The Great Britain Deaf Swimming Championships were held at Loughborough University on 26 March. 32 swimmers from throughout the UK participated. The championships were the final opportunity for British deaf swimmers to record quality times and demonstrate their fitness ahead of the announcement of the full GB team for the European Deaf Championships in Germany. Three Scots were in top form and were confirmed as members of the 12 strong GB team along with two swimmers from Wales and seven from England. Team member ages ranged from 13-26 and five of the swimmers will be representing Great Britain for the first time.

Lucy Walkup (Glenrothes Swimming Club) won the open female 100m butterfly and 100m breaststroke titles. She then recorded second place finishes in the open 100m freestyle and 100m backstroke. Within the 14-15 age group she won gold in the 50m breaststroke and was placed third in 50m fly. Lucy had been pre-selected for the European Championships. She was happy with her swims and her breaststroke performances in particular. Lucy is a member of the Disability Sport Fife Futures squad and is an SDS Academy Athlete. The other Scots are Jack McComish (Lanark Swimming Club) and Euan Cheyne (Aberdeen University Swim Team). The three Scots head to the European Championships in Dortmund in Germany later in the year where they will compete against the leading deaf swimmers from throughout Europe. It will be a first GB honour for Lucy and Jack.
Young Owen Miller (18) from Dunfermline and Dunfermline and West Fife AC recorded his best 5K time ever at Run Balmoral 2010. In the Conoco Philips sponsored 5K with 129 entrants, he finished third behind Myles Edwards and Sam Burgess in a time of 17:11. Coach Rachel Edgar from Glenrothes was delighted with his run, a personal best by 13 seconds. In Leicester last year he won gold in the 5K with a PB.

Two young Fife swimmers were in outstanding form at the British junior championships held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield. Lucy Walkup from Auchmuty HS was again the top female deaf swimmer with eight individual wins in backstroke, breaststroke, freestyle and butterfly. Lucy rounded off a remarkable weekend with two golds in the 400m freestyle and the 400m medley relays. Stefan Hoggan from Carnegie SC was also in excellent form. He won three individual gold medals for 50m and 100m freestyle and 100m butterfly. Stefan is one of Scotland’s leading junior physically disabled swimmers. He rounded off his weekend with two bronze medals in the 400m freestyle and 400m medley relays. Lucy and Stefan are SDS Academy athletes and Fife Futures.

Balwearie HS Athletes Excel in Cross Country

Balwearie HS athletes represented DSF in significant numbers at the National Cross Country Championships organised by SDS at Bellahouston Park in Glasgow. Athletes have an excellent track record at these championships and also in the East Cross Country Series held throughout the winter months. In the girls races over 1K Dionne Mackie took second place in the S1 event, Natalie Radunski and Susan McIntyre second and third places respectively in the S2 event and Atlanta Crawford retained her national title by winning the S3 event. In the equivalent races for boys Ryan Dunwoodie kept the Fife flag flying by winning the S2 1K race. The competition in the races over 2K was very strong and Colin Telfer and Steven White just missed out on the medals with excellent performances in the S4 and upwards event. Owen Miller from Dunfermline and West Fife AC was the sole DSF representative in the open 3K race for senior pupils and senior athletes. Owen retained his national cross country title in an excellent time of 10:57. This was an excellent performance considering he spent the previous day in bed ill and very unlikely to compete.
The 2010 Fife Open Golf Championships were held at Elmwood Golf Club on Friday 26 March. Despite poor weather around 50 players braved the elements and competed in one of five divisions. The championships are a collaboration between the staff and students of Elmwood College and DSF. This was the Fifth Open to be held at Elmwood Golf Club and the 2010 entry was the largest to date. The start list included the highest number of female players ever.

In keeping with international and national guidelines for disability sport the championships were open to players with a physical, sensory or learning disability. There were separate sections for entrants from different impairment groups and players competed in 18 hole and 9 hole sections plus a series of skills tests. Elmwood college students Angus Ross and Euan Laahs finished in the top two spots with scores of 67 and 63 respectively and Dalgairn centre member Ryan Peterson from St Andrews took bronze with a score of 60. (Picture: L to R Euan, Angus and Ryan)

There were three Divisions for the 9 hole competition and the results were as follows:

**Division 1**
1st Jason Simpson (Inverness) – High Disability Sport
2nd Stuart Braid (St Andrews) – Dalgairn Centre, Cupar
3rd Oliver McCowan (Anstruther) – Kilmaron School, Fife

**Division 2**
1st Iain Carle (Auchterarder) – Tayside
2nd Martin Smith (Invergordon) – Highland Disability Sport
3rd Allan Robertson (Glenrothes) – Disability Sport Fife

There were three Divisions for the 9 hole competition and the results were as follows:

**Division 1**
1st Graeme Andrew – West of Scotland
2nd Mark Britton – West of Scotland
3rd David Mitchell (Inverness) – Highland Disability Sport

**Division 2**
1st Iain Carle (Auchterarder) – Tayside
2nd Martin Smith (Invergordon) – Highland Disability Sport
3rd Allan Robertson (Glenrothes) – Disability Sport Fife

The Fife Open is a joint venture involving DSF and Elmwood College.

**Obituary:** One of the most outstanding Fife swim coaches has passed away. Drew Young was the first Scottish swim coach to take an active interest in performance disability swimmers. He introduced events for Scotland’s top disabled swimmers at the famous INCAS meet when it was held in Stirling. At Glenrothes SC he established the largest group of Paralympic swimmers in the country. He became the first lead coach of the SDS national swim squad. A modest, unassuming, quality, inclusive coach.
Susie Whiteford from Upper Largo was a member of the (DSF) Special Olympics team at the GB Summer Special Olympics Games in Leicester. She won three equestrian gold medals and was awarded overall best achievement in her section. At the recent East Fife Sports Awards evening Susie was voted Disability Sports Personality of the Year. Susie also won the 2010 St Andrews Kilrymont Rotary Club Disability Sports Person of the Year award and she was also commended.

The DSF swim team retained the Sportsman’s Endeavour Trophy as the top team at the 2010 Scottish Senior Championships for Physically Disabled and Sensory Impaired Swimmers at Grangemouth. The Fife team also won the two national relay titles. Stefan Hoggan from Auchtermuchty and Carnegie SC recorded a rare win over established Paralympian Sean Fraser from Lothian in 50 metres butterfly. In total Fife swimmers recorded 11 personal best performances, four by Stefan.

Obituary: DSF top wheelchair table tennis player Trevor White from Glenrothes has passed away. Trevor was one of a number of members with spina bifida who excelled locally and nationally in a single sport. He loved table tennis and dominated the Fife open championship and was a past Scottish champion. Always cheerful and well known for his sportsmanship. Trevor had a very special relationship with DSF Head Coach Wilma Catignani.