

Thanks you from FVDS

I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone that helped and supported our Special Olympics fundraising appeal without your help and donations our Special Olympics Team would ever have been able to compete at this year Special Olympics in Leicester.

The Special Olympics Great Britain – for people with intellectual/Learning Disabilities the event was held in Leicester this year from the 24th July to the 1st of August 2009.

Forth Valley Disability Sport sent a team of approximately 54 athletes and 20 coaches' 14 volunteers/ Careers (from Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire areas)

We participated in the Football, Boccia, Bowls, Swimming, Athletics, Equestrian, Swimming Gymnastics and Golf events at the Special Olympics Games.

I would also like to say that without the whole team pulling together the Special Olympics would not have been such a success.

Forth Valley Success In UK Games

Forth Valley Disability Sport Team have excelled themselves in the 8th National Summer Games which Leicester City Council are hosting for the second time in twenty years. Their medal haul has reached 36 Gold, 23 silver and 19 bronze.

Fifty four athletes aged 9 to 62 years of age from Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire are representing Forth Valley in the Games which is a competition for people with learning disabilities and is organised by Special Olympics GB.

The athletes have competed against 2700 athletes from 18 other regions in the UK in athletics, boccia, bowls, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics and swimming.

The games began with an overwhelming opening ceremony which set the scene for the week long competition with a fantastic array of colourful costumes and displays. Prime Minister Gordon Brown and ex football manager and football pundit Lawrie McMenemy welcomed the athletes in their parade as they entered Walkers stadium to the electric atmosphere of the cheers of the crowd in the full stadium.

Martin Johnstone former British Lions Captain, welcomed everyone to Leicester and formally opened the games with a good luck speech.

The Forth Valley Team have been training hard for the competition which took place in 18 venues throughout Leicestershire and the commitment of the athletes has been evident in the results which you can see listed below.

Graham Harvey, Team Manager said, “ It has been a fantastic week of competition and for many of the athletes it has been their first time away from home and competing in a week long event. Everyone will be going home with memories they will never forget.” He also went on to thank the many sponsors and volunteers who have made it possible for the team to be here.

If anyone reading this article would like to more information about sports participation opportunities for people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities please telephone Forth Valley Disability Sport on 01324 590 720.

The extensive medal haul is as follows:-

Athletics

Name	Area	Medals
Cara Mcrae	Falkirk	3 Golds
Bruce Anderson	Stirling	2 Golds, 1 Bronze
Niall Finlayson	Stirling	1 Gold
Lorraine Keigan	Falkirk	1 Gold 1 Silver
Alanna Burton	Falkirk	1 Bronze
Athletics Total		7 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze

Boccia

Name	Area	Medals
Lee Duncan	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold
Neil Carruthers	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold
Stephen Donaldson	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold
Ryan Lake	Falkirk	1 Silver
Ben Crowe	Falkirk	1 Bronze
Boccia Total		3 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

Bowls

Name	Area	Position
Marie Macaulay	Stirling	singles 6 th position
Robert McWilliams	Falkirk	singles 5 th position Mixed doubles 8 th position

Equestrian

Name	Area	Medals
Alan Reilly	Stirling	1 Gold 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
Owen Keebles	Stirling	1 Bronze, 7 th Position 8 th Position
Lynette Dumbleton	Stirling	6 th position, 7 th Position 7 th Position
Equestrian Total	1 gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze	

Football

Forth Valley 1

5th Place

Forth Valley 2

4th Place

Golf

Name	Area	Medals
Jack Fullerton	Stirling	1 Bronze
Andrew Stuart	Stirling	4 th Place
Golf Total	1 Bronze	

Rythmic Gymnastics

Name	Area	Medals
Amy Walker	Clackmannanshire	5 Golds
Ashleigh Ryder	Stirling	2 silver, 3 bronze
Zoe Ryder	Stirling	3 silver, 2 bronze

Artistic Gymnastics Level 1

Name	Area	Medals
Claire Robertson	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold
Ashleigh McRobbie	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold, 1 Silver,

Mhairi Dawson	Clackmannanshire	1 Bronze 2 Silver, 2 Bronze
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Artistic Gymnastics Level 2

Name	Area	Medals
Emma McLean	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold
Barbara Ann McGinn	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold, 2 Bronze
Susan McAvinney	Clackmannanshire	3 Gold, 2 Silver

Gymnastics Total 9 Gold, 10 Silver, 10 Bronze

Swimming

Name	Area	Medals
David Gibson	Falkirk	1 Gold, 1 Silver
Frank McGuire	Falkirk	2 Gold
Marc Lumsden	Stirling	1 Gold, 1 Silver
Scott Morton	Falkirk	2 Gold, 1 Silver
Peter Copeland	Stirling	2 Gold, 1 Silver
Craig Stirling	Falkirk	1 Gold, 1 Bronze
Claire Mathewson	Stirling	1 Gold, 1 Silver
James McDonald	Stirling	2 Silver
Andrew Wright	Clackmannanshire	1 Gold, 1 Silver
Nathan Boyle	Stirling	1 Gold, 1 Bronze
Audrey McDonald	Stirling	1 Silver, 1 Bronze
Sharon Sloan	Stirling	1 Gold
Virginia Shaw	Stirling	1 Silver

Swimming Total 13 Gold, 10 Silver, 3 Bronze

The **overall** total of the medal success is **36 Gold, 23 Silver and 19 Bronze.**