

PRESS RELEASE
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Olympic Paratriathlete Andy Lewis brings home gold to Bradley Stoke

Andy Lewis, the first paratriathlete to win a gold medal in the RIO 2016 Paralympics, dropped into Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre to thank the team for its support ahead of the Games.

Currently on sabbatical from Airbus, he lives with his wife and two children in the Forest of Dean. He trained much of the time in Loughborough, but needed somewhere closer to home at the weekends so he could spend time with his young family. Bradley Stoke was the nearest centre that could offer him proper training facilities and so was critical to his pre-Games training.

Andy brought along his gold medal and spent time chatting to leisure centre staff, including the many young lifeguards who he got to know well during his training.

Aged 33, Andy competed in Rio as a through knee amputee, having lost his leg in a motorcycling accident involving a 38 tonne lorry when he was just 16. Despite this he has gone on to learn to fly microlights and achieved his pilot's license as well as representing Britain in para athletics.

He said, "These guys have been fantastic, I wish I had such great facilities on my doorstep. Their support has been awesome from start to finish." (link to tweet: <https://twitter.com/Bladerunnerandy/status/781854573484974080>)

Rob Candlin, Centre Manager at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, said, "We were overjoyed when Andy won the triathlon in Rio. We were only too pleased to help him make history and he's really left a mark on the whole team at Bradley Stoke as an individual and professional. He is a great ambassador not just for triathlon but for sport generally. Our pool is open to him anytime!"

ENDS

Notes to editors

Working in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, any profit made by the Trust is reinvested to improve facilities, equipment and services for its customers.

Photography – please see we transfer link: <https://we.tl/4BEw4Cw5Br> (other pics available upon request)

- 002 - Andy Lewis swimming in Bradley Stoke pool
- 004 – Training partner, Richard and Andy Lewis
- 010 - Young lifeguards at Bradley Stoke pool and Andy Lewis
- 026 – Andy Lewis and centre manager, Rob Candlin
- 027 – Andy Lewis swimming in Bradley Stoke pool

About Circadian Trust

- Circadian Trust operates five leisure centre sites and two dual-use sports centres across South Gloucestershire in Bradley Stoke, Downend, Kingswood, Longwell Green, Patchway, Thornbury and Yate and is a company and charity. Working in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council, the community strategy and overall shared philosophy is to contribute to the improved health, cultural and social wellbeing of the local community improving quality of life.

- On Thursday 26 November 2015 Circadian Trust celebrated its tenth anniversary as a trust.
- Circadian Trust is award winning with IIP Silver status, ISO 14001, ISO 9001 and ISP18001 accreditations. For more info please contact Ben Beasley (ben.beasley@circadiantrust.org)
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