



NatWest Island Games 2011
25 June – 1 July

PRESS RELEASE

2 November 2010

SOUTHAMPTON AIRPORT SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE NATWEST ISLAND GAMES 2011

Southampton Airport is proud to support the NatWest Island Games 2011 which is taking place on the Isle of Wight next year (25 June – 1 July), and to be receiving many of the athletes, officials and supporters from the 25 islands around the world who will be taking part in this major international event.

The NatWest Island Games takes place every two years and is one of the largest participation events in the world behind the Commonwealth Games and Olympics. Next year's event on the Isle of Wight will see thousands of athletes and officials taking part in hundreds of events across 14 sports in what is expected to be the largest Games to date. It will also be the largest international multi-sport event ever held on the Isle of Wight.

Jan Halliday, Director of Marketing & Communications for Southampton Airport, commented: "Southampton Airport is the nearest international airport to the Isle of Wight, and so we've been working closely with the event organisers to ensure the visitors to the Games will experience an easy, fast and friendly service at Southampton Airport prior to going onwards by ferry. We look forward to giving a really warm welcome to the NatWest Island Games visitors in June and July 2011."

The Isle of Wight Island Games Association, responsible for organising the Games has received support from the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games who will be using the Games as a test bed for their sports officials involved in the Olympic programme.

An Arts Council grant of £94,000 funded by the National Lottery has also been awarded for a spectacular Opening Ceremony which will be held in Ryde on Saturday 25 June and will include over 1000 young people in a carnival style extravaganza. The Closing Ceremony will take place in Cowes on Friday 1 July.

Further details about the NatWest Island Games 2011 and how businesses can get involved, can be found at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk

ENDS.

NOTE TO EDITOR

1. Could you please refer to the event as the 'NatWest Island Games' (not 'Island Games; or 'The Games') at the start of articles and in headlines,, and as 'the Games' mid copy, as appropriate. Thank you.
2. Please find attached jpeg image showing athletes from the Isle of Wight who are hoping to be selected for the NatWest Island Games 2011 with Jan Halliday, Director of Marketing & Communications, Southampton Airport (6th in from right) and NWIG organising committee members Vanessa Churchman (7thR) and Lee Matthews (5thR).

3. Background :

- The Island Games were established in the Isle of Man in 1985 and today include 25 member islands in, or associated with, the nine sovereign nations of Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden, UK plus the Caribbean :

Aland	Alderney	Bermuda
Cayman Islands	Falkland Islands	Faroe Islands
Froya Islands	Gibraltar	Gotland
Greenland	Guernsey	Hitra Islands
Isle of Man	Isle of Wight	Jersey
Menorca	Orkney	Prince Edward Island
Rhodes	Saaremaa	Sark
Shetlands Islands	St Helena	Western Isles
Ynys Mon		

- In 1999, NatWest became the title sponsor of the Island Games which has become one of the largest participation events in the world behind the Olympics and Commonwealth Games.
- The NatWest Island Games 2011 are being organised by the Isle of Wight Island Games Association, supported by the IW Council, which is also a sponsor.
- The 25 member islands compete every two years around the world in a range of up to 14 sports chosen by the Host Island from a list of 18.
- Sports chosen for 2011 are :
Archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, cycling, football, golf, sailing inc. windsurfing, squash, swimming, shooting, table tennis, tennis, volleyball
- The Games were last held on the Isle of Wight in 1993.
- Further information is available at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk and www.islandgames.net

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