Marie Spencer world champion

Fife Bowlers and coaches excel in South Africa

Kevin Wallace, John Hughes, Michael Simpson (Fife) and Shirley Ann-Harris provided a dream finish for Team Scotland at the IBD World Bowls Championships in South Africa.

Inspired by the gold medal performances of Marie Spencer from Dunfermline in B4 singles and Irene Edgar/Robert Conway in B2 pairs earlier in the event, the Scottish quartet won four medals in the final session of the competition. Their combined efforts and those of Scotland’s other leading physically disabled and visually impaired bowlers lifted Scotland to second position in the prestigious Team event behind world champions South Africa and ahead of Israel.

Kevin Wallace collected the gold medal in the B7 singles final with an impressive 21 shots to 10 win over his Korean opponent. This was after an emphatic bronze medal B7 pairs victory, with his partner Michael Simpson from Auchtermuchty, over David Fisher and Gordon Welbourne from England by 29 - 8. Billy Allan from Cowdenbeath competing in the B6 class just missed out on qualification for the medal play off stages.

For Head Coach Bob Dick from Cupar it was yet another opportunity to lead a National Bowls On this occasion he was supported by coaches Celia Smith, Eric McMillan, Sara Jane Ewing, and Ruari Davidson who was the Team Manager.

St Andrews Kilrymont Rotary Disabled Athlete of the Year Maurice Paterson.
Special Olympics GB World Summer Games

The GB Delegation of 157 athletes and 58 volunteer coaches are preparing for the Special Olympics World Summer Games, the largest multi-sports event in the world in 2011. 185 Nations, 7500 athletes will participate in the Games from 25 June - 4 July, in Athens Greece.

157 athletes were chosen for their commitment to sport and their qualifying scores at the Special Olympics National Summer Games in Leicester in 2009. Each team member had to fundraise £2000 to participate. Fundraising for the two Fife athletes in Team GB was coordinated by this Association. DSF acknowledges support received from the Rotary Clubs of St Andrews, Cupar, Howe of Fife, Dunfermline, Anstruther, St Andrews Kilrymont, the Order of St John and the University of St Andrews Netball Club.

Caitlin Dodds from Elmwood College who lives in Edinburgh will compete for Team GB in golf and Owen Miller from Dunfermline will compete in athletics. Elmwood College Lecturer Craig Martin is Head Coach for the golf section of the team and has been helping Caitlin with her preparations for the past two years. Owen Miller has had an excellent season to date under coach Wendy Nicol at the Dunfermline and West Fife Athletics Club.

Robert Gough Centre Unihoc Players Triumph Once Again

Not surprisingly the players from the Robert Gough Centre in Leven won the annual team unihoc title at the 2011 Sports Festival. For the past decade there has only been one winner. This is not only a tribute to the skills and abilities of the players but to the manager and staff of the Centre whose commitment to physical activity including sport is exceptional.

The Annual Fife Sports Festival is run over four weeks and in the 70s it was held on a single Saturday afternoon.

2011 Fife Open Golf Championships

The Sixth Open Golf Championships were organised by the staff and students of Elmwood College in conjunction with DSF. The 2011 Championships attracted the largest entry to date. Almost 50 golfers from throughout Scotland travelled to Cupar to challenge for one of seven individual titles plus three skills tests medals.

Jennifer Ireland, Rachel Bruce and Dylan Thorburn from Elmwood won the three individuals skills tests. In the girls 9 hole Division, Stephanie Greenhill from Elmwood College won with a score of 64.

The Division 2 title over 18 holes was won by Allan Robertson from Glenrothes with an excellent score of 70. Runner up was Steven Thornton from Elmwood. The top Division was won by Lewis Davie from Elmwood who is a member at the Scotscaig Golf Club. Lewis had an outstanding score of 71 playing off a handicap of 19.
Fife Swimmers Retain the Sportsman’s Endeavor Trophy

Despite low numbers the atmosphere at the 2011 Scottish Senior Championships for physically disabled and visually impaired swimmers was excellent.

The 50m backstroke men class 1 produced an excellent race with Robert Dalgleish and Stefan Hoggan from Auchtermuchty and Carnegie SC battling it out from the start. In an exciting finish Stefan pulled away and clinched victory by just under 2 seconds. The pair saved their best race for the end of the day in the 100m free style front. It was neck and neck all the way with the swimmers being split by 0.01 of a second in Stefan’s favour. Stefan continued his excellent form into the second session with his sights set on the Scottish record held by the day’s commentator, past Paralympian Paul Noble MBE.

With Paul spurring him on over the microphone Stefan touched home in a time of 30.47, narrowly beating Paul’s record by 0.31 of a second.

The DSF members who retained the Scottish Team title and two national relays were: Stefan Hoggan (Auchtermuchty), Mark Edgcumbe (Glenrothes), Craig Smith (Glenrothes), Michelle Hill (Strathmiglo), Katie Muir (Freuchie), Arthur Lawson (Glenrothes), Martin Tennant (Kelty), John Hick (Glenrothes) and Fraser Wilson (Cupar)

Fife Swimmer Selected for Great Britain

Craig Rodgie from Dalgety Bay is included in the GB Swimming Team to face Europe’s leading disability swimmers at the IPC European Championships in Berlin from 3rd to 10th July. This will be Craig’s second major GB selection. Craig moved to Edinburgh University Swim Team to train in the same squad as his brother Andrew. He is now coached by Chris Jones. Craig has fought his way back into the British squad after just missing out on selection for the last World Championships. Craig led Team Fife to a brilliant second place finish at the SDS Senior Swimming Championships at Tollcross. Craig won three national open titles and set a new Scottish record in backstroke.

Craig hopes to turn in quality performances for GB and then establish himself as a serious contender for London 2012.

Beath HS Pupil has First Fife Boccia Success

Kieran Steer from Cowdenbeath has won a bronze medal at the British Junior Boccia Championships held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield. Kieran is a power wheelchair user and a pupil at Beath HS. With support from school staff, DSF and SDS, Kieran has developed into one of the leading boccia players in the country. Kieran competes in the BC4 class where there are already a number of internationally successful Scottish players.

DSF recognised the potential in Kieran early on and assigned coaches Judy Black and Wilma Catignani to develop his skills at the Fife Sports Institute. Not long after he started playing he was invited to join the SDS national squad and now attends regular training sessions in the west of Scotland.

Quality coaching has led Kieran to his current level and every encouragement has been forthcoming from Beath High School through the PE Department and Active Schools co-ordinator.

A bronze medal at the British Junior Championships is his first major honour but DSF hopes that one day Kieran will become the first major representative success from Fife in the sport of boccia.

The BC4 squad of Team GB was involved in four days of training with world champions Brazil in Stirling. Kieran was invited to play and train during one of the sessions.
Lochgelly HS First Fife Seven a side Champions

The first Fife 7-a-side Football League for pupils with additional support needs, run over three sessions at Kirkcaldy High School, finished with Lochgelly High School being crowned Fife Champions. The runners-up medals were presented to Balwearie High School. Ian Lowe, East Regional Manager of the Scottish FA presented medals and trophies to successful participants. Richard Brickley, President DSF, acknowledged the enormous support provided by the Scottish FA in staging the League and paid tribute to the Rector and staff of Kirkcaldy High School for accommodating the matches. Tribute was also paid to SFA referee Neil Martin for officiating throughout the tournament.

The League title was determined over three sessions with players from Lochgelly HS, Balwearie HS, Woodmill HS and Buckhaven HS taking part. Buckhaven HS pupils only managed one session but are committed to taking part in all sessions next year. In series one, the Balwearie HS team was undefeated and in Series two and three it was Lochgelly HS who were the driving force, managing a clean sheet in their final three matches. Lochgelly HS lost only one game in the six matches held over the three series of League competitions. Lochgelly HS went on to represent Fife at the National Championships at Ravenscraig outside Glasgow and finished fifth. They also represented Fife at the National 5 a side Championships in Edinburgh and finished runners up in the Junior B Division. Arron Morris and Daryll Gibson of the winning school were top scorers with six goals apiece.