Lanarkshire International Children's Games 2011

November 2009

What are the International Children's Games?

- Background to ICG
- Lanarkshire involvement
- Lanarkshire success

ICG background

- Annual sporting event for 12-15 year-olds, recognised by the International Olympic Committee
- Founded by Yugoslavian Metod Klemenc in 1968
- His vision to promote understanding, peace and harmony among young people worldwide with an annual sporting event
- Lanarkshire's joint bid for 2011 Games, by North and South Lanarkshire Councils, each committing £1m - awarded by International Committee in San Francisco July 2008

Lanarkshire's bid

We've won!

14 NEWS

THE SCOTSMAN

FIONA MACLEOD
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

Sporting coup as Scotland wins bid to host children's 'mini Olympics'

Lanarkshire will play host to a variety of events that swep and to inspire young and young athletes to step up to the Commonwealth Games in 2014

IN NUMBERS

1966
Year the first International Children's Games were held in Celje, Slovenia.

2011
Year Lanarkshire will host the games – the first time they have come to Scotland.

44
Force the game have been held at other around the world.

33,500
Number of young schoolboys who have taken part in the games since their inception.

1954
Year Metal Mickey – Scottish, founder of the International Children's Games, was born.

72
Number of countries which have sent teams over

Marketing and communications

- Communications strategy
- Extensive media coverage – local, national and international
- Capitalising on celebrity and political supporters
- ICG 2011 website, ICGtv online
- ICG touring bus with interactive displays

Celebrity/political supporters

High visibility in Lanarkshire

International publicity

Distributed throughout Lanarkshire, Scotland and the world

Lanarkshire 2011 bus

6
SouthLanarkshireView
Team spirit in action

SouthLanarkshireView
7
Emma scores Games hat-trick

4
SouthLanarkshireView
Magnificent 7
That's the fantastic number of medals Team Lanarkshire won at the 43rd International Children's Games in Athens
Home of the International Children's Games 2011

SouthLanarkshireView
5
'All of our young athletes were wonderful ambassadors for Lanarkshire'
Home of the International Children's Games 2011

Keeping you informed
SouthLanarkshireView
July 2009
Lanimer 2009
Picture special – centre pages
COUNCIL HONOUR HOSPICE CHARITY CHAMP – PAGE 3 ● FAMILY CENTRE HELPS TEEN MUMS – PAGES 10/11 ● SLTV – PAGE 15
Team Lanarkshire is ...
Pride of Scotland
Read all about their heroics at the International Children's Games in Athens – pages 4,5,6 & 7
Home of the International Children's Games 2011

Athens 2009

Sports News

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GIRLS STRIKE ATHENS GOLD

By Paul Thomson

EAST Kilbride athletes were on top form at the weekend as Emma Brown and Rachel Whittle brought home gold medals from the International Children's Games in Athens.

Fifteen-year-old Emma from St Leonards and 14-year-old Rachel from Crutherland Case were part of the Lanarkshire 4x100m girls' relay team that stormed to victory in the Greek capital on Friday evening.

It was Emma's third Children's Games – after a string of great performances in San Francisco last year and Reykjavik in 2007 – but it was Rachael's first crack at the event dubbed the 'mini Olympics.'

And the local track star was thrilled with her opening effort. She said: "It feels amazing to have won gold in my first time competing at the Children's Games. Unfortunately, it will be my only time at them as I'll be too old next year but I had a great time in Athens.

"I'm gutted about that because there was a great atmosphere with everyone in the Lanarkshire team cheering us on in the final."

The Lanarkshire relay team – which also included 14-year-old Arlene Barr from Cambuslang (who runs for East Kilbride Athletic Club) and 13-year-old Mhairi Hendry from Motherwell – blasted the opposition away in a time of 49.77 seconds in an action-packed final day at the competition.

Rachael was *the* Lanarkshire track-star of the event as she picked up three medals. To add to her gold in the relay, Rachel turned her attention to the high jump and picked up her first medal of the day with a 1.59m leap to secure bronze.

Following that, Rachel then dashed across the track for the 100m sprint and blasted home in a time of 12.46s to pick up silver with Emma missing bronze by a whisker in 12.83s.

But Friday morning saw the Lanarkshire team storm into the final of the 4x100m just behind favourites Singapore.

And by the evening Arlene, Emma, Mhairi and Rachel were back on the track for the race of their lives.

Arlene blasted from the blocks in the final, provided a flawless pass to Rachel, who flew down the back straight before handing over to 800m runner Mhairi. The 800m specialist stormed round the curve like a veteran sprinter before handing over to Emma, who took the baton neck-and-neck with Singapore and the USA.

Emma, roared on by the Lanarkshire squad and supporters, tore away to smash the clock in 49.77 seconds to bring the curtain down on her third successive year at the Games.

A delighted Emma, whose team ran the fastest race by a Scots team this year, told the *News* this week: "I've been very lucky to have taken part in the previous two Games but nothing was as exciting as the relay on Friday night.

"The atmosphere was electric, and when I got the baton from Mhairi I heard the crowd roar and just ran as fast as I could. When I crossed the finishing line the four of us had a big hug. It meant so much to us to win.

"Rachel had a fantastic day, winning three medals, we were all delighted for her, but that's what makes the Games so special – you go as a team, and you compete as a team.

"To run the final leg in my last race was extra special and something I will always remember and thanks go to the work that Yvonne Murray and Jim Goldie put in as they prepared us for Athens.

"I can't wait for the Games to come to Lanarkshire in 2011 and I will be there to cheer on all the athletes."

● Turn to page 95 for more ICG coverage.

GOLDEN GIRLS: Lanarkshire's relay team – back row: Emma Brown, Arlene Barr; front row: Mhairi Henry, Rachael Whittle – celebrate winning their gold medal in the 4x100m with team managers Yvonne Murray and Jim Goldie.

What a relay superb effort they put in

TRACK star Rachel Whittle praised the Lanarkshire squad's team spirit after her success at the International Children's Games in Athens over the weekend.

The 14-year-old – whose father is former British 400 metre runner Brian Whittle – picked up three medals in Athens as she was crowned the most successful Scottish athlete of the games.

In her first-ever Children's Games, Rachel took bronze in the high jump, clearing 1m 59cm. Then she ran 12.46s in the 100m final to take silver, a race in which St Leonards runner Emma Brown came fourth, before taking gold in the 4x100m relay.

And the Calderglen athlete couldn't believe the support she received during the four-day event.

She told the *News*: "There was a great atmosphere every time I competed, but the last day was just brilliant. The team spirit we had was amazing and everybody came down to support us during the relay race.

"Everyone from Lanarkshire was down at the track watching us and the noise was incredible – we all felt we had to run faster because of it.

"The football team were there cheering us on and then we went and watched the football, so we were just one big team.

"It was crazy out there and our coaches Yvonne Murray and Jim Goldie did a great job of keeping us calm. They gave us great support and didn't let us get carried away."

Rachel returned home to Scotland on Sunday still bouncing from a great performance at the 43rd Games, but all the celebrations took their toll on the youngsters.

She explained: "We were all screaming and shouting so much after winning the gold medal that I've lost my voice a bit.

"I'm all croaky with a sore throat but I'm okay. When I got home all my family and friends wanted to talk to me about it but I was so tired that I just wanted to sleep.

"But I had a great time and it's disappointing that I will be too old for the next Games in 2010.

"Now I will look forward to going to Ireland for the British Schools event in the coming months."

HEROES COME HOME: the girls 4x100m relay team and their team managers arrive back from Athens. Left to right: Yvonne Murray, Mhairi Hendry, Arlene Barr, Emma Brown, Rachel Whittle and Jim Goldie.

Victory will bond them forever says Brian Whittle – and he should know!

By Paul Thomson

BRIAN Whittle insists the girls' relay team will be "linked forever" after their gold medal-winning performance at the International Children's Games in Athens.

The 45-year-old former British 400 metre runner was delighted for the Lanarkshire athletes after his daughter Rachel, Emma Brown, Arlene Barr and Mhairi Hendry raced to the top spot in the 4x100m relay.

And Whittle, who won 4x400m relay gold at the European Championships in 1986 with Derek Redmond, Kriss Akabusi and Roger Black, believes the youngsters will always remember their moment in Athens.

He told the *News*: "There are moments in your life that go with you forever more and this will be one of them for the girls.

"I was at a function down south with Roger Black and Kris Akabusi when Rachel was running in the race – and all they wanted to know was how Rachel was getting on. They kept asking me about it.

"After all these years we still meet up. A whole 25 years on we still talk about our time together and we are all interested in how each other is getting on and how our kids are getting on, so I think these girls will be linked for evermore after winning that gold medal.

"It was a magnificent effort from all of them."

Whittle was surprised at how well his daughter performed in her first International Children's Games.

He added: "It's rare that in your first performance at a major Games that you perform at your best – usually it's an overwhelming experience – but the way Rachel performed was amazing.

"Going from the high jump to track events and managing to stay calm was great. Then to go on to the 100 metres, run a personal best and set the fastest time by a Scottish under 17-year-old this year was fantastic.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of her.

"Before the Games the coaches all believed the girls could run 49 seconds and that's what they did.

"A lot of praise has to go the Lanarkshire team. They looked after all the kids exceptionally well and I want to give a huge thanks to Yvonne and Jim – two old mackers of mine – who were immense throughout."

Team Lanarkshire can now look forward to the next Children's Games in Bahrain in 2010, before the event comes to the slightly cooler climes of Lanarkshire in 2011.

LIKE FATHER, LIKE DAUGHTER: Brian and Rachel Whittle.

Who will come to Lanarkshire in 2011?

- 45 countries 90+ cities involved
- 1500 young people and 300+ coaches
- From 12 - 15 years of age
- Competing in:

Swimming	Tennis	Golf
Football	Athletics	Sailing
Badminton	Volleyball	Judo

What are the practical issues?

- Accommodation
  - St. Andrew's / St. Bride's, EK
  - Holy Cross High School, Hamilton
  - Dalziel HS, Motherwell
  - St. Andrew's, Coatbridge
- Transport
- Sports venues
  - Dollan Aqua Centre
  - John Wright SC
  - Hamilton Palace Sports Ground
  - Hamilton GC
  - Esporta, Hamilton
  - Strathclyde Park
  - Wishaw SC
  - Ravenscraig
- Catering
- Entertainment
- Security
- Tourism opportunities

Opportunity for community involvement

- Schools
- Sports clubs
- Volunteers
- Regenfx
- UC in Lanarkshire
- Lanarkshire Future Jobs Funds Project

Partnership support

- NHS Lanarkshire
- Strathclyde Police
- **sport**scotland
- EventScotland
- Glasgow Commonwealth Games 2014
- Scottish Government
- Voluntary sector

2011 working groups

Legacy

- Introduction of County Games
- Development staff
- Links with Commonwealth Games 2014
- Links to Wider Health Agenda
- Conference – annual event

ICG Athens 2009
24 to 28 June

- 25 Team Lanarkshire participants
- Sports:

Swimming	3 Bronze medals
Football	Runners up
Athletics	1 Gold, 1 Silver, 2 Bronze medals
Tennis	

Team Lanarkshire at Athens 2009

Team Lanarkshire at Athens 2009

Questions

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