



NatWest Island Games 2011
25 June – 1 July

PRESS RELEASE

16 March 2011

100 DAYS AND COUNTING

With only 100 days to go before the start of the NatWest Island Games, plans are really gathering at a pace with arrangements being finalised for the 14 sports which will be held at 30 venues across the Island.

To date, 3266 participants have registered from the 25 Islands including competitors, officials, VIPs and international journalists. Final numbers and details will be known late April but so far, the biggest team after the Isle of Wight (262), is the Isle of Man (257) followed by Guernsey (254). The smallest team is St. Helena with a team of 11 followed by Sark with 13.

The Isle of Wight Team, sponsored by Wightlink, will be announced early May.

Out of the 14 sports, the biggest competition in the Games will be the Football with 510 competitors (men and women's teams) taking part, competing in over 60 football matches played over 6 days. Premiership Referees will also be involved in the competition programme.

The first Gold medal to be presented will be for the Cycling Criterion which will involve 62 competitors cycling round the town centre of Ventnor on the second day of the NatWest Island Games on Sunday 26 June.

David Ball, Chairman of the 2011 Organising Committee, said "I am quietly confident that we are on course to deliver an excellent Games and that all competitors and officials coming to our Island will enjoy and remember their visit to the Isle of Wight".

The Island Games Association has the support of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games who will be using the NatWest Island Games as a test bed for their officials involved in the Olympic programme. Support will be provided for athletics, basketball, cycling, target shooting, volleyball, sailing and windsurfing.

Volunteers also play a crucial role in the NatWest Island Games and around 1000 will be involved in the Games week across a wide range of roles.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available across all sports at various levels. For details please contact sponsorship@natwestislandgames2011.co.uk. Further details about the NatWest Island Games can be found at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk or by telephoning the Games office on 01983 404841.

ENDS.

NOTE TO EDITOR

1. Could you please refer to the event as the NatWest Island Games 2011 (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 image of some Island athletes hoping to be selected for the IW Team pictured by the NatWest Island Games 2011 count down clock.

Pictured left to right : Thorne Bayley, George Ross, Stuart Browne, Tsetso Stoyanov – volleyball, Richard Wilson – target shooting, Declan Leach and Charlotte Skeggs – athletics, Sammi Keen and Joanne Wright - golf

3. 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 (Finland)	Alderney	Bermuda
Cayman Islands	Falkland Islands	Faroe Islands
Froya (Denmark)	Gibraltar	Gotland (Sweden)
Greenland	Guernsey	Hitra (Norway)
Isle of Man	Isle of Wight	Jersey
Menorca (Spain)	Orkney	Price Edward Island (Canada)
Rhodes	Sark	Saareem (Estonia)
Shetland	St Helena	Western Isles
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- 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 for 2011 : archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, cycling, football, golf, sailing/windsurfing, shooting, squash, swimming, table tennis, tennis, volleyball
- The NatWest Island Games were last held on the Isle of Wight 18 years ago in 1993.
- Further information available at www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk and www.islandgames.net

For further information please contact : Michelle Russell, NatWest Island Games 2011
m. 079298 47665 e. michelle@natwestislandgames2011.co.uk