



NatWest Island Games 2011
25 June – 1 July

PRESS RELEASE

9 December 2010

NATWEST ISLAND GAMES 2011 SAFE AND GOING AHEAD

Following recent media reports, David Ball, Chairman of the Island Games Association (IW) responsible for hosting the NatWest Island Games on the Isle of Wight next year is keen to stress that the Games are safe and will be going ahead as planned next year.

David Ball states : “Following inaccurate, selective reporting by the media, I would like to re-assure the Isle of Wight community and sponsors that the NatWest Island Games 2011 will be going ahead as planned. The Island Games Association are working very closely with the IW Council, who are totally supportive, to ensure that the Island can deliver a good event next year. It is a very difficult time for the IW Council, money has been ringfenced for the Games and they are rightly expecting financial controls to be in place. It is not a question of whether the money is available but more about timescales on this being released.”

David continues “ I have personally contacted the representatives of each of the other 24 Islands competing in next year’s NatWest Island Games, the International Island Games Executive and our sponsors, NatWest to reassure them too.

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 the 'Games' mid copy, as appropriate. Thank you.

2. Background :

- The International 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 run by the Island Games Association (Isle of Wight) 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
- An Arts Council grant of £94,099 funded by the National Lottery has been awarded for a spectacular Opening Ceremony which will be held in Ryde on 25 June and will include over 1000 young people in a carnival style extravaganza. The Closing Ceremony will take place on 1 July at Cowes Yacht Haven / Marina.
- The NatWest Island 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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