

THE name of Sheffield's indefatigable **Sylvia Brown** (pictured) will be waved aloft in London this weekend as a few thousand athletes run, swim and cycle around the capital.

Under the team name 'Hello M.S.Brown', three of her friends are taking part in the London Triathlon.

Sylvia, 25 last Tuesday, discovered she had multiple sclerosis four years ago and is determined to come to terms with the disability - so much so that last April she was prepared to jump 13,500ft from an aeroplane in a sponsored tandem skydive to raise funds for research into MS.

On Sunday more money will be raised after her former Tipton schoolpal **Sara Scaife** ("the most amazing friend to me") came up with the idea of joining the triathlon, which last year attracted nearly 3,000 entries. Sara, who is at Bangor University, will be running 10km, her friend **Guilia** will be swimming 1500m in the West Indian Dock and Sylvia's ex-boyfriend **Colin McLaren** will be cycling 40km. "This time I am leaving it to my friends," said Sylvia, who is now having to use a wheelchair and has recently moved to a bungalow in Upperthorpe. "I will be just a spectator."

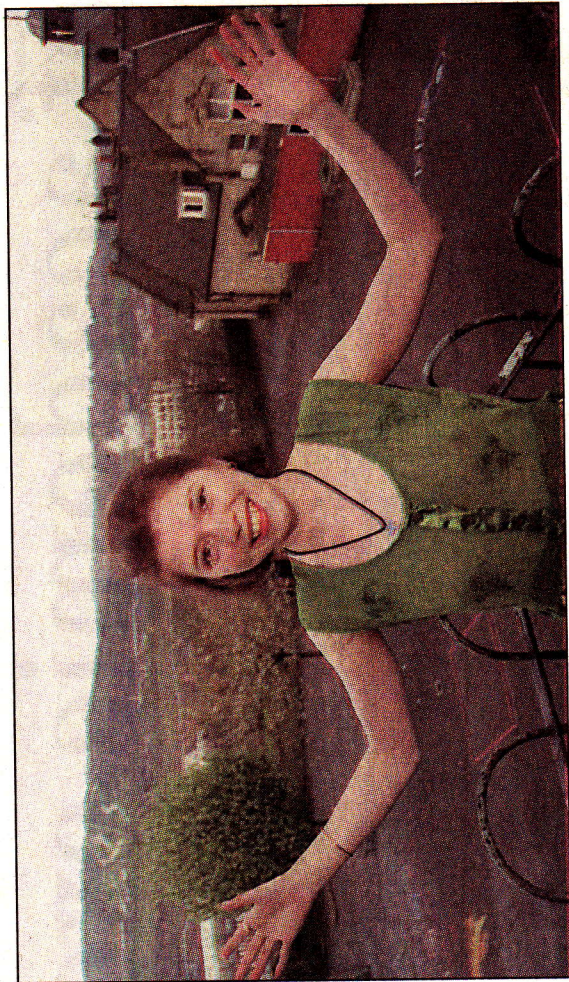
Even so she has helped to generate sponsorship and thrown herself into creating T-shirts, balloons and a banner bearing the team name. And, of course, she will be cheering them along on Sunday.

Sylvia's high-profile skydive raised £1,867 for MS research including donations from Tipton's Charity Week and from two of her former teachers. "Old school friends, teachers and family friends contacted me and this gave me a lot of hope and strength to continue to fight this illness," she said. "There is a lot of love and compassion out there in Sheffield."

Unfortunately, she not been able to prevent the MS from progressing, but adds: "Using a wheelchair is not the end of the world, just different that's all. It takes some adjusting to, but my friends won't let me hide myself away and insist on dragging me out to the pub."

"They won't let give up and that's why they are doing the London Triathlon, to raise more money."

Meanwhile, Sylvia has just applied for a distance



learning course with a view to teaching English to non-English students.

●Sponsors can contact Sylvia at 16 Burlington Court, Sheffield, S6 3EX.

THERE wasn't a bed to be booked in Sheffield last weekend thanks to the **Spice Girls'** two concerts at Don Valley Stadium.

Staff at the city's Tourist Information Centre received calls from all over the country from people anxious to find overnight accommodation.

"At first we were able to find rooms in the city's hotels and guest houses quite easily, but as the date of the concerts drew nearer it became more difficult," said **Wendy Ulyett**, Destination Sheffield's visitor services manager.

"The main problem was that the nature of the Spice

Girls meant we needed family-sized rooms. The accommodation providers in Sheffield pulled out all the stops to find suitable space for us. Regrettably, in the end we did have to place people outside the city."

One hotel that did nicely out of the Spice Girls was the Stakis, which put up 60 or so of the group's crew and entourage.

However, about 100 fans who lobbied the hotel over the weekend in the hope of seeing the girls themselves were in for a disappointment.

The Spice Girls were staying at a five-star hotel near Leeds.

WHAT was that queue off The Parkway last Sunday? It wasn't for tickets for the latest supergroup at the Arena; it wasn't for any big sporting event.

No, people were anxious to snap up a cut-price compost bin. More than 2,000 bins were sold in an initiative organised by the city council and manufacturer Blackwall. They were sold at the Nunery Square park-and-ride site as part of Sheffield's response to a Government scheme to encourage composting of garden, kitchen and other waste.

"We had people coming in from Rotherham and Barnsley. It went very well," said Blackwall spokeswoman **Helen Kerslake**.

●Advice on composting can be obtained from Heeley City Farm or the council's recycling unit on 2735506.

THERE is nothing like a dinosaur to attract attention and Sheffield City Museum is aiming big with an exhibition starting next month.

'Fossils and Feathers' will feature life-size dinosaur reconstructions as well as fossils on loan from the Natural History Museum in London.

Stars of the show will be a life-size replica of the largest-ever flying animal, a pterosaur with an 11 metre wingspan, and a giant fossil dragonfly.

The exhibition, which will have free admission, runs from October 10 to Easter next year. And who better to open a showcase for the evolution of Flight? Of course, the managing director of Sheffield Airport, **Jon Horne**.

THE High Commissioner for Canada, **Roy MacLaren**, came up to Sheffield from London for the opening last night of a photographic exhibition at the Graves Gallery. The show, Karsh in London, was arranged through the National Archives of Canada to celebrate the re-opening of Canada House in central London and Sheffield is the only place to see it outside the capital.

His Excellency was keen to come here apparently because of the city's artistic connection with his homeland through the famous Group of Seven artists. Graves Keeper **Anne Goodchild** is due to take him this morning to the city archive to view data on **Stanley Royle, Arthur Lismer, F H Varley** and co.

COMMERCIAL

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Some years ago now, when I was studying law