

Fife's Lucy Walkup – S15 Para swimmer (retired)

Disability Sport Fife (DSF) tries to maintain contact with athlete members as they move on following their career in Para sport. Lucy Walkup from Glenrothes and Carnegie Swimming Club was one of Scotland's most successful high performance deaf swimmers and a GB international for many years. Lucy was recognised by Disability Sport Fife and Scottish Disability Sport for her commitment to each organisation. Lucy progressed to the highest level in her parent boy by being selected for the Deaflympics.

Lucy learned to swim, became an enthusiastic swimmer in a DSF weekly session, blossomed at Glenrothes ASC and then excelled in national and international swimming as a member of Carnegie SC. The perfect swimming pathway progression and of course with the vital ingredient of an incredibly supportive family.

As well as being totally committed to swimming, Lucy worked hard at Auchmuty HS, progressed to the University of Stirling where she completed her outstanding performance swimming career. Lucy was however determined to teach swimming and she quickly completed a number of Scottish Swimming swim teaching qualifications and secured employment. As a Stirling University undergraduate she now teaches for 13 hours per week at Wallace HS and for 3.5 hours at the Peak. Her swim learners span all levels of ability and she now has a session that includes learners with additional support needs.

Lucy has now entered her final year of Sports Studies, having successfully completed her third year. Lucy hopes to apply to pursue a Post Graduate Qualification in Secondary Teaching if all goes well in this final year and she graduates as planned. Further study is necessary this year for this ambitious career addition and Lucy is in the process of sorting out the logistics. Those of us who have had the privilege of working with this determined young woman will be confident that if she sets her mind on this challenging diversion, she will be successful.

Walkup family members were very much a part of Disability Sport Fife and throughout Lucy's school years in particular. Lucy and her family were amazingly loyal to DSF and SDS and Lucy represented Fife and Scotland over many years in galas throughout the UK.

Well done to the Walkups and particularly Lucy who offered years of service to disability sport in Fife and is now giving back hours of her time to her sport as an established swim teacher. DSF is on the lookout for the next Lucy Walkup who has overcome the challenges of sensory impairment to become one of the best in her sport and now a most competent swim teacher. Lucy will be the first to admit that the SDS inclusive coach programme has helped her along the way and offered her guidance, access to resources but most of helped her with decision making. **Richard Brickley MBE – President Disability Sport Fife**