



Welcome to the new Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners e-newsletter.

The e-newsletter will now be going out on a monthly basis to our growing readership of over 1,000 people!

Since the last newsletter went out earlier in the year a lot has changed with the partnership; we have commitment from two more National Olympic Committees for Pre-Games training in the county, London 2012 contracts worth in excess of £646 million have been won by Hertfordshire firms, a new Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners core team has been recruited and the partnership's new website has been launched.

The HRFWP core team of five includes (photo left to right):

- Jon Heyes**, Project Officer
- Sophie Dannatt**, Communications Officer
- John Fuller**, Hertfordshire 2012 Ambassador
- Sally Stanley**, Senior Support Officer
- Gareth Morgan**, Hertfordshire 2012 Manager

You can contact the team on
herts2012@hertscc.gov.uk

www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk - your local one stop site for Olympic news

The Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners Partnership launched our new website www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk on Friday 5th November. The site has a new range of features including an interactive event calendar, a link to the ReadyForWinners twitter feed and is now more user friendly and even easier to navigate.

Local junior athletics star Jodie Williams had a preview of the new website in the week of its launch and thought it was a great way to get the people of Hertfordshire as enthused as she is about London 2012. Jodie said, "it's so exciting having the Olympics in your home county and a great opportunity to showcase what we are about to the rest of the world. London 2012 will be my first major senior championships and to have it on home soil will be amazing with the home crowd cheering me on." Jodie, from Welwyn Garden City, is highly acclaimed throughout the world of athletics coming first and second in the 100m and 200m respectively in the World Junior Championships early this year. Her junior record is very impressive having enjoyed a spell of 151 races unbeaten.

The new site contains up to date news and information on Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners and the work that we do, including information on the Olympic committees committed to training in Hertfordshire, ticketing information for the Olympic games and how to contact the Herts 2012 team. There is also information on Hertfordshire's Olympic Venue, the Lee Valley White Water Centre in Waltham Cross, which will be opening to the public before the Olympics in spring 2011 - anyone over the age of 14 can have a go!





Follow Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/ReadyForWinners>



Find out what we are up to by following us on Twitter. We hope to use Twitter to communicate effectively with the people in Hertfordshire and beyond bringing the excitement and buzz of the Olympics to the county.

We post regular information on our work, supporting the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) in the delivery of a successful London 2012 Games and securing a lasting legacy benefits for the county.

We also comment on sporting and Olympic news as well as promoting upcoming events including Business Breakfasts and Volunteering Workshops.

Derrick Ashley, Hertfordshire County Council's Champion for the 2012 Games, Executive Member for Planning and Chairman of the Hertfordshire is Ready for Winners Board, said "This is a great opportunity for those interested in finding out what Hertfordshire is doing in preparation for the London 2012 Games to get the information short and snappy."

Hertfordshire is number one in the region for Olympic education programme sign up!



Hertfordshire remains the number one county in the region and second nationally for Get Set registrations with 77.5% of Hertfordshire schools now registered for the education programme. 32 schools are currently either confirmed (9) or pending Get Set Network status.

216 raft places have been offered to Hertfordshire's Get Set Network schools as a reward for signing up, the partnership has also extended that allocation to included the CLA Virtual school. The places were donated by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority as part of their Education Pledge to Education Authorities in London, Essex and Hertfordshire to select groups of secondary school students, aged 14 plus, to experience a FREE rafting session on the competition course. The selected school children will be among the first to experience the thrill of white water before the Olympians arrive.



Mark Richardson inspires local firms to get involved in the London 2012 Games



Olympian Mark Richardson inspired local businesses to get themselves ready for the London 2012 Games at Paradise Wildlife Park on Friday 8th October. Mark won a bronze medal in Barcelona (1992) and silver in Atlanta (1996) both in the 4x400m relay.

The free event 'Win Business Gold' was the latest in a series of award winning business breakfast events, which allow local firms to learn about London 2012's procurement system (CompeteFor) and how they might win Olympic contracts from Business Link experts. Hertfordshire businesses, large and small, already have contracts as suppliers and service providers for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by using this unique procurement portal.

The business breakfast event was attended by 62 representatives from 36 businesses who enjoyed a cooked breakfast, met an Olympic medallist as well as local athletes currently supported through the Herts Talented Athletes Programme. They also found out about Hertfordshire's Olympic venue - the Lee Valley White Water Centre, and networked with other local business people. Business who attended described the event as "illuminating" and "a fantastic opportunity and a wonderful location".

Attendees of the event, organised by Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners, in partnership with Business Link, Paradise Wildlife Park as well as East Herts and Broxbourne District Councils, were invited to watch the staff at Paradise Wildlife Park perform a health check on one of their tigers after the main event was over.

Welcome to the Partnership!

This month we are celebrating three new members to the Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners Partnership.

- Airport Lettings
- Falkland Island Holdings
- London Jet Charter

You could be a part of the Partnership which delivers a lasting legacy for the County. If you are interested in joining an established partnership, recognised by LOCOG (London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games), with the opportunity to:

- Join over 40 influential county-based partners
- Enjoy tailor-made membership packages
- Be part of London 2012
- Deliver benefits for Hertfordshire through the partnership's five ambitions
- Inspire our young people
- Put Hertfordshire on the map up to 2012 and beyond

Take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity!

Membership packages range from £500 to £4,000 annually. For more information about memberships or details of the wide variety of bespoke sponsorship opportunities available through the Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners Partnership, contact the Herts 2012 team:

Email: herts2012@hertscc.gov.uk

Tel: **01992 555 364**

Website: www.hertsisreadyforwinners.co.uk



Hertfordshire celebrates two more Olympic signings



Two more National Olympic Committees have signed up to hold their pre-games training in Hertfordshire - bringing the total to three - generating a possible £75,000 of income for the county from funds made available to overseas teams by LOCOG to help with the costs associated with pre-games preparations.

We are delighted that the National Olympic Committees (NOC) of the Caribbean nations: St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia, will live locally and train in county training camps during the build up to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The British Virgin Islands were the first to commit to Hertfordshire in June 2009.

During a visit earlier this year, hosted by the HRFWP the Secretary General of St Lucia NOC, Alfred Emmanuel, was highly impressed with the Hertfordshire training camps. "My visit convinced me that this is the right place to be in the lead up to the London 2012 Games. The facilities offered are superb, likewise the expertise on the ground, and these were all deciding factors in our choice."

Similarly, Glenville Jeffers, Secretary General of St Kitts and Nevis NOC was taken on a whistle stop tour of Hertfordshire's facilities by the partnership, on his way out to New Delhi for the Commonwealth Games.

Over 600 facilities across the UK are approved pre-games training camps for Olympic and Paralympic teams. Hertfordshire has 17 training camps, which offer wide ranging sports facilities from athletics to gymnastics and fencing to wrestling. Olympic and Paralympic Committees from around the world are currently deciding where to train before the London 2012 Games.

Interest and activity around pre-games training camps in Hertfordshire continues to grow and the HRFWP team were visited last week by Thomas Dorsett, the Secretary General of Dominica NOC who was viewing the region's sporting facilities for Dominica's Pre-Games Training; in Hertfordshire he visited boxing and athletics facilities. The HRFWP team are in discussions with other NOC's too, with a view to securing additional teams for the county prior to London 2012 and the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, 2014.

After the St Kitts & Nevis NOC signed a MOU with HRFWP for Pre-Games Training in the county, Worrell D. Nero the legal advisor to the St. Kitts & Nevis NOC was hosted on a visit to Hertfordshire's training facilities as they SKNOC begin to plan in detail for their athlete's training ahead of the Games.

The Herts 2012 Ambassador, John Fuller, Manager Gareth Morgan and Chairman of the Board Derrick Ashley are attending a reception hosted by the Premier of the British Virgin Islands, The Hon. Ralph T O'Neil to formally recognise the partnership between BVI NOC and Herts is Ready For Winners and also to explore the opportunities to develop further links between the two regions.



My Stay in Aston

As a BVI athlete my sights were set for the C.A.C (Central American and Caribbean games) games in Puerto Rico, but before that I made a 6 week pit stop to Aston.

As this is my first time in the UK, I didn't know what to expect, so I was walking into this situation blindfolded. I didn't know anyone, where I was staying, who my coach was going to be and what my training accommodations were going to be like. Thankfully I was taught a long time ago to make the best of every situation and be open minded to the world.

It didn't take very long for me to settle in and meet the villagers and my host family. The villagers of Aston did a wonderful job in making me feel right at home! Immediately within the next few weeks I met everyone, including the participants that volunteered to open their homes to potential Olympians from the BVI in an "acclimatization project". Besides Freakish weather and a ray of sunshine that lasted a week, everything was fantastic. Each family that hosted me on a week to week basis made me feel comfortable and right at home. I had a "whistle-stop" tour of London, learned some history and enjoyed fish and chips! (delicious). For the past couple of weeks, I was able to see massive improvements in my training and would like to thank my coach, Malcolm Wallace for sticking by my side through the sweat and pain of it all and helping me in any way possible. I would like to say that the project so far has been successful and I'm glad that I was the first to take part in it. I am very impressed with Aston and hope that they continue to extend their warmth to the rest of my country.

Special Thanks to; The Parkers and Anyone who had a part in making this project possible. To the host families and nice people at the barbeques, Lee Valley Athletics Centre for opening their doors to me and allowing me to train there, Hertfordshire University Sports Complex (physio, Strength and Conditioning staff), BVI AA and Olympic Committee and My Family for tremendous support..... Anyone else I met along the way, thank you!!!!

Eric Matthias Jr.
Discus Thrower
British Virgin Islands



Also in the news....

During their recent stop-over in London on their way home to the Caribbean after competing at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi the 13 strong St Vincent Commonwealth Games team managed to miss their connection to St. Vincent and were stranded at Gatwick airport for 24 hours with no money, no food and no accommodation! Frantic telephone calls back to the NOC headquarters in St Vincent resulted in a call to the HRFWP team for assistance. Hertfordshire is Ready For Winners came to the rescue using our contacts within the hotel and travel industries to sort them out with food, transport and accommodation at very short notice. Fully rested and refreshed, the team managed to secure flights home the next day and were grateful for our assistance.

