. This is because a small number of athletes

competed as athletes with a learning disability when they in fact had no disability whatsoever.



Although this means that athletes cannot take part in the Paralympic Games, it also means that athletes are excluded from many of the funding streams and support programmes to develop English athletes of the future.

Programmes such as the UK School Games, lottery funded programmes to develop gifted and talented athletes and other programmes designed to support elite athletes currently do not include athletes with a learning disability.

Mencap is campaigning to change this. We believe that athletes will be re-instated to the Paralympic Games in time for London 2012. So it is vital that young athletes are supported now, to develop their talent and give them the best possible chance of winning medals.

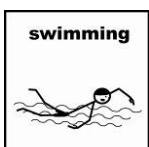
Currently, Mencap Sport is the only organisation supporting gifted and talented athletes with a learning disability to train towards international success in Paralympic sport. We do not receive any government or lottery support. Our programmes are supported by fundraising income, and athletes have to find many thousands of pounds each year to compete.

If you want to support the campaign you can email us at [sport@mencap.org.uk](mailto:sport@mencap.org.uk) and ask for a campaign pack.



## Entry forms available for national cross country championships

Entry forms for the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Cross Country Championships are available from the Mencap Sport website at [www.mencap.org.uk/sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport). The event features age group races and races for local club runners.



## Geneva Swimming

Each year, Mencap Sport supports a number of members to go to Geneva to take part in a swimming competition. You don't have to be the best swimmer, as we take people of all abilities. To take part, you must have competed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Swimming Festival. Entry forms and information about the Geneva trip will be available at the event.

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## Geneva Football

In June, Mencap Sport supported a number of Mencap/Gateway club members to take part in a football event in Geneva. This year's team won the championship beating Westfriesen from Holland 2-0 in the final. We would like to congratulate all the players who took part, and thank the staff and volunteers who supported the team.



## National Registration System pilot scheme

Learning disability sport can be confusing because athletes often have to get a 'registration' or a 'profile'. This is a way of checking that athletes meet the criteria for taking part in learning disability sport, and is designed to make sure that sport is fair – where people with similar disabilities compete against each other.

In learning disability sport in the UK, there are two levels of registration – national and international.

The international registration system is managed by INAS FID - the world governing body for learning disability sport. Often, it is costly to get an international registration, though Mencap Sport can help you.

To make it easier for up and coming athletes, and those who only want to take part in competition in England, there is the national registration system. This is a much quicker, simpler and cheaper way to get a registration.

Mencap Sport has been supporting a research project to upgrade the national registration system in England, and we will shortly be launching a pilot to test a new system.

Athletes taking part in events during 2007 may be asked to take part in the pilot. We would appreciate your help and will keep you up to date with the research in future issues of Mencap Sport News.



## Mencap want your views on 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

In 2012 the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be held in Britain. This is the largest sports event in the world and the largest event that will have happened in Britain for a long time.

There will be many events about the Olympic and Paralympic Games before 2012. They may be sports events or arts events.

At the moment learning disabled athletes are not allowed to take part in the Paralympic Games but Mencap are working very hard to get this changed as soon as possible.

There will also be a big festival of the arts taking place throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland as part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Mencap is thinking about what we should be doing for this event. We have said that:

- We want to make sure that people with a learning disability are included in all of the Olympic and Paralympic events
- We want the Olympic and Paralympic Games to make life better for people with a learning disability even after it is finished
- We want Mencap and Mencap's local groups to get involved and get as much as possible out of the Olympic and Paralympic Games

So we'd like to hear your ideas about how you would like to be involved in the Olympics. Would you like to take part in a sports event? Organise or take part in an arts event? Help as a volunteer? Be a photographer? Find paid work there? Or be involved in other ways?

You can get a copy of a questionnaire by emailing [artsandsport@mencap.org.uk](mailto:artsandsport@mencap.org.uk) or by contacting Gus Garside, Mencap, Burrell Road, Haywards Heath, RH16 1TW.



### **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](mailto:sport@mencap.org.uk) putting the words 'mailing list' in the subject line.



### **Mencap Sport Website**

The Mencap Sport website is the best place to stay up to date with news, information, events, competitions and opportunities in sport. This year we will be making a big effort to update it every few days and keep it looking fresh and exciting.

We will still use the membership mailings and email in the future, but we want to make the website the main way that we get information to Mencap members and the wider community. You can visit the site at [www.mencap.org.uk/sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport)



### **Next issue...**

The next issue of Mencap Sport News will be sent out at the beginning of October. If you have stories, events or news that you would like us to feature then please email them to [sport@mencap.org.uk](mailto:sport@mencap.org.uk)

### **Mencap Sport Education and Training**

Mencap Sport training and education helps sports organisations, paid staff, volunteers, managers, coaches and policy-makers to understand learning disability and how to include people with a learning disability in your club or service. For more information, visit [www.mencap.org.uk/sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport)

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# 2007 Mencap Sport Calendar

## International Events

• INAS European Cross Country Championships	Feb 22-26	Spain
• INAS World Indoor Athletics Championships	March 14-19	Prague
• Geneva Football Champs (Mencap members only)	May 24-28	Geneva
• INAS-FID World Swimming Championships	Aug 19-26	Belgium
• INAS World Athletics Championships,	Sept 16-23	Brazil
• INAS-FID Half Marathon World Cup,	October 5	Portugal
• Geneva Swimming Champs (Mencap member only)	October 13	Geneva

## Domestic Competition Calendar

• Northern Regional Swimming Championships	Jan 07	Sunderland
• West Midlands Regional Swimming Championships	Jan 13	Rugby
• Welsh National SC Swimming Championships 2007	Jan 21	
• Mencap/Gateway Football Trials	Feb 4	Warwick
• National Junior Swimming Championships	Mar 03 - 04	Sheffield
• Grand Prix Athletics 1	Apr 28	Nottingham
• South West Regional Athletics Championships	May 16	
• British International Disability Swimming Champs	May 18 - 20	Sheffield
• Grand Prix Athletics 2	May 19	Ormskirk
• Mencap National 5'a side Football Championships	June 9	Leeds
• British Open Athletics Championships	Jun 15-17	Manchester
• National Table Tennis Grand Prix	June 16-17	Crewe
• National Learning Disability Netball Champs	June 23	Nottingham
• National Learning Disability Athletics Champs	Jun 30	Watford
• National Junior Athletics Championships	Jul 07-08	Blackpool
• 2nd British SC Swimming Championships	Jul 14-15	Sheffield
• Grand Prix Athletics 3	Aug 25	Gateshead
• DSE Table Tennis Championships	Sep 01-02	Stoke Mandeville
• Grand Prix Athletics 4	Sep 01	London
• National Snooker Championships	Oct 13	Manchester
• Phoenix Open Swimming Championships	Oct 20	Colchester
• DSE National SC Swimming Championships	Nov 03-04	Sheffield
• National Cross Country	Nov tbc	Wakefield

## National Squad Training Calendar

• Swimming Squad Day	Feb 17 tbc	tbc
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	Feb 17-18	Grantham
• Athletics Squad Day	March 03	Bedford
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	March 24-25	Grantham
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	May 5-6	Grantham
• Athletics Squad Day	May 19	Sheffield
• Swimming Squad Day	June 30 tbc	Manchester
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	July 7-8	Grantham
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	Sep 22-23	Grantham
• Athletics Squad Trial Day	Oct 6	Sheffield
• Athletics Squad Day	Nov tbc	Sheffield
• Swimming Squad Day	Nov 24 tbc	Manchester
• Table Tennis Squad Weekend	Nov 24-25	Grantham

**More information and links to entry forms can be found at [www.mencap.org.uk/sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport)**

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