



NatWest Island Games 2011  
25 June – 1 July

## PRESS RELEASE

26 May 2011

### **KELLY SOTHERTON HOPING TO COMPETE AS PART OF ISLE OF WIGHT TEAM**

**Kelly Sotherton**, former Ryde High School pupil, and Olympic Bronze Medallist (2004) and Olympic 4<sup>th</sup> (2008), is hoping to compete as part of the Isle of Wight Team in the NatWest Island Games next month, joining fellow Isle of Wight athletes **Darren Mew**, Swimming, World Championship bronze medallist (1999, 2000), Commonwealth games silver medallist (1998, 2006) and Olympic finalist (2000, 2004), **Richard Wilson**, Shooting, Commonwealth Silver (2010), **Andy Frost**, Hammer, Commonwealth 4th (2006, 2010) and **Kieran Page**, Cycling, Commonwealth Games Finalist (2002).

Kelly first competed in the Island Games in Jersey in 1997 where she won 4 individual Gold medals (100m, 100m Hurdles, Long Jump, High Jump) and was in both relay teams that won gold. She then competed in the NatWest Island Games in Gotland 1999 where she won a further two individual gold medals in 100m and Long Jump a silver in the 200m and a further two bronze medals in the both relays. With 8 gold, 1 silver and two bronze, she is the most successful track and field athlete to have competed in the Island Games for the Isle of Wight.

Nick Grocock, IW Athletics Team Manager said, *"Having Kelly accredited for the team after all her international success is a real boost for us and the Games as a whole. She has retired from multi-eventing and has now focused on sprinting. She is currently a "UKA Podium Relay funded athlete" and as such, has a very demanding schedule and I am keeping everything crossed that she will be here next month. It would be fantastic if the NatWest Island Games is part of a build up to this year's World Championships and hopefully next year's Olympics"*.

Speaking to Nick, Kelly stated, *"Depending upon race schedule I am keeping my fingers crossed that I can represent the Isle of Wight in the 100 and 200m at this year's NatWest Island Games"*.

Speaking about the Isle of Wight Team, Martin Goodall, IW General Team Manager said, *"As well as these more established names there are a total of 249 Islanders who will take part in the 14 sports of the NatWest Island Games 2011, the biggest IW Team to date. They come from every*

*corner of the Island and range from 14 to 67 years old. A good number of the team have taken part in regional and national competitions in their sport as well as previous Island Games but for many this will be their first Island Games and their first experience of international competition. The fact that these established names want to compete shows the high value they placed upon the Games as a stepping stone in their careers. I hope that somewhere amongst those competing this year will be someone who in the years to come will go on to Commonwealth, World or Olympic success as others have done in the past.”*

*“Home support can make all the difference. Every one of the team is training hard in the run up to the games and will give 100% for themselves, their team mates and this Island during the Games Week. I am very confident that we will do well.”*

Around 3000 athletes and officials from 25 islands around the world will be attending the NatWest Island Games, competing in a range of 14 sports over 6 days.

The Isle of Wight Team is sponsored by Wightlink.

For further details about the NatWest Island Games 2011, visit [www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk](http://www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk)

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#### 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. Please find attached list of the IW Team athletes.
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	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
- The NatWest Island Games were last held on the Isle of Wight in 1993.
- Further information is available at [www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk](http://www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk) and [www.islandgames.net](http://www.islandgames.net)

For further information please contact :

Michelle Russell, Marketing & Communications, NatWest Island Games 2011

m. 079298 47665 e. [michelle@natwestislandgames2011.co.uk](mailto:michelle@natwestislandgames2011.co.uk)

**[www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk](http://www.natwestislandgames2011.co.uk)**