

## **Kent FANS Scheme (Free Access for National Sports People)**

The Kent Countywide F.A.N.S Scheme was established in 1998 as an important sports development initiative providing support to the County's leading talented and elite sports performers. The scheme aims to provide national level sportspeople with free access at designated off-peak times to a number of the County's leisure and sports facilities for personal training and development.

The Kent Countywide F.A.N.S Scheme was established by the 'Kent Association of Leisure and Cultural Officers' in conjunction with KCC's Kent Sport and Physical Activity Service and has the full support of Medway Council, and the twelve district, borough and city councils in Kent. Some 50 leisure facilities are involved in the countywide scheme including leisure and sports centres, swimming pools, fitness gyms, artificial / synthetic pitches and athletic tracks plus a range of other specialist and general indoor and outdoor facilities.

### **Scheme Patron – Dame Kelly Holmes**

Kent FANS is honoured to have Dame Kelly Holmes, Double Olympic Medallist as the Patron of the scheme. Kelly, a keen supporter of the scheme has said, "I think the FANS scheme is a brilliant idea. I know how much time and energy talented sports performers put into their training."

### **Ambassadors - Will Bayley, Lisa Dobriskey and Ross Wilson**

A recent development to the scheme has been to invite past and present members to become ambassadors.

Will Bayley, Lisa Dobriskey and Ross Wilson have agreed to take up this role.

Will won an individual silver and team bronze medal in the Table Tennis event at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Will is a past member of the Kent FANS scheme and says, "The Kent FANS scheme offers excellent support to sports stars of the future. It certainly helped me with my training for the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing and on my way to winning a silver and bronze medal at the London 2012 Games. I would definitely recommend any sports person eligible for this fantastic scheme to take advantage of the support."

Lisa competed in the 1500m final at the London 2012 Olympic Games and also at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Lisa is a past member of Kent FANS and believes that the scheme has been invaluable in developing her career as an athlete. She says, "To be the best you need to train like the best and the range and quality of the facilities Kent has to offer allows athletes on the scheme to do just that."

Ross won a team bronze medal in the Table Tennis event at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Ross is a current member of the scheme and says, "With the help of the Kent FANS scheme, from the age of ten I have been able to access local facilities for training. While on the Kent FANS scheme, I have progressed from a young aspiring Table Tennis player to become a Paralympic Bronze medallist at the London 2012 Games and World number 2 in my sport."