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Disability Sport Fife Hall of Fame

The 2011 Disability Sport Fife AGM and Awards evening was held at the Fife Sports Institute on Monday 9th May. Chairman Paul Noble MBE led the proceedings and President Richard Brickley MBE presented the Association Annual Report plus a run down of key activities and achievements in the year past. Gavin MacLeod CEO of Scottish Disability Sport was the guest speaker. There was as always a strong turn out of athletes, players, coaches, family members and representatives from member organisations.

The late Frank Duffy was inducted into the DSF Hall of Fame to join the 13 great Fife Paralympians inducted in 2010. This new venture has been established to ensure that the athletes who have put Fife on the national and international map will always be remembered. The athletes inducted to the DSF Hall of Fame are: Colin Keay (Kirkcaldy), Aileen Harper (Glenrothes), Ann Swann (Methil), Maxwell McKay (Cardenden), Paul Noble MBE (Glenrothes), Kerry Taylor (Dunfermline), William McQueen (Inverkeithing), Iain Matthew (Glenrothes), Caroline Baird MBE (Cupar/Carnoustie), Tracy Wiscombe (Burntisland), Andrew Lindsay (Cowdenbeath), Lara Ferguson (Leslie), Pauline Latto (Buckhaven) and Frank Duffy (Falkland)

Colin Keay

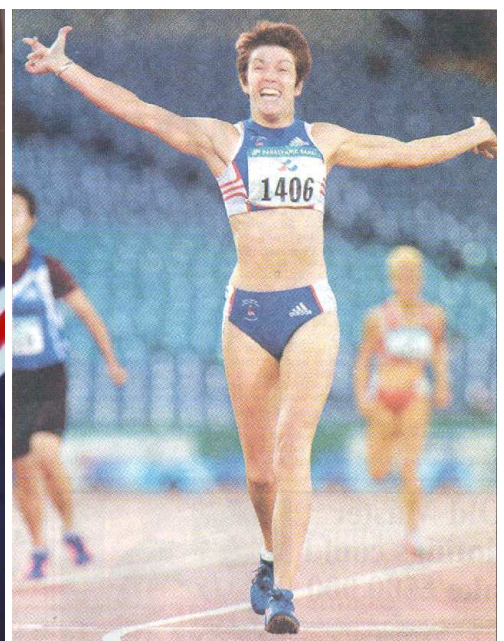


Lara Ferguson



Paul Noble MBE

Caroline Baird MBE



Aileen Harper



Maxwell McKay



Kerry Taylor



Ann Swann



Colin Keay was educated at Queen Anne HS and introduced to DSF by school staff. During the 80s he was the outstanding T36 sprinter in the world and won 5 gold and 1 silver medals at the Paralympic Games in New York and Seoul. Colin was the first DSF member to be coached in a mainstream athletics club. Fife AC has to be congratulated, and coach Eric Simpson in particular, for all the support provided during Colin's decade at the top. Colin's impairment was cerebral palsy but he had secondary sensory challenges of deafness and absence of speech. The support offered by his family throughout his competition years was second to none and critical to his success. Colin's best event was 400 metres but he won gold medals in the shorter sprints and in cross country. Colin was Scotland's first ambulant track star and a regular Scotland and GB pick during the 80s.

Paralympians
from Fife have
represented GB
in New York,
Seoul,
Barcelona,
Atlanta,
Sydney, Athens,
Beijing and
London

The late **Aileen Harper** from Glenrothes was the first Scottish female wheelchair athlete to make an impact in International sport during the late 70's and early 80's. She had considerable success in archery, athletics, swimming and wheelchair dancing. She was selected to compete for Scotland at the CPISRA World Games in Holland in 1980. New York in 1984 was her finest hour and she won 3 gold medals in track and field and wheelchair slalom. The quality of the slalom chair she had at her disposal was inferior to those of the athletes from United States and Denmark. Aileen retired after New York to settle down with her family. Her contribution to women's wheelchair sport in Scotland is immeasurable.

Maxwell McKay. In the 80's when Scottish athletes with cerebral palsy were making their mark in international sport, Maxwell was up there with the very best. He started his swimming career at Cardenden Swimming Club and was introduced to disability sport by his Physical Education teacher, Bob Gauld. He gained selection for the Great Britain team for the Paralympic Games in New York in 1984. A silver medal in the 50 metres backstroke was his reward for a lifetime commitment to swimming. It was a performance at the time that had British spectators on their feet. Maxwell will always be remembered as a "unique sporting character". He will also be remembered for the skill he demonstrated as a backstroke swimmer. Bowhill pool is where he spent most of his free time.

Ann Swann was a double Paralympian and represented Great Britain at the Games in New York in 1984 and Seoul in 1988. Throughout the early 80's she represented Scotland at European and World Championship events organised by CP-ISRA. She excelled as a CP2 athlete but also achieved considerable success in swimming and boccia. The Paralympic Games in New York in 1984 was the occasion she will remember best. Ann won 3 gold medals in field athletics and established herself as one of the leading athletes in her class in the world. Ann retired from competitive sport after the Games in Seoul in 1988. She helped raise the profile of sport for athletes with high support needs.

Paul Noble MBE competed in 5 successive Paralympic Games and on each occasion won a medal. He became involved in disability swimming as a pupil at Glenwood High School. Paul was encouraged by his PE teacher David Kerr. Brittle bones caused him considerable inconvenience as a high school pupil because of the many breaks that he experienced. Undaunted by successive periods in plaster he spent many a lunch hour developing his swimming skills or improving as a table tennis player. He was a key member of the British team throughout the 80's and 90's. Paul was recognised for his contribution to swimming by the award of the MBE and he still gives so much of his leisure time back to disability sport as the Chairman of Disability Sport Fife.

From 1992 to 2006 **Lara Ferguson** was the outstanding Scottish female swimmer with a physical disability in open class events. An ex pupil of Glenwood HS, she learned to swim at the Fife Sports Institute, and in 1992 joined Glenrothes SC and then in 1999 moved to INCAS. At school she became an accomplished table tennis player and won Scottish singles and doubles titles partnered by Paul Noble. Her first major international was the Paralympic Games in Atlanta in 1996 and she followed that up with selection for Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004. In Sydney Lara won bronze in the S9 100 metres breaststroke and silver in the 4x100 metres medley relay. Lara also won many medals at IPC European and World Championships. Lara was a very successful junior swimmer who progressed through to the senior ranks and became a successful Paralympian in the toughest of the IPC Swimming classes. Lara still competes in Masters swimming in 2014.

Tracy Wiscombe



Andrew Lindsay



Pauline Latto



The first international honour for **Andrew Lindsay** was selection for the Scottish team that competed in the European Schools Games in Lisbon in 1994. When Andrew first became involved in competitive swimming as a pupil at Glenrothes High School he had no shortage of energy, a considerable degree of skill and a determination to win every race he entered. Perpetual motion are words that often have been used to describe Andrew. He represented Great Britain at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta (1996), Sydney (2000), Athens (2004) and Beijing (2008). He was World record holder in the S7 100 metres backstroke for a decade and won 2 gold and 1 silver Paralympic medals. Andrew was is a member of the INCAS club. Andrew has served Fife, Scotland and Great Britain well and remains one of the most successful high performance international Scottish swimmers.

Pauline Latto came to the attention of DSF while a pupil at Buckhaven HS. Like so many Scots she started her career as a swimmer and then moved to table tennis before settling in athletics. Running changed to throwing and it was in the javelin that she found international success. Before she was selected for GB she made her mark in CPISRA and IPC Athletics World and European championships. Pauline was selected for the Games in Sydney and Athens and it was in Australia that she won silver in the F37 javelin. Pauline was a true beneficiary of the Scottish Institute of Sport and the many services it offered to disability performance athletes.

Tracy Wiscombe was a pupil at Balwearie HS when she was introduced to DSF in the 90s. She remains to this day the most successful Scottish athlete with a learning disability ever to compete in international sport. Tracy was a European, World and Paralympic Champion. She held world records and represented GB in Atlanta and Sydney winning 2 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze swimming medals. The exclusion of S14 swimmers from the Games post Sydney deprived her of further international honours. A great champion who set many records during her career. Her Scottish records remain targets for the younger generation of S14 Scottish swimmers.

Kerry Taylor competed for Scotland in CPISRA events throughout Europe during the 80s. Her classification was CP1 and she used a power wheelchair. At the Paralympic Games in Seoul she won gold, silver and bronze medals in throwing events and slalom. Kerry's skill and determination were exceptional and she was the first GB woman to take on the Americans and Scandinavians in sports they dominated and come out on top. Kerry has the minimum amount of movement yet she undertook the most difficult of physical challenges. She enrolled for a sub aqua course and completed every task including a dive in the river Tay. A unique athlete with exceptional sporting skills. Kerry was a wonderful team member who rose to every challenge that came her way.

Caroline Baird MBE was a pupil at Bell Baxter High School and started her sporting career as a swimmer with Cupar ASC. She was selected for the Scottish Junior Swim Team to compete in the British Championships in Darlington. Caroline was as a member of the Scottish Youth Team that travelled to the World Games in Miami in 1989. She excelled as a sprinter. First Paralympic selection for Caroline was Barcelona in 1992 and she returned with a gold medal. Honours and medals followed in Atlanta and Sydney. Caroline also won gold at the World Championships in Berlin in '94 and Birmingham in '98. For over a decade guided by coach John Oulton, Caroline pushed the boundaries and became recognised as the world's leading sprinter in the T36 Class. Caroline was recognised for her contribution to disability sport by the award of MBE and continues to serve on the GMC of DSF. She lives with her husband and children in Carnoustie and is a Past Chieftain of Cupar Highland Games.



The DSF Hall of Fame has been established to ensure that the great athletes of the past are remembered in the future



Disability Sport Fife is a registered Scottish Charity

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Disability Sport Fife is a member organisation of Scottish Disability Sport

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Willie McQueen

Frank Duffy

Iain Matthew



Willie McQueen was the most famous member of the long running swimming club for disabled people at Inverkeithing HS Community Use. In the late 80s and early 90s he broke into the Scottish CP swim team and performed brilliantly at CPISRA European and World championships. Selection for the Paralympic Games in Barcelona followed and he took full advantage of the opportunity by winning gold and bronze in individual and relay events. Recognised as a specialist backstroke swimmer Willie will be remembered as the most successful disabled swimmer coached by Jean Wilson at the Inverkeithing club which still operates to this day. Willie was a gentleman in every sense of the word and a hugely popular team member.

Frank Duffy from Falkland is DSF's only Winter Paralympian. The Falkland man skipped the GB Team to a silver medal at the Winter Paralympic Games in Torino in 2006 which was the culmination of an illustrious career in the sport. Prior to his accident Frank was an accomplished curler and he was able to call on his previous experience in the sport when he took up wheelchair curling. Success soon followed when he led the Scottish Team to World Championship successes in 2004 and 2005. With the introduction of wheelchair curling to the Paralympic Games, GB was listed as one of the favourites for gold and of course they did not disappoint under the leadership skills of Frank. Frank set the standard for the sport which has been carried on by successive Scottish curlers. Although he retired after Torino he continued to be involved in the sport as Scottish Wheelchair Curling Association Chairperson from 2006-2008 and as a Director for British Curling from 2007-2010. He also continued to be involved in the sport as a commentator. Sadly Frank died in the most tragic of circumstances.

Iain Matthew was a member of the FINS Swimming Club and was coached by Ken White. He arrived on the sporting scene in the late 80's and his early representative honours were as a member of the Scottish Junior and Senior Swim Squads. His finest achievement was at the Paralympic Games in Barcelona in 1992. He was selected for the Great Britain team to swim breaststroke as a member of the medley relay team. He was an unexpected qualifier for the 100 metres breaststroke final. Iain swam the race of his life and finished ahead of his more experienced opponents to win gold. Iain continued to represent Great Britain in the 90's and is one of very few Scots to compete in the Commonwealth Games EAD events.

