



NATWEST ISLAND GAMES XVII GOTLAND 2017 GAMES REPORT



WESTERN ISLES ISLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION



GENERAL TEAM MANAGERS REPORT

The 2017 NatWest Island Games was held on Gotland between the 24th June and 30th June 2017 in what were our 7th Games. All 24 member Islands competed and it is estimated that 3000 participants took part. Team Western Isles had another record breaking Games winning 10 gold medals out of an overall total of 14 medals won in swimming, athletics and cycling. The team finished in 7th place in the medal table, which meant that the Western Isles was the leading Scottish Island for the second Games running, ahead of both Orkney and Shetland.

A total squad of 88 represented the Western Isles competing in 9 sports: athletics, badminton, cycling, football (men's & women's), golf, shooting, swimming and triathlon.

- 76 competitors plus a support team of team managers, coaches, medical team and management
- 33 females (46%); 39 males (54%)
- 90% island based
- 47% were under 21 years old
- All medals won by females

The Gotland organising team were well prepared and the Games were extremely well run, with events taking place in some stunning locations on a beautiful island. Our athletes had spent many hours a week in preparation for the Games and the increased levels of conditioning showed in the reduced number of injuries dealt with by the medical team during a gruelling week of competition.

On Monday evening Kara Hanlon's gold medal in the 200m Breaststroke was WIIGA's 50th medal in all competitions, since Eve Carrington won our first medal in Shetland 2005. Kerry Macphee now has 12 medals – 7 individual and 5 team – in what was her 3rd Games. In Kathryn Offer's 3 medal haul she broke two Games records. Eve Carrington won her 5th field event medal (she also has 2 track medals), a magnificent silver with a personal best in the shot putt.

Perhaps the highlight of the week, was 18 year old Heather Mackinnon from Eriskay's Gold medal in the women's triple jump. Against quality competition, a huge personal best in the first round won the day after a nail-biting final two rounds. What made this medal extra special was that it was won in front many of our other young athletes and also Heather's family, who had made the trip out to Gotland to support her. Heather follows Kara in becoming the second athlete to have been supported locally through the local performance development programme for talented young athletes to medal status.

Most significant in our aim to provide the opportunity for young people to compete at international level was the number of personal bests and impressive performances produced by our up and coming young sports stars. This is hugely encouraging and a credit to themselves, their coaches and everyone who supports them in their ambitions.

Congratulations to all competitors, managers and committee members for making the Gotland Games a success as focus now turns to the NatWest Island Games XVIII Gibraltar 2019.

We must also thank our sponsors, The Scottish Salmon Company (the official sponsor of the Western Isles Island Games squad), along with all the other businesses, CnES, local councillors, community councils and other organisations for their support. Without them the Western Isles would not have been represented at the Games.



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← Women's Football

Team Managers: Catherine Ann Macleod & Euan Macleod

Overall this was an excellent performance from a young, committed Women's Football team. They played four games, won three and lost one, finishing on level points with the 2 seeded teams in their group. Goal difference left them competing in the 7/8 place play-off, which they duly won. Such is the nature of tournament football, had they scored two more goals, or conceded two fewer they would have been playing for a medal – there are such fine lines between progressing and not!

Swimming →

Team Manager: David Hanlon & DR Morrison

The swimming team had another very successful Games, winning 5 Golds and 1 Bronze medal through Kathryn Offer and Kara Hanlon. Kathryn also broke 2 Games records and the team finished 4th in the medal table—the top Scottish Island. Aside from the medals the 6 person team completed a total of 65 swims achieving 27 personal bests and 21 top ten finishes. The team trained 4 times a week and competed regularly in District & National competitions in the build up to the Games.



← Golf

Team Manager: Bryan Geddes

The Golf team included 2 debutants in DJ Macleod and Neil Rowlands, following the introduction of a new qualification criteria, which encourages playing on different courses rather than just based on handicap. Conditions on 3 of the days were very challenging on 2 exceptional courses, with strong winds making them borderline unplayable at times. David Black finished an impressive 25th out of 74 in the individual event, and the team finished 10th of 18.

Shooting →

Archie Macvicar (Team Manager)

There were only 2 shooting disciplines in Gotland—ABT & Olympic Skeet. Debutant, Ruaridh Macdonald, joined Archie Macvicar and Donald Walker in a 3 man team. Due to environmental laws in Sweden shooters had to use steel shot and were subjected to the same blustery conditions the golfers had to endure, so scores were relatively low this Games. Donald & Ruaridh finished in 4th place in the ABT team event, 2 points behind the bronze medallists, with Donald just missing out on the final shoot out in the individual event. Archie & Donald finished a creditable 7th in the Olympic Skeet team event.



← Athletics

Team Manager: Seumas Mactaggart, Hamish Budge & Mark Mitchell

The standards in the athletics event continue to impress and highlights what a privilege it is for our athletes to be able to compete at this level. A superb silver for Eve Carrington in the Shot Putt and Michael Macmillan (800m) and the 4x400m men's Relay team agonisingly missing out on bronze medals were highlights along with many pb's from this predominantly young squad. The greatest success was 18 year old Heather Mackinnon's Gold in the triple jump with a pb of 11.06m. Special as it was a magnificent achievement, witnessed by her whole family and many other young athletes in the team, who saw first-hand what can be achieved while still based on Island.

Men's Football →

Team Manager: Eric Macleod, Graeme Miller & Magnus Johnson

The preparation for these Games saw an increased emphasis on fitness alongside the tactical and technical development introduced in the build up to the previous Games in Jersey. The team finished 11th, which was a disappointment to the team, but there were plenty of positives to take from the performances. Most disappointing to the team was the heavy defeat to Gotland in the 2nd match when 90% of the squad were suffering from food poisoning. To their credit they agreed to fulfil the fixture but after a dominant first half they fell away dramatically as effects of dehydration and illness set in. The commitment shown by this young squad shows promise for the future.



← Cycling & Triathlon

Team Manager: Christina Mackenzie

The cycling team won 6 medals, with the Macphee sisters proving once again that they are a class above the rest. Kerry & Kirsty retained their MTB titles in the team events, with Kerry storming home to retain her individual crowns. Christina Mackenzie finished in the pack just behind the medallists in a sprint finish in the Road Race. The Men's cycling event has perhaps the highest standard of all the sports. Craig McCulloch placed 25th in the Road Race to finish best Scottish rider, credit to the work done since Jersey. First timer, Stuart Ashley finished 26th in the time trial. Both very creditable performances. Christina finished 16th in a very breezy, high quality Triathlon.

Badminton →

Team Manager: Paul Finnegan

Paul and Kedar Paul competed in the singles and doubles events, gaining valuable experience and knowledge of the standards required to put together a competitive team at future Games. Kedar came tantalisingly close to winning his match, proving that things are moving in the right direction. Work on the development of badminton has continued. There is now a Western Isles Badminton Association in place to oversee membership, competitions and youth development in particular. Former Commonwealth Games Champion, Dan Travers, was recruited to deliver coaching sessions throughout the Western Isles and a number of young players are now progressing well.



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MEDAL	ATHLETE(S)	SPORT	EVENT
Gold (10)	Kerry Macphee	Cycling	MTB XC
	Kerry Macphee & Kirsty Macphee	Cycling	MTB XC - Team
	Kerry Macphee	Cycling	MTB Criterion
	Kerry Macphee & Kirsty Macphee	Cycling	MTB Criterion - Team
	Heather Mackinnon	Athletics	Triple Jump
	Kara Hanlon	Swimming	200m Breaststroke
	Kara Hanlon	Swimming	200m Individual Medley
	Kara Hanlon	Swimming	50m Breaststroke
	Kathryn Offer	Swimming	50m Backstroke
Silver (3)	Kirsty Macphee	Cycling	MTB XC
	Kirsty Macphee	Cycling	MTB Criterion
	Eve Carrington	Athletics	Shot Putt
Bronze (1)	Kathryn Offer	Swimming	100m Backstroke

WIIGA FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<u>Costs</u>		<u>Income</u>	
Travel	£78,000	Competitors/Officials Contribution	£55,800
Accommodation	£61,000	Supporters/Press	£30,200
Kit	£21,000	Rebate	£35,700
Preparation Costs	£4,000	Sponsorship	£28,800
Sundry Costs	£6,000	Donations/Grants/WIIGA	£19,500
Total Costs	£170,000	Total Income	£170,000



NATWEST ISLAND GAMES XVIII GIBRALTAR 2019

The next Island Games is due to be held in Gibraltar from 6th –12th July 2019. At this stage, from the sports being held, it is anticipated that WIIGA will compete in Athletics, Badminton, Cycling, Shooting, Swimming and Triathlon. There have been discussions between the member islands to hold a football tournament somewhere in Europe during the Games year, which WIIGA would consider competing in to maintain exposure for our men's and women's football teams to elite football. If you are interested in becoming involved in the Games, WIIGA would be delighted to have you on board!

Please contact Steven or Karen on 01851 822785/787 for more information

