

# Observer Sport

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

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# Dress-down Brown casually takes gold



Sutton athlete Kevin Brown managed to defend his Masters discus title in Canada despite losing a bag containing all his throwing equipment.

by Chris Dickens  
SPORTS REPORTER

SUTTON discus thrower Kevin Brown overcame a nightmare mix-up with his luggage to win an international gold medal – wearing jeans and a t-shirt.

Brown defended his over-45 men's title at the Indoor World Masters Championships in Kamloops, Canada, despite losing a bag containing all his kit and equipment.

He said: "I don't think any athlete has ever won a medal at a major games in their jeans, so I may well be the first person ever to do this.

"I was delighted to defend my title and win my fourth Masters gold, which will hopefully springboard me on to bigger things.

"I had to fly from Heathrow via Chicago to Vancouver, to take an internal flight to Kamloops where the Masters was held.

"It wasn't the best journey as I kept missing connecting flights and on the way my bag containing my GB kit and other discus equipment went missing."

But Brown received a further headache

when he was unable to contact Kamloops airport on the morning of the Masters, meaning he was left without his kit and had to compete in the clothes he had been wearing the day before.

The 45-year-old, who coaches a number of German Olympic prospects, added: "Everything was in the bag, my kit, discus, discus shoes, hand powder. It was not the best start to a World Championships.

"When I set out to international competitions I like to get everything planned right down to packing my bags to make sure I have everything I need.

"Without my kit I am unable to train properly, so I wasn't able to warm up as well as I would have liked going into this competition. I had no choice but to refocus and change the way I approached the competition."

Fortunately a Canadian athlete and friend of Brown's was able to lend him a pair of discus shoes, helping him win gold by ten metres with a top throw of 45.15m.

And as an extra bonus, on arriving at Kamloops Airport to fly back to Britain, Brown was met with the missing bag.

His next aim is to make England's squad for October's Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

## Simmonds is set for World Cup



BOLDMERE Swimming Club life member Ellie Simmonds will lead the Great Britain team at the BT Paralympic World Cup in May.

Double Paralympic gold medallist Simmonds will hope to shine in the pool once again as the home nation takes on swimmers from Europe, the Americas and Rest of The World for the BT Paralympic World Cup trophy at the Manchester Aquatics Centre.

Simmonds started last year's event in style by breaking the world record in the S6 100m Freestyle in the opening race and is relishing the opportunity of being back in Manchester to contest the 200m individual medley and 100m breaststroke.

The 15-year-old (pictured above) said: "The BT Paralympic World Cup is a key competition for me in my preparations for this year's World Championships in August.

"I always enjoy swimming in Manchester and I look forward to racing against everyone in my two events this year."

## Swimmers stock up on county silverware



Boldmere Swimming Club excelled over three weekends of the Warwickshire Championships, winning 91 medals. Turn inside to page 155 for more. PICTURE BY STEVE HARLOW

Published by Central Independent News and Media Ltd, Tamworth.  
Printed by Northcliffe Press Midlands.

ISSN 1369-0809



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