

European Permit Meeting **29th July 2009**

William Sharman defied the atrocious weather conditions at the Loughborough European Permit Meeting to clinch a late call up for the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team to compete in this month's World Athletics Championships in Berlin.

The 24-year-old Corby AC life member was bitterly disappointed to miss out on a 110m hurdles place when the team was selected after last weekend's Aviva London Grand Prix meeting at Crystal Palace but all was put right when, in pouring rain, he recorded his fastest ever time to qualify for the final at Loughborough with a heat winning 13.39 which, despite being well inside the qualifying standard of 13.55 for Berlin, was aided by an over the limit wind assist of 2.5mps.

By the time of the final the wind had dropped but the rain persisted as Sharman raced to a convincing victory in 13.44 over Woodford Green and Essex Ladies' Callum Priestley, who also recorded a new best of 13.56 and Belgium's Damien Broothaerts (13.65).

William thought his chance of a world championship place had gone after he finished a disappointing fourth in 14.08 in the trials at Birmingham. He put that performance down to a lack of sleep as only a few days earlier his fiancée Lyna had given birth to their son, Joshua.

Both Andy Turner, the winner at the trials and Gianni Frankis were selected and William felt he was hard done by because the latter's best time of 13.57 was equal to his season's best which was achieved in June in Warsaw and was also outside the qualifying standard.

William, who was notified of his selection on Friday, said: "I am really pleased to get in the team because I've had my sights set on it all season especially after failing to make the Olympics last year. I feel making the team will set me up on a higher level because this is the first World Championships I've been to. I am really looking forward to it and hope to give my son something to be proud of. I'm just hitting good form at the moment and it would be nice to carry it into the Worlds."

Sharman flies out to a training camp in Portugal with the team on Friday prior to going on to Berlin for the championships which begin on August 15, with the 110m hurdles heats on August 19.

The biggest championships he had been to prior to this selection were the Europeans in 2006, the year in which he ran his former personal best of 13.49.

Charles van Commenee, UKA Head Coach, said: "There was a very tight selection between William Sharman and Gianni Frankis for the 110m hurdles, with Gianni edging it after much debate, thanks to his higher placing at the trials. Thankfully in light of William's outstanding performance in achieving the A standard at Loughborough the appeal panel has given the selectors special dispensation to include him in the team."

Ed Warner, Chairman of the Appeal Panel, added: "William Sharman did not have a valid appeal on the basis of process or policy but we were keen to give the selectors the opportunity to recognise his subsequent A standard and so add him to the team. I look forward to seeing him run in the Olympiastadion."