

DISABILITY SPORT NEWS

September 2011

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ABERDEENSHIRE DISABILITY



Win, win for all at Disability Development Day

In the North area, regional managers from Scottish Disability Sport and Scottish Swimming worked in partnership with Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils to deliver their first Disability Talent ID day in Aberdeen on Sunday 27th February.

Flyers were sent out to schools in the Grampian area inviting children with either a visual impairment or a physical disability to attend the morning session. Six children from the Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City area attended, and tracker forms were completed.

British Swimming has carried out research demonstrating that figures are low in the pathway for physically disabled and visually impaired athletes.

In order to raise awareness, provide opportunities and to encourage participation, two disability talent ID days will be delivered in each District this year. This involves assessing the swimmers for ability and to find out whether they are already participating in swimming and if so, at what level. British swimming have devised a tracking system, whereby athletes' details are taken and data is kept and regularly updated. This allows us to continue to identify and support the needs of individual athletes, especially in terms of following through the pathway.

An encouraging outcome of the day was to learn that all the swimmers had already participated in Learn to swim programmes. Although, where one swimmer had already progressed to join Bucksburn ASC, another swimmer had finished learn to swim and had not continued with the sport. However, the success of the day is that Dylan pictured opposite, intends to go along to Bucksburn ASC where he will be able to perhaps train alongside Eilidh, also pictured opposite.

As the day unfolded, there was an opportunity for the regional managers to discuss possible steps with parents, and for parents to make new acquaintances. The feedback was very positive from parents who had welcomed the day and felt it was a fantastic experience for all.

As a bolt on, regional managers organised a CPD seminar in the afternoon, namely, 'Coaching swimmers

with a disability'. The seminar was a major attraction for coaches and teachers, who came from as far afield as Inverness. Places for the seminar were quickly taken with a waiting list for any possible place. Everyone had a great opportunity to network, share best practice and plan ahead for delivering the same event in the Highlands and Islands. Reflecting on the day, both tutor, Hilary Stewart, candidates and regional managers felt the seminar was very resourceful, informative and a great success.

Hilary commented: 'The whole day went ahead perfectly. The new Cults Academy swimming pool was an excellent venue for delivery. The CPD was targeting integration of disability swimmers into clubs, and all the candidates were enthused to realise that with suitable planning, athletes can be integrated with every opportunity to reach their own potential within the long term athlete development pathway.'



Dylan & Eilidh

Aberdeenshire Council Leisure Facilities and Sports Programmes Concessionary Access Scheme

What the concession will give you

If you are eligible for any of the concession categories below and can provide the evidence required then you can benefit from substantial reductions in prices for Aberdeenshire Council leisure facilities such as swimming pools and sports centres and sport classes such as swimming lessons and holiday programmes.

How to claim your concession

Take your evidence to your local Aberdeenshire Council Leisure facility where it will be checked and your details entered onto the computer system.

Use of National Entitlement Cards as "swipe" cards

If you already have a National Entitlement card (free bus travel cards, Young Scot cards and C and C+ cards are all National Entitlement Cards) then your card can be linked to our computer system meaning that all you have to do when you arrive at the reception is to swipe your card and you will automatically be charged the correct concession rate without anything further being required.

If you do not have a National Entitlement Card then you may apply for one through the leisure facility.

If you do not wish to use a National Entitlement Card, for whatever reason, then you may simply give your name to the receptionist so that your details can be looked up on the computer and the correct price charged (this may take a little longer than using the card).

Active Aberdeenshire Membership

Your concession status also applies to the prices for the Active Aberdeenshire Membership. This is a scheme whereby you can pay a set amount monthly and then have unlimited use of the facilities and some classes. For regular users this may result in significant savings. You should ask at your local facility what a membership would cover and what it would cost applying the concession rate.

Queries

If you have any questions about the concession scheme, or how we hold your details on computer, or on taking out a membership, please ask first at your local facility. If you are still not satisfied then please phone the leisure admin office on 01467 628283 who will be able to find someone to help you.

Concession Category	Concession rate
Age 60 and over	Half the adult rate
Young Scot card holders (16 – 25yr olds)	
Students in Full time education	
Carer (only when taking their charge into the pool)	Free access when the carer is swimming with the person they are required to assist.
People in receipt of housing benefit	Half the usual rate for adults or children in the household
Job Seekers Allowance / New deal	
Income Support	
Working Family Tax Credit (NOT Family tax credit)	
Widowed Mother's Allowance and Widow's Pension	
Incapacity benefit	Half the usual adult or child rate as applicable for the recipient of the allowance only
Severe Disability allowance	
Industrial Injuries disablement benefit	
Invalidity allowance	
Disability Living allowance	Free
Looked after children (children in the care of Aberdeenshire Council not including those cared for under section 70)	
Carers (must be in receipt of carers allowance)	Half the usual rate (unless when accompanying their cared for person which is free as above)

Talent ID Day in Grampian



A Talent ID Day for athletes with a physical disability or visual impairment was held in Aberdeen on Saturday 7th May 2011. The talent ID day, at Aberdeen Sports Village was open to anyone aged 8 years and over with the aim of offering taster sessions in a variety of sports. The event focused on the Paralympic sports of athletics, boccia and table tennis with members of Aberdeen wheelchair curling club also on hand to promote their sport. Alasdair Love, Scottish Athletics regional manager led a mixture of run, jump and throw activities and spotted some real talent within the group. George Keith, regional table tennis coach ran a session which was enjoyed by all and Claire Morrison, Scottish boccia coach delivered a boccia session and gave advice on assistive devices.

Regional Development Manager for Scottish Disability Sport Andrinne Craig said "It was a fantastic morning of sport and exciting to meet some new faces to disability sport. We'll be keeping in touch with everyone who attended to ensure they have the opportunity to take part in the activities which interest them whether it's recreational sport or with a dream of becoming a future paralympian."



Talented three selected for Home Nations Championships

Three talented young Aberdeenshire footballers with additional needs represent Scotland at the Home Nations Championships in Leicester 21st – 25th April.

Colin Knox, Michael Mortimer and Gavin Rothney are all in the Grampian Football squad following their selection at the annually run schools football festivals, supported by Deveronvale Football Club and Inverurie Locos Football Club.

Chairman of Aberdeenshire Council's Education, Learning and Leisure Committee, Richard Stroud, said: "The commitment the boys have shown is fantastic and they have worked hard in training to get their talent recognised across the country over the last three years.

"The Grampian squad is recognized as the strongest in the country and that's due to the structure which is in place and continued commitment of the players, coaches and Scottish Football Association North Region."

The Grampian football squad for addition support needs train regularly at Meldrum Academy. In 2010, the squad won team of the year at the Scottish Football Association Grassroots awards and their success continues to be seen nationwide.

For the third in a row they have won both the National 5 and 7-a-side Championship titles.

Aberdeenshire has consistently provided a number of players for the Scottish team, alongside players from the central belt.

Wishaw Games 2011

Six Aberdeenshire Disability Sport athletes attended the Wishaw Games on 13th & 14th August in Boccia and Table tennis. Craig Barrie from Inverurie played well in the Boccia tournament receiving a good sportsmanship certificate along with Fiona Jones from Ellon but Kerry Mathers from Inverurie did exceptionally well taking home the Silver medal. The table tennis players followed going one better with George Keith and Julie Morrison both taking home Gold in their classes

and Aaron Morrison finishing in the top 6. Fantastic performances all round!

Special Olympics Worlds Games

Grampian Special Olympic cyclists Ian Urquhart and Scott Walker set off on the 18th June with the rest of the Great British team to compete in the Special Olympics World Games being held in Athens. Following a week in a holding camp the competition began. Ian competed in 15km Road race finishing 4th narrowly missing 3rd place by a second, 10km road race where he finished 4th and 5km Time trial finishing in 6th place. Head coach Tom A'Hara said "Ian's performances were outstanding he gives every ounce of effort into every race and deserves all the results and more". Scott was to race in the longer distances but unfortunately in the final corner of his first race he was involved in a crash with another cyclist leading to Scott requiring hospital treatment. Luckily for Scott his injuries weren't serious but enough to prevent him from continuing with the games. Even though Scott was injured and his bike a write off he was still at the course to support his fellow GB team mates in their performances.

The GB cycling squad in total took home 2 Golds, 4 Silver and 1 Bronze which was brilliant going by 7 cyclists.



Kerry Mathers with her silver medal

photograph courtesy of pauldouglasspictures.com

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