

## Press Release



6 May 2006

### **HOLMES & COE HELP 2012 PROSPECTS PREPARE FOR THE WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

#### **- On Camp with Kelly in the East End -**

With the World Junior Championships at the end of the season in Beijing, Double Olympic Champion Dame Kelly Holmes hosted a get together for 15 of the country's top junior middle distance athletes in the East End of London this weekend for a progress report as part of the Norwich Union funded 'On Camp with Kelly' initiative. The weekend also included an audience with Lord Sebastian Coe to discuss the London Olympic Games in which they will be hoping to compete in 2012, followed by a tour of the proposed venues for the Games.

The girls and their coaches joined Holmes as she helped focus on their preparations for the season ahead, culminating in the World Juniors. To qualify for the Championships, however, they will be competing with each other for places on the coveted Norwich Union GB Team.

Kelly Holmes said, "The weekend was all about monitoring the girls' progress since I last caught up with them, and focusing their minds on the challenges ahead. We have real depth in female middle distance running and competition for places in British teams will be fierce. This can only be a good thing for the long term future of British athletics and I will be watching the girls very closely."

#### **The Girls Involved:**

##### **Dani Christmas, 18 from Horley, Surrey**

- One of the original 'On Camp with Kelly' girls, Dani won the 800m at the Commonwealth Youth Games in Bendigo, Australia (Dec 2004) and also the Under 20 Great North Mile in September 2005. In 2004 she won the English Schools 1500m title at Gateshead and also represented Great Britain in the U20 International, winning the 1500m in 4:24.51

##### **Jo Finch, 17 from Newton Mearns, Glasgow**

- Has been a regular on all 'On Camp with Kelly' initiatives after having won the middle distance double at the 2004 Scottish Schools Championships. Jo recently came 5th in AAA U20 800m and hopes to study at Loughborough University. Named as the Daily Record 'Scottish Young Athlete of the Year' in January.

**Hannah Brooks, 17 from Caterham, Surrey**

- Hannah won the 2005 English Schools Senior Girls 800m title and took bronze in the 800m at the Under 20 Norwich Union AAAs Championships. Hannah was one of the girls selected by Kelly to join her in Melbourne

**Hannah England, 18 from Oxford**

- Hannah won the middle distance double at the UK Women's Athletics League Qualifier in 2005. She also won the Under 20 Norwich Union AAAs indoor title and took Silver at the English Schools 1500m. She also joined Kelly in Melbourne.

**Emily Goodall, 17 from Haywards Heath, West Sussex**

- In 2005, Emily won the English Schools Inter Girls 800m as well as the Norwich Union Under 17s 800m Indoor and Outdoor titles. Emily also joined Kelly in Melbourne.

**Nikki Maddick, 18 from Kingston-upon Hull**

- Nicola was 2nd to fellow OCWK girl Hannah Brooks in the English Schools Senior 800m, and finished 3rd in the 2005 Under 20 Great North Mile. Nikki also joined Kelly in Melbourne.

**Non Stanford, 17 from Penllergaer, Swansea**

- One of the original OCWK girls, Non won the 2004 and 2005 London mini marathons and narrowly missed out on a teble this year when she was pipped in the home straight by fellow OCWK girl Stephanie Twell. She also had a fantastic 3000m at the Norwich Union World Indoor Trials where she set a Welsh Junior record and ran the field - including the future Commonwealth 1500m champion Lisa Dobriskey - close.

**Rachael Thompson, 20 from Crosby, Liverpool**

- After South Africa, Rachael finished 6th in the 800m at the Norwich Union European Indoor Senior Trials. After winning the 1500m at the Norwich Union Under 23 International she went on to be the youngest member of the Norwich Union GB Team at the European Under 23 Championships, competing in the 800m.

**Charlotte Browning, 18 from Loughborough**

- Charlotte won four consecutive AAA 1500m titles between 2000 and 2003, as well as dominating cross country winning the Inter-Counties title in 2001, 2002 and 2003. She finished 6th in the 1500m at the 2003 World Youth Games and has been involved in several of the OCWK warm weather training camps.

**Hannah Whitmore, from Leicester**

- Hannah has raced mentor Dame Kelly over 800m at the 2004 Norwich Union Olympic Trials, coming 4th behind in her heat behind the Double Olympic Champion elect. She went on to win that year's 800m at the Norwich Union Under 23s AAAs Championships. In 2005 Hannah won the 'On Camp with Kelly' 1 mile exhibition race at the Norwich Union British Grand Prix in Sheffield, and this year she finished 6th in the senior Norwich Union World Indoor Trials over 1500m.

**Carolyn Plateau from Oxford**

- Carolyn finished 6th in the 1500m at the 2005 World Youth Championships and won the 600m 'On Camp with Kelly' exhibition race at the Norwich Union British Grand Prix in Sheffield. This year she successfully defended her Junior UK Indoor 800m title.

**Laura Finucane, 19 from Pendle, Lancs**

- Another original OCWK girl, Laura won the 800m at the Norwich Union AAAs Under 20 Championships in 2004 and finished 7th at the World Junior Championships. She went on to finish a very creditable 5th in the 400m at the 2005 Norwich Union World and Commonwealth Trials in a very strong field containing several members of the British 4x400m relay team that won bronze at that year's World Championships.

**Emma Pallant from Surrey**

- Emma was part of the Norwich Union GB Team at the World Youth Games in 2005, running the 1500m. This year, Emma finished 3rd in the South of England Cross Country and 5th in the London mini marathon

**Becky Townsend, 19 from Leeds**

- In 2005, Becky won the North of England 1500m Indoor title, and came 2nd in the 800m. This year, despite carrying injuries, she finished 5th in the Indoor AAAs. Becky finished 6th in the BUSA 800m indoor championships, 5th in the AAA 1500m. She went on to win the North England indoor championships and came 2nd in the 800m.

**Danielle Walker, 17 from Sutton Coldfield**

- Danielle has been involved in several 'On Camp with Kelly' initiatives, including the original camp in South Africa in October 2004.