

News from the North

An update on Disability Athletics in the North of England, edited by Shelley Holroyd



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A P2P success story: Jamie Carter

Last year the Humber Sports Partnership organised the Playground to Podium County Athlete Assessment Day. Sixty six young children attended and, after a long day of activity, nine young children were identified as having a higher ability in Athletics.



All the identified athletes were then invited to an Aviva Parallel Success day in Sheffield to train with high profile coaches. One of those children was Jamie Carter, a promising Wheelchair Basketball player. He was identified by Shelley Holroyd who is the Disability Athletics Support Officer for England Athletics North. 'Jamie was in a Wheelchair that is used for Basketball. You could see from the onset that he had the technique and ability to go far. So, after a few phone calls we had arranged for Jamie and two others to go to their local track for an England Athletics Flying Coach session specific to Wheelchair Racing. Since then he has not looked back. He has also been fast tracked to the UKA Talent Identification Camps which is a fantastic achievement'.

In April this year, after many months of hard training and traveling to see his coach, Jamie (third from the left) was on the starting line for the London Mini Wheelchair race. Jamie finished the race and came third in the U17 boys.

Such an achievement may not have been possible had he not attended the local Humber Sports Partnership Playground to Podium Day.

P2P attendance so far:

Greater Manchester CAAD - 154

Durham CAAD - 149

West Yorkshire Sport CAAD - 47

Dreams can come true: Danielle

Danielle Bradshaw seems like any other girl. She had a dream. A dream to run for the first time. But, it was only ever going to be a dream.

Danielle was born with a congenital dislocation of both hips and her right knee. This left Danielle unable to walk. Now, she has been given a new lease of life after she made the big decision to have her leg amputated. In August 2010 her right leg was removed and since then Danielle has not looked back.

Appearances on the new Fern show, articles in the local newspapers and a vested interest from local companies have helped her step up on to the track. What seemed like a dream has turned in to reality and she is now training with two coaches at local tracks. Pat Bailey, Wheelchair Racing Coach based at Sportcity and John Dunne, sprints coach, at East Cheshire Harriers.

It has been a long hard road for Danielle and after months of fundraising and TV shows she has finally run for the first time in 12 years. Danielle (pictured) has been fitted with a new prosthesis, thanks to PACE, which has helped her to follow her dream and set her sights on the 2016 Paralympics in Rio.

Danielle was also identified at the Greater Manchester P2P day and attended the Aviva Parallel Success day held in Manchester.



Danielle has now run for the first time in 12 years

CSP & NDSO News

County Athlete Assessment Days

The County Athlete Assessment Days have started again and so far we have seen 350 athletes in attendance at three CAADs.

Greater Manchester were first to kick off their event, held at the Armitage Centre, Manchester. With a 154 young athletes attending the day was going to be busy. First up were the Wheelchair users. It was a great opportunity for the manual wheelchair users to experience being in a racing wheelchair. Job King, Disability Athletics Support Officer - Midlands and South West, was on hand to coach the young athletes. Each athlete had the chance to feel what it's like instead of watching it on TV. None of them wanted to go to the next sport as they were to busy enjoying their session. Always a good sign! Overall a total of 11 athletes were identified and given information on the next stage which is the Parallel Success Talent days.

The next CAAD saw an abundance of athletes again. This time round it was in the format of a competition amongst schools in the Durham area. With a total of 149 athletes battling it out the competition was high. In amongst the athletes was Deaf athlete Jonny Wilkinson (pictured), a recent attendee at the DUKA European Trials. Jonny was taking part in a range of events, along with many other



athletes, and stormed ahead of the pack to win all of his events. Jonny was identified at the CAAD in 2010. The day was a resounding success and 18 athletes were identified to move on to the next stage.

May 10th saw the ever so successful West Yorkshire Sport CAAD take place at the John Charles Centre for Sport. The sun was shining and the rain held off. Attendance from Deaf UK Athletics and MENCAP Sport meant that we had specialists on hand to assist with identifying new athletes. Overall there were 47 athletes in attendance. This year 11 of those athletes were identified for the Parallel Success stage. Of the 11 athletes there were five visually impaired athletes, three hearing impaired, two learning disability and one physical disability athlete. On the whole it was a good day and one enjoyed by all.

For more information visit:
www.westyorkshiresport.co.uk

Deaf UK Athletics

On the 3rd April, City of Stoke AC once again hosted the trials for the Deaf UK Athletics European Championships. This year there were a few new faces. One of them being Jonny Wilkinson who was identified at the 2010 Durham P2P day.

Another attendee was regular GB deaf team member Bethan Lishman. Bethan, who competes for Wigan Harriers, had been involved in a road traffic accident earlier this year and was seriously injured in the process. She was left with a leg injury that jeopardised her international throwing career. With the help of her friends and coach, Bob Halliwell, Bethan bounced back and took part in the trials at Stoke. With little confidence in her leg and little training Bethan took 3rd place. So, after a nail biting wait, the team for the upcoming European Champs was announced. She had been chosen to represent her country yet again. Well done Bethan.

"After my car accident I never thought I would be able to reach the European Deaf Championships. It's a dream come true"



MENCAP - Stephanie Moore

Stephanie Moore is a promising young athlete who spends most of her time training at Chester-le-Street Athletics Club. Her coaches Paul and Margaret Smith are well known in the area and also attend the local Playground to Podium assessment days as coaches.

Stephanie recently attended an event in France where she was a member of the MENCAP team. Competition was hard as she was up against some of the best athletes in Europe. Teams from France, Finland

and Holland were in attendance. The first event was the Long Jump. Competing in the Long Jump for the first time, she stepped on to the run up and leapt to a new PB of 3m 39cm. Not a bad start for a beginner. Once the Long Jump was over it was off to contest the 60m Sprint. On a high from the Long Jump Stephanie powered her way to 4th place with a new PB of 9.32 seconds. A successful start to a long season ahead.

The day after the competition there was no rest for all of the athletes.

They all took part in a joint training session with the other countries and their coaches. A few goodbyes later it was back to the UK.



Club News

Wigan Harriers

Wigan Harriers is a long standing club with a history of producing world class athletes. Jenny Meadows, current bronze medalist from the 2009 World Championships, Angie Thorpe, 1996 Olympian and David Grindley, former 400m GB record holder.

At the 2010 Lancashire Playground to Podium day a young athlete stood out amongst the others. A talented young footballer in her own right, Millie was identified as having a higher ability in Athletics. With this in mind Millie was invited to the recent Parallel Success day where she met local coach, Bob Halliwell. During the day Millie took part in the Shot Put and Discus. It was during the coaching session Bob realised that Millie had something special. Bob, also coach to Bethan Lishman, approached Disability Athletics Support Officer Shelley Holroyd, and asked if Millie was able to attend Wigan Harriers for a more in depth coaching session. With the clubs track record it was no contest as to where Millie Forrest would be

Bob Halliwell (middle) with Bethan Lishman and Beth Sewell.



placed to start the pathway to the Paralympics. Since Millie has joined Bob's training group she has gone from strength to strength.

Any athlete with Cerebral Palsy often finds it difficult to take on a new sport but Millie has taken to it like a duck to water and there is no turning back now. A recent update from Bob has indicated that Millie added 5m on to her previous distance in the Discus which is an amazing achievement by an athlete who is new to the event. Since Millie was identified at the P2P day she has gone from strength to strength and clearly has the potential to go far.

Watch out for Millie at future events.

Leigh Harriers AC are open to all!

Leigh Harriers have been established since 1909. An achievement that not many clubs can boast about.

Many young athletes have attended the club and gone on to greater things. Back in 2007 the club moved from the old site to a new state of the art facility within Leigh Sports Village. Since then it has moved with the times and evolved in to an inclusive club. The club has achieved Clubmark status and is currently completing a disability inclusive club heath check to ensure they are accessible to all.

Since moving to the sports village the club has attracted high profile athletes from all over the North. Athletes such as Sophie Hancock, 2008 Paralympian, Sean Clare, 2011 IWAS World Junior Shot and Discus Gold medalist and Hayley Thomas, the former U/17 British Record Holder for Javelin and a 2003 Youth Olympian, use the facility. All three athletes are coached by former Olympian, Shelley Holroyd, who is also employed by England Athletics as the Disability Athletics Support Officer for the North.

Other clubs also use the track and on June 4th there will be a UKWAL Division one match taking place with Trafford AC as the host club.

"The facilities are excellent and very accessible. It is without a doubt one of the best facilities in the North of England"

Shelley Holroyd, DASO -England Athletics, North.



East Cheshire Harriers & Tameside AC

One Paralympian is not enough for John Dunne, Sprints Coach at ECH. At 83 John is still fighting fit and has just recently taken on another budding Paralympian, Danielle Bradshaw.

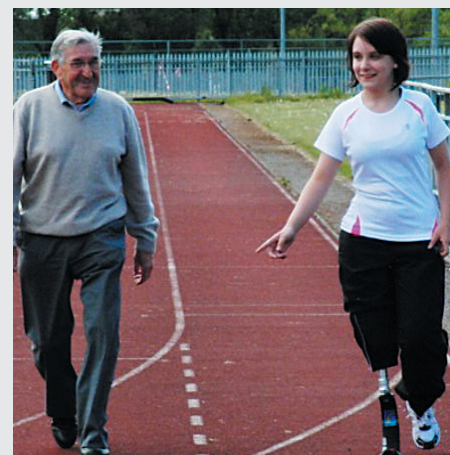
May 11th 2011 marked a new day for John in his quest to help Danielle reach her dream. After meeting with her parents, physio and a specialist in prosthetics, John stepped on to the track and gave Danielle a good run for her money.

After recently being fitted with a new prosthetic leg Danielle ran for the first time on the track. John, never one to shy away from a challenge, set Danielle a goal - to beat him in a short race.

With a cheeky smile and a shot of confidence she stepped up to the line. 'On your marks, get set, GO' shouts John, and they're off. Like a bolt of lightning John streaked ahead to win the race. Still smiling (pictured) after her defeat it was clear that Danielle had just experienced something she thought she may never achieve.

Good luck to Danielle and John.

Danielle is also featured in 'Dreams can come true' on page 1.



Dwarf Sports Association

This year over 155 athletes attended the Dwarf Games. The sun was shining, records fell and the atmosphere was bubbling with excitement. The competition between the athletes was high, the chanting from the stand was vociferous and the coaches were jubilant with the performances.

Amongst the athletes attending were Sean Clare, recently crowned World Junior Champion for Shot and Discus and Sophie Hancock, 2008 Shot Put Paralympian. Both athletes are from the North of England and train at Leigh Harriers AC.

With Sean and Sophie, Britain's number one athletes in both the Shot Put and Discus, competing and vying for medals the competition was going to be tough for the others.

The first to throw was Sean. The event - Discus. With windy conditions Sean clinched the Gold. Although he wasn't happy with his performance he picked himself up to prepare for the Javelin - an event he doesn't train for. Whilst Sean was preparing it was Sophie's turn to

throw the Discus. Again, the wind was not being kind to the athletes but Sophie also clinched the Gold.

Amongst the Athletes competing were Chelsea Jobe (Durham CAAD) and Isaac Dalglish (Greater Manchester CAAD). Both Athletes had previously been identified at their local Playground to Podium day. Chelsea has previously been identified for Shot Put and the Discus and Isaac was also identified for Javelin. Chelsea currently trains with Paul and Margaret Smith at Chester le Street AC and Isaac trains with Janie and Jay Clare at Challenge Disability, Wavertree. All four coaches are also enrolled on to the Northern Disability Mentoring Programme.

Sean and Sophie also clinched Gold in their main event, Shot Put. Sean threw over 9m with a 4kg Shot but was just below his PB. Sophie was also just below her PB and took the Gold.

For more information on the Dwarf Sports Association please go to: www.dsauk.org



The sun was shining, records fell and the atmosphere was bubbling with excitement!

Coaching News

Disability Athletics Support Officer, Shelley Holroyd, has launched and new initiative to support local coaches who are involved, or want to become involved, in coaching athletes with a disability.

So far 13 coaches have signed up to the new 1:1 mentoring scheme and the list is growing quickly. The scheme will offer 1:1 support to coaches by means of coaching sessions, resources, Flying Coach sessions, educational elements from the National Disability Sports Organisations and many more.

If you would like to get involved and become part of the new scheme please contact Shelley direct. Phone: 07912 070625 or Email: sholroyd@englandathletics.org

Network News

Four McCain Athletics Networks are now working with their local Disability Athletics Support Officer, Shelley Holroyd, to progress their plans surrounding disability.

NOTAN, Gateshead, Calderdale and Bradford have taken the step forward and have enlisted the DASO's help to support the work that is already underway.

The link between the networks is vital and NOTAN has already stepped up to the starting line with their very own Integrated Coach Education Programme. This programme is important for the local coaches and it has now been linked with the 1:1 Disability Mentoring Scheme that Shelley has put in place.

NOTAN will be the first network in the North to pilot the scheme.

For further information contact:
Shelley Holroyd
England Athletics Disability Athletics Support Officer – North
Phone: 07912 070625
E-mail: sholroyd@englandathletics.org



If you would like to contribute to this newsletter please forward your articles to: sholroyd@englandathletics.org

