



Mhairi Spence

Born: 31.08.85, Inverness
From: Farr, Inverness
Lives: Bath
Started modern pentathlon: 2001
Current world ranking: 3rd (1 June 2012)
Coach: Istvan Nemeth
Twitter: @MhairiSpence



Photo: www.pentathlon.org

Mhairi produced the best performance of her life so far in Rome this year to become world champion and secure a place on the British team for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Mhairi will make her Olympic debut in London – 12 years after she was inspired by the medal winning performances of Britain's Steph Cook and Kate Allenby when the sport for women made its Olympic debut at the Sydney 2000 Games.

The 26-year-old Scot became only the third British woman pentathlete to win individual gold at a World Championships when she struck gold in Rome, following Wendy Norman in 1982 and Steph Cook in 2001.

Mhairi produced an impressive all-round performance that saw her feature in the top-five throughout the day. She went into the run/shoot in third place and overhauled Amelie Caze, France's three-time world champion, on the final 1k run to take gold.

It was a performance that saw Mhairi climb to number two in the world rankings behind Germany's Lena Schoneborn, the reigning Olympic champion. She is now ranked number three in the world.

Mhairi also joined forces with Heather Fell and Samantha Murray to win the team gold in Rome.

Her performances in Rome followed two impressive seasons. In 2011 she won a brace of World Cup medals as well as finishing as the highest placed British women at both the World Cup Final and the World Championships, in fifth and eighth respectively.

She followed that up by winning silver at the opening World Cup of 2012 at Charlotte in the USA.

Mhairi also produced some terrific performances as a junior, winning individual bronze at the 2005 World Junior Championships and silver the following year. In 2006 she also won individual silver at the European Junior Championships and bronze at the senior European Championships.

She missed out on a place on the team for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, despite achieving the qualifying standard. She was the third of four British women to achieve the standard, but only two British women could compete at the Games. Instead she saw the Olympics first hand on the British Olympic Association's Britain's Olympic Ambition programme.

A keen fencer – her nickname is Fencey Spencey - Mhairi won a team silver in the epee with Scotland at the 2010 Commonwealth Fencing Championships in Australia.

She has a BA degree in Coach Education and Sports Development from the University of Bath, where she trains at Pentathlon GB's High Performance Centre.

She was initially inspired to take-up the sport after watching the success of Britain's women – Steph Cook and Kate Allenby – at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Mhairi is a bit of a joker and loves to laugh a lot. Her mother, Evelyn, is a kilt maker.

2012 performances

World Cup 1: silver Charlotte, USA, March 2012

World Cup 2: 25th Rio de Janeiro, Brazil March 2012

World Cup 3: 8th Százhalombatta, Hungary, April 2012

World Championships: gold, Rome, Italy, May 2012

Career highlights

World Championships

14th Crystal Palace, London, August 2009

8th Moscow, Russia, September 2011

Gold Rome, Italy, May 2012

World Cup Final

6th Caldas de Rainha, Portugal October 2008

5th Crystal Palace & Greenwich, London, July 2011

World Cup

4th Millfield, April 2007

6th Madrid, April 2008

4th Kladno, Czech Republic, May 2008

5th Rome, Italy, May 2009

Bronze Medway, Kent, April 2010

Silver Palm Springs, USA, February 2011

Bronze Százhalombatta, Hungary, May 2011

European Championships

Bronze, Budapest, Hungary, July 2006

8th Debrecen, Hungary, July 2010

World Junior Championships

Bronze Moscow, July 2005

Silver Shanghai, China, August 2006

European Junior Championships

Silver Torres Vedras, Portugal, April 2006

**For further information, please contact Steve Ballinger in the Pentathlon
GB press office at Matchtight Ltd on 07765 071683 or visit the website
www.pentathlongb.org**