



**NatWest Island Games 2011**  
**25 June – 1 July**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

14 April 2011

### **Hovertravel announce sponsorship of the NatWest Island Games football**

Hovertravel, the fastest Isle of Wight passenger service across the Solent, has announced its sponsorship of the NatWest Island Games football.

The NatWest Island Games take place every two years and involve international and world class athletes from 25 islands around the world, competing in friendly competition in a range of 14 sports chosen by the host Island. This year the Games are being hosted on the Isle of Wight from 25 June – 1 July and will involve around 3000 athletes.

Neil Chapman, managing director of Hovertravel, said: “The NatWest Island Games is an excellent international sporting feature which unites Island communities across the globe. We chose to sponsor the popular sport of football because we know that this sport appeals to a broad audience. We are looking forward to welcoming contestants, spectators and officials to the Isle of Wight and giving them a chance to experience the world’s longest running scheduled hovercraft service.”

The NatWest Island Games Opening Ceremony Parade will take place alongside the Hovertravel Ryde terminal at around 1800 hrs on 25 June. To book travel visit [www.hovertravel.com](http://www.hovertravel.com)

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

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#### About Hovertravel

- Launched in 1965
- The fastest Isle of Wight ferry service across the Solent, with the journey taking under 10 minutes and running every half hour
- Only scheduled hovercraft operator in Europe
- The world’s longest running commercial hovercraft operator

For more press information, please contact Stephen or Deveta at SRF on 01252 850540, or email [Deveta@communicationmatters.co.uk](mailto:Deveta@communicationmatters.co.uk)

About the NatWest Island Games

- 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
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 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](http://www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk) and [www.islandgames.net](http://www.islandgames.net)

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