

ATHLETICS INCLUSIVE

APRIL - JUNE 2021

Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly equality, diversity and inclusion news from UK Athletics, Athletics Northern Ireland, England Athletics, Scottish Athletics and Welsh Athletics.

PARA INCLUSION

Welsh Athletics

As part of our ongoing commitment to closer working with Disability Sport Wales [DSW], Welsh Athletics is in the process of recruiting a jointly funded Para Athletics Pathway Coordinator. We have seen great recent success at the European Para-athletics Championships with a total of 7 medals from Welsh Athletes and we hope this joint working will continue and build on this success as the organisation become more closely integrated.

The role will support the development and progression of Para Athletes within the Athletics Pathway (from community through to performance) as identified by Disability Sport Wales and Welsh Athletics. It will aim to ensure that all Para Athletes within the pathway have access to appropriate and meaningful community opportunities to support individual needs. There will also be mentoring and upskilling outreach support for athletes, coaches, clubs and key contacts in collaboration with the DSW Performance Pathway Team and WA. This is an exciting opportunity in a role which will be fully integrated into the Welsh Athletics Performance team at the start of preparations for the Birmingham 2022 Games.

Scottish Athletics

With athletics training returning across the country, a [Safe Return to Training](#) guide has been produced for wheelchair and frame running to remind athletes, coaches and clubs of the extra safety considerations. The guidance highlights equipment checks, how to minimise risks, training safely on the track and training safely on the road.

England Athletics

in partnership with British Athletics, is very pleased to announce the development of a Para Athletics webinar series - covering a whole range of topics and free of charge!

The first two webinars in the series are due to take place in June and July of 2021 and will introduce Para Athletics, inclusion, understanding the impairment and the athlete, and also an introduction to working with amputee athletes. For more information visit the [England Athletics website](#)



Athletics Northern Ireland

have recently hosted a Para Athletics Testing Day in conjunction with Disability Sport Northern Ireland, to introduce athletes to Para Athletics and provide information on classification and the events available for competition. The Para Athletics Training Sessions are ongoing at the Mary Peters Track and provide a safe, friendly environment for athletes to train and learn more about the sport.

EQUALITY STANDARD FOR SPORT



Welsh Athletics recently submitted evidence for assessment against the national Equality Standard for Sport and were pleased to gain recognition at the Intermediate Level. Our Non-Exec Director for Equality, Helen Adams, said: "Delighted that we've achieved Intermediate Level of the Equality Standard. This is great news for Welsh Athletics and recognises the work undertaken to date. Thanks to all for your support and commitment to help us achieve this." We are working hard with our Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Board subgroup to ensure we are embedding ED&I in all that we do across the sport in Wales as we move forward with our long-term strategy through to 2026. We will continue to work hard to ensure the sport is inclusive for all in Wales, whether as an athlete, volunteer, coach or official.

UK Athletics & England Athletics

During May, individuals across the sport and internal staff were selected to be interviewed by an independent Equality Standard assessor and the final assessment took place on 14 June. Fingers crossed we and England Athletics achieve the Equality Standard.

Scottish Athletics

At the beginning of May, we welcomed our new Head of Development, David Fallon, to Scottish Athletics. As the previous lead on Equality at Scottish Squash, David brings a wealth of experience and knowledge with him. David said: "As the organisation steers their thoughts towards the resubmission of the Advanced Standard of Equality for Sport, I'm delighted to be joining such an inclusive SGB in scottishathletics. I've long admired the equality, diversity and inclusion-centred approach by the organisation. I'm looking forward to supporting and empowering our clubs and volunteers to adopt similar values, ultimately ensuring athletics remains the most inclusive and accessible sport in Scotland."

DID YOU KNOW?

UK Athletics

An Officials survey was communicated to 4,000+ licensed officials (via email + news stories + social media). 1,152 completed the survey accounting for circa 50% of all active officials. Focus Groups were completed at the end of May (circa 20 hours of focus group sessions)

Scottish Athletics

We supported our colleagues at Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) to deliver their Virtual National Sportshall Athletics Championships, which saw over 500 participants from SDS Branches competing at home, at school or at branch and club level ranging from Dumfries and Galloway in the south and Shetland in the North. Team Fife were the eventual winners of the competition.

In May, 57 scottishathletics licensed events took place - an average year sees around 20-25. In the 4JStudios Together Apart Districts, 53 clubs were represented by 1,700 members aged 9-60+ with almost 2,300 performances recorded in the final results. In the 4JStudios Virtual SUPERteams Challenge (U12s), 650 athletes took part, making up 59 girls teams and 52 boys teams in the national U12 results table.

YOUNG ATHLETES

WELSH ATHLETICS

Our Junior Athlete Voice group identified the need to offer more support to young athletes in Wales around their mental wellbeing so working with our staff they set up a workshop for junior athletes to help support their mental health & well-being. They spent time considering the theme and topic of the workshop and met with the deliverer of the workshop to tailor it to what they feel is needed for young people. A workshop, specifically designed for our junior athletes was delivered by Lloyd Ashley (Osprey's professional rugby player and founder of Living Well with Lloyd Ashley) on 2nd June.



ENGLAND ATHLETICS

England Athletics are supporting the Activity Alliance National Junior Athletics Championships which is returning on Saturday 3 July for all disabled athletes (classified or not) from U12 to U20. A great competition for new and experienced athletes and qualification for national school games. For more information visit the [Activity Alliance website](#)

SCOTTISH ATHLETICS

We recently carried out a Young People's Survey to all athletes in the U13-U20 age categories, seeking their feedback on how young people can be given a voice in the future of the sport. As a follow up to the survey, a webinar was held on the 14th of June with ten young athletes, hosted by National Club Manager, Lindsay McMahon, and former sportscotland Young Ambassador, Erin Gillen. The aim of the webinar was to gauge young athlete's experiences in clubs, at competitions and to hear what keeps them motivated to stay in the sport.

ATHLETICS NORTHERN IRELAND

The NI & Ulster U14-U20 Age Group Championships will return on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July at the Mary Peters Track. Athletics Northern Ireland have hosted a number of open meets this year, in preparation for the return to National competition. The Championships provide a great opportunity for athletes to compete.

INCLUSIVE CHAMPIONS

Giuseppe Minetti "Age is just a number"

Giuseppe has been competing as a sprinter since he was 10, winning his first race across the school playground as a trial on who would represent Sacred Heart in the Battersea Primary Schools Athletics Championships, held at Wimbledon Park stadium on what was then, a cinder track.



At the age of 12 he joined Belgrave Harriers and within weeks he was competing on a regular basis, mostly in age groups above his. In the 1985 season he was lucky enough to train with John Regis, Marcus Adams and Philip Goedluck at Crystal Palace.

His introduction to Masters Athletics (Veterans Athletics back then), came in 1991, when he switched clubs to Herne Hill Harriers and was lucky enough to meet Byron Gray, a 60 year old sprinter and coach. At the age of 60 he was still running 12.5 for the 100m and 25.5 for the 200m and in the 6 years he coached Giuseppe, he missed only ONE session, and that's because his house burnt down. Byron is another solid reason why he continued to be part of track and field.

In 2012, the London Olympics really fired him up, and with only a few months of preparation he decided to throw myself into the deep-end and enter the British Masters Athletics Championships (BMAF), and without anything snapping he managed to run 12.52 in the 100m. In the next few years, he became to realise that the masters scene was pretty big in the UK. He knew this is where he wanted to be and once again immersed himself into sprint training, as well as running his business, getting married and having 2 kids!

In 2015 he entered the Masters World Championships' in Lyon, France and was blown away at how massive and well-run the event was. More than 8,000 athletes aged 35 and over, coming together from 42 countries to compete in track and field.

He was over the moon to reach both the 100m and 200m finals, and knew that the Masters scene was something he wanted to be part of, and promote to a wider audience. So, he started to talk to people in the British Masters Athletics Federation (governing body in the UK) and offered his services in a marketing capacity. Giuseppe is now the Head of Marketing and Communications for the BMAF, and the creator of its marketing brand; Masters Athletics UK.

There are a few ways to get involved with the UK Masters scene.

- Visit mastersathletics.co.uk where you'll find details on how to find an event, or a regional masters club and read inspiring news stories about fellow masters.
- Facebook group page and group (just search Masters Athletics or #mastersathleticsuk) is a great resource for information, as well as a super place to ask fellow athletes of all ages and ability, any questions you may have. You can still retain your membership of your UK athletics club or other sport and join a BMAF club to get extra specialist competition.
- The International Masters scene is based on a non-qualifying standard entry basis, so regardless of your ability, you are guaranteed entry into the event of your choice. The only pre-requisite is that you join an Area Club, which in turn gives you membership to the BMAF.

A full list of national and international events can be found on our fixtures list here

<https://mastersathletics.co.uk/fixtures/>



LET'S TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

The latest 'Let's Talk About Mental Health online session' took place on Wednesday 23 June. This was a panel discussion hosted by four-time Team GB Olympian and UK Athletics Equality, Diversity & Engagement Lead, Donna Fraser. Those joining Donna on the panel will include Hayley Jarvis (Head of Sport and Physical Activity at Mind the mental health charity), Joe Fuggle (former GB hurdler and founder of The Athlete Place), and English 1500m Champion Danielle Hodgkinson, a mental health nurse in the Army. The next event will be a speaker event in September with former GB athlete Jack Green. For more information visit the [England Athletics website](#).

INCLUSION

As part of the [Athletics Unified Strategy](#) a number of cross organisational UK wide working groups have been set up to develop strategies and measures of success in, development, coaching, competition, officiating, commercial and performance. Each of these working groups have an ED&I Champion to ensure good practice is exercised; language and behaviours, diversity of thought and decisions are made in a fair and transparent way.

UK ATHLETICS

have joined other sporting NGB's to participate in a mentoring programme delivered by Moving Ahead in partnership with Sport England.

Moving Ahead are a specialist diversity, development and inclusion organisation dedicated to advancing inclusion. Sport England recognises the importance of diversity and representation at all levels and that in order to promote further equality, diversity and inclusion within the sporting sector, the whole of the industry must work together. This programme will foster diversity in thought, learning and cross-fertilisation of ideas.

SCOTTISH ATHLETICS

On the 21 June, scottishathletics launched a new, exciting club development programme. #OnTheRightTrack will focus on Changing Lives through Sport. A Changing Lives approach to sport is all about intention. We know that the benefits for participating in running/athletics (and all sports and physical activity) are significant, namely, improved physical and mental health, and enhanced social connections. For some people, these benefits are the reason for participation, for others, they are an additional bonus of doing a sport that they love. A Changing Lives approach and mindset moves the focus away from the sport and onto the participant. With this mindset, clubs and coaches will intentionally use running/athletics to improve the lives of people and/ or their community.

WHAT'S ON?

ENGLAND JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH
5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH	11 TH
12 TH	13 TH	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH	18 TH
19 TH	20 TH	21 ST	22 ND	23 RD	24 TH	25 TH
26 TH	27 TH	28 TH	29 TH	30 TH		

KEY

-  Activity Alliance National Junior Athletics Championships
-  England Athletics Senior Championships, Bedford (including Disability Championships)

SCOTLAND JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH
5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH	11 TH
12 TH	13 TH	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH	18 TH
19 TH	20 TH	21 ST	22 ND	23 RD	24 TH	25 TH
26 TH	27 TH	28 TH	29 TH	30 TH		

KEY

-  scottishathletics Masters Championships, Glasgow
-  scottishathletics Parallel Success Open, Glasgow (for ambulant, frame running and wheelchair athletes)
-  Athletics Come and Try Event, Perth (open to all participants with a physical, sensory or learning disability)

NORTHERN IRELAND JULY

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH
5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH	11 TH
12 TH	13 TH	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH	18 TH
19 TH	20 TH	21 ST	22 ND	23 RD	24 TH	25 TH
26 TH	27 TH	28 TH	29 TH	30 TH	31 ST	

KEY

-  Para Athletics Training Session, Belfast
-  NI & Ulster U14-U20 Age Group Championships, Belfast
-  NI & Ulster Senior Championships, Belfast

DIVERSITY CALENDER

SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH
6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH	11 TH	12 TH
13 TH	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH	18 TH	19 TH
20 TH	21 ST	22 ND	23 RD	24 TH	25 TH	26 TH
27 TH	28 TH	29 TH	30 TH			

KEY

-  World Suicide Prevention Day
-  National Inclusion Week

OCTOBER

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1 ST	2 ND	3 RD
4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH	8 TH	9 TH	10 TH
11 TH	12 TH	13 TH	14 TH	15 TH	16 TH	17 TH
18 TH	19 ST	20 TH	21 ST	22 ND	23 RD	24 TH
25 TH	26 TH	27 TH	28 TH	29 TH	30 TH	31 ST

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RESOURCE CORNER

- [BELIEVE PERFORM](#)
- [DISABILITY CONFIDENT SCHEME](#)
- [THE EQUALITY STANDARD A FRAMEWORK FOR SPORT](#)
- [UKA DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN](#)
- [ENGLAND ATHLETICS DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN](#)
- [SCOTTISH ATHLETICS EQUALITY STANDARD ADVANCED LEVEL REPORT](#)