

Newsletter  
Issue 5 – January  
2008

# Mencap *SPORT*



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

## Mencap Sport looks ahead to 2008....

Mencap Sport has an exciting year ahead as we look to build on our achievements in 2007.

This will include a programme of national championship events, hosting a major international competition, supporting gifted and talented athletes to develop their skills and ambitions, and supporting sports organisations across the country to include people with a learning disability in sport.

In addition to our work in England, Mencap also now hosts the International Federation for learning disability sport – INAS FID. This means that we undertake work to support learning disability sport across the world, and work with INAS and the International Paralympic Committee to lift the ban from Paralympic competition.

In 2008, we also want to work more closely with sports clubs and projects within the Mencap membership. Below, you will find details of a consultation meeting in April where we want to find out everything that is happening in sport within the organisation.

For up to date information on all our activities, events, and the latest sports news then visit the Mencap Sport website at [www.mencap.org.uk/sport](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sport).

We look forward to an exciting year of sport and competition.

### 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 | Ian Eaton      |
| Marie Dixon        | Greg Simmons   |
| Paul Wilson        | Daniel Griffin |
| Michael Coltherd   | Paul Smith     |
| Verona Elder       |                |

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

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Carol Halpin     | Christine Linekar |
| Steve Critchley  | Francis Dart      |
| Gemma Ripley     | Mark Thomas       |
| Stephen Meanwell | Beryl Horton      |

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

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Wendy Beech | Dennis Beech |
| Mick Vesey  | Kevin Watt   |

#### **Mencap Sport Football:**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Pete McLaughlin | Pete Bickers |
| Mark Summers    |              |

#### **UKSA Representatives:**

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Karon Nicol | 2 <sup>nd</sup> rep tbc |
|-------------|-------------------------|

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# News

## INAS European Table Tennis Cup

Jacqueline Smith from Chelmsford has trained with the Mencap Sport National Table Tennis squad for many years. In 2007 she was selected to be part of the GB team who competed at the INAS European Table Tennis Cup which took place in Poland. Jacqueline very kindly sent us an article about the trip:

*“On July 24th, 8 players together with Dennis, Wendy, Kevin and Sheena (the staff) flew from Manchester airport to Amsterdam, and then to Warsaw in Poland.*

*The players were Victoria Bromley, Adam Thompson, Jeffrey Jarvis, Alistair and Duncan Feltham, Neil Hanley, Simon Green and me.*

*The first event was the Team Competition and GB girls beat Portugal to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> position. In the doubles, me and Victoria came 4<sup>th</sup>, Jeffrey and Adam came 5<sup>th</sup> and Alistair and Duncan came 8<sup>th</sup>. In the mixed doubles, Jacqueline and Jeffrey came 8<sup>th</sup>.*

*It was very hot in Poland, but we had a great week and we really enjoyed the competition”.*

If you have a story you would like us to feature, then we would love to hear from you. Stories can be sent to [sport@mencap.org.uk](mailto:sport@mencap.org.uk) or the address below.



## Mencap Sport Open Meeting

In 2008, Mencap Sport is making a particular effort to work more closely with the many staff, volunteers, Mencap and Gateway clubs who are involved in providing sporting activities.

We know there are some fantastic projects across the country supporting people with a learning disability to enjoy sport, and we would like to share your experience, ideas and success. The meeting will also be a chance to find out more about Mencap Sport, and how we can support local projects, clubs and activities.

We will be holding an open meeting on 22 April at Mencap’s offices in Birmingham. There is no charge for attending and lunch will be provided.

Maybe you run a project to provide opportunities in sport; you might organise a local or regional event, or you might help run a Mencap affiliated club that provides sport and leisure activities. You might be a member of staff, supporting people or clubs in your area.

We want to invite all of you to support the meeting. Further details and a registration form can be found on the Mencap Sport website.

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## Entry forms available for 2008 national championship events

Entry forms for this year's events will appear on the Mencap Sport website over the next few weeks. You can already download entry forms for the Geneva Football trials, and other events will follow shortly.



## Regional competitions

Mencap Sport is often asked about regional and local events that are taking place in your area. There are many events that you can get involved in, in a wide range of sports. Many are run by Disability Sport Events (visit [www.disabilitysport.org](http://www.disabilitysport.org)) or by your local County Sport Partnership, details of which can be found at your local authority.



## School Games Campaign

The 3<sup>rd</sup> UK School Games will take place in August, and Mencap is campaigning to ensure that it includes events for children with a learning disability.

Because athletes with a learning disability are currently excluded from the Paralympic Games, this has caused an unjust knock-on effect.

In January, representatives from Mencap met with Gerry Sutcliffe, the Sports Minister. He gave his support for inclusion in the UKSG at the earliest opportunity, and Mencap Sport, Youth Sport Trust (who manage the Games) and DCMS will be working with the governing bodies to introduce events in 2008.

## 2008 Nottingham School of Sport

The 20<sup>th</sup> School of Sport takes place in Nottingham between Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The event is a sports week of fun, training and competition for disabled people. Regardless of your ability, whether you're a beginner or elite athlete, this event is for you. The main thing is that you want to take part, train or compete in sport.

The coaches will meet your needs as an individual in your sport to help you achieve your sporting goals. These sports include Swimming, Boccia, Wheelchair Basketball, Athletics, Tennis (including Wheelchair Tennis), and Football. The afternoon activities vary each day, so you have lots to choose from. This is your chance to try something a bit different.

The School of Sport is a residential event enabling participants the chance to gain independence, confidence and life skills. However, local people can choose to attend on a daily basis if they prefer.

The week will have a full social programme with a Quiz Night, Music in Motion and a Talent Show. On the last evening there will be a presentation ceremony where awards are made for achievements during the week, followed by a disco.

For more information, visit the Mencap Sport website or contact the national office.

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## 2007 Review

Mencap Sport has published a review of its activities and successes in 2007. The review can be downloaded from the Mencap Sport website.

## Volunteers Needed

Can you spare a few hours each week, or do you have experience in Table Tennis. Mencap Sport have two vacancies for volunteers:

- Office volunteer – (2 days per week). This role is based in Wakefield, West Yorkshire and will support the day-to-day administration of Mencap Sport
- Table Tennis Coach – (12 days per year). We are looking for a qualified Table Tennis coach to work with the National Learning Disability Table Tennis squad. You will be required to attend 6 squad training days per year, as well as help coordinate the weekends and develop the squad.

For more information on either role, please contact the Mencap Sport Office.



## 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 April. 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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# 2008 Mencap Sport Calendar



## International Events

|   |                 |            |
|---|-----------------|------------|
| • INAS World Indoor Athletics Championships     | 12-17 March     | Estonia    |
| • INAS-FID World Cross Country Championships    | 10-14 April     | Poland     |
| • Geneva Football Champs (Mencap members only)  | 8-12 May        | Geneva     |
| • INAS Open European Athletics Championships,   | 27-29 June      | Manchester |
| • INAS European Football Championships,         | 20 July - 2 Aug | Manchester |
| • INAS European Swimming Championships          | 17-21 Aug       | Poland     |
| • INAS Open European Table Tennis Championships | 20-26 October   | Valencia   |
| • INAS World Half Marathon Championships        | tbc             |            |
| • Geneva Swimming Gala (Mencap members only)    | tbc Oct         | Geneva     |

## National Competition Calendar

|   |              |                  |
|---|--------------|------------------|
| • Mencap/Gateway Football Trials                  | 3 Feb        | Warwick          |
| • National Junior Swimming Championships          | 01 - 02 Mar  | Sheffield        |
| • Grand Prix Athletics 1                          | 26 April     | Perivale         |
| • British Open Long Course Swimming Champs        | 25 -27 April | Sheffield        |
| • DSE National Mini Games                         | 9 May        | Stoke Mandeville |
| • Mencap National 5-a-side Football Championships | 7 June       | Leeds            |
| • British Wheelchair Athletics Trials             | 10 May       | Stoke Mandeville |
| • Grand Prix Athletics 2                          | 31 May       | Nottingham       |
| • British Open Athletics Championships            | 7-8 June     | Manchester       |
| • Grand Prix Athletics 3                          | 14 June      | Nottingham       |
| • Grand Prix Athletics 4                          | 28 June      | Woking           |
| • National Learning Disability Athletics Champs   | 28 June      | Manchester       |
| • National Learning Disability Netball Champs     | tbc          | tbc              |
| • National Junior Athletics Championships         | 05 - 06 July | Blackpool        |
| • 2nd British SC Swimming Championships           | 12-13 July   | Sheffield        |
| • National Table Tennis Grand Prix                | 19-20 July   | Grantham         |
| • Grand Prix Athletics 5                          | 23 Aug       | Gateshead        |
| • National Snooker Championships                  | tbc          | tbc              |
| • Phoenix Open Swimming Championships             | tbc          | tbc              |
| • National Table Tennis Grand Prix                | 4 October    | Crewe            |
| • DSE National SC Swimming Championships          | 1-2 Nov      | Sheffield        |
| • National Cross Country                          | tbc          | tbc              |

## Regional Competition Calendar

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| • South West Regional Swimming Championships     | 12 Jan    |
| • North East Regional Swimming Championships     | 13 Jan    |
| • West Midlands Regional Swimming Championships  | 26 Jan    |
| • East Regional Swimming Gala                    | 2 Feb     |
| • South East Regional Swimming Gala              | 9 Feb     |
| • North West Regional Swimming Gala              | 16-17 Feb |
| • South East Regional Athletics Championships    | 19 April  |
| • North East Regional Athletics Championships    | 25 April  |
| • North West Regional Athletics Championships    | 27 April  |
| • Eastern Athletics Championships                | 17 May    |
| • West Midlands Regional Athletics Championships | 18 May    |
| • South West Regional Athletics Championships    | 21 May    |
| • East Midlands Athletics Championships          | 24 May    |

## National Mencap Squad Training Calendar

|                              |             |            |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| • Athletics Squad Day        | 13 Jan      | Manchester |
| • Table Tennis Squad Weekend | 26-27 Jan   | Grantham   |
| • Swimming Squad Day         | 9 Feb       | Sheffield  |
| • Table Tennis Squad Weekend | 15-16 March | Grantham   |
| • Table Tennis Squad Weekend | 17-18 May   | Grantham   |
| • Athletics Squad Day        | tbc May     | Manchester |
| • Swimming Squad Day         | 28 June     | Sheffield  |
| • Table Tennis Squad Weekend | 5-6 July    | Grantham   |
| • Table Tennis Squad Weekend | 13-14 Sept  | Grantham   |
| • Athletics Squad Trial Day  | 27 Sept     | Sheffield  |
| • Athletics Squad Day        | tbc         | Sheffield  |
| • Table Tennis Squad Weekend | 8-9 Nov     | Grantham   |
| • Swimming Squad Day         | 22 Nov      | Sheffield  |

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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