

News release



4 August 2011

'ON CAMP WITH KELLY' ATHLETES COMPETE AT AVIVA LONDON GRAND PRIX

Seven 'On Camp with Kelly' athletes will compete at the prestigious Aviva London Grand Prix at Crystal Palace on Friday 5 and Saturday 6 August.

Three OCWK athletes – **Charlotte Best**, **Rowena Cole** and **Lucy Dowsett** – will line up in the 'On Camp with Kelly' invitational 800m on Friday evening where they will compete against five specially invited overseas athletes and two of the UK's other top 800m runners, providing them with a high level of competition and the opportunity to compete in a top class meeting in front of a large crowd.

Two other 'On Camp with Kelly' athletes will compete in the main 800m races. **Emma Jackson** (City of Stoke) will be looking to impress ahead of the selection of the Aviva Great Britain and Northern Ireland Team for the IAAF World Championships in Daegu, South Korea, later this month. She finished second at the Aviva UK Championships and Trials last weekend as well as third at the Aviva Birmingham Grand Prix and has twice run inside the B qualifying standard for Daegu, including a personal best of 2:00.24. **Andrew Osagie** (Harlow AC) lines up in the men's 800m fresh from winning the UK title and clocking a new personal best and B qualifying standard of 1:45.63.

Hannah England (Oxford City AC) and **Stacey Smith** (Gateshead Harriers) will line up in the 1500m on Saturday. Hannah secured her selection for the Aviva GB&NI Team for the World Championships by winning at the Aviva UK Championships and Trials after setting a brilliant new personal best of 4:01.89 earlier in July. Stacey achieved the B qualifying standard with 4:06.81 when finishing fifth at the Aviva Birmingham Grand Prix

and this will be her last opportunity to impress the selectors before the team is announced.

Dame Kelly said: “When I set up ‘On Camp with Kelly’, with the support of Aviva, in 2004 one of my aims was to assist talented young middle distance athletes to make a successful transition into senior competition so I am pleased to see the athletes earning their places in the main races at the Aviva Grand Prix meetings and mixing it with the best in the world. The ‘On Camp with Kelly’ race provides a development opportunity for the athletes to compete in a major televised meeting to assist them to make the next step.”

Heather Smith, Head of Sponsorship & CR at Aviva, said: “Aviva’s sponsorship of ‘On Camp with Kelly’ is about providing new and unique opportunities that will hopefully ensure the next generation of medal winners are confident and prepared to represent their country at an international level. We are delighted to give these athletes the opportunity to compete on a world class stage at the Aviva London Grand Prix which will provide them with invaluable experience. We are proud to be paving the way for these athletes to achieve their dreams.”

‘On Camp with Kelly’, supported by Aviva since 2004, is double Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes’ mentoring and education initiative for talented young middle distance athletes. For more information visit oncampwithkelly.co.uk.

Start List for ‘On Camp with Kelly’ Invitational 800m, 18:05, Friday 5 August

The three ‘On Camp with Kelly’ athletes in the race are:

Charlotte Best (Crawley AC & Loughborough Students, coach George Gandy), age 26, who set her personal best of 2:01.50 when winning the bronze medal at the 2007 World University Games, an event she has been selected for again this year. She made her senior debut for the Aviva GB&NI Team in the 1500m at the 2010 IAAF World Indoor Championships. Her season’s best is 2:02.73.

Rowena Cole (Coventry Godiva Harriers, coach Norma Pugh), age 19, who set a personal best of 2:03.43 to win the silver medal at the recent European Athletics Junior Championships after winning the England Under 20 title. This improved the time of 2:03.61 she had run when winning the OCKW 800m race at the Aviva Birmingham Grand

Prix. She won the bronze medal in the 800m at the 2009 IAAF World Youth Championships.

Lucy Dowsett (Cambridge and Coleridge AC & Birmingham University, coach Bud Baldaro), age 21, who has improved her personal best three times this season to 2:06.35. She is a former medallist at national age group championships and English Schools.

They will compete against two of the UK's other leading 800m runners:

Philippa Aukett (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers, coach Mike Baxter), age 26, who set her personal best of 2:04.60 in 2010. She was a finalist at this year's Aviva UK Championships and Trials and has a season's best of 2:05.14.

Karen Harewood (Corby AC, coach Charles McConnell), age 35, who made a big breakthrough in 2006 when she clocked her personal best of 2:00.53 indoors and won the silver medal at the UK Indoor Championships. Her season's best is 2:03.44.

And five overseas athletes:

Tereza Capkova (Czech Republic), age 24, who set her personal best of 2:01.91 this year and won the 800m title at the Czech National Championships. She also improved her 1500m best to 4:10.74 at the European Team Championships.

Elisa Cusma Piccione (Italy), age 30, who set her personal best of 1:58.63 in 2007. She is the Italian indoor 800m record holder with 1:59.25 and in 2009 won bronze at the European Athletics Indoor Championships and was a finalist at the IAAF World Championships. Her season's best is 2:01.04.

Jana Hartmann (Germany), age 30, who set her personal best of 2:00.71 in 2009. This year she has won the German 800m title both indoors and out and was a semi-finalist at the European Athletics Indoor Championships. She has a season's best of 2:00.93.

Yeliz Kurt (Turkey), age 27, who set her personal best of 2:00.91 in 2008. She ran her season's best of 2:01.26 when winning the Turkish National Championships and has also set a Turkish indoor record this year of 2:02.47.

Tamsyn Manou (Australia), age 33, who set her personal best of 1:59.21 in 2000. She won the World Indoor title in 2008 and has competed in three Olympic Games, two at 800m and one at 400m for which she has a best of 51.42. Her season's best is 2:00.80.

The pacemaker is 'On Camp with Kelly' athlete **Tara Bird** (Woodford Green with Essex Ladies, coach Ayo Falola) who has personal bests of 53.83 for 400m and 2:03.00 for 800m.

- Ends -

For more information about Aviva's support of athletics please contact Steph Burke at Hill & Knowlton on 0207 413 3000 or sburke@hillandknowlton.com

Notes to Editors

'On Camp with Kelly'

'On Camp with Kelly' (OCWK) was started by double Olympic champion Dame Kelly Holmes in January 2004 and with support and sponsorship from Aviva has grown from strength to strength. Over 60 athletes have been involved in the initiative to date.

Dame Kelly set up OCWK because she wanted to help retain talented young female middle distance athletes in the sport and assist them to make the transition from junior to senior ranks. Her vision of OCWK was that it should be an educational development programme so that the athletes who are part of it gain life experiences as well as learn what it takes to become a world class athlete. Since 2008 some talented young male athletes have also been involved in the initiative.

Eight girls were given the opportunity to participate in the first OCWK camp in South Africa in October 2004, funded by Aviva, and since then there have been regular Get-Togethers, a training camp in Spain, educational camps at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in 2006 and Delhi in 2010 and at the Aviva GB Team Preparation Camp in Portugal and the IAAF World Championships in Berlin in 2009. OCWK athletes also have the opportunity to race in international meetings across the UK and Europe and benefit from mentoring from Dame Kelly as well as medical and financial support funded by Aviva.

For more information about 'On Camp with Kelly' visit www.uncampwithkelly.co.uk.

Aviva

Aviva has been supporting British athletes since 1999 and is helping pave the way for their success by hosting six world class athletics events on home soil – the Aviva Series, supporting the Aviva GB & NI junior, senior and Paralympics teams as they prepare for all major championships. Through the Aviva Athletics Academy, we are also providing the opportunity for the next generation to get involved in athletics.

For more information, please see: www.aviva.co.uk/athletics.

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**based on gross worldwide premiums at 31 December 2009.*

***at 31 December 2010.*

