Olympics GB World Summer Games Athens Team

Contributed by Stuart Watson
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Team GB

This summer’s Special Olympics World Summer Games Athens was the biggest multi-sports event in Greece since 2004’s Olympic Games and the largest in the world this year with 180 countries represented and 7000 learning disabled athletes participating.

The GB team won an incredible 187 medals across 17 sports and achieved a host of personal bests.

The Final Tally for Special Olympics Great BritainWorld Summer Games Athens Team was 187 Medals! 72 Gold – 63 Silver – 52 Bronze. A LEGENDARY GREEK DISPLAY FROM GB BOWLING SQUAD!

GB Bowling Results

Jamie

Black

Arbroath

Silver (doubles) Bronze (singles) Gold (team)

Robert

Burnett

Bradford

4th (singles) Gold (team)

Martin

Cassidy

Kirriemuir

Gold (doubles) 7th (singles) Gold (team)

Matthew

Legg

Launceston

Silver (doubles) Bronze (singles)

Helen

Pritchard

Abercarn

Gold (doubles) 8th (singles)

Donna

Rennie

Milton of Campsie

Silver (singles) Gold (team)

A set of pictures of the medallists can be found in the Picture Gallery here...

Robert Burnett

August 2011 – Athens – This summer’s Special Olympics World Summer Games Athens was the biggest multi-sports event in Greece since 2004’s Olympic Games and the largest in the world this year with 180 countries represented and 7000 learning disabled athletes participating. The GB team won an incredible 187 medals across 17 sports and achieved a host of personal bests.

Amid the economic and political chaos in the Greek capital, the GB team competed 20 minutes away from the riots against not only international competitors, but also the heat, exhaustion, homesickness and other kinds of sickness.

Martin Cassidy

The start of the 13th Games was unlucky for some GB athletes: two dozen of the 157 athletes were struck down by a debilitating stomach bug which affected their performances and for some even prevented them from competing. A basketball player was hospitalized with appendicitis and a cyclist was led off the track following a mid-race crash. Others had typical minor sports injuries. Holding true to the Olympic ideals of goodwill, sportsmanship and honest effort, Special Olympics GB’s 157 learning disabled athletes headed into competition with a genuine passion and sense of national pride.

Jamie Black & Matthew Legg

The members of the GB Bowling Squad ended their Greek experience on a high with a well deserved gold medal in the team event. It was a fine end to what had been a tough Games experience for the bowlers, with a number of them having been affected by the flu bug at one point or another.

On day three of the Games, Martin Cassidy of Kirriemuir partnered up with Helen Pritchard of Abercarn to clinch gold in the doubles event. Jamie Black of Arbroath and Matthew Legg of Launceston also had a stellar day, winning silver in their doubles event.

Helen Pritchard

Sadly, Donna Rennie of Glasgow was hit by the stomach flu the morning of her doubles competition with Robert Burnett of Forfar and they were forced to forfeit their game, but the pair got their shot at glory later on in the team event, coming away with a gold medal! Donna bounced back in style, picking up a silver medal as well in the singles event. Jamie Black and Matthew Legg also medalled in singles, both receiving bronze.

"I'm proud of how the whole team played at the games," exclaimed Head Coach Kim Dalgarno, "after what has been a testing week, and I was particularly pleased for Robert who just missed out on a medal in the singles but contributed well to the team gold.”

“Overall it's been a fantastic experience, and each and every member of the GB Bowling Team can return with their heads held high!" added Kim.

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