

# Pre Games Training In Wales - Newsletter

December 2009



## Southern Hemisphere Treble for Wales!

***South Africa has become the latest country to choose Wales as a location for pre Games training with the announcement that the South African Paralympic team will be coming to Cardiff before the Paralympic Games in London 2012.***

South Africa joins Australia and New Zealand in Wales, both of whose Paralympic teams had previously announced that they will be based here before the Games. The decision by the South African Sport Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC) to choose Cardiff as their Paralympic team's base came after months of negotiation and hard work behind the scenes, and in the face of stiff competition from London and Leeds. To put this announcement into perspective, to-date 16 nations have signed agreements with different parts of the UK to stage pre-games training camps for 2012 and many of those agreements are either for very small Olympic and Paralympic teams or agreements made by individual sports - not multi sport camps that involve large numbers of athletes and support staff. Wales now has almost one-fifth of UK agreements to date, and all ours are large multi-sport camps. This means around 500 team members will be based in Wales prior to the Paralympics.

The South African team is likely to include many high-profile Paralympians including Oscar 'Blade runner' Pistorius, the double amputee sprinter and world-record holder in the 100, 200 and 400 metres, and amputee swimmer Natalie De Toit, who last year became the first amputee to qualify for the Olympic Games since 1928. She came 16th in the 10K Olympic open water swim in Beijing, before going on to compete in the Paralympics, where she repeated the feat of winning 5 Paralympic gold medals that she achieved in Athens four years previously.



## **PARTNERSHIP APPROACH**

The success in attracting the Aussies, Kiwis and South Africans was the result of a partnership approach between key agencies including facility providers, Swansea, Newport and Cardiff City Council, Disability Sports Wales the Welsh Assembly Government. On behalf of all partners, we would like to thank everyone that has contributed to this success. We are now in the process of building the perfect environment for their 2012 preparations which will ensure athletes, coaches and management are provided with the infrastructure and support they will require to perform with distinction at the Games.

## **INTERNATIONAL VISITS**

**The Welsh Assembly Government Major Events Unit thanks all those who have contributed towards efforts in attracting visits from National Olympic and Paralympic representatives to Wales over the last six months.** We've hosted officials from Australia, New Zealand, India, Belarus, Papua New Guinea, Japan, Slovakia, USA and South Africa who have enquired about training in Wales.

We have been informed by many teams that they are making final preparations for the Winter Olympic Games next February and the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and that following these events will focus their attention on London 2012 Pre-Games Training destinations.

**Please contact David Evans at the address below to request a comprehensive list of countries with which we have established links to date.**

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, in order to attract athletes and team to all parts of Wales we need your help and involvement. We ask you to use the international contacts you have to help us initiate discussion with more countries. Anyone who is in any way connected to or could have a lead into National Olympic or Paralympic Committees worldwide could make a difference.

For example, Governing Bodies in Wales will most certainly have international contacts with National Coaches who are arguably best placed to sell what we have to offer to other nations. Athletes, Governing Body international administrators, referees and judges can also make the most of their contacts when representing Wales and/or GB internationally. Local Authorities can also play a part, particularly those that are twinned with regions around the world. Contacts don't necessarily need to be sport related. Many agreements signed to date across the nations and regions of the UK have been initiated by associations made in the Higher Education sector. Others have been prompted by cultural or political connections. Those contacts may be able to facilitate an approach to the country's Olympic or Paralympic Committee on our behalf, and to provide a recommendation to discuss with us further or ideally to visit Wales to see what we have to offer first hand.

### **LOCOG Pre Games Training Grants - UP TO £25,000**

**LOCOG has created an online PGTC Guide ([www.london2012.com/trainingcamps](http://www.london2012.com/trainingcamps)) which provides information relating to over 600 LOCOG selected high quality training venues throughout the UK. In addition, LOCOG has committed to offer a financial contribution of up to £25,000 (exc VAT) to every eligible NOC/NPC which chooses to bring athletes and coaches to prepare in any of the accredited facilities included in the PGTC Guide. Details of how NOC/NPCs may benefit from this contribution can be found by clicking on the following links.**

#### **PGTC Financial Contribution Guidelines**

<http://trainingcamps.london2012.com/about-our-training-camps/financial-award.aspx>

## FACILITY SPECIFIC MARKETING

The London Games Organising Committee (LOCOG) has provided valuable 'participation by nation' statistics from the Beijing Games, which is available by clicking the following link

[Participation by nation statistics](#)

This data allows us to examine which nations competed in which sports during the Beijing Games, and provides us with an opportunity to match our existing facility resources with target nations on a regional or facility specific basis. The North East Wales region is actively involved in this process and has developed a shortlist of target nations based on their facility scope and existing contacts. A PGT group with representation from North West and North East Wales has recently been formed to consider further on a collaborative basis.

Single sport venues (e.g. Aberystwyth University - Mountain Biking, Cardiff International Canoeing Centre, Pwllhelli Sailing Club etc are advised to look at the participation data to identify the nations that competed in Beijing and are likely to compete again in London. Following this exercise, the appropriate performance contact in the National Sports Federations can be contacted directly and

sent facility specific marketing material. Again, David will help in this process wherever he can.



## OTHER OLYMPIC NEWS

Excitement surrounding the Games will rise to fever pitch as we edge nearer towards 2012. Catering for the requirements of incoming teams provides many legacy opportunities for sport in Wales with organisations from public and private sector wanting to get involved. The following are examples of projects, some of which are underway and others in the early stages of development. More examples will appear in the next newsletter.

### 1. **Physiotherapists supporting athletes across all abilities**

The programme will involve the engagement of trained volunteer physiotherapy/massage support for disability sport at all levels across Wales in preparation for the demand in 2012. It will also promote safe exercise participation throughout Wales. The experience will also provide physios with a relatively rare opportunity for practical experience of high level sports participation and promote a sense of personal contribution and participation in the success of the London 2012 Olympics. The outcome of the programme would provide both general and specialised volunteer physiotherapists at different levels who will be able to perform the tasks necessary to assist in the smooth running of the holding camps and training venues, assisting in the therapeutic management of athletes, or independently deliver First Aid, physiotherapy and sports massage where needed, depending on team needs. The project has recently been awarded the L2012 Inspire Mark.

### 2. **Oscar Pistorius 'Blade Runner'**

The Welsh Assembly Government is hoping that South African Paralympic legends Oscar Pistorius and Natalie Du Toit will visit Wales to promote the decision of the South African Paralympic Team to base itself here for Pre Games Training. During the visit, we are hoping that Oscar will visit local schools and communities and help inspire people to choose sport and promote the ideals of the Paralympic movement.

### 3. **L2012 Games Sponsors**

WAG is in discussion with various 2012 Games sponsors with the aim to negotiate added value for PGT camps and provide a Games related experience for staff that want to be involved. It is hoped that this will provide a boost to the Games volunteering and sports development legacy.

#### 4. Events

The opportunity for international athletes to take part in events in the lead in to London 2012 is an important part of pre games preparation. The Welsh Assembly Government is looking to work with Welsh Governing Bodies in identifying appropriate events which can be developed to offer a pre L2012 Games competitive opportunity for our international visitors. A programme of pre London 2012 events would provide the opportunity for schools and local communities to see and experience Olympic and Paralympic athletes in Wales whilst providing further opportunities for volunteering, skills and training.

#### 5. Athlete/Coach Exchange Programmes

Worldwide links in sport creates the opportunity for international athlete and coach exchange programmes. With the International Canoe Slalom course opening in Cardiff in early 2010, the Welsh Canoeing Union is exploring the possibility of exchange programmes with the Slovak Olympic Committee. The Slovaks are the world's best slalom canoeists including the current Olympic Champion Michal Martikan.

#### SAVE THE DATES:

**Olympic Games – 27 July – 12 August 2012**

**Paralympic Games – 29 August – 9 September 2012**

Due to the fact that some venues take conference bookings years in advance, it is worth noting the dates of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is worth bearing in mind that Olympic and Paralympic Committees could require facilities up to one month before the Games.

It is understood that it's not an easy decision to delay on conference bookings and potentially lose business in the hope that you will attract an Olympic or Paralympic team, particularly due to the fact that many nations will leave L2012 preparation plans until late in the day. Working on the basis that your facility may be required for Pre-Games training up to a month before both Games start, will allow you to take a balanced decision.

#### PGT LINKS

The official London 2012 Pre Games Training Camp Guide can be found at:  
[www.london2012.com/trainingcamps](http://www.london2012.com/trainingcamps)

London 2012 Starts Here...

The online version of the updated L2012 Starts Here brochure can be found by clicking the following link:  
<http://www.meetings.visitwales.com/server.php?show=nav.9327>

Major Events Website and previous newsletter copies can be found on the WAG Major Events Website:  
<http://www.visitwales.co.uk/things-to-do-in-wales/major-events/olympics-london-2012/>

For further information on any items mentioned above, please contact:

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