

Scottish Team Boosted by Sponsors



The 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games team will now have the support of the Army in Scotland. The Army has developed a number of household names in the sporting field, including current Olympic track star, Kelly Holmes, former Scottish rugby captain, Rob Wainwright and multiple Winter Olympic bi-athlete, Michael Dixon. For the Scottish stars of tomorrow there will be plenty of support from the Scottish regiments to ensure that both they and the support staff work effectively as one united team. The Army in Scotland will also be sponsoring a youth athlete of the month award and athlete of the Youth Games award.

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Speedo International has made a welcome return to support the Scottish team after their involvement in 2002. Speedo will be the Official Leisure Clothing Supplier for the athletes and will provide swimwear for the elite swim team. Following this summer's Olympic Games, Speedo will be working on a range of designs to incorporate the latest design and production techniques in the swimwear and leisure range provided to the athletes and support staff attending Melbourne in 2006.

Royal warrant holders, **Kinloch Anderson**, will be applying their top qualities of design and production to developing the 2006 Commonwealth Games team parade uniform. The Games Opening Ceremony has always been a key highlight for both the participating teams and the worldwide audience of over 1 billion. A bespoke Commonwealth Games tartan is currently under development and a variant of this may be available for the supporters. The final design will be unveiled later this year and the parade uniform will be developed in consultation with the athletes before being put on show in late 2005.

2006 Games Sets Rigorous Selection Standards

The 2006 Games athletes will undergo the most rigorous selection criteria of any Scottish team. The general selection standards set by the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland will require athletes in individual events to prove they have the ability to reach the top eight in their event. The selection period will commence on 1 January 2005 with the full team being named in November of that year. Details of the full Games Council selection standards can be viewed on the Games Council website www.cgcs.org.uk

Scottish Sportsman of 2004

Following on from the success of the 2003 Commonwealth Sports Awards, the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland has already secured a top-class venue in Glasgow for the 2004 Annual Dinner and Sportsman award. The event will be a celebratory farewell to the athletes participating in the Commonwealth Youth Games as well as celebrating the outstanding Scottish athletes of 2003/2004 with the Lonsdale Trophy for the Scottish Sportsman of the Year. Awards will be for performances during the season 2003 to 2004.

The SAS Radisson Hotel, Glasgow, will play host to the event to be held on Saturday 16 October with tickets now on sale. For more details contact the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland on 01786 466 480.

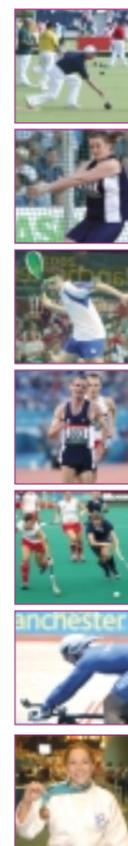
COUNTDOWN is available to download from our website: www.cgcs.org.uk

Key Dates

13-29 August 2004	Olympic Games, Athens
14 September 2004	Selection of Scottish Commonwealth Youth Games Team
16 October 2004	Commonwealth Games Council Annual Dinner and Scottish Sportsman of the Year Awards
29 November - 4 December 2004	Commonwealth Youth Games, Bendigo, Australia
1 January 2005	Selection period opens
1 November 2006	Scottish Team named
15-26 March 2006	Commonwealth Games, Melbourne, Australia

Further information on all Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland activities can be found on our website: www.cgcs.org.uk or by contacting us directly:

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countdown

MELBOURNE 2006 - COMMONWEALTH GAMES ISSUE 7 JUNE 2004

Looking Forward to the Challenges Ahead



Welcome to our journey as we countdown towards the next Youth and Commonwealth Games in 2004 and 2006.

With a successful 2002 Manchester Commonwealth Games now well behind us we are focused on our next two big challenges, the Commonwealth Youth Games later this year (December 2004) and the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Last time the Commonwealth Games were held in Australia we had our most successful Games team outside the UK and our aim is to ensure that the athletes selected for 2006 can emulate the achievements of Allan Wells, Willie Wood, Alistair Allan and other Scottish Games greats. The Australian Games provide a host of different challenges to our athletes as they will be competing out of season and in the Commonwealth's most successful nation with home territory advantage. The Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland is already well prepared for the event in 2006 with key staff appointed, selections policies in place and site visits already under way. We are committed to providing the best possible environment for our athletes in Australia and will be establishing a Holding Camp in Bendigo, Australia, and developing a Scottish Centre home from home for our supporters in the heart of Melbourne.

The Youth Games are a relatively new concept that was started in Scotland in 2000 and it will play an important part in developing a strong team spirit and developing our future athletes for a variety of different sports. The Youth Games will also ensure that our coaches and support staff are well versed with the Australia set-up prior to the Games in 2006.

Our athletes have always raised the bar, in terms of standards, at each Games and with the support of our sponsors and partners the team for 2006 will meet the challenges ahead and make the Scottish public proud. It will be an exciting two years, join us, share our dream and support the team.

Louise Martin

Louise Martin CBE
Chairman Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland

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Manchester Revisited

Manchester was the first UK host since the Edinburgh Games in 1986 and the event was a universal success for the Scottish team, the hosts and the Games movement as a whole. The event created some memorable moments for the Scottish nation including cyclist Craig McLean leading the 250-strong Scottish team into a packed City of Manchester Stadium to a spectacular Opening ceremony seen around the world. On the competitive front, Scotland won a total of 30 medals over the 10 days. Key wins included fellow cyclist Chris Hoy winning gold, along with gymnast Steve Frew, swimmer Alison Sheppard, judo player Graeme Randall and bowls pair, Alex Marshall and George Sneddon, and Elite Disability Bowls Triple, John Robertson, David Heddle and Ivan Prior. Scotland won a first-ever 10 medals in judo, our most successful sport, whilst Lee McConnell's storming run from the back for silver in the athletics 400 metres field captured the hearts of many. Cyclist Caroline Alexander broke as many hearts when she was forced to retire empty handed following a puncture whilst clearly leading the field in the mountain biking. In a Games notable for many outstanding successes from a wide range of world leading athletes the efforts of the Scottish team, and the medals awarded, stood out as a clear reminder of Scotland's sporting class.

A World Class City Plays Host in 2006

Melbourne will be hosting the 2006 Commonwealth Games for the first time in the state's history, but Australia has already had the privilege of staging the event three times before following the Games in Sydney in 1938, Perth in 1962 and Brisbane in 1982.

Melbourne is well placed to stage an event of this stature having previously hosted the Olympic Games in 1956 and also playing host to a variety of major sporting greats including the Australian Open tennis and Formula One Grand Prix.

The iconic 100,000 seater Melbourne Cricket Ground, aka the MCG, or the 'G', is being totally redeveloped to host the Athletics and Opening and Closing Ceremonies.

The Games in Australia will be a tough challenge for the Scottish team given the Australian success in the Commonwealth Games and their home advantage. The 2006 event will provide some 150 fewer medal

opportunities compared to Manchester's Games. With judo now dropped from the sports categories, and only one bronze medal being awarded in knock-out events apart from boxing, Scotland will have to be more competitive than ever to succeed.

Scotland's current record in the Commonwealth Games in Australia stretches back to 1982 when the team achieved 26 medals with eight gold, including wins from two of Scotland's greatest athletes, Allan Wells and Alister Allan. This is still Scotland's best win in terms of gold medals and certainly sets a high standard for 2006.

Sports confirmed for the Games are aquatics, athletics, badminton, bowls, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rugby sevens, squash, shooting, table tennis, triathlon and weightlifting. The final team selection will not be made until Autumn 2005 but Scotland will be sending around 200 athletes to participate in these events.

countdown The Young Stars of Tomorrow

Following the successful inaugural Millennium Commonwealth Youth Games in Edinburgh, the Second Commonwealth Youth Games will be held from 29 November until 4 December 2004 in Bendigo, a large town in the state of Victoria, Australia. It is a former gold mining centre and is now at the heart of Victoria's agriculture and winemaking. It is located approximately 2 hours drive from Melbourne, the host of the 2006 Games. Scotland will have approximately 60 athletes and 20 officials competing in athletics, boxing, badminton, bowls, cycling, gymnastics, rugby sevens, swimming and weightlifting.

The Commonwealth Youth Games are staged for those athletes born in 1986, and later, and will be a tremendous platform for future stars for the Commonwealth Games in 2006 and subsequently, the Games in Delhi, India, in 2010.

With selection standards now set, athletes from all sports are working hard to qualify for the Scottish team. Anticipating a strong performance from the Scottish team, General Team Manager, Steve Paulding, recognises that medals will not be the only measure of success.

"For most athletes this will be their first experience of Australia and of competing for Scotland at a multi-sport Games. We are sure that this experience will help the athletes to develop their sporting careers and make them a selection consideration for the 2006 Commonwealth Games, and more certainly, for Delhi, India, in 2010".



Commonwealth Heroes

In October 2003 Scotland hosted the twenty fourth Commonwealth Sports Awards and welcomed athletes from across the Commonwealth to Glasgow to celebrate their sporting success. Scotland's First Minister, Jack McConnell, and Provost of Glasgow, Liz Cameron, and the Rt. Hon. Don McKinnon, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, hosted a star-studded dinner to recognise the efforts and achievements of athletes, coaches and administrators voted the best in their field over the last year by an international panel of judges. Winners included Ian Thorpe of Australia, Paula Radcliffe of England, the New Zealand basketball team, Natalie duToit of South Africa, Benoit Huot of Canada and Brent Thomas of Trinidad and Tobago. The late Tan Sri Alexander Lee of Singapore received a lifetime achievement award.

The evening also saw the inaugural presentation of the Bank of Scotland sponsored Lonsdale Trophy for Scottish Sportsman of the Year, going to cyclist, Chris Hoy, who followed his Commonwealth Games success with two World Championship titles. Other finalists were fellow Games Gold medallists, Alison Sheppard, who went on to be named World Cup female swimmer of the year, and lawn bowler, Alex Marshall, who also succeeded in retaining world indoor bowls titles.



Staff on Board

Following an extensive recruitment process the Commonwealth Games Council has now appointed the key general team management and medical staff for the 2004 Commonwealth Youth Games and 2006 Commonwealth Games.

On-board is Paul Bush as Chef de Mission of the 2006 Games Team together with Scotland Games Council Chief Executive, Jon Doig, as General Team Manager. Steve Paulding will be joining the team as General Team Manager for the Commonwealth Youth Games team. A range of key medical and general team management posts have also been appointed.

Louise Martin, Chair, Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland, commented, "The senior staff appointed are extremely experienced at either Commonwealth or Olympic level and are well known to our athletes. With seven months to go to the Youth Games and, just under two years to the Commonwealth Games, our preparations are well on track to ensure our athletes get the best possible support. The staff and athletes have already carried out a number of site visits and a full staff training programme is in place. The 2002 Commonwealth Games were a great success for us but Australia will present a whole range of challenges for the team and we want to be fully prepared for this."

Team managers and coaches for each sport are currently being appointed. A full list can be seen on our website: www.cgcs.org.uk

Hall of Fame Inductees

In December 2003 two former Games athletes were inducted into the Scottish Sports Hall of Fame in a ceremony at the National Museums of Scotland. **Helen Orr Gordon** (1950 and 1954) and **John McNiven** MBE (1966, 1970, 1974, 1978) were recognised for their achievements. The two new athletes join a long list of stellar names from Scotland's Games history, including **Ellen King** (1930), **Sir Peter Heatley** (1950, 1954, 1958), **Ian Black** (1958), **Dick McTaggart** (1958, 1962), **Bobby McGregor** (1962, 1966), **Ian Stewart** (1970, 1974), **David Wilkie** (1970, 1974), **Alister Allan** (1974, 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994) and **Allan Wells** (1978, 1982).

The full list of general team management and medical staff appointed to date are:

2004 Commonwealth Youth Games

Steve Paulding	General Team Manager
Lisa McIver	Assistant General Team Manager
Leslie Roy	Assistant General Team Manager
Darren Cornforth	Physiotherapist
Lindsay Thomson	Physiotherapist

2006 Commonwealth Games Team

Paul Bush	Chef de Mission
Jon Doig	General Team Manager
Richard Kenney	Transport and Logistics
Michael Cavanagh	Village
Callum McLeod	Technical
Dr Jane Dunbar	Head of Medical Services
Catriona Boyle	Doctor
David Pugh	Doctor
Mandy Belch	Head Physiotherapist
Fiona Cameron	Physiotherapist
Darren Cornforth	Physiotherapist
Sandi Lyall	Physiotherapist
Stephen Mutch	Physiotherapist
Lindsay Thomson	Physiotherapist
Martin Rennison	Physiotherapist
Lesley Dawson	Physiotherapist
Neil Mclean Martin	Physiotherapist
Adrienne Sunderland	Office Manager