

For The Glory Of Sport

*The story of the
Commonwealth
Games
from 1930 to 2014*

By Bob Phillips

Author's Note

The Commonwealth Games have always been particularly close to my heart in a lifetime of a passionate interest in sport. I saw them for the first time as a teenage fan in Cardiff in 1958 – when they were still known as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games – and was captivated then by the marvellous deeds of the athletes on a cinder track fitted tightly round the hallowed turf of the celebrated Arms Park rugby-football ground. Lithe and lightning-fast sprinters from the Caribbean islands, rugged middle-distance and long-distance runners from Australia and New Zealand, a gloriously fluent quarter-miler from India, jumpers and throwers from what then seemed such exotic far-flung corners of the globe as Fiji, North Borneo and Singapore – it was all intensely exciting and laid the foundations for what would be for me many more such delightful adventures to come as a professional journalist and broadcaster.

Even so, there were only 35 countries competing at those Games of more than half-a-century ago. In Glasgow this year there will be twice that number. The Games have grown out of all recognition, but in the process of so doing they have managed to maintain an intimacy – even a coziness, if you like – which so many of the other forms of international sport have long since shunned in the relentless interests of commercialism. This is a favoured theme of mine which you will find recurring throughout this history of the Commonwealth Games – call me old-fashioned, if you wish, but there are inherent qualities of fair play, of sportsmanship, of comradely competition among members of a vastly extended but affectionate family, which have survived over more than 80 years at these Games, though not entirely unscathed, and they are not widely in evidence elsewhere these days.

One of the numerous other Commonwealth Games gatherings which I attended was also in Scotland – in Edinburgh in 1986 – and there, sadly, political pressures forced more than half of the competing countries to withdraw, and the closing day was a dismal affair as we all wondered whether there ever would be another such Games. Happily, that crisis was resolved and the Games restored, though not entirely unblemished. The most recent in the series – in India in 2010 – were hailed at their finish by the governing hierarchies of sport as yet another triumph, but that tends to be a knee-jerk reaction after every major sporting event. With sponsors to appease maybe they would say that, wouldn't they? The reality was that many of the best athletes stayed away for various reasons, mostly of a mercenary nature, and the majority of the track and field events were rather humdrum. Though other sports among the wide range on the Commonwealth Games schedule mainly lived up to expectations, it was the quality of the athletics by which the Games were judged – just as at the Olympics – and on that occasion four years ago this was found wanting. It did not help matters, too, that half-a-dozen or so athletes were caught out either then or soon after for drug-taking.

Assuredly, it will be a different story in Glasgow, and there are graphic examples from the mists of historic time to provide inspiration, though in all probability not a single competitor in Glasgow in 2014 will be aware of these – and nor, for that matter, will be any of the tens of thousands of spectators, or even all but a very few of the most studious athletics enthusiasts. A century and a decade ago the finest distance-runner in the World, Alfred Shrubbs, came to Glasgow intent on setting a new record for two miles and succeeded admirably on the afternoon of 11 June 1904, beating the time which he himself had achieved the previous year. Unfortunately, his deed went largely unnoticed, as was dourly reported by the special correspondent for the "Glasgow Herald": "By their indifference the Glasgow public missed the treat of a lifetime on Saturday afternoon. No doubt, had they been assured

that Shrubbs would lower his own time for two miles, Ibrox Park would have been taxed to its utmost; for, after all, the Glasgow public are fond of sensational sport”.

Shrubbs, undeterred, broke the four miles record in Glasgow two days later and then returned to the city in unseasonal November and ran the furthest distance ever in an hour, breaking six other records en route. It would be rather too much to expect “sensational sport” in such abundance in Glasgow this summer, but what is already guaranteed – judging by the advance ticket sales – is that at all the Games venues in and around the city there will be no lack of folk ready and eager for some “treats of a lifetime”.

Affirming the fair play spirit more than 80 years on, but what does the future hold for the “Friendly Games”?

“To promote a unique, friendly, world class Commonwealth Games and to develop sport for the benefit of the people, the nations and the territories of the Commonwealth and thereby strengthen the Commonwealth” – *the vision of the Commonwealth Games Federation as expressed in its constitution.*

It was in 1930 that the member-countries of what was then the British Empire first came together in Hamilton, Ontario, in the interests of co-ordinated sporting competition, and the idea of their so doing had been proposed almost 40 years earlier than that. Now, in 2014, it is something of a marvel that the Commonwealth Games exist at all. Having taken an inordinately long time to be created in the first place, they have been sustained when they ought, in any realistic assessment, to have been swept brutally away by a torrent of political and economic issues and an increasingly demanding schedule of major Championships (Olympic, World, European) as sport has become progressively more professionalised. Their failure has been anticipated more than once, and yet they still find a place in the sporting calendar and in the hearts and minds of the thronging crowds which have attended, to say nothing of the competitors, officials, volunteers, politicians and – not least in importance in this commercialised day and age – financial sponsors. This year these resilient Commonwealth Games take place in Scotland for the third time since 1970, and that in itself is a particular cause for celebration considering that it was in Scotland 28 years ago that they almost foundered.

It was an astonishing achievement that these Games should even have begun at all, as they did in the midst of a Worldwide economic depression, and their realisation was not helped by the fact that those in charge of English sport, in their self-importance, had shown no great enthusiasm for the original proposal. Yet they soon came round to the idea of supporting the venture and sent a team to the inaugural Games of 1930 which was almost as large as that of the Canadian hosts. Then, when the delegates from the various interested countries met at the 1932 Olympics to confirm the venue for the second Empire Games in 1934, and courageously concluded that their original choice of South Africa would have to be changed because of that country’s oppressive policy of apartheid, it was the English authorities who offered their services as hosts. Another major difficulty to be encountered in 1938, and again in 1950 after wartime disruption, was the great expense of the long journeys to Australia and New Zealand for the vast majority of the competing countries.

Then, even as the British Empire was crumbling and political obligations were being severely re-aligned, there came what can now be seen as a Golden Era for these Games. From 1954, when it was back to Canada and the year of Bannister and Landy's "Miracle Mile", to 1958 and the resplendence of the famed Cardiff Arms Park rugby-football ground, and at further celebrations through to 1982 in Australia, Jamaica, Scotland, New Zealand, Canada and again Australia, the Games flourished. New cultures, new influences and a new and heady independence for so many of the members of the "old" Empire ought really to have dictated otherwise, but the Games pragmatically moved with the times to accommodate a changing World. More than merely as a symbolic gesture, the title was regularly altered from "British Empire Games", as it had been from 1930 to 1950, to "British Empire & Commonwealth Games", as it became from 1954 to 1966, and was further significantly modified to "British Commonwealth Games" in 1970 and 1974, and then simply to "Commonwealth Games" from 1978 onwards.

South Africa had taken its leave of the Commonwealth after 1958, besmirched by that scourge of apartheid, but still exercised an unhealthy external influence to the extent that throughout the 1970s and 1980s each Games in succession was threatened with a boycott by the countries of Asia, the Caribbean and Central Africa, and this came to reality in Edinburgh in 1986. Another proposed South African rugby-football tour of New Zealand, together with the British Government's refusal in response to impose economic sanctions, fired up a host of teams to withdraw, and a grey and windswept midsummer at the Meadowbank athletics stadium, playing gloomy host to what was little more than a match between the Home Countries, Canada and Oceania, was discouraging for all – even if athletes such as Steve Cram, Rob de Castella, Lisa Martin, Daley Thompson and a certain Ben Johnson did produce World-class performances in spite of everything. A tawdry closing ceremony reached its nadir when the benefactor who had apparently saved the Games from financial disaster made a pompous appearance on the track to a sycophantic introduction by a title-winning athlete who, one could say charitably, allowed enthusiasm to over-rule sense. The patron was the controversial publisher, Robert Maxwell, who was to die in mysterious circumstances five years later.

Yet if he had not stepped in to underwrite the affair we might not now be looking forward eagerly to the next Games celebration in Glasgow – the 20th in the series. Certainly, it was all refreshingly exhilarating when athletes of the calibre of Linford Christie, Colin Jackson, Merlene Ottey and Liz McColgan cheerfully turned up out-of-season in Auckland in the January of 1990 to give their blessing and their golden presence to the Games and help restore their status as a major athletics fixture. Such enthusiastic support was of the utmost significance because athletics has remained ever since 1930 the major sport – the cornerstone – of the Games and the barometer of its success. Yet at the last two Commonwealth celebrations, in 2006 and 2010, the track and field super-stars have tended to stay away, reserving themselves for the big-money Grand Prix meetings, and standards have slipped in their absence. Hopefully, the Glasgow entry-lists will reverse the trend.

Swimming, though often more productive in World-record terms, remained for many years largely a preserve of the "old" Empire, and even with more and more countries taking part – 42 of them in 2010 – the medals still very largely go to the major powers ... well, to be perfectly accurate, to Australia. Thus it has been other lesser-regarded sports such as badminton, boxing, shooting and weight-lifting which have given the smaller and newer countries most of their opportunities for golden glory. However much Linford Christie and those other sporting super-stars contributed to the preservation of the Games, it was the return in 1990 of the teams from Africa and the Caribbean that had stayed away from Edinburgh four years before that gladdened the heart most of all.

In 1994 it was on to another marvellously hospitable and scenic setting in that most sublime of cities, Victoria, British Columbia, to be followed by a first infusion of Asian exuberance provided by the gregarious and wildly enthusiastic citizens of Kuala Lumpur in 1998 at a Games set in breathtakingly grandiose sporting complexes. A few of the athletics events on the latter occasion were a bit thin on the ground, and the sparse gaggle of marathon-runners gathering before dawn in a deserted city-centre square presented something of a forlorn sight. Yet even in such unpromising circumstances there was an historic reward for the patient few onlookers along the streets as a sinewy little man from the land-locked Southern African nation of Lesotho won his country's first ever gold medal. Even those who considered the introduction of team games to be a pandering to base popularity would surely have been won over by the exhilarating if bizarre spectacle at the rugby-union sevens tournament of the awesomely powerful New Zealand All-Black, Jonah Lomu, shaking off brave but puny would-be tacklers from the Cook Islands like raindrops off a cape, or of spindly Malaysian hockey players vainly scampering to and fro as the bronzed and battle-hardened Aussies ran Olympic-sized rings round them.

In 2002 the Games returned to England after an absence of 68 years, and rather contrary to expectations Manchester put on a glorious show. There was no lack of gloomy prediction beforehand. Would it rain? Would the best of the athletes reluctantly tear themselves away from that money-making merry-go-round of Grand Prix meetings to run, jump and throw merely for the honour of it? Would the public give the competitors the support they deserve? Would Mancunians, who were so readily familiar with footballing and cricketing endeavour of the very highest level on their doorsteps each Saturday afternoon, recognise the Commonwealth Games for what they are in all truth – a cheerful quadrennial family gathering of sportsmen and sportswomen, most of them of moderate ability by the highest international standards and virtually unknown outside their native lands? As a matter of interest, it was not actually the first time the Games had been to Manchester, and there might well have been some local octogenarians who vaguely recalled that long ago in their youth they had been taken along to watch the day of cycle-racing at the city's Fallowfield Stadium which formed part of the Games of 1934 because London did not have a suitable track for those events.

Still, Manchester confounded all the sceptics. Evening after evening the newly-built athletics stadium in one of the less salubrious areas of the city was packed with 38,000 spectators, eager to applaud anything and everything which moved around the track and on the infield set before them. All the seating at the gymnastics hall in the city centre was sold out long before the Games began, and who could possibly have foreseen that some 50,000 people would turn up at the regenerated Salford Quays to watch an event which had seemed in danger of becoming defunct in Britain – race-walking? No one among the mass of eager onlookers in the stadium grandstands or on the roadside was too concerned with the level of performance. It was genuine full-blooded competition which they had come to watch, not orchestrated races with tawdry pacemakers, as had become the stale custom in Grand Prix athletics – and it was competition they most definitely got.

How astonishing an experience it must have been for the likes of Mick Jones, the 58th-ranked hammer-thrower in the World, to have every one of his efforts wildly cheered to the echo by tens of thousands of voices as he won a surprising victory for England! He was far more accustomed to taking part in meetings where his event was hurriedly concluded before most of the spectators had even arrived, so that the 16lb steel ball-and-chain hurtling through the air would cause no hazard. For his rudimentary preparation he spent his time training in isolation in a friendly farmer's field. For a glorious hour or so one sunny afternoon in

Manchester he revelled in an experience which would make wondrous tales for generations of his family to come.

Then again in Melbourne in 2006, where the athletics events and the opening and closing ceremonies took place in the same Cricket Ground stadium which had hosted the Olympic Games of 50 years before, the spectators turned up in their hundreds of thousands – more than 700,000, to be precise – avid to see Aussies triumph, and triumph they did. Like some cricket scoreboard, the medal tally for the range of 17 sports showed that the hosts were almost twice as good as the visiting “Poms” from England, to the tune of 221 to 113, but it was of rather more significance for the long-term health of the Games that there were medals for 37 other countries, including 22 of golden hue for India alone, placing 4th overall among the competing nations, and other wins for such as Cyprus, Ghana, the Isle of Man, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda. “Common wealth”, indeed, in the full meaning of the word!

A further illustration of the universality of these Games was provided by the Seychelles, a collection of 115 granite and coral islands in the Indian Ocean, with a population of only 84,000, whose first ever medal in any sport was earned in the women’s long jump by Céline Laporte. As it happens, apart from the Australian winner, the standard in this event was unexceptional, but as just three centimetres separated the competitors in the next five placings, and they came from five different countries and four different continents, it could certainly be said that the Commonwealth spirit was alive and well. The award for the outstanding competitor of all sports at those Games went to a pistol marksman from India, Samaresh Jung, and it was that country which made the most vivid impression at the closing ceremony with a “Bollywood-style” extravaganza as a curtain-raiser to their hosting of the 2010 Games.

No one among the 400 or so competitors and officials in attendance when the Games had begun in 1930 could possibly have imagined that the venture would one day lead to an 80th anniversary celebration in the city of New Delhi, and that it would bring together 71 different national teams. It was at the Commonwealth Games Federation meeting of November 2003 that New Delhi had been awarded the honour of staging the Games by an overwhelming margin of 46 votes to 22, and the identity of the vanquished rival city brought the history of the Games full circle, because it was the venue at those first Games of all – Hamilton, Ontario.

In welcoming the decision the chairman of the Indian Olympic Association, Suresh Kalmadi M.P., proclaimed ambitiously that Delhi’s bid was “the best for India, the best for the respective national associations, but most importantly the best for the athletes”. Yet, beset in advance by avid media reports of excessive costs, construction delays, impending monsoon rains, inferior accommodation for the competitors, corruption among officials, terrorist threats and the absence of so many star performers (sprinter de luxe Usain Bolt most prominent among them), these Games seemed blighted from the start, and it did not help matters that attendances at the earlier events were disappointingly sparse. Of course, a vividly orchestrated opening ceremony – costing an estimated £77 million – had put a gloss on the occasion, and in the end the enduring spirit of the “Friendly Games” seemed to have prevailed despite all the shortcomings. Only a couple of World records were broken, and the blue riband of the athletics events, the 100 metres, was a shade grey in tone, won for Jamaica in the absence of Bolt and the island’s six other leading sprinters by their 8th-fastest man, while the marathon went to a Kenyan who did not even rank in the top 200 in the World.

Yet there were gold medals across the range of sports for 22 different countries, including the first ever for Botswana, the Cayman Islands and Samoa. Surely, the man who had been responsible for turning the idea of an Empire Games into reality more than 80 years before, Melville Marks (“Bobby”) Robinson, would surely have been happy to have been witness to such a cosmopolitan spectacle. It was in 1891 that the idea of a competition among the British Empire’s sportsmen (certainly not sportswomen!) had been first promoted by an English journalist of strong imperialistic beliefs, John Astley Cooper, and his proposals had been detailed by him in the time-honoured gentlemanly manner of that era, a letter to “The Times”. He gained much support from some of the highest and mightiest in the land, including a future prime minister, Arthur Balfour, as a representative of Scottish interests, but such a gathering never materialised – largely because of the more widely publicised and promoted revival of the ancient Olympic Games in 1896, with the celebration of 1908 to take place in London.

Then came World War I, and so it was not until the 1920s that the Canadian Amateur Athletic Union enterprisingly revived interest in an Empire Games and commissioned Robinson, a newspaper sports editor and the national athletics team manager, to formulate some ideas. It had not been without considerable effort on Robinson’s part that the Games had eventually come about, and it maybe helped that by all accounts he was a very capable organiser and manager and was inclined to a “peppery” disposition when required despite his unassuming appearance. The decisive factor in his argument was his brilliantly inventive idea to persuade the public authorities in his home town of Hamilton to contribute towards the travelling expenses for the teams and to provide free accommodation. The city fathers put up the generous sum of \$30,000, and all credit to them for doing so at a time of such universal economic hardship. Robinson’s proposals were finally approved at a meeting of the Empire’s sports representatives in London in January 1930, with King George V providing the decisive seal of approval by agreeing to be patron, and the inaugural British Empire Games opened barely seven months later.

In a perceptive reference in his book, “Sport and the British: A Modern History”, the eminent British academic, Richard Holt, of Stirling University, points out that in the 1920s “the loosening of the formal bonds of Empire came at the same time as new economic pressures were being placed upon the relationships between the Dominions and Britain”. Whilst understandably pointing out that a mere sporting event was not going to replace such close political ties, Professor Holt suggests that “the pervasiveness of imperial propaganda between the wars created a climate where the members of the relevant sporting bodies – many of whom were active in other areas of public life – were increasingly inclined to consider organising a specifically imperial event. Growing criticism of the stridency and chauvinism of the Olympic Games also played a part. Imperial athletes sought an affirmation of the ‘fair play’ spirit”. With only occasional lapses – most recently those involving drugs abuse – that 1920s spirit of “fair play” has flourished remarkably at the Games ever since.

Bobby Robinson may not have couched his Empire Games aspirations in quite such erudite terms as those employed by Professor Holt, but there was no doubt that he was a visionary with a strong sense of imperial pride, and his hopes were enshrined in a bold statement of intent which he approved for those first Empire Games of 1930. Compared to the Olympics, he said of the Empire Games that they “should be merrier and less stern and will substitute the stimulus of novel adventure for the pressure of international rivalry”. And so the “novel adventure” returns to Scotland in 2014. It is, appropriately, a year which also commemorates the 40th anniversary of Bobby Robinson’s death at the age of 86.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

There have been reports of varying quality published about some of the editions of the Games, but very little has been written which has attempted to give some sort of reasoned over-view. For the 2002 Games in Manchester I wrote an account of athletics at the Games and compiled a handbook of medallists, but it had always been my hope to see in print an overall history of all the sports. So here it is – a truly up-to-date means of describing a sporting event first thought of more than 120 years ago! There are so many entertaining and informative stories to tell that the only problem for me in composing the text and compiling the results was what had to be, of necessity, left out for space reasons. I would have liked, for instance, to list all medallists, or even all finalists, in every event, but have settled for just the gold-medallists. As there have been 2,798 winners at the Games, and very many more gold-medallists than that if you take into consideration the numerous team events, that's quite enough statistics to be going on with!

There has been surprisingly little written in the way of authoritative accounts of the development of the Games, and in recent years there has been almost nothing, with the exception of an admirably detailed analysis of all the conceivable facts and figures published in electronic form by the Canadian author, Richard Safranyos. Scandalously, in 2010 a major sports-book publisher in India reneged on an undertaking to produce an historical overview written by a respected British author, and neither the leading Scottish publishers of books with a sporting theme nor the organisers of the 2014 Games showed interest in such a project.

In the course of research, I have made reference to my own two publications, "Honour of Empire, Glory of Sport: The History of Athletics at the Commonwealth Games" and "The Commonwealth Games: The History of all the Sports", both published by Parrs Wood Press, Manchester, in 2002. I have also found useful the following: "The Guinness Book of British Empire & Commonwealth Games Records", edited by Norris & Ross McWhirter (Guinness Superlatives, 1966); "The Official Commonwealth Games Book", edited by Peter Matthews (Commonwealth Games Consortium & Opax Publishing, 1986); "The Commonwealth Games: The First 60 Years 1930-1990", by Cleve Dheenshaw (Orca Book Publishers, Canada, 1994); "Athletics at the Commonwealth Games", by Rob Whittingham, Paul Jenes and Stan Greenberg (Umbra Athletics, 2002); and "The Commonwealth Games Factbook: 2014 Edition", by Richard Safranyos (CreateSpace Independent Publishing, 2014).

I've pored over the columns of national newspapers in Britain, Australia, Canada and New Zealand and referred to numerous official reports, team handbooks, magazines, periodicals and statistical manuals. I've also made use of work done by the late Ian Buchanan, Roger Gynn, Daniel Schamps, Dave Terry, David Thurlow, Mel Watman and other sports historians and statisticians. The Commonwealth Games authorities in Australia, Canada, England and New Zealand have also provided particular assistance.

THE SPORTS TO BE CONTESTED

The constitution of the Commonwealth Games Federation now requires that 10 sports be held at each Games: Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Hockey, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Squash Rackets, Swimming (now known under the collective title of Aquatics), Rugby Union Sevens and Weight-Lifting. All of these sports except Netball are contested by both men and women, though Boxing and Rugby Union Sevens for women have not yet been held at the Games.

Each host city can then select seven additional sports from the following: Archery, Basketball, Beach Volleyball, Canoeing, Cycling, Diving (as part of Aquatics), Gymnastics (Artistic and/or Rhythmic), Judo, Open Water Swimming (as part of Aquatics), Rowing, Sailing, Shooting, Softball, Synchronised Swimming (as part of Aquatics), Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Tennis, Ten-Pin Bowling, Triathlon and Wrestling. In addition, for elite athletes with a disability (EAD) the sports which are required to be held are Athletics, Bowls, Swimming and Weight-lifting (Power-lifting), with the further options of Basketball, Cycling (track) and Table Tennis.

The 17 sports to be contested in Glasgow in 2014 are as follows: Aquatics (Swimming, Diving), Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Cycling (Road, Track, Mountain), Gymnastics (Artistic, Rhythmic), Hockey, Judo, Lawn Bowls, Netball, Rugby Union Sevens, Shooting, Squash Rackets, Table Tennis, Triathlon, Weight-Lifting and Wrestling (Free-style). It should be noted that at some Games Swimming, Diving and Synchronised Swimming – known collectively as Aquatics – have been categorised by the organisers as separate sports, as have the two variations of Gymnastics, but this is merely a matter of convenient designation. I have listed the various Aquatic sports separately in the results published in this book.

Fully automatic timing was progressively introduced into athletics, cycling and swimming from 1958 onwards, though subject to occasional breakdowns. Field-events measurements in athletics were made in feet (ft) and inches (in) and weight-lifting measurements in pounds (lb) before 1970, and these have been listed, together with their metric conversions. If this seems pedantic, then the reason is that “imperial” measurements do not always conveniently convert to exact metric or kilogram equivalents, and it is only by giving the original result that performances can be recorded with absolute accuracy.

From 1930 to 1966 athletics and swimming events were contested at imperial distances rather than metric, though a 10 miles track cycle race for men was not replaced by 20 kilometres until 1998. For guidance, equivalent measurements are listed as follows:

50 metres = 54 yards 2 feet, 100 yards = 91.44 metres, 100 metres = 109 yards 1 foot 1 inch, 110 yards = 100.584 metres, 120 yards = 109.728 metres, 110 metres = 120 yards 10³/₄ inches, 200 yards = 182.88 metres, 200 metres = 218 yards 2 feet 2 inches, 220 yards = 201.168 metres, 400 yards = 365.76 metres, 400 metres = 437 yards 1 foot 4 inches, 440 yards = 402.336 metres, 800 metres = 874 yards 2 feet 8 inches, 880 yards = 804.672 metres, 1500 yards = 1,371.60 metres, 1500 metres = 1640 yards 1 foot 3 inches, 1650 yards = 1508.76 metres, 1 mile = 1609.344 metres, 3 miles = 4828.032 metres, 5000 metres = 3 miles 188 yards 2 inches, 6 miles = 9656.064 metres, 10,000 metres = 6 miles 376 yards 5 inches, 10 miles = 16.093km, 20 kilometres = 12 miles 752 yards, 20 miles = 32.187km, 50 kilometres = 31 miles 120 yards. The standard marathon distance is 26 miles 385 yards (42.195km), originating from the 1908 Olympic Games in London, where the race began in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

The time factors for conversion are generally accepted by track & field statisticians as being as follows: 100 yards to 100 metres, plus 0.85sec; 220 yards to 200 metres, minus 0.1sec; 440 yards to 400 metres, minus 0.3sec (men), minus 0.4sec (women); 880 yards to 800 metres, minus 0.7sec (men), minus 1.0sec (women); 3 miles to 5000 metres, plus 28sec; 6 miles to 10,000 metres, plus 58sec.

THE COMPETING COUNTRIES

At the 1926 Imperial Conference the six existing Dominions of the British Empire, which were Australia, Canada, the Irish Free State, Newfoundland, New Zealand and South Africa, had been established as “autonomous communities within the British Empire, equal in status, in no way subordinate to one another in any aspect of their domestic or external affairs, although united by a common allegiance to the Crown and freely associated as Members of the British Commonwealth of Nations”. The Statute of Westminster 1931 gave this declaration legal standing. No less than 89 differently-named countries, reflecting political changes over the years, have taken part in the Games, as follows, with the date of the first Games at which they appeared duly noted:

Aden 1962 (South Arabia in 1966), Anguilla 1998, Antigua & Barbuda 1966, Australia 1930, Bahamas 1954, Bangladesh 1978, Barbados 1958, Belize (formerly British Honduras) 1978, Bermuda 1930, British Guiana 1930 (Guyana from 1966), British Honduras 1962, Botswana 1974, Brunei Darussalam 1990, British Virgin Islands 1990, Canada 1930, Cameroon 1998, Cayman Islands 1978, Ceylon 1938 (Sri Lanka from 1972), Cook Islands 1974, Cyprus 1978, Dominica 1994, England 1930, Falkland Islands 1990, Fiji 1950, The Gambia 1970, Ghana (formerly Gold Coast) 1958, Gibraltar 1958, Gold Coast 1954 (Ghana from 1958), Grenada 1970, Guernsey 1970, Guyana (formerly British Guiana) 1966.

Hong Kong 1954, India 1934, Ireland 1930, Irish Free State 1934, Isle of Man 1958, Jamaica 1934, Jersey 1958, Kenya 1954, Kiribati 1998, Lesotho 1974, Malawi 1970, Malaya 1950 (Malaysia from 1966), Malaysia (formerly Malaya) 1966, Maldives 1994, Malta 1994, Mauritius 1958, Montserrat 1994, Mozambique 1998, Namibia 1994, Nauru 1994, Newfoundland 1930 (part of Canada from 1950), New Zealand 1930, Nigeria 1950, Niue 2002, Norfolk Island 1986, North Borneo 1958 (part of Malaysia from 1966), Northern Ireland 1934, Northern Rhodesia 1954 (Zambia from 1964), Pakistan 1954, Papua New Guinea 1966, Rhodesia 1934 (Zambia from 1964 & Zimbabwe from 1980), Rhodesia & Nyasaland 1962 (Zambia from 1964 & Zimbabwe from 1980), Rwanda 2010.

St Helena 1962, St Kitts & Nevis 1978, St Lucia 1958, St Vincent & The Grenadines 1958, Samoa (formerly Western Samoa) 1990, Sarawak 1958 (part of Malaysia from 1966), Scotland 1930, Seychelles 1990, Sierra Leone 1958, Singapore 1958, Solomon Islands 1982, South Africa 1930, South Arabia (formerly Aden) 1966, Southern Rhodesia 1934 (Zimbabwe from 1980), Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon) 1972, Swaziland 1970, Tanganyika 1958 (Tanzania from 1964), Tanzania (formerly Tanganyika) 1970, Tonga 1974, Trinidad & Tobago 1934, Turks & Caicos Islands 1978, Tuvalu 1998, Uganda 1954, Vanuatu 1982, Wales 1934, Western Samoa (now Samoa) 1974, Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia) 1966, Zimbabwe (formerly Southern Rhodesia) 1982 – note that Zimbabwe has since left the Commonwealth.

There are currently 70 associations affiliated to the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), following the withdrawal of The Gambia in 2013, and they are drawn from the following regions of the globe: Africa 17, Americas 6, Asia 8, Caribbean 15, Europe 10, Oceania 14. The six countries which have competed in every Games since 1930 are Australia, Canada, England, New Zealand, Scotland and Wales. After twice being suspended from the Commonwealth, Fiji has been invited to compete again in 2014. Among those who are not affiliated to the CGF and have yet to take part in the Games are the British Indian Ocean Territory, Christmas Island, the Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Nevis, Pitcairn Island,

Rodrigues, South Sudan (expected to compete in 2014), Tokelau (entered in 2010 but did not compete) and Zanzibar.

THE GAMES VENUES

1. Hamilton, Ontario, Canada,
16-23 August 1930 – Ist British Empire Games.
2. London and Manchester, England,
4-11 August 1934 – IInd British Empire Games.
3. Sydney, New South Wales, Australia,
5-12 February 1938 – IIIrd British Empire Games.
4. Auckland, New Zealand,
4-11 February 1950 – IVth British Empire Games.
5. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada,
30 July-7 August 1954 – Vth British Empire & Commonwealth Games.
6. Cardiff, Wales,
17-26 July 1958 – VIth British Empire & Commonwealth Games.
7. Perth, Western Australia,
21 November-1 December 1962 – VIIth British Empire & Commonwealth Games.
8. Kingston, Jamaica,
4-13 August 1966 – VIIIth British Empire & Commonwealth Games.
9. Edinburgh, Scotland,
16-25 July 1970 – IXth British Commonwealth Games.
10. Christchurch, New Zealand,
24 January-2 February 1974 – Xth British Commonwealth Games.
11. Edmonton, Alberta, Canada,
3-12 August 1978 – XIth Commonwealth Games.
12. Brisbane, South Australia,
30 September-9 October 1982 – XIIth Commonwealth Games.
13. Edinburgh, Scotland,
24 July-2 August 1986 – XIIIth Commonwealth Games.
14. Auckland, New Zealand,
24 January-3 February 1990 – XIVth Commonwealth Games.
15. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada,
18-28 August 1994 – XVth Commonwealth Games.
16. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,

11-21 September 1998 – XVIth Commonwealth Games.

17. Manchester, Bolton and Bisley, England,
25 July-3 August 2002 – XVIIth Commonwealth Games.

18. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia,
15-26 March 2006 – XVIIIth Commonwealth Games

19. New Delhi, India,
3-14 October 2010 – XIXth Commonwealth Games.

20. Glasgow, Scotland,
23 July-4 August 2014 – XXth Commonwealth Games.

21. Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia
4-15 April 2018 – XXIst Commonwealth Games

Note: Because of World War II no Games were held in 1942 (scheduled for Montreal, Quebec, Canada) or 1946.

About the author

Bob Phillips was for 17 years a member of the BBC Radio athletics commentary team, attending all the major meetings in the World, including each Commonwealth Games from 1986 to 2002. Throughout his journalistic career he has reported on a dozen different sports. A lifelong sports enthusiast, he attended his first Commonwealth Games (or British Empire & Commonwealth Games, as they then were) as a teenager in Cardiff in 1958. He himself competed at every athletics distance from 100 yards to the marathon (at a remarkably consistent moderate level, he says) and then took up cycle time-trialling in the veteran age-groups. In recent years he has written a number of acclaimed books about sports history; among them an account of the 1948 London Olympic Games, described by one of Britain's leading sports columnists as "unputdownable", a biography of the legendary distance-runner, Emil Zátopek, and a study of the four-minute-mile. He lives in South West France with his wife, cycles six days a week, is an avid cinema-goer, jazz fan and supporter of the local wine industry, and he edits "Track Stats", the authoritative quarterly journal of the National Union of Track Statisticians of Great Britain.

I. British Empire Games
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
16-23 August 1930
11 countries, 327 competitors. Six sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Rowing, Swimming & Diving, Wrestling.

The supreme fulfilment of Bobby Robinson's dream

The unflagging enthusiasm of Bobby Robinson and the generosity of the Hamilton city fathers had paid handsome dividends, and 10 countries answered Canada's call to support the Empire's sporting cause. Admittedly, of the 327 entrants for all the sports, including 24 women in swimming & diving, more than two-thirds came from Canada (120) and England (104), but Australia, Bermuda, British Guiana (now Guyana), Ireland, Newfoundland (now part of Canada), New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and Wales were also represented.

Some of the scheduling inevitably makes quaint reading more than 80 years later. The wrestling events were almost entirely a straight contest between Canada and England, with everyone guaranteed a medal. For the rowing, a distinctly liberal interpretation of the Empire qualification was adopted – though it would have gladdened the heart of John Astley Cooper, the visionary of 1891 who envisaged welcoming all English-speaking nations – as crews from the United States were invited to make up the numbers. There were no women allowed in athletics, though they had taken part in the Olympic Games two years previously, whereas in the pool there were five swimming events and two diving contests for the so-called weaker sex.

The English athletes had not set sail across the Atlantic until 5 August following a match against France and only just arrived in time as their liner was delayed by ice and finally docked in Quebec on the eve of the opening ceremony. Scottish fund-raising efforts to support their team had failed dismally as the public had contributed a mere £20, and it was due considerably to the efforts of expatriate Scots in Hamilton, who sent £200, and to the famed music-hall comedian, Sir Harry Lauder, who put up a guarantee of £100, that a team of seven athletes, five swimmers, four bowlers and three boxers had been put together. Yet 13 of the 19 competitors would repay their supporters handsomely by winning medals, and maybe local support helped. The "Hamilton Spectator" newspaper, describing the scene when the train carrying the Scots competitors arrived in the city, said that they "were greeted by the largest gathering of citizens which has assembled to date – proof, in itself, that Hamilton is a Scotch city"..

Much the most famous names of recent memory at these Games were to be found on the athletics starting-lists: Percy Williams, Canada's reigning Olympic champion at 100 and 200 metres, and the imposingly-titled David George Brownlow Cecil, Lord Burghley, who was the future Marquess of Exeter and who had won the 400 metres hurdles for Great Britain at those same Olympic Games of 1928. Successful Olympic swimmers who were in Hamilton were England's Joyce Cooper and Scotland's Ellen King and Sarah Stewart, who had shared in relay silver for Great Britain. Also at those Games in Amsterdam Henry Pearce, of Australia, familiarly known as "Bobby", had won the single-sculls rowing.

Making a rather more modest appearance at these Empire Games was Britain's most prolific Olympic competitor of all who had won four gold medals at the Games between 1908 and 1920, setting a record that would not be beaten until Sir Steve Redgrave completed the fifth of his rowing triumphs 80 years later. The legendary figure was Paul Radmilovic, of Wales,

who had been a member of Great Britain's highly successful water-polo team. Now aged 44, and having won Welsh swimming titles from 1901 to 1929, he was eliminated in 3rd place in his 1500 yards freestyle heat in Hamilton but was cheered to the echo by the appreciative and well-informed crowd. Born in Cardiff, his proper first names were "Paulo Francesco" and his father came from Dubrovnik, in Croatia. "Raddy", as the veteran swimmer was nicknamed, was the landlord of a public-house in Weston-super-Mare, in Somerset, and was also a very capable golfer, having played in the English amateur championship earlier in 1930.

Every member nation of the Empire with any sort of established sporting reputation was represented in athletics in Hamilton, with the exceptions of India, Jamaica and – for pressing economic reasons – Wales. The local response of the public was equally fervent, and more than 20,000 people packed into the city's Civic Stadium on Saturday 16 August for the official opening of the Games by the Governor-General of Canada, Lord Willingdon, whose past claims to sporting prowess were as a noted cricketer at Eton and Cambridge University. This favoured pastime of his would not gain Games status until another 68 years had passed, by which time the stigmatised title of "Empire" would have long been replaced by the egalitarian "Commonwealth". Percy Williams read the oath of allegiance on behalf of the athletes, but rather surprisingly he did not reappear for the heats of the 220 yards which formed part of that afternoon's programme, and for which, of course, he would have been the gold-medal favourite.

A somewhat leisurely athletics schedule involved events on three days – 16, 21 and 23 August – and when Williams eventually turned out for the 100 yards he won his heat in a fast time of 9.6sec and was then en route in the final to an overwhelming victory and perhaps even a World record-equalling 9.4 when he pulled a suspect thigh muscle that it was now realised had been the reason for his absence from the 220, but he still managed to hobble the last 30 yards and cross the line in 1st place.

Lord Burghley not only won both the 120 yards hurdles and 440 yards hurdles but was also a member of England's victorious 4 x 440 yards relay team, and another English winner was Tom Hampson, at 880 yards, who would become Olympic 800 metres champion two years later in World-record time – the first man to beat 1min 50sec. The bespectacled Hampson, a schoolmaster by profession, was an interesting late developer, having not done anything of great note while at Cambridge University a couple of years before, and the man who would come 2nd to him in the historic 1932 Olympic 800 metres, Alex Wilson, of Canada, won the 440 yards in Hamilton.

The field events, as would so often be the case at these Games, were for the most part not of the same quality as the track races, but there was a notable shot-discus "double" by the South African, Hendrik ("Harry") Hart, and an international-class javelin throw by Stan Lay, of New Zealand. The only winner in the jumps or throws from the home countries was England's Malcolm Nokes, also a Cambridge graduate, who had been the bronze-medallist for the hammer at the 1924 Olympics, though a notable absentee from that event was Dr Pat O'Callaghan, the reigning Olympic champion from Ireland who would also win Olympic gold in 1932. One of the only three Irish athletes in Hamilton, Bill Britton, took 2nd place to Nokes.

The British, shamefully, paid little heed to any athletics event requiring sustained technical application, and that mood would prevail for some decades yet. As it happens, an Englishman named Howard Ford provided the main opposition as Hamilton-born Vic

Pickard won the pole vault, in which he had narrowly missed the bronze medal at the 1928 Olympics. It should be pointed out, though, that Ford, a future Air Vice-Marshal, was rather more of an enthusiastic sporting all-rounder than a dedicated pole-vaulter – he had skied for Cambridge University, and he also competed in the shot and discus to make up the numbers in Hamilton. Ford was Welsh-born, while two other Welsh members of the England team won titles. They were the miler, Reg Thomas, and the rower, Hugh Edwards, who was in the coxless fours and eights crews, all of whom belonged to London Rowing Club. Edwards would subsequently win two gold medals at the 1932 Olympics and then become a renowned coach.

Even heavy rain on the last day of athletics competition could not dampen the ardour of the crowds watching Pickard win, and nor did it chill the spirits of Reg Thomas. As Wales could not afford to send any athletes to Canada the English selectors gleefully snapped up Thomas instead on the strength of his having that year won the Amateur Athletic Association title open to all-comers. To their subsequent discredit, the English authorities were to refuse Wales permission to select Thomas for the 1934 Empire Games, and the first Welsh-born Empire gold-medallist had to wait until the 1939 International cross-country championships to earn the Principality's national vest which he so cherished. .

The outstanding champion in the swimming pool was England's Olympian, Joyce Cooper, who had been born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where her father was a tea-planter, and was a member of the aptly-named Mermaid Swimming Club in London. In the five women's events Miss Cooper won four gold medals. She later married John Badcock, who rowed for Great Britain in the 1928 and 1932 Olympics, and their son, Felix, would be an Empire Games bronze-medallist in that sport in 1958. Mrs Badcock lived to the age of 93. One of her Hamilton team-mates, Cecelia ("Cee Cee") Wolstenholme, became the first of what was to be over the years a legion of teenage champions by taking the breast-stroke event at the age of 15 in a World-record time, and she would also be European champion at 200 metres the next year. Her younger sister, Beatrice, would win an Empire Games relay bronze in 1934.

Miss Cooper's Olympic relay colleagues, Ellen King and Sarah Stewart, came away with medals for Scotland – a silver and two bronzes for the former, two bronzes for the latter. Miss Stewart, who was a 19-year-old from Dundee known familiarly as "Cissie", also came away with a husband! She got married in Hamilton to a Glasgow journalist with the Scottish contingent, William Hunt. The newly-wed Mrs Hunt would be another Hamilton swimming medallist to enjoy an exceptionally long life, reaching the age of 96 before her death in 2008. Miss King, who lived to 85, taught swimming in Edinburgh schools for 40 years and was still taking a dip beyond her 80th birthday.

England also provided five of the boxing champions, including 17-year-old Harry Mizler, a future British professional title-holder, and Fred Mallin, whose elder brother, Harry, had twice been an Olympic gold-medallist. By contrast, on the wrestling mat English competitors lost all five finals which they contested against Canadian opponents, including a Serbian-born bantamweight, Jimmy Trifunov, who prepared himself exceptionally well in an era in which hard training was still widely thought to be potentially harmful, running up to five miles every morning. Trifunov had been an Olympic bronze-medallist in 1928 and later became coach to Canada's Olympic wrestlers of 1952-56-60. Ironically, the easiest wrestling success of all in Hamilton was for an English-born featherweight, Cliff Chilcott, representing Canada though originally from Blackpool, who was the only entrant in his division. The Hamilton Arena was the venue for both boxing and wrestling and was filled to its 5,000 capacity for the bouts.

There were further English wins in all three bowls events – and a generous contribution by the host country to a bronze for Scotland. Following the death of one of the Scots entered in the fours, John Kennedy, from Airdrie, while on a visit to the USA a few days before the Games opened, the Canadian hosts generously provided a Scots-born bowler, Tom Chambers, who had lived in Hamilton since 1909, as a replacement. Enterprisingly, the Canadian Commonwealth Games authorities claim Chambers in retrospect as one of their own medallists, and so he has the distinction of figuring in the honours list for two countries – and as one of the oldest, at 71 years of age.

The five rowing wins, watched by crowds of up to 70,000 on the shores of Lake Ontario, were shared out between England (two), Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and two American guest crews provided opposition for the lone double-sculls pair from the host country. Bobby Pearce, a carpenter by trade, duly added the Empire single-sculls title to his Olympic gold medal from 1928 but never returned home to Australia to celebrate the victory. Instead, he stayed on in Canada, having been offered a job as a salesman by Lord Dewar, of the celebrated whisky family, and earned another toast when he won the Olympic title again in 1932. The Canadians in the double sculls, Elswood Boles and Bob Richards, beat their American opponents – though it was left unsaid as to who would have been declared champions if either of the visiting pairs had won. After all, it was 154 years since their country had declared its intention of forcibly removing itself from the Empire!

England won 25 titles in all to Canada's 20, and these two countries were far in advance of the rest. Scotland's team came home with two gold medals, for Duncan McLeod Wright in the marathon and Jim Rolland, from the Leith Victoria club, in lightweight boxing, and both marathon races and boxing tournaments would produce more medals to come for Scots in future years. There was a delightful moment towards the end of the Hamilton marathon, as "The Scotsman" newspaper reported, "Wright had the track to himself for half-a-mile and was just passing the entrance when Ferris, who was 2nd, came in. Ferris stopped to congratulate Wright and went on to finish amid cheers". Ferris and McLeod Wright would return to North America two years later and place 2nd and 4th respectively in the Los Angeles Olympic marathon; They might even have done better because both later reflected that they should have won but misjudged their effort. McLeod Wright was to recall regretfully, "I finished quite fresh and the winner went to hospital". Both continued to contribute to athletics throughout their lives. Ferris was an RAF storeman born in Northern Ireland, though representing England in Hamilton, and in his later years he was a familiar figure at road races, writing quirkily entertaining reports for "Athletics Weekly" magazine. McLeod Wright became a much respected coach and team manager.

Yet the competitor who earned more widespread public acclaim than any other in Hamilton, even though he only came 4th in his event, was the English javelin-thrower, Eric Turner. Out on a pre-Games stroll through the city streets, he witnessed an armed bank-raid and coolly noted down the registration number of the getaway car and a description of the robbers, leading to their arrest. But then he would have regarded that action as being no more than what would have been expected of him in the line of duty – he was a Birkenhead police officer by profession.

There was no doubt that the Games had been a success. Even the special correspondent for "The Times" abandoned restraint and wrote passionately of "a movement which will tend to bind tighter the ties of brotherly love and sympathy". Certainly the Games had been staged in a relaxed manner which, as had been hoped, contrasted with much of the bombast and rabid

nationalism already characterising the Olympics. No one was more delighted than Bobby Robinson, who in his role as chairman of the Games enthused that “perfect harmony reigned all the time, and there was a spirit about the competitions that certainly has never yet, to my knowledge, been found in Olympic competitions”. Two years later, at the Los Angeles Olympics, the British Empire Games Federation was formed, and how gratified, and maybe astonished, would those worthy pioneers surely feel if they were to know that much of that prized family spirit was to survive into the next century with every promise of it being celebrated once again more than 80 years later in Scotland.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1930 GAMES

ATHLETICS

100 YARDS (23 Aug): Percy Williams (Canada) 9.9sec.

220 YARDS (16 Aug): Stanley Engelhart (England) 21.8sec.

440 YARDS (23 Aug): Alex Wilson (Canada) 48.8sec.

880 YARDS (21 Aug): Tom Hampson (England) 1min 52.4sec.

1 MILE (23 Aug): Reg Thomas (England) 4min 14.0sec.

3 MILES (21 Aug): Stan Tomlin (England) 14min 27.4sec.

6 MILES (16 Aug): Bill Savidan (New Zealand) 30min 49.6sec.

STEEPLECHASE (23 Aug): George Bailey (England) 9min 52.0sec. Note: the distance of the race was 80-to-100 yards short of two miles.

MARATHON (21 Aug): Duncan McLeod Wright (Scotland) 2hr 43min 43sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (23 Aug): Lord Burghley (England) 14.6sec.

440 YARDS HURDLES (16 Aug): Lord Burghley (England) 54.4sec

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (23 Aug): Canada (Jim “Buster” Brown, Leigh Miller, Ralph Adams, Johnny Fitzpatrick) 42.2sec.

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (23 Aug): England (Roger Leigh-Wood, Stuart Townend, Lord Burghley, Kenneth Brangwin) 3min 19.4sec.

HIGH JUMP (21 Aug): Johannes Viljoen (South Africa) 6ft 3in (1.90m).

POLE VAULT (23 Aug): Vic Pickard (Canada) 12ft 3in (3.73m).

LONG JUMP (23 Aug): Lennie Hutton (Canada) 23ft 7½in (7.20m).

TRIPLE JUMP (16 Aug): Gordon Smallacombe (Canada) 48ft 5in (14.76m).

SHOT (21 Aug): Hendrik (“Harry”) Hart (South Africa) 47ft 10in (14.58m).

DISCUS (23 Aug): Hendrik (“Harry”) Hart (South Africa) 135ft 11in (41.43m).

HAMMER (21 Aug): Malcolm Nokes (England) 154ft 7¾in (47.13m).

JAVELIN (23 Aug): Stan Lay (New Zealand) 207ft 1½in (63.13m).

Note: there were no women’s athletics events at the 1930 Games.

BOWLS

SINGLES: Robert Colquhoun (England).

PAIRS: England (Tommy Hills, George Wright).

FOURS: England (Ernest Gudgeon, James Edney, Albert Hough, Jack Frith).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Jacob Smith (South Africa).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Hyman (“Harry”) Mizler (England).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Freddie Meacham (England).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Jim Rolland (Scotland).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Len Hall (South Africa).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Fred Mallin (England).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Joe Goyder (England).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Victor Stuart (England).

ROWING

SINGLE SCULLS: Henry ("Bobby") Pearce (Australia) 8min 3.6sec.

DOUBLE SCULLS: Canada (Elswood Boles, Bob Richards) 7min 48.0sec.

COXLESS FOURS: England (Francis Fitzwilliams, A.J. Halby, Hugh Edwards, Humphrey Boardman) 7min 40.6sec.

COXED FOURS: New Zealand (Mick Brough, John Macdonald, Ben Waters, Bert Sandos, Arthur Eastwood) 8min 2.0sec.

EIGHTS: England (J.A. Brown, Terry O'Brien, Francis Fitzwilliams, A.J. Halby, Hugh Edwards, Humphrey Boardman, J.H. Crawford, D.E.L. Howitt, R.G. Close-Brooks) 6min 37.0sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING – MEN

100 YARDS FREESTYLE: Munroe Bourne (Canada) 56.0sec.

400 YARDS FREESTYLE: Noel Ryan (Australia) 4min 39.8sec.

1500 YARDS FREESTYLE: Noel Ryan (Australia) 18min 55.4sec.

4 x 200 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Munroe Bourne, Bert Gibson, George Burleigh, Jimmy Thompson) 8min 42.4sec.

100 YARDS BACKSTROKE: James ("Bill") Trippett (England) 1min 5.4sec.

200 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Jack Aubin (Canada) 2min 38.4sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Alfie Phillips (Canada) 90.6pts

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Alfie Phillips (Canada) 147pts

SWIMMING & DIVING – WOMEN

100 YARDS FREESTYLE: Joyce Cooper (England) 1min 7.0sec.

400 YARDS FREESTYLE: Joyce Cooper (England) 5min 25.4sec.

4 x 100 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: England (Olive Joynes, Doreen Cooper, Phyllis Harding, Joyce Cooper) 4min 32.8sec. Note: Doreen and Joyce Cooper are sisters.

100 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Joyce Cooper (England) 1min 15.0sec.

200 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Cecelia Wolstenholme (England) 2min 54.8sec. Note: World record.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Pearl Stoneham (Canada) 39.3pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Oonagh Whitsett (South Africa) 90.1pts.

WRESTLING

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Jimmy Trifunov (Canada).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Cliff Chilcott (Canada). Note: only one competitor.

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Howie Thomas (Canada).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Reg Priestley (Canada).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Mike Chepwick (Canada).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Bill McIntyre (Canada).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Earl McCready (Canada).

1930 MEDALS TABLE

Note: the tables for all Games are based on total medals, not total gold medals, and where countries have the same number of total medals they are listed alphabetically.

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	25	23	13	61
Canada	20	15	19	54
South Africa	6	4	7	17
Scotland	2	3	5	10
New Zealand	3	4	2	9
Australia	3	4	1	8
Wales	0	2	1	3
British Guiana	0	1	1	2
Ireland	0	1	0	1

II. British Empire Games London and Manchester, England

4-11 August 1934

16 countries, some 500 competitors. Six sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Swimming & Diving, Wrestling.

For the honour of Empire and the glory of sport

The British Empire Games Federation took the commendable step of changing the venue for the 1934 Games once it was realised that South Africa's segregation policies would be to the detriment of some of the visiting competitors. England stepped in as hosts, with the Games naturally based in London, though in the absence of a suitable velodrome in the capital the cycling events were held 200 miles further north in Manchester. There was an encouraging increase in the number of countries taking part – from 11 to 16, with Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Rhodesia and Trinidad & Tobago as the newcomers, and in addition Northern Ireland entered for the first time rather than Ireland. Six sports were on the programme, with the track cycling replacing rowing.

There were some 500 competitors in all, and nine of them repeated gold-medal successes from 1930. In athletics Harry Hart won the shot and discus again for South Africa and Malcolm Nokes the hammer for England. In swimming Australia's Noel Ryan successfully defended his freestyle titles at 400 yards and 1500 yards, while Munroe Bourne and George Burleigh (both Canada) and Phyllis Harding (England) had further wins in the pool, combining relay and individual events, and on the bowling green Tommy Hills and George Wright retained for England the pairs title and Ernest Gudgeon was again a member of England's winning four.

The outstanding champions in the athletics events held in typically British mid-summer weather (in other words, grey and damp) were England's Godfrey Rampling, who was an army officer, at 440 yards and New Zealand's Oxford University-educated Jack Lovelock in the mile. Both of them would win Olympic gold medals two years later in Berlin (Rampling in the 4 x 400 metres relay and Lovelock with a World record at 1500 metres). The long-jump champion from Canada, Sam Richardson, was aged only 16, and for once it was a field event which produced the best individual performance of the Games, as Jack Metcalfe, of Australia, set a record for what was then called the hop step and jump (now known, less accurately, as the triple jump) which was to stand for 24 years.

Women's athletics made its debut, and England won six of the nine events, highlighted by the sprinting of Eileen Hiscock and also including an unlikely 880 yards/javelin double for the captain of the Birmingham-based Birchfield Harriers ladies' team, Gladys Lunn, who – most unusually for that strictly amateur era – had given up her job as a post-woman to further her career in athletics. It was rather a matter of poetic justice that Miss Lunn and one of her team-mates, Nellie Halstead, should win gold at these 1934 Games. On the very same day that the 1930 Games had opened – to which, of course, women athletes had been denied access – the pair of them were otherwise productively engaged in London, breaking World records at 880 yards and 220 yards respectively

Another double was achieved by Marjorie Clark, of South Africa, in the hurdles and high jump, for which she had set four World records in previous years. She had been 3rd in the Olympic hurdles two years before and was the only individual medallist in women's athletics at these 1934 Empire Games who was not Canadian or English. No sooner had the athletics

events at the White City Stadium been completed than the “Women’s World Games” followed, and Miss Lunn was 3rd at 800 metres – though she fully merited 2nd as the Czech winner underwent a sex-change operation two years later.

In all, English athletes triumphed in 13 of the 17 Empire Games track events for men and women, which delighted the packed crowds of 50,000 each day, and even the marathon-winner from Canada, Harold Webster, had been born in Derby. The first win, though, on the White City cinders had been on behalf of Scotland by Edinburgh-born Alan Hunter in the 440 yards hurdles. By contrast, the traditional apathy of perfidious Albion towards the more technical disciplines meant that they won only three of the 11 field events. One of these was the men’s hammer in which Malcolm Nokes successfully defended his title, having been the Olympic bronze-medallist back in 1924, even though when he was at Cambridge University there was no hammer event in the keenly-fought annual Inter-Varsity match against Oxford and so he had played water-polo instead.

Though beaten into 2nd place, England’s distinguished shot-putter, Robert (“Bonzo”) Howland, who was a Cambridge University don, had his moments of solitary glory as he had been chosen to take the oath on the part of all the Games competitors at the opening ceremony. Grasping a corner of the Union Jack flag firmly in his hand, he had declared, “We are all loyal subjects of His Majesty the King Emperor and will take part in the British Empire Games in the spirit of true sportsmanship, recognising the rules which govern them and desirous of competing in them for the honour of our Empire and for the glory of sport”. Such brave words inevitably sound a shade outmoded eight decades later but prophetically summarise the singular nature of the place in sport occupied by the Empire Games as the shadow of Hitler’s Olympics two years hence began to loom.

England also had six wins in boxing, but none at all in wrestling, where Canada was again the dominant nation with three titles. One of their winners, Joe Schleimer, was to add a bronze at the 1936 Olympics and later became Olympic coach in succession to a 1930 Empire champion, Jimmy Trifunov. India sent two wrestlers – Ajaib Singh at featherweight and Rashid Anwar at welterweight – and the latter was the first wrestler from outside the home countries, Australia or Canada to win a medal, with a bronze. This would be a sport in which India would gain very many more successes in the years to come.

The three cycling events were held on the same day at the Fallowfield track, in Manchester, watched by a crowd of 10,000, and began in a delightfully fraternal manner with all the teams riding round together to the strains of “Land Of Hope And Glory”. An Australian, Edgar (“Dunc”) Gray, won the time-trial, just as he had done at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles two years before, and in lifelong tribute the cycling stadium for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney would be named after him. An indefatigable South African, Ed Clayton, took part in all three disciplines, racing five times, and was rewarded for his efforts with a silver medal and two bronzes. The third of the cycling champions could have also used two wheels to travel from his home to the velodrome because England’s sprint winner, Ernest Higgins, was a member of the local Manchester club. Oddly, the World amateur sprint championships were being held in Switzerland the same weekend which seemed an unfortunate clash of dates.

Three of the four women swimmers from the Empire who had been medallists at the 1932 Olympics competed, including the 200 metres breast-stroke champion, Claire Dennis, of Australia, who won again at the virtually identical distance of 220 yards. The most successful competitor in the pool, though, was 17-year-old Phyllis Dewar, of Canada, who collected two

individual gold medals and two more in relay events. She was to win another relay gold at the 1938 Empire Games but gave up swimming later that year because she was tired of training, and she sadly suffered from ill-health later in life, dying at the age of 45.

Relay gold medals were won by a Canadian brother and sister, Bob and Irene Pirie, and the latter figured in the most decisive victory of the gala alongside Phyllis Dewar as their freestyle team finished more than 12 seconds ahead of a South African quartette which included a 14-year-old, Mollie Ryde. There was an even younger swimmer in the English team, 13-year-old Margaret Gomm, who finished 4th in the 200 yards freestyle and two years later would be the most youthful British competitor in any sport at the Berlin Olympics.

There were also noteworthy medallists who indicated the potential among the Caribbean countries. In athletics British Guiana's Phil Edwards, who lived in the USA and competed for Canada at Olympic level even though he had no eligibility whatsoever to do so, won the 880 yards. As it happens, this was not actually his country's first medal because Colin Gordon, who was educated at Oxford University, had placed 2nd in the 1930 high jump. Jamaicans earned medals in both athletics and swimming as Bernard Prendergast was 3rd in the discus and William McCatty 2nd in the 220 yards breast-stroke. The social backgrounds of these two were intriguingly different: Prendergast was a medical student at St Mary's Hospital in London; McCatty made his living as a pearl-diver.

The medals table was again led by England and Canada, with Scotland's total of 26 the third highest – which remains to this day the country's best overall team placing. Their five winners in addition to the hurdler, Alan Hunter, included in swimming Willie Francis, from Dunfermline, who had been 2nd in his event, the 100 yards backstroke, four years before, and Norman Hamilton, of the Western Baths club, Glasgow, at 200 yards breast-stroke, with both of them sharing in a medley-relay silver. Robert Sprot, a billiards-hall manager from Wishaw, defeated four opponents to win the bowls singles, having competed for 41 years and become the first man to be Scottish champion three times, starting as far back as 1910. None of this seemed to impress "The Scotsman" newspaper which described the Games somewhat dismissively as a "useful piece of inter-Imperial organisation" and concluded of the Scottish team that it "has done as well as expected, but that was not very good".

In bantamweight wrestling another Scot, Edward Melrose, became the first representative of any of the home countries to win an Empire title in that sport, and would remain so for another 20 years, though a far bigger physical impression was made by his team-mate, Archie Dudgeon, who tipped the scales at 21st 7lb (139kg) and was known familiarly as the "Loch Ness Monster" – though probably not to his face – but had to settle for bronze in the heavyweight division. He was a joiner by trade – presumably putting them together at work and trying to take them apart in his leisure pursuit. Another bronze was won for Scotland in boxing by Lord David Douglas-Hamilton, the youngest son of the 13th Duke of Hamilton, who four years later was to marry Prunella Stack, headlined in the popular press as "Britain's Perfect Girl". She was leader of the 166,000 members of the Women's League of Health and Beauty, set up by her mother. Lord Hamilton was to be killed in action in 1944 while serving as a Squadron Leader in the RAF.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1934 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 YARDS (4 Aug): Arthur Sweeney (England) 10.0sec.
220 YARDS (7 Aug): Arthur Sweeney (England) 21.9sec.
440 YARDS (7 Aug): Godfrey Rampling (England) 48.0sec.
880 YARDS (6 Aug): Phil Edwards (British Guiana) 1min 54.2sec,
1 MILE (7 Aug): Jack Lovelock (New Zealand) 4min 12.8sec,
3 MILES (4 Aug): Walter Beavers (England) 14min 32.6sec,
6 MILES (6 Aug): Arthur Penny (England) 31min 00.6sec.
2 MILES STEEPLECHASE (7 Aug): Stan Scarsbrook (England) 10min 23.4sec.
MARATHON (7 Aug): Harold Webster (Canada) 2hr 40min 36sec.
120 YARDS HURDLES (6 Aug): Don Finlay (England) 15.2sec,
440 YARDS HURDLES (4 Aug): Alan Hunter (Scotland) 55.2sec.
4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (7 Aug): England (Everard Davis, George Saunders, Walter Rangeley, Arthur Sweeney) 42.2sec.
4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (7 Aug): England (Denis Rathbone, Geoff Blake, Crew Stoneley, Godfrey Rampling) 3min 16.8sec.
HIGH JUMP (6 Aug): Edwin Thacker (South Africa) 6ft 3in (1.90m).
POLE VAULT (6 Aug): Sylvester Apps (Canada) 12ft 6in (3.81m). Note: Apps also cleared 12ft 9in (3.88m) in a jump-off for 1st place.
LONG JUMP (7 Aug): Sam Richardson (Canada) 23ft 6¼in (7.17m).
TRIPLE JUMP (4 Aug): Jack Metcalfe (Australia) 51ft 3½in (15.63m).
SHOT (6 Aug): Hendrik ("Harry") Hart (South Africa) 48ft 1¾in (14.67m).
DISCUS (4 Aug): Hendrik ("Harry") Hart (South Africa) 136ft 3in (41.53m).
HAMMER (7 Aug): Malcolm Nokes (England) 158ft 3½in (48.25m).
JAVELIN (7 Aug): Bob Dixon (Canada) 196ft 11in (60.02m).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 YARDS (6 Aug): Eileen Hiscock (England) 11.3sec.
220 YARDS (7 Aug): Eileen Hiscock (England) 25.0sec. Note: World record.
880 YARDS (6 Aug): Gladys Lunn (England) 2min 19.4sec.
80 METRES HURDLES (7 Aug): Marjorie Clark (South Africa) 11.8sec.
440 YARDS RELAY – 220 yards x 110 yards x 110 yards – (6 Aug): England (Nellie Halstead, Eileen Hiscock, Elsie Maguire) 49.4sec.
660 YARDS RELAY – 2 x 220 yards, 2 x 110 yards – (4 Aug): Canada (Lillian Palmer, Betty White, Aileen Meagher, Audrey Dearnley) 1min 14.4sec.
HIGH JUMP (4 Aug): Marjorie Clark (South Africa) 5ft 3in (1.60m).
LONG JUMP (7 Aug): Phyllis Bartholomew (England) 17ft 11¼in (5.47m).
JAVELIN (4 Aug): Gladys Lunn (England) 105ft 7¼in (32.19m).

BOWLS

SINGLES: Robert Sprot (Scotland).
PAIRS: England (Tommy Hills, George Wright).
FOURS: England (Robert Slater, Percy Tomlinson, Ernest Gudgeon, Fred Biggin).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Patrick Palmer (England).
BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Freddy Ryan (England).
FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Charlie Catterall (South Africa).
LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Leslie Cook (Australia).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Dave McCleave (England).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Alf Shawyer (England).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): George Brennan (England).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Pat Floyd (England).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Edgar ("Dunc") Gray (Australia) 1min 16.0sec.
1000 METRES SPRINT: Ernest Higgins (England).
10 MILES SCRATCH: Robert McLeod (Canada) 24min 26.2sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

100 YARDS FREESTYLE: George Burleigh (Canada) 55.0sec.
400 YARDS FREESTYLE: Noel Ryan (Australia) 5min 3.0sec.
1500 YARDS FREESTYLE: Noel Ryan (Australia) 18min 25.4sec.
4 x 200 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Munroe Bourne, Bob Hooper, Bob Pirie, George Burleigh) 8min 40.6sec.
100 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Willie Francis (Scotland) 1min 5.2sec.
200 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Norman Hamilton (Scotland) 2min 41.4sec.
3 x 100 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Ben Gazell, George Burleigh, Bill Puddy) 3min 11.2sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Tommy Mather (England) 83.83pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: J. Briscoe Ray (England) 117.12pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

100 YARDS FREESTYLE: Phyllis Dewar (Canada) 1min 3.5sec.
440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Phyllis Dewar (Canada) 5min 45.6sec.
4 x 100 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Phyllis Dewar, Florence Humble, Irene Pirie, Margaret Hutton) 4min 21.8sec.
100 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Phyllis Harding (England) 1min 13.8sec.
200 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Clare Dennis (Australia) 2min 50.2sec.
3 x 100 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Margaret Hutton, Phyllis Haslam, Phyllis Dewar) 3min 42.0sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Elizabeth Macready (England) 30.74pts
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Judith Moss (Canada) 62.27pts.

WRESTLING

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Edward Melrose (Scotland).
FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Robert McNab (Canada).
LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Dick Garrard (Australia).
WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Joe Schleimer (Canada).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Terry Evans (Canada).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Mick Cubbin (South Africa).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Jack Knight (Australia).

1934 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	29	20	24	73
Canada	17	25	9	51
Scotland	5	4	17	26
South Africa	7	10	5	22
Australia	8	4	2	14
Wales	0	3	3	6
New Zealand	1	0	2	3
Northern Ireland	0	1	2	3
Jamaica	0	1	1	2
Rhodesia	0	0	2	2
British Guiana	1	0	0	1
India	0	0	1	1

III. British Empire Games **Sydney, New South Wales, Australia** **5-12 February 1938** **15 countries, 466 competitors. Seven sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Rowing, Swimming & Diving, Wrestling.**

Christmas in Colombo on a long voyage to the Games

For many of the competitors the 1938 Games started early – to be precise, the year previous! The teams from Britain, composed of 91 athletes, bowlers, boxers, cyclists, oarsmen, swimmers, wrestlers and their accompanying officials representing England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, met at St Pancras Station, in London, on the morning of Saturday 4 December 1937 to catch the boat-train to Tilbury Docks, where they embarked on the liner, “S.S. Ormonde”. There were 10 ports-of-call en route, including a stopover of 17 hours on Christmas Day in Colombo, and the passengers eventually arrived in Sydney on Thursday 13 January to complete their 40-day voyage.

Contained in the instructions and suggestions distributed to the sportsmen and sportswomen by the honorary secretary of the Games Federation, Colonel Evan Hunter, who was also England’s general team manager, were understandable concerns regarding the limited facilities for training on board. “A keen competitor will find a time and place”, was the exhortation. “It will be impossible to have organised training, but the maxim ‘early to bed and early to rise’ must be adopted ... frankly, the question of training on board ship is causing anxiety to the Council, but every competitor must endeavour to get in the daily training when and how possible”. Not all took the Colonel’s advice too seriously, and the team manager and chaperone for England’s nine lady athletes, Mrs Rose Gillis, noted in her cheerful post-Games report that only two of those in her care trained during the three-hour stop-over in Gibraltar. “The remainder”, she reported, “went walking”. Incidentally; Colonel Hunter had divided loyalties because it was his son, Alan, who had been the 440 yards hurdles winner for Scotland in 1934.

Among the 68 English competitors were Bill Roberts, a member of the victorious Great Britain 4 x 400 metres relay team at the Berlin Olympics of 18 months before, who had also been 2nd in the 1934 Empire 440 yards, and Dorothy Odam, who had won the high-jump silver medal in Berlin at the age of 16. Margery Hinton, though still only 22, had swum in every Olympics since 1928 and in the Empire Games of 1930 and 1934. The financially-constrained Scottish team of 10 again included the formidable wrestler, Archie Dudgeon, who had been British champion for the previous two years, and the gold-medal swimmer, Willie Francis, competing in his third Empire Games. Wales sent only six competitors, captained and managed by their 24-year-old middle-distance runner, Jim Alford, and Northern Ireland only three.

Australia had first applied to hold the Games of 1934, but the economic depression had forced the application to be withdrawn. In 1935, boosted by a £10,000 guarantee against loss from the New South Wales government, Sydney bid successfully for the 1938 Games, which would help to celebrate Australia’s 150th anniversary. Geographical considerations inevitably dictated the number and variety of competitors in those formative years of the Empire Games, and as hosts in 1938 Australia fielded a team of 75 athletes, compared with the small party of seven which they had sent to London four years previously. It was not only the home countries which were forced to limit their commitment. Trinidad & Tobago sent just three

athletes. A lone cyclist, Janki Dass, represented India. Bermuda and British Guiana could each afford only one swimmer.

There were 11 countries which entered athletics in 1938 – just one more than there had been in 1930 – and there were inevitably some prominent absentees. The long winter-time voyage to Australia meant that many potential Games champions from the home countries could not spare the time off, and these included Godfrey Brown and Godfrey Rampling, team-mates of Bill Roberts in the Berlin Olympic 4 x 400 metres, as well as Sydney Wooderson, who had set a World mile record of 4:06.4 in 1937, and Don Finlay, the Olympic 110 metres hurdles silver-medallist. Yet, of all the member nations of the Empire, only Jamaica, Malta and Newfoundland had declined their invitations. Of the 466 competitors, 88 were women.

An “Empire Village” was enterprisingly devised at Sydney’s Royal Agricultural Showground to accommodate male officials and competitors, while the women were housed 1½ miles away at two private hotels. It was on this same showground site that a 104,000-capacity stadium would be built for the Olympic Games in the year 2000. As each team arrived at the village a flag-raising ceremony was held, and the Games chairman, Alderman E.S. Marks, greeted the newcomers with the same encouraging message: “May your stay with us be a very happy one, educational to a degree and, we sincerely hope, crowned with success. We know that each one of you will uphold the prestige and sporting tradition of your country both on and off the field, thus further consolidating this great British Empire of ours to which we are all so proud to owe allegiance”. Leading his country’s contingent at the opening ceremony march-past was the “founder” of the Games, Bobby Robinson, in his role as Canadian team manager.

Rather against expectations the close-cropped grass of the Sydney Cricket Ground provided what transpired to be a brilliant setting for athletics, even though the track was curiously D-shaped to fit within the boundaries. The darling of the crowds of up to 40,000 was Decima Norman, familiarly known as “Dashing Dessie” or “The Flying Handful”, as she won gold medals in the 100 yards, 220 yards, long jump and both relays for Australia. One of her relay colleagues was Thelma Peake, who may well have her own claim to a place in sporting history – she is believed to be the first mother to win an Empire Games gold.

There were numerous other fine performances in athletics. John Loaring, the Olympic silver-medallist from Canada, took the 440 hurdles in what would turn out to be the fastest time in the World for the year, and he was in both of Canada’s winning relay teams, while Pat Boot, of New Zealand, ran the third fastest 880 yards, and another New Zealander, Cecil Matthews, beat England’s Peter Ward for the three miles title and was only nine seconds outside the World record. Rather unwisely, Ward had told Matthews beforehand that he always ran a fast last lap, and so the wily Kiwi simply set a hard pace from the start to ensure his triumph, and he then added the six miles title later in the Games.

Cyril Holmes, a Manchester University student, won both the 100 and 220 yards for England, as Arthur Sweeney had done four years before, and Bill Roberts, from the neighbouring city of Salford, took the 440 and Dorothy Odam the high jump. In the absence of Sydney Wooderson, the mile still produced a British winner as the Welshman, Jim Alford, improved on his previous best time by almost six seconds, having already enjoyed in his role as team manager another gold-medal success for a boxer, Dennis Reardon, and a silver medal for a swimmer, Jeanne Greenland. The long jump produced a totally unexpected result because it was won by a Canadian, Hal Brown, who had come to Sydney as a javelin thrower and only competed in his subsidiary event to provide support for his twin brother, Wally.

None of the other sports remotely matched the standards set in athletics, as even though records galore were set in the swimming events it was thought that the unusual length of the pool – 55 yards, as opposed to the standard 50 – substantially benefited the competitors. Australia, Canada and England between them won all 17 swimming and diving titles and South Africa had to settle for three silvers, even though (or maybe because) their coach's inapt name was Alexander Bulley. At least there was one challenge to the tripartite domination as British Guiana's sole representative, 36-year-old Walter Spence, won a breast-stroke silver. Spence had lived in the USA since 1923, had competed for Canada and won a relay freestyle bronze at the 1928 Olympics, and together with two of his brothers had been a US medley-relay title-winner.

Boxing would be one of those sports which would provide opportunities for success for a broad range of countries throughout the history of the Games, and there was an historic win in Sydney for the featherweight, Ansdale Henricus, from Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), who thus became the first Games champion in any sport who came from Asia. His victory, though, did not set any sort of precedent because Ceylon/Sri Lanka has won only six more gold medals since, and none in boxing. Henricus was a sub-inspector in the Ceylon Police and late in life after his retirement emigrated to the USA, where he lived to the age of 91 and was still regularly rope-skipping a year before his death in 2007. He was known familiarly as "Barney", presumably in tribute to Barney Ross, who was a World professional champion in three separate weight divisions.

England's rowing eight, which included two Australian-born oarsmen, Rhodes Hambridge and John Turnbull, and had practised in a static "shell" on the deck of the liner during the long sea voyage, won their race in thrilling fashion on the Nepean River, some 30 miles or so outside Sydney. They got home by three-quarters of a length from Australia, but the victory was not without its controversy. Before the crews had even taken to the water there had been what "The Times" diplomatically described as "a proceeding on which experts had frowned".

Somewhat controversially, the England selectors brought in to their crew for the key position of stroke a former London Rowing Club member, Tim Turner, who had since settled in Australia and had not been included in the official English team. All but one of the others in the England eight were from London RC, and Turner blended in so well, according to "The Times", that when he "asked his men for a final burst over the last quarter of a mile, they responded nobly". The Australians had cause to feel aggrieved, but no doubt pointed questions were asked afterwards as to why someone as accomplished as Turner had not been selected for his newly adopted country in the first place. The Englishman who lost his place to Turner, and so spent four months away from home without getting to compete at all, was Roger Harman, but as he was also a London RC member he presumably vacated his seat with good grace.

For the seven weight divisions in wrestling there were 26 entrants, all of them from the home countries or from Australia, Canada, New Zealand or South Africa, and this meant that only five of the contestants failed to win any kind of medal (one of the luckless few was the massive Scot, Archie Dudgeon, who had collected a bronze four years before). Three champions from 1934 successfully defended their titles – Dick Garrard and Jack Knight, of Australia, and Terry Evans, of Canada – and Australia won six of the seven weight divisions. England's six-strong bowls team included the gold-medalist from 1930 and 1934, Tommy Hills, but neither he nor any of the others won a medal between them. One of the New Zealanders in the pairs, Walter Denison, had the unusual distinction of having a son, Oswald,

taking part in the eights rowing, and they were both competing on the same afternoon. Father had the upper hand as he collected a gold medal and his son had to make do with bronze.

Australia had yet to establish ascendancy in the swimming pool and of the 13 events England won six, but obviously profiting from home advantage across the board the hosts began what would become over the years its regular domination of the overall medals table for all sports. They finished comfortably ahead of Canada and England, and the Scots were a distant 6th with two silvers and three bronzes. This would be the only Empire or Commonwealth Games in which Scotland failed to win at least one gold, though there was a Scots-born winner in Tom Lavery, of South Africa, at 120 yards hurdles. David Young, a discus-throwing Glasgow policeman who was to hold the British record for 13 years, was 2nd to an English-born Canadian, Eric Coy, and the other Scottish silver went to James Watson, a boxer from Edinburgh who had twice won the national bantamweight title but moved up to featherweight in Sydney and lost to the Ceylonese, Henricus, in the final.

The Scots had also had high hopes for their miler, Bobby Graham, who farmed for a living near Motherwell. In 1935 he had briefly interrupted Sydney Wooderson's reign as British record-holder but was only 5th in his 880 yards heat in Sydney and then a week later failed to finish in the mile final. Maybe his mind was on other matters. The Scottish team manager, Colonel Kenneth McLennan Whitton, had generously allowed Graham to combine his expedition to the Games with his honeymoon, but then the Colonel was maybe swayed in his decision by the fact that his wife of 32 years accompanied him on the voyage.

Against the odds, these Sydney Games had turned out to be by far the best yet. The bank-overdraft arrangement generously provided by the New South Wales government came in handy because there was a total expenditure of 18,182 pounds six shillings and two pence and a loss of 7,602 pounds 17 shillings and 10 pence. No one seemed to be too concerned, and James Eve, the Games organising secretary, enthused in his report: "The Organising Council extends its heartfelt thanks to all who so wholeheartedly assisted in making the British Empire Games of 1938 such a signal success".

The athletes had certainly done their bit, and there was plenty of opportunity for the Britons amongst them to reflect on triumph or failure. Their ship, the "S.S. Stratheden", left Sydney on 15 February and eventually arrived back in England on Friday 1 April. The pity of it was that, while a handful of the champions were able to resume their sporting careers when peace was resumed seven years later, for the vast majority of the competitors in Sydney this was their last great day in the sun. In all innocence the publishers of the official programme had printed an encouraging slogan: "Whether We Win Or Lose TODAY, We Will Play The Game Again TOMORROW". The next year the rather more serious business of a World War started.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1938 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 YARDS (5 Feb): Cyril Holmes (England) 9.7sec.

220 YARDS (10 Feb): Cyril Holmes (England) 21.2sec.

440 YARDS (12 Feb): Bill Roberts (England) 47.9sec.

880 YARDS (7 Feb): Pat Boot (New Zealand) 1min 51.2sec.

1 MILE (12 Feb): Jim Alford (Wales) 4min 11.5sec.

3 MILES (5 Feb): Cecil Matthews (New Zealand) 13min 59.6sec.

6 MILES (10 Feb): Cecil Matthews (New Zealand) 30min 14.5sec.

MARATHON (7 Feb): Johannes Coleman (South Africa) 2hr 30min 49.8sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (12 Feb): Tom Lavery (South Africa) 14.0sec. Note: wind-assisted.

440 YARDS HURDLES (5 Feb): John Loaring (Canada) 52.9sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (10 Feb): Canada (Jack Brown, Pat Haley, John Loaring, Larry O'Connor) 41.6sec.

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (12 Feb): Canada (Jack Orr, Bill Dale, Bill Fritz, John Loaring) 3min 16.9sec.

HIGH JUMP (5 Feb): Edwin Thacker (South Africa) 6ft 5in (1.96m).

POLE VAULT (12 Feb): Andries du Plessis (South Africa) 13ft 5³/₄in (4.11m).

LONG JUMP (10 Feb): Hal Brown (Canada) 24ft 4³/₄in (7.43m).

TRIPLE JUMP (12 Feb): Jack Metcalfe (Australia) 50ft 10in (15.49m).

SHOT (12 Feb): Louis Fouché (South Africa) 47ft 6in (14.48m).

DISCUS (7 Feb): Eric Coy (Canada) 146ft 10¹/₄in (44.76m).

HAMMER (10 Feb): George Sutherland (Canada) 159ft 9³/₄in (48.71m).

JAVELIN (5 Feb): Jim Courtright (Canada) 206ft 0¹/₄in (62.80m).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 YARDS (5 Feb): Decima Norman (Australia) 11.1sec.

220 YARDS (12 Feb): Decima Norman (Australia) 24.7sec. Note: World record. Norman and Aileen Meagher (Canada) each set a World record 24.9sec in the heats.

80 METRES HURDLES (12 Feb): Barbara Burke (South Africa) 11.7sec. Note: Burke had competed for Great Britain in the 1936 Olympics, winning a silver medal in the 4 x 100 metres relay.

440 YARDS RELAY – 220 yards x 110 yards x 110 yards – (7 Feb): Australia (Jean Coleman, Eileen Wearne, Decima Norman) 49.1sec.

660 YARDS RELAY – 220 yards x 220 yards x 110 yards x 110 yards – (5 Feb): Australia (Jean Coleman, Decima Norman, Thelma Peake, Joan Woodland) 1min 15.2sec.

HIGH JUMP (12 Feb): Dorothy Odam (England) 5ft 3in (1.60m).

LONG JUMP (7 Feb): Decima Norman (Australia) 19ft 0¹/₄in (5.80m).

JAVELIN (10 Feb): Robina Higgins (Canada) 125ft 7¹/₂in (38.28m).

BOWLS

SINGLES: Horace Harvey (South Africa).

PAIRS: New Zealand (Lance Macey, Walter Denison).

FOURS: New Zealand (Bill Whittaker, Alec Robertson, Ernie Jury, Bill Bremner).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Johannes Joubert (South Africa).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): William Butler (England).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Ansdale Henricus (Ceylon).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Harry Groves (England).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Bill Smith (Australia).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Dennis Reardon (Wales).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Nicolaas Wolmarans (South Africa).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Tom Osborne (Canada).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Bob Porter (Australia).
1000 METRES SPRINT: Edgar (“Dunc”) Gray (Australia).
10 MILES SCRATCH: Bill Maxfield (England) 24min 44.0sec.
ROAD (100 KILOMETRES): Hendrik Binneman (South Africa) 2hr 53min 29.6sec.

ROWING:

SINGLE SCULLS: Herb Turner (Australia) 8min 24.0sec..
DOUBLE SCULLS: Australia (William Bradley, Cecil Pearce) 7min 29.4sec. Note: this was officially listed as an “invitation” event and no medals were awarded. Pearce was a cousin of Henry (“Bobby”) Pearce, the single sculls winner in 1930.
COXED FOURS: Australia (Gordon Freeth, Don Fraser, Stewart Elder, Jack Fisher, Harry Kerr) 7min 16.8sec.
EIGHTS: England (John Burrough, Basil Beazley, Rhodes Hambridge, John Turnbull, Peter Jackson, John Sturrock, Desmond Kingsford, Tim Turner, Thomas Reeve) 6min 29.0sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Bob Pirie (Canada) 59.6sec.
440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Bob Pirie (Canada) 4min 54.6sec.
1650 YARDS FREESTYLE: Bobby Leivers (England) 19min 46.4sec.
4 x 220 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: England (Freddy Dove, Mostyn Ffrench-Williams, Bobby Leivers, Norman Wainwright) 9min 19.0sec.
110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Percy Oliver (Australia) 1min 7.9sec.
220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: John Davies (England) 2min 51.9sec.
3 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: England (Micky Taylor, John Davies, Freddy Dove) 3min 28.2sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Doug Tomalin (England) 108.74pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Ron Masters (Australia) 126.36pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Evelyn de Lacy (Australia) 1min 10.1sec.
440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Dorothy Green (Australia) 5min 39.7sec.
4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Florence Humble, Dorothy Lyon, Noel Oxenbury, Phyllis Dewar) 4min 48.3sec.
110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Pat Norton (Australia) 1min 19.5sec.
220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Doris Storey (England) 3min 6.3sec.
3 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: England (Lorna Frampton, Doris Storey, Margery Hinton) 3min 57.7sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Lurline Hook (Australia) 36.47pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Irene Donnett (Australia) 91.18pts.

WRESTLING

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Ted Purcell (Australia).
FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Roy Purchase (Australia).
LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Dick Garrard (Australia).
WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Tom Trevaskis (Australia).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Terry Evans (Canada).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Eddie Scarf (Australia).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Jack Knight (Australia).

1938 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	24	19	22	65
Canada	13	16	15	44
England	15	14	10	39
South Africa	10	10	6	26
New Zealand	5	7	12	24
Scotland	0	2	3	5
Wales	2	1	0	3
Rhodesia	0	0	2	2
British Guiana	0	1	0	1
Ceylon	1	0	0	1

IV. British Empire Games

Auckland, New Zealand

4-11 February 1950

12 countries, 590 competitors. 10 sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Rowing, Swimming & Diving, Water polo, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

When the shouting dies and darkness falls, a time to remember as the crowds go chattering home

The British Empire Games of 1942 had been destined, interestingly, for French-speaking Montreal, but World War II put an end to those plans, and 1946 was too soon after peace had been restored to revive the Games sequence. The honour of resuming the celebrations fell to New Zealand, rather than Canada, when officials met at the 1948 London Olympics and chose Auckland as the venue for 1950. It seems inconceivable in the 21st Century that a city should take on the task of organising a major Games at only two years' notice, but life then was far simpler and sport staged on a much more modest scale. There were 495 men and 95 women taking part in 87 events in 1950. At the 2010 Games there would be 6,081 competitors in 272 events. Of course, there's an argument which would find plenty of support, particularly among long-time enthusiasts, that the 1950 Games were preferable (i.e. more enjoyable) than those of 60 years later.

There were natural misgivings among many of the countries of the Empire regarding the cost of sending teams to such a far distant venue at a time when national economies were still only slowly stabilising after the massive costs of the war effort. Some parts of the Empire, including the Channel Islands, Hong Kong, Malaya and Singapore, had even suffered enemy occupation. India and Pakistan had gained their independence in 1947, and in 1949 the Commonwealth of Nations had been formed, with the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Ceylon, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and South Africa as its founder members. Regrettably, neither India nor Pakistan took up the invitation to Auckland, but others to do so were Fiji, Malaya, Nigeria and Rhodesia, in addition to England, Scotland and Wales.

The director of the Games organising committee, Alwyn Moon, expressed quiet satisfaction that the visitors should "represent a strong cross-section of what constitutes the British Commonwealth of Nations", but in truth the absentees were significant ones. Whether or not it was for political reasons that India and Pakistan did not send teams, it was a disappointment because both countries would surely have made their mark in wrestling, and their competitors in other sports would have benefited from the experience. India's sports leaders said by way of explanation that priority was being given to the Asian Games to be held in Delhi later in the year, though the irony was that these Games had to be postponed until 1951 because of lack of preparedness. A rather more pressing reason for others not being in New Zealand was a clash of fixtures with the Central American & Caribbean Games, which meant that the great Jamaican runners, including the Olympic champion at 400 metres, Arthur Wint, and the World record-holder for both that distance and the slightly longer 440 yards, Herb McKenley, were otherwise engaged.

With the economic repercussions of the war still being felt, these Games were bound to be austerity-conscious, as had been the case at the London Olympics, Yet they turned out to be a resounding success which attracted huge crowds, with over 40,000 at each of the four athletics sessions and the 5000-seater capacity at the swimming-pool fully taken up. Many of

the spectators were seeing international-class sport for the first time, and their enjoyment of the experience was only occasionally marred by organisational lapses.

Not surprisingly, a similar situation arose to that of Sydney in 1938 as there were numerous prominent athletes from the home countries unable to spare the time for the long winter adventure of setting off on a sea voyage beginning well before Christmas 1949 and not ending until the following spring. Roger Bannister and Bill Nankeville, England's leading milers, were among those who had regretfully declared their unavailability, while Europe's leading sprinter, the Trinidad-born Emmanuel McDonald Bailey, was sadly never asked at all. Though he had lived in England since joining the Royal Air Force during the war – just as Arthur Wint had done – he was not considered eligible for the country for whom he had donned service uniform, and his native Trinidad did not send a team to Auckland.

Also to be missed was Maureen Dyson (née Gardner), who had memorably raced the legendary "Flying Dutchwoman", Fanny Blankers-Koen, so close in the London Olympic 80 metres hurdles. Australia's swimming prodigy, John Marshall, who had set a World record for the 440 yards freestyle, was another non-starter because of his university studies in the USA. Two of the Scottish athletes, high jumper Alan Paterson and distance-runner Andrew Forbes, benefited from the generosity of Sir Alexander King, owner of a chain of cinemas in Scotland, who paid for their air flight via Iceland, Canada, Hawaii and Fiji and was rewarded for his largesse by both men winning silver medals.

There was one Olympic athletics champion present – the Australian high jumper, John Winter – and five silver-medallists in various sports. Also reporting for duty were eight athletes who had competed in the previous Empire Games of 12 years before. Even more remarkable was the reappearance of Stan Lay, the javelin winner of 1930, lured into a nostalgic comeback in his homeland at the age of 43, and not much his junior were Jack Holden, 42, who had run in the 1934 Games six miles for England, as well as team-mate Don Finlay, 40, and South Africa's Scots-born Tom Lavery, 38, who had been the 120 yards hurdles champions of 1934 and 1938 respectively. The solitary lady to have survived from the latter year was Dorothy Tyler (née Odam), a mere 29, with an Empire high-jump gold, two Olympic silvers and two World records to her credit – and much more to come.

The boundless enthusiasm of the citizens of Auckland was epitomised by a group of a dozen leading local businessmen who clubbed together rather in the manner of a Rotary Club charity committee to raise the £50,000 (equivalent to £1,450,000 now) which the Games were expected to cost. The opening ceremony, beginning at 1.30 p.m. on Saturday 4 February was a deliberately modest affair, designed to deliver a warm welcome rather than staging a grandiose spectacle, and the values of the old Empire clearly still held good. Harking back to the foundation of the Games in 1930, the official programme carried a stirring message for the onlookers and the competitors:

"The World is still changing in its views, and the outlook on many phases of life is vastly different from that prevailing 20 years ago, but in the field of competition, whether it be on the athletics track, in the swimming-pool or in the boxing-ring, the manner in which Great Britain, the home of true sport, has played its games has always been admired. Throughout these Games that spirit will prevail, and all who take part and all who look on will be the better for having felt that spirit".

Though the women athletes were still restricted to a handful of events, with no races further than 220 yards, it was one among them who was to become the star of the Games. Marjorie Jackson, aged 18, had equalled the World 100 yards record of 10.8sec the previous month,

and what a surprise it was that on the grass track laid out at Auckland's famous Eden Park rugby-football ground – admitted by the New Zealand authorities themselves to be out-dated – she should run 10.8 again in the heats of her event and in the final later in the afternoon. Miss Jackson went on to set another World record at 220 yards and then helped her country to victory in two sprint relays. Her team-mate, Shirley Strickland, won three golds in the hurdles and those relays. A few days later more than 6,000 of Miss Jackson's fellow-citizens of Lithgow, in New South Wales, were to turn out at 10 o'clock at night in heavy rain to join in her celebratory homecoming. At the 1952 Olympics Miss Jackson would win both sprints again and Miss Strickland the hurdles.

Australia's women athletes took six of the eight events in all, superceded only by England's Dorothy Tyler in the high jump and New Zealand's Yvette Williams in the long jump (which she would also win at the Olympics two years later). Yet a strong challenger for the award of "Team of the Games", had there been such a prize on offer, would have been a country making its debut, Malaya (now Malaysia), in a sport, weight-lifting, which was also appearing for the first time. Malaysians won the bantamweight and featherweight titles, plus a further silver and bronze in other divisions. England's Jim Halliday, who had come home from the war a severely emaciated former prisoner-of-war of the Japanese, took the lightweight gold ahead of one of the Malaysians, while in wrestling the ageless Dick Garrard, of Australia, now 41 and an Olympic silver-medallist, earned his third successive Empire title, also as a lightweight. He was described affectionately as "a trifle battered-looking".

The most courageous men's performance in athletics came from Jack Holden, running the last 10 miles of the marathon barefoot after throwing away his sodden canvas shoes, and then having to fend off a Great Dane which lunged at him. He still came home with a comfortable four minutes and more to spare over the 2nd finisher – if, that is, any aspect of running 26 miles 385 yards could possibly be described as "comfortable", whatever the weather conditions and standards of canine-control on the sidelines. On the track Australia's John Treloar won gold medals at 100 yards, 220 yards and the 4 x 110 yards relay, and it would be another 20 years before anyone achieved such a sprint treble at the Games – and he would be Don Quarrie, for Jamaica.

Once again, as in Sydney in 1938, the longer hurdles event for men produced an indisputably World-class performance. Duncan White, of Ceylon, who had been the Olympic 400 metres hurdles silver medallist in London and had competed as a sprinter at the 1938 Empire Games, might well have had a World record in the 440 yards hurdles but for hitting a barrier hard early on and almost falling. At the tape he was only three-tenths of a second slower than the record held by the man who beat him for 1948 Olympic gold, Roy Cochran, of the USA. After studying in England, White was to spend the rest of his life in Nuneaton, in Warwickshire, saying that New Zealand was "the only country in the World to match England in beauty and exceed it in peace".

The high jumper, John Winter, became the first man to add Empire gold to Olympic gold in an individual athletics event, though England's Bill Roberts had done so in 1936-38, at 4 x 400 metres relay and 440 yards respectively, while at the same Olympics Jack Lovelock had followed up Empire mile success with 1500 metres triumph. Similarly, Winter's fellow-Australian, Mervyn Wood, won the single-sculls rowing in Auckland, as he had done at the Olympics, and so matched the achievement of yet another Aussie, Bobby Pearce, who had done so in 1928-30 and then added another Olympic gold in 1932 for good measure. Wood came close to precisely emulating Pearce title-for-title because he would be 2nd at the 1952 Olympics by only 1.7sec.

The veteran high hurdlers, Don Finlay and Tom Lavery, were beaten on this occasion by Peter Gardner, who was from Australia, of course (well, they did win more gold medals at these Games than England and New Zealand combined!). Gardner hardly seemed cut out for such a technically-demanding event which required clearance of 10 barriers each of 3ft 6in in height while sprinting at top speed. He was so short-sighted he could barely see from one flight of obstacles to the next.

Australians took 1-2-3 in an event which involved three distinct phases and was then known as the hop step and jump as Brian Oliver, only 20 years old, produced another performance of the very highest calibre at 51ft 2½in (15.61m), which would be the 4th best in the World for the year, though still a shade short of Jack Metcalfe's prodigious Games record from 1934. Of no consequence so far as distances were concerned but providing immense enjoyment for the crowds was the unexpected shot-put win for a genial Fijian, Mataika Tuicakau, whose best effort was still more than a metre short of the British record achieved little more than two months previously by a 6ft 7in (2.01m) tall Royal Marine, John Savidge, whose service duties kept him away but who would make up for lost time by winning this event four years later. Tuicakau, who was to hold the Fijian shot record for more than half-a-century, was also 2nd in the discus in Auckland, and his compatriot, Luke Tabuna, was 2nd in the javelin.

The javelin was an event which had been largely dominated by Finland, winners of four of the previous six Olympic titles and holders of the World record for 20 years. Even the New Zealand all-comers' record had been in the possession of a Finnish thrower for 15 years, but it could be reasonably assumed, of course, that a British Empire Games title in that event would elude anyone of such far-flung (literally!) origin – not so! The winner was Leo Roininen, of Canada, who came from the town of Lockerby, Ontario, where his family was one of many of Finnish descent. Roininen was a student at Washington State University, in the USA, and the competition was of modest standard; Even then, there was no dramatic comeback for the veteran New Zealander, Stan Lay, who was 50ft short of the heyday of his Empire record of 22 years before and finished 7th of the eight competitors.

In swimming Margaret McQuade and Judy Joy Davies each won three golds for Australia, and there were also precocious victories for their 16-year-old team-mate, David Hawkins, and for 14-year-old Joan Harrison, of South Africa. The one other non-Australian win in the six women's events came from Helen Orr Gordon (known familiarly as "Elinor"), who took the 220 yards breast-stroke for Scotland and would do so again in 1954. Also starting out on an Empire Games trail which would lead to more Scottish medals was Peter Heatly, winning the highboard diving and losing the springboard gold by only 0.41pts (169.21 to 168.80) to George Athans, of Canada, who had won two bronze medals in 1938. Athans, who became a doctor and lived to the age of 86, had three sons, one of whom was four times World water ski-ing champion, another World freestyle ski-ing champion, and a third a member of the Canadian Alpine ski team for eight years. Heatly who had won his first East of Scotland diving title at the age of 15 in 1937, was to go on to a distinguished career in sports administration as chairman of the Scottish Sports Council from 1975 to 1987 and of the Commonwealth Games Federation in the years 1982-90 and was knighted for his work.

Fencing was introduced to the Games, and though there were only four countries represented there was plenty of action for the men as there were six events in all, whereas the nine women competitors were confined to a single competition. England won everything except the men's team epee, and Australia's success there was a remarkable achievement in their first experience of international competition. One aspect of this sport which must be unique

to the Games was that there was such a shortage of officials that some of the competitors themselves were called up for duty, including England's individual epee champion, Charles-Louis de Beaumont, who was additionally elected president when a British Empire and Commonwealth Fencing Federation was formed as the tournament progressed. Such were the demands of the schedule that the three Canadian male competitors each had 70 or more bouts in six days. No wonder, then, that Georges Pouliot, a Montreal lawyer by profession who collected medals in every event except one, was to say with a verbal force akin to his thrust of the epee, "Some people may believe fencing is a sissy game. They're dead wrong". Listeners got the point, no doubt.

In boxing there were three wins for England, and a hefty share in a fourth as New Zealand's heavyweight champion, Frank Creagh, had emigrated from England only two years earlier. There were two titles each for Scotland and South Africa. Don Scott took the light-heavyweight title for England to go one place better than he had at the London Olympics and Hugh Riley's success at flyweight would turn out in the fullness of time to be the first of four titles in that division at successive Games for Scotland. One of the most bizarre outcomes of any event in any sport at any Games was in the welterweight division where Alex Obeyesekere, of Ceylon, was given the bronze despite losing his only bout in the semi-finals, to which he had received a bye, while Jim McIvor, of New Zealand, got nothing despite winning once and losing once. Injured in the latter bout, McIvor was unable to appear for the 3rd-place contest against the Ceylonese. It might have been more charitable to bend the rules and give both of them bronze medals, but even at the "Friendly Games" protocol has to be observed.

Yet another sport in which Australia was dominant was the cycling, winning four of the five titles, including a double for Russell Mockridge in the track 1000 metres time-trial and the sprint. Mockridge had taken up the sport because his eyesight was too poor for ball games and was tragically to be killed in a collision with a bus during a road-race in 1958. An unsung hero of the Games was Lorne Atkinson, who was manager, coach and mechanic for the Canadian cyclists – including himself, because he competed in all four track events and placed 8th in the road race.

The most heartening post-script to these first Empire Games for a dozen long years, which had reached a raucous climax with a rain-soaked but ever cheerful crowd bellowing out the refrain of "Auld Lang Syne" at the closing ceremony, was contained in a detailed and perceptive report in the magazine, "The New Zealand Sportsman". The editor, modestly remaining anonymous, wrote feelingly, "Auckland had become slightly insane about the Empire Games. Come hell or high water, the Games were the thing". Added to that was a hauntingly lyrical view expressed in verse by Neil McKinnon for the "Auckland Star" newspaper, which concluded with the following lines of fond remembrance:

*"And when the shouting dies
And darkness covers all,
And the crowds go chattering home,
This will be
A time to keep
And to remember".*

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1950 GAMES

ATHLETICS – MEN

100 YARDS (4 Feb): John Treloar (Australia) 9.7sec.

220 YARDS (9 Feb): John Treloar (Australia) 21.5sec.

440 YARDS (11 Feb): Edwin Carr (Australia) 47.9sec.

880 YARDS (7 Feb): John Parlett (England) 1min 53.1sec.

1 MILE (11 Feb): Bill Parnell (Canada) 4min 11.0sec.

3 MILES (7 Feb): Len Eyre (England) 14min 23.6sec.

6 MILES (4 Feb): Harold Nelson (New Zealand) 30min 29.6sec.

MARATHON (11 Feb): Jack Holden (England) 2hr 32min 57.0sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (9 Feb): Peter Gardner (Australia) 14.3sec.

440 YARDS HURDLES (7 Feb): Duncan White (Ceylon) 52.5sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (11 Feb): Australia (Bill de Gruchy, David Johnson, Alastair Gordon, John Treloar) 42.2sec.

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (11 Feb): Australia (Ross Price, George Gedge, Jim Humphreys, Edwin Carr) 3min 17.8sec.

HIGH JUMP (4 Feb): John Winter (Australia) 6ft 6in (1.98m).

POLE VAULT (11 Feb): Tim Anderson (England) 13ft 0¹/₈in (3.96m).

LONG JUMP (7 Feb): Neville Price (South Africa) 24ft 0in (7.31m).

TRIPLE JUMP (9 Feb): Brian Oliver (Australia) 51ft 2¹/₂in (15.61m).

SHOT (9 Feb): Mataika Tuicakau (Fiji) 48ft 0¹/₄in (14.63m).

DISCUS (7 Feb): Ian Reed (Australia) 156ft 7in (47.72m).

HAMMER (11 Feb): Duncan McDougall Clark (Scotland) 163ft 10¹/₄in (49.94m).

JAVELIN (11 Feb): Leo Roininen (Canada) 187ft 4¹/₈in (57.11m).

ATHLETICS – WOMEN

100 YARDS (4 Feb): Marjorie Jackson (Australia) 10.8 sec. Note: World record. Jackson also set a World record 10.8sec in the heats.

220 YARDS (9 Feb): Marjorie Jackson (Australia) 24.3sec. Note: World record.

80 METRES HURDLES (9 Feb): Shirley Strickland (Australia) 11.6sec.

440 YARDS RELAY – 220 yards x 110 yards x 110 yards – (11 Feb): Australia (Marjorie Jackson, Shirley Strickland, Verna Johnston) 47.9sec.

660 YARDS RELAY – 220 yards x 220 yards x 110 yards x 110 yards – (11 Feb): Australia (Shirley Strickland, Verna Johnston, Marjorie Jackson, Ann Shanley) 1min 13.4sec.

HIGH JUMP (7 Feb): Dorothy Tyler (England) 5ft 3in (1.60m). Note: Tyler née Odam.

LONG JUMP (9 Feb): Yvette Williams (New Zealand) 19ft 4⁵/₈in (5.91m).

JAVELIN (9 Feb): Charlotte MacGibbon (Australia) 127ft 5¹/₄in (38.84m).

BOWLS

SINGLES: Jim Piret (New Zealand).

PAIRS: New Zealand (Bob Henry, Phil Exelby).

FOURS: South Africa (Harry Atkinson, Herby Curren, Alfred Blumberg, Norman Walker)..

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Hugh Riley (Scotland).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Jan van Rensburg (South Africa).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Henry Gilliland (Scotland).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Ronny Latham (England).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Terry Ratcliffe (England).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Theunis van Schalkwyk (South Africa).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Don Scott (England).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Frank Creagh (New Zealand).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Russell Mockridge (Australia) 1min 13.4sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Russell Mockridge (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Cyril Cartwright (England) 5min 16.3sec.

10 MILES SCRATCH: William Heseltine (Australia) 23min 23.4sec.

100 KILOMETRES ROAD: Hector Sutherland (Australia) 3hr 13min 6.4sec.

FENCING – MEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: René Paul (England).

INDIVIDUAL EPEE: Charles-Louis de Beaumont (England).

INDIVIDUAL SABRE: Arthur Pilbrow (England).

TEAM FOIL: England (Robert Anderson, René Paul, Arthur Pilbrow).

TEAM EPEE: Australia (Allan Jay, Ivan Lund, Charles Stanmore).

TEAM SABRE: England (Robert Anderson, Charles-Louis de Beaumont, Arthur Pilbrow).

FENCING – WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Mary Glen Haig (England).

ROWING

SINGLE SCULLS: Mervyn Wood (Australia) 7min 46.8sec.

DOUBLE SCULLS: Australia (Mervyn Wood, Murray Riley) 7min 22.0sec.

COXLESS PAIRS: Australia (Wal Lambert, Jack Webster) 7min 58.0sec.

COXED FOURS: New Zealand (Ted Johnson, John O'Brien, Bill James, Bill Carroll, Charles Johnston) 7min 17.2sec.

EIGHTS: Australia (Allen Brown, Edward Pain, Eric Longley, Ross Selman, Bruce Goswell, Peter Holmes a'Court, Philip Cayzer, Robert Tinning, James Barnes) 6min 27.0sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING – MEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Peter Salmon (Canada) 1 min 0.4sec;

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Garrick Agnew (Australia) 4min 49.4sec.

1650 YARDS FREESTYLE: Graham Johnston (South Africa) 19min 55.7sec.

4 x 220 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: New Zealand (Lyll Barry, Fred Lucas, Noel Chambers, Michael Amos) 9min 27.7sec.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Jackie Wiid (South Africa) 1min 7.7sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: David Hawkins (Australia) 2min 54.1sec.

3 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: England (Jack Hale, Roy Romain, Pat Kendall) 3min 26.6sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Peter Heatly (Scotland) 156.07pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: George Athans (Canada) 169.21pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING – WOMEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Marjorie McQuade (Australia) 1min 9.0sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Joan Harrison (South Africa) 5min 26.4sec.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Denise Spencer, Denise Norton, Judy-Joy Davies, Marjorie McQuade) 4min 44.9sec.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Judy-Joy Davies (Australia) 1min 18.6sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Elinor Gordon (Scotland) 3min 1.7sec.

3 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Judy-Joy Davies, Nancy Lyons, Marjorie McQuade) 3min 53.8sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Edna Child (England) 70.80pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Edna Child (England) 126.58pts.

WATER POLO

Australia (John Amadee, Peter Bennett, Herman Doerner, Owen Doerner, Colin French, Malcolm Hastie, Percy Johnston, James McKay). Note: only Australia and New Zealand took part and Australia won all three matches 11-4, 13-2, 5-2. These details are included in the published results of the Games and in the Australian Commonwealth Games Federation's list of gold-medal winners, but it is not clear whether water polo was an official Games sport or a "demonstration" event. Herman and Owen Doerner were brothers.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Tho Fook Hung (Malaya) 655lb (297kg).

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Koh Eng Tong (Malaya) 685lb (310.5kg).

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Jim Halliday (England) 760lb (344.5kg).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Gerry Gratton (Canada) 795lb (360.5kg).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Jim Varaleau (Canada) 815lb (369.5kg).

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Harold Cleghorn (New Zealand) 900lb (408kg).

WRESTLING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Bert Harris (Australia).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Douglas Mudgeway (New Zealand).

FEATHERWEIGHT (67kg): John Armit (New Zealand).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Dick Garrard (Australia).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Henry Hudson (Canada).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Patrick Morton (South Africa).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Jim Armstrong (Australia).

1950 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	34	27	19	80
New Zealand	10	22	22	54
England	19	16	13	48
Canada	8	9	13	30
South Africa	8	4	8	20
Scotland	5	3	2	10
Fiji	1	2	2	5
Malaya	2	1	1	4
Ceylon	1	2	0	3
Nigeria	0	1	0	1
Rhodesia	0	1	0	1
Wales	0	1	0	1

V. British Empire and Commonwealth Games.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

30 July-7 August 1954

24 countries, 662 competitors. Nine sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Rowing, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

It was a glorious sight. It was an anguished sight

Roger Bannister's name will be remembered forever – the first man to break four minutes for the mile, and then victor over his successor as World record-holder, John Landy, of Australia, in a pulsating race at the 1954 Empire Games which was called the “Mile Of The Century” and could well now be described in the hindsight of history as the “Mile of the Millennium”. Who, though, recalls the name of Nyandika Maiyoro? Yet it was Maiyoro's rather more modest showing at those Games which was to have equal significance in long-term perspective.

Bannister had run 3min 59.4sec for the mile in May of 1954. Landy had broken that record with 3:57.9 in June. Bannister won the Empire title from Landy in 3:58.8, and both were to go on to lead eminent lives – Bannister as a surgeon and Landy as governor of the state of Victoria. The barefoot Maiyoro had astonished spectators at the AAA Championships in London in July by finishing 3rd in a World-record-breaking three miles after setting a breakneck pace, and he was then 4th to a trio of Englishmen in Vancouver. Maiyoro was the first Kenyan distance-runner to achieve a World-class standard, and where he led there would be thousands more to follow.

He was to make a nostalgic return to the Commonwealth Games 40 years later as a member of the Kenyan delegation – and it was a nostalgic occasion for me, too! Coming out of the stadium one evening, having completed my day's work with the BBC Radio commentary team, I espied a group of Kenyan officials, and so I approached one and asked if he knew anything about Maiyoro – which, of course, was a delicate way of inquiring if Maiyoro was still alive – and the man turned and pointed towards a balding and somewhat corpulent fellow-bystander and proclaimed, “Why, this is he!” Maiyoro was astonished to be confronted by this excitable Englishman who proceeded to tell the tale of having been a youthful witness to that AAA three miles of 1954.

Sadly, the distance events in Vancouver were marred by the harrowing spectacle of the finish of the sun-baked marathon on the same afternoon as the Bannister-v-Landy mile. To the consternation, if not the horror, of the 35,500 crowd, the Englishman, Jim Peters, who had set the World's fastest times for the distance on four occasions in the previous two years and was leading the race by a very long way, collapsed repeatedly with heat exhaustion after coming into the stadium for the final lap of the track, and it was only after 10 minutes of this distressing spectacle that team officials intervened and he was taken away to hospital on a stretcher. He soon recovered from his ordeal but never competed again. By contrast, there were many other performances in the nine sports contested in Vancouver which left much pleasanter memories.

The Vancouver city fathers had started their planning well in advance. Interest had first been expressed in hosting the Games as early as 1938, with 1942 as the target. Those ideas, of course, went by the board, but in preparation for a new bid a “ways and means” committee was set up as early as 1948. One of the members, Ken McKenzie, had gone to the 1950 Auckland Games to see his daughter, Eleanor, compete in the sprints and had taken with him

a detailed document outlining Vancouver's virtues which had been endorsed by the Mayor and the local trade and tourism organisations. The British Empire and Commonwealth Games, as they were now called, had moved into the big time, at least by the economic standards of the 1950s. Vancouver's new stadium eventually cost 1.5 million dollars. The Canadian government, the province of British Columbia and the City of Vancouver each put up 200,000 dollars towards the organisation costs. Fund-raising brought in more than 343,000 dollars. Some 388,000 dollars was taken in ticket sales. The film and television rights were sold for 50,000 dollars. For the first time the opening ceremony was held the evening before the athletics events began, which enabled more competitors to take part and was also, as was readily admitted in the official report, "financially advantageous in providing a separate source of gate receipt revenue".

There were not that many more competitors in Vancouver than there had been in Auckland four years before – 662, as against 590 – and the proportion of women (94) was lower, but the number of countries doubled, and appearing for the first time were the Bahamas, Gold Coast (now Ghana), Hong Kong, Kenya, Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), Pakistan and Uganda. It had taken almost a quarter-of-a-century to achieve, but at long last the Games were beginning to reflect the true ethnic mix of the Empire, and in athletics alone gold medals were won by such countries as Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and Nigeria, as well as two of the newcomers, Pakistan and Northern Rhodesia.

The most successful team in any sport was unquestionably that of South Africa's wrestlers. All six of them won gold medals, but there was no heavyweight in the team – and nor, for that matter, were there heavyweights entered from any other country except two, and so Ken Richmond won the gold for England in a single bout against Canada's Keith Maltman. But Richmond was unquestionably one of the outstanding wrestlers in the World, as he had been the bronze-medallist at the 1952 Olympics, and in any case he would go on to much wider fame. Having served as a seaman on a whaling ship, he became the bare-chested strong-man who beat the massive gong as the opening credits rolled on films produced by the J. Arthur Rank organisation. Keeping himself fit throughout his life, he was still competing in roller-blading and wind-surfing into his 60s, but just before he died in 2006, aged 80, he confided that his cinematic pose had been an illusion and the gong which he seemed to strike so forcibly was nothing more than a papier-maché model.

In that "Miracle Mile" Landy had courageously led from early on in an attempt to run away from Bannister, and at one stage his advantage had stretched to 10 yards or so, but Bannister gradually reeled his opponent in and an iconic photograph caught the precise moment that the race was won and lost. Landy glanced over his left shoulder as he entered the final straight to check where Bannister was, and at that moment the Englishman went by on the right. Bannister won the European 1500 metres title later that month equally convincingly and then retired. Landy overcame injury to take the bronze medal in the 1956 Olympic 1500 metres. Both went on to lead prominent lives; Bannister as a surgeon, Landy as Governor of the state of Victoria.

Even though overshadowed by all the drama of that miling duel and the marathon debacle, there were still numerous other fine athletes on view. The double Olympic sprint champion, Marjorie Nelson (the former Miss Jackson), added three more sprint golds for Australia to her portfolio, incorporating another 220 yards World record, and the versatile Olympic long-jump champion and World record-holder, Yvette Williams, of New Zealand, won that event, plus the shot and the discus. Setting all sorts of precedents was a 19-year-old Nigerian high jumper, Emmanuel Arinze Ifeajuna, who was only 5ft 6½in (1.70m) tall but achieved an

Empire record – the first ever by an African athlete, other than from South Africa, in any athletics event – of 6ft 8in (2.03m) with what was described as “quite breath-taking raw spring”. His team-mate, Nafie Osagie, and a Ugandan, Patrick Etolu, took 2nd and 3rd places, and there were further silver medals for Nigeria’s men in the 4 x 110 yards relay, long jump and triple jump. Ifeajuna was to meet an untimely death, becoming an army colonel, getting involved in the country’s first military coup in 1966, and being executed the following year.

The women’s high jump, remarkably, included from Britain three past or future World record-holders over a 17-year span: Dorothy Tyler, now 34, with 5ft 5³/₈in (1.66m) from 1939; Sheila Lerwill, with 5-7⁵/₈ (1.72) from 1951; and Thelma Hopkins, who was to clear 5-8¹/₂ (1.74) in 1956. Hopkins, 18, and Yorkshire-born though representing Northern Ireland, won handily at the second best height in the World for the year of 5-6 (1.68), using the straddle technique, which entailed crossing the bar face downwards and was much more efficient than the antiquated “scissors” because the body’s centre of gravity was raised considerably higher. Tyler, who had learned the Straddle technique late in her career, was honourably 2nd in defence of the title she had won in both 1938 and 1950.

The most surprising of Scotland’s six winners across the range of nine sports was marathon-runner Joe McGhee, who had sensibly not offered a challenge beyond the eight-mile mark to the searing pace set by Jim Peters, and after Peters and his team-mate, Stan Cox, had collapsed McGhee padded steadily on to repeat the success of Duncan McLeod Wright 24 years before. McGhee’s victory was largely disregarded among all the controversy of the finish of the race, and this is unfair because he was a fine runner in his own right, even though his pre-Games best time was almost exactly 18 minutes slower than that of Peters. McGhee had been a teacher in Stirling and was a very capable marathon-man who had been 3rd in the 1953 Scottish championship but then improved significantly with more time for training during national service with the RAF. In 1955 he would win the Scottish title by almost nine minutes with the fastest time by a Briton that year, though persistent leg injuries hampered him thereafter.

Aged only 15, Lorraine Crapp won two gold medals in swimming for Australia. Also in the pool, titles were successfully defended by South Africa’s Joan Harrison (having also become Olympic champion in the interim) and Graham Johnston and by Scotland’s Helen Orr Gordon, as always familiarly known as “Elinor”, who added a relay gold, together with Margaret Girvan and Margaret McDowall, and thus became her country’s first triple gold-medallist at the Games. Scotland sent seven competitors for the events in the pool at Vancouver and they all came back with medals – 11 in all, including relays – with another victory coming from Peter Heatly in springboard diving to add to his highboard title from 1950.

The cycling velodrome contained a specially-built 250-metre yellow cedar-wood track, drawing maximum crowds of almost 5,000 to each of the four evening sessions, and the spectators had plenty of drama for their money. The Australian management withdrew their entire team after a series of disputes in the sprint event and Cyril Peacock, of England, won the gold unopposed. Fortunately, the matter was soon resolved and there was a rare tie for the time-trial gold between a 17-year-old Australian, Dick Ploog, and the aptly-named Jimmy Swift, of South Africa. A gallant but outclassed Pakistani trio entered every event from the sprint to the 100-kilometre road-race and actually managed a win – when Mohammed Salim Farooqi beat his team-mate, Ghulam Baloch, in a consolation heat for first-round losers in the sprint.

Scotland's boxing tradition was ably maintained in front of what the official report described as "7,000 roaring fans" by Dick Currie at flyweight and John Smillie at bantamweight. A bizarre situation arose in the newly-introduced light-middleweight division, for which there were only five entries, as the representatives of England and New Zealand were declared unfit to continue in the tournament after suffering eye cuts when clashing heads and a Northern Rhodesian, Freddy Wright, thus advanced to the final without having to fight at all. There he lost to a Canadian high-school student, Wilf Greaves.

The official history of the Games, published later in 1954, was written by Blair M. Clerk and Norah M. Scott, and they deserve all credit for infusing it with such passion, as this sort of publication tends to be on the dry and dusty side. Of those contrasting fortunes in the mile and the marathon they wrote: "There has never been anything more gripping – or more heart sickening. It was wonderful and inspiring. It was terrible and abhorrent. Within a few hectic minutes one plunged from the peak of wild excitement – the exultant drama of the finish of the 'miracle mile' – to the depth of despair at the inhuman spectacle of one little man's bulldog courage being pushed beyond the bounds of endurance. It was a glorious sight and it was an anguished sight".

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1954 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 YARDS (31 Jul): Mike Agostini (Trinidad & Tobago) 9.6sec.

220 YARDS (5 Aug): Don Jowett (New Zealand) 21.5sec.

440 YARDS (7 Aug): Kevan Gosper (Australia) 47.2sec.

880 YARDS (3 Aug): Derek Johnson (England) 1min 50.7sec.

1 MILE (7 Aug): Roger Bannister (England) 3min 58.8sec.

3 MILES (3 Aug): Chris Chataway (England) 13min 35.2sec.

6 MILES (31 Jul): Peter Driver (England) 29min 09.4sec.

MARATHON (7 Aug): Joe McGhee (Scotland) 2hr 39min 36.0sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (5 Aug): Keith Gardner (Jamaica) 14.2sec.

440 YARDS HURDLES (3 Aug): David Lean (Australia) 52.4sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (7 Aug): Canada (Don McFarlane, Don Stonehouse, Harry Nelson, Bruce Springbett) 41.3sec. Note: Harry Nelson is not the Harold Nelson, of New Zealand, who won the six miles at the 1950 Games!

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (7 Aug): England (Peter Higgins 48.8sec, Alan Dick 47.8sec, Peter Fryer 47.6sec, Derek Johnson 46.9sec) 3min 11.2sec.

HIGH JUMP (31 Jul): Emmanuel Ifeajuna (Nigeria) 6ft 8in (2.03m).

POLE VAULT (7 Aug): Geoff Elliott (England) 14ft 0in (4.27m).

LONG JUMP (5 Aug): Ken Wilmshurst (England) 24ft 8³/₄in (7.54m).

TRIPLE JUMP (3 Aug): Ken Wilmshurst (England) 50ft 1¹/₂in (15.27m).

SHOT (5 Aug): John Savidge (England) 55ft 0¹/₄in (16.77m).

DISCUS (3 Aug): Stephanus du Plessis (South Africa) 169ft 7¹/₂in (51.71m).

HAMMER (7 Aug): Muhammad Iqbal (Pakistan) 181ft 8in (55.38m).

JAVELIN (5 Aug): Jim Achurch (Australia) 224ft 9¹/₂in (68.51m).

ATHLETICS – WOMEN

100 YARDS (31 Jul): Marjorie Nelson (Australia) 10.7sec.

220 YARDS (5 Aug): Marjorie Nelson (Australia) 24.0sec. Note: World record.

80 METRES HURDLES (5 Aug): Edna Maskell (Northern Rhodesia) 10.9sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (7 Aug): Australia (Gwen Wallace, Nancy Fogarty, Winsome Cripps, Marjorie Nelson) 46.8sec.

HIGH JUMP (3 Aug): Thelma Hopkins (Northern Ireland) 5ft 6in (1.68m).
LONG JUMP (7 Aug): Yvette Williams (New Zealand) 19ft 11½in (6.08m).
SHOT (31 Jul): Yvette Williams (New Zealand) 45ft 9½in (13.96m).
DISCUS (7 Aug): Yvette Williams (New Zealand) 147ft 8in (45.02m).
JAVELIN (5 Aug): Magdalena Swanepoel (South Africa) 143ft 9½in (43.83m).

BOWLS

SINGLES: Ralph Hodges (Southern Rhodesia).
PAIRS: Northern Ireland (William Rosbotham, Percy Watson).
FOURS: South Africa (George Wilson, John Anderson, Frank Mitchell, Wilf Randall).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Dick Currie (Scotland).
BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): John Smillie (Scotland).
FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Len Leisching (South Africa).
LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Piet van Staden (Southern Rhodesia).
LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Mickey Bergin (Canada).
WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Nicky Gargano (England).
LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Wilf Greaves (Canada).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Jan van der Kolff (South Africa).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Piet van Vuuren (South Africa).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Brian Harper (England).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Dick Ploog (Australia), Jimmy Swift (South Africa) 1min 12.5sec. Note: tie for 1st place.
1000 METRES SPRINT: Cyril Peacock (England).
4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Norman Sheil (England) 5min 3.5sec.
10 MILES SCRATCH: Lindsay Cocks (Australia) 21min 59.5sec.
ROAD (100 kilometres): Eric Thompson (England) 2hr 44min 8.1sec..

FENCING - MEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: René Paul (England).
INDIVIDUAL EPEE: Ivan Lund (Australia).
INDIVIDUAL SABRE: Mike Amberg (England).
TEAM FOIL: England (Ralph Cooperman, Allan Jay, René Paul). Note: Jay competed for Australia in 1950.
TEAM EPEE: England (Charles-Louis de Beaumont, Allan Jay, René Paul).
TEAM SABRE: Canada (George Asselin, Leslie Krasa, Carl Schwende).

FENCING - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Mary Glen Haig (England).

ROWING

SINGLE SCULLS: Don Rowlands (New Zealand) 8min 28.2sec.
DOUBLE SCULLS: Australia (Mervyn Wood, Murray Riley) 7min 54.5sec.
COXLESS PAIRS: New Zealand (Bob Parker, Reg Douglas) 8min 23.9sec.
COXED FOURS: Australia (Lionel Robberds, Dave Anderson, Peter Evatt, Geoff Williamson, Mervyn Wood) 7min 58.3sec.

EIGHTS: Canada (Glen Smith, Mike Harris, Tom Toynbee, Doug McDonald, Laurie West, Herman Zloklikovits, Ken Drummond, Bob Wilson, Ray Sierpina) 6min 59.0sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Jon Henricks (Australia) 56.5sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Gary Chapman (Australia) 4min 39.8sec.

1650 YARDS FREESTYLE: Graham Johnston (South Africa) 19min 1.4sec.

4 x 220 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Gary Chapman 2min 10.3sec, Rex Aubrey 2min 15.2sec, David Hawkins 2min 16.5sec, Jon Hendricks 2min 5.6sec) 8min 47.6sec.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: John Brockway (Wales) 1min 6.5sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Jack Doms (New Zealand) 2min 52.6sec.

3 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Cyrus Weld 1min 9.2sec, David Hawkins 1min 17.3sec, Jon Hendricks 55.5sec) 3min 22.0sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Bill Patrick (Canada) 142.70pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Peter Heatly (Scotland) 146.76pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Lorraine Crapp (Australia) 1min 5.8sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Lorraine Crapp (Australia) 5min 11.4sec.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: South Africa (Felicity Loveday, Maggie Petzer, Natalie Myburgh, Joan Harrison) 4min 33.9sec.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Joan Harrison (South Africa) 1min 15.2sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Elinor Gordon (Scotland) 2min 59.2sec.

3 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Scotland (Margaret McDowall, Elinor Gordon, Margaret Girvan) 3min 51.0sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Barbara McAulay (Australia) 86.55pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Ann Long (England) 128.26pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Maurice Megennis (England) 620lb (281kg).

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Rodney Wilkes (Trinidad & Tobago) 690lb (313kg).

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Verdi Barberis (Australia) 765lb (347kg).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Jim Halliday (England) 800lb (362.5kg).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Gerry Gratton (Canada) 890lb (403.5kg).

MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Keevil Daly (Canada) 880lb (399kg).

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Doug Hepburn (Canada) 1,040lb (471.5kg).

WRESTLING:

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Louis Baise (South Africa).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Geoff Jameson (Australia).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Abe Geldenhuys (South Africa).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Godfrey Pienaar (South Africa).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Nick Loubser (South Africa).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Hermanus van Zyl (South Africa).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Jacob Theron (South Africa).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Ken Richmond (England).

1954 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	23	24	20	67
Australia	20	11	17	48
Canada	9	20	14	43
South Africa	16	7	12	35
New Zealand	7	7	5	19
Scotland	6	2	5	13
Northern Rhodesia	1	5	4	10
Nigeria	1	3	3	7
Wales	1	1	5	7
Pakistan	1	3	2	6
Trinidad & Tobago	2	2	0	4
Northern Ireland	2	1	0	3
Southern Rhodesia	2	1	0	3
Barbados	0	1	0	1
British Guiana	0	0	1	1
Hong Kong	0	1	0	1
Jamaica	1	0	0	1
Uganda	0	1	0	1

VI. British Empire and Commonwealth Games

Cardiff, South Wales

17-26 July 1958

35 countries, 1,122 competitors. Nine sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Rowing, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

History that will ring down the years to come

Three World records in athletics. Three World records in swimming. Wins for reigning Olympic champions in boxing, fencing and rowing. Other titles for the Bahamas, Barbados, India, Jamaica, Pakistan and Singapore. No one could deny that the British Empire & Commonwealth Games had become truly international in stature after the competitions in and around the Welsh capital of Cardiff had been completed. Far more countries won medals than ever before – 23 in all.

The 1956 Olympics had been held in Melbourne and in the team scoring Australia had placed 3rd, headed only by the super-powers, the USSR and USA. Among the stars on the athletics track had been the great Australian sprinters, Betty Cuthbert and Shirley Strickland (now Mrs de la Hunty), and there had been totally unexpected victories by an English-born New Zealander, Norman Read, in the longest event of all, the 50 kilometres walk, and by a British Guiana-born Briton, Chris Brasher, in the steeplechase, though illogically neither of these latter two events were to be contested in Cardiff. In Olympic swimming Australians had won seven titles, including famously beating the Americans in both the men's and the women's freestyle relays. There had also been a first-ever Olympic gold for a Commonwealth fencer when Gillian Sheen won the women's foil for Great Britain, and there were successes for two British boxers, Dick McTaggart and Terry Spinks.

A specially-built cinder track was fitted into Cardiff's famed Arms Park rugby-football ground with inches to spare and there were so many entries in athletics – a total of 334 men and 85 women from 32 countries, including the Bahamas, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, the Isle of Man, Jersey, Mauritius, North Borneo, Sarawak, Singapore and St Vincent – that extra rounds of the 100 yards had to be added the day before the Games even officially opened. The two modest competitors there from Mauritius, P.R. Hein and T.E. Patel, both came a distant last in their heats and did not take their places for the 220 yards later on. It was a long journey for such fleeting appearances, but they were as welcome as anyone else and surely thought their visit worthwhile, being the first ever representatives of their country at the Games.

The Duke of Edinburgh performed the ceremonial duties, and at the closing ceremony the Queen, reluctantly absent through illness, would put a final flourish on the Games, delighting the estimated 40,000 crowd by sending a recorded message that she intended to invest her son, Charles, then aged nine, with the title of Prince of Wales.

The idea of Wales hosting the Games had first been mooted in 1938, with 1946 as the target date, though in the eventuality no such Games were to be held that year in the immediate aftermath of war. Eventually, after the withdrawal of Nigeria and Singapore as possible candidates for 1958, Wales was nominated unanimously, and there was no doubt that the Principality had more than repaid the confidence placed in it. The Games cost some £300,000 to stage and made a record surplus of £37,000, but much more important was the overall impression, as was enthusiastically expressed by Sir Arthur Porritt, the New Zealand-born chairman of the Games Federation who was a product of much the same generation as the

Games founder, Bobby Robinson, having been the bronze-medallist at 100 metres in the 1924 Olympic Games, and later becoming an eminent surgeon and International Olympic Committee member. In his final report Sir Arthur wrote the following heartfelt tribute:

“The triumph of Wales and Cardiff in staging the VIth Games is now history – and history that will ring down the years to come. The smallest country yet to accept the onerous responsibility of acting as hosts, Wales produced what, in retrospect, can only be called a masterpiece. Superb organisation, both administrative and technical; a standard of competition and sporting results comparing with the best in the World; and, most important of all, a spirit of friendship and understanding engendered automatically by the traditional and spontaneous Welsh enthusiasm and warmth of hospitality – all combined to ensure an outstanding success”.

The World records in athletics came from South Africa’s Gert Potgieter in the 440 yards hurdles, Australia’s surprising Anna Pazera in the javelin (she had sought asylum in her new country after competing for Poland in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics), and the England women’s 4 x 110 yards relay team. In swimming the records fell to Australians in the women’s 110 yards freestyle, the men’s medley relay and the women’s freestyle relay. In fact, it was almost impossible for spectators to keep count of the torrent of records across the range of sports: in athletics alone there were 27 Commonwealth records, 37 British all-comers’ records, and 144 Games records! Even Herb Elliott, winning the 880 yards/mile double with masterful ease, was challenged for the title of athletics super-star of the Games by his craggy fellow-Australian distance-runner, Dave Power, and the lithe sprinter/hurdler, Keith Gardner, who won both the 100 yards and the 120 yards hurdles and added a silver at 220 yards and a bronze for the 4 x 440 yards relay, tirelessly taking part in 13 races in nine days.

Elliott was to improve the World record for the mile to 3:54.5 the following month to advance the event by the greatest margin since 1882, and he would then achieve further immortality – if immortality can be said to need qualifying for twice – by winning the 1500 metres at the next Olympic Games, two years away in Rome, in another World-record time. One record he didn’t break was the Commonwealth Games best for the mile – he needed only 3:59.0 for victory in Cardiff, still two-tenths slower than Roger Bannister four years before. The home countries, suffering a lapse in miling standards so soon after one of their number had made such history, could only provide a distant 4th place behind three Australians – and he was Gordon Pirie, more renowned as a distance-runner but again beaten into 4th place in his three-mile speciality by two New Zealanders and an Australian. It was as if England’s batsmen had been bowled out before lunch on the first day at Lord’s.

There were historic successes for Tom Robinson, from the Bahamas, at 220 yards, and for a marvellously fluent 440 yards runner from India, Milkha Singh, while Marlene Willard succeeded Decima Norman and Margaret Jackson-Nelson as a double sprint champion for Australia. Dave Power triumphed in the six miles in an enthralling finish with a Welshman, John Merriman, and then added the marathon title in his first attempt at the distance, saying afterwards, as he nursed his sore feet, that it would also be his last attempt – it wasn’t.

There was encouraging evidence of progress in the men’s throwing events as the shot title went to a Yorkshire blacksmith, Arthur Rowe, who was ranked 5th in the World to four Americans; while the discus was won by a South African, Fanie du Plessis, who was 10th best in the World for the year, and the hammer by a 21-year-old Englishman, Mike Ellis. But this was still the era of amateur athletics in Britain, and before the next Commonwealth

Games came round Rowe was to turn professional and adeptly learn how to toss the Highland caber and Ellis was to abandon the hammer, despite having risen to 7th in the World rankings, because he needed to concentrate on earning his living as a teacher. By neat contrast, though, two women who would prolong their athletics careers to great effect were Mary Rand, 2nd in the long jump and 5th in the high jump for England, and Mary Peters, 8th in the shot and one of the Northern Ireland quartet which finished last in the relay final. Both were to win Olympic titles in the years to come – Rand in the 1964 Olympic long jump and Peters in the 1972 pentathlon. Mary, Mary, quite contrary, you might say. Another winner in the throwing events for England was Suzanne Allday, in the discus, whose husband, Peter, was 3rd in the hammer.

Australian traditions in the triple jump which stretched back to an Olympic victory in 1924 by Nick Winter were maintained by Ian Tomlinson, but his victory was achieved in slightly odd circumstances. His winning effort of 51ft 7¾in (15.74m) at long last beat the Games record set by his illustrious compatriot, Jack Metcalfe, 24 years before, but it was actually wind-assisted – in other words, the aiding wind had exceeded the two metres per second limit for the purposes of record acceptance. Ironically, the best valid jump of the competition was not by Tomlinson at all but by the Canadian silver-medallist, Jack Smyth, who also beat Metcalfe's former record. It may seem illogical that Tomlinson and not Smyth should be declared the champion, but then competitors can hardly be expected to control the wind at their backs, can they?

Scottish athletes had no medals, and the nearest approach was a somewhat distant 4th place in the discus by Mike Lindsay, who like so many other athletes from various Commonwealth countries had taken up a US college scholarship to pursue his education and sporting ambitions. It was another Scotsman, Ian Black, in the newly-introduced butterfly event, who prevented an Australian clean-sweep in men's swimming, though there were three wins for English women. A third Scot, Dick McTaggart, repeated his Olympic success in boxing, and a team-mate, Jackie Brown, also won gold. It was in the boxing ring that the Welsh hosts were rewarded with their only gold medal in any sport at the Games, and this came from Howard Winstone, who was to win all but three of his 86 amateur bouts and then become British professional featherweight champion in 1961, beating a former Olympic champion, Terry Spinks, and briefly World champion in 1968. A further Scottish gold was obtained by Phil Caira in weight-lifting, and it was a first ever for his country in that sport.

Dawn Fraser won the 110 yards freestyle "blue riband" race in the swimming-pool in 1min 1.4sec, which was over four seconds better than any previous holder of that title, and she would go even faster four years hence with the first sub-minute clocking at the Games. Fraser, who is still more than 50 years later one of only three swimmers ever to have won three Olympic golds at the same individual distance, would hold the World record for the 110 freestyle from December 1956 to January 1972 – a lifetime in such a fast developing sport – and in 1999 the International Olympic Committee would vote her the greatest living woman swimmer. Also for Australia, Jon Konrads, aged 16, won two individual freestyle golds and a relay gold, and his sister, Ilse, only 14, also won a freestyle gold. Both had been born in Riga, in Latvia, during wartime, and they had first learned to swim in a refugee camp in Australia. England's only individual wins in 11 events came from Judy Grinham and Anita Lonsbrough, respectively Olympic champions two years previously and two years hence.

I was an intensely excited young spectator at those Games (I still have my hand-written exercise-book day-by-day diary), and the memories live vividly with me to this day of the gloriously uninhibited Caribbean sprinters, Gardner and Robinson, and of Elliott, the

imperious middle-distance conqueror of English hopes. I was also to be an enthralled fan among the massed crowds at the Rome Olympics two years later when Elliott won his gold in World-record time. Furthermore, I found myself back in the same stadium 39 years later – by now we’ve reached 1999 – watching from the privileged position of the press-box and commentating breathlessly as a stately Moroccan, Hicham El Guerrouj, ran the mile in 3min 43.13sec, which is still the World record as I write. .

At another of those major athletics championships which I so joyously attended as part of the BBC Radio commentary team, that most eloquent of presenters, John Inverdale, mischievously fired a question at me after we had witnessed yet another memorable track race as to which was the finest middle-distance performance I had ever seen. Mischievous the question was, indeed, because seated alongside me was Sebastian Coe, and if I had cited one of Coe’s numerous majestic achievements I would perforce have needed to avoid all suggestion of sycophancy. I wasn’t worried. There was no dilemma. “I saw Herb Elliott win the Olympic 1500 metres in 1960 and break the World record”, I replied. A voice promptly spoke up. “You can’t beat that”, said Coe. Nothing further needed to be said on the matter.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1958 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 YARDS (19 Jul): Keith Gardner (Jamaica) 9.66sec.

220 YARDS (24 Jul): Tom Robinson (Bahamas) 21.08sec. Note: wind-assisted.

440 YARDS (24 Jul): Milkha Singh (India) 46.71sec.

880 YARDS (22 Jul): Herb Elliott (Australia) 1min 49.32sec.

1 MILE (26 Jul): Herb Elliott (Australia) 3min 59.03sec.

3 MILES (22 Jul): Murray Halberg (New Zealand) 13min 14.75sec.

6 MILES (19 Jul): Dave Power (Australia) 28min 48.16sec.

MARATHON (24 Jul): Dave Power (Australia) 2hr 22min 45.6sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (24 Jul): Keith Gardner (Jamaica) 14.20sec. Note: wind-assisted.

440 YARDS HURDLES (22 Jul): Gert Potgieter (South Africa) 49.73sec. Note: World record.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (26 Jul): England (Peter Radford, Roy Sandstrom, Dave Segal, Adrian Breacker) 40.72sec.

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (26 Jul): South Africa (Gordon Day 47.9sec, Gerald Evans 47.8sec, Gert Potgieter 47.3sec, Malcolm Spence 45.1sec) 3min 08.21sec.

HIGH JUMP (19 Jul): Ernle Haisley (Jamaica) 6ft 9in (2.06m). Note: his first name is, indeed, Ernle, not Ernie.

POLE VAULT (26 Jul): Geoff Elliott (England) 13ft 8in (4.16m).

LONG JUMP (22 Jul): Paul Foreman (Jamaica) 24ft 6¼in (7.47m)

TRIPLE JUMP (24 Jul): Ian Tomlinson (Australia) 51ft 7¾in (15.74m). Note: wind-assisted.

SHOT (24 Jul): Arthur Rowe (England) 57ft 8in (17.57m).

DISCUS (22 Jul): Stephanus du Plessis (South Africa) 183ft 6½in (55.94m).

HAMMER (26 Jul): Mike Ellis (England) 206ft 4½in (62.90m).

JAVELIN (19 Jul): Colin Smith (England) 233ft 10½in (71.28m).

ATHLETICS -WOMEN

100 YARDS (22 Jul): Marlene Willard (Australia) 10.70sec.

220 YARDS (24 Jul): Marlene Willard (Australia) 23.65sec.

80 METRES HURDLES (26 Jul): Norma Thrower (Australia) 10.72sec. Note: wind-assisted.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (26 Jul): England (Madeleine Weston, Dorothy Hyman, June Paul, Heather Young) 45.37sec. Note: World record.

HIGH JUMP (22 Jul): Michele Mason (Australia) 5ft 7in (1.70m).
LONG JUMP (26 Jul): Sheila Hoskin (England) 19ft 9in (6.02m).
SHOT (19 Jul): Valerie Sloper (New Zealand) 51ft 0in (15.54m).
DISCUS (26 Jul): Suzanne Allday (England) 150ft 7½in (45.90m).
JAVELIN (24 Jul): Anna Pazera (Australia) 188ft 4in (57.40m). Note: World record.

BOWLS

SINGLES: Phineas Danilowitz (South Africa).
PAIRS: New Zealand (John Morris, Richard Pilkington).
FOURS: England (John Bettles, Norman King, Walter Phillips, George Scadgell).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Jackie Brown (Scotland).
BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Howard Winstone (Wales).
FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Wally Taylor (Australia).
LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Dick McTaggart (Scotland).
LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Henry Loubser (South Africa).
WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Joseph Greyling (South Africa).
LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Grant Webster (South Africa).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Terry Milligan (Northern Ireland).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Tony Madigan (Australia).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Daniel Bekker (South Africa).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Neville Tong (England) 1min 12.1sec.
1000 METRES SPRINT: Dick Ploog (Australia).
4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Norman Sheil (England) 5min 10.2sec.
10 MILES SCRATCH: Ian Browne (Australia) 21min 40.2sec.
ROAD (100 kilometres): Ray Booty (England) 5hr 16min 33.7sec.

FENCING

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Raymond Paul (England).
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL EPEE: Bill Hoskyns (England).
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL SABRE: Bill Hoskyns (England).
MEN'S TEAM FOIL: England (Harry Cooke, Allan Jay, Raymond Paul, René Paul). Note: Raymond and René Paul were brothers.
MEN'S TEAM EPEE: England (Bill Hoskyns, Mike Howard, Allan Jay).
MEN'S TEAM SABRE: England (Mike Amberg, Ralph Cooperman, Bill Hoskyns, Eugene Verebes).
WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Gillian Sheen (England).

ROWING

SINGLE SCULLS: Stuart Mackenzie (Australia) 7min 20.1sec.
DOUBLE SCULLS: England (Mike Spracklen, Geoff Baker) 6min 56.4sec.
COXLESS PAIRS: New Zealand (Bob Parker, Reg Douglas) 7min 11.1sec.
COXLESS FOURS: England (Roger Pope, Keith Shakell, David Young, Creighton Redman) 6min 34.4sec.
COXED FOURS: England (Colin Porter, John Vigurs, Simon Crosse, John Beresford, Richard Gabriel) 6min 46.5sec.
EIGHTS: Canada (Donald Arnold, Wayne Pretty, Glen Mervyn, Walter d'Hondt, William McKerlick, Archie MacKinnon, Lorne Loomer, Robert Wilson, Sohen Biln) 5min 51.1sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: John Devitt (Australia) 56.6sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Jon Konrads (Australia) 4min 25.9sec.

1650 YARDS FREESTYLE: Jon Konrads (Australia) 17min 45.4sec.

4 x 220 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Jon Konrads 2min 4.2sec, Brian Wilkinson 2min 9.3sec, John Devitt 2min 9.6sec, Gary Chapman 2min 10.1sec) 8min 33.4sec.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: John Monckton (Australia) 1min 1.7sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Terry Gathercole (Australia) 2min 41.6sec.

220 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Ian Black (Scotland) 2min 22.6sec.

4 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (John Monckton 1min 1.9sec, Terry Gathercole 1min 12.4sec, Brian Wilkinson 1min 3.2sec, John Devitt 56.7sec) 4min 14.2sec.

Note: World record. This event replaced the 3 x 110 yards medley relay, with the addition of the butterfly stroke.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Peter Heatly (Scotland) 147.79pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Keith Collin (England) 126.78pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Dawn Fraser (Australia) 1min 1.4sec. Note: World record.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Ilsa Konrads (Australia) 4min 49.4sec.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Dawn Fraser 1min 3.1sec, Sandra Morgan 1min 3.2sec, Lorraine Crapp 1min 5.9sec, Alva Colquhoun 1min 5.2sec). Note: World record.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Judy Grinham (England) 1min 11.9sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Anita Lonsbrough (England) 2min 53.5sec.

110 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Beverley Bainbridge (Australia) 1min 13.5sec.

4 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: England (Judy Grinham, Anita Lonsbrough, Chris Gosden, Diana Wilkinson) 4min 54.0sec. Note: see the note for the men's medley relay.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Charmian Welsh (England) 77.23pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Charmian Welsh (England) 118.81pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Reg Gaffley (South Africa) 660lb (299kg).

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Tan Ser Cher (Singapore) 685lb (310.5kg)

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Tan Howe Liang (Singapore) 790lb (358kg).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Blair Blenman (Barbados) 795lb (360.5kg).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Phil Caira (Scotland) 875lb (396.5kg).

MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Manny Santos (Australia) 890lb (403.5kg).

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Ken McDonald (England) 1,005lb (455.5kg).

WRESTLING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Ian Epton (South Africa).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Muhammad Akhtar (Pakistan).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Abe Geldenhuys (South Africa).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Muhammad Ashraf (Pakistan).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Muhammad Bashir (Pakistan).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Hermanus van Zyl (South Africa).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Jacob Theron (South Africa).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Lila Ram (India).

1958 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	29	22	29	80
Australia	27	22	17	66
South Africa	13	10	8	31
Canada	1	10	16	27
New Zealand	4	6	9	19
Scotland	5	5	3	13
Wales	1	3	7	11
Pakistan	3	5	2	10
Jamaica	4	2	1	7
Northern Ireland	1	1	3	5
India	2	1	0	3
Northern Rhodesia	0	0	3	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	2
Barbados	1	1	0	2
Kenya	0	0	2	2
Malaya	0	2	0	2
Nigeria	0	1	1	2
Singapore	2	0	0	2
British Guiana	0	1	0	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Isle of Man	0	0	1	1
Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	1	0	1

VII. British Empire and Commonwealth Games

Perth, Western Australia

21 November-1 December 1962

35 countries, 863 competitors. Nine sports: Athletics, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Rowing, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

A torrent of World records sweeps across the pool

The Games returned to Australia after 24 years, and the immediately obvious difference this time was that there were 35 competing nations, compared with 15 in 1938. The Perth total was actually the same as it had been in Cardiff in 1958, though there was a highly significant enforced absentee: South Africa, ousted because of its apartheid policies. The number of competitors was down by some 30 per cent, but this was understandable as the Western Australian venue inevitably meant that economies had to be made in the size of many of the visiting contingents.

Also missing, regrettably, was India, which denied Milkha Singh the chance of defending his 440 yards title. Curiously, in the same month of November India's leading athletes had competed in a series of matches against a visiting team from Germany, and both Milkha Singh and Gurbachan Singh, a fine high-hurdler who had also set a Commonwealth record in the decathlon, showed the sort of form which suggested they would have been serious Perth medal contenders. As it happens, there was still no decathlon at these Commonwealth Games, and nor was there yet a race for walkers, even though Don Thompson had won the Olympic 50 kilometres event for Great Britain two years before, and six Commonwealth countries in all, including India, had figured highly in the Olympic placings in that event or the 20 kilometres walk. Some of the decisions by Games organisers in past years seem inexplicable in hindsight, but to be fair there was a recognition that even the largest Commonwealth countries had strict budgets for Games participation and schedules had to be trimmed accordingly.

Nevertheless, the Indian sub-continent still provided one of the stars on the athletics track at the Perry Lakes Stadium because both the 100 yards and 220 yards were won by the tall, slim and elegant Seraphino Antao, of Kenya, who had been born in the former Portugese possession of Goa on India's west coast and had moved with his family to Mombasa. Antao thus became the first Kenyan athlete to win titles at a major championships, though the great majority of his fellow-countrymen who later emulated him were to be middle-distance and distance runners. Goa had been annexed by India only the previous year, thus enabling Antao to qualify to compete in the Games

Australia's Olympic 1500 metres champion, Herb Elliott, had retired from international competition to pursue his studies at Cambridge University, but there was the worthiest of successors in the bulky form of the New Zealander, Peter Snell, who looked more like a rugby-footballer than a middle-distance runner but had won the 800 metres at the 1960 Olympics and in Perth repeated Elliott's feat of taking both the Commonwealth 880 yards and mile. Snell had also broken Elliott's World record for the mile and went on to win the 800 and 1500 metres at the 1964 Olympics. A fellow-New Zealander, Murray Halberg, whose left arm was withered because of a rugby-football injury suffered when he was young, retained his three miles title, having won the Olympic 5000 metres in the interim. Both Snell and Halberg (later Sir Murray Halberg, knighted for his services to athletics and his aid programme for children with disabilities) were coached by Arthur Lydiard, who

revolutionised training methods by advocating long runs of 20 miles or more even for 800 metres runners.

At long last the 880 yards for women was revived, as the 800 metres had been two years before at the Rome Olympics, and this was won in Perth by another World record-holder, Dixie Willis, of Australia. The victory made for something of a renaissance for her because she had fallen in the Olympic final. There were only seven competitors in the Perth 880, and a very distant last was a 15-year-old Canadian girl named Abigail Hoffman, who had discovered her running ability after being banned from playing in a boys' ice-hockey team, but she would win this same race in 1966 and was to make a lasting impression on the sport over many years. From 1981 to 1991 she was director of the Canadian government's sports agency and became the first woman member of the national Olympic committee. From 1995 she has been a council member of the World ruling body of athletics, the International Association of Athletics Federations.

It has to be said, though, that the overall standard of athletics in Perth was not exceptional, and the probable reason was that the Games came at the end of the year – long after the European season had finished and before the Southern Hemisphere summer had properly started. Nevertheless, one man who overcame these problems of acclimatisation and retention of form was England's Brian Kilby, who won the marathon at both the European Championships in the summer and then at the Commonwealth Games ahead of the defending champion, Dave Power, who in the intervening years had changed his mind about retiring. Otherwise, the most noteworthy athletics successes in Perth were those of Pakistan's Ghulam Raziq in the high hurdles, Ghana's Mike Ahey in the long jump and New Zealand's Valerie Young (née Sloper) in the shot and discus. Mrs Young would even offer a challenge to the mighty East European women in the shot, finishing 5th, 4th and 4th in successive Olympics from 1956 to 1964.

Ahey's win in the long jump was decisive enough, by a margin of more than 30 centimetres, but it was wind-assisted, and Lynn Davies, of Wales, then 20 years old, suffered the galling experience of producing the best valid effort – a British record of 25ft 4in (7.72m) – but ending up out of the medals in 4th place. He was not to know it at the time, but he would be very adequately compensated with many more wins and records to come, including Olympic gold in 1964. By coincidence, in the women's long jump five days later, Sheila Parkin, of England, aged only 16, had the one non-wind-assisted effort out of 36 among the six finalists and placed 5th, but she, too, had much more rewarding days in store, of which the most notable were to be her Olympic silver medal of 1968 and Commonwealth gold two years later..

By comparison, in a widely-extended programme of events the swimmers splashed their way through a torrent of World records – 11 of them altogether, of which the Australians were responsible for six and the English women for five. Dawn Fraser, who had become the Olympic 100 metres freestyle champion two years before, again won the 110 yards freestyle in a World-record time and figured in both relay teams. Fraser accumulated eight Olympic medals during her career, including four golds, and was the first woman to beat one minute for the 100 metres freestyle. The only other swimmers who have matched her since in winning the same Olympic individual title three times in succession are Michael Phelps, of the USA, and Krisztina Egerszegi, of Hungary.

Murray Rose, who was the reigning Olympic 400 metres freestyle champion, triumphed by decisive margins in two freestyle finals and also figured in the most dominant of the brilliant

array of Australian achievements as a member of the 4 x 220 yards freestyle team which set another of those World records, winning by a margin of 29 seconds. Rose, whose first names were Iain Murray, had been born in Scotland of a family which could trace its Highland roots back to a Baron of the year 1200 and was taken to Australia at the age of one. He won three Olympic gold medals at the 1956 Games at the age of 17 and another gold in 1960. He also set 15 World records and was described by two head coaches to USA Olympic teams as the “greatest swimmer ever”.

For England 15-year-old Linda Ludgrove took both her backstroke events, with World records in each, and the Olympic champion, Anita Lonsbrough, went one better with two breast-stroke titles and a medley title, also setting two World records. Employed in the treasurer’s office of the local council at Huddersfield, in Yorkshire, where she was born, she had achieved her Olympic triumph at the age of 19, and no other British woman was to win an Olympic swimming title for the next 48 years. When Rebecca Adlington did so in 2008, Anita Lonsbrough (now married to Hugh Porter, himself a Commonwealth gold-medallist in cycling) was there to see it happen in her capacity as a BBC radio commentator and correspondent for a national daily newspaper in Britain.

Why, though, should athletics still be regarded as the dominant Commonwealth Games sport? The answer was simple. In men’s swimming Australia won 24 of the 39 medals, Canada seven, England six, New Zealand and Scotland (Bobby McGregor, silver at 110 freestyle) one each. In men’s athletics the medal-winning countries included the Bahamas, Barbados, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Pakistan and Uganda, adding up to a much broader geographical spread. Boxing, too, could again claim its truly universal appeal, with gold medals for Ghana, Uganda and Jamaica, and half the 20 finalists coming from Africa. It was, as it happens, an Australian at light-heavyweight, Tony Madigan, who became the first man to retain a Commonwealth title in this sport, rather than Scotland’s Dick McTaggart, who had won the lightweight title in 1958 but who controversially lost a points decision in the Perth light-welterweight final.

Madigan had won a bronze at the 1960 Olympics, having had the misfortune to find himself up against a certain Cassius Clay, later to be rather better known as Muhammad Ali, in the semi-finals. McTaggart, who came from an extended family of 18 children, won 610 of the 634 bouts he fought throughout his career and later became honorary director of coaching to Scotland’s Commonwealth Games boxers. He was an immaculate stylist known as “Dandy Dick”, and was to be described by the respected BBC television boxing commentator, Harry Carpenter, as “the greatest amateur I ever saw”. Scotland still collected two titles through Robert Mallon, who was the fourth successive Scottish gold-medallist at flyweight, and John McDermott at featherweight. McDermott, from Flemington, in Lanarkshire, worked for Rolls Royce in Glasgow and would still be coaching 50 years later, aged 74, at the Blantyre Miners’ Welfare Amateur Boxing Club.

England won three of the seven weight-lifting gold medals, with the most decisive success coming from Louis Martin at middle-heavyweight, and this was hardly surprising as he had already been twice World champion and was an Olympic bronze-medallist. He was to win four World titles in all through to 1965, and in 2009 he would be elected as president of the British Weight-Lifting Federation. Reflecting on the difference in opportunities available over the intervening 50 years, he said after his appointment, “I wish I was a young lifter now. I really struggled working full-time and spending almost three hours in the gym most evenings”.

Singapore acquired two titles, as in 1958, with Tan Howe Liang moving up from lightweight to middleweight for his second gold. He had been one of seven children in a poor family in mainland China and became Singapore's first ever Olympic medallist when he took a silver in 1960. Self-taught as a youngster after picking up some barbells and lifting them for fun, he later became a successful national coach. Scotland's Phil Caira ably defended his light-heavyweight title from 1958 and remains 50 years later his country's only Empire or Commonwealth champion in the sport. Caira had been born in London of Italian parents who had moved to Scotland in 1940 to escape the London Blitz, and he was to compete in every Empire Games from 1954 to 1970 while earning his living as a newsagent and grocer in Kirkcaldy. When he died in 2003 at the age of 70, his former team-manager, David Webster, described him as "truly one of the all-time greats of Scottish sport".

South Africa's wrestlers had been the most successful team in any sport at the 1958 Games but were now, of course, absent, and the Pakistanis filled in admirably, appearing in all eight finals and losing only at light-heavyweight to England's Tony Buck. Two of the Pakistani mat-men, Muhammad Akhtar and Muhammad Bashir, won their second titles, and somewhat confusingly two of the country's other winners were both named Muhammad Niaz, though no one could possibly confuse them face-to-face – one was a flyweight, the other a heavyweight.

David Bryant, of England, already being described as the "Goliath" of the bowling greens, acquired gold medals in both the singles and the fours. Australia took all four track cycling titles but not a single medal in the road race, which was won for England by Wes Mason, who maybe had got in some regular training at a more sedate pace in his job as a postman. For once England's fencers were vulnerable and individual titles went to Australia, New Zealand and Scotland's Sandy Leckie, an all-rounder described as "one of the last of the three-weapon men".

England's oarsmen won three golds, New Zealand two and Australia one, but this was the last rowing regatta to be held at the Games for 24 years. Two of the members of the Welsh coxless four which pressed England hard and took the silver medals were brothers David and John Edwards, and the team coach was their father, Hugh ("Jumbo") Edwards, who had been in the England winning eight at the 1930 Games and had won two Olympic gold medals in 1932.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1962 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

Note: automatic timing was in use for athletics but in some events was not operational.

100 YARDS (24 Nov): Seraphino Antao (Kenya) 9.5sec.

220 YARDS (29 Nov): Seraphino Antao (Kenya) 21.28sec.

440 YARDS (29 Nov): George Kerr (Jamaica) 46.74sec.

880 YARDS (26 Nov): Peter Snell (New Zealand) 1min 47.64sec.

1 MILE (1 Dec): Peter Snell (New Zealand) 4min 04.58sec.

3 MILES (26 Nov): Murray Halberg (New Zealand) 13min 34.15sec.

6 MILES (24 Nov): Bruce Kidd (Canada) 28min 26.13sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (24 Nov): Trevor Vincent (Australia) 8min 43.4sec.

MARATHON (29 Nov): Brian Kilby (England) 2hr 21min 17.0sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (29 Nov): Ghulam Raziq (Pakistan) 14.34sec.

440 YARDS HURDLES (26 Nov): Ken Roche (Australia) 51.5sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (1 Dec): England (Peter Radford, Len Carter, Alf Meakin, David Jones) 40.62sec.

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (1 Dec): Jamaica (Laurie Kahn, Mal Spence, Mel Spence, George Kerr) 3:10.2). Note: Mal and Mel Spence were twins.

HIGH JUMP (24 Nov): Percy Hobson (Aus) 6ft 11in (2.11m).

POLE VAULT (1 Dec): Trevor Bickle (Aus) 14ft 9in (4.49m).

LONG JUMP (26 Nov): Mike Ahey (Ghana) 26ft 5in (8.05m). Note: wind-assisted.

TRIPLE JUMP (29 Nov): Ian Tomlinson (Australia) 53ft 2in (16.21m).

SHOT (29 Nov): Martyn Lucking (England) 59ft 4in (18.08m).

DISCUS (26 Nov): Warwick Selvey (Australia) 185ft 3½in (56.48m).

HAMMER (1 Dec): Howard Payne (England) 202ft 3in (61.64m).

JAVELIN (24 Nov): Alf Mitchell (Australia) 256ft 3in (78.10m).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 YARDS (26 Nov): Dorothy Hyman (England) 11.2sec.

220 YARDS (29 Nov): Dorothy Hyman (England) 24.00sec.

880 YARDS (1 Dec): Dixie Willis (Australia) 2min 03.85sec.

80 METRES HURDLES (1 Dec): Pam Kilborn (Australia) 11.07sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (1 Dec): Australia (Joyce Bennett, Glenys Beasley, Brenda Cox, Betty Cuthbert) 46.71sec.

HIGH JUMP (26 Nov): Robyn Woodhouse (Australia) 5ft 10in (1.78m).

LONG JUMP (1 Dec): Pam Kilborn (Australia) 20ft 6¾in (6.27m). Note: wind-assisted.

SHOT (24 Nov): Valerie Young (New Zealand) 49ft 11½in (15.23m). Note: Young née Sloper.

DISCUS (1 Dec): Valerie Young (New Zealand) 164ft 8½in (50.20m). Note: Young née Sloper.

JAVELIN (29 Nov): Sue Platt (England) 164ft 10½in (50.25m).

BOWLS

SINGLES: David Bryant (England).

PAIRS: New Zealand (Bob McDonald, Hugh Robson).

FOURS: England (David Bryant, George Fleming, John Watson, Sid Drysdale).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Robert Mallon (Scotland).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Jeff Dynevor (Australia).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): John McDermott (Scotland).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Eddie Blay (Ghana).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Clement Quartey (Ghana).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Wallace Coe (New Zealand).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Harold Mann (Canada).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Cephass Colquhoun (Jamaica).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Tony Madigan (Australia).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): George Oywello (Uganda).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Peter Bartels (Australia) 1min 12.9sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Tom Harrison (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Max Langshaw (Australia) 5min 8.2sec.

10 MILES SCRATCH: Doug Adams (Australia) 22min 10.8sec.

ROAD (193 kilometres): Wes Mason (England) 5hr 20min 26.2sec..

FENCING - MEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Sandy Leckie (Scotland).

INDIVIDUAL EPEE: Ivan Lund (Australia).

INDIVIDUAL SABRE: Ralph Cooperman (England).

TEAM FOIL: England (Ralph Cooperman, Mike Howard, Allan Jay, René Paul).

TEAM EPEE: England (Mike Howard, Peter Jacobs, John Pelling).

TEAM SABRE: England (Mike Amberg, George Birks, Ralph Cooperman).

FENCING - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Melody Coleman (New Zealand).

ROWING

SINGLE SCULLS: Jack Hill (New Zealand) 7min 39.7sec.

DOUBLE SCULLS: England (George Justicz, Nicholas Birkmyre) 6min 52.4sec.

COXLESS PAIRS: England (Stewart Farquharson, Jim Lee-Nicholson) 7min 3.7sec.

COXLESS FOURS: England (Chris Davidge, Michael Clay, John Beveridge, John Tilbury) 6min 31.1sec.

COXED FOURS: New Zealand (Winston Stephens, Keith Heselwood, Hugh Smedley, George Paterson, Douglas Pulman) 6min 48.2sec.

EIGHTS: Australia (Ian Douglas, Charles Lehman, Dushan Stankovic, Terry Davies, Paul Guest, Graeme McCall, Martin Tomanovits, Neville Howell, David Palfreyman) 5min 53.4sec.

SWIMMING & DIVING – MEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Dick Pound (Canada) 55.8sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Murray Rose (Australia) 4min 20.0sec.

1650 YARDS FREESTYLE: Murray Rose (Australia) 17min 18.1sec.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Peter Phelps 56.4sec, Murray Rose 56.2sec, Peter Doak 55.8sec, David Dickson 55.5sec) 3min 43.9sec. Note: World record.

4 x 220 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Murray Rose 2min 2.2sec, Allan Wood 2min 4.2sec, Anthony Strahan 2min 3.3sec, Bob Windle 2min 3.7sec) 8min 13.4sec. Note: World record.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Graham Sykes (England) 1min 4.5sec.

220 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Julian Carroll (Australia) 2min 20.9sec.

110 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Ian O'Brien (Australia) 1min 11.4sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Ian O'Brien (Australia) 2min 38.2sec.

110 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Kevin Berry (Australia) 59.5sec.

220 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Kevin Berry (Australia) 2min 10.8sec.

440 YARDS INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Alex Alexander (Australia) 5min 15.3sec.

4 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Julian Carroll 1min 4.4sec, Ian O'Brien 1min 12.8sec, Kevin Berry 58.7sec, David Dickson 56.5sec) 4min 12.4sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Brian Phelps (England) 168.35pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Brian Phelps (England) 154.14pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Dawn Fraser (Australia) 59.5sec. Note: World record.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Dawn Fraser (Australia) 4min 51.4sec.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Lynette Bell 1min 4.3sec, Ruth Everuss 1min 4.2sec, Robin Thorn 1min 3.3sec, Dawn Fraser 59.2sec) 4min 11.0sec. Note: World record.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Linda Ludgrove (England) 1min 11.1sec. Note: Ludgrove set a World record 1min 10.9sec in the heats.

220 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Linda Ludgrove (England) 2min 35.2sec. Note: World record equalled. Ludgrove also set a World record 2min 35.2sec in the heats.

110 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Anita Lonsbrough (England) 1min 21.3sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Anita Lonsbrough (England) 2min 51.7sec. Note: World record. Lonsbrough also set a World record 2min 52.2sec in the heats.

110 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Mary Stewart (Canada) 1min 10.1sec.

440 YARDS INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Anita Lonsbrough (England) 5min 38.6sec.

4 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Pam Sargeant 1min 10.8sec, Marguerite Ruygok 1min 24.2sec, Linda McGill 1min 11.7sec, Dawn Fraser 59.2sec) 4min 45.9sec. Note: World record. Sargeant set a World record for the opening backstroke stage.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Susan Knight (Australia) 101.15pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Susan Knight (Australia) 134.72pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Chua Phung Kim (Singapore) 710lb (322kg).

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): George Newton (England) 720lb (326.5kg).

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Carlton Goring (England) 775lb (351.5kg).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Tan Howe Liang (Singapore) 860lb (390kg).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Phil Caira (Scotland) 900lb (408kg).

MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Louis Martin (England) 1,035lb (469.5kg).

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Arthur Shannos (Australia) 1,025lb (465kg).

WRESTLING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Muhammad Niaz (Pakistan).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Siraj-ud-Din (Pakistan).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Ala-ud-Din (Pakistan).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Muhammad Akhtar (Pakistan).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Muhammad Bashir (Pakistan).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Muhammad Faiz (Pakistan).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Tony Buck (England).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Muhammad Niaz (Pakistan).

1962 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	38	36	31	105
England	29	22	27	78
New Zealand	10	12	10	32
Canada	4	12	15	31
Scotland	4	7	3	14
Ghana	3	5	1	9
Pakistan	8	1	0	9
Rhodesia & Nyasaland	0	2	5	7
Uganda	1	1	4	6
Wales	0	2	4	6
Jamaica	3	1	1	5
Kenya	2	2	1	5
Fiji	0	0	2	2
Singapore	2	0	0	2
Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	2	2
Bahamas	0	1	0	1
Barbados	0	0	1	1
British Guiana	0	0	1	1
Jersey	0	0	1	1
Malaya	0	0	1	1
Northern Ireland	0	0	1	1
Papua New Guinea	0	0	1	1

VIII. British Empire and Commonwealth Games

Kingston, Jamaica

4-13 August 1966

34 countries, 1,050 competitors. Nine sports: Athletics, Badminton, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

A sporting carnival swaying to a seductive reggae beat

The decision to award the VIIIth British Empire & Commonwealth Games to Jamaica was an ambitious one. After all, although this was a country which had already made an outstanding contribution to sport over the preceding 20 years, it had little experience of staging major meetings. Yet it was about time that the Games moved outside the cosy circle formed by the home countries, together with Canada, Australia and New Zealand, which between them had provided the seven previous host cities. Jamaica's only obvious limitation was that there were no resources for bowls or rowing events, but these disciplines were readily replaced by badminton and shooting.

The number of competitors, including 196 women, was not far short of the record totals in Cardiff eight years before. The athletics entry was the strongest yet, and three current World record-holders were all making a return to the Games: Harry Jerome, of Canada, in the sprints; Kipchoge Keino, of Kenya, at the mile and three miles; and Ron Clarke, of Australia, a former teenage miling prodigy who had placed 2nd in the Perth three miles and had now found a permanent place in track history with a series of astounding World records in the distance events.

Of the Commonwealth's 14 Olympic champions in Tokyo two years previously only four would be in Jamaica – Great Britain's long-jump winners, Lynn Davies and Mary Rand, and the Australian swimmers, Bob Windle and Ian O'Brien – and all of them would win titles. The reasons for the absence of the others were either retirement (most notably Peter Snell, Ken Matthews and Ann Packer in athletics and Dawn Fraser in swimming) or that their sport was not being contested. Of the 29 individual and relay athletics medallists from the Commonwealth in the 1964 Olympics, 18 were again on hand, and welcome innovations to the programme of events were the 20 miles walk, decathlon and women's 440 yards, plus the arranging of evening sessions to relieve many of the fears about the effect of the sultry climate on the distance events. One setback was that when the athletes arrived they found to their consternation a singular lack of proper facilities and equipment, and visiting officials had to pitch in to put together a pole-vaulting pit and a steeplechase water-jump at very short notice.

Kingston had beaten Edinburgh by only one vote for the honour of staging the Games, and it was rumoured that a particularly congenial party fuelled by rum punch had swung the issue before the voting had taken place in Perth four years before, but the chairman of the Games organising committee, Herbert Macdonald, publicly recognised the task his country faced by declaring soberly on the eve of the opening ceremony, "Jamaica's social and sporting status depends on the success of these Games". Generally speaking, the arrangements went ahead reasonably well, apart from a near disaster towards the marathon finish, when the leader briefly went off course, and the farce of holding a hammer final in seclusion in front of 50 spectators outside the main stadium.

Kip Keino was absolutely invincible. Not only did he win the mile in 3:55.34, but he led every step of the way, having already beaten Roger Bannister's Games record in the heats,

and also triumphed over Ron Clarke at three miles. Clarke had been beaten two days earlier by another Kenyan, Naftali Temu, at six miles, and accustomed, as we now are almost 50 years later, to hordes of Kenyan middle-distance and distance runners winning countless races and titles the World over, the achievements of Keino and Temu may seem hardly surprising in hindsight. It should be remembered, though, that since that dramatic debut by the barefooted Nyandika Maiyoro of 12 years earlier the progress of Kenyan athletics had not been as spectacular as might have been anticipated. Furthermore, although there were others, particularly in the steeplechase, who were soon to follow Keino's example, it was not until the late 1980s that a new generation of gloriously unfettered runners from the Rift Valley and the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro began to approach Keino's level in large numbers. He was a great runner who changed all our concepts of miling being an Anglo-Saxon preserve, and he remains into the 21st Century a splendid ambassador for the sport.

Harry Jerome became Canada's first winner of the short sprint at the Games since Percy Williams in 1930 and was following a family tradition because his grandfather, John Howard, had competed as a sprinter for Canada at the 1912 Olympics, even though by then he was a US citizen. Jerome became closely involved with sports development for youngsters after retiring from competition but sadly died of a brain disease at the age of 42. Two former Olympic champions, Don Thompson (England) and Norman Read (New Zealand), were beaten into 3rd and 4th places in the inaugural 20 miles walk, and one of the new inclusions in the programme, the decathlon, went to another New Zealander, Roy Williams, who had himself set the ball rolling to get the two-day 10-event competition into the Games by persuading his country's officials to apply for it to be considered. Williams had a glittering family tradition to live up to as he was the younger brother of Yvette Williams, Olympic champion, World record-holder and four times Empire gold-medallist.

The 30,000-strong crowds packing into the National Stadium in Kingston were regaled with numerous other splendid performances, and none more so than those of Australia's women, who won seven events, and Wendell Mottley, of Trinidad & Tobago, who took the 440 yards by a vast margin in a World-record 45.08sec and then anchored his national team on the closing evening to another World record in the 4 x 440 relay. Mottley, a graduate of both Cambridge and Yale Universities, later became his country's minister of finance and then an investment banker in New York. His gloriously relaxed running style particularly fired up the West Indian spectators, but what a pity it was that so few of them were able to see Howard Payne retain his hammer title for England ahead of a 19-year-old from India, Praveen Kumar, and the 1954 champion from Pakistan, Muhammad Iqbal, as these mighty men were inexcusably relegated for lack of proper facilities to a circle outside the main ground. Nor were there many onlookers – and certainly no alert officials around – when Scotland's Jim Alder, who was leading in the early-morning marathon, had to find his own way on to the stadium track and regain a lead he had temporarily lost to England's Bill Adcocks because there was no marshal on the road outside to point him in the right direction. Both Alder and Adcocks later wrote inspiring books about their long and successful marathon careers.

Once again swimming totally outstripped athletics in terms of World records. There were no less than 15 set in the pool, which were maybe aided by the fact that the water was heated beyond the recommended maximum temperature. Australia's men were responsible for nine of them, including three by the Olympic champion, Ian O'Brien, in achieving his second successive double in breast-stroke events. England's backstroke specialist, Linda Ludgrove, also won both her events again, as did her diving team-mate, Brian Phelps, but the most prolific individual champion was Elaine Tanner, of Canada, with three titles (plus a fourth in a relay). Her euphoria did not last long: Tanner, nicknamed "The Mighty Mouse" because

she was barely five feet (1.52 metres) tall, retired from competition two years later at the age of 18, suffering from depression.

Equally dominant, all eight fencing events were won by England, while six of the 10 boxing titles went to Africa and all but one of the eight wrestling titles were taken by Asia, as Pakistan won at four of the weights and India at three. Ghana's Eddie Blay added welterweight boxing gold to his lightweight victory of 1962, and Pakistan's Muhammad Bashir made history with a third successive welterweight wrestling triumph. Four of the 10 champions – at flyweight, bantamweight, featherweight and welterweight, and all of them Africans – would eventually figure among the select group of eight boxers who have won two Commonwealth titles.

In weight-lifting the multiple World champion, Louis Martin, returning to the country of his birth, kept his middle-heavyweight title for England, and there was a poignant success for his 4ft 10in (1.50m) tall team-mate, Precious McKenzie, at bantamweight. McKenzie had been born in South Africa and had been denied a place in that country's team for the 1958 Games because of apartheid policies but had since emigrated to England. At featherweight Chung Kum Weng revived memories of the double gold-medal debut by Malayan lifters at the 1950 Games but actually won the title for Wales. Born in Malaya, he had competed for his native land at the 1958 Games in Cardiff and then stayed on to represent his country of adoption.

Cycling, too, broke new ground as Roger Gibbon, of Trinidad & Tobago, not only became the first rider from the Caribbean to win a medal but took both the time-trial and sprint titles on the track, while the runaway (pedal away?) winner of the road race was a Manxman, Peter Buckley. Malaysia won both men's badminton titles, and there was an aristocratic touch in shooting as Lord John Swansea, competing (of course) for Wales, was the most accurate marksman in one of the rifle competitions. As a matter of fact, Lord Swansea was by no means the first peer of the realm to achieve success at the Empire & Commonwealth Games because not only had Lord Burghley been victorious in athletics in 1930 but there had also been that heavyweight boxing bronze medal for Lord David Douglas-Hamilton, of Scotland, in 1934.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1966 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

Note: as in 1962 automatic timing was in use for athletics, but it was frequently not operational.

100 YARDS (6 Aug): Harry Jerome (Canada) 9.41sec.

220 YARDS (11 Aug): Stanley Allotey (Ghana) 20.65sec.

440 YARDS (11 Aug): Wendell Mottley (Trinidad & Tobago) 45.08sec. Note: World record.

880 YARDS (8 Aug): Noel Clough (Australia) 1min 46.9sec.

1 MILE (13 Aug): Kip Keino (Kenya) 3min 55.34sec.

3 MILES (8 Aug): Kip Keino (Kenya) 12min 57.4sec.

6 MILES (6 Aug): Naftali Temu (Kenya) 27min 14.21sec.

MARATHON (11 Aug): Jim Alder (Scotland) 2hr 22min 7.8sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (6 Aug): Peter Welsh (New Zealand) 8min 29.44sec.

20 MILES WALK (6 Aug): Ron Wallwork (England) 2hr 44min 42.8sec.

120 YARDS HURDLES (11 Aug): David Hemery (England) 14.1sec.

440 YARDS HURDLES (8 Aug): Ken Roche (Australia) 50.95sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (13 Aug): Ghana (Ebenezer Addy, Bonner Mends, James Addy, Stanley Allotey) 39.8sec.

4 x 440 YARDS RELAY (13 Aug): Trinidad & Tobago (Lennox Yearwood 47.8sec, Kent Bernard 45.7sec, Edwin Roberts 44.8sec, Wendell Mottley 44.5sec) 3min 2.8sec. Note: World record.

HIGH JUMP (6 Aug): Lawrie Peckham (Australia) 6ft 10in (2.08m).

POLE VAULT (11 Aug): Trevor Bickle (Australia) 15ft 9in (4.80m).

LONG JUMP (8 Aug): Lynn Davies (Wales) 26ft 2³/₄in (7.99m).

TRIPLE JUMP (11 Aug): Samuel Igun (Nigeria) 53ft 9³/₄in (16.40m), Note: Igun's best jump was wind-assisted, but he also had a legal clearance of 53ft 5¹/₂in (16.29m).

SHOT (11 Aug): Dave Steen (Canada) 61ft 8in (18.79m).

DISCUS (8 Aug): Les Mills (New Zealand) 184ft 4in (56.19m).

HAMMER (13 Aug): Howard Payne (England) 203ft 4in (61.98m).

JAVELIN (6 Aug): John FitzSimons (England) 261ft 9in (79.78m).

DECATHLON (5-6 Aug): Roy Williams (New Zealand) 7,270pts (100 metres 11.07sec, Long jump 7.24m, Shot 13.61m, High jump 1.85m, 400 metres 51.2sec; 110 metres hurdles 15.0sec, Discus 45.24m, Pole vault 3.80m, Javelin 47.30m, 1500 metres 4min 55.6sec). Note: the 1962 tables on which these scores were based were updated in 1985, and the revised score for Williams would be 7,133pts.

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 YARDS (8 Aug): Dianne Burge (Australia) 10.6sec.

220 YARDS (11 Aug): Dianne Burge (Australia) 23.73sec.

440 YARDS (6 Aug): Judy Pollock (Australia) 53.0sec.

880 YARDS (13 Aug): Abby Hoffman (Canada) 2min 4.3sec.

80 METRES HURDLES (13 Aug): Pam Kilborn (Australia) 10.9sec.

4 x 110 YARDS RELAY (13 Aug): Australia (Jennifer Lamy, Pam Kilborn, Joyce Bennett, Dianne Burge) 45.3sec.

HIGH JUMP (8 Aug): Michele Brown (Australia) 5ft 8in (1.73m). Note: Brown formerly Mason.

LONG JUMP (13 Aug): Mary Rand (England) 20ft 10¹/₂in (6.36m).

SHOT (6 Aug): Valerie Young (New Zealand) 54ft 1³/₄in (16.50m).

DISCUS (13 Aug): Valerie Young (New Zealand) 163ft 4in (49.78m).

JAVELIN (11 Aug): Margaret Parker (Australia) 168ft 7in (51.38m).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Tan Aik Huang (Malaysia).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Tan Aik Huang, Yew Cheng Hoe).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Angela Bairstow (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Helen Horton, Ursula Smith).

MIXED DOUBLES: England (Roger Mills, Angela Bairstow).

BOXING

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Sulley Shittu (Ghana).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Eddie Ndukwu (Nigeria).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Philip Waruinge (Kenya).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Anthony Andeh (Nigeria).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Jim McCourt (Northern Ireland).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Eddie Blay (Ghana).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Mark Rowe (England).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Joe Darkey (Ghana).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Roger Tighe (England).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Bill Kini (New Zealand).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Roger Gibbon (Trinidad & Tobago) 1min 9.6sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Roger Gibbon (Trinidad & Tobago).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Hugh Porter (England) 4min 56.6sec.

10 MILES SCRATCH: Ian Alsop (England) 21min 46.0sec.

ROAD (193 kilometres): Peter Buckley (Isle of Man) 5hr 7min 52.5sec.

FENCING - MEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Allan Jay (England).

INDIVIDUAL EPEE: Bill Hoskyns (England).

INDIVIDUAL SABRE: Ralph Cooperman (England).

TEAM FOIL: England (Bill Hoskyns, Allan Jay, Graham Paul).

TEAM EPEE: England (Bill Hoskyns, Peter Jacobs, John Pelling).

TEAM SABRE: England (Ralph Cooperman, Richard Oldcorn, William Rayden).

FENCING - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Janet Wardell-Yerburgh (England).

TEAM FOIL: England (Shirley Parker, Joyce Pearce, Janet Wardell-Yerburgh).

SHOOTING

FULL-BORE RIFLE: Lord John Swansea (Wales) 394pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE: Gilmour Boa (Canada) 587pts.

FREE PISTOL: Charles Sexton (England) 544pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL: James Lee (Canada) 576pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL: Tony Clark (England) 585pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Mike Wenden (Australia) 54.0sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Bob Windle (Australia) 4min 15.0sec. Note: World record.

1650 YARDS FREESTYLE: Ron Jackson (Australia) 17min 25.9sec.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Mike Wenden 53.8sec, John Ryan 53.7sec, David Dickson 53.7sec, Bob Windle 54.4sec) 3min 35.6sec. Note: World record.

4 x 220 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Mike Wenden 1min 57.3sec, Peter Reynolds 2min 1.9sec, David Dickson 2min 1.4sec, Bob Windle 1min 58.9sec) 7min 59.5sec. Note: World record. Wenden set an individual World record on the opening stage.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Peter Reynolds (Australia) 1min 2.4sec.

220 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Peter Reynolds (Australia) 2min 12.0sec. Note: World record.

110 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Ian O'Brien (Australia) 1min 8.2sec. Note: World record. O'Brien also set World record 1min 8.5sec in heats.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Ian O'Brien (Australia) 2min 29.3sec. Note: O'Brien set World record 2min 28.0sec in heats.

110 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Ron Jacks (Canada) 1min 0.3sec.

220 YARDS BUTTERFLY: David Gerrard (New Zealand) 2min 12.7sec.

440 YARDS INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Peter Reynolds (Australia) 4min 50.8sec. Note: World record.

4 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Ralph Hutton, Leonard Chase, Ron Jacks, Sandy Gilchrist) 4min 10.5sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Brian Phelps (England) 164.57pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Brian Phelps (England) 154.55pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING – WOMEN

110 YARDS FREESTYLE: Marion Lay (Canada) 1min 2.3sec.

440 YARDS FREESTYLE: Kathy Wainwright (Australia) 4min 38.8sec. Note: World record. Wainwright also set a World record 4min 39.6sec in heats.

4 x 110 YARDS FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Elaine Tanner, Jane Hughes, Louise Kennedy, Marion Lay) 4min 10.8sec. Note: World record.

110 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Linda Ludgrove (England) 1min 9.2sec.

220 YARDS BACKSTROKE: Linda Ludgrove (England) 2min 28.5sec. Note: World record.

110 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Diana Harris (England) 1min 19.7sec.

220 YARDS BREAST-STROKE: Jill Slattery (England) 2min 50.3sec.

110 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Elaine Tanner (Canada) 1min 6.8sec.

220 YARDS BUTTERFLY: Elaine Tanner (Canada) 2min 29.9sec. Note: World record.

440 YARDS INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Elaine Tanner (Canada) 5min 26.3sec.

4 x 110 YARDS MEDLEY RELAY: England (Linda Ludgrove 1min 9.3sec., Diana Harris 1min 19.3sec, Judy Gegan 1min 8.7sec, Pauline Sillett 1min 3.3sec) 4min 40.6sec. Note: World record.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Joy Newman (England) 98.87pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Kathy Rowlatt (England) 147.10pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING:

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Precious McKenzie (England) 705lb (319.5kg).

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Chung Kum Weng (Wales) 743½lb (337kg).

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Hugo Gittens (Trinidad & Tobago) 809¾lb (367kg).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Pierre St Jean (Canada) 892½lb (404.5kg).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): George Vakakis (Australia) 925½lb (419.5kg).

MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Louis Martin (England) 1,019¼lb (462kg).

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Don Oliver (New Zealand) 1,096¼ (497kg).

WRESTLING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Muhammad Nazir (Pakistan).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Bishamber Singh (India).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Muhammad Akhtar (Pakistan).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Mukhtiar Singh (India).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Muhammad Bashir (Pakistan).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Muhammad Faiz (Pakistan).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Robert Chamberot (Canada).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 90kg): Bhim Singh (India).

1966 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	33	24	23	80
Australia	23	28	22	73
Canada	14	20	23	57
New Zealand	8	5	13	26
Jamaica	0	4	8	12
India	3	4	3	10
Nigeria	3	4	3	10
Ghana	5	2	2	9
Pakistan	4	1	4	9
Scotland	1	4	4	9
Trinidad & Tobago	5	2	2	9
Kenya	4	1	3	8
Northern Ireland	1	3	3	7
Wales	3	2	2	7
Malaysia	2	2	1	5
Uganda	0	0	3	3
Bahamas	0	1	0	1
Barbados	0	1	0	1
Bermuda	0	1	0	1
Guyana	0	1	0	1
Isle of Man	1	0	0	1
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	1

X. British Commonwealth Games

Edinburgh, Scotland

16-25 July 1970

42 countries, 1,383 competitors. Nine sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

The all-embracing affinity of the “great Empire-builders”

There had been plenty of time for the organisers of the 1970 Games to ponder the complexities of the task ahead. The idea of Edinburgh staging a Commonwealth Games – or, rather, what was then known as an Empire Games – had originated in 1936 with the enthusiastic support of the city corporation. The target date then had been 1942, but those Games never took place because of the war, and for one reason or another the project was not revived until 1956, when it was decided to bid for the Games of 1966 or 1970. The Jamaicans edged out the Scots by a single vote for the first of those celebrations, and Edinburgh at last took its turn 34 years after first thinking about it.

A £2.2 million complex was developed at the Meadowbank Stadium site, where five of the nine Games sports would be held, and when the competitions came to their conclusion there was no doubt about their success. “World Sports”, the influential monthly magazine endorsed by the British Olympic Association, proclaimed in an enthusiastic editorial that Edinburgh had “provided the finest facilities the Commonwealth Games has ever seen since their start 40 years ago and backed it up with almost impeccable organisation”. It seemed that it was all down to native ingenuity ... “the feeling of affinity was all-embracing, possibly because no British race has ever been such great Empire-builders as the Scots”. As it happens, the evocative word, “Empire”, had now been dropped from the Games title. The only problem which the administrators, competitors and spectators encountered was the unhelpful Scottish summer weather – it was sometimes blowing a gale. Braving such elements, more countries than ever before turned up with teams, including 288 women in total, and 27 of those countries were rewarded with medals.

The 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City had been a dramatic experience – sometimes even traumatic – for the track and field athletes. In the thin air of an altitude of 2240 metres (7347ft) there had been a ceaseless cavalcade of spectacular performances in the explosive events, and the Commonwealth had played a significant part in them with World records for Ralph Doubell, of Australia, at 800 metres, and for David Hemery, of Great Britain, at 400 metres hurdles. In addition, Commonwealth records had been beaten in the men’s and women’s 100 metres, 200 metres and 4 x 100 metres and in the men’s 1500 metres and triple jump. By stark contrast, many of the distance-runners had suffered terribly through the lack of oxygen, but the Commonwealth had come out of those events better than most, with five medals for the Kenyans at 5000 metres, 10,000 metres and the steeplechase, and five of the top 10 places – four of them British-born – in the marathon. The most notable of the Commonwealth winners in Mexico (in total, 16 of the 174 titles) to appear in other sports in Edinburgh would be the double freestyle swimming champion, Mike Wenden, of Australia.

The Edinburgh organisers had lived through some fraught weeks during the winter preceding the Games, caught up in the furore over a proposed tour to England by the South African “all white” cricketers. Banners proclaiming “Stop The Seventy Tour” had been paraded outside the hallowed Grace Gates at Lord’s, and at least 14 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean had threatened to withdraw from the Commonwealth Games if the matches went ahead. Late in the day the English cricket authorities cancelled the visit, thus ending a

relationship which had been in existence since 1896. South Africa, already out of the Commonwealth, had also been expelled from the Olympic Games, which coincidentally dated from the very same year, and yet it seemed – correctly, as history was to prove – that this was no more than a reprieve for the Commonwealth Games.

Installation of an all-weather track at Meadowbank and the full-scale introduction of metric distances and automatic timing at last brought the Commonwealth Games into line with international convention, but the wind speeds of not far short of 10 metres per second (24 miles per hour) caused problems, though not for Lynn Davies, already an Olympic, Commonwealth and European long-jump title-holder. He took advantage of the breeze to win handily, but there was an uncanny echo of his experience at the Games of eight years before because the best wind-free effort came from an Australian, Phil May, in 2nd place, whose preferred event was the triple jump, which he duly won two days later. Scottish hearts had been warmed from the very first day in the athletics stadium when a local hero, Lachie Stewart, beat the luckless Ron Clarke at 10,000 metres, and a week later the unrelated Anglo-Scot, Ian Stewart, completed a double for the hosts by winning the 5000 metres from his team-mate, Ian McCafferty, and Kenya's Kip Keino.

Keino had already won the 1500 metres and there were other successes for his country in the 400 metres, 800 metres and 4 x 400 metres relay, but not in the remaining distance races where Ron Hill's crushing marathon victory for England was the outstanding performance and an unheralded Australian, Tony Manning, collected the steeplechase title ahead of two Kenyans, and it might even have been an Australian 1-2 but for Kerry O'Brien, who had set a World record 19 days before, falling at the final water-jump and failing to finish. As Kenyans were going to win nine of the next 10 Commonwealth Games men's steeplechases (missing out only in 1986 when they were absent), this was a noteworthy achievement, indeed. Manning made a six-hour round-trip twice a week from his remote home in Coolah, New South Wales, where he was to work for 47 years in the Australian postal service, to supplement his training in Sydney.

Jamaica's Don Quarrie took gold at 100, 200 and 4 x 100 metres and was thus the first man since 1950 to achieve the sprint "triple crown". The field events showed notable progress, and there was a husband-and-wife double for Howard and Rosemary Payne in the hammer and discus respectively – though Mr Payne competed for England and Mrs Payne for Scotland. Not before time the women's five-event pentathlon was brought in and was won by Mary Peters, Liverpool-born but representing Northern Ireland, who had made her Games debut all of 12 years before in a relay team which came last, and she added the shot-put gold. Yet even her achievements, and those of Australia's Raelene Boyle, also a triple sprint champion, and her team-mate, Pam Kilborn, winning a third successive hurdles title, or even Rosemary Stirling, with an 800 metres victory for the hosts, were overshadowed by 17-year-old Marilyn Neufville. London-born but a member of Jamaica's team, she broke the World record in the 400 metres. Regrettably, she subsequently got caught up in a politically-inspired division of loyalties between Britain and Jamaica and was never to run as fast again.

A fourth Scottish win in athletics was achieved by Rosemary Stirling at 800 metres, and Scotland finished the Games with 25 medals, though this was still one less than in London in 1934 and the other eight sports produced only two Scots winners between them. They were Tom Imrie in boxing and Sandy Leckie in fencing. Imrie thus became Scotland's ninth boxing champion and Leckie was only the second fencer to win individual gold with two different weapons at the Games, adding sabre to his foil win of eight years before. Whether he faithfully followed 24 hours a day the advice of his Hungarian-born coach, Béla Imregi,

remains unrevealed; “Necessary you sleep with sabre under pillow”, Imregi had told him. It might help non-fencing readers to explain that the foil is a thrusting weapon, targeting the torso but not the arms, and scoring only with the tip of the blade. The sabre is a cutting and thrusting weapon, targeting the entire body above the waist, except for the hands, and scoring with both the edge and the tip.

At the swimming events of the 1968 Olympics the double success by Australia’s Mike Wenden at freestyle had followed up his prior Commonwealth wins of two years before, and he took those events again in Edinburgh and added further golds in both freestyle relays. He was no stylist, though, flailing away in the water at 60 strokes a length, and he admitted himself that his sole objective was to go “hell for leather, getting to the other end as fast and furiously as possible”. Australian men took all six freestyle and relay titles, but the Canadians outscored them by winning all but one of the eight other events, leaving only Mike Richards, of Wales, at 200 metres backstroke (and a very close 2nd at 100 metres), to interfere in the private battle. Bill Mahoney became the first Canadian to win a backstroke title at the Games since 1930.

There were no such doubts concerning supremacy among the women swimmers. Australia won all but two of the 14 events – though the exceptions included the prestigious 100 metres freestyle, which went to Angela Coughlan, of Canada – and there was a triple success for Karen Moras at freestyle, incorporating an improvement on her own 800 metres World record, and doubles for Lynette Watson at backstroke, Beverley Whitfield at breaststroke and 14-year-old Denise Langford in the individual medley. Watson and Langford also each won two relay golds. Yet success in swimming can be a very transitory pleasure – within a year Karen Moras would be superseded by another Australian prodigy, Shane Gould, who broke every World record from 100 to 1500 metres.

Of the 42 women’s swimming medals on offer, Australia won 25, England nine and Canada seven. The one interloper was Alexandra Jackson, of the Isle of Man but born in Dublin, with a bronze in the newly-introduced women’s 200 metres freestyle, and 44 years later she remains the only woman among the island’s 10 medallists at the Games over the years – and the only one who did not ride a bicycle or shoot a rifle to gain such an honour. England’s lone winner in any of the men’s or women’s events was Diane Lansley, at butterfly.

Many of the swimming champions were youthful, but the youngest gold-medallist of the Games was to be found in the most unexpected of places – on the wrestling mat! The light-flyweight division (maximum weight 48kg) was making its Games debut and the title went to Ved Prakash, who was officially said to be 14 years old, though there were confident claims from Indian sources that he was only actually 12, and there was even a question of whether he should have been allowed to compete at all because of his age. Of the 10 gold medals in this sport India won five and Pakistan four, separated only by a lone Canadian, and both Prakash and India’s flyweight champion, Sudhesh Kumar, were coached by Guru Hanuman, born Vijay Pal, who would live to the age of 99 before being killed in a car crash.

Expertise in bowls, which returned to the Games schedule, called for rather greater maturity of years than those of Ved Prakash, and the fours title went to the team from Hong Kong, of which three were of Portugese descent and the other from Malaysia. This was maintaining something of a Hong Kong tradition because two of their 1954 silver-medallists had also been of Portugese origin. So extensive was the Edinburgh bowls programme that the Hong Kong quartet, winners of 11 of their 12 matches, were already assured of the gold three days before the Games were even officially declared open! David Bryant, for England, became the

first man to retain a singles title, though his previous win dated from 1962 because of the absence of bowls in Kingston.

Two of the boxers also had further gold-medal successes, as Sulley Shittu, of Ghana, won at bantamweight and Philip Waruinge, of Kenya, at featherweight, but it was a third African nation, Uganda, which collected the most titles (three) of the 11 now contested. Ghana and Nigeria had two each, and Kenya one, leaving only the flyweight and middleweight for England's Dave Needham and a future World professional champion, John Conteh, respectively and the light-middleweight for Scotland's Tom Imrie, improving on his silver in Kingston. At weight-lifting England's Precious McKenzie won his second successive gold and Louis Martin his third, and there was the usual encouraging spread of medals in this sport – among 10 different countries, including Barbados, India, Singapore and the team from the West Indian islands of St Vincent & The Grenadines.

The monopoly of badminton titles by England and Malaysia was broken by a Canadian, Jamie Paulson, in the men's singles; A Trinidad & Tobago track cyclist, Leslie King, did his best to emulate his fellow-countryman of four years before, Roger Gibbon, and took a silver and a bronze. Making its debut in the velodrome, though regrettably it would only survive for two further Games, was the spectacular tandem sprint, and it was won by the Australian pairing of Gordon Johnson and Rob Jonker. Johnson, who had competed in the Olympics of 1964 and 1968 as his father had done in 1936, turned professional a week after his tandem triumph and promptly won the World sprint title, though he had been beaten in that event in Edinburgh by a team-mate, John Nicholson.

Fencing was almost totally dominated once again by the English, with seven wins in the eight events, leaving only the individual sabre for the Scotsman, Sandy Leckie. This was the last time that such an agile and graceful sport was to appear at the Commonwealth Games, and no doubt England's supremacy had a lot to do with the demise, but in its 20 years' existence some of the most successful competitors in the history of the Games had made their mark – or should one say their point? Most notably, Bill Hoskyns, also a World champion, and the epee winner in Edinburgh, had now won four individual and five team gold medals for a record Games total in any sport, while Allan Jay had won eight golds and the Paul family (René and his brother, Raymond, and René's sons, Barry and Graham, team foil winners at these Games) had between them accumulated 18 medals, including 13 gold. Incidentally, Raymond's wife, June, was also a Commonwealth champion; as a sprinter she was in the winning 4 x 110 yards relay team of 1958.

Hoskyns, educated at Eton and Oxford University, was later to be described as one of England's "gentlemen fencers" and shortly before his death at the age of 80 in 2013 was to remark, "The Olympics has changed an awful lot. Back then we were doing it at weekends". In between his fencing successes, he was spending Mondays to Fridays managing the family fruit-farm business in Somerset.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1970 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES (18 Jul): Don Quarrie (Jamaica) 10.24sec. Note: wind-assisted.
200 METRES (22 Jul): Don Quarrie (Jamaica) 20.56sec.
400 METRES (23 Jul): Charles Asati (Kenya) 45.01sec.
800 METRES (25 Jul): Robert Ouko (Kenya) 1min 46.89sec.
1500 METRES (22 Jul): Kip Keino (Kenya) 3min 36.6sec.
5000 METRES (25 Jul): Ian Stewart (Scotland) 13min 22.8sec.
10,000 METRES (18 Jul): Lachie Stewart (Scotland) 28min 11.8sec. Note: Lachie Stewart and Ian Stewart are not related.
3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (23 Jul): Tony Manning (Australia) 8min 26.2sec.
MARATHON (23 Jul): Ron Hill (England) 2hr 09min 28sec.
20 MILES WALK (18 Jul): Noel Freeman (Australia) 2hr 33min 33sec.
110 METRES HURDLES (18 Jul): David Hemery (England) 13.60sec.
400 METRES HURDLES (21 Jul): John Sherwood (England) 50.03sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY (25 Jul): Jamaica (Errol Stewart, Lennox Miller, Carl Lawson, Don Quarrie) 39.46sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY (25 Jul): Kenya (Hezekiah Nyamau 47.5sec, Julius Sang 46.0sec, Robert Ouko 45.5sec, Charles Asati 44.6sec) 3min 3.63sec.
HIGH JUMP (18 Jul): Lawrie Peckham (Australia) 2.14m.
POLE VAULT (23 Jul): Mike Bull (Northern Ireland) 5.10m.
LONG JUMP (22 Jul): Lynn Davies (Wales) 8.06m. Note: wind-assisted.
TRIPLE JUMP (25 Jul): Phil May (Australia) 16.72m.
SHOT (25 Jul): Dave Steen (Canada) 19.21m.
DISCUS (22 Jul): George Puce (Canada) 59.02m.
HAMMER (18 Jul): Howard Payne (England) 67.80m.
JAVELIN (23 Jul): David Travis (England) 79.50m.
DECATHLON (21-22 Jul): Geoff Smith (Australia) 7,492pts (10.99sec, 6.93m, 13.20m, 1.70m, 48.70sec; 14.66sec, 38.82m, 4.20m, 60.12m, 4min 36.0sec). Note: Smith's score according to the 1985 tables would be 7,410pts.

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES (18 Jul): Raelene Boyle (Australia) 11.27sec. Note: wind-assisted.
200 METRES (22 Jul): Raelene Boyle (Australia) 22.75sec. Note: wind-assisted.
400 METRES (23 Jul): Marilyn Neufville (Jamaica) 51.02sec. Note: World record.
800 METRES (24 Jul): Rosemary Stirling (Scotland) 2min 6.24sec.
1500 METRES (23 Jul): Rita Ridley (England) 4min 18.8sec.
100 METRES HURDLES (23 Jul): Pam Kilborn (Australia) 13.27sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY (25 Jul): Australia (Maureen Caird, Jennifer Lamy, Marion Hoffman, Raelene Boyle) 44.14sec.
HIGH JUMP (25 Jul): Debbie Brill (Canada) 1.78m.
LONG JUMP (23 Jul): Sheila Sherwood (England) 6.73m. Note: née Parkin.
SHOT (23 Jul): Mary Peters (Northern Ireland) 15.93m.
DISCUS (18 Jul): Rosemary Payne (Scotland) 54.46m.
JAVELIN (25 Jul): Petra Rivers (Australia) 52.00m.
PENTATHLON (21-22 Jul): Mary Peters (Northern Ireland) 5,148pts (100 metres hurdles 13.61sec, Shot 16.13m, High jump 1.66m, Long jump 5.73m, 200 metres 24.38sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Jamie Paulson (Canada).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Ng Boon Bee, Punch Gunalan).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Maggie Beck (England).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Maggie Boxall, Sue Whetnall).
MIXED DOUBLES: England (Derek Talbot, Maggie Boxall).

BOWLS

SINGLES: David Bryant (England).
PAIRS: England (Norman King, Peter Line).
FOURS: Hong Kong (Clementi Delgado, Abdul Kitchell, Roberto Da Silva, George Souza).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): James Odwori (Uganda).
FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Dave Needham (England).
BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Sulley Shittu (Ghana).
FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Philip Waruinge (Kenya).
LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Abayomi Adeyemi (Nigeria).
LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Muhammad Muruli (Uganda).
WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Emma Ankudey (Ghana).
LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Tom Imrie (Scotland).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): John Conteh (England).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Fatai Ayinla (Nigeria).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Benson Masanda (Uganda).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Harry Kent (New Zealand) 1min 8.69sec.
1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL SPRINT: John Nicholson (Australia).
4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Ian Hallam (England) 5min 1.41sec.
1000 METRES TANDEM SPRINT: Australia (Gordon Johnson, Rob Jonker).
10 MILES SCRATCH: Jocelyn Lovell (Canada) 20min 46.72sec.
ROAD (164.6 kilometres): Bruce Biddle (New Zealand) 4hr 38min 5.8sec.

FENCING - MEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Mike Breckin (England).
INDIVIDUAL EPEE: Bill Hoskyns (England).
INDIVIDUAL SABRE: Sandy Leckie (Scotland).
TEAM FOIL: England (Mike Breckin, Barry Paul, Graham Paul). Note: Barry and Graham Paul were brothers.
TEAM EPEE: England (Bill Hoskyns, Peter Jacobs, William Johnson).
TEAM SABRE: England (David Acfield, Richard Cohen, Rodney Craig).

FENCING - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL FOIL: Janet Wardell-Yerburgh (England).
TEAM FOIL: England (Susan Greene, Clare Henley, Janet Wardell-Yerburgh).

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Mike Wenden (Australia) 53.06sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Mike Wenden (Australia) 1min 56.69sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Graham White (Australia) 4min 8.48sec.
1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Graham Windeatt (Australia) 16min 23.82sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Greg Rogers 54.09sec, William Devenish 54.0sec, Graham White 55.0sec, Mike Wenden 52.93sec) 3min 36.02sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY; Australia (Greg Rogers 1min 57.28sec, William Devenish 1min 58.61sec, Graham White 1min 59.12sec, Mike Wenden 1min 55.76sec) 7min 50.77sec. Note: World record.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Bill Kennedy (Canada) 1min 1.65sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Mike Richards (Wales) 2min 14.53sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Bill Mahony (Canada) 1min 9.0sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Bill Mahony (Canada) 2min 30.29sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Byron MacDonald (Canada) 58.44sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Tom Arusoo (Canada) 2min 8.97sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: George Smith (Canada) 2min 13.72sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: George Smith (Canada) 4min 48.87sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Bill Kennedy, Bill Mahony, Byron MacDonald, Robert Kasting) 4min 1.10sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Don Wagstaff (Australia) 485.73pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Don Wagstaff (Australia) 557.73pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Angela Coughlan (Canada) 1min 1.22sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Moras (Australia) 2min 9.78sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Moras (Australia) 4min 27.38sec.
800 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Moras (Australia) 9min 2.45sec. Note: World record.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: (Australia (Lynette Watson 1min 2.27sec, Jenny Watts 1min 0.56sec, Debra Cain 1min 1.43sec, Denise Langford 1min 2.15sec) 4min 6.41sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Lynette Watson (Australia) 1min 7.10sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Lynette Watson (Australia) 2min 22.86sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Beverley Whitfield (Australia) 1min 17.40sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Beverley Whitfield (Australia) 2min 44.12sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Diane Lansley (England) 1min 7.90sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Maree Robinson (Australia) 2min 24.67sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Denise Langford (Australia) 2min 28.89sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Denise Langford (Australia) 5min 10.74sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Lynette Watson 1min 6.85sec, Beverley Whitfield 1min 16.92sec, Allyson Mabb 1min 6.65sec, Denise Langford 1min 0.24sec) 4min 30.66sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Beverley Boys (Canada) 352.95pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Beverley Boys (Canada) 432.87pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): George Vasiliades (Australia) 290kg.
BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Precious McKenzie (England) 335kg.
FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Jerry Perrin (England) 342.5kg.
LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): George Newton (England) 372.5kg.
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Russell Perry (Australia) 412.5kg.
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Nicolo Ciancio (Australia) 447.5kg.
MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Louis Martin (England) 457.5kg.
HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Russ Prior (Canada) 490kg.
SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 110kg): Ray Rigby (Australia) 500kg.

WRESTLING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Ved Prakash (India).

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Sudhesh Kumar (India).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Muhammad Sardar (Pakistan).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Muhammad Saeed (Pakistan).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Udey Chand (India).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Mukhtiar Singh (India).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Harish Chandler Biradjir (India).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Muhammad Faiz (Pakistan).

HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Edward Millard (Canada).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 100kg): Ikram Ellahi (Pakistan).

1970 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	27	25	32	84
Australia	36	24	22	82
Canada	18	24	24	66
Scotland	6	8	11	25
Kenya	5	3	6	14
New Zealand	2	6	6	14
India	5	3	4	12
Wales	2	6	4	12
Pakistan	4	3	3	10
Northern Ireland	3	1	5	9
Ghana	2	3	2	7
Jamaica	4	2	1	7
Trinidad & Tobago	0	4	3	7
Uganda	3	3	1	7
Zambia	0	2	2	4
Malaysia	1	1	1	3
Nigeria	2	0	0	2
Singapore	0	1	1	2
Barbados	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	0	1	1
Gambia	0	0	1	1
Guyana	0	0	1	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Isle of Man	0	0	1	1
Malawi	0	0	1	1
St Vincent & The Grenadines	0	0	1	1
Tanzania	0	1	0	1

XI. Commonwealth Games Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 3-12 August 1978

46 countries, 1,474 competitors. 10 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

“Gentlemen adventurers” and ladies, too ... and a mystery man from Tanzania

Edmonton started with something of a disadvantage unbeknown to its supporters when the 28-strong city delegation arrived at the 1972 Munich Olympics to present its bid for six years hence to the 44 members of the Commonwealth Games Federation. “If Edmonton was on the map, it must have been on one drawn in Alberta”, ruefully recounted the author of the official report of the 1978 Games. “It certainly wasn’t on the World map, or even on a Commonwealth map. The 28 community boosters who had thought their home town had the World by the tail could scarcely find a fellow member of the Commonwealth family who even knew Edmonton was in Canada. The most asked question of our delegates was ‘Where is Edmonton?’ ”

Yet the persuasive powers of the enthusiastic Edmonton “boosters” worked because they won 34 of the votes and the right to stage those 1978 Games. For those who did not know, Fort Edmonton had been founded as a fur-trading post in 1795 and named after one of the London boroughs by William Tomlinson, who was a member of the Company of Gentleman Adventurers. Rather more recently, in 1947, oil had been discovered a few miles outside the city, which had now become the supply centre for an industry with potential stocks equivalent to more than half the World’s reserves. The “gentlemen adventurers” who were competing at the Commonwealth Games of 1978 – no “British” in the title any more – and the ladies, too, of whom there were 326, would certainly help to put Edmonton well and truly on the map.

The first records to be broken were those for the numbers of countries and competitors, and it was a tribute to the Edmonton organisers that they managed to persuade all the African nations except Nigeria to take part, even though they had boycotted en masse the Montreal Olympics of two years before. The reason, as always, had been the continuing rugby-football links between New Zealand and South Africa, but Kenya’s athletes and boxers made up for missed Olympic opportunities by equalling their 1974 tally of 18 medals. For Henry Rono, who had broken four World distance-running records during the year, it was simply a matter of which events he chose to win, and he settled for the steeplechase and the 5000 metres. Sadly, Rono suffered from alcoholism problems in later life, though he recovered sufficiently to take up a coaching post in the USA.

Rono apart, the African athlete who made the deepest impression was the marathon gold-medallist from Tanzania who was so little known that even the spelling of his name and his date of birth remained in doubt. He was either Gidemas or Gidamis Shahanga, and he could have been 21 years old, 19, or even 17 – he himself was not sure. A much more familiar name was that of the 100 metres champion for a third successive Games, Don Quarrie, of Jamaica, though injury prevented him completing yet another sprint double at 200 metres. Quarrie, who was also Olympic champion at 200 metres in 1976, was so well known in Jamaica that it became an everyday phrase to say “not even Don Quarrie could catch me, I

was so fast” ... though perhaps nowadays the Jamaican man-in-the-street substitutes Usain Bolt’s name for that of Don Quarrie.

Quarrie had beaten Allan Wells, of Scotland, for the 100 metres title in a wind-assisted 10.03 to 10.07, with the Olympic champion of two years before, Hasely Crawford, of Trinidad & Tobago, in 3rd place. As Wells was to win the Olympic 100 metres two years hence, this race thus brought together three past and future Olympic champions. Three days later in Edmonton Wells won the 200 metres, and even at his best Quarrie would have been hard pressed to match the Scotsman’s winning time of 20.12, again wind-aided. Another two days further on, the Scottish 4 x 100 metres team of David Jenkins, Wells, Cameron Sharp and Drew McMaster just got the better of Trinidad & Tobago, by 0.05sec, and Jamaica for the gold, with a time of 39.24sec which still stands as the national record 36 years later. It was Scotland’s first medal of any kind in the event since 1934, and by 1978 the competition had become somewhat hotter. Bermuda, in last place in the relay, were still 20 yards faster than the English winners of 44 years before.

Standards overall in athletics were not exceptional, but there were totally dominating performances from the all-rounders – Diane Konihowski, of Canada, in the pentathlon, who won by over 500 points (4,768 to 4,222 for the silver-medallist), and Daley Thompson, of England, in the decathlon, who simply outclassed the rest, scoring 8,467 to the next man’s 7,623 – and also for England Tessa Sanderson beat a 20-year-old Games record in the javelin. It was not so much the quality that mattered, though, as the variety, and among the medallists was the versatile Suresh Babu, of India, 3rd in the long jump, who was to win 16 national titles during his career in the high jump, long jump, triple jump and decathlon. Then, too, there were further signs of the advance of African women in the middle distances on the track as Tekla Chemabwai took silver at 800 metres, only five one-hundredths of a second behind Australia’s Judy Peckham, to follow up Sabina Chebichi’s bronze in the same event four years before. In 1968 Chemabwai had been one of the first three Kenyan women to compete at the Olympics.

Kenya won two titles in the boxing ring, as Stephen Muchoki was again light-flyweight champion, which was not at all surprising as he had won the World amateur title earlier in the year and during his career was to lose only three of his 200 bouts, and there were also two golds apiece for Canada and Northern Ireland (including a future World professional champion, Barry McGuigan) and one each for Ghana, Guyana and Jamaica, among others. In six of the 10 wrestling finals contestants from Canada and India faced each other, and Canada won six weight divisions overall and India three, with Australia breaking the monopoly at lightweight. For the fourth successive Games a weight-lifting title was won by Precious McKenzie, though now representing New Zealand and not England, while a Canadian, Russ Prior, who came from the original Games venue of Hamilton, Ontario, was heavyweight champion for the third consecutive time. Prior had made an astonishing comeback after suffering serious spinal damage in 1971 when a bench collapsed and weights fell on him during a training session.

There were poignant family celebrations in the pool as Graham Smith won both breast-stroke events and both individual medley events for Canada and figured in two winning relay teams to set a record of six wins in a single Games. His brother, George, had also won both individual medley titles in 1970, and their sister, Becky, had been a freestyle relay gold-medallist in 1974. More pointedly, the Edmonton venue was named in memory of their father, Dr Donald F. Smith, who had been a leading administrator in the sport and had died of cancer two years before. Another line of inheritance was maintained by New Zealand’s Gary

Hurring in winning backstroke gold, as his father, Lincoln, had been a silver-medallist in the event in 1954, while his mother, Jean (née Stewart), had won backstroke silver and bronze, and his uncle, Jack Stewart, had won two diving bronze medals in the Games of 1950 and 1954.

For the first time in 40 years at the Games Australia's swimmers and divers were outscored by another nation, losing the medals count to Canada 39-30, but it was yet another Australian prodigy, 15-year-old Tracey Wickham, who produced the finest performances of the gala, with World records at 400 and 800 metres freestyle (the latter still survives as a Games record 36 years later). Born in Rosebud, Victoria, she came fully to bloom in 1978 because she also won the World titles at those events and was then awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List. Other double winners were Sharron Davies, for England, in the individual medleys and Ron McKeon, for Australia, at freestyle. For the fifth successive Games there was also a double success in men's diving – both titles going to the US-based Chris Snode, for England.

Edmonton's badminton tournament set a Games precedent by introducing a mixed team event, which was won by England, but the men's singles title went, unexpectedly, to Padukone Prakash, of India, described as the "Gentle Tiger" on court, which seems something of a contradiction in terms. During his career he was to be national champion for nine successive years, and in 1979 he won the coveted All-England title and achieved No.1 ranking in the World. Malaysia's only win was in the women's singles. England's maestro of the greens, David Bryant, took the bowls singles for a fourth successive Games, but Hong Kong prevailed in both the pairs and the fours, with two of their experts on the greens winning gold medals as they had done eight years before. On the cycling track Jocelyn Lovell, who had also already won a gold medal in 1970, was a champion three more times for Canada, again at 10 miles, in the time-trial and as a partner in the tandem sprint.

Gymnastics made its first appearance at the Games – and its last for 12 years – to provide the hosts with both the overall individual and team titles and five of the six gold medals for the various exercises. Host countries have a habit, understandably, of opting as part of their schedule for less utilised sports in which they can expect to do well. Duly grateful for their recognition, Canada's marksmen were very much on target on the shooting range, winning four more golds, including second titles for the Trinidad-born Dr Jules Sobrian, whose achievements in later life were to include writing his first novel at the age of 75, and John Primrose, whose astonishingly long career spanned three decades and would take in competing 13 times in the World Championships (and winning in 1975 and 1983), six times in the Olympic Games and five times in the Commonwealth Games. Primrose credited his longevity on the firing-range to his "slow, deliberate style".

In all, Canada had 45 winners and 109 medallists in the various sports, finishing as the most successful country for the first time since the inaugural Games in Hamilton in 1930. Not that this appeared to matter too much to the hosts, who listed the medal-winning teams in alphabetical order in their official report, with Australia naturally named first. Rather, the abiding memory was of a joyous Games closing ceremony as Hong Kong dragon-dancers, Samoan fire-eaters, Punjabi sword-wielding tumblers, Jamaican steel-drummers and Welsh choristers mingled with crowds of cavorting competitors, whose celebrations were led by two of the greatest of champions at these Games – Henry Rono and Precious McKenzie.

Then there were, of course, the unsung heroes and heroines of Edmonton who did not figure at all among the medallists, nor even among the finalists, and none surely more courageous

and enterprising than the team of 10 athletes from the West African republic of The Gambia, which had produced the high-jump bronze-medallist in 1970. Even by the widely-recognised standards of deprivation suffered throughout the African continent in everyday living, let alone in pursuing a sporting ambition, the Gambians were at a disadvantage. The country had no track, and apparently not even an area of grass large enough to lay down a rudimentary track, and there had been no domestic competitions of any kind for three years prior to 1978.

Yet in their heats in Edmonton Bakary Banana Jarjue ran 10.91 for 100 metres, Ousmane N'Dure 22.01 for 200 metres, Bambo Fatty 50.98 for 400 metres, and Georgiana Freeman 24.52 in the women's 200 metres – nothing World-shattering, of course, but all highly commendable times given the circumstances. Providing a rare competitive opportunity for such raw and untried talent remains as much an achievement for the Commonwealth Games movement as the handing-out of honours to the elite. Maybe more so.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1978 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES (7 Aug): Don Quarrie (Jamaica) 10.03sec. Note: wind-assisted.

200 METRES (10 Aug): Allan Wells (Scotland) 20.12sec. Note: wind-assisted.

400 METRES (7 Aug): Rick Mitchell (Australia) 46.34sec.

800 METRES (10 Aug): Mike Boit (Kenya) 1min 46.39sec.

1500 METRES (12 Aug): David Moorcroft (England) 3min 35.48sec.

5000 METRES (10 Aug): Henry Rono (Kenya) 13min 23.04sec.

10,000 METRES (6 Aug): Brendan Foster (England) 28min 13.65sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (7 Aug): Henry Rono (Kenya) 8min 26.54sec.

MARATHON (11 Aug): Gidamis Shahanga (Tanzania) 2hr 15min 39.8sec.

30 KILOMETRES WALK (8 Aug): Olly Flynn (England) 2hr 22min 03.7sec.

110 METRES HURDLES (7 Aug): Berwyn Price (Wales) 13.70sec. Note: wind-assisted.

400 METRES HURDLES (10 Aug): Daniel Kimaiyo (Kenya) 49.48sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY (12 Aug): Scotland (David Jenkins, Allan Wells, Cameron Sharp, Drew McMaster) 39.24sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY (12 Aug): Kenya (Washington Njiri, Daniel Kimaiyo, Bill Koskei, Joel Ngetich) 3min 3.54sec. Note: no "split" times were recorded.

HIGH JUMP (10 Aug): Claude Ferragne (Canada) 2.20m.

POLE VAULT (11 Aug): Bruce Simpson (Canada) 5.10m.

LONG JUMP (10 Aug): Roy Mitchell (England) 8.06m. Note: wind-assisted.

TRIPLE JUMP (12 Aug): Keith Connor (England) 17.21m. Note: wind-assisted.

SHOT (12 Aug): Geoff Capes (England) 19.77m.

DISCUS (11 Aug): Borys Chambul (Canada) 59.70m.

HAMMER (6 Aug): Peter Farmer (Australia) 71.10m.

JAVELIN (12 Aug): Phil Olsen (Canada) 84.00m.

DECATHLON (7-8 Aug): Daley Thompson (England) 8,467pts (10.50sec, 8.11m, 14.43m, 2.07m, 47.85sec; 14.92sec, 41.68m, 4.80m, 56.60m, 4min 25.78sec). Note: Thompson's score according to the tables introduced in 1985 would be 8,470pts.

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES (7 Aug): Sonia Lannaman (England) 11.27sec. Note: wind-assisted.

200 METRES (10 Aug): Denise Boyd (Australia) 22.82sec. Note: wind-assisted.

400 METRES (7 Aug): Donna Hartley (England) 51.69sec.

800 METRES (10 Aug): Judy Peckham (Australia) 2min 2.82sec.

1500 METRES (12 Aug): Mary Stewart (England) 4min 6.34sec. Note: Stewart is the sister of the 1970 5000 metres winner, Ian Stewart, of Scotland. She is not, of course, the same person as the winner for Canada of the 1962 110 yards butterfly swimming title!

3000 METRES (7 Aug): Paula Fudge (England) 9min 12.95sec.

100 METRES HURDLES (11 Aug): Lorna Boothe (England) 12.98sec. Note: wind-assisted.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY(12 Aug): England (Bev Goddard, Kathy Smallwood, Sharon Colyear, Sonia Lannaman) 43.70sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY (12 Aug): England (Ruth Kennedy 54.1sec, Joslyn Hoyte 52.0sec, Verona Elder 51.2sec, Donna Hartley 50.0sec) 3min 27.19sec.

HIGH JUMP (11 Aug): Katrina Gibbs (Australia) 1.93m.

LONG JUMP (11 Aug): Sue Reeve (England) 6.59m.

SHOT (8 Aug): Gael Mulhall (Australia) 17.31m.

DISCUS (7 Aug): Carmen Ionesco (Canada) 62.16m.

JAVELIN (10 Aug): Tessa Sanderson (England) 61.34m.

PENTATHLON (6 Aug): Diane Konihowski (Canada) 4,768pts (13.85sec, 14.87m, 1.88m, 6.41m, 2min 12.1sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Padukone Prakash (India).

MEN'S DOUBLES: England (Ray Stevens, Mike Tredgett).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Sylvia Meow Eng Ng (Malaysia).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Nora Perry, Anne Statt).

MIXED DOUBLES: England (Mike Tredgett, Nora Perry).

MIXED TEAM: England (Karen Bridge, John Eddy, Kevin Jolly, Nora Perry, Anne Statt, Ray Stevens, Barbara Sutton, Derek Talbot, Mike Tredgett, Jane Webster)

BOWLS

SINGLES: David Bryant (England).

PAIRS: Hong Kong (Eric Liddell, Clementi Delgado).

FOURS: Hong Kong (Philip Kin Fun Chok, Majid Hassen, Roberto Da Silva, Omar Kachong Dallah).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Stephen Muchoki (Kenya).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Michael Irungu (Kenya).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Barry McGuigan (Northern Ireland).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57g): Azumah Nelson (Ghana).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Gerard Hamil (Northern Ireland).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Winfield Braithwaite (Guyana).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Michael McCallum (Jamaica).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Kelly Perlette (Canada).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Philip McElwaine (Australia).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Roger Fortin (Canada).

HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Julius Awome (England).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Jocelyn Lovell (Canada) 1min 6.00sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Kenrick Tucker (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Mike Richards (New Zealand) 4min 49.74sec.

1000 METRES TANDEM SPRINT: Canada (Jocelyn Lovell, Gordon Singleton).

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Colin Fitzgerald, Kevin Nichols, Gary Sutton, Shane Sutton) 4min 29.43sec. Note: Gary and Shane Sutton were brothers.

10 MILES SCRATCH: Jocelyn Lovell (Canada) 20min 5.81sec.

ROAD (188 kilometres): Phil Anderson (Australia) 4hr 22min 34.41sec.

GYMNASTICS - MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Philip Delesalle (Canada) 56.40pts.

TEAM: Canada (Jean Choquette, Philip Delesalle, Nigel Rothwell, Owen Walstrom) 165.55pts.

GYMNASTICS - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Elfi Schlegel (Canada) 38.25pts.

TEAM: Canada (Monica Goermann, Sherry Hawco, Karen Kelsall, Elfi Schlegel) 113.25pts.

SHOOTING

FULL-BORE RIFLE: Desmond Vamplew (Canada) 391pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE: Alister Allan (Scotland) 1,194pts.

TRAP: John Primrose (Canada) 186pts.

SKEET: John Woolley (New Zealand) 193pts.

FREE PISTOL: Yvon Trempe (Canada) 543pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL: Jules Sobrian (Canada) 587pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Mark Morgan (Australia) 52.70sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Ron McKeon (Australia) 1min 52.06sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Ron McKeon (Australia) 3min 54.43sec.

1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Max Metzker (Australia) 15min 31.92sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Bill Sawchuk, Graham Smith, Gary MacDonald, Peter Szmidt) 3min 27.94sec.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Mark Morgan 1min 54.14sec, Ron McKeon 1min 52.34sec, Max Metzker 1min 56.55sec, Graeme Brewer 1min 51.80sec) 7min 34.83sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Glenn Patching (Australia) 57.90sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Gary Hurring (New Zealand) 2min 4.37sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Graham Smith (Canada) 1min 3.81sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Graham Smith (Canada) 2min 20.86sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Dan Thompson (Canada) 55.04sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: George Nagy (Canada) 2min 1.99sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Graham Smith (Canada) 2min 5.25sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Graham Smith (Canada) 4min 27.34sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Jay Tapp, Graham Smith, Dan Thompson, Bill Sawchuk) 3min 49.76sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Chris Snode (England) 538.98pts

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Chris Snode (England) 643.83pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Carol Klimpel (Canada) 57.78sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Rebecca Perrott (New Zealand) 2min 0.63sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Tracey Wickham (Australia) 4min 8.45sec. Note: World record.

800 METRES FREESTYLE: Tracey Wickham (Australia) 8min 24.62sec. Note: World record.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Gail Amundrud, Carol Klimpel, Sue Sloan, Wendy Quirk) 3min 50.28sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Debra Forster (Australia) 1min 3.97sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Cheryl Gibson (Canada) 2min 16.57sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Robin Corsiglia (Canada) 1min 13.56sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Lisa Borsholt (Canada) 2min 37.70sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Wendy Quirk (Canada) 1min 1.92sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Michelle Ford (Australia) 2min 11.29sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Sharron Davies (England) 2min 18.37sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Sharron Davies (England) 4min 52.44sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Hélène Boivin, Marian Stuart, Wendy Quirk, Carol Klimpel) 4min 15.26sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Linda Cuthbert (Canada) 397.44pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Janet Nutter (Canada) 477.33pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Ekambaram Karunakaran (India) 205kg

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Precious McKenzie (New Zealand) 220kg. Note: McKenzie competed for England at the Games of 1966-70-74.

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Michel Mercier (Canada) 237.5kg.

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Basilios ("Bill") Stellios (Australia) 272.5kg.

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Salvatore ("Sam") Castiglione (Australia) 300kg.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Rob Kabbas (Australia) 322.5kg.

MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Gary Langford (England) 335kg.

SUB-HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): John Burns (Wales) 340kg.

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Russ Prior (Canada) 347.5kg.

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 110kg): Jean-Marc Cardinal (Canada) 365kg.

WRESTLING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Ashok Kumar (India).

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Ray Takahashi (Canada).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Satbir Singh (India).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Egon Beiler (Canada).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Zigmund Kelevitz (Australia).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Rajinder Singh (India).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Richard Deschatelets (Canada).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Stephen Danier (Canada).

HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Wyatt Wishart (Canada).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 100kg): Robert Gibbons (Canada).

1978 MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Canada	45	31	33	109
England	27	27	33	87
Australia	24	33	27	84
New Zealand	5	6	9	20
Kenya	7	6	5	18
India	5	4	6	15
Scotland	3	6	5	14
Wales	2	1	5	8
Jamaica	2	2	3	7
Northern Ireland	2	1	2	5
Malaysia	1	2	1	4
Trinidad & Tobago	0	2	2	4
Zambia	0	2	2	4
Ghana	1	1	1	3
Guyana	1	1	1	3
Western Samoa	0	0	3	3
Hong Kong	2	0	0	2
Tanzania	1	1	0	2
Bahamas	0	1	0	1
Isle of Man	0	0	1	1
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	1

XII. Commonwealth Games Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

30 September-9 October 1982

46 countries, 1,583 competitors. 10 sports: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

Not just gold for victory but “inner” gold

Australia hosted the Games for a third time, just as Canada had done four years previously, and the choice of Brisbane was eventually achieved without a fight when England's candidate, Birmingham, dropped out of the reckoning. More than half the major funding for building or refurbishing venues was put up by the Brisbane city council, with the rest coming from the state of Queensland and the federal government. The focal point was the 60,000-capacity Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Sports Centre, and the councillors' own city hall was put to use to settle differences of another kind in its role as the venue for wrestling. There would be 142 gold medals at stake, compared with 59 in 1930. The finances involved would also be hugely inflated – these Brisbane Games would earn 6.8 million Australian dollars in ticket sales, which worked out at roughly 48,000 dollars a gold medal.

One new sport – archery – was introduced, and though it was to be another 28 years before it again appeared on the Games schedule it made lasting history on this occasion. The women's event was won by 38-year-old Neroli Fairhall, of New Zealand, who was wheelchair-bound, having been paralysed from the waist down by a motor-cycle accident 13 years before, and she achieved her Brisbane success by the narrowest of margins. Her score was equalled by 17-year-old Janet Yates, of Northern Ireland, and the gold medal was decided in Ms Fairhall's favour, appropriately enough, by the greater number of inner golds which she hit on the target. In 1984 she would become the first paraplegic to compete in the Olympic Games.

As in Perth in 1962, the timing of these Games was an odd one for the British athletes, again coming at the end of a long and demanding season which had most notably involved European Championships competition, and neither was there any advantage to the hosts, whose domestic season was only just beginning. So it was something of a pleasant surprise that Games best performances were beaten in 11 of the men's track and field events and nine of the women's.

Allan Wells, of Scotland, won the 100 metres, having been Olympic champion two years before, and then was involved in a rare tie for 1st place with Mike McFarlane, of England, at 200 metres, thus bringing the Games gold-medal total to 143, rather than 142. Milt Ottey, of Canada, and the relatively unknown Steve Wray, of the Bahamas, both cleared 2.31m in the high jump and attempted a World-record 2.36. Previous Games records were also far exceeded by another Bahamian, Brad Cooper, in the discus (he was later to be appointed his country's minister of recreation), and also by England's Keith Connor in the triple jump and Bob Weir in the hammer and by New Zealand's Mike O'Rourke in the javelin. Connor's triple jump of 17.81 was only eight centimetres short of the World record and would be far and away the best in the World for 1982, but he had the help of an exhilarating 4.6 metres per second wind behind him. Like a number of other Commonwealth champions over the years, Connor was studying at a US university and also won that country's national collegiate title the same year.

The best of the women was a brilliant English 4 x 100 metres team whose time of 43.15sec would last as a Games record for 20 years, and the long-jump winner, Shonel Ferguson, who also came from the Bahamas. In fact, this string of Caribbean islands sent six athletes to Brisbane and won two golds, two silvers and a bronze! Australia's Raelene Boyle, having been champion at 100 and 200 metres in 1970 and 1974, returned to win gold at 400 metres, and her team-mate, Glynis Nunn, proved to be the best all-rounder in the seven-event heptathlon which had replaced the pentathlon.

The marathon produced a World-class winning performance of sub-2hr 10min for the third time in four Games as another Australian, Rob de Castella, resisted the strong Tanzanian challenge which came not from the defending champion, Gidamis (or Gidemmas?) Shahanga, who finished 6th, but from Juma Ikangaa, who was barely tall enough to reach his rival's shoulder. Known affectionately as "Deek", de Castella would become World champion the following year and as the oldest of seven children was set a fine example by his father, who was still capable of running a sub-three-hour marathon at the age of 59. Shahanga got his gold medal, anyway, as he had earlier won the 10,000 metres. There was a seemingly inevitable third successive steeplechase win for Kenya but no victories for that country in any other track events. At least the Africans were present in numbers, which was a relief, considering that another potential boycott because of New Zealand's rugby-union sympathies had been averted merely five months before the Games opened.

As it happens, there were only three other sports in which African countries made a serious impact in Brisbane. One of them, predictably, was boxing, in which Kenya and Nigeria between them won all six lighter weights and Zambia, frustratingly, had to settle for a silver and five bronzes. Another was weight-lifting, where Oliver Orok, of Nigeria, took the sub-heavyweight title. The third success, much less anticipated, was in women's bowls, which was making its debut, and which provided Zimbabwe with a first Games gold, though in its former political guise as Southern Rhodesia there had been another bowls win back in 1954.

The men's singles title on the bowls green went to Scotland's aptly-named Willie Wood, who had won his first medal (a bronze) in 1974 and would collect four medals in all, through to 1990, but even then his career was by no means over. He would be selected for his eighth Commonwealth Games in 2010 at the age of 72 and could probably claim the longest active career of any competitor in any Games sport. His grandfather and both parents had been bowlers and young Willie had started at the age of 12. Scotland had a second gold in men's bowls from the pair of John Watson and David Gourlay. Scotland's eight gold medals in all in Brisbane represented their highest total ever.

In badminton the men's singles was retained for India by Syed Modi, who succeeded Padukone Prakash as national champion, winning every year from 1980 to 1987, but was shot dead at the age of 27 as he was leaving a practice session – a crime that has never been solved. Australia won four of the five track cycling titles, including a first-ever 1-2-3 in any event in the 10 miles scratch, but England dominated on the road, taking the new 100 kilometres team time-trial and the 184 kilometres road race – Malcolm Elliott, aged 21 and unemployed, winning gold in each case. The shooting programme was vastly expanded to 20 events, and benefiting most from the increased opportunities were England's Malcolm Cooper, with two golds, three silvers and a bronze, and Australia's Phil Adams, with two golds, a silver and a bronze. Scotland collected three shooting golds, and Alister Allan was a double title-winner in the air rifle singles and pairs (with Bill MacNeill). Allan, also a winner at the 1978 Games, had learned to shoot as a cadet in the Air Training Corps and now earned his livelihood as a physical training instructor in the Royal Air Force. There was also a first

Asian success in this sport for Solomon Lee, of Hong Kong, in the rapid-fire pistol competition, and he later became honorary president of his country's Shooting Association.

In the continued and regrettable absence of Pakistan, the wrestling honours were again almost entirely monopolised by Canada (five wins) and India (four), including a second gold medal each for the former's Richard Deschatelets at heavyweight and Wyatt Wishart at super-heavyweight and the latter's Rajinder Singh at welterweight. The one other title, at bantamweight, went to Brian Aspen, a roofer by trade, who was only the third Englishman to scale the heights of winning a wrestling title in the 52-year history of the Games, beating Ashok Kumar, of India, in the final.

No Commonwealth Games would be complete without an Australian swimming star – and surely no Commonwealth Games in Australia could fail to produce one. Tracey Wickham, the World-record-breaking double winner of four years before, was the obvious candidate and she duly won the 400 and 800 metres freestyle finals, but her times were slower than previously, and for the first time since 1954 no World records were broken in the Games pool. The most prolific of the Australian contingent was, instead, Lisa Curry, who won three titles at butterfly and in the individual medley. Chris Snode repeated his diving double of 1978 for England and had a huge margin to spare – 588.54 points to 524.55 – over his nearest rival at highboard.

There were plenty of other double winners in individual events: Andy Astbury and June Croft (England), Alex Baumann (Canada) and Lisa Forrest (Australia). Miss Croft became England's first winner of a sprint freestyle title for 52 years and her time of 56.97sec for 100 metres makes interesting comparison with Joyce Cooper's 1min 7.0sec for 100 yards (91.44 metres) in 1930. Miss Cooper's time would be worth about 1min 13sec for the longer distance; in other words, there had been an advance of some 22 per cent in standards in half-a-century. The progress in the men's times for these same events from the 1930 Games to the 1982 Games was almost identical at some 21 per cent. Of course, much had changed in sport, as in every aspect of life, since 1930 – fiercer competition, harder training, greater recognition, easier travel – and the improvement in performances in no way denigrated those unworldly pioneers of more than half-a-century before.

Unconcerned, presumably, with such detailed statistical analysis but a passionate devotee of the Games nonetheless, the Queen was in Brisbane and took the opportunity, during an hour or so away from her round of sporting engagements, to open a new art gallery in the city, and there she reaffirmed her support. "More than ever today the World needs effective ways to strengthen friendship and understanding between nations and their peoples", she told her audience. "In my experience the Commonwealth stands supreme in this respect and its contribution to World peace is unique. No event demonstrates more clearly the nature of the Commonwealth ideals than these Games".

Sadly, the fine sentiments were threatened by stark reality. The Commonwealth Games Federation – led by its chairman, Peter Heatly, himself a multiple diving medallist for Scotland at the Games – had produced a new 900-word resolution condemning apartheid, and Shridath ("Sonny") Ramphal, later Sir Shridath Ramphal, the British Guiana-born Commonwealth secretary-general since 1975, expressed his confidence that it would suffice to keep the countries of the Commonwealth united and the Games intact. Ramphal must surely have heeded, though, the wise and pessimistic counsel of the respected senior sports correspondent of "The Times", Richard Streeton, who in his otherwise highly enthusiastic summing-up of the Brisbane Games warned prophetically that the African member states

“hold a more stringent interpretation than some countries of the Federation’s new code of conduct dealing with apartheid links”.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1982 GAMES

ARCHERY

MEN: Mark Blenkarne (England) 2,446pts.

WOMEN: Neroli Fairhall (New Zealand) 2,373pts.

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES (4 Oct): Allan Wells (Scotland) 10.02sec. Note: wind-assisted.

200 METRES (7 Oct): Mike McFarlane (England), Allan Wells (Scotland) 20.43sec. Note: tied for 1st place..

400 METRES (4 Oct): Bert Cameron (Jamaica) 45.89sec.

800 METRES (7 Oct): Peter Bourke (Australia) 1min 45.18sec.

1500 METRES (9 Oct): Steve Cram (England) 3min 42.37sec.

5000 METRES (7 Oct): David Moorcroft (England) 13min 33.00sec.

10,000 METRES (3 Oct): Gidamis Shahanga (Tanzania) 28min 10.15sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (4 Oct): Julius Korir (Kenya) 8min 23.94sec.

MARATHON (8 Oct): Rob de Castella (Australia) 2hr 9min 18sec.

30 KILOMETRES WALK (7 Oct): Steve Barry (Wales) 2hr 10min 16sec.

110 METRES HURDLES (4 Oct): Mark McKoy (Canada) 13.37sec.

400 METRES HURDLES (7 Oct): Garry Brown (Australia) 49.27sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY (9 Oct): Nigeria (Lawrence Adegbeingbe, Iziak Adeyanju, Samson Olajidie Oyeledun, Ikpoto Esem) 39.15sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY (9 Oct): England (Steve Scutt 48.2sec, Garry Cook 46.7sec, Todd Bennett 45.0sec, Phil Brown 45.6sec) 3min 5.45sec.

HIGH JUMP (7 Oct): Milt Ottey (Canada) 2.31m.

POLE VAULT (8 Oct): Ray Boyd (Australia) 5.20m.

LONG JUMP (7 Oct): Gary Honey (Australia) 8.13m.

TRIPLE JUMP (9 Oct): Keith Connor (England) 17.81m. Note: wind-assisted.

SHOT (9 Oct): Bruno Pauletto (Canada) 19.55m.

DISCUS (8 Oct): Brad Cooper (Bahamas) 64.04m. Note: not the same man who won the 200 metres backstroke swimming gold for Australia in 1974!

HAMMER (3 Oct): Bob Weir (England) 75.08m.

JAVELIN (9 Oct): Mike O'Rourke (New Zealand) 89.48m.

DECATHLON (4-5 Oct): Daley Thompson (England) 8,410pts (10.66sec, 7.71m, 15.17m, 2.04m, 47.59sec; 15.00sec, 44.58m, 4.90m, 62.98m, 4min 43.48sec). Note: Thompson's score according to the 1985 tables would be 8,424pts.

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES (4 Oct): Angella Taylor (Canada) 11.00sec.

200 METRES (7 Oct): Merlene Ottey (Jamaica) 22.19sec. Note: wind-assisted.

400 METRES (4 Oct): Raelene Boyle (Australia) 51.26sec.

800 METRES (7 Oct): Kirsty McDermott (Wales) 2min 1.31sec.

1500 METRES (9 Oct): Chris Boxer (England) 4min 8.28sec.

3000 METRES (4 Oct): Anne Audain (New Zealand) 8min 45.53sec.

100 METRES HURDLES (9 Oct): Shirley Strong (England) 12.78sec. Note: wind-assisted.

400 METRES HURDLES (7 Oct): Debbie Flintoff (Australia) 55.89sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY (9 Oct): England (Wendy Hoyte, Kathy Smallwood, Bev Callender, Sonia Lannaman) 43.15sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY (9 Oct): Canada (Charmaine Crooks 53.7sec, Jill Richardson 51.8sec, Molly Killingbeck 52.0sec, Angella Taylor 50.8sec) 3min 27.70sec.
HIGH JUMP (8 Oct): Debbie Brill (Canada) 1.88m.
LONG JUMP (8 Oct): Shonel Ferguson (Bahamas) 6.91m. Note: wind-assisted.
SHOT (5 Oct): Judy Oakes (England) 17.92m.
DISCUS (4 Oct): Meg Ritchie (Scotland) 62.98m.
JAVELIN (7 Oct): Sue Howland (Australia) 64.86m.
HEPTATHLON (3-4 Oct): Glynis Nunn (Australia) 6,282pts (13.33sec, 13.32m, 1.77m, 24.12sec; 6.51m, 35.30m, 2min 12.17sec), Note: Nunn's score according to the 1985 tables would be 6,254pts

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Syed Modi (India).
MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Razif Sidek, Beng Teong Ong).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Helen Troke (England).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Canada (Claire Backhouse, Johanne Falardeau).
MIXED DOUBLES: England (Martin Drew, Karen Chapman).
MIXED TEAM: England (Steve Baddeley, Karen Beckman, Duncan Bridge, Karen Chapman, Gillian Clark, Martin Drew, Sally Podger, Dipak Tailor, Helen Troke, Nick Yates).

BOWLS

MEN'S SINGLES: Willie Wood (Scotland).
MEN'S PAIRS: Scotland (John Watson, David Gourlay).
MEN'S FOURS: Australia (Robbie Dobbins, Keith Poole, Bert Sharp, Don Sherman).
WOMEN'S TRIPLES: Zimbabwe (Anna Bates, Florence Kennedy, Margaret Mills).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Abraham Wachire (Kenya).
FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Michael Mutua (Kenya).
BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Joe Orewa (Nigeria).
FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Peter Konyegwachie (Nigeria).
LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Hussein Khalili (Kenya).
LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Christopher Ossai (Nigeria).
WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Chris Pyatt (England).
LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Shawn O'Sullivan (Canada).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Jimmy Price (England).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Fine Sani (Fiji).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 81kg): Willie de Wit (Canada).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Craig Adair (New Zealand) 1min 6.954sec.
1000 METRES SPRINT: Kenrick Tucker (Australia).
4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Michael Turtur (Australia) 4min 50.990sec.
4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Michael Grenda, Kevin Nichols, Michael Turtur, Gary West) 4min 26.090sec.
10 MILES SCRATCH: Kevin Nichols (Australia) 19min 56.559sec.
100 KILOMETRES ROAD TEAM TIME-TRIAL: England (Bob Downs, Malcolm Elliott, Steve Lawrence, Joe Waugh) 2hr 9min 27.000sec.
ROAD (184 kilometres): Malcolm Elliott (England) 4hr 34min 40.06sec.

SHOOTING

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Arthur Clarke (Scotland) 387pts.

FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: Australia (Keith Affleck, Geoffrey Ayling) 572pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Alan Smith (Australia) 1,184pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Alister Allan (Scotland) 1,146pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: England (Malcolm Cooper, Mike Sullivan) 1,187pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: England (Malcolm Cooper, Barry Dagger) 2,301pts.

AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Jean-Francois Sénécal (Canada) 574pts.

AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Scotland (Alister Allan, Bill MacNeill) 1,137pts.

TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Peter Boden (England) 191pts.

TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Jim Ellis, Terry Rumbel) 190pts.

SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: John Woolley (New Zealand) 197pts.

SKEET, PAIRS: Canada (Brian Gabriel, Fred Altmann) 191pts.

FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Tom Guinn (Canada) 553pts.

FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Phil Adams, John Tremelling) 1,077pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: John Cooke (England) 580pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Noel Ryan, Alexander Taransky) 1,151pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Solomon Lee (Hong Kong) 583pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Peter Heuke, Alexander Taransky) 1,160pts.

AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: George Darling (England) 576pts.

AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Phil Adams, Gregory Colbert) 1,128pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Neil Brooks (Australia) 51.14sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Andy Astbury (England) 1min 51.52sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Andy Astbury (England) 3min 53.29sec.

1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Max Metzker (Australia) 15min 23.94sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Greg Fasala 52.07sec, Michael Delany 50.52sec, Graeme Brewer 51.02sec, Neil Brooks 50.56sec) 3min 24.17sec.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Graeme McGufficke 1min 52.66sec, Ron McKeon 1min 51.51sec, Paul Rowe 1min 53.60sec, Graeme Brewer 1min 51.04sec) 7min 28.81sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Mike West (Canada) 57.12sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Cameron Henning (Canada) 2min 2.58sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Adrian Moorhouse (England) 1min 2.93sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Victor Davis (Canada) 2min 16.25sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Dan Thompson (Canada) 54.71sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Phil Hubble (England) 2min 0.98sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Alex Baumann (Canada) 2min 2.25sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Alex Baumann (Canada) 4min 23.53sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (David Orbell 58.74sec, Peter Evans 1min 2.73sec, Jon Sieben 55.43sec, Neil Brooks 50.44sec) 3min 47.34sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Chris Snode (England) 588.54pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Chris Snode (England) 631.38pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: June Croft (England) 56.97sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: June Croft (England) 1min 59.74sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Tracey Wickham (Australia) 4min 8.82sec.
800 METRES FREESTYLE: Tracey Wickham (Australia) 8min 29.05sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: England (June Croft, Nicola Fibbens, Debra Gore, Jackie Wilmott) 3min 54.23sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Lisa Forrest (Australia) 1min 3.48sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Lisa Forrest (Australia) 2min 13.36sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Kathy Bald (Canada) 1min 11.89sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Anne Ottenbrite (Canada) 2min 32.07sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Lisa Curry (Australia) 1min 1.22sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Michelle Ford (Australia) 2min 11.89sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Lisa Curry (Australia) 2min 16.94sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Lisa Curry (Australia) 4min 51.95sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Cheryl Gibson, Anne Ottenbrite, Michelle MacPherson, Maureen New) 4min 14.33sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Valerie Beddoe (Australia) 404.16pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Jenny Donnet (Australia) 484.65pts. Note: Jenny Donnet is the daughter of Barbara McAulay, highboard champion in 1954. Mrs McAulay's sister, Irene Donnet, was springboard champion in 1938.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Nick Voukelatos (Australia) 207.5kg.
BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Geoff Laws (England) 235kg.
FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Dean Willey (England) 267.5kg.
LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): David Morgan (Wales) 295kg.
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Steve Pinsent (England) 312.5kg.
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): Newton Burrowes (England) 325kg.
MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Rob Kabbas (Australia) 337.5kg.
SUB-HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Oliver Orok (Nigeria) 350kg.
HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): John Burns (Wales) 347.5kg.
SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 110kg): Dean Lukin (Australia) 377.5kg.

WRESTLING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Ram Chander Sarang (India).
FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Mahabir Singh (India).
BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Brian Aspen (England).
FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Bob Robinson (Canada).
LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Jagminder Singh (India).
WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Rajinder Singh (India).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Chris Rinke (Canada).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Clark Davis (Canada).
HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Richard Deschatelets (Canada).
SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 100kg): Wyatt Wishart (Canada).

1982 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	38	38	32	108
Australia	39	39	29	107
Canada	26	23	33	82
Scotland	8	6	12	26
New Zealand	5	8	13	26
India	5	8	3	16
Nigeria	5	0	8	13
Kenya	4	2	4	10
Wales	4	4	1	9
Bahamas	2	2	2	6
Northern Ireland	0	3	3	6
Zambia	0	1	5	6
Tanzania	1	2	2	5
Jamaica	2	1	1	4
Uganda	0	3	0	3
Guernsey	0	1	1	2
Malaysia	1	0	1	2
Bermuda	0	0	1	1
Fiji	1	0	0	1
Hong Kong	1	0	0	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
Swaziland	0	0	1	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	0	1

XIII. Commonwealth Games

Edinburgh, Scotland

24 July-2 August 1986

26 countries, 1,662 competitors. 10 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

Almost all of Africa, Asia and the Caribbean stay away. Was this the end of the Commonwealth Games?

The threat had been staved off at one Games after another ever since 1970, but when Edinburgh was the chosen venue again in 1986 the cease-fire came to an end. The British government's refusal to take sanctions against South Africa and so bring pressure to bear on the iniquitous policy of apartheid cost the Edinburgh Games the presence of 32 countries. It was no great surprise because boycotts of major sporting occasions had become commonplace in the preceding decade – firstly, there was the widespread African absence at the 1976 Olympics; then the Americans had pulled out of the 1980 Moscow Olympics because of Soviet involvement in Afghanistan; most recently, the Soviets had retaliated by not going to the Los Angeles Games of 1984 and persuading many of their Eastern Bloc cohorts to do the same.

What these gestures had in common was that they did not seem to achieve anything, other than giving their political manipulators a cheap and easy option to be seen to be making some sort of “grand” gesture. It needs to be said, though, that Commonwealth countries had rightly dedicated themselves since the early 1970s to economic and sporting action against apartheid, and the fact that the Commonwealth Games of 1986 were to be held in Britain provided an irresistible opportunity to demonstrate against what would be seen as old and intolerable colonial values. If the absence of those 32 member nations, almost all from the African and Asian continents and the Caribbean, was to play any part in the eventual dismantling of apartheid, then the prospect of a devalued Games in Edinburgh would be a small price to pay.

There were actually more competitors than ever before, but only 26 countries were represented, and in athletics, for example, there were just 19 men and five women entered who were not from Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand or Canada. This latter group of countries, or their constituents, won 490 of the 497 medals on offer in the 10 sports. Other teams which provided a puny but welcome presence were those from Botswana, Cayman Islands, Cook Islands, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Norfolk Island, Singapore, Swaziland, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. None of them won any titles, and a flyweight boxer from Swaziland, Leonard Makhanya, was the only silver-medallist. Bronze medals went to two other boxers from Malawi, two pistol marksmen from Hong Kong, a woman bowler from Botswana and a weight-lifter from Singapore.

Considering the lack of any West Indian or Nigerian sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers and Kenyan and Tanzanian middle-distance and distance runners, and taking into account the generally dismal weather, the athletics competition was far better than anyone had any right to hope for. There were plenty of World-class performances, such as those by Ben Johnson, of Canada at 100 metres; Steve Cram, of England, at 800 metres, also winning at 1500 metres; Rob de Castella (for the second time) and Lisa Martin, both from Australia, in the marathons; and Daley Thompson in his third successive decathlon win for England; Then,

too, there was yet another title-holder, Debbie Flintoff-King, also of Australia, in the women's 400 metres hurdles (and she also won the 400 metres flat); Tessa Sanderson, of England, in the women's javelin; and Steve Ovett, an Olympic champion at 800 metres and a World record-holder at 1500 metres, the mile and two miles, extending his range yet further to win the 5000 metres.

With one notable exception, these were all athletes meriting the greatest of respect. For example, Cram was the World 1500 metres champion of 1983 and the first man to break 3min 30sec for the distance; Thompson set four World records and was twice Olympic champion; Flintoff-King would be Olympic champion in 1988; and Sanderson had been Olympic champion in 1984. The dismissal from the sport for drug-taking of the odd man out, Johnson, was yet to come. So there was rarely any sense of apologetic dejection in the competition. It was actually rather a good meeting at the Meadowbank Stadium, even if the repercussions of the boycott left us wondering whether there would be any further celebrations to come in four years' time.

The women who contested the 10,000 metres were going to make history, whatever happened, because the Commonwealth Games organisers had pre-empted both the Olympics and the European Championships by staging the race for the first time. To complete a notable day for the Edinburgh crowd the winner was Liz Lynch, of Scotland, who had not been an exceptional athlete as a teenager but in 1983 had gone off to the University of Alabama, in the USA, on a sports scholarship and had transformed her running ability by dint of steely determination and sheer hard training. Now married to steeplechaser Peter McColgan, she would become one of the greatest of all women distance-runners, winning the World title at 10,000 metres in 1991. Further delighting the spectators, Kirsty Wade (née McDermott), who was Scottish-born but running for Wales, added the 800 and 1500 metres titles to the 1500 she had won four years before. Overall, though, the haul of gold medals for the hosts was disappointingly small. There were no more than three, with pairs victories in badminton and bowls being the two others, and plenty of near-misses – 12 silvers and 18 bronzes.

The boycott made no difference to the swimming where, as usual, the Australian men were completely in charge in the freestyle events, winning all six titles, and Canada took six of the other nine golds. The only male double was by Alex Baumann, of Canada, repeating his individual medley successes of four years before. Both he and his team-mate, Victor Davis, who won the 200 metres breast-stroke, had also been Olympic champions in 1984 in World-record times. There were tragic elements to the lives of both of them because Baumann's father died of diabetes and brother committed suicide shortly before those 1984 Olympics, despite which Baumann won both individual medley titles, and then after retirement he raced again for the first time in 22 years in 2009 and set a World record for the 45-49 age group at 200 metres which was only some 10 seconds slower than he swam in Edinburgh. Davis, who was also World champion in 1982, was struck by a car in 1989 and subsequently died of his injuries. His heart was to beat on because it was donated to medical science and used for a transplant.

There were three winners of two titles each in the women's events: Sarah Hardcastle, for England, at freestyle; Allison Higson, for Canada, at breast-stroke; and Suzanne Landells, for Australia, in the individual medleys. Miss Hardcastle had been a double medallist at the 1984 Olympics (silver and bronze) at the age of 15 and her long career would also include a place in the 1996 Olympic 800 metres final. Miss Higson was even more youthful, aged only 13 years and four months to succeed Jenny Turrall as the youngest Commonwealth Games champion (unless it was that precocious wrestler, Ved Prakash, of course!). Another

Canadian, Debbie Fuller, won her two diving events, while synchronised swimming was added and both the solo and duet events also went to Canadian women.

All the bowls titles stayed in the home countries except the men's singles, won for the first time since 1950 by a New Zealander. England and Scotland shared the badminton events, apart from a first Australian gold in the mixed doubles. In the absence of Kenya and Nigeria, the boxing tournament was dominated by Canada (six golds), including a future Olympic and then World professional champion, Lennox Lewis, at super-heavyweight, and England (five). Australians won all five track cycling titles and Englishmen took both road events, as they had done in 1982. The shooting provided two further golds for England's World and Olympic champion, Malcolm Cooper, sharing one of them in partnership with his wife, and there were also title wins on the range for two mixed pairings from Canada.

Nigeria and India were most dearly missed in weight-lifting, having won eight medals between them in 1982, and so Australia took four of the golds and Canada, England and Wales two each. Yet the winning lifts were higher in eight of the 10 divisions than they had been four years previously, with the most obvious improvements coming from England's Dean Willey at lightweight, to add to his featherweight gold in Brisbane, and from David Morgan, of Wales, at light-heavyweight, and aged only 17, who would eventually win medals at six different editions of the Commonwealth Games. The super-heavyweight title was retained by Dean Lukin, the Olympic champion from Australia, who earned his living by accumulating another form of tonnage as the operator of his own tuna-fishing fleet.

India's absence was also, of course, felt in the wrestling ring, as was that of Pakistan. This left Canada with almost a clear field (or should that be mat?), winning nine of the 10 titles, and so Doug Cox, their light-heavyweight, must have felt distinctly the odd man out on the long flight home as he had lost his final to England's Noel Loban. Chris Rinke, at middleweight, was the only man to win again in the same division, though Clark Davis added a heavyweight gold to his previous light-heavyweight success. Yet no one could match the range of Australia's Wally Koenig – even if his record was perhaps an unenviable one. He was the beaten finalist at middleweight, as he had been in 1978 and 1982. Not only that, but his first Games appearance had been in 1974, as a light-flyweight, and he had lost in that final, too!

Rowing was brought back after a 24-year absence with a much extended programme of 15 events, including seven for women. England won four of the men's titles, and Steve Redgrave, whose illustrious career would eventually bring him five Olympic gold medals, had a hand in three of them – single sculls, coxless pairs and coxed fours. A fifth England success in the women's lightweight coxless fours gave them the edge over Canada and Australia (four golds each) and New Zealand (two), but only one other country won any of the 42 medals, and this was a bronze for Scotland in the coxless pairs. An Australian husband and wife, Ion Popa and Susan Chapman-Popa, both won gold in the eights finals. Ion Popa had defected from Rumania in 1978. Rowing, self-evidently a sport exclusive to the developed nations of the Commonwealth, has not appeared in the Games since.

The fate of rowing was not apparent as the Edinburgh regatta ended, and in any case there was a far more important issue weighing heavily on the minds of all those with the spirit of the Games at heart. Would the absent friends ever return to the Friendly Games? Certainly, as I took the train south from Edinburgh that closing Saturday evening, I felt not so much exhilaration at the fine athletics performances I had witnessed as foreboding that there might

never be another Commonwealth Games. What an unfriendly finish that would be for the “Friendly Games”.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1986 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES (27 Jul): Ben Johnson (Canada) 10.07sec.
200 METRES (31 Jul): Atlee Mahorn (Canada) 20.31sec. Note: wind-assisted.
400 METRES (27 Jul): Roger Black (England) 45.57sec,
800 METRES (31 Jul): Steve Cram (England) 1min 43.22sec.
1500 METRES (2 Aug): Steve Cram (England) 3min 50.87sec,
5000 METRES (31 Jul): Steve Ovett (England) 13min 24.11sec.
10,000 METRES (26 Jul): Jon Solly (England) 27min 57.42sec.
3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (27 Aug): Graeme Fell (Canada) 8min 24.49sec.
MARATHON (1 Aug): Rob de Castella (Australia) 2hr 10min 15sec.
30 KILOMETRES WALK (31 Jul): Simon Baker (Australia) 2hr 7min 47sec.
110 METRES HURDLES (27 Jul): Mark McKoy (Canada) 13.31sec. Note: wind-assisted.
400 METRES HURDLES (28 Jul): Phil Beattie (Northern Ireland) 49.60sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY (2 Aug): Canada (Mark McKoy, Atlee Mahorn, Desai Williams, Ben Johnson) 39.15sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY (2 Aug): England (Kriss Akabusi 46.8sec, Roger Black 45.1sec, Todd Bennett 46.4sec, Phil Brown 48.9sec) 3min 7.19sec.
HIGH JUMP (31 Jul): Milt Ottey (Canada) 2.30m.
POLE VAULT (1 Aug): Andy Ashurst (England) 5.30m.
LONG JUMP (31 Jul): Gary Honey (Australia) 8.08m.
TRIPLE JUMP (2 Aug): John Herbert (England) 17.27m.
SHOT (2 Aug): Billy Cole (England) 18.16m.
DISCUS (1 Aug): Ray Lazdins (Canada) 58.86m.
HAMMER (26 Jul): David Smith (England) 74.06m.
JAVELIN (2 Aug): David Ottley (England) 80.62m.
DECATHLON (27-28 Jul): Daley Thompson (England) 8,663pts (10.37sec, 7.70m, 15.01m, 2.08m, 47.30sec; 14.22sec, 43.72m, 5.10m, 60.82m, 4min 39.63sec).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES (27 Jul): Heather Oakes (England) 11.20sec. Note: wind-assisted.
200 METRES (31 Jul): Angella Issajenko (Canada) 22.91sec. Note: wind-assisted.
400 METRES (27 Jul): Debbie Flintoff (Australia) 51.29sec.
800 METRES (31 Jul): Kirsty Wade (Wales) 2min 0.94sec.
1500 METRES (2 Aug): Kirsty Wade (Wales) 4min 10.91sec.
3000 METRES (27 Jul): Lynn Williams (Canada) 8min 54.29sec.
10,000 METRES (28 Jul): Liz Lynch (Scotland) 31min 41.42sec.
MARATHON (1 Aug): Lisa Martin (Australia) 2hr 26min 07sec.
100 METRES HURDLES (1 Aug): Sally Gunnell (England) 13.29sec.
400 METRES HURDLES (28 Jul): Debbie Flintoff-King (Australia) 54.94sec. Note: Flintoff-King née King.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY (2 Aug): England (Paula Dunn, Kathy Cook, Joan Baptiste, Heather Oakes) 43.39sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY (2 Aug): Canada (Charmaine Crooks, Marita Payne, Molly Killingbeck 51.5sec, Jillian Richardson 51.8sec) 3min 28.92sec. Note: only two “split” times recorded.
HIGH JUMP (1 Aug): Chris Stanton (Australia) 1.92m.
LONG JUMP (1 Aug): Joyce Oladapo (England) 6.42m. Note: wind-assisted

SHOT (28 Jul): Gael Martin (Australia) 19.00m.

DISCUS (27 Jul): Gael Martin (Australia) 56.42m.

JAVELIN (31 Jul): Tessa Sanderson (England) 69.80m.

HEPTATHLON (26-27 Jul): Judy Simpson (England) 6,282pts (13.11sec, 1.85m, 14.36m, 24.99sec; 6.21m, 36.52m, 2min 13.72sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Steve Baddeley (England).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Scotland (Billy Gilliland, Dan Travers).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Helen Troke (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Gillian Clark, Gillian Gowers).

MIXED DOUBLES: Australia (Mike Scandolera, Audrey Tuckey).

MIXED TEAM: England (Steve Baddeley, Gillian Clark, Fiona Elliott, Andy Goode, Gillian Gowers, Nigel Tier, Helen Troke).

BOWLS - MEN

SINGLES: Ian Dickison (New Zealand).

PAIRS: Scotland (George Adrain, Grant Knox). Note: the spelling is correct, Adrain not Adrian!

FOURS: Wales (Robert Weale, William Thomas, Haford Thomas, Jim Morgan).

BOWLS - WOMEN

SINGLES: Wendy Line (England).

PAIRS: Northern Ireland (Freda Elliott, Margaret Johnston).

FOURS: Wales (Linda Evans, Joan Ricketts, Rita Jones, Linda Parker).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Scott Olson (Canada).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): John Lyon (England).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Sean Murphy (England).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Billy Downey (Canada).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Asif Dar (Canada).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Howard Grant (Canada).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Darren Dyer (England).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Dan Sherry (Canada).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Rod Douglas (England).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Jim Moran (England).

HEAVYWEIGHT (91kg): Jimmy Peau (New Zealand).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 91kg): Lennox Lewis (Canada).

CYCLING

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Martin Vinnicombe (Australia) 1min 6.230sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Gary Niewand (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Duncan Woods (Australia) 4min 43.92sec.

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Glenn Clarke, Brett Dutton, Wayne McCarney, Dean Woods) 4min 26.94sec.

10 MILES SCRATCH: Wayne McCarney (Australia) 19min 40.61sec.

100 KILOMETRES ROAD TEAM TIME-TRIAL: England (Paul Curran, Deno Davie, Alan Gornall, Keith Reynolds) 2hr 13min 16sec.

ROAD (168 kilometres): Paul Curran (England) 4hr 8min 50sec.

ROWING - MEN

SINGLE SCULLS: Steve Redgrave (England) 7min 28.29sec.

LIGHTWEIGHT SINGLE SCULLS: Peter Antonie (Australia) 7min 16.43sec.

DOUBLE SCULLS: Canada (Bruce Ford, Pat Walter) 6min 19.43sec.

COXLESS PAIRS: England (Andrew Holmes, Steve Redgrave) 6min 40.48sec.

COXLESS FOURS: Canada (Grant Mann, Kevin Neufeld, Paul Steele, Pat Turner) 6min 0.56sec.

LIGHTWEIGHT COXLESS FOURS: England (Christopher Bates, Peter Haining, Neil Staite, Stuart Forbes) 6min 25.86sec.

COXED FOURS: England (Martin Cross, Adam Cliff, Andrew Holmes, Steve Redgrave, Adrian Ellison) 6min 8.13sec.

EIGHTS: Australia (Malcolm Batten, Andrew Cooper, Mark Doyle, Stephen Evans, James Galloway, Michael McKay, Ion Popa, James Tomkins, Dale Catterson) 5min 44.42sec.

ROWING - WOMEN

SINGLE SCULLS: Stephanie Foster (New Zealand) 7min 43.22sec.

LIGHTWEIGHT SINGLE SCULLS: Adair Ferguson (Australia) 7min 45.49sec.

DOUBLE SCULLS: New Zealand (Stephanie Foster, Robin Clarke) 7min 21.52sec.

COXLESS PAIRS: Canada (Kathryn Barr, Andrea Schreiner) 7min 34.51sec.

LIGHTWEIGHT COXLESS FOURS: England (Alexa Forbes, Gillian Hodges, Linda Clark, Judith Burne) 6min 54.70sec.

COXED FOURS: Canada (Tina Clarke, Tricia Smith, Lesley Thompson, Jane Tregunno, Jenny Wallinga) 6min 50.13sec.

EIGHTS: Australia (Debbie Bassett, Susan Chapman-Popa, Margot Foster, Robyn Grey-Gardner, Ursula Kay, Marilyn Kidd, Vicki Spooner, Annelies Voorhuis, Kaylynn Fry) 6min 43.69sec.

SHOOTING

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Stan Golinski (Australia) 396pts.

FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: Canada (Bill Baldwin, Alain Marion) 583pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL, PRONE: Alan Smith (Australia) 599pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS, PRONE: Canada (Michael Ashcroft, Gale Stewart) 1,175pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL, THREE POSITIONS: Malcolm Cooper (England) 1,170pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS, THREE POSITIONS: England (Malcolm Cooper, Sarah Cooper) 2,278pts. Note: Malcolm and Sarah Cooper were husband and wife.

AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Guy Lorion (Canada) 588pts.

AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Canada (Guy Lorion, Sharon Bowes) 1,167pts.

TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Ian Peel (England) 195pts.

TRAP, PAIRS: England (Peter Boden, Ian Peel) 185pts.

SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Nigel Kelly (Isle of Man) 196pts.

SKEET, PAIRS: England (Joe Neville, Ken Harman) 195pts.

FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Greg Yelavich (New Zealand) 551pts.

FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: Canada (Tom Guinn, Claude Beaulieu) 1,099pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Bob Northover (England) 583pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Phil Adams, Rod Hack) 1,165pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Pat Murray (Australia) 591pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: England (Brian Girling, Terry Turner) 1,169pts.

AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Greg Yelavich (New Zealand) 575pts.

AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: England (Paul Leatherdale, Ian Reid) 1,143pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Greg Fasala (Australia) 50.95sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Robert Gleria (Australia) 1min 50.57sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Duncan Armstrong (Australia) 3min 52.25sec.

1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Jason Plummer (Australia) 15min 12.62sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Neil Brooks 49.58sec, Greg Fasala 50.81sec, Matthew Renshaw 50.81sec, Mark Stockwell 50.38sec) 3min 21.58sec.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Duncan Armstrong 1min 48.92sec, Tom Stachewicz 1min 51.50sec, Robert Gleria 1min 50.95sec, Peter Dale 1min 52.12sec) 7min 23.49sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Mark Tewksbury (Canada) 56.45sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sandy Goss (Canada) 2min 2.55sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Victor Davis (Canada) 1min 3.01sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Adrian Moorhouse (England) 2min 16.35sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Andy Jameson (England) 54.07sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Anthony Mosse (New Zealand) 1min 57.27sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Alex Baumann (Canada) 2min 1.80sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Alex Baumann (Canada) 4min 18.29sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Alex Baumann, Victor Davis, Tom Ponting, Mark Tewksbury) 3min 44.00sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Craig Rogerson (Australia) 600.87pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Shaun Panayi (Australia) 648.33pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Jane Kerr (Canada) 57.62sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Susie Baumer (Australia) 2min 0.61sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Sarah Hardcastle (England) 4min 7.68sec.

800 METRES FREESTYLE: Sarah Hardcastle (England) 8min 24.77sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Canada (Jane Kerr, Trish Noall, Andrea Nugent, Pam Rai) 3min 48.45sec.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Suzie Baumer 2min 0.85sec, Jennifer Burke 2min 4.08sec, Sarah Thorpe 2min 4.37sec, Michele Pearson 2min 2.79sec) 8min 12.09sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sylvia Hume (New Zealand) 1min 4.00sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Georgina Parkes (Australia) 2min 14.88sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Allison Higson (Canada) 1min 10.84sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Allison Higson (Canada) 2min 31.20sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Caroline Cooper (England) 1min 2.12sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Donna McGinnis (Canada) 2min 11.97sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Suzanne Landells (Australia) 2min 17.02sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Suzanne Landells (Australia) 4min 45.82sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: England (Simone Hindmarch, Suki Brownsdon, Caroline Cooper, Nicola Fibbens) 4min 13.48sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Debbie Fuller (Canada) 431.61pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING: Debbie Fuller (Canada) 513.09pts.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SOLO: Sylvie Fr chet te (Canada) 199.50pts.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, DUET: Canada (Michelle Cameron, Carolyn Waldo, 199.54pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Greg Hayman (Australia) 212.5kg.
BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg): Nick Voukelatos (Australia) 245kg.
FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg): Ray Williams (Wales) 252.5kg.
LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg): Dean Willey (England) 315kg.
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Basilios ("Bill") Stellos (Australia) 302.5kg.
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg): David Morgan (Wales) 350kg.
MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Keith Boxell (England) 350kg.
SUB-HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Denis Garon (Canada) 360kg.
HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg): Kevin Roy (Canada) 375kg.
SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 110kg): Dean Lukin (Australia) 392.5kg.

WRESTLING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Ron Moncur (Canada).
FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Charles Woodcroft (Canada).
BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Mitch Ostberg (Canada).
FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Paul Hughes (Canada).
LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Dave McKay (Canada).
WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): Gary Holmes (Canada).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Chris Rinke (Canada).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Noel Loban (England).
HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Clark Davis (Canada).
SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 100kg): Wayne Brightwell (Canada).

1986 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
England	52	43	49	144
Australia	40	46	35	121
Canada	51	34	31	116
New Zealand	8	16	14	38
Scotland	3	12	18	33
Wales	6	5	12	23
Northern Ireland	2	4	9	15
Hong Kong	0	0	3	3
Guernsey	0	2	0	2
Malawi	0	0	2	2
Botswana	0	0	1	1
Isle of Man	1	0	0	1
Jersey	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	1	1
Swaziland	0	1	0	1

XIV. Commonwealth Games

Auckland, New Zealand

24 January-3 February 1990

55 countries, 2,073 competitors. 10 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics (Artistic and Rhythmic), Judo, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting.

Now is the hour – and we're stronger, healthier, friendlier

The first name on the starting-list for the first heat of the first round of the first event, the men's 100 metres, on the first day of athletics competition at Mount Smart Stadium was that of Fabian Muyaba, of Zimbabwe – and it made good reading. He was, it must be said, no sprinter of any great renown, ranking 138th in the World to be precise, and it was inconceivable that he would present England's Olympic silver-medallist, Linford Christie, four lanes away from him, with the slightest cause for concern, but it was the simple fact that Muyaba was there at all which gladdened the heart. The Africans, the Asians and the West Indians had returned, and the likes of Muyaba, just 19, were the living proof of the renaissance of the Commonwealth Games in Auckland in 1990. Muyaba did well enough to reach the semi-finals; Christie, a future Olympic champion, took the gold.

These Games were on something of a grander scale than when they had last come to town 40 years before. In 1950 a group of local businessmen had put up the money needed. For the 1990 version a "Commonwealth Games Company Limited" was formed of necessity to handle a budget which was about 1600 times larger – 80 million NZ dollars. Auckland had first been settled six centuries before by nomadic hunters, and the Maori name for the region had become "Tamakimakaurau", which translates as "The spouse sought by a hundred lovers". The number of competitors – all of them, presumably, in search of a personal best rather than a personable partner for life – and the number of countries easily broke all records. Medals were won by more countries than ever before, 29 in all, and gold medals went to 21 of them, including Bangladesh, Bermuda, Cyprus, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Jersey, Nauru and Papua New Guinea. There was also an unprecedented total of 205 gold medals on offer.

Among those teams that did not win a medal was that of Norfolk Island, an external territory of Australia located more than a thousand kilometres north of Auckland in the Pacific Ocean, with a population of 1,912 mostly descended from the "Bounty" mutineers. Their gallant representatives predictably finished in the lower reaches of the events which they contested in athletics, bowls, shooting and judo, but Brian Vercoe at least had the satisfaction of proving to be a better clay-pigeon marksman than the most distinguished and least accurate competitor on the range, finishing six places ahead of His Royal Highness Prince Sufri Bolkiah, of Brunei Darussalam, who was actually last.

Commonwealth competitors had enjoyed their customary mixed fortunes at the Seoul Olympics two years earlier, with Great Britain and Kenya each winning five gold medals and Australia, Canada and New Zealand each winning three – all of them, of course, languishing far down the medals table to the USSR (55 gold), the German Democratic Republic (37) and the USA (36). Among the male athletics competitors in Auckland were two of Kenya's four Olympic track champions, John Ngugi (5000 metres) and Julius Kariuki (steeplechase), but not for the last time the Kenyan authorities were in dispute with some of their overseas-based athletes, and neither of the Olympic champions at 800 metres (Paul Ereng) and 1500 metres (Peter Rono) was selected, nor the 1987 World champions at 800 metres (Billy Konchellah) and 10,000 metres (Paul Kipkoech). The one woman competitor in Auckland who was a

reigning Olympic champion was Australia's 400 metres hurdler, Debbie Flintoff-King, who had also won in Edinburgh. There was, very briefly, another athletics gold-medallist from the Commonwealth in Seoul until Canada's Ben Johnson, who had won in Edinburgh in 1986, and then been World champion the next year, was ignominiously stripped of his 100 metres title after testing positive for banned drugs.

Athletics had now become a highly professionalised sport, but not entirely so, and no better example of contrasting fortunes was to be found than in the 10,000 metres. For England there was the vastly experienced Eamonn Martin, who at 31 had run in the World Championships and Olympic Games, had broken the British record on his debut at the distance, and had brought his family and his training-partner out to Auckland with him two months before the Games. For Kenya there was an untutored 17-year-old named Joseph Kibor, and we were reliably informed that he had sold the family goats to raise the bus-fare to travel to one of Kenya's Games trial races and had won as a complete unknown. Martin's meticulous preparations were repaid with gold. Kibor finished a creditable 5th and returned to rural obscurity.

In addition to Linford Christie, the other winners included such World-famous names as Colin Jackson for Wales, Merlene Ottey for Jamaica and Liz McColgan for Scotland, but one of the finest of all middle-distance runners (many would say he was the finest), Sebastian Coe, again suffered a relapse at these Games. In 1986 he had pulled out after the 800 metres heats with a virus, and in Auckland he was an uninspired 6th in that event. Coe had been twice Olympic champion at 1500 metres, had set 10 World records, and would become one of the major administrators of the sport. Created Baron Coe of Ranmore in the year 2000, he was appointed chairman of the organising committee for the 2012 London Olympics and a vice-president of the International Association of Athletics Federations.

One of Coe's great rivals, John Walker, who 15 years before had been the first man to beat 3min 50sec for the mile, was knocked over in the 1500 metres final, which was a sad end in front of his home crowd to a great career, but the generous winner, England's Peter Elliott, insisted on taking Walker with him on a much-acclaimed lap of honour. Expanding the linguistic range of the Commonwealth, there were other wins in athletics for a French-speaking Canadian, Guillaume Leblanc, in the road walk and for a Greek-speaking Cypriot, Marios Hadjiandreou, in the triple jump, beating into 2nd place by just two centimetres the man who would become the World's finest exponent of the event within a few years, Jonathan Edwards.

The most unlikely medal success of all in athletics – to be precise, four medals – was by the Scottish men's 4 x 400 metres relay team. It helped somewhat that Australia, England and Trinidad & Tobago were all disqualified in the same heat, which meant that New Zealand, Pakistan and the Seychelles (fastest losers despite finishing last in their heat) all surprisingly found themselves in the final. But all credit to the valiant Scots who finished a long way behind Kenya but still ahead of Jamaica for the silver medals in the final. Scotland had not actually had anybody at all in the individual 400 metres, and so three of their team were 800 metres runners and the other a 400 metres hurdler. The time of 3min 4.68sec by Mark Davidson, Tom McKean, David Strang and Brian Whittle still stood as a national record at the time of writing 24 years later.

Swimming continued its relentless advance, with Games records broken in 24 of the 32 events, and 20 of the titles went to Australia. Lisa Curry-Kenny, now a 27-year-old mother of a young daughter, had won three golds in 1982 as Miss Curry and added four more, but even

that total was one short of the collection amassed by her 15-year-old team-mate, Hayley Lewis. The men's 1500 metres freestyle was won by yet another Australian, Glen Housman, and he was the first man at the Games to break 15 minutes for the distance, missing the World record by less than half-a-second. His time represented an advance of almost 1½ minutes in the 20 years since the event had been introduced at the Games. England had only one winner – but an exceptional one, as Adrian Moorhouse, who was the reigning Olympic champion, equalled his own World record in the 100 metres breast-stroke, leading home a rare English clean-sweep.

Oddly, Australia's dominance continued to be rooted in the freestyle events, of which they won all 12, and by contrast their tally from the men's backstroke and breast-stroke events was only one medal out of 12. Mark Tewksbury, of Canada, retained the 100 metres backstroke title, and Anthony Mosse, of New Zealand, did the same at 200 metres butterfly. The men's 200 metres individual medley was won for the fifth time in six Games by a Canadian, and on this occasion the champion was Gary Anderson, who also took the 200 metres backstroke. Coincidentally, the outstanding track cyclist was also named Gary Anderson, but he was from New Zealand, winning gold medals in the individual pursuit, 10 miles scratch and team pursuit, plus silver in the time-trial. Women made their debut in this sport and Louise Jones gave Wales a first cycling gold in the sprint.

The badminton-playing Sidek brothers from Malaysia were unusually assured of some share of gold even before the men's doubles final started. Razif Sidek, who also became his country's first men's singles champion at the Games for 16 years, was partnered by Jalani Sidek, and their opponents included a third brother, Rashid. The all-Sidek pairing duly won, and it was Razif's second success in this event, having also been in the winning pair in 1982. He and Jalani would become Malaysia's first Olympic medallists in any sport with bronze in Barcelona two years later. The mixed doubles provided the surprise of the tournament when Chan Chi Choi and Amy Chan won for Hong Kong. In the team event England's Steve Baddeley and Gillian Clark earned their third successive golds. Another English player, Fiona Smith, also won three golds.

There was another unexpected winner in women's bowls, in which Geua Tau won for Papua New Guinea, which was an astonishing achievement for a country where there were only 200 women taking part in the sport. Willie Wood was one of the winning Scottish four to add to his gold in the singles of 1982 and was still 20 years away from the end of his Commonwealth Games career. In shooting Adrian Breton took home a first Games gold for the Channel island of Guernsey, which is actually nearer to France than to England, and there were also winners on the range from neighbouring Jersey and from Bangladesh and India. An Australian, Phil Adams, won three pistol golds and would eventually become the most prolific medallist in any sport at the Games – 18 golds, silvers and bronzes from 1982 to 2002.

In weight-lifting there were medals awarded for the first time for the separate lifts, and India collected a treasure trove of 12 gold, seven silver and five bronze. Their flyweight champion, Chandrasekharan Raghavan, won by fully 20kg, but there was a much closer contest at featherweight where Parvesh Chander Sharma finished only 2.5kg ahead of Marcus Stephen, who came from the Pacific island of Nauru which was only 21 square kilometres in size, and it was Stephen who won the gold medal for the snatch lift. What a pity, though, that weight-lifting should be marred by the drug suspensions of two lifters from Wales and another from India.

There was no wrestling at these Games as gymnastics and judo had been brought in by preference. In the former Canada's Jamaican-born Curtis Hibbert, a World Championships silver-medallist in 1987, won four individual golds and a fifth in the team event. In the latter England took 14 of the 16 titles, including double successes for Elvis Gordon and Sharon Lee in the heavyweight and unlimited weight divisions. One of the only two non-English winners was Loretta Cusack, for Scotland, who was also to win World and European titles during her brilliant career. The Commonwealth Games was proving more progressive than the Olympics, as women's judo was not introduced to the latter until two years afterwards.

Before the Games had even ended the organisers proclaimed proudly: "After the boycott of Edinburgh, many felt the Commonwealth Games had run their race. Then along comes Auckland 1990, and the Games emerge stronger, healthier – and friendlier". It was a snap judgment but a fair one. Then, at a vibrant closing ceremony, the opera diva, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, heart-rendingly sang "Now Is The Hour", and there was a palpable feeling of nostalgic regret that the Auckland Games were now all over bar the shouting of the exuberant Maori dancers and the carefree cavorting athletes. It had been a marvellous festival of sport held in a city of which the most obvious charm was that it seemed 10 or 15 years behind the frenzied times, and whose citizens had been so fulsome in their welcome.

We had all had a wonderful time in such a glorious harbour-front city, but we already needed to look four years ahead. Intriguingly, too, Malaysia had decided to apply to be hosts in 1998. Now, that did sound interesting.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1990 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES (28 Jan): Linford Christie (England) 9.93sec.

200 METRES (1 Feb): Marcus Adam (England) 20.10sec.

400 METRES (28 Jan): Darren Clark (Australia) 44.60sec.

800 METRES (1 Feb): Sammy Tirop (Kenya) 1min 45.98sec.

1500 METRES (3 Feb): Peter Elliott (England) 3min 33.39sec.

5000 METRES (1 Feb): Andrew Lloyd (Australia) 13min 24.86sec.

10,000 METRES (27 Jan): Eamonn Martin (England) 28min 08.57sec

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE (28 Jan): Julius Kariuki (Kenya) 8min 20.64sec.

MARATHON (30 Jan): Douglas Wakiihuri (Kenya) 2hr 10min 27sec.

30 KILOMETRES WALK (2 Feb): Guillaume Leblanc (Canada) 2hr 08min 28sec.

110 METRES HURDLES (28 Jan): Colin Jackson (Wales) 13.08sec.

400 METRES HURDLES (29 Jan): Kriss Akabusi (England) 48.89sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY (3 Feb): England (Clarence Callender, John Regis, Marcus Adam, Linford Christie) 38.67sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY (3 Feb): Kenya (Samson Kitur 46.22sec, Stephen Mwanzia 45.54sec, David Kitur 45.52sec, Simeon Kipkemboi 45.20sec) 3min 02.48sec.

HIGH JUMP (1 Feb): Nick Saunders (Bermuda) 2.36m.

POLE VAULT (2 Feb): Simon Arkell (Australia) 5.35m.

LONG JUMP (1 Feb): Yusuf Alli (Nigeria) 8.39m.

TRIPLE JUMP (3 Feb): Marios Hadjiandreou (Cyprus) 16.95m.

SHOT (3 Feb): Simon Williams (England) 18.54m.

DISCUS (2 Feb): Adewale Olukoju (Nigeria) 62.62m.

HAMMER (27 Jan): Sean Carlin (Australia) 75.66m.

JAVELIN (3 Feb): Steve Backley (England) 86.02m.

DECATHLON (28-29 Jan): Michael Smith (Can) 8,525pts (10.85sec, 7.52m wind-assisted, 14.62m, 2.05m, 47.77sec; 14.34sec, 47.56m, 4.70m, 64.18m, 4min 24.06sec).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES (28 Jan): Merlene Ottey (Jamaica) 11.02sec.

200 METRES (1 Feb): Merlene Ottey (Jamaica) 22.76sec.

400 METRES (28 Jan): Fatima Yusuf (Nigeria) 51.08sec.

800 METRES (1 Feb): Diane Edwards (England) 2min 0.25sec.

1500 METRES (3 Feb): Angela Chalmers (Canada) 4min 8.41sec.

3000 METRES (28 Jan): Angela Chalmers (Canada) 8min 38.38sec.

10,000 METRES (2 Feb): Liz McColgan (Scotland) 32min 23.56sec. Note: McColgan née Lynch.

MARATHON (31 Jan): Lisa Martin (Australia) 2hr 25min 28sec.

10 KILOMETRES WALK (2 Feb): Kerry Saxby (Australia) 45min 3sec.

100 METRES HURDLES (2 Feb): Kay Morley (Wales) 12.91sec.

400 METRES HURDLES (29 Jan): Sally Gunnell (England) 55.38sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY (3 Feb): Australia (Cathy Freeman, Monique Dunstan, Kathy Sambell, Kerry Johnson) 43.87sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY (3 Feb): England (Angela Piggford 53.93sec, Jennifer Stoute 51.43sec, Sally Gunnell 51.66sec, Linda Keough 51.06sec) 3min 28.08sec.

HIGH JUMP (2 Feb): Tania Murray (New Zealand) 1.88m.

LONG JUMP (2 Feb): Jane Flemming (Australia) 6.78m.

SHOT (29 Jan): Myrtle Augee (England) 18.48m.

DISCUS (28 Jan): Lisa-Marie Vizaniari (Australia) 56.38m.

JAVELIN (1 Feb): Tessa Sanderson (England) 65.72m.

HEPTATHLON (27-28 Jan): Jane Flemming (Australia) 6,695pts (13.21sec, 1.82m, 13.76m, 23.62sec wind-assisted; 6.57m, 49.28m, 2min 12.53sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Rashid Sidek (Malaysia).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Razif Sidek, Jalani Sidek). Note : brothers.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Fiona Smith (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Fiona Smith, Sara Sankey).

MIXED DOUBLES: Hong Kong (Chan Chi Choi, Amy Chan).

MIXED TEAM: England (Steve Baddeley, Steve Butler, Gillian Clark, Andy Goode, Gillian Gowers, Darren Hall, Miles Johnson, Sara Sankey, Fiona Smith, Helen Troke).

BOWLS - MEN

SINGLES: Rob Parrella (Australia).

PAIRS: Australia (Trevor Morris, Ian Schuback).

FOURS: Scotland (Willie Wood, Dennis Love, Ian Bruce, George Adrain).

BOWLS - WOMEN

SINGLES: Geua Tau (Papua New Guinea).

PAIRS: New Zealand (Judy Howart, Marie Watson).

FOURS: Australia (Marion Stevens, Daphne Shaw, Andrea Rutherford, Dorothy Roche).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Justin Juko (Uganda).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Wayne McCullough (Northern Ireland).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Mohammed Sabo (Nigeria).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): John Irwin (England).
LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Godfrey Nyakana (Uganda).
LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Charlie Kane (Scotland).
WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): David Defiagbon (Nigeria).
LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Richie Woodhall (England).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Chris Johnson (Canada).
LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Joseph Akhasamba (Kenya).
HEAVYWEIGHT (91kg): George Onyango (Kenya).
SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 91kg): Michael Kenny (New Zealand).

CYCLING - MEN

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Martin Vinnicombe (Australia) 1min 5.572sec.
1000 METRES SPRINT: Gary Niewand (Australia).
4000 METRE INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Gary Anderson (New Zealand) 4min 44.610sec.
4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: New Zealand (Nigel Connelly, Glenn McLeay, Stu Williams, Gary Anderson) 4min 22.760sec.
10 MILES SCRATCH: Gary Anderson (New Zealand) 19min 44.20sec.
50 KILOMETRES POINTS: Robert Burns (Australia) 81pts.
100 KILOMETRES ROAD TEAM TIME-TRIAL: New Zealand (Brian Fowler, Graeme Miller, Ian Richards, Gavin Stevens) 2hr 6min 46.55sec.
ROAD (173 kilometres): Graeme Miller (New Zealand) 4hr 34min 0.19sec.

CYCLING - WOMEN

1000 METRES SPRINT: Louise Jones (Wales).
3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Madonna Harris (New Zealand) 3min 54.670sec.
ROAD (72 kilometres): Kathy Watt (Australia) 1hr 55min 11.60sec.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Curtis Hibbert (Canada) 57.950pts.
FLOOR: Neil Thomas (England) 9.750pts.
POMMELED HORSE: Brennon Dowick (Australia) 9.825pts.
RINGS: Curtis Hibbert (Canada) 9.775pts.
VAULT: James May (England) 9.625pts.
PARALLEL BARS: Curtis Hibbert (Canada) 9.800pts.
HORIZONTAL BAR: Curtis Hibbert (Canada), Alan Nolet (Canada) tied 9.850pts.
TEAM: Canada (Lorne Bobkin, Curtis Hibbert, Claude Latendresse, Alan Nolet) 171.800pts.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Lori Strong (Canada) 38.912pts.
FLOOR: Lori Strong (Canada) 9.887pts.
VAULT: Nikki Jenkins (New Zealand) 9.712pts.
ASSYMETRIC BARS: Monique Allen (Australia) 9.875pts.
BALANCE BEAM: Lori Strong (Canada) 9.850pts.
TEAM: Canada (Larissa Lowing, Janet Morin, Lori Strong, Stella Umeh) 116.784pts.

GYMNASTICS (RHYTHMIC)

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Mary Fuzesi (Canada) 37.650pts.
HOOP: Mary Fuzesi (Canada) 9.400pts.
BALL: Madonna Gimotea (Canada) 9.450pts.
RIBBON: Mary Fuzesi (Canada) 9.400pts.

ROPE: Angela Walker (New Zealand) 9.300pts.

JUDO - MEN

EXTRA LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Carl Finney (England).
HALF-LIGHTWEIGHT (65kg): Brent Cooper (New Zealand).
LIGHTWEIGHT (71kg): Ray Stone (England).
HALF-MIDDLEWEIGHT (78kg): David Southby (England).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (86kg): Densign White (England).
HALF-HEAVYWEIGHT (95kg): Ray Stevens (England).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 95kg): Elvis Gordon (England).
OPEN (unlimited weight): Elvis Gordon (England).

JUDO - WOMEN

EXTRA-LIGHTWEIGHT (48kg): Karen Briggs (England).
HALF-LIGHTWEIGHT (52kg): Sharon Rendle (England).
LIGHTWEIGHT (56kg): Loretta Cusack (Scotland).
HALF-MIDDLEWEIGHT (61kg): Diane Bell (England).
MIDDLEWEIGHT (66kg): Sharon Mills (England).
HALF-HEAVYWEIGHT (72kg): Jane Morris (England).
HEAVYWEIGHT (over 72kg): Sharon Lee (England).
OPEN (unlimited weight): Sharon Lee (England).

SHOOTING

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Colin Mallett (Jersey) 394pts.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: England (Simon Belither, Andrew Tucker) 580pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL, PRONE: Roger Harvey (New Zealand) 591pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL, THREE POSITIONS: Mart Klepp (Canada) 1,157pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS, PRONE: New Zealand (Steve Petterson, Roger Harvey) 1,185pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS, THREE POSITIONS: Canada (Jean-Francois Sénécal, Mart Klepp), 2,272pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Guy Lorion (Canada) 583pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Canada (Guy Lorion, Mart Klepp) 1,163pts.
RUNNING TARGET, INDIVIDUAL: Colin Robertson (Australia) 539pts.
RUNNING TARGET, PAIRS: New Zealand (Paul Carmine, Tony Clarke) 1,091pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: John Maxwell (Australia) 184pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: England (Kevin Gill, Ian Peel) 181pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Ken Harman (England) 187pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Scotland (Ian Marsden, James Dunlop) 189pts.
FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Phil Adams (Australia) 554pts.
FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Phil Adams, Bengt Sandstrom) 1,106pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Ashok Pandit (India) 583pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Phil Adams, Bruce Quick) 1,155pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Adrian Breton (Guernsey) 583pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Bruce Favell, Pat Murray) 1,153pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Bengt Sandstrom (Australia) 580pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Bangladesh (Ateequr Rahman, Abdus Sattar) 1,138pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Andrew Baildon (Australia) 22.76sec.

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Andrew Baildon (Australia) 49.80sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Martin Roberts (Australia) 1min 49.58sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Ian Brown (Australia) 3min 49.91sec.
1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Glen Housman (Australia) 14min 55.25sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Tom Stachewicz 51.01sec, Matthew Renshaw 50.36sec, Chris Fydler 49.50sec, Andrew Baildon 49.18sec) 3min 20.05sec. Note: Jason Cooper and Ian Vander-Wal swam for Australia in the heats.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Tom Stachewicz 1min 50.66sec, Gary Lord 1min 51.57sec, Ian Brown 1min 49.05sec, Martin Roberts 1min 49.89sec) 7min 21.17sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Mark Tewksbury (Canada) 56.07sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Gary Anderson (Canada) 2min 1.69sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Adrian Moorhouse (England) 1 min 1.49sec. Note: equals World record.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Jon Cleveland (Canada) 2min 14.96sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Andrew Baildon (Australia) 53.98sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Anthony Mosse (New Zealand) 1min 57.33sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Gary Anderson (Canada) 2min 2.49sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Rob Bruce (Australia) 4min 20.26sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Canada (Mark Tewksbury, Jon Cleveland, Tom Ponting, Marcel Gery) 3min 42.45sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Bobby Morgan (Wales) 639.84pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Russell Butler (Australia) 583.65pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Craig Rogerson (Australia) 594.84pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Lisa Curry-Kenny (Australia) 25.80sec. Note: Curry-Kenny nee Curry.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Van Wirdum (Australia) 56.48sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Hayley Lewis (Australia) 2 min 0.79sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Hayley Lewis (Australia) 4min 8.89sec.
800 METRES FREESTYLE: Julie McDonald (Australia) 8min 30.27sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Lisa Curry-Kenny 56.46sec, Susie O'Neill 56.20sec, Angela Mullens 57.40sec, Karen Van Wirdum 56.79sec) 3min 46.85sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Hayley Lewis 2min 0.96sec, Jennifer McMahon 2min 0.99sec, Janelle Elford 2min 3.90sec, Julie McDonald 2min 3.10sec) 8min 8.95sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Nicole Livingstone (Australia) 1min 2.46sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Anna Simcic (New Zealand) 2min 12.32sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Keltie Duggan (Canada) 1min 10.74sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Nathalie Giguere (Canada) 2min 32.15sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Lisa Curry-Kenny (Australia) 1min 0.55sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Hayley Lewis (Australia) 2min 11.15sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Nancy Sweetnam (Canada) 2min 15.61sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Hayley Lewis (Australia) 4min 42.65sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Nicole Livingstone 1min 3.62sec, Lara Hooiveld 1min 11.21sec, Lisa Curry-Kenny 1min 0.08sec, Karen Van Wirdum 55.96sec) 4min 10.87sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Anna Dacyshyn (Canada) 391.68pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Mary Depiero (Canada) 443.28pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Jenny Donnet (Australia) 491.79pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

FLYWEIGHT (52kg):

Snatch - Chandersekharan Raghavan (India) 105kg.

Jerk - Chandersekharan Raghavan (India) 127.5kg.

Total - Chandersekharan Raghavan (India) 232.5kg.

BANTAMWEIGHT (56kg):

Snatch - Rangaswamy Punnuswamy (India) 110kg.

Jerk - Rangaswamy Punnuswamy (India) 137.5kg.

Total - Rangaswamy Punnuswamy (India) 247.5kg.

FEATHERWEIGHT (60kg):

Snatch - Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 112.5kg.

Jerk - Parvesh Chander Sharma (India) 145kg.

Total - Parvesh Chander Sharma (India) 257.5kg

LIGHTWEIGHT (67.5kg):

Snatch - Paramjit Sharma (India) 130kg.

Jerk - Paramjit Sharma (India) 165kg.

Total - Paramjit Sharma (India) 295kg.

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg):

Snatch - Karnadhar Mondal (India) 135kg. Note: Ricky Chaplin (Wales), originally 1st, 137.5kg, disqualified for drugs abuse.

Jerk - Ron Laycock (Australia) 177.5kg.

Total - Ron Laycock (Australia) 310kg.

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (82.5kg):

Snatch - David Morgan (Wales) 155kg.

Jerk - David Morgan (Wales) 192.5kg.

Total - David Morgan (Wales) 347.5kg.

MIDDLE-HEAVYWEIGHT (90KG):

Snatch - Duncan Dawkins (England) 162.5kg.

Jerk - Duncan Dawkins (England) 195kg.

Total - Duncan Dawkins (England) 367.5kg.

SUB-HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg):

Snatch - Andrew Saxton (England) 165kg.

Jerk - Andrew Saxton (England) 197.5kg.

Total - Andrew Saxton (England) 362.5kg.

HEAVYWEIGHT (110kg):

Snatch - Mark Thomas (England) 160kg.

Jerk - Mark Thomas (England) 197.5kg.

Total - Mark Thomas (England) 357.5kg.

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 110kg):

Snatch - Andrew Davies (Wales) 180kg.

Jerk - Andrew Davies (Wales) 222.5kg.

Total - Andrew Davies (Wales) 402.5kg.

1990 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	52	54	56	162
England	47	40	42	129
Canada	35	41	37	113
New Zealand	17	14	27	58
India	13	8	11	32
Nigeria	5	13	7	25
Wales	10	3	12	25
Scotland	5	7	10	22
Kenya	6	9	3	18
Northern Ireland	1	3	5	9
Hong Kong	1	1	3	5
Jamaica	2	0	2	4
Malaysia	2	2	0	4
Uganda	2	0	2	4
Nauru	1	2	0	3
Tanzania	0	1	2	3
Zambia	0	0	3	3
Zimbabwe	0	2	1	3
Bahamas	0	0	2	2
Bangladesh	1	0	1	2
Cyprus	1	1	0	2
Ghana	0	2	0	2
Jersey	1	0	1	2
Samoa	0	0	2	2
Bermuda	1	0	0	1
Guernsey	1	0	0	1
Guyana	0	0	1	1
Malta	0	0	1	1
Papua New Guinea	1	0	0	1

XV. Commonwealth Games.

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

18-28 August 1994

63 countries, 2,557 competitors. 10 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics, Judo, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Weight-lifting.

Doves of peace fly high, but there's a cuckoo in the nest

British Columbia is large enough to be a country in its own right – four times the size of Great Britain and one-third the size of India. Yet the population is only three million or so. Adding to the unusualness of the setting for this fourth occasion that Canada had hosted the Commonwealth Games was the fact that the venue, Victoria, was situated on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, some 40 kilometres off the western Canadian mainland. This sublime city's 283,000 population embraced the Games with the same fervour with which the Songhee aboriginal people had welcomed the Hudson's Bay company when they had started the settlement by building a trading depot on the harbour front 151 years before.

Victoria had ousted plenty of opposition to earn the right to stage the Games. There had been eight other candidates for the Canadian nomination back in 1987, and then Cardiff and New Delhi had been beaten in the deciding Games Federation vote. Recognising their historical commitment, the Games organisers formed a "Native Participation Committee" to give the opportunity to "First Nations from around the World to celebrate their talent and heritage". Appropriately enough, such ability was ably demonstrated on the athletics track by Canada's Angela Chalmers, of Sioux Indian descent, in retaining her 3000 metres title, and by Cathy Freeman, whose 200 and 400 metres successes were the first individual gold medals at the Games by an Australian of aboriginal background. Further encouraging the spirit of convivial political correctness, competitors with a disability were for the first time granted full membership status in national teams.

Even the spectre of drugs abuse failed to overshadow the celebrations. A shot-putter, Paul Edwards, and Diane Modahl (née Edwards, but not related), the defending champion at 800 metres, were sent home by England's team management from the training-camp before the Games began, though Mrs Modahl later won a prolonged and costly legal action in her defence, and the spectacular improvement by an obscure sprinter from Sierra Leone to take the 100 metres silver medal turned out to have been regrettably founded on anabolic steroids. What a pity that such an amiable young man with such a splendidly poetic name – Horace Dove-Edwin – should turn out to be a fraud. Otherwise, fortunately, there was plenty of genuine sporting achievement to be savoured.

Australia's swimmers predictably made the biggest splash, winning 25 gold medals to the six for England and a mere single one each for Canada and New Zealand, and Kieren Perkins achieved the rare feat of breaking two World records in one event – the 1500 metres freestyle, plus the 800 metres en route. He also won the 200 and 400 titles, and amongst the numerous awards showered upon him was that of being among the select 100 named as an "Australian Living Treasure" – an honour shared by fellow swimmers Dawn Fraser and Shane Gould and by athletes Raelene Boyle, Betty Cuthbert, Herb Elliott, Cathy Freeman and John Landy. Perkins had taken up swimming at the age of eight as part of his rehabilitation programme after accidentally running through a plate-glass window.

There were double individual triumphs for four of Perkins's women team-mates: Susie O'Neill, Nicole Stevenson, Samantha Riley and Elli Overton. Miss O'Neill, familiarly known as "Madame Butterfly", would eventually win a record 10 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games, plus eight medals of various colours at the Olympics. Stephen Clarke became the first English-born male to win the 100 metres freestyle, and he had his medal presented to him by the Vancouver miling hero of 40 years before, Sir Roger Bannister, but the 6ft 5in (1.96 metres) tall Clarke was actually representing the host country, having emigrated there with his family at the age of four.

South Africa's return to the Games after a 36-year absence was marked, most notably, by silver medals on the track at 800 metres for Hezekiel Sepeng, behind a fifth win at the event for Kenya, and at 10,000 metres for Elana Meyer, behind a third successive win for Scotland in the person of Yvonne Murray in succession to Liz McColgan. For both Sepeng and Meyer finishing 2nd would become a frustratingly familiar experience – Sepeng at the 1996 Olympics, 1998 Commonwealth Games and 1997 World Championships; Meyer at the 1992 Olympics. A longer-established Scottish legacy was maintained on the bowls green, winning three of the eight gold medals on offer, including a third triumph in the men's singles after Robert Sprot in 1930 and Willie Wood in 1982 by Richard Corsie, who would be World indoor champion three times during his career. The two South African golds at the Victoria Games also came about in sedate fashion in the course of the bowls competition.

The men's javelin, oddly, produced exactly the same first four as in Auckland, with Steve Backley winning again for England and the silver and bronze medals going for the third successive Games to Mick Hill, also of England, and Gavin Lovegrove, of New Zealand, respectively, but the most spectacular display of skill in this discipline came from England's Denise Lewis. She improved her best by a colossal margin and thus pointed the way towards gold in the seven-event heptathlon by just eight points from the Australian title-holder, Jane Flemming. The finest of all victories by the alluring Miss Lewis was still six years away, at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Since retiring from athletics, she has put her fleetness of foot to different use by becoming a television star ballroom-dancer.

The Kenyans again selected a "B" team for the middle-distance and distance events, but it made little difference as they won, anyway, at 800, 1500 and 10,000 metres and in the steeplechase – a sequence interrupted only by England's Rob Demark at 5000 metres. In terms of World-class performances, though, the sprinters had the edge with victories in exceptionally fast times for England's Linford Christie at 100 metres, Namibia's Frankie Fredericks at 200 metres, and the Welshman, Colin Jackson, at 110 metres hurdles. Christie departed before the Games had finished to compete on the Grand Prix circuit in Europe and so missed the 4 x 100 metres relay, but his presence may not have made much difference because England, in 3rd place, finished a full second behind a formidable Canadian quartet which was led off by the Olympic champion-to-be (in a World record 9.84sec), Donovan Bailey.

That relay success was a typically cosmopolitan Canadian enterprise. Bailey had been born in Jamaica and team-mates Glenroy Gilbert in Trinidad and Bruny Surin in Haiti. These three would combine with Robert Esmie, also Jamaican-born, to win the 1996 Atlanta Olympic 4 x 100 metres, and the fourth member of the Commonwealth Games quartet, Carlton Chambers, would receive an Olympic gold, having run in the heats and semi-final in Atlanta before giving up his place because of injury to Esmie in the final.

Australia's winning foursome in the 4000 metres team pursuit cycling event were scarcely ever off the track as they collected six other medals between them, including further gold for Bradley McGee (individual pursuit), Stuart O'Grady (20 kilometres scratch) and Brett Aitken (40 kilometres points). Their fellow-countryman, Phil Anderson, made a winning return in the road team time-trial 16 years after his victory in the individual road race. Born in London, Anderson was to ride in the Tour de France 13 times during his career with a highest placing of 5th in 1982 and 1986. The most successful Aussie of all on two wheels was Kathy Watt, winning the individual pursuit on the track and then the road race for the second time, as well as figuring in the winning road time-trial team. She had also won the Olympic road race in 1992.

There was another triple winner for Australia on the shooting ranges, where women's events were held separately and Christine Trefry took three pistol titles. She neatly summed up the demands of the sport in telling an interviewer: "When you're under pressure in a final, the tension gets to you and your heart-rate can just soar. Even though you're standing totally still, your heart will be pounding". Indian marksmen won three events, and women from Cyprus and Sri Lanka were each successful. Cyprus also had a medal in wrestling, but the Canadian hosts were almost totally dominant on the mat, winning nine of the 10 gold medals – the lone exception being a Nigerian, Jacob Isaac, at light-flyweight. India had to settle for two silvers and three bronzes, while Pakistan – back in the Games at last – took only two bronzes. An Australian gymnast of Japanese origin, Kasumi Takahashi, won all five women's rhythmic events, but Canada took the team title.

Sadly, the Games organisers were on occasion reluctantly diverted from such worthy achievements as they grappled with those drugs-related problems. Drugs-testing and the banning of competitors in sport had been around since the late 1960s, and the Canadian, Ben Johnson, was by no means the only Commonwealth Games competitor to have been found out. Sport was now a big-money business, and there was bound to be an increasing element of cheating, with the only solution being an ever-intensifying anti-drugs campaign and investigating procedure. Yet Johnson's name was still in the Commonwealth Games record-books for his win in Edinburgh in 1986, and no doubt there would be other miscreants in the years to come. In the face of such commercially-driven pressures could these Commonwealth Games continue to thrive on their essentially friendly image?

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1994 GAMES

ATHLETICS – MEN

100 METRES: Linford Christie (England) 9.91sec.

200 METRES: Frankie Fredericks (Namibia) 19.97sec.

400 METRES: Charles Gitonga (Kenya) 45.00sec.

800 METRES: Patrick Konchellah (Kenya) 1min 45.18sec.

800 METRES PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR): Jeff Adams (Canada) 1min 44.94sec.

1500 METRES: Reuben Chesang (Kenya) 3min 36.70sec.

5000 METRES: Rob Denmark (England) 13min 23.00sec.

10,000 METRES: Lameck Ageta (Kenya) 28min 38.22sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: Johnstone Kipkoech (Kenya) 8min 14.72sec.

MARATHON: Steve Monegegetti (Australia) 2hr 11min 49sec.

MARATHON PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR): Paul Wiggins (Australia) 1hr 37min 33sec.

30 KILOMETRES WALK: Nick A'Hern (Australia) 2hr 7min 53sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY: Canada (Donovan Bailey, Carlton Chambers, Glenroy Gilbert, Bruny Surin) 38.39sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: England (David McKenzie 46.0sec, Peter Crampton 45.9sec, Adrian Patrick 46.1sec, Du'aïne Ladejo 44.2sec) 3min 2.14sec.
110 METRES HURDLES: Colin Jackson (Wales) 13.08sec.
400 METRES HURDLES: Samuel Matete (Zambia) 48.67sec.
HIGH JUMP: Tim Forsyth (Australia) 2.32m.
POLE VAULT: Neil Winter (Wales) 5.40m.
LONG JUMP: Obinna Eregbu (Nigeria) 8.05m. Note: wind-assisted.
TRIPLE JUMP: Julian Golley (England) 17.03m
SHOT: Matt Simson (England) 19.49m.
DISCUS: Werner Reiterer (Australia) 62.76m
HAMMER: Sean Carlin (Australia) 73.48m.
JAVELIN: Steve Backley (England) 82.74m.
DECATHLON: Michael Smith (Canada) 8,326pts (11.00sec, 6.94m, 16.22m, 1.98m, 48.85sec; 14.82sec, 48.62m, 5.10m, 67.98m, 4min 47.38sec).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES: Mary Onyali (Nigeria) 11.06sec.
200 METRES: Cathy Freeman (Australia) 22.25sec.
400 METRES: Cathy Freeman (Australia) 50.38sec.
800 METRES: Inez Turner (Jamaica) 2min 1.74sec.
1500 METRES: Kelly Holmes (England) 4min 8.86sec.
3000 METRES: Angela Chalmers (Canada) 8min 32.17sec.
10,000 METRES: Yvonne Murray (Scotland) 31min 56.97sec.
MARATHON: Carole Rouillard (Canada) 2hr 30min 41sec.
100 METRES HURDLES: Michelle Freeman (Jamaica) 13.12sec.
400 METRES HURDLES: Sally Gunnell (England) 54.51sec.
10 KILOMETRES WALK: Kerry Saxby-Junna (Australia) 44min 25sec. Note: Saxby-Junna née Saxby.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: Nigeria (Faith Idehen, Mary Tombiri, Christy Opara-Thompson, Mary Onyali) 43.29sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: England (Phyllis Smith 51.9sec, Tracy Goddard 52.1sec, Linda Keough 51.8sec, Sally Gunnell 51.2sec) 3min 27.06sec.
HIGH JUMP: Alison Inverarity (Australia) 1.94m
LONG JUMP: Nicole Boegman (Australia) 6.82m. Note: wind-assisted.
SHOT: Judy Oakes (England) 18.16m
DISCUS: Daniela Costian (Australia) 63.72m.
JAVELIN: Louise McPaul (Australia) 63.76m.
HEPTATHLON: Denise Lewis (England) 6,325pts (13.66sec, 1.74m, 13.22m, 25.11sec; 6.44m, 53.68m, 2min 17.60sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Rashid Sidek (Malaysia).
MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Cheah Soon Kit, Soo Beng Kiang).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Lisa Campbell (Australia).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Joanne Muggeridge, Joanne Wright).
MIXED DOUBLES: England (Chris Hunt, Gillian Clark).
MIXED TEAM: England (Simon Archer, Julie Bradbury, Gillian Clark, Chris Hunt, Peter Knowles, Suzanne Louis Lane, Joanne Muggeridge, Anders Nielsen, Nick Ponting, Joanne Wright).

BOWLS - MEN

SINGLES: Richard Corsie (Scotland).

SINGLES PARASPORT (Visually impaired): Robert Brand (Scotland).

PAIRS: Australia (Rex Johnston, Cameron Curtis).

FOURS: South Africa (Neil Burkett, Robbie Rayfield, Alan Lofthouse, Donald Piketh).

BOWLS - WOMEN

SINGLES: Margaret Johnston (Northern Ireland).

SINGLES PARASPORT (Visually impaired): Catherine Portas (New Zealand).

PAIRS: Scotland (Frances Whyte, Sarah Gourlay).

FOURS: South Africa (Colleen Grondein, Hester Bekker, Lorna Trigwell, Anna Pretorius).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Abdurahman Ramadhani (Kenya).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Paul Shepherd (Scotland).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Robert Peden (Australia).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Casey Patton (Canada).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Mike Strange (Canada).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Peter Richardson (England).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Neil Sinclair (Northern Ireland).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Jimmy Webb (Northern Ireland).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Ron Donaldson (Canada).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Dale Brown (Canada).

HEAVYWEIGHT (91kg): Omaar Ahmed (Kenya).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 91kg): Duncan Dokiwari (Nigeria).

CYCLING - MEN

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Shane Kelly (Australia) 1min 5.386sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Gary Niewand (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Bradley McGee (Australia) 4min 31.371sec.

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Brett Aitken, Bradley McGee, Stuart O'Grady, Tim O'Shannessey) 4min 10.485sec.

10 MILES SCRATCH: Stuart O'Grady (Australia) 18min 50.520sec.

40 KILOMETRES POINTS: Brett Aitken (Australia) 38pts.

100 KILOMETRES ROAD TEAM TIME-TRIAL: Australia (Brett Dennis, Henk Vogels, Phil Anderson, Damian McDonald) 1hr 53min 19.13sec.

ROAD (181.9 kilometres): Mark Rendell (New Zealand) 4hr 46min 7.91sec.

CYCLING - WOMEN

1000 METRES SPRINT: Tanya Dubnicoff (Canada).

3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Kathy Watt (Australia) 3min 48.522sec.

25 KILOMETRES POINTS: Yvonne McGregor (England) 5pts.

50 KILOMETRES ROAD TEAM TIME-TRIAL: Australia (Jillian Nolan, Cathy Reardon, Rachel Victor, Kathy Watt) 1hr 4min 3.20sec.

ROAD (96.3 kilometres): Kathy Watt (Australia) 2hr 48min 4.73sec.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Neil Thomas (England) 55.950pts.

FLOOR: Neil Thomas (England) 9.662pts.

POMMELED HORSE: Brennon Dowrick (Australia) 9.425pts.

RINGS: Lee McDermott (England) 9.475pts.
VAULT: Bret Hudson (Australia) 9.375pts.
PARALLEL BARS: Peter Hogan (Australia) 9.400pts.
HORIZONTAL BAR: Alan Nolet (Canada) 9.512pts.
TEAM ALL-ROUND: Canada (Kristan Burley, Richard Ikeda, Alan Nolet, Travis Romagnoli) 164.700pts.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Stella Umeh (Canada) 38.400pts.
FLOOR: Annika Reeder (England) 9.750pts.
VAULT: Stella Umeh (Canada) 9.556pts.
ASSYMETRIC BARS: Rebecca Stoyel (Australia) 9.525pts.
BALANCE BEAM: Salli Wills (Australia) 9.075pts.
TEAM ALL-ROUND: England (Jackie Brady, Zita Lusack, Annika Reeder, Karin Szymko) 114.225pts.

GYMNASTICS (RHYTHMIC) - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Kasumi Takahashi (Australia) 36.850pts.
HOOP: Kasumi Takahashi (Australia) 9.300pts.
BALL: Kasumi Takahashi (Australia) 9.200pts.
RIBBON: Kasumi Takahashi (Australia) 9.200pts.
CLUBS: Kasumi Takahashi (Australia) 9.400pts.
TEAM: Canada (Gretchen McLennan, Camille Martens, Lindsay Richards) 106.900pts.

SHOOTING - MEN

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: David Calvert (Northern Ireland) 398pts.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: Australia (Bert Bowden, Geoffrey Grenfell) 593pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Steve Petterson (New Zealand) 694.4pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Michel Dion (Canada) 1,234.2pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: New Zealand (Steve Petterson, Lindsay Arthur) 1,181pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: Canada (Wayne Sorensen, Michel Dion) 2,300pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Chris Hector (England) 685.9pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Canada (Jean-Francois Sénécal, Wayne Sorensen) 1,166pts.
RUNNING TARGET, INDIVIDUAL: Bryan Wilson (Australia) 657.9pts.
RUNNING TARGET, PAIRS: Canada (Mark Bedlington, Matthew Bedlington) 1,088pts.
Note: Mark and Matthew Bedlington were brothers.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Mansher Singh (India) 194pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: Northern Ireland (Thomas Hewitt, Samuel Allen) 188pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Ian Hale (Australia) 144pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Cyprus (Antonis Andreou, Christos Kourtellas) 189pts.
FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Gault (England) 654.1pts.
FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Phil Adams, Bengt Sandstrom) 1,104pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Jaspal Rana (India) 581pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Jaspal Rana, Ashok Pandit) 1,168pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Jay (Wales) 670.2pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Pat Murray, Robert Dowling) 1,148pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Jean-Pierre Huot (Canada) 672.4pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Mike Giustiniano, Bengt Sandstrom) 1,137pts.

SHOOTING - WOMEN

SPORT RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Shirley McIntosh (Scotland) 586pts.

SPORT RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Sharon Bowes (Canada) 666.4pts.

SPORT RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: Australia (Kim Frazer, Sylvia Purdie) 1,160pts.

SPORT RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: Canada (Sharon Bowes, Christina Ashcroft) 1,143pts.

AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Fani Theofanous (Cyprus) 488.7pts.

AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Sri Lanka (Pushpamali Ramanayake, Malee Wickremasinghe) 771pts.

AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Helen Smith (Canada) 474.2pts.

AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Christine Trefry, Annette Woodward) 747pts.

SPORT PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Christine Trefry (Australia) 679.4pts.

SPORT PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Christine Trefry, Annette Woodward) 1,134pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Mark Foster (England) 23.12sec.

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Stephen Clarke (Canada) 50.21sec.

100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S9): Andrew Hayley (Canada) 1min 3.07sec.

Note: S9 refers to the category of disablement.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Kieren Perkins (Australia) 1min 49.31sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Kieren Perkins (Australia) 3min 45.77sec.

1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Kieren Perkins (Australia) 14min 41.66sec. Note: World record; Perkins also set a World record 7:46.00 for 800 metres en route.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Darren Lange 50.79sec, Andrew Baildon 50.43sec, Dwade Sheehan 50.29sec, Chris Fydler 49.38sec) 3min 20.89sec.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Glen Housman 1min 50.72sec, Matt Dunn 1min 49.67sec, Martin Roberts 1min 52.23sec, Kieren Perkins 1min 48.18sec) 7min 20.80sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Martin Harris (England) 55.77sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Adam Ruckwood (England) 2min 0.79sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Phil Rogers (Australia) 1min 2.62sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Nick Gillingham (England) 2min 12.54sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Scott Miller (Australia) 54.39sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Danyon Loader (New Zealand) 1min 59.54sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Matt Dunn (Australia) 2min 2.28sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Matt Dunn (Australia) 4min 17.01sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Steven Dewick 55.58sec, Phil Rogers 1min 1.51sec, Scott Miller 53.67sec, Chris Fydler 49.65sec) 3min 40.41sec. Note: Simon Beqir, Shane Lewis, Adam Pine and Andrew Baildon swam for Australia in the heats.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Michael Murphy (Australia) 614.70pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Jason Napper (Canada) 364.08pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Michael Murphy (Australia) 671.76pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Van Wirdum (Australia) 25.90sec.

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Pickering (England) 56.20sec.

100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S9): Melissa Carlton (Australia) 1min 9.61sec.

Note: S9 refers to the category of disablement.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Susie O'Neill (Australia) 2min 0.86sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Hayley Lewis (Australia) 4min 12.56sec.

800 METRES FREESTYLE: Stacey Gartrell (Australia) 8min 30.18sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: England (Sue Rolph, Alex Bennett, Claire Huddart, Karen Pickering) 3min 46.23sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Anna Windsor 2min 2.38sec, Nicole Stevenson 2min 1.23sec, Hayley Lewis 2min 2.89sec, Susie O'Neill 2min 1.56sec) 8min 8.06sec. Note: Stevenson née Livingstone.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Nicole Stevenson (Australia) 1min 2.68sec. Note: Stevenson née Livingstone.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Nicole Stevenson (Australia) 2min 12.73sec. Note: Stevenson née Livingstone.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Samantha Riley (Australia) 1min 8.02sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Samantha Riley (Australia) 2min 25.53sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Petria Thomas (Australia) 1min 0.21sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Susie O'Neill (Australia) 2min 9.96sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Elli Overton (Australia) 2min 15.59sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Elli Overton (Australia) 4min 44.01sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Nicole Stevenson 1min 3.32sec, Samantha Riley 1min 8.20sec, Petria Thomas 59.93sec, Karen Van Wirdum 56.44sec) 4min 7.89sec. Note: Stevenson née Livingstone.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Anne Montminy (Canada) 428.58pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Annie Pelletier (Canada) 279.66pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Annie Pelletier (Canada) 529.86pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SOLO: Lisa Alexander (Canada) 189.48.35pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, DUET: Canada (Lisa Alexander, Erin Woodley) 188.0894pts.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

Note: the traditional titles for each division were replaced by numeric weight limits.

54 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Murgesan Veerasamy (India) 105kg.

Jerk - Badathala Adisekhar (India) 132.5kg

Total - Badathala Adisekhar (India) 237.5kg.

59 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 115kg.

Jerk - Chanderekharan Raghavan (India), Marcus Stephen (Nauru) tied 147.5kg.

Total - Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 262.5kg.

64 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Najite Ogbogu (Nigeria) 125kg.

Jerk - Oliver Toby (Nigeria) 152.5kg.

Total - Sevdalin Marinov (Australia) 277.5kg.

70 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Lawal Riliwan (Nigeria) 132.5kg.

Jerk - Moji Oluwa (Nigeria) 165kg.

Total - Moji Oluwa (Nigeria) 295kg.

76 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - David Morgan (Wales) 147.5kg

Jerk - Damian Brown (Australia) 182.5kg.

Total - David Morgan (Wales) 372.5kg.

83 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Kiril Kounev (Australia) 152.5kg.

Jerk - Kiril Kounev (Australia) 200kg.

Total - Kiril Kounev (Australia) 352.5kg.

91 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Harvey Goodman (Australia) 162.5kg

Jerk - Harvey Goodman (Australia) 200kg.

Total - Harvey Goodman (Australia) 362.5kg.

99 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Christopher Onyezie (Nigeria) 155kg.

Jerk - Andy Callard (England) 197.5kg.

Total - Andy Callard (England) 347.5kg.

108 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Steven Kettner (Australia) 165kg.

Jerk - Stefan Botev (Australia) 200kg.

Total - Stefan Botev (Australia) 360kg.

OVER 108 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Nicu Vlad (Australia) 185kg.

Jerk - Nicu Vlad (Australia) 220kg.

Total - Nicu Vlad (Australia) 405kg.

WRESTLING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Jacob Isaac (Nigeria).

FLYWEIGHT (52kg): Selwyn Tam (Canada).

BANTAMWEIGHT (57kg): Robert Dawson (Canada).

FEATHERWEIGHT (62kg): Marty Calder (Canada).

LIGHTWEIGHT (68kg): Chris Wilson (Canada).

WELTERWEIGHT (74kg): David Hohl (Canada).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (82kg): Justin Abdou (Canada).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (90kg): Scott Bianco (Canada).

HEAVYWEIGHT (100kg): Greg Edgelow (Canada).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (over 100kg): Andrew Borodow (Canada).

1994 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	87	52	43	182
Canada	40	42	47	129
England	31	45	51	127
New Zealand	5	16	20	41
Nigeria	11	13	13	37
India	6	11	7	24
Scotland	6	3	11	20
Kenya	7	4	8	19
Wales	5	8	6	19
South Africa	2	4	5	11
Northern Ireland	5	2	3	10
Jamaica	2	4	2	8
Malaysia	2	3	2	7
Zimbabwe	0	3	3	6
Cyprus	2	1	2	5
Hong Kong	0	0	4	4
Zambia	1	1	2	4
Nauru	3	0	0	3
Pakistan	0	0	3	3
Sri Lanka	1	2	0	3
Ghana	0	0	2	2
Namibia	1	0	1	2
Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	2	2
Uganda	0	0	2	2
Bermuda	0	0	1	1
Botswana	0	0	1	1
Guernsey	0	0	1	1
Norfolk Island	0	0	1	1
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	1
Seychelles	0	0	1	1
Tanzania	0	0	1	1
Tonga	0	0	1	1
Western Samoa	0	1	0	1

XVI. Commonwealth Games

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

11-21 September 1998

70 countries, 3,633 competitors. 15 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cricket, Cycling, Gymnastics (Artistic and Rhythmic), Hockey, Netball, Rugby Union Sevens, Shooting, Squash Rackets, Swimming & Diving, Ten-pin Bowling, Weight-lifting.

The G-man grabs gold, then goes to ground

It was bound to be a special occasion, whatever happened. The Commonwealth Games had come to Asia for the first time, and the Malaysian organisers had spared no expense. Some £330 million had been spent in total on the facilities, centred round the magnificent Bukit Jalal multi-sports complex in Kuala Lumpur, with a custom-built swimming-pool and a twin-pitch hockey arena alongside the 100,000-capacity National Stadium which would stage the athletics events. A host of foreign coaches – many from the former Soviet republics – had been recruited to develop the talents of the home competitors, and the results repaid the investment. Malaysians won 36 medals, including 10 gold.

Three of those successes came in badminton, which was a sport in which Malaysia had been traditionally strong, but there were others in athletics, boxing, gymnastics, shooting, ten-pin bowling (introduced to the Games by the hosts) and weight-lifting. All were greeted with ecstasy by the exuberant crowds, but none of them, surely, matched the high drama of an event which is more readily associated with patient endeavour than any explosion of energy. After almost four hours of relentless effort in the stifling heat round the roads of the city, and with only a few hundred metres to go, a New Zealander, Craig Barrett, was heading for certain victory in the 50 kilometres walk when he was suddenly overcome by the oppressive weather conditions and veered off to one side to collapse on the verge and be carried away delirious on a stretcher – such words as he was heard to utter were understandably of the expletive variety..

Thus there were eery overtones of Jim Peters's similar demise in the marathon in Vancouver 44 years before, and just as on that previous occasion, when an unheralded Scotsman, Joe McGhee, had come through to win, so there was another unexpected reward for humble persistence. A Malaysian listed only as "G. Saravanan" in the official programme, and with no credentials of any note to his credit, came into view 10 minutes or so later to cross the line first and then to his bemusement was smothered in a scrum of jubilant team officials and supporters. With his shy smile, his clipped moustache and his slight build, he cut something of a Chaplin-esque figure in what was to prove his one and only public showing of real note. Barrett, fortunately none the worse for his misadventure, competed again in the next year's World Championships, finishing 8th, where there was no sign of the enigmatic Govindasamy Saravanan, though he did reappear in Kuala Lumpur in 2001 to win the South-East Asian Games event..

Also breaking new ground was the men's marathon winner, Thabiso Moqhali, who was the first ever gold-medallist for the Southern African nation of Lesotho in the absence of numerous others with faster times to their credit, particularly from Kenya, who preferred to run in the well-paid big-city marathons instead. In the track events there was further evidence of conflicting commitments as Trinidad's multiple Olympic medallist, Ato Boldon, won the 100 metres in a scintillating 9.88sec but then took an early flight to Europe for lucrative races there and so missed the 200. The previous champion at 110 metres hurdles, Colin Jackson, of

Wales, disappointed his supporters by pulling out before his event had even started, also preferring to save his energies for Grand Prix races to come.

Kenya's track-men won all five races of 800 metres or further and Kenyan women had their first gold medals in any athletics event – or, for that matter, in any Games sport – at 1500 and 10,000 metres. There was another African success at 800 metres, and in a World-class sub-1min 58sec time by Maria Mutola, of Mozambique, and if it seemed somewhat perplexing that Portuguese-speaking Mozambique should be at the Games at all, never having been part of the old British Empire, there was a simple answer. The Commonwealth is open to any nation which cares to apply, regardless of cultural and political heritage, and Mozambique had done so in 1995 because all its neighbours were Commonwealth members and it made economic sense to join them.

Ms Mutola, whose international debut had been as an untutored 15-year-old at the 1988 Olympics, had then been sponsored in the USA and would become one of the finest of all women athletes, winning 13 gold medals indoors and out, including the Olympic title in the year 2000. She would compete at the Olympic Games on six occasions; which is a total equalled only by another Commonwealth champion, Tessa Sanderson, of England, and by a Rumanian discus-thrower, Lia Manoliu. However, even this persistent trio have been outlasted in Olympic longevity by Merlene Ottey, who would make six appearances for her native Jamaica and then a seventh for her adopted country, Slovenia..

A more modest tally of three gold medals, but nevertheless of significant historical value, would be the lifetime achievement of the 200 metres champion in Kuala Lumpur, Nova Peris-Kneebone, of Australia, who was also in the winning 4 x 100 metres relay quartette, but it was a unique double because her other success had been achieved as a member of her country's hockey team at the 1996 Olympics. She had also thus become the first Australian Aborigine to win Olympic gold. Her unusual surname was replaced by one no less particular when she married for a second time. Her husband was a 400 metres runner, Daniel Batman. The pair separated in 2010 and Batman was killed in a car-crash a year later at the age of 31.

Team sports were now firmly established at the Games and Australia won the men's and women's hockey and the netball, while New Zealand took the rugby-union sevens and South Africa the cricket. Some of the rugby matches were ludicrously one-sided, but there was a certain morbid fascination in watching the monolithic All-Blacks' wing-threequarter, Jonah Lomu, brushing aside puny Cook Islands opponents as he rampaged yet again towards the try-line. Perhaps surprisingly for a country with no rugby-football tradition, the sport proved immensely popular with the large and excited Malaysian crowds. Such was the enthusiasm of the locals for anything and everything to do with the Games that tiddlywinks and hoola-hooping would doubtless have also been thronged, had they been on the schedule.

Predictably, there was no Malaysian breakthrough in the pool as Australia won 58 medals, Canada 30 and England 26, leaving the remaining six to be shared out by New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and Zimbabwe (Evan Stewart in springboard diving). Susie O'Neill, who had made her Games debut as a 17-year-old in 1990, won no less than six golds, bringing her total to 10 and beating the overall Games record set by her fellow-countryman, Mike Wenden. Not far behind Miss O'Neill was another prodigy, 15-year-old Ian Thorpe, who won four titles and amazed even the veteran Australian coach, Don Talbot, who had been mentor to a shoal of champions but gasped, "You can't believe he's 15. Its genetics gone bloody crazy!" Crazy or not, Thorpe was to become one of the greatest of all

swimmers, breaking 13 World records and winning five Olympic gold medals and 11 more in World Championships, including six in 2001 alone.

Boxing, by contrast, produced its usual spread of medals – Malaysia, Mauritius, Tanzania, Scotland, Ghana and Canada in turn winning at the six lightest weights before England took five of the six heavier classes. Marcus Stephen, the Australian-trained one-man weight-lifting team from the Pacific island of Nauru, collected three more gold medals to add to his pair from 1994, and in 2007 he would move on to even weightier matters. He was elected president of his country, the World's smallest independent republic with a population of just over 14,000, and combined those duties with ministerial responsibility for home affairs, public services, police, prisons and emergency response, as well as being president of the national Olympic committee.

Scotland's two golds – their lowest number since 1966 – came in women's bowls and in a newly introduced sport, squash rackets, where Peter Nicol won the men's singles. In weight-lifting Kiril Kounev, formerly of the Bulgarian national team, again had three wins for Australia, as he had done four years earlier, and a team-mate who repeated as a triple winner was Christine Trefry in the pistol shooting, but it was an Englishman, Michael Gault, who was even more accurate on the target with four title wins. One of Gault's training exercises was to run a mile and then fire off 10 rounds, and his mental discipline in competition was to chant to himself, "Sights and trigger, sights and trigger". Yet even more prolific than Gault was Erika Leigh-Sturton, of Canada, who became the second successive competitor in rhythmic gymnastics to take all five individual golds, and she missed a sixth in the team contest by the tiniest of margins – Malaysia 93.023 points, Canada 92.962!

It had been a wonderful Games – flamboyantly welcoming, pulsating, exotic. In 2002 the hosts would be Manchester, rather better known for its rain than its rumbustiousness. Kuala Lumpur would be a tough act to follow, but at least the Games were returning to England after far too long an absence. Maybe there would be a few octogenarian Mancunians who could remember their youthful day out at the Empire Games cycle-racing on the Fallowfield track back in 1934 and who were therefore particularly looking forward to the prospect. I certainly was.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 1998 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES: Ato Boldon (Trinidad & Tobago) 9.88sec.

200 METRES: Julian Golding (England) 20.18sec.

400 METRES: Iwan Thomas (Wales) 44.52sec.

800 METRES: Japheth Kimutai (Kenya) 1min 43.82sec.

1500 METRES: Laban Rotich (Kenya) 3min 39.49sec.

5000 METRES: Daniel Komen (Kenya) 13min 22.58sec.

10,000 METRES: Simon Maina (Kenya) 28min 10.00sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: John Kosgei (Kenya) 8min 15.34sec.

MARATHON: Thabiso Moqhali (Lesotho) 2hr 19min 15sec.

110 METRES HURDLES: Tony Jarrett (England) 13.47sec.

400 METRES HURDLES: Dinsdale Morgan (Jamaica) 48.28sec.

20 KILOMETRES WALK: Nick A'Hern (Australia) 1hr 24min 59sec.

50 KILOMETRES WALK: Govindasamy Saravanan (Malaysia) 4hr 10min 5sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY: England (Dwain Chambers, Marlon Devonish, Julian Golding, Darren Campbell) 38.20sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY: Jamaica (Michael McDonald, Roxbert Martin, Greg Haughton 44.53sec, Davian Clarke 44.75sec) 2min 59.03sec. Note: only two “split” times recorded.
HIGH JUMP: Dalton Grant (England) 2.31m.
POLE VAULT: Riaan Botha (South Africa) 5.60m.
LONG JUMP: Peter Burge (Australia) 8.22m
TRIPLE JUMP: Larry Achike (England) 17.10m
SHOT: Burger Lambrechts (South Africa) 20.01m
DISCUS: Bob Weir (England) 64.42m
HAMMER: Stuart Rendell (Australia) 74.71m
JAVELIN: Marius Corbett (South Africa) 88.75m.
DECATHLON: Jagan Hames (Australia) 8,490pts (10.77sec, 7.64m, 14.73m, 2.19m, 49.67sec; 14.07sec, 46.40m, 5.00m, 64.67m, 5min 2.68sec).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES: Chandra Sturup (Bahamas) 11.06sec.
200 METRES: Nova Peris-Kneebone (Australia) 22.77sec.
400 METRES: Sandie Richards (Jamaica) 50.18sec.
800 METRES: Maria Mutola (Mozambique) 1min 57.60sec.
1500 METRES: Jackline Maranga (Kenya) 4min 5.27sec.
5000 METRES: Kate Anderson (Australia) 15min 52.74sec.
10,000 METRES: Esther Wanjiru (Kenya) 33min 40.13sec.
MARATHON: Heather Turland (Australia) 2hr 41min 24sec.
10 KILOMETRES WALK: Jane Saville (Australia) 43min 57sec
100 METRES HURDLES: Gillian Russell (Jamaica) 12.70sec.
400 METRES HURDLES: Andrea Blackett (Barbados) 53.91sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: Australia (Tania Van Heer, Lauren Hewitt, Nova Peris-Kneebone, Sharon Cripps) 43.39sec.
4 X 400 METRES RELAY: Australia (Sue Andrews, Tamsyn Lewis, Lee Naylor 50.66sec, Tania Van Heer 50.61sec) 3min 27.28sec. Note: Tamsyn Lewis is the daughter of Greg Lewis, who won 4 x 100 metres relay gold in 1974. Only two “split” times recorded.
HIGH JUMP: Hestrie Storbeck (South Africa) 1.91m.
POLE VAULT: Emma George (Australia) 4.20m.
LONG JUMP: Joanne Wise (England) 6.63m
TRIPLE JUMP: Ashia Hansen (England) 14.32m.
SHOT: Judy Oakes (England) 18.82m.
DISCUS: Beatrice Faumuina (New Zealand) 65.92m.
HAMMER: Debbie Sosimenko (Australia) 66.56m.
JAVELIN: Louise McPaul (Australia) 66.96m.
HEPTATHLON: Denise Lewis (England) 6,513pts (13.77sec, 1.82m, 15.09m, 24.47sec; 6.52m, 51.22m, 2min 21.90sec).

BADMINTON

MEN’S SINGLES: Wong Choon Hann (Malaysia).
MEN’S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Choong Tan Fook, Lee Wan Wah).
WOMEN’S SINGLES: Kelly Morgan (Wales).
WOMEN’S DOUBLES: England (Joanne Goode, Donna Kellogg). Note: Goode née Wright.
MIXED DOUBLES: England (Simon Archer, Joanne Goode). Note: Goode née Wright.
MEN’S TEAM: Malaysia (Cheah Soon Kit, Choong Tan Fook, Lee Wan Wah, Ong Ewe Hock, Wong Choon Hann, Yap Kim Hock, Yong Hock Kin).
WOMEN’S TEAM: England (Joanne Davies, Joanne Goode, Tracey Hallam, Donna Kellogg, Julia Mann, Sara Sankey, Tanya Woodward). Note: Goode née Wright.

BOWLS - MEN

SINGLES: Roy Garden (Zimbabwe).

PAIRS: Australia (Brett Duprez, Mark Jacobsen).

FOURS: Northern Ireland (Martin McHugh, Ian McClure, Neil Booth, Gary McCloy).

BOWLS - WOMEN

SINGLES: Lesly Hartwell (South Africa).

PAIRS: Scotland (Margaret Letham, Joyce Linores).

FOURS: South Africa (Trish Steyn, Lorraine Victor, Lorna Trigwell, Hester Sumner).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Sapok Biki (Malaysia).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Richard Sunee (Mauritius).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Michael Yomba (Tanzania).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Alex Arthur (Scotland).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Raymond Narh (Ghana).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Mike Strange (Canada).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Jeremy Molitor (Canada).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Chris Bessey (England).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): John Pearce (England).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Courtney Fry (England).

HEAVYWEIGHT (91kg): Mark Simmons (England).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT(over 91kg): Audley Harrison (England).

CRICKET

South Africa (Paul Adams, Dale Benkenstein, Nicky Boje, Mark Boucher, Derek Crookes, Alan Dawson, Steve Elworthy, Herschelle Gibbs, Andrew Hudson, Jacques Kallis, Makhaya Ntini, Shaun Pollock, Mike Rindel, Henry Williams).

CYCLING - MEN

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Shane Kelly (Australia) 1min 4.018sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Darryn Hill (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Bradley McGee (Australia) 4min 30.594sec.

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Bradley McGee, Luke Roberts, Timothy Lyons, Brett Lancaster) 4min 13.405sec.

20 KILOMETRES SCRATCH: Michael Rogers (Australia) 25min 18.340sec.

40 KILOMETRES POINTS: Glen Thomson (New Zealand) 35.

ROAD (184 kilometres): Jay Sweet (Australia) 4hr 31min 56sec.

ROAD INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL (42 kilometres): Eric Wohlberg (Canada) 53min 15sec.

CYCLING - WOMEN

1000 METRES SPRINT: Tanya Dubnicoff (Canada).

3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Sarah Ulmer (New Zealand) 3min 41.667sec.

24 KILOMETRES POINTS: Alayna Burns (Australia) 34.

ROAD (92 kilometres): Lynne Bessette (Canada) 2hr 24min 49sec.

ROAD INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL (28 kilometres): Anna Wilson (Australia) 37min 34sec.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Andrei Kravtsov (Australia) 54.675pts.

FLOOR: Andrei Kravtsov (Australia) 9.325pts.
POMMELED HORSE: Andrei Kravtsov (Australia) Score 9.487pts.
RINGS: Pavel Mamine (Australia) 9.337pts.
VAULT: Simon Hutcheon (South Africa) 9.537pts.
PARALLEL BARS: Andrei Kravtsov (Australia) 9.637pts.
HORIZONTAL BAR: Alexander Jeltkov (Canada) 9.425pts.
TEAM: England (Andrew Atherton, Craig Heap, Lee McDermott, John Smethurst) 162.275pts.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Zeena McLaughlin (Australia) 37.917pts.
FLOOR: Annika Reeder (England) 9.675pts.
VAULT: Lisa Mason (England) 9.231pts.
ASSYMETRIC BARS: Lisa Skinner (Australia) 9.612pts.
BALANCE BEAM: Trudy McIntosh (Australia) 9.550pts.
TEAM: Australia (Katarina Freketic, Trudy McIntosh, Zeena McLaughlin, Allana Slater) 111.408pts.

GYMNASTICS (RHYTHMIC)

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Erika-Leigh Stirton (Canada) 38.207pts.
HOOP: Erika-Leigh Stirton (Canada) 9.624pts.
RIBBON: Erika-Leigh Stirton (Canada) 9.650pts.
ROPE: Erika-Leigh Stirton (Canada) 9.508pts.
CLUBS: Erika-Leigh Stirton (Canada) 9.583pts.
TEAM: Malaysia (Carolyn Au-Yong, El Regina Tajudin, Sarina Sindara Rajah, Thyee Chee Kiat) 93.023pts.

HOCKEY - MEN

Australia (Michael Brennan, Adam Commens, Stephen Davies, Damon Diletti, Jason Duff, James Elmer, Paul Gaudoin, Mark Hickman, Jeremy Hiskins, Steven Holt, Brent Livermore, Matthew Smith, Daniel Sproule, Jay Stacy, Lachlan Vivian-Taylor, Michael York).

HOCKEY - WOMEN

Australia (Kate Allen, Michelle Andrews, Alyson Annan, Louise Dobson, Juliet Haslam, Rechelle Hawkins, Rachel Imison, Bianca Langham, Claire Mitchell-Taverner, Nicole Mott, Alison Peek, Katrina Powell, Lisa Powell, Justine Sowry, Kate Starre, Kristen Towers. Note: Katrina and Lisa Powell are sisters.

NETBALL

Australia (Jenny Borlase, Nicole Cusack, Liz Ellis, Kathryn Harby, Janine Ilitch, Simone McKinnis, Sharelle McMahon, Shelley O'Donnell, Rebecca Sanders, Sarah-Louise Sutter, Carissa Tombs, Vicki Wilson).

RUGBY UNION SEVENS

New Zealand (Christian Cullen, Rico Gear, Jonah Lomu, Caleb Ralph, Roger Randle, Bruce Reihana, Eric Rush, Dallas Seymour, Amasio Valence, Joeli Vidiri).

SHOOTING - MEN

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: James Paton (Canada) 402pts.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: Northern Ireland (David Calvert, Martin Millar) 299pts.

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Steve Petterson (New Zealand) 697.4pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Tim Lowndes (Australia) 1,235.3pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: South Africa (Gavin van Rhyn, Michael Thiele) 1,189pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: Canada (Michel Dion, Wayne Sorensen) 2,276pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Chris Hector (England) 690pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: England (Chris Hector, Nigel Wallace) 1,173pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Diamond (Australia) 144pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: India (Mansher Singh, Manavjit Singh) 192pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Desmond Davies (Wales) 145pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Cyprus (Costas Stratis, Antonis Nicolaides) 188pts.
FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Gault (England) 646.3pts.
FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: England (Nick Baxter, Michael Gault) 1,093pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Jaspal Rana (India) 581pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Jaspal Rana, Ashok Pandit) 1,154pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Metodi Igorov (Canada) 674.8pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Mike Giustiniano, Pat Murray) 1,138pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Gault (England) 679.9pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: England (Nick Baxter, Michael Gault) 1,145pts.

SHOOTING - WOMEN

SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Roopa Unikrishnan (India) 590pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Susan McCready (Australia) 667.3pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: Australia (Kim Frazer, Carrie Quigley) 1,174pts.
SMALL-BORE RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: Canada (Christina Ashcroft, Sharon Bowes) 1,143pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Nurul Huda Baharin (Malaysia) 494.8pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Canada (Christina Ashcroft, Sharon Bowes) 778pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Annemarie Forder (Australia) 480.6pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Annemarie Forder, Christine Trefry) 784pts.
SPORT PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Christine Trefry (Australia) 672.8pts.
SPORT PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Christine Trefry, Annette Woodward) 1,140pts.

SQUASH RACKETS

MEN'S SINGLES: Peter Nicol (Scotland).
MEN'S DOUBLES: England (Mark Chaloner, Paul Johnson).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Michelle Martin (Australia).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: England (Cassie Jackman, Sue Wright).
MIXED DOUBLES: Australia (Craig Rowland, Michelle Martin).

SWIMMING & DIVING – MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Mark Foster (England) 22.58sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Michael Klim (Australia) 49.43sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Ian Thorpe (Australia) 1min 46.70sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Ian Thorpe (Australia) 3min 44.35sec.
1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Grant Hackett (Australia) 14min 50.92sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Michael Klim 49.70sec, Ashley Callus 49.66sec, Ian Thorpe 49.52sec, Chris Fydler 48.95sec) 3min 17.83sec. Note: Adam Pine, Jeff English and Matt Dunn swam for Australia in the heats.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Ian Thorpe 1min 47.48sec, Daniel Kowalski 1min 47.81sec, Matt Dunn 1min 49.15sec, Michael Klim 1min 47.42sec) 7min 11.86sec. Note: World record.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Mark Versfeld (Canada) 55.52sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Mark Versfeld (Canada) 1min 59.67sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Simon Cowley (Australia) 1min 2.00sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Simon Cowley (Australia) 2min 13.13sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Geoff Huegill (Australia) 52.81sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: James Hickman (England) 1min 57.11sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Matt Dunn (Australia) 2min 0.26sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Trent Steed (Australia) 4min 19.89sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Josh Watson 56.36sec, Simon Cowley 1min 1.34sec, Geoff Huegill 52.25sec, Michael Klim 48.57sec) 3min 38.52sec. Note: Adrian Radley and Chris Fydler swam for Australia in the heats.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 652.11pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Evan Stewart (Zimbabwe) 384.66pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Shannon Roy (Australia) 608.37pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Sue Rolph (England) 25.82sec.

100 METRES FREESTYLE: Sue Rolph (England) 55.17sec.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: Susie O'Neill (Australia) 2min 0.24sec.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: Susie O'Neill (Australia) 4min 12.39sec.

800 METRES FREESTYLE: Rachel Harris (Australia) 8min 42.23sec.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Rebecca Creedy 56.17sec, Sarah Ryan 55.60sec, Lori Munz 55.88sec, Susie O'Neill 55.06sec) 3min 42.61sec.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Julia Greville 2min 1.41sec, Susie O'Neill 1min 59.25sec, Anna Windsor 2min 1.67sec, Lori Munz 2min 1.40sec) 8min 3.73sec.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Giaan Rooney (Australia) 1min 2.43sec.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Katy Sexton (England) 2min 13.18sec.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Helen Denman (Australia) 1min 8.71sec.

200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Samantha Riley (Australia) 2min 27.30sec.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Petria Thomas (Australia) 59.42sec.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Susie O'Neill (Australia) 2min 6.60sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Marianne Limpert (Canada) 2min 15.05sec.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Joanne Malar (Canada) 4min 43.74sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Giaan Rooney 1min 3.38sec, Helen Denman 1min 8.76sec, Petria Thomas 58.90sec, Susie O'Neill 55.32sec) 4min 6.36sec.

HIGHBOARD DIVING: Vyninka Arlow (Australia) 456.48pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Chantelle Mitchell (Australia) 271.56pts.

SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Eryn Bulmer (Canada) 515.88pts.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SOLO: Valérie Hould-Marchand (Canada) 93.640pts.

SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, DUET: Canada (Kasia Kulesza, Jacinthe Taillon) 93.284pts.

TEN-PIN BOWLING

MEN'S SINGLES: Kenny Ang (Malaysia) 6,046 pins.

MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Kenny Ang, Ben Heng) 3,552 pins.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Cara Honeychurch (Australia) 6,406 pins.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Australia (Cara Honeychurch, Maxine Nable) 3,678 pins.

MIXED DOUBLES: Australia (Frank Ryan, Cara Honeychurch) 3,605 pins.

WEIGHT-LIFTING

Note: weight limits were changed from those in use in 1994.

56 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Mehmet Yagci (Australia) 107.5kg.

Jerk - Dharmaraj Wilson (India) 140kg.

Total - Arumagam Pandian (India) 245kg.

62 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 125kg.

Jerk - Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 167.5kg.

Total - Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 292.5kg.

69 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Sebastien Groulx (Canada) 130kg.

Jerk - Muhamad Hidayat Hamidon (Malaysia) 167.5kg.

Total - Sebastien Groulx (Canada) 297.5kg.

77 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Satheesha Rai (India) 147.5kg.

Jerk - Damian Brown (Australia) 187.5kg.

Total - Damian Brown (Australia) 327.5kg.

85 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Stephen Ward (England) 157.5kg.

Jerk - Leon Griffin (England) 192.5kg.

Total - Leon Griffin (England) 347.5kg.

94 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Kiril Kounev (Australia) 165kg.

Jerk - Kiril Kounev (Australia) 205kg.

Total - Kiril Kounev (Australia) 370kg.

105 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Akos Sandor (Canada) 167.5kg.

Jerk - Akos Sandor (Canada) 192.5kg.

Total - Akos Sandor (Canada) 360kg.

OVER 105 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Darren Liddel (New Zealand) 165kg.

Jerk - Darren Liddel (New Zealand) 203kg.

Total - Darren Liddel (New Zealand) 368kg.

1998 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	80	61	57	198
England	36	47	53	136
Canada	30	31	38	99
Malaysia	10	14	12	36
New Zealand	8	6	20	34
South Africa	9	11	14	34
India	7	10	8	25
Kenya	7	5	4	16
Wales	3	4	8	15
Scotland	3	2	7	12
Cameroon	0	3	3	6
Jamaica	4	2	0	6
Ghana	1	1	3	5
Zimbabwe	2	0	3	5
Mauritius	1	1	2	4
Northern Ireland	2	1	1	4
Barbados	1	0	2	3
Cyprus	1	1	1	3
Namibia	0	2	1	3
Nauru	3	0	0	3
Tanzania	1	1	1	3
Trinidad & Tobago	1	1	1	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	2
Mozambique	1	1	0	2
Seychelles	0	2	0	2
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	2
Bermuda	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Isle of Man	0	1	0	1
Lesotho	1	0	0	1
Pakistan	0	1	0	1
Papua New Guinea	0	0	1	1
Uganda	0	0	1	1
Zambia	0	0	1	1

XVII. Commonwealth Games Manchester, Bolton and Bisley, England

25 July- 4 August 2002

72 countries, 3,679 competitors. 17 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics (Artistic), Hockey, Judo, Netball, Rugby Union Sevens, Shooting, Squash Rackets, Swimming & Diving, Table Tennis, Triathlon, Weight-lifting, Wrestling.

58th in the World. But he's No.1 in "EccentricITY"

As the double-decker bus wended its way through Manchester's back streets away from the city centre and towards the park-and-ride facility enterprisingly set up in the suburbs, there was a buzz of excited conversation. "I've been to the women's weight-lifting", remarked one male passenger contentedly. "Until today I didn't even know there was such a thing as women's weight-lifting. But all the other sports were sold out. It was superb! You wouldn't believe the weights those ladies from India can lift!"

It was a typical reaction on the way home after a day's competition at the Commonwealth Games. The people of Manchester took the Games to their hearts, and for many of the athletes, gymnasts, boxers and weight-lifters it was the experience of a lifetime to perform in front of such vast and enthusiastic crowds. For the race-walking – an event which had almost disappeared in Britain – more than 50,000 people thronged the regenerated Salford Quays. As many more again turned up at the same venue on another morning to follow the triathlon events. Even the weather was supportive, and who knows how much the brilliance of the organisation throughout the Games was to turn support in London's direction and away from Paris for the 2012 Olympic candidature?

Many of the athletics events, as it happened, were of modest stature by World standards, but the capacity 38,000 crowds at each evening's session cared little about that. For them it was the competitive element that counted, rather than record-breaking, and what could have been better than a women's triple-jump contest in which England's defending champion, Ashia Hansen, who had been born in the USA and adopted by a British mother at the age of three months, surpassed in the very last round the silver-medallist of four years before, Françoise Mbango, of Cameroon, who had just set an African record? Mbango went on to win the Olympic title in 2004 and 2008. Then, too, no one could have been more delighted at the rapturous support he received than England's title-winning hammer-thrower, Mick Jones, whose rudimentary training was carried out in a friendly farmer's field. He was merely the 58th-ranked exponent of his event in the World but was acclaimed as if he had just become Olympic champion.

Jonathan Edwards, in the triple jump (whose World record of 18.29 metres still stands at the time of writing since 1995), and Steve Backley, in the javelin, also won gold for England, as did the men's 4 x 400 metres relay team – but only by one-hundredth of a second after an enthralling duel with a quartet of inspired Welshmen. Australia's Nathan Deakes strode away with both the 20 and 50 kilometres walks, with Craig Barrett, the heat-wave victim in Kuala Lumpur, safely 2nd at the latter distance, and there was another marvellous display of stamina in the women's 5000 metres, in which Paula Radcliffe, who was to run the fastest ever marathon by a woman the following October, achieved a further win for England and was less than four seconds outside the World record. With Radcliffe otherwise engaged on the track, Australian women took all three medals in the marathon, as Kerryn McCann won for the first time at the distance by a five-minute margin after 14 years of trying.

Manchester's magnificent new cycling velodrome was witness to yet another "Test match on wheels" between England and Australia, and in the 4000 metres individual pursuit the Games record was broken five times by five different riders before Bradley McGee won the title again for the visitors. Netball was also a sport in which Australia was supreme, but only just, as they were held to a 46-46 draw by New Zealand and eventually edged ahead to win 57-55 in the third spell of extra time, though the most prolific goal-scorer in the tournament was 6ft 3in (1.90m) tall Elaine Davis who netted 266 times for the bronze-medallists, Jamaica. Australia won the men's hockey, too, but the women's title went to India, who could be said to have been on the right lines. All but one of their players were members of the national railways' team.

Squash rackets, making only its second appearance at the Games, provided as high a standard of competition as any sport in Manchester. Commonwealth men, including all four semi-finalists, occupied eight of the top 10 ranking positions in the World; Commonwealth women had seven of the top 10 places. Peter Nicol, the World No.1, who had triumphed in the men's singles for Scotland in 1998 and had now switched allegiance to England, again met Canada's Jonathon Power, the World No.2, in the final but lost on this occasion. Power's fiery character had earned him the title of the "John McEnroe of squash". Nicol got a gold medal instead in the doubles final with a partner, Lee Beachill, who to say the least was accident prone, having in the past broken his back in four places, suffered from salmonella poisoning, and had his foot crushed by a go-kart. Even without Nicol, Scotland produced six Games champions and three of them set precedents: Alison Sheppard, winning the country's first Commonwealth swimming gold since David Wilkie in 1974, and Chris Hoy in cycling and Steve Frew in gymnastics winning the first Scottish titles in those sports at any Empire or Commonwealth Games.

Reflecting the cosmopolitan nature of its population, Australia's Games contingent contained competitors born in 34 different countries, and there was a continuing influx of ex-Eastern Europeans to bolster their ranks in many of the sports. The Russian-born Lalita Yauhleuskaya, who described herself as a "professional shooter and housewife", won three pistol titles; Hungarian-born Maria Pekli won gold at judo; and Yourik Sarkisian and Alex Karapetyn, both originally from Armenia, each won three weight-lifting titles. Sarkisian, aged 40 and only 5ft 3in (1.62m) tall, had set 23 World records and had been an Olympic silver-medallist for the USSR as far back as 1980. Karapetyn had won World Championships silver for Armenia in 1995 and bronze for Australia in 2001.

Also for Australia Ian Thorpe, now a mature 19-year-old multi World-record-holder, took four titles in swimming, beating his own World record for 400 metres freestyle, and in the women's events Petria Thomas, 16, was even more prolific, with five golds, but for once some of the smaller countries got a look in as Kirsty Leigh Coventry won an individual medley gold for Zimbabwe, while Alex Lim, of Malaysia, took silver and bronze at men's backstroke, and Janelle Atkinson, of Jamaica, had two bronzes at women's freestyle. Yet the most remarkable performance of all came from Natalie du Toit, of South Africa, who was triumphant in the 100 metres freestyle for disabled competitors, having set a World record in the heats, and then qualified for the able-bodied 800 metres freestyle final. She received the inaugural David Dixon Memorial Award, which was established in memory of a long-serving Commonwealth Games Federation secretary, as the outstanding competitor at the Games. In synchronised swimming Canada – where the sport had been devised in 1924 as "ornamental swimming", based on life-saving techniques – retained an unbeaten record at the Games, now totalling 10 gold medals.

Bowls rewarded age and guile as 70-year-old Ruth Small won the singles for blind competitors and 61-year-old Carol Duckworth figured in South Africa's winning four, though the most venerable of all the bowlers was Joyce Dyer, from Norfolk Island, who had celebrated her 79th birthday a month before, which made her in all probability the oldest participant in any sport in the history of the Games. Yet even she was much junior to one of the thousands of Games volunteer officials, Desmond Pastore, who at 87 still played tennis and taught children "Tag Rugby".

By contrast, one of India's winning women's hockey team was 16-year-old Saba Anjum, while the shooting champions included Charlotte Kerwood, of England, who would not be 16 until a month or so later and was thought to be the youngest ever competitor in the sport at the Commonwealth Games. A 19-year-old, Craig Fallon, was a judo gold for England; Jean Thenistor Pascal, also 19 and born in Haiti, won at boxing for Canada; South African-born Beth Tweddle, 17, had a gymnastics gold for England; and 20-year-old Madeleine Yamechi, of Cameroon, monopolised all three titles in her weight-lifting division.

Another youthful weight-lifter, Australia's Deborah Lovely, 19, took a silver medal to add a further dimension to her lively existence – she was also a shot-putter, discus-thrower, hammer-thrower, roller-blader and saxophonist. Incidentally, Deborah was not the only "lovely" at the Games; Niue Island included one Lovely Spencer in their Rugby Sevens team. Not necessarily qualifying for the description "lovely" but creating some footnote in history were Mohammed Ali Qamar, of India, and Haider Ali, of Pakistan, who were the first Asian winners in the boxing ring since 1938.

More countries and more competitors than ever before, whether lovely or not, had taken part in these Games. Manchester had proclaimed itself boldly as the "EccentricITY", and was to prove the point by staging the World Black Pudding Throwing Championships a month later. Manchester also laid claim to being the city "where culture meets cool" and just occasionally lived up to the presumptuous boast during a rousing cosmopolitan closing ceremony. Most importantly, Manchester had staged a Commonwealth Games which, amidst all its razzamatazz and rock 'n roll, still preserved the essential spirit envisaged by Bobby Robinson almost three-quarters of a century before.

Australia had won far more gold medals than anyone else (82), ahead of England and Canada, as usual, but significantly India had continued its advance and had 30 champions, including 14 in shooting alone. Then, as the electronic sign flashed up on the stadium scoreboard the message, "See you in Melbourne 2006", and it was already time to begin thinking ahead another four years, the loquacious author of the notes in the programme for the closing ceremonies lauded the city for its "originality, sincerity, wit, warmth, hospitality, passion, irreverence, pride, energy, independence and creativity". Dramatic licence, maybe – but these had been a Games which had vividly demonstrated every one of those virtues at one time or another.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 2002 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES: Kim Collins (St Kitts & Nevis) 9.98sec.

100 METRES PARASPORT: Adekunle Adesoji (Nigeria) 10.76sec.

200 METRES: Frankie Fredericks (Namibia) 20.06sec.

400 METRES: Michael Blackwood (Jamaica) 45.07sec.

800 METRES: Mbulaeni Mulaudzi (South Africa) 1min 46.32sec.

1500 METRES: Michael East (England) 3min 37.35sec.
5000 METRES: Sammy Kipketer (Kenya) 13min 13.51sec.
10,000 METRES: Wilberforce Talel (Kenya) 27min 45.39sec.
3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: Stephen Cherono (Kenya) 8min 19.41sec.
MARATHON: Francis Robert Naali (Tanzania) 2hr 11min 58sec.
20 KILOMETRES WALK: Nathan Deakes (Australia) 1hr 25min 35sec.
50 KILOMETRES WALK: Nathan Deakes (Australia) 3hr 52min 40sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: England (Jason Gardener, Marlon Devonish, Allyn Condon, Darren Campbell) 38.62sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: England (Jared Deacon 46.1sec, Sean Baldock 45.4sec, Chris Rawlinson 44.5sec, Danny Caines 44.4sec) 3min 0.40sec. Note: Cori Henry and Mark Hylton ran for England in the heats.
110 METRES HURDLES: Shaun Bownes (South Africa) 13.35sec.
400 METRES HURDLES: Chris Rawlinson (England) 49.14sec.
HIGH JUMP: Mark Boswell (Canada) 2.28m.
POLE VAULT: Okkie Brits (South Africa) 5.75m.
LONG JUMP: Nathan Morgan (England) 8.02m
TRIPLE JUMP: Jonathan Edwards (England) 17.86m.
SHOT: Justin Anlezark (Australia) 20.91m.
DISCUS: Frantz Kruger (South Africa) 66.39m
HAMMER: Mick Jones (England) 72.55m.
JAVELIN: Steve Backley (England) 86.81m.
DECATHLON: Claston Bernard (Jamaica) 7,830pts (10.92sec, 7.02m, 15.37m, 2.15m, 49.61sec; 14.63sec, 43.14m, 3.85m, 56.34m, 4min 42.94sec).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES: Debbie Ferguson (Bahamas) 10.91sec.
200 METRES: Debbie Ferguson (Bahamas) 22.20sec.
400 METRES: Aliann Pompey (Ghana) 51.63sec.
800 METRES: Maria Mutola (Mozambique) 1min 57.35sec.
800 METRES PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR): Chantal Petitclerc (Canada) 1min 52.93sec.
1500 METRES: Kelly Holmes (England) 4min 5.99sec.
5000 METRES: Paula Radcliffe (England) 14min 31.42sec.
10,000 METRES: Salina Kosgei (Kenya) 31min 27.83sec.
MARATHON: Kerryn McCann (Australia) 2hr 30min 5sec.
20 KILOMETRES WALK: Jane Saville (Australia) 1hr 36min 34sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: Bahamas (Tamica Clarke, Sevatheda Fynes, Chandra Sturupp, Debbie Ferguson) 42.44sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: Australia (Lauren Hewitt 52.3sec, Cathy Freeman 51.5sec, Tamsyn Lewis 51.44sec, Jana Pittman 50.38sec) 3min 25.63sec. Note: Kylie Wheeler ran for Australia in the heats.
100 METRES HURDLES: Lacena Golding-Clark (Jamaica) 12.77sec.
400 METRES HURDLES: Jana Pittman (Australia) 54.40sec.
HIGH JUMP: Hestrie Cloete (South Africa) 1.96m. Note: Cloete née Storbeck.
POLE VAULT: Tatiana Grigorieva (Australia) 4.35m.
LONG JUMP: Elva Goulbourne (Jamaica) 6.70m.
TRIPLE JUMP: Ashia Hansen (England) 14.86m.
SHOT: Vivian Chukwuemeka (Nigeria) 17.53m.
DISCUS: Beatrice Faumuina (New Zealand) 60.83m.
HAMMER: Lorraine Shaw (England) 66.83m.
JAVELIN: Laverne Eve (Bahamas) 58.46m.

HEPTATHLON: Jane Jamieson (Australia) 6,059pts (14.44sec, 1.86m, 13.73m, 25.13sec wind-assisted; 5.84m, 48.01m, 2min 20.72sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Muhammad Hafiz Hashim (Malaysia).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Choong Ming Chan, Choon Eng Chew).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Tracey Hallam (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Li Peng Ang, Pek Siah Lim).

MIXED DOUBLES: England (Simon Archer, Joanne Goode).

MIXED TEAM: England (James Anderson, Simon Archer, Robert Blair, Anthony Clark, Mark Constable, Gail Emms, Joanne Goode, Tracey Hallam, Colin Haughton, Donna Kellogg, Julia Mann, Ella Miles, Nathan Robertson, Sara Sankey).

BOWLS - MEN

SINGLES: Robert Donnelly (South Africa).

PAIRS: Scotland (Alex Marshall, George Sneddon).

TRIPLES PARASPORT: Scotland (David Heddle, Ivan Prior, John Robertson).

FOURS: England (David Holt, Robert Newman, John Ottaway, Simon Skelton).

BOWLS - WOMEN

SINGLES: Ahmad Siti Zalina (Malaysia).

SINGLES PARASPORT (Blind): Ruth Small (England).

PAIRS: New Zealand (Joanna Edwards, Sharon Sims).

FOURS: England (Ellen Alexander, Carol Duckworth, Gill Mitchell, Shirley Page).

BOXING

LIGHT-FLYWEIGHT (48kg): Mohammed Ali Qamar (India).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Kennedy Kanyanta (Zambia).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Justin Kane (Australia).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Haider Ali (Pakistan).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Jamie Arthur (Wales).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (63.5kg): Darren Barker (England).

WELTERWEIGHT (67kg): Daniel Geale (Australia).

LIGHT-MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Jean Thenistor Pascal (Canada).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (75kg): Paul Miller (Australia).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Jegbefumere Bone Albert (Nigeria).

HEAVYWEIGHT (91kg): Jason Douglas (Canada).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (OVER 91kg): David Dolan (England).

CYCLING - MEN

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Chris Hoy (Scotland) 1min 1.726sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Ryan Bayley (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Bradley McGee (Australia) 4min 16.358sec.

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Graeme Brown, Peter Dawson, Mark Renshaw, Luke Roberts) 3min 59.583sec. Note: World record. Stephen Wooldridge rode for Australia in the qualifying round.

750 METRES TEAM SPRINT: Australia (Jobie Dajka, Sean Eadie, Ryan Bayley) 44.506sec.

20 KILOMETRES SCRATCH: Graeme Brown (Australia).

30 KILOMETRES POINTS: Greg Henderson (New Zealand) 35.

ROAD (187.2 kilometres): Stuart O'Grady (Australia) 4hr 43min 17sec.

INDIVIDUAL ROAD TIME-TRIAL (46.8 kilometres): Cadel Evans (Australia) 1hr 0min 53.50sec.

MOUNTAIN BIKE CROSS-COUNTRY (39 kilometres): Roland Green (Canada).

CYCLING – WOMEN

500 METRES TIME-TRIAL: Kerrie Meares (Australia) 35.084sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Kerrie Meares (Australia).

3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Sarah Ulmer (New Zealand) 3min 32.467sec.

25 KILOMETRES POINTS: Katherine Bates (Australia) 37pts.

ROAD (93.6 kilometres): Nicole Cooke (Wales) 2hr 35min 17sec.

INDIVIDUAL ROAD TIME-TRIAL (23.4 kilometres): Clara Hughes (Canada) 34min 51.66sec.

MOUNTAIN BIKE CROSS-COUNTRY (26 kilometres): Chrissy Redden (Canada).

GYMNASTICS - MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Kanukai Jackson (England) 55.025pts.

FLOOR: Kyle Shewfelt (Canada) 9.637pts.

POMMELED HORSE: Philippe Rizzo (Australia) 9.162pts.

RINGS: Herodotos Giorgallas (Cyprus), Steve Frew (Scotland) tied 9.462pts.

VAULT: Kyle Shewfelt (Canada) 9.443pts.

PARALLEL BARS: Philippe Rizzo (Australia) 9.375pts.

HORIZONTAL BAR: Philippe Rizzo (Australia) 9.512pts.

TEAM ALL-ROUND: England (Ross Brewer, Craig Heap, Kanukai Jackson, John Smethurst, Cuong Thoong) 162.075pts.

GYMNASTICS - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Kate Richardson (Canada) 36.750pts.

FLOOR: Sarah Lauren (Australia) 98.412pts.

VAULT: Allana Slater (Australia) 9.268pts.

ASYMMETRIC BARS: Beth Tweddle (England) 9.550pts.

BALANCE BEAM: Kate Richardson (Canada) 9.200pts.

TEAM ALL-ROUND: Australia (Alexandra Croak, Jacqui Dunn, Sarah Lauren, Stephanie Moorhouse, Allana Slater) 111.325pts.

HOCKEY - MEN

Australia (Dean Butler, Liam De Young, Jamie Dwyer, Tony Elder, Paul Gaudoin, Bevan George, Mark Hickman, Aaron Hopkins, Stephen Lambert, Brent Livermore, Michael McCann, Matthew Smith, Ben Taylor, Craig Victory, Scott Webster, Matthew Wells).

HOCKEY - WOMEN

India (Amandeep Kaur, Helen Mary Innocent, Jyoti Kullu, Kanti Baa, Mamta Kharab, Manjinder Kaur, Ngasepam Devi, Pritam Siwach, Saba Anjum, Sanggai Maimom, Sita Gussain, Suman Bala Saini, Sumrai Tete, Surin Masira, Surja Waikhom, Tingongleima Kshetremayum).

JUDO - MEN

60 KILOGRAMMES: Craig Fallon (England).

66 KILOGRAMMES: James Warren (England).

73 KILOGRAMMES: Tom Hill (Australia).

81 KILOGRAMMES: Graeme Randall (Scotland).

90 KILOGRAMMES: Winston Gordon (England).
100 KILOGRAMMES: Nicolas Gill (Canada).
OVER 100 KILOGRAMMES: Nacanieli Qerewaqa (Fiji).

JUDO - WOMEN

48 KILOGRAMMES: Carolyne Lepage (Canada).
52 KILOGRAMMES: Georgie Singleton (England).
57 KILOGRAMMES: Maria Pekli (Australia).
63 KILOGRAMMES: Karen Roberts (England).
70 KILOGRAMMES: Samantha Lowe (England).
78 KILOGRAMMES: Michelle Rogers (England).
OVER 78 KILOGRAMMES: Simone Callender (England).

NETBALL

Australia (Alison Broadbent, Catherine Cox, Jacqui Delaney, Liz Ellis, Kathryn Harby-Williams, Alex Hodge, Janine Ilitch, Sharelle McMahon, Nicole Richardson, Rebecca Sanders, Eloise Southby, Peta Squire). Note: Harby-Williams née Harby.

RUGBY UNION SEVENS

New Zealand (Craig De Goldi, Brad Fleming, Chris Masoe, Mils Muliaina, Craig Newby, Roger Randle, Bruce Reihana, Eric Rush, Rodney So'oialo, Kari Tenana, Anthony Tuitivake, Amasio Valence).

SHOOTING - MEN

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: David Calvert (Northern Ireland) 404.62pts.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: Northern Ireland (David Calvert, Martin Millar) 590.86pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Timothy Lowndes (Australia) 699.8pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Charan Singh (India) 1,251.5pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: England (Michael Babb, Neil Day) 1,189pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: Australia (Timothy Lowndes, Samuel Wieland) 2,297pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Asif Hossain Khan (Bangladesh) 691.9pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: India (Abhinav Bindra, Sameer Ambekar) 1,184pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Diamond (Australia) 148pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Michael Diamond, Adam Vella) 187pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Rajyavardhan Singh (India) 191pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: India (Ali Khan Moraad, Rajyavardhan Singh) 184pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Clayton Miller (Canada) 146pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Cyprus (Antonis Nicolaidis, Christos Kourtellas) 194pts.
50 METRES FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Gault (England) 657.5pts.
50 METRES FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Jaspal Rana, Samaresh Jung) 1,088pts.
STANDARD PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Jaspal Rana (India) 574pts.
STANDARD PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Jaspal Rana, Samaresh Jung) 1,130pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Jaspal Rana (India) 583pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Jaspal Rana, Mahaveer Singh) 1,150pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Metodi Igorov (Canada) 669.3pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Mukesh Kumar, Bhanwar Lal Dhaka) 1,141pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Gault (England) 675pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: England (Nick Baxter, Michael Gault) 1,140pts.

SHOOTING - WOMEN

50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Kim Frazer (Australia) 588pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: Wales (Ceri Dallimore, Johanne Brekke) 1,175pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Anjali Mandar Bhagwat (India) 678pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: India (Anjali Mandar Bhagwat, Raj Kumari) 1,140pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Anjali Mandar Bhagwat (India) 500.8pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: India (Anjali Mandar Bhagwat, Suma Shirur) 795pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Cynthia Meyer (Canada) 95pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Nessa Jenkins, Diane Reeves) 90pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Charlotte Kerwood (England) 141pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: New Zealand (Teresa Borrell, Nadine Stanton) 137pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Lauryn Ogilvie (Australia) 93pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Australia (Lauryn Ogilvie, Natalia Rahman) 95pts.
25 METRES PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Lalita Yauhleuskaya (Australia) 686.8pts.
25 METRES PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Linda Ryan, Lalita Yauhleuskaya) 1,150pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Lalita Yauhleuskaya (Australia) 479.4pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Canada (Kim Eagles, Dorothy Hare) 747pts.

SQUASH RACKETS

MEN'S SINGLES: Jonathon Power (Canada).
MEN'S DOUBLES: England (Peter Nicol, Lee Beachill). Note: Nicol won the men's singles for Scotland at the 1998 Games.
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Sarah Fitz-Gerald (Australia).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: New Zealand (Carol Owens, Leilani Rorani).
MIXED DOUBLES: New Zealand (Glen Wilson, Leilani Rorani).

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Roland Schoeman (South Africa) 22.33sec.
50 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Ben Austin (Australia) 27.59sec. Note: Austin set World record 27.48sec in heats.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Ian Thorpe (Australia) 48.73sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Ben Austin (Australia) 1min 0.21sec. Note: World record for category of disability S8. Other World records for different categories of disability were set by David Roberts (Wales) 1min 2.50sec (S7), Benoit Huot (Canada) 53.76sec (S10) and Scott Field (South Africa) 55.03sec (S13).
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Ian Thorpe (Australia) 1min 44.71sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Ian Thorpe (Australia) 3min 40.08sec. Note: World record.
1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Grant Hackett (Australia) 14min 54.29sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Ashley Callus 49.42sec, Todd Pearson 49.25sec, Grant Hackett 49.49sec, Ian Thorpe 48.26sec) 3min 16.42sec. Note: Adam Pine and Leon Dunne swam for Australia in the heats.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Grant Hackett 1min 46.61sec, Leon Dunne 1min 50.45sec, Jason Cram 1min 49.81sec, Ian Thorpe 1min 44.82sec) 7min 11.69sec.
50 METRES BACKSTROKE: Matt Welsh (Australia) 25.65sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Matt Welsh (Australia) 54.72sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: James Goddard (England) 1min 59.83sec.
50 METRES BREAST-STROKE: James Gibson (England) 27.72sec. Note: Gibson set Games record 27.56 in semi-finals.

100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Adam Whitehead (England) 1min 1.13sec. Note: Whitehead set Games record 1min 1.05sec in semi-finals.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Jim Piper (Australia) 2min 13.10sec.
50 METRES BUTTERFLY: Geoff Huegill (Australia) 23.57sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Geoff Huegill (Australia) 52.36sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Justin Norris (Australia) 1min 56.95sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Justin Norris (Australia) 2min 1.32sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Justin Norris (Australia) 4min 16.95sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Matt Welsh, Jim Piper, Geoff Huegill, Ian Thorpe) 3min 36.05sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Pete Waterfield (England) 690.30pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 404.55pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 709.59pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING – WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Alison Sheppard (Scotland) 24.76sec. Note: Sheppard set Games record 24.68sec in heats.
50 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 29.68sec. Note: du Toit set World record 29.53sec for category of disability S9 in heats.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Jodie Henry (Australia) 55.45sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 1min 2.93sec. Note: du Toit set World record 1min 2.83sec for category of disability S9 in heats.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Karen Pickering (England) 1min 59.69sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Rebecca Cooke (England) 4min 9.49sec.
800 METRES FREESTYLE: Rebecca Cooke (England) 8min 28.54sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Alice Mills 55.53sec, Jodie Henry 54.43sec, Petria Thomas 55.26sec, Sarah Ryan 55.19sec) 3min 40.41sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: England (Karen Legg 2min 0.62sec, Georgina Lee 2min 0.31sec, Joanna Fergus 2min 1.05sec, Karen Pickering 1min 59.41sec) 8min 1.39sec.
50 METRES BACKSTROKE: Dyana Calub (Australia) 28.98sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sarah Price (England) 1min 1.06sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sarah Price (England) 2min 10.58sec.
50 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Zoe Baker (England) 30.60sec. Note: Baker set World record 30.57sec in heats.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 1min 8.74sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 2min 25.93sec.
50 METRES BUTTERFLY: Petria Thomas (Australia) 26.66sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Petria Thomas (Australia) 58.57sec. Note: Thomas set Games record 58.45sec in heats.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Petria Thomas (Australia) 2min 8.40sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Kirsty Leigh Coventry (Zimbabwe) 2min 14.53sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Jennifer Reilly (Australia) 4min 43.59sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Dyana Calub 1min 2.35sec, Leisel Jones 1min 8.67sec, Petria Thomas 58.53sec, Jodie Henry 54.15sec) 4min 3.70sec.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Loudy Tourky (Australia) 538.65pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Irina Lashko (Australia) 302.82pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Irina Lashko (Australia) 594.51pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SOLO: Claire Carver Dias (Canada) 92.834pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, DUET: Canada (Claire Carver Dias, Fanny Létourneau) 94.417pts.

TABLE TENNIS

MEN'S SINGLES: Segun Moses Toriola (Nigeria).

MEN'S DOUBLES: England (Andrew Baggaley, Gareth Herbert).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Chunli Li (New Zealand).

WOMEN'S SINGLES PARASPORT: Sue Gilroy (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Singapore (Jun Hong Jing, Jia Wei Li).

MIXED DOUBLES: Singapore (Yong Jun Duan, Jia Wei Li).

MEN'S TEAM: England (Andrew Baggaley, Gareth Herbert, Alex Perry, Matthew Syed, Terry Young).

WOMEN'S TEAM: Singapore (Jia Wei Li, Jun Hong Jing, Paey Fem Sharon Tan, Xue Ling Zhiang).

TRIATHLON - MEN

Simon Whitfield (Canada) 1hr 51min 57.94sec (1.5 kilometres swimming, 18min 10.0sec; 40 kilometres cycling, 1hr 2min 4.9sec; 10 kilometres running, 30min 58.24sec).

TRIATHLON – WOMEN

Carol Montgomery (Canada) 2hr 3min 17.86sec (1.5 kilometres swimming, 19min 7.4sec; 40 kilometres cycling, 1hr 7min 53.8sec; 10 kilometres running, 35min 23.86sec).

WEIGHT-LIFTING - MEN

56 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia) 115kg.

Jerk - Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia) 145kg.

Total - Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia) 260kg.

62 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Yourik Sarkisian (Australia) 125kg.

Jerk - Yourik Sarkisian (Australia) 152.5kg.

Total - Yourik Sarkisian (Australia) 277.5kg.

69 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Tientcheu Dabaya (Cameroon) 140kg.

Jerk - Tientcheu Dabaya (Cameroon) 170kg.

Total - Tientcheu Dabaya (Cameroon) 310kg.

77 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Damian Brown (Australia) 147.5kg.

Jerk - Satheesha Rai (India) 175kg.

Total - Satheesha Rai (India) 317.5kg.

85 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - David Matam Matam (Cameroon) 155kg.

Jerk - David Matam Matam (Cameroon) 185kg.

Total - David Matam Matam (Cameroon) 340kg.

94 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Alex Karapetyn (Australia) 167.5kg.

Jerk - Alex Karapetyn (Australia) 197.5kg.

Total - Alex Karapetyn (Australia) 365kg.

105 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Delroy McQueen (England) 165kg.

Jerk - Delroy McQueen (England) 210kg.

Total - Delroy McQueen (England) 375kg.

OVER 105 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Giles Greenwood (England) 180kg.

Jerk - Nigel Avery (New Zealand) 215kg.
Total - Nigel Avery (New Zealand) 390kg.

PARASPORT:

Bench Press - Solomon Amarakuo (Nigeria) 235kg.

WEIGHT-LIFTING - WOMEN

48 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Kunjarani Devi Nameirakpam (India) 75kg.
Jerk - Kunjarani Devi Nameirakpam (India) 92.5kg.
Total - Kunjarani Devi Nameirakpam (India) 167.5kg.

53 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Sanamacha Chanu (India) 82.5kg
Jerk - Sanamacha Chanu (India) 100kg.
Total - Sanamacha Chanu (India) 182.5kg.

58 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Michaela Breeze (Wales) 87.5kg.
Jerk - Maryse Turcotte (Canada) 115kg.
Total - Maryse Turcotte (Canada) 202.5kg.

63 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Pascale Dorcelus (Canada) 87.5kg.
Jerk - Pratima Kumari (India) 117.5kg.
Total - Pratima Kumari (India) 205kg.

69 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Madeleine Yamechi (Cameroon) 100kg.
Jerk - Madeleine Yamechi (Cameroon) 130kg.
Total - Madeleine Yamechi (Cameroon) 230kg.

75 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Shailaja Pujari (India) 97.5kg.
Jerk - Shailaja Pujari ((India) 125kg.
Total - Shailaja Pujari (India) 222.5kg.

OVER 75 KILOGRAMMES:

Snatch - Caroline Pileggi (Australia) 100kg.
Jerk - Reanna Solomon (Nauru) 127.5kg.
Total - Reanna Solomon (Nauru) 227.5kg,

WRESTLING

55 KILOGRAMMES: Krishan Kumar (India).
60 KILOGRAMMES: Guivi Sissaouri (Canada).
66 KILOGRAMMES: Ramesh Kumar (India).
74 KILOGRAMMES: Daniel Igali (Canada).
84 KILOGRAMMES: Nicholas Ugoalah (Canada).
96 KILOGRAMMES: Dean Schmeichel (Canada).
120 KILOGRAMMES: Palwinder Singh Cheema (India).

2002 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	82	62	63	207
England	54	52	60	166
Canada	31	41	46	118
India	30	22	17	69
South Africa	9	20	17	46
New Zealand	11	13	21	45
Malaysia	7	9	18	34
Wales	6	13	12	31
Scotland	6	8	16	30
Nigeria	5	3	11	19
Jamaica	4	6	7	17
Kenya	4	8	4	16
Nauru	2	5	8	15
Singapore	4	2	7	13
Cameroon	9	1	2	12
Bahamas	4	0	4	8
Pakistan	1	3	4	8
Namibia	1	0	4	5
Northern Ireland	2	2	1	5
Cyprus	2	1	1	4
Botswana	0	2	1	3
Fiji	1	1	1	3
Samoa	0	1	2	3
Zambia	1	1	1	3
Tanzania	1	0	1	2
Uganda	0	2	0	2
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	2
Bangladesh	1	0	0	1
Barbados	0	0	1	1
Cayman Islands	0	0	1	1
Ghana	0	0	1	1
Guyana	1	0	0	1
Lesotho	0	0	1	1
Malta	0	0	1	1
Mauritius	0	0	1	1
Mozambique	1	0	0	1
St Kitts & Nevis	1	0	0	1
St Lucia	0	0	1	1
Trinidad & Tobago	0	1	0	1

XVIII. Commonwealth Games

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

15-26 March, 2006

71 countries, 4,049 competitors. 16 sports: Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics (Artistic & Rhythmic), Hockey, Netball, Rugby Union Sevens, Shooting, Squash Rackets, Swimming & Diving, Table Tennis, Triathlon, Weight-lifting.

You should see our golden playing fields!

Nick Nieland, now 34 years old, had been waiting on the side-lines for a long time while his famed javelin-throwing team-mate, Steve Backley, won medals galore, and often golden ones. But now Backley was retired, and Nieland – 3rd four years before – seized his chance at an opportune moment because he was one of only six English athletes to win their events. There the comparisons with the illustrious Backley had to end; Nieland's winning throw was a full six metres short of Backley's when he had acquired his third title in Manchester. Even so, Nieland's coach would have been satisfied with his protégé's performance. It was Backley himself.

The sad fact was that a prolonged Golden Era of British athletics – the era of Coe, Cram, Ovett and then of Christie, Jackson, Edwards, Backley, Holmes, Gunnell, Lewis and so many others – was over, and even at Commonwealth level, where only 13 Games records were beaten, the home countries were falling behind. Australia, admittedly with domestic and seasonal advantage, won 14 athletics golds, including most notably Jana Pittman in the 400 metres hurdles, Kym Howe-Nadin in the pole vault, Bronwyn Thompson in the long jump and Nathan Deakes once again in both walks. Deakes, who was to set a world record of 3hr 35min 47sec for the 50 kilometres walk the following December, has an unusual profile in this age of professional athletics, holding a degree in commerce and law from the University of Canberra. The director of the Australian Institute of Sport, where Deakes had also studied, had said admiringly of him, “He has such a perspective and a balance for life outside of sport”.

Most exciting of all for the packed and unashamedly partisan crowds in the stadium at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, Kerryn McCann, now a 39-year-old mother of two, outsprinted Kenya's Hellen Cheronon in the closing 400 metres on the track to keep her marathon title. Two Games records still survived from 1974 – those for the men's 1500 metres and marathon. The 1500 metres, won in a time slower by some six seconds (representing 40 yards or so) than 32 years before, went to Nick Willis, who would have taken more encouragement from the fact that he was only New Zealand's third Commonwealth Games champion at the distance in succession to Jack Lovelock and Peter Snell, both of them also Olympic gold-medalists. The marathon went to a Tanzanian, Samson Ramadhani, 2min 17sec slower than Ian Thompson had been in 1974, and this was equivalent to more than half-a-mile's difference. The fortunes of Willis and Ramadhani in their respective events were to differ somewhat at the 2008 Olympics: Willis 3rd, Ramadhani 55th.

In addition to Ramadhani, Africans were prominent throughout the range of distance events for both men and women in Melbourne, as was their custom, and there was an outstanding win for the 19-year-old Kenyan, Augustine Choge, at 5000 metres, who was nevertheless given a fine race by Melbourne's own Craig Mottram, who the previous year had placed 3rd in the World Championships. Both men beat 13 minutes – the mark of true world-class – and the next three, all from Africa, were inside the previous Games record which had also lasted since 1974. Mottram actually ran the closing 1500 metres faster than he managed in the 1500

metres final five days later, but he did have an excuse as he was knocked over in the latter race. In the women's events Kenyans were the title-winners at 5000 and 10,000 metres and a Ugandan, Dorcas Inzikuru, who was the World champion, took the inaugural steeplechase gold medal – Uganda's first athletics title ever at the Games, though matched by Boniface Kiprop in the men's 10,000 metres three days later.

Some of the lesser nations had their share of modest success on the track as various national records were set for the world's largest coral island, Niue, and for Antigua, Bermuda, Botswana, Grenada, Guyana, Kiribati, Malawi, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Swaziland and the Turks & Caicos Islands. Could anyone, though, have been happier than one of the oldest competitors at the Games, Errol Duncan, aged 45, who eventually arrived home 14th and last in the marathon almost 20 minutes behind the man in 13th place but still set a national record for the tropical South Atlantic island of St Helena? His mountainous homeland, renowned as the place of exile and death for Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, is no more than 15km in length and would therefore require almost three laps back and forth to complete a marathon distance.

Unfortunately, the athletics events ended on a discordant note which detracted somewhat from the "Friendly Games" image when the England team in the women's 4 x 400 metres relay was disqualified after winning by a dozen or so metres from Australia. In the strictest technical sense the decision was correct – the English runner on stage three, Natasha Danvers-Smith, should have stood in the third position from the inside to await the incoming Nicola Sanders but went to the second position instead. Yet no other team was impeded, and even the local media afterwards criticised Tamsyn Lewis, the Australian runner waiting alongside Danvers-Smith, for initiating the protest.

The Melbourne organisers, in naturally ebullient style, had not been shy in extolling in advance their city's suitability for the Games. One of their more modest claims was that "it is impossible to imagine a better host". Melbourne, they said, had been called the "World's Most Liveable City", though they didn't say by who. Among the numerous indisputable sporting credentials was that cricket's first ever Test match had been played in the city in 1877, when Australia beat England by 45 runs (and achieved exactly the same result in the Centenary Test there in 1977), and that the first Olympic Games outside Europe or the USA had been held there in 1956. Grand Slam tennis and Formula One motor-racing also figured on the city's annual calendar of spectacular events and the world road cycling championships were scheduled there for 2010. The enticing title of the lavish brochure and CD Rom in Melbourne's pre-Games publicity package was "You should see our playing fields!", and a record 4,000-plus competitors – 10 times more than there had been in Hamilton in 1930 – took up the offer.

It might have been hard to bear for avid English supporters, but the Aussies were proved right in all their presumption. Yet again, as they had at every Games since 1990, it was Australia which topped the medals table – in the ascendancy not only in athletics but also, of course, in swimming, and in basketball, cycling, hockey, netball, triathlon and weight-lifting, accumulating almost twice as many medals as England. A quarter of the Australian tally of 221 came in swimming alone, headed by Leisel Jones, who won all her three breast-stroke finals and figured in two world records, and even the 6ft 4in (1.93m) tall Ryan Pini, of Papua New Guinea, who struck rare gold for a "minor" nation, trained in Brisbane. Though 30 Games records were set, the women's 800 metres freestyle best still stood from 1978 – to an Australian, naturally!

Sisterly combinations figured prominently in the host country's successes, and it seemed to be a distinct advantage if one of the sisters was called "Natalie". The squash rackets doubles was won by Natalie and Rachael Grinham ("We know each other so well", explained Rachael afterwards), and the two of them took gold and silver in the singles, while in track cycling Natalie and Kathy Bates each won a title and Anna Meares took the time-trial with Kerrie Meares, who had set the Games record for the event in 2002, in 3rd place. In the 20 kilometres walk yet another Australian twosome, Jane and Natalie Saville, became the first pair of sisters to finish 1-2 in a Games athletics event; Jane had also won in Manchester, but Natalie had been 4th on that occasion.

Yet it was none of Australia's numerous champions who earned the David Dixon Award as the outstanding competitor in any sport. This went, instead, to the Indian pistol marksman, Samaresh Jung, aged 36, who won no less than five titles either as an individual or as one of a pair and was no doubt already looking ahead to celebrate his 40th birthday with even more successes at the next Games in his home town of New Delhi. His team-mate, Gagan Narang, collected only one less gold, and India altogether had 16 wins in men's and women's shooting events and also figured strongly in weight-lifting, with nine titles to Australia's 11. There was a rare occurrence in the men's 105kg division of this last-named sport as a father and son, both named Sam Pera, competed for the Cook Islands, placing 9th and 10th. Sam Jnr, 17 years old, told reporters afterwards, "Mum said she'd have preferred me to have won".

In universal terms some of the team events provided as high a level of competition as any of the sports in Melbourne. Australia's women basketball players, 3rd-ranking in the world to the USA and Russia, again beat New Zealand for the title, whereas in netball Australia lost to New Zealand (the reigning world champions), who were led by the 1.88m tall Irene Van Dyk, described as a "goal-shooting dynamo" and successful with 300 of her 324 attempts at the net. The winning captain, Adine Wilson, cheerfully remarked after the final, "This smile won't leave my face for a long time".

Australia and New Zealand also took all six medals in the immensely arduous triathlon event, which required the competitors to complete 1500 metres swimming, 40 kilometres cycling and 10 kilometres running – and all this without a break, other than to hastily strip off wet-suits, clamber on to their bicycles and then finally change into running-shoes! The standard was of the very highest order as Bradley Kahlefeldt, winner of the men's event for Australia, was ranked No.1 in the world and Bevan Docherty, of New Zealand, took the silver, as he had in the 2004 Olympics. The women's title went to another Australian, Emma Snowsill, who had won the world title the year before. Only 16 seconds separated the three leading men after almost 1 hour 50 minutes of competition, and the women's race was decided in the closing 10-kilometre run when Snowsill came through from 8th place.

Malaysia maintained a pre-eminent position in badminton, taking four of the six gold medals on offer, and had two further golds in bowls. The most prolific champion of the Games in purely golden terms was the rhythmic gymnast, Alexandra Orlando, who although still aged only 18 had 13 years' experience of the sport and won all five individual titles and was in the winning Canadian team. She thus went one better than the previous champions in this sport of 1998 and 2002. Furthermore, she equalled the record for the greatest number of titles acquired at a single Games which had first been set by a fellow-countryman, Graham Smith, in swimming in 1974 and then equalled in the same sport by the Australians, Susie O'Neill and Ian Thorpe. Miss Orlando, of Italian parentage, was used to "clean sweeps" as she had won every event at the Canadian championships each year from 2003 to 2006 and would do so again in 2007.

The Scots had their best Games yet, with 11 gold medals in five different sports – bowls, boxing, cycling, shooting and swimming – and six of those were earned in the pool alone by just three swimmers as there were double victories for David Carry, Gregor Tait and Caitlin McClatchey. Another of the teams from the home countries had its share of success on a more modest scale, with a single gold medal, but if comparisons were to be made on the basis of Games golds per head of the population the 80,000 residents of the Isle of Man would win hands down. The 11 Scottish golds worked out at one for every 480,000 or so people. The Manx victory in the 20-kilometre track cycle race was by Mark Cavendish, who in the years to come would be the most prolific sprint-finish winner in professional road-racing.

So to the closing ceremony, and a dazzling display by singers and dancers from the host country for 2010, India, highlighted by the dramatic appearance of the former Miss World, Aishwarya Rai, now a star of the “Bollywood” film industry. The city fathers of New Delhi, with its population of 13.8 million, might not be so foolhardy as to challenge Melbourne’s grandiose claim of being “the most liveable” of cities, but it could be guaranteed that those Games to come four years hence would not be like any other in the previous eight decades – a “Great Games for Sure”, as the organisers were confidently predicting. Exotic, they surely would be, but great? Time would tell.

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 2006 GAMES

ATHLETICS - MEN

100 METRES (20 March): Asafa Powell (Jamaica) 10.03sec.
100 METRES PARASPORT (T12): Adekunle Adesoji (Nigeria) 11.07sec.
200 METRES (23 March): Omar Brown (Jamaica) 20.47sec.
200 METRES PARASPORT (T46): Heath Francis (Australia) 22.96sec.
400 METRES (22 March): John Steffensen (Australia) 44.73sec.
800 METRES: Alex Kipchirchir (Kenya) 1min 45.88sec.
1500 METRES: Nick Willis (New Zealand) 3min 38.49sec.
5000 METRES: Augustine Choge (Kenya) 12min 56.41sec.
10,000 METRES: Boniface Kiproop (Uganda) 27min 50.99sec.
3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: Ezekiel Kemboi (Kenya) 8min 18.17sec.
MARATHON: Samson Ramadhani (Tanzania) 2hr 11min 29sec.
20 KILOMETRES WALK: Nathan Deakes (Australia) 1hr 19min 55sec.
50 KILOMETRES WALK: Nathan Deakes (Australia) 3hr 42min 53sec.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: Jamaica (Michael Frater, Ainsley Waugh, Chris Williams, Asafa Powell) 38.36sec. Note: Willie Smith ran for Jamaica in the heats.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: Australia (John Steffensen 45.1sec, Chris Troode 45.1sec, Mark Ormrod 45.77sec, Clinton Hill 44.93sec) 3min 0.93sec. Note: Sean Wroe ran for Australia in the heats.
110 METRES HURDLES: Maurice Wignall (Jamaica) 13.26sec.
400 METRES HURDLES: Louis van Zyl (South Africa) 48.05sec.
HIGH JUMP: Mark Boswell (Canada) 2.26m.
POLE VAULT: Steve Hooker (Australia) 5.80m.
LONG JUMP: Ignisious Gaisah (Ghana) 8.20m.
TRIPLE JUMP: Phillips Idowu (England) 17.45m.
SHOT: Janus Robberts (South Africa) 19.76m.
DISCUS: Scott Martin (Australia) 63.48m.
DISCUS PARASPORT (Seated): Tanto Campbell (Jamaica) 34.40m
HAMMER: Stuart Rendell (Australia) 77.53m.
JAVELIN: Nick Nieland (England) 80.10m.
DECATHLON: Dean Macey (England) 8,143pts (11.17sec, 7.28m, 15.83m, 2.08m, 49.63sec; 14.94sec, 46.76m, 4.70m, 56.93m, 4min 34.22sec).

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES: Sherri-Ann Brooks (Jamaica) 11.19sec.

100 METRES PARASPORT (T37): Elizabeth McIntosh (Australia) 14.38sec.

200 METRES: Sherone Simpson (Jamaica) 22.59sec.

400 METRES: Christine Ohuruogu (England) 50.28sec.

800 METRES: Janeth Jepkosgei (Kenya) 1min 57.88sec.

800 METRES PARASPORT (T54): Chantal Petitclerc (Canada) 1min 48.98sec.

1500 METRES: Lisa Dobriskey (England) 4min 6.21sec.

5000 METRES: Isabella Ochichi (Kenya) 14min 57.84sec.

10,000 METRES: Lucy Wangui (Kenya) 31min 29.66sec.

3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: Dorcus Inzikuru (Uganda) 9min 19.51sec.

MARATHON: Kerryn McCann (Australia) 2hr 30min 54sec.

20 KILOMETRES WALK: Jane Saville (Australia) 1hr 32min 46sec.

4 x 100 METRES RELAY: Jamaica (Daniele Browning, Sherri-Ann Brooks, Peta-Gaye Dowdie, Sherone Simpson) 43.10sec.

4 x 400 METRES RELAY: Australia (Jana Pittman 51.8sec, Caitlin Willis 53.0sec, Tamsyn Lewis 52.4sec, Rosemary Howard 51.5sec) 3min 28.66sec.

100 METRES HURDLES: Brigitte Foster-Hylton (Jamaica) 12.76sec.

400 METRES HURDLES: Jana Pittman (Australia) 53.82sec.

HIGH JUMP: Anika Smit (South Africa) 1.91m.

POLE VAULT: Kym Howe-Nadin (Australia) 4.62m.

LONG JUMP: Bronwyn Thompson (Australia) 6.97m.

TRIPLE JUMP: Trecia Smith (Jamaica) 14.39m.

SHOT: Valerie Vili (New Zealand) 19.66m.

SHOT PARASPORT (Seated): Nideka Iyiazi (Nigeria) 6.78m.

DISCUS: Elizna Naude (South Africa) 61.55m.

HAMMER: Brooke Billett (Australia) 67.90m.

JAVELIN: Sunette Viljoen (South Africa) 60.72m.

HEPTATHLON: Kelly Sotherton (England) 6,396 pts (13.29sec, 1.85m, 13.74m, 23.56sec; 6.51m, 32.04m, 2min 11.08sec).

BADMINTON

MEN'S SINGLES: Choong Wei Li (Malaysia).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Choong Ming Chan, Kien Keat Koo).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Tracey Hallam (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Malaysia (Eei Hui Chin, Pei Tty Wong).

MIXED DOUBLES: England (Nathan Robertson, Gail Emms).

MIXED TEAM: Malaysia (Choong Hann Wong, Choong Ming Chan, Choong Wei Li, Eei Hui Chin, Julia Wong Pei Xian, Kien Keat Koo, Mew Choo Wong, Pei Tty Wong, Sock Ai Ooi, Tan Fook Chong).

BASKETBALL

MEN: Australia (C.J. Bruton, Bradley Davidson, Russell Hinder, Jacob Holmes, Luke Kendall, Sam Mackinnon, Neil Mottram, Brad Newley, Paul Rogers, Anthony Ronaldson, Jason Smith, Mark Worthington).

WOMEN: Australia (Tully Bevilaqua, Jae Cross, Hollie Grima, Jacinta Hamilton, Katrina Hibbert, Lauren Jackson, Emily McNerny, Erin Phillips, Belinda Snell, Laura Summerton, Jenny Whittle, Carly Wilson).

BOWLS

MEN'S SINGLES: Kelvin Kerkow (Australia).

MEN'S PAIRS: Scotland (Paul Foster, Alex Marshall).

MEN'S TRIPLES: Australia (Mark Casey, Bill Cornelis, Wayne Turley).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Siti Zalina Ahmad (Malaysia).

WOMEN'S PAIRS: Australia (Lynsey Armitage, Karen Murphy).

WOMEN'S TRIPLES: Malaysia (Nor Hashimah Ismail, Arshad Azlina, Nor Iryani Azmi).

BOXING

LIGHT-LYWEIGHT (48kg): Jafet Uutoni (Namibia).

FLYWEIGHT (51kg): Don Broadhurst (England).

BANTAMWEIGHT (54kg): Akhil Kumar (India).

FEATHERWEIGHT (57kg): Stephen Smith (England).

LIGHTWEIGHT (60kg): Frankie Gavin (England).

LIGHT-WELTERWEIGHT (64kg): James Russan (England).

WELTERWEIGHT (69kg): Bongani Mwelase (South Africa).

MIDDLEWEIGHT (71kg): Jarrod Fletcher (Australia).

LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT (81kg): Kenneth Anderson (Scotland).

HEAVYWEIGHT (91kg): Bradley Pitt (Australia).

SUPER-HEAVYWEIGHT (OVER 91kg): David Price (England).

CYCLING - MEN

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Ben Kersten (Australia) 1min 1.815sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Ryan Bayley (Australia).

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Paul Manning (England) 4min 23.799sec.

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: England (Steve Cummings, Rob Hayles, Paul Manning, Chris Newton) 4min 2.699sec.

KEIRIN: Ryan Bayley (Australia).

750 METRES TEAM SPRINT: Scotland (Ross Edgar, Chris Hoy, Craig Maclean) 44.282sec.

20 KILOMETRES SCRATCH: Mark Cavendish (Isle of Man) 23min 5.540sec.

40 KILOMETRES POINTS: Sean Finning (Australia) 137.

ROAD (166.95 kilometres): Matthew Hayman (Australia) 4hr 5min 9sec.

INDIVIDUAL ROAD TIME-TRIAL (40 kilometres): Nathan O'Neill (Australia) 48min 37.29sec.

MOUNTAIN BIKE CROSS-COUNTRY (53 kilometres): Liam Killeen (England).

CYCLING - WOMEN

500 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Anna Meares (Australia) 34.326sec. Note: Anna Meares is the sister of Kerrie Meares, who won this event and the Sprint at the 2002 Games.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Victoria Pendleton (England).

3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Katie Mactier (Australia) 3min 35.196sec.

25 KILOMETRES POINTS: Katherine Bates (Australia) 30.

ROAD (100.17 kilometres): Natalie Bates (Australia) 2hr 56min 8sec. Note: Natalie Bates is the sister of Katherine Bates, who won the Points race at the 2002 and 2006 Games.

INDIVIDUAL ROAD TIME-TRIAL (29 kilometres): Oenone Wood (Australia) 37min 40.87sec.

MOUNTAIN BIKE CROSS-COUNTRY (39.6 kilometres): Marie-Hélène Premont (Canada).

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Joshua Jefferis (Australia) 89.450pts.

FLOOR: Adam Wong (Canada) 14.975pts.

POMMELED HORSE: Louis Smith (England) 15.775pts.

RINGS: Joshua Jefferis (Australia) 15.825pts.

VAULT: Kyle Shewfelt (Canada) 16.337pts.

PARALLEL BARS: Grant Golding (Canada) 15.450pts.

HORIZONTAL BAR: Damian Istria (Australia) 15.600pts.

TEAM: Canada (Nathan Gafuik, Grant Golding, David Kikuchi, Kyle Shewfelt, Adam Wong) 269.750pts.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) - WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Chloe Sims (Australia) 57.100pts.

FLOOR: Hollie Dykes (Australia) 14.650pts.

VAULT: Imogen Cairns (England) 14.325pts.
ASSYMETRIC BARS: Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs (Canada) 15.100pts.
BALANCE BEAM: Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs (Canada) 14.950pts.
TEAM: Australia (Ashleigh Brennan, Hollie Dykes, Naomi Russell, Monette Russo) 172.600pts.

GYMNASTICS (RHYTHMIC)

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Alexandra Orlando (Canada) 54.625pts.
ROPE: Alexandra Orlando (Canada) 13.575pts.
BALL: Alexandra Orlando (Canada) 14.850pts.
CLUBS: Alexandra Orlando (Canada) 14.200pts.
RIBBON: Alexandra Orlando (Canada) 13.775pts.
TEAM: Canada (Carly Orava, Alexandra Orlando, Yana Tsikaridze) 128.775pts.

HOCKEY

MEN: Australia (Travis Brooks, Dean Butler, Luke Doerner, Liam De Young, Jamie Dwyer, Nathan Eglington, Bevan George, Robert Hammond, Aaron Hopkins, Mark Knowles, Stephen Lambert, Brent Livermore, Michael McCann, Stephen Mowlam, Grant Schubert, Matthew Wells).
WOMEN: Australia (Nicole Arnold, Wendy Beattie, Madonna Blyth, Toni Cronk, Suzanne Faulkner, Emily Halliday, Kate Hollywood, Nicole Hudson, Rachel Imison, Kobie McGurk, Rebecca Sanders, Angela Skirving, Karen Smith, Sarah Taylor, Melanie Twitt, Kim Walker). Note: Hudson nee Mott, Rebecca Sanders is not the competitor of the same name who won gold medals in netball in 1998 and 2002.

NETBALL

New Zealand (Belinda Colling, Vilimaina Davu, Leana De Bruin, Temepara George, Laura Longman, Anna Rowberry, Anna Scarlett, Jessica Tuki, Solonaima Tutaia, Irene Van Dyk, Casey Williams, Adine Wilson).

RUGBY UNION SEVENS

New Zealand (Soseni Anesi, Joshua Blackie, Tamati Ellison, Ross Everiss, Nigel Hunt, Tafai Ioasa, Cory Jane, Tenerau Latimer, Kevin McQuoid, Liam Messam, Lote Raikabula, Alando Soakai, Nyjoe Taumoli, Gordon Tietjens, Onosa'i Tololima-Aura'a, Amasio Valence).

SHOOTING - MEN

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Bruce Scott (Australia) 255.38pts.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: England (Glyn Barnett, Paraq Patel) 594.87pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: David Phelps (Wales) 698.3pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Gagan Narang (India) 1,261.4pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: England (Mike Babb, Chris Hector) 1,182pts.
50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: India (Gagan Narang, Abhinav Bindra) 2,287pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Gagan Narang (India) 698.9pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: India (Gagan Narang, Abhinav Bindra) 1,189pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Graeme Ede (New Zealand) 138pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Michael Diamond, Adam Vella) 189pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Rayjavardhan Singh (India) 181pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Russell Mark, Craig Trembath) 186pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Georgios Achilleos (Cyprus) 148pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Cyprus (Georgios Achilleos, Antonis Nicolaidis) 190pts.
50 METRES FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Samaresh Jung (India) 650.2pts.
50 METRES FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (David Moore, Daniel Repacholi) 1,086pts.
STANDARD PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Michael Gault (England) 568pts.
STANDARD PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Samaresh Jung, Ronak Pandit) 1,139pts.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Vijay Kumar (India) 778.2pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Vijay Kumar, Pemba Tamang) 1,134pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: On Shaw Ming (Singapore) 578pts.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Samaresh Jung, Jaspal Rana) 1,150pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Samaresh Jung (India) 685.4pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Samaresh Jung, Vivek Singh) 1,154pts.

SHOOTING - WOMEN

RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Sheena Sharp (Scotland) 586pts.
RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Anuja Jung (India) 670.7pts.
RIFLE PRONE, PAIRS: Scotland (Susan Jackson, Sheena Sharp) 1,166pts.
RIFLE THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: England (Louise Minett, Becky Spicer) 1,143pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Tejaswani Sawant (India) 500.6pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: India (Tejaswani Sawant, Avneet Kaur Sidhu) 791pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Diane Swanton (South Africa) 92pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Suzanne Balogh, Desevie Baynes) 87pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Charlotte Kerwood (England) 106pts.
DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: England (Charlotte Kerwood, Rachel Parish) 134pts.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Andri Eleftheriou (Cyprus) 89pts.
SKEET, PAIRS: Australia (Laurn Mark, Natalia Rahman) 90pts.
25 METRES PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Lalita Yauhleuskaya (Australia) 781.5pts.
25 METRES PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Saroja Kumari Jhuthu, Sushma Rana) 1,140pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Lalita Yauhleuskaya (Australia) 484.8pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: Australia (Lalita Yauhleuskaya, Dina Aspandiyarova) 770pts.

SQUASH RACKETS

MEN'S SINGLES: Peter Nicol (England). Note: Nicol won the singles title for Scotland in 1998.
MEN'S DOUBLES: England (Lee Beachill, Peter Nicol).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Natalie Grinham (Australia).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Australia (Natalie Grinham, Rachael Grinham). Note: Natalie and Rachael Grinham are sisters.
MIXED DOUBLES: Australia (Joseph Kneipp, Natalie Grinham).

SWIMMING & DIVING - MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Roland Schoeman (South Africa) 22.03sec.
50 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Matthew Cowdrey (Australia) 26.06sec. Note: World record.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Simon Burnett (England) 48.57sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Matthew Cowdrey (Australia) 56.73sec. Note: World record. Benoit Huot (Canada) also set World record 53.22sec for his category.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Ross Davenport (England) 1min 47.29sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: David Carry (Scotland) 3min 48.17sec.
1500 METRES FREESTYLE: David Davies (Wales) 14min 57.63sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: South Africa (Lyndon Ferris 48.65sec, Ryk Neethling 48.43sec, Roland Schoeman 49.44sec, Johannes Zandberg 48.45sec) 3min 14.97sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: England (Simon Burnett 1min 47.57sec, Ross Davenport 1min 50.01sec, Dean Milwain 1min 49.85sec, Alexander Scotcher 1min 46.71sec) 7min 14.14sec.
50 METRES BACKSTROKE: Matthew Clay (England) 25.04sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Liam Tancock (England) 54.53sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Gregor Tait (Scotland) 1min 58.65sec.
50 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Christopher Cook (England) 28.01sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Christopher Cook (England) 1min 0.93sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Michael Brown (Canada) 2min 12.23sec.
50 METRES BUTTERFLY: Roland Schoeman (South Africa) 23.34sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Ryan Pini (Papua New Guinea) 52.64sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Moss Burmester (New Zealand) 1min 56.64sec.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Gregor Tait (Scotland) 2min 0.73sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: David Carry (Scotland) 4min 15.98sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Brenton Rickard 54.84sec, Eamonn Sullivan 59.51sec, Matthew Welsh 51.87sec, Michael Klim 48.15sec) 3min 34.37sec. Note: Andrew Lauterstein, Christopher Sprenger, Adam Pine and Kenrick Monk swam for Australia in the heats.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Matthew Helm (Australia) 1,085.60pts.
HIGHBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Australia (Matthew Helm, Robert Newbery) 440.58pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 853.50pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 941.60pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Canada (Alexandre Despatie, Arturo Miranda) 444.87pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING - WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Lisbeth Lenton (Australia) 24.61sec.
50 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 29.27sec. Note: World record.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Lisbeth Lenton (Australia) 53.54sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT: Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 1min 1.81sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Caitlin McClatchey (Scotland) 1min 57.25sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Caitlin McClatchey (Scotland) 4min 7.69sec.
800 METRES FREESTYLE: Rebecca Cooke (England) 8min 29.50sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Lisbeth Lenton 53.74sec, Jodie Henry 53.30sec, Alice Mills 54.42sec, Shayne Reese 56.03sec) 3min 36.49sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Bronte Barratt 2min 0.04sec, Kelly Stubbins 1min 59.14sec, Lisbeth Lenton 1min 58.98sec, Linda Mackenzie 1min 58.52sec) 7min 56.68sec.
50 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sophie Edington (Australia) 28.42sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sophie Edington (Australia) 1min 0.93sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Joanna Fergus (Australia) 2min 10.36sec. Note: Joanna Fergus won 4 x 200 metres freestyle relay gold for England at the 2002 Games.
50 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 30.55sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 1min 5.09sec. Note: World record.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 2min 20.72sec.
50 METRES BUTTERFLY: Danni Miatke (Australia) 26.43sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Jessicah Schipper (Australia) 57.48sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Jessicah Schipper (Australia) 2min 6.09sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Stephanie Rice (Australia) 2min 12.90sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Stephanie Rice (Australia) 4min 41.91sec.
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Sophie Edington 1min 1.06sec, Leisel Jones 1min 5.51sec, Jessicah Schipper 56.86sec, Lisbeth Lenton 52.87sec) 3min 56.38sec. Note: World record.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Loudy Tourky (Australia) 737.75pts.
HIGHBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Australia (Chantelle Newbery, Loudy Tourky) 317.58pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Blythe Hartley (Canada) 644.65pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Blythe Hartley (Canada) 690.05pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Australia (Bree Cole, Sharleen Stratton) 296.07pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SOLO: Marie-Pier Gagnon (Canada) 46.917pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, DUET: Canada (Marie-Pier Gagnon, Isabelle Rampling) 46.250pts.

TABLE TENNIS

MEN'S SINGLES: Sharath Achanta (India).
MEN'S DOUBLES: Nigeria (Monday Merotohum, Segun Toriola).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Xue Ling Zhiang (Singapore).
WOMEN'S SINGLES, DISABLED: Susan Gilroy (England).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Singapore (Jia Wei Li, Xue Ling Zhiang).

MIXED DOUBLES: Singapore (Zi Yang, Xue Ling Zhiang).

MEN'S TEAM: India (Sharath Achanta, Shibaji Datta, Soumyadeep Roy, Subhajit Saja).

WOMEN'S TEAM: Singapore (Jia Wei Li, Sharon Tan, Xue Ling Zhiang, Yan Xu, Zena Sim).

TRIATHLON

MEN: Bradley Kahlefeldt (Australia) 1hr 49min 16.33sec (1.5km swim, 17min 48.46sec; 40km cycle, 1hr 1min 1.36sec; 10km run, 30min 26.51sec).

WOMEN: Emma Snowsill (Australia) 1hr 58min 2.60sec (1.5km swim, 18min 25.71sec; 40km cycle, 1hr 5min 46.13sec; 10km run, 33min 50.76sec).

WEIGHT-LIFTING - MEN

Note: Medals awarded for total lifts only (Snatch and Clean & Jerk totals listed in brackets).

56 KILOGRAMMES: Bin Baharom Mohd Faizal (Malaysia) 255kg (115kg + 140kg).

62 KILOGRAMMES: Chinthana Vdianage (Sri Lanka) 271kg (118kg + 153kg).

69 KILOGRAMMES: Benjamin Turner (Australia) 294kg (128kg + 166kg).

77 KILOGRAMMES: Majetie Fetrie (Ghana) 309kg (138kg + 171kg).

85 KILOGRAMMES: Shuja-Ud-din Malik (Pakistan) 343kg (150kg + 193kg).

94 KILOGRAMMES: Alex Karapetyan (Australia) 350kg (165kg + 185kg).

105 KILOGRAMMES: Akos Sandor (Canada) 341kg (150kg + 191 kg).

OVER 105 KILOGRAMMES: Chris Rae (Australia) 388kg (172kg + 216kg).

PARASPORT, OPEN: Ruel Ishaku (Nigeria) 190.2kg.

WEIGHT-LIFTING - WOMEN

Note: Medals awarded for total lifts only (Snatch and Jerk totals listed in brackets).

48 KILOGRAMMES: Kunjarani Devi Nameirakpam (India) 166kg (72kg + 94kg).

53 KILOGRAMMES: Maryse Turcotte (Canada) 188kg (80kg + 108kg).

58 KILOGRAMMES: Yumnam Renu Bala Chanu (India) 185kg (80kg + 105kg).

63 KILOGRAMMES: Michaela Breeze (Wales) 220kg (100kg + 120kg).

69 KILOGRAMMES: Jeane Lassen (Canada) 229kg (97kg + 132kg).

75 KILOGRAMMES: Deborah Lovely (Australia) 208kg (93kg + 115kg).

OVER 75 KILOGRAMMES: Geeta Rani (India) 241kg (104kg + 137kg)

2006 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	84	69	68	221
England	36	40	37	113
Canada	26	30	31	87
India	22	17	10	49
South Africa	12	13	13	38
New Zealand	6	12	14	32
Malaysia	7	12	10	29
Scotland	11	7	11	29
Jamaica	10	4	8	22
Wales	3	5	11	19
Kenya	6	5	7	18
Singapore	5	6	7	18
Nigeria	4	6	7	17
Cyprus	3	1	2	6
Pakistan	1	3	1	5
Cameroon	0	1	2	3
Ghana	2	0	1	3
Mauritius	0	3	0	3
Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	3	3
Uganda	2	0	1	3
Bahamas	0	2	0	2
Botswana	0	1	1	2
Isle of Man	1	0	1	2
Malta	0	1	1	2
Namibia	1	0	1	2
Nauru	0	1	1	2
Northern Ireland	0	2	0	2
Papua New Guinea	1	1	0	2
Seychelles	0	0	2	2
Tanzania	1	0	1	2
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Barbados	0	0	1	1
Fiji	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	1	0	1
Lesotho	0	1	0	1
Mozambique	0	0	1	1
Samoa	0	0	1	1
Sri Lanka	1	0	0	1
Swaziland	0	0	1	1

XIX. Commonwealth Games

New Delhi, India

3-14 October 2010

6,081 competitors, 71 countries, 17 sports: Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Bowls, Boxing, Cycling, Gymnastics (Artistic & Rhythmic), Hockey, Netball, Rugby Sevens, Shooting, Swimming & Diving, Squash rackets, Table-tennis, Tennis, Weight-lifting, Wrestling (Freestyle & Greco-Roman).

Athletics flounders in the deep end, swimming stays on track

Athletics has always been the corner-stone of the Commonwealth Games, producing so many of the outstanding performers and attracting the most media and public attention. Occasionally, swimming has offered a challenge, and in terms of world records broken it is actually the more prolific Games sport of the two, but the runners, jumpers and throwers have continued to hold their own, as much as anything else because of the appeal of such basically simple exercises to all 71 countries – only Fiji, suspended from the Commonwealth, and the South Pacific atolls of Tokelau did not attend these 19th Games. Here the tide was maybe turning – to use what would seem to be appropriate aquatic imagery. The swimmers set 24 Games records, the athletes five; but those figures were not dissimilar to what had happened at previous Games. The difference this time was that it was a matter of morality as much as sporting ability.

Drug-taking had been an issue in athletics ever since the late 1960s, and as the financial rewards increased enormously with the introduction of professionalism from the early 1980s onwards so the temptation for competitors (and their managers, agents, medical advisers) to take advantage of performance-enhancing products became ever greater. One of the misgivings widely felt about the choice of India for the 2010 Games was that the list of banned athletes in that country had multiplied from 11 in the years 2005 to 2008 to 14 in 2009 alone. Such fears have since been fully justified: 14 more bannings in 2010, 31 in 2011 and 38 in 2012. The 2013 scroll of shame ran to 15 names, which was some sort of improvement, though it still constituted more banned athletes than the rest of the Commonwealth put together. What a disgrace that so much money should be spent on artificially boosting the achievements of athletes in a country where one person in five of the teeming population lives below the poverty line.

The problems in New Delhi concerned the women's events, and athletes from both India and Nigeria were the miscreants. The silver-medallists at 100 and 400 metres, Damola Osayomi and Sade Abugan, both from Nigeria, were disqualified for positive tests at the Games, but worse was to come. India's victory in the 4 x 400 metres relay was ecstatically acclaimed by the home crowds, but the lustre soon wore off as all four members of the team were to suffer two-year bans from 2011 or 2012 onwards. One of them was an inspector in the Punjab police who certainly should have known better! Another triumph by the hosts was their clean sweep of all three medals in the discus, but that result had something of a stigma to it as the 3rd-placed Seema Antil had been stripped of her world junior title back in the year 2000 when she was discovered to have been using an illegal substance aptly named pseudoephedrine. Also in New Delhi an Indian walker, Rani Yadav, who had finished 6th, was disqualified for drug-taking.

The women's 100 metres final was a farce. Two of the eight finalists, Sally Pearson, of Australia, and Laura Turner, of England, committed a false start, but only Turner was disqualified – and was then allowed back into the race, pending appeal, as was her right.

Pearson won the re-run but was then retrospectively disqualified for her earlier false start following a protest by the English team management. The gold was thus awarded to the Nigerian in 2nd place, but – as already explained – she failed the subsequent drugs test, and so the winner was eventually declared to be Natasha Mayers, of St Vincent & The Grenadines, which should have been a cause for celebration in this collection of Caribbean islands with a population of 120,000 or so as it was only their second Commonwealth gold ever after boxer Frankie Lucas in 1974. However, those in the know would regret the fact that Ms Mayers had served a two-year ban from 2005 to 2007.

On a much happier note Sally Pearson returned four days after her 100 metres mishap to win a gold at the same distance with hurdles added. She was one of the few truly top-class winners at those Games and would establish herself as the best in the world at her event with the world title in 2011 and the Olympic title in 2012. Kenya sent a stronger team than usual, and though losing both the men's 5000 and 10,000 metres to a Ugandan took 11 gold medals on the track. Among them, and matching Pearson's class in New Delhi, though not needing particularly fast times to do so, were the trio for the men's 800 metres, 1500 metres and the steeplechase, who were Boaz Lalang, Silas Kiplagat and Richard Matelong respectively. Kiplagat took the typically slow-run 1500 metres final in 3:41.78, having achieved 3:29.27 in a Grand Prix race three months before – worth about 80 metres difference. An appealing aspect of this Games event was that in the heats a runner from Sri Lanka, Chaminda Wijekoon, given a rare chance of elite competition, set a national record of 3:40.78.

Four of the five Games records came in the throws, with Valerie Adams, of New Zealand, beating the distance at which she had won gold in 2006 with each of her six efforts. As she had won all three preceding major international titles, with Olympic gold in 2008 and world gold in 2007 and 2009 (and with more such titles to come), her margin of victory came as no surprise. She was in excess of four metres ahead of the bronze-medallist, but as this was an 18-year-old from Samoa, Margaret Satupai, setting a national record and winning her country's first ever athletics medal, this was another gratifying example of the opportunities that the Games could provide for some of the poorer relations of what had become a resolutely commercially-driven sport.

It was a pity that so many of the Commonwealth's Olympic champions from 2008 and World champions from 2009 chose to stay away from New Delhi – most notably, of course, super-sprinter Usain Bolt, in whose absence the 100 metres was still won by one of his compatriots, Lerone Clarke, who ranked only 8th in Jamaica for the year. Two other Olympic title-holders in addition to Valerie Adams who did support their national teams were Steve Hooker, of Australia, needing only two clearances to win the pole vault, and Nancy Lagat, of Kenya, taking both the 800 and 1500 metres and establishing the only Games track record in the latter event. The women's pole vault went to Alana Boyd, for Australia, whose father, Ray, had won the men's event at the 1982 Games and whose mother, Denise, had run in the winning sprint-relay team of 1974.

Swimming, predictably, was an Australian-dominated affair, with 22 golds to seven each for England and South Africa. Oddly, though, there was not a single Australian among the five double victors in the men's individual events. The outstanding freestyle sprinter – and thus the “Bolt of the Baths”, you might say – was Brett Hayden, of Canada, winning the 50 and 100 metres titles. Hayden, also a karate black belt (which must have been good for his strength of arm), had been involved in a rare tie for a world title in 2007. The 400 and 1500 freestyle events both went to another Canadian, Ryan Cochrane, but even he found the Australian-held Games record from 1994 at the longer distance beyond him. Liam Tancock,

who won two backstroke titles for England, was already World champion from 2009 and would be again in 2011. Cameron van der Burgh, of South Africa, would add Olympic breast-stroke gold in world-record time in 2012 to his two titles in New Delhi, and his team-mate, Chad Le Clos, would win 200 metres butterfly gold at the 2012 Olympics and set a world record of 1min 48.56sec in November 2013. No 200 metres *freestyle* winner over the years at the Commonwealth Games had swum faster than that until Ian Thorpe in 1998.

With 42 countries sending swimmers to the Games, there was a genuine international flavour to many of the finals rather than an over-familiar taste of the “old Empire”, and even Kenya got in on the act, with the 50 metres butterfly going to Jason Dunford, though he did attend an English public school (Marlborough) before university studies in California, from which he had graduated with a BSc in human biology in 2009. Apart from Dunford, though, there were only two other medals among the 132 on offer in swimming which went to lesser aquatic powers, with Ryan Pini, of Papua New Guinea sharing silver at 100 metres butterfly and Prasanta Karmakar, of India, taking bronze in the 50 metres freestyle for handicapped competitors. Apart from Australia, Canada, England, South Africa and the solitary white Kenyan, only one other country won gold in the pool – Scotland, through Robert Renwick at 200 freestyle and Hannah Miley at 400 individual medley.

The women, with nine Games records, were somewhat overshadowed by the men, though Alicia Coutts, of Australia, won five medals at these Games to equal the record haul for Ian Thorpe and Shane Gould and there was a poignant *in memoriam* success for her team-mate, Meagen Nay, at 200 metres backstroke. Her father, Robert, had competed at the 1972 Olympics but never got to see his daughter swim as he was killed in a car crash in 1992. His son also died in the same manner in 2009. As ever the leading nation in synchronised swimming was Canada, and Mari-Pier Boudreau Gagnon won a brace of gold medals for the third successive Games. Maybe it was time to replace the “Gagnon” in her name of French origin with “Gagnant” – it means “winning” in English. Another French-speaking multiple winner for the land of the maple leaf was Alexandre Despatie, whose first Games diving gold had been earned in 1998 aged 13. He had begun diving as a five-year-old and before his retirement in 2013 to become a breakfast-time TV presenter had been the first winner of world titles at all three heights – one metre, three metres and 10 metres.

The team sports produced some inevitably one-sided encounters. In the men’s hockey final Australia humiliated India – once upon a time the best country in the world at the game – 8-0, having scored 28 goals and conceded only two in their five preliminary matches. The Australians had now won all four titles in men’s hockey since its introduction in 1998. New Zealand’s rugby-union seven, also winning for the fourth successive Games, ran up 201 points in five matches (including 43-7 against Canada and 52-0 against Guyana) but then had a tougher contest in the final before beating Australia 24-17. The NZ netball players also ran riot in their earlier encounters – 102-21 against Papua New Guinea, 87-24 against the Cook Islands, for example – but had closer matches with England and Jamaica and an even closer one with Australia in the final, 66-64. The women’s hockey final between the antipodean neighbours went to a penalty shoot-out before Australia prevailed 4-2.

Having won eight gold medals in cycle-racing at the 2008 Olympics, the home countries could reasonably have been expected to push pedals faster than anyone else in the New Delhi velodrome and on the city’s roads, but the Commonwealth Games did not rate highly in priority for Britain’s bike-riders, with the notable exception of David Millar, who won the road time-trial for Scotland. But then Millar had something to prove, having been banned for two years in 2004 and thus declared ineligible according to steadfast British ruling for the

Olympic Games. Maltese-born of Scottish parents, Millar had gone a long way towards redeeming himself for past indiscretions by his subsequent committed stand against drug-taking. Of the 17 other cycling gold medals available in New Delhi, Australians collected all but two, including most notably Anna Meares, with three wins to her name only two years after breaking her neck in an horrific track accident. She would also be Olympic sprint champion in 2012.

Boxing usually provided African nations with some of their best chances of Games success, but in this tournament the home countries pulled no punches, collecting 16 medals to Africa's 10 and Asia's nine, and Northern Ireland shared top ranking with India at three titles each. Of the 27 gold medals won in all sports in the history of the Games by Northern Ireland, boxing had now provided 11. One of the other ring champions in New Delhi was Scotland's Callum Johnson, who was born and bred in Lincolnshire but qualified as a Scot because a grandmother came from Springburn, Glasgow. Johnson followed a familiar path for Commonwealth boxing title-winners by turning professional soon afterwards.

Not needing to even think of changing status was India's eagle-eyed marksman, Gagan Narang, who added three further shooting gold medals to his collection, as his team won 14 of the 36 titles, to six for England, five for Singapore and four for Scotland. Narang went on to take a bronze medal at the 2012 Olympics and various grateful state and government organisations in his home country presented him with the equivalent of £202,000 in prize money and two kilogrammes of solid gold. The four competitions for the 50 metres Rifle Prone were all won by Scotland, and Jonathan Hammond and 19-year-old Jennifer McIntosh each took two gold medals ... and no lavish cash hand-outs to go with them. Interviewed by "The Scotsman" newspaper in February 2014, Jen McIntosh, whose father, Donald, is coach to the British team and whose mother, Shirley, won Games gold in 1994, reflected on her subsequent disappointing performance at the 2012 Olympics: "It wasn't what people expected of me that was the problem but what I had expected of myself. London taught me how crazy the crowds and press can be. Normally that attention energises me and has a positive affect. So for it to become a negative thing, rather than for me to thrive on it, was completely unexpected".

In a sport which called for sheer strength, as well as a firm hand and a sharp eye, the hosts did well – 10 golds in the most extensive wrestling programme so far at any Games. The newly-introduced Greco-Roman style, in which the competitors are not allowed to use their legs to throw their opponents, produced a gold medal for England by Ukrainian-born Myroslav Dykun, who had come to England in 2003 to act as a sparring-partner for the leading Britons but had decided to stay on. Depressingly, his victory in New Delhi was later marred by a two-year drugs ban in 2012 which cost him a place in the Great Britain Olympic team. In weight-lifting there was a rare brother-and-sister Games success for Niusila and Ele Opeloge, of Samoa, whose combined body-weight added up to 226.66 kilogrammes (almost exactly half-a-ton) and in surprising proportions – 103.57 kilogrammes his, 123.09 kilogrammes hers.

And so the 2010 Games were over. India had enjoyed its greatest ever success, with 3rd place to Australia and England in the overall medals table, and it was a celebration party which even their misbehaving women athletes could not spoil. Most of the fears beforehand concerning the weather, security, health and comfort had proved unfounded. No one seemed to know what the Games had cost – estimates varied from £160 million to £1,100 million, which left rather a large margin of error – but that was a problem for the Indian government to sort out, not the Scots or the Australians who would host the celebrations of 2014 and

2018. Jacques Rogge, the president of the International Olympic Committee, declared that India had laid the foundations for a future Olympic Games bid, which was an interesting statement because not too many countries in the world were in a sufficiently secure financial position to afford such a massive undertaking. Rogge has since retired as IOC president and so does not have to stand by his bold claim.

Instead, perhaps, the conclusions drawn by the general secretary of the New Zealand Olympic Committee, Kereyn Smith, now bear more weight. Interviewed by the “New Zealand Herald” newspaper in February of 2014, she declared adamantly, “From a New Zealand point of view we’d say that the Delhi Games were not good for the brand of the Commonwealth Games. There’s no doubt about that”. There’s a brighter side to the issue, though. New Zealand is one of the countries which has taken part in every Games since 1930, and Ms Smith says, “My sense is that the next two Commonwealth Games will be very successful and I think that will give a lot of heart and energy to the Commonwealth movement”.

Heart! Energy! Glasgow surely won’t be lacking in those qualities!

THE CHAMPIONS OF THE 2010 GAMES

ATHLETICS – MEN

100 METRES (7 Oct): Lerone Clarke (Jamaica) 10.12sec.
100 METRES PARASPORT T46 (7 Oct): Simon Patmore (Australia) 11.14sec.
200 METRES (10 Oct): Leon Baptiste (England) 20.45sec.
400 METRES (9 Oct): Mark Mutai (Kenya) 45.44sec.
800 METRES (10 Oct): Boaz Lalang (Kenya) 1min 46.60sec.
1500 METRES (12 Oct): Silas Kiplagat (Kenya) 3min 41.78sec.
1500 METRES PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR) (10 Oct): Kurt Fearnley (Australia) 3min 19.86sec.
5000 METRES (6 Oct): Moses Kipsiro (Uganda) 13min 31.25sec.
10,000 METRES (11 Oct): Moses Kipsiro (Uganda) 27min 57.39sec.
MARATHON (14 Oct): John Kelai (Kenya) 2hr 14min 35sec.
3000 METRES STEEPECHASE (11 Oct): Richard Matelong (Kenya) 8min 16.39sec.
110 METRES HURDLES (8 Oct): Andy Turner (England) 13.38sec.
400 METRES HURDLES (8 Oct): David Greene (Wales) 48.52sec.
HIGH JUMP (9 Oct): Donald Thomas (Bahamas) 2.32m.
POLE VAULT (11 Oct): Steve Hooker (Australia) 5.60m.
LONG JUMP (10 Oct): Fabrice Lapierre (Australia) 8.30m.
TRIPLE JUMP (12 Oct): Tosin Oke (Nigeria) 17.16m.
SHOT (7 Oct): Dylan Armstrng (Canada) 21.02m.
SHOT PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR) (7 Oct): Kyle Petty (Canada) 11.44m.
DISCUS (10 Oct): Benn Harradine (Australia) 65.45m.
HAMMER (8 Oct): Chris Harmse (South Africa) 73.15m.
JAVELIN (12 Oct): Jarrod Bannister (Australia) 81.71m.
DECATHLON (7-8 Oct): Jamie Adjetey-Nelson (Canada) 8,070pts (10.87sec, 7.37m, 15.00m, 2.02m, 49.61sec; 14.76sec, 45.21m, 4.70m, 61.32m, 4min 52.23sec).
4 x 100 METRES RELAY (12 Oct): England (Ryan Scott, Leon Baptiste, Marlon Devonish, Mark Lewis-Francis) 38.74sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY (12 Oct): Australia (Joel Milburn 46.2sec, Kevin Moore 45.9sec, Brendan Cole 46.05sec, Sean Wroe 45.11sec) 3min 3.30sec.
20 KILOMETRES WALK (9 Oct): Jared Tallent (Australia) 1hr 22min 18sec.

ATHLETICS – WOMEN

100 METRES (7 Oct): Natasha Mayers (St Vincent & The Grenadines) 11.37sec.

100 METRES PARASPORT T37 (7 Oct): Katrina Hart (England) 14.36sec.
200 METRES (11 Oct): Cydonie Mothersill (Cayman Islands) 22.89sec.
400 METRES (8 Oct): Antle Montsho (Botswana) 50.28sec.
800 METRES (11 Oct): Nancy Langat (Kenya) 2min 0.01sec.
1500 METRES (8 Oct): Nancy Langat (Kenya) 4min 5.26sec.
1500 METRES WHEELCHAIR (7 Oct): Diane Roy (Canada) 3min 53.95sec.
5000 METRES (12 Oct): Vivian Cheruiyot (Kenya) 15min 55.12sec.
10,000 METRES (8 Oct): Grace Momanyi (Kenya) 32min 34.11sec.
MARATHON (14 Oct): Irene Jerotich (Kenya) 2hr 34min 32sec.
3000 METRES STEEPCHASE (9 Oct): Micah Cheos Cheywa (Kenya) 9min 40.96sec.
100 METRES HURDLES (11 Oct): Sally Pearson (Australia) 12.67sec.
400 METRES HURDLES ((10 Oct): Joke Odumosu (Nigeria) 55.28sec.
HIGH JUMP ((10 Oct): Nicole Forrester (Canada) 1.91m.
POLE VAULT (12 Oct): Alana Boyd (Australia) 4.40m.
LONG JUMP (10 Oct): Alice Falaiye (Canada) 6.50m.
TRIPLE JUMP (8 Oct): Trecia Smith (Jamaica) 14.19m.
SHOT (9 Oct): Valerie Adams (New Zealand) 20.47m.
SHOT PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR) (6 Oct): Louise Ellery (Australia) 6.17m.
DISCUS (11 Oct): Krishna Poonia (India) 61.51m
HAMMER (7 Oct): Sultana Frizell (Canada) 68.57m.
JAVELIN (9 Oct): Sunette Viljoen (South Africa) 62.34m.
HEPTATHLON (8-9 Oct): Louise Hazel (England) 6,156pts (13.25sec, 1.69m, 12.54m, 24.10sec;
6.44m, 44.42m, 2min 20.33sec).
4 x 100 METRES RELAY (12 Oct): England (Katherine Endacott, Montell Douglas, Laura Turner,
Abi Oyepitan) 44.19sec.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY (12 Oct): India (Manjeet Kaur 52.9sec, Sini Jose 52.1sec, Akkunji
Ashwini 51.67sec, Mandeep Kaur 51.15sec) 3min 27.77sec.
20 KILOMETRES WALK (9 Oct): Johanna Jackson (England) 1hr 34min 22sec.

ARCHERY – MEN

COMBINED BOW INDIVIDUAL: Duncan Busby (England).
COMBINED BOW TEAM: England (Duncan Busby, Liam Grimwood, Christopher White).
RECURVE BOW INDIVIDUAL: Rahul Banerjee (India).
RECURVE BOW TEAM: Australia (Matthew Gray, Matthew Masonwells, Taylor Worth).

ARCHERY – WOMEN

COMBINED BOW INDIVIDUAL: Nicky Hunt (England).
COMBINED BOW TEAM: England (Nicky Hunt, Nichola Simpson, Danielle White).
RECURVE BOW INDIVIDUAL: Deepika Kumari (India).
RECURVE BOW TEAM: India (Bombalaya Devi Laishram, Deepika Kumari, Dola Banerjee).

BADMINTON

SINGLES MEN: Chong Wei Lee (Malaysia).
DOUBLES MEN: Boon Heong Tan, Kien Keat Koo (Malaysia).
SINGLES WOMEN: Saina Nehwal (India).
DOUBLES WOMEN: India (Ashwini Ponnappa Machunanda, Jwala Gutta).
DOUBLES MIXED: Malaysia (Kien Keat Koo, Eei Hui Chin).
TEAM MIXED: Malaysia (Boon Heong Tan, Chan Peng Soon, Chong Wei Lee, Eei Hui Chin, Kien
Keat Koo, Li Ya Lydia Cheah, Liu Ying Goh, Muhammad Hafiz Hashim, Wong Mew Choo, Woon
Kehi Wei).

BOWLS

MEN'S SINGLES: Richard Weale (Wales).
MEN'S PAIRS: South Africa (Gerald Baker, Richard Addinall).
MEN'S TRIPLES: South Africa (Gidion Vermeulen, Johann du Plessis, Wayne Perry).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Natalie Melmore (England).

WOMEN'S PAIRS: England (Amy Monkhouse, Ellen Falkner).

WOMEN'S TRIPLES: South Africa (Susanna Steyn, Susanne Nel, Tracy-Lee Botha).

BOXING

Note: the traditional titles of the weight divisions were replaced by numeric categories.

49 KILOGRAMMES: Patrick Barnes (Northern Ireland).

52 KILOGRAMMES: Suranjoy Singh Mayengbam (India).

56 KILOGRAMMES: Sean McGoldrick (Wales).

60 KILOGRAMMES: Thomas Stalker (England).

64 KILOGRAMMES: Manoj Kumar (India).

69 KILOGRAMMES: Patrick Gallagher (Northern Ireland).

75 KILOGRAMMES: Eamonn O'Kane (Northern Ireland).

81 KILOGRAMMES: Callum Johnson (Scotland).

91 KILOGRAMMES: Simon Vallily (England).

OVER 91 KILOGRAMMES: Paramjeet Samota (India).

CYCLING – MEN

1000 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Scott Sunderland (Australia) 1min 1.411sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Shane Perkins (Australia).

TEAM SPRINT: Australia (Daniel Ellis, Jason Niblett, Scott Sunderland) 43.773sec.

4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Jack Bobridge (Australia) 4min 14.485sec.

4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: Australia (Dale Parker, Jack Bobridge, Michael Freiberg, Michael Hepburn) 3min 55.42sec.

KEIRIN: Josiah Ng Onn Lam (Malaysia).

POINTS: Cameron Meyer (Australia) 89pts.

SCRATCH: Cameron Meyer (Australia).

INDIVIDUAL ROAD TIME-TRIAL (40 KILOMETRES): David Millar (Scotland) 47min 18.66sec.

INDIVIDUAL ROAD (168 KILOMETRES): Allan Davis (Australia) 3hr 49min 48sec.

CYCLING – WOMEN

500 METRES INDIVIDUAL TIME-TRIAL: Anna Meares (Australia) 33.758sec.

1000 METRES SPRINT: Anna Meares (Australia).

TEAM SPRINT: Australia (Anna Meares, Kaarle McCulloch)

3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: Alison Shanks (New Zealand) 3min 30.875sec.

POINTS/ Megan Dunn (Australia) 45pts.

SCRATCH: Megan Dunn (Australia).

INDIVIDUAL ROAD TIME-TRIAL: Tara Whitten (Canada) 38min 59.30sec.

INDIVIDUAL ROAD: Rochelle Gilmore (Australia) 2hr 49min 30sec. /

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) – MEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Luke Folwell (England) 85.550pts.

FLOOR: Thomas Pichler (Australia) 14.675pts.

POMMELED HORSE: Prasanth Sellathurai (Australia) 15.500pts.

RINGS: Smuel Offord (Australia) 14.825pts.

VAULT: Luke Folwell (England) 15.762pts.

PARALLEL BARS: Joshua Jefferis (Australia) 14.625pts.

HORIZONTAL BAR: Dimiitris Krasias (Cyprus) 13.900pts.

TEAM: Australia (Joshua Jefferis, Samuel Offord, Thomas Pichler, Prashath Sellathurai, Luke Wiatowski) 259.050pts.

GYMNASTICS (ARTISTIC) – WOMEN

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Lauren Mitchell (Australia) 58.200pts.

FLOOR: Imogen Cairns (England) 14.200pts.

VAULT: Imogen Cairns (England) 13.775pts.

ASSYMETRIC BARS: Lauren Mitchell (Australia) 14.150pts.

BALANCE BEAM: Lauren Mitchell (Australia) 14.475pts.

TEAM: Australia (Georgia Bonora, Ashleigh Brennan, Emily Little, Lauren Mitchell, Georgia Wheeler) 163.700pts.

GYMNASTICS (RHYTHMIC)

INDIVIDUAL ALL-ROUND: Naazmi Johnston (Australia) 100.100pts.

ROPE: Chrystalleni Trikomiti (Cyprus) 25.800pts.

BALL: Naazmi Johnston (Australia) 25.100pts.

HOOP: Elaine Koon (Malaysia) 25.300pts.

RIBBON: Chrystalleni Trikomiti (Cyprus) 25.700pts.

TEAM: Australia (Naazmi Johnston, Janine Murray, Danielle Prince) 235.775pts.

HOCKEY

MEN: Australia (Des Abbott, Nathan Burgers, Joel Carroll, Liam De Young, Luke Doerner, Jamie Dwyer, Chris Griello, Robert Hammond, Fergus Kavanagh, Mark Knowles, Trent Mitton, Eddie Ockenden, Simon Orchard, Matthew Swann, Glenn Turner, Jason Wilson).

WOMEN: Australia (Nicole Arnold, Madonna Blyth, Fiona Boyce, Alison Bruce, Toni Cronk, Casey Eastham, Kate Hollywood, Emily Hurtz, Kate Jenner, Fiona Johnson, Shelly Liddelow, Rachael Lynch, Kobie McGurk, Ashleigh Nelson, Megan Rivers, Jayde Taylor)

NETBALL

New Zealand (Liana Barrett-Chase, Leana De Bruin, Temepara George, Katrina Grant, Joline Henry, Laura Longman, Grace Rasmussen, Anna Scarlett, Solonaima Tutaia, Irene Van Dyk, Casey Williams, Daneka Wipiti).

RUGBY SEVENS

New Zealand (Toby Arnold, Kurt Baker, Derek Forbes, Hosea Gear, Zac Guildford, Tomasi Komainau, Liam Meassam, Tim Mikkelson, Lote Raikabula, Ben Smith, Benjamin Souness, Sherwin Stowers).

SHOOTING – MEN

FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Parag Patel (India) 396 - 42pts.

FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: New Zealand (John Snowden, Mike Collings) 588 - 53pts.

50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Jonathan Hammond (Scotland) 595 - 43pts.

50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Gagan Narang (India) 1,166 - 57pts.

50 METRES RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: Scotland (Jonathan Hammond, Neil Stirton) 1,181 - 74pts.

50 METRES RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: India (Gagan Narang, Imram Hassan Khan) 2,325 - 106pts.

AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Gagan Narang (India) 600 - 50pts.

AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: India (Gagan Narang, Abhinav Bindra) 1,193 - 105pts.

TRAP, INDIVIDUAL : Aaron Heading (England) 147pts.

TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Michael Diamond, Adam Vella) 198pts

DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Stevan Walton (England) 190pts.

DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: England (Stevan Walton, Steven Scott) 189pts.

SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: Richard Brickell (England) 144pts.

SKEET, PAIRS: Cyprus (Georgios Achilleos, Andreas Chasikos) 194pts.

50 METRES FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Omkar Singh (India) 653 - 6pts.

50 METRES FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: Singapore (Bin Gai, Swee Hon Lim) 1,094 - 13pts.

STANDARD PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Bin Gai (Singapore) 570.0pts.

STANDARD PISTOL, PAIRS: Singapore (Bin Gai, Lip Meng Poh) 1,116 - 28pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Vijay Kumar (India) 583 - 23pts.

RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Vijay Kumar, Gurpreet Singh) 1,162 - 48pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Harpreet Singh (India) 580 - 16pts.

CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Harpreet Singh, Vijay Kumar) 1,159 - 45pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Omkar Singh (India) 584 - 19pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Omkar Singh, Gurpreet Singh) 1,163 - 42pts.

SHOOTING – WOMEN

RIFLE, PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: Jennifer McIntosh (Scotland) 597 - 42pts.
RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: Alethea Sedgman (Australia) 575 - 26pts.
RIFLE, PRONE, PAIRS: Scotland (Jennifer McIntosh, Kay Copland) 1,169 - 60pts.
RIFLE, THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: Singapore (Xiang Wei Jasmine Ser, Aquila Sudhir) 1,149 - 44pts.
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: Xiang Wei Jasmine Ser (Singapore) 398 - 36pts.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: Malaysia (Nur Ayuni Farhana Abdul Halim, Nur Suryani Mohamed Talbi) 793 - 59pts.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: Anita North (England) 93pts.
TRAP, PAIRS: Australia (Laetisha Scanlan, Stacy Roiall) 93pts.
25 METRES PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Anisa Sayyed (India) 786.8pts.
25 METRES PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Anisa Sayyed, Rahi Samobat) 1,156 - 40pts.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: Pei Chin Bibrana Ng (Malaysia) 383 - 10pts.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: India (Annu Raj Singh, Heena Sidhu) 759 - 21pts.

SQUASH RACKETS

MEN'S SINGLES: Nicholas Matthew (England).
MEN'S DOUBLES: England (Adrian Grant, Nicholas Matthew).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Nicol David (Malaysia).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: New Zealand (Jaclyn Hawkes, Wana King).
MIXED DOUBLES: Australia (Cameron Pilley, Kasey Brown).

SWIMMING & DIVING – MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Brent Hayden (Canada) 22.01sec;
50 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S9): Matthew Cowdrey (Australia) 25.33sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Brent Hayden (Canada) 47.98sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S10): Benoit Huot (Canada) 53.70sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S8): Benjamin Austin (Australia) 1min 0.44sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Robert Renwick (Scotland) 1min 47.88sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Ryan Cochrane (Canada) 3min 48.48sec.
1500 METRES FREESTYLE: Ryan Cochrane (Canada) 15min 1.49sec
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Kyle Richardson 49.23sec, Eamon Sullivan 47.49sec, Tommaso D'Orsogna 48.63sec, James Magnussen 48.57sec) 3min 13.92sec. Note: Leith Brodie swam for Australia in the heats.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Thomas Fraser-Holmes 1min 49.04sec, Nicholas Frost 1min 48.68sec, Ryan Napoleon 1min 47.05sec, Kenrick Monk 1min 47.52sec) 7min 10.29sec. Note: Leith Brodie swam for Australia in the heats.
50 METRES BACKSTROKE: Liam Tancock (England) 24.62sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Liam Tancock (England) 53.59sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: James Goddard (England) 55.58sec.
50 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Cameron van der Burgh (South Africa) 27.18sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Cameron van der Burgh (South Africa) 1min 0.10sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Brenton Rickard (Australia) 2min 10.89sec.
50 METRES BUTTERFLY: Jason Dunford (Kenya) 23.35sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Geoff Huegill (Australia) 51.69sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Chad Le Clos (South Africa) 1min 56.48sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: James Goddard (England) 1min 58.10sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Chad Le Clos (South Africa) 4min 13.25sec.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Ashley Delaney 54.41sec, Brenton Rickard 50.59sec, Geoff Huegill 51.34sec, Eamon Sullivan 47.81sec) 3min 33.15sec. Note: Christian Sprenger and Kyle Richardson swam for Australia in the heats.
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Thomas Daley (England) 538.35pts.
HIGHBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: England (Max Brick, Thomas Daley) 439.65pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 468.15pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Alexandre Despatie (Canada) 513.75pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Canada (Alexandre Despatie, Reuben Ross) 430.35pts.

SWIMMING & DIVING – WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: Yolanna Kukla (Australia) 24.86sec.
50 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S9): Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 29.17sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE: Alicia Coutts (Australia) 54.09sec.
100 METRES FREESTYLE PARASPORT (S9): Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 1min 02.36sec.
200 METRES FREESTYLE: Kylie Palmer (Australia) 1min 57.50sec.
400 METRES FREESTYLE: Rebecca Adlington (England) 4min 5.68sec.
800 METRES FREESTYLE: Rebecca Adlington (England) 8min 24.69sec.
4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Alicia Coutts 54.17sec, Maneke Guehrer 54.08sec, Felicity Galvez 53.98sec, Emily Seebohm 54.13sec) 3min 36.36sec.
4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: Australia (Kylie Palmer 1min 58.51sec, Blair Evans 1min 57.47sec, Bronte Barrett 1min 58.33sec, Meagen Nay 1min 59.40sec) 7min 53.71sec.
50 METRES BACKSTROKE: Sophie Edington (Australia) 28.00sec.
100 METRES BACKSTROKE: Emily Seebohm (Australia) 59;79sec.
200 METRES BACKSTROKE: Meagen Nay (Australia) 2min 7.56sec.
50 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leiston Pickett (Australia) 30.84sec.
100 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 1min 5.84sec.
200 METRES BREAST-STROKE: Leisel Jones (Australia) 2min 25.38sec.
50 METRES BUTTERFLY: Francesca Halsall (England) 26.24sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY: Alicia Coutts (Australia) 57.53sec.
100 METRES BUTTERFLY PARASPORT (S9): Natalie du Toit (South Africa) 1min 7.32sec.
200 METRES BUTTERFLY: Jessicah Schipper (Australia) 2min 7.04sec.
200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Alicia Coutts (Australia) 2min 9.70sec.
400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: Hannah Miley (Scotland) 4min 38.83sec. :
4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: Australia (Emily Seebohm, Leisel Jones, Jessicah Schipper, Alicia Coutts) 3min 56.99sec
HIGHBOARD DIVING: Pandeleda Rihong Anak Pamg (Malaysia) 371.05pts.
HIGHBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Australia (Alexandra Croak, Melissa Paige Wu) 335.76pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 1-METRE: Jennifer Abel (Canada) 301.75pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, 3-METRE: Sharleen Stratton (Australia) 376.00pts.
SPRINGBOARD DIVING, SYNCHRONISED: Canada (Jennifer Abel, Emilie Heymans) 318.80pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWIMMING, SOLO: Mari-Pier Boudreau Gagnon (Canada) 47.687pts.
SYNCHRONISED SWSIMMING, DUET: Canada (Mari-Pier Boudreau Gagnon, Chloe Isaac) 47.667pts.

TABLE-TENNIS

MEN'S SINGLES: Zi Yang (Singapore).
MEN'S DOUBLES: India (Sharath Achanta, Subhajt Saha).
MEN'S TEAM: Singapore (Liang Ma, Ning Gao, Xiao Li Cai, Xue Jie Pang, Zi Yang).
WOMEN'S SINGLES: Tian Wei Feng (Singapore).
WOMEN'S SINGLES PARASPORT (WHEELCHAIR): Kata Nwaka Oputa (Nigeria).
WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Singapore (Beibei Sun, Jia Wei Li).
MIXED DOUBLES: Singapore (Zi Yang, Yuegu Wang).

WOMEN'S TEAM: India (Madhurika Suhas Patkar, Mouma Dias, Poulomi Ghatak, Prabhu Mamta, Shamini Kumaresan).

TENNIS

MEN'S,SINGLES: Somder Kishore Dewarmani (India).

MEN'S DOUBLES: Australia (Paul Hartley, Peter Luczak).

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Anastasia Rodionova (Australia).

WOMEN'S DOUBLES: Australia (Anastasia Rodionova, Sally Peers).

MIXED DOUBLES: Scotland (Colin Fleming, Jocelyn Rae).

WEIGHT-LIFTING – MEN

Note: medals awarded for total lifts only (Snatch and Clean & Jerk totals listed in brackets).

56 KILOGRAMMES: Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia) 257kg.(116kg + 141kg).

62 KILOGRAMMES: Aricco Jumith (Malaysia) 276kg (120kg + 156kg).

69 KILOGRAMMES: Ravi Kumar Katulu (India) 321kg (140kg + 175kg).

77 KILOGRAMMES: Yukio Peter (Nauru) 333kg (148kg + 185kg).

85 KILOGRAMMES: Simplica Ribouem (Australia) 333kg (150kg + 183kg).

94 KILOGRAMMES: Faavae Faauliuli (Samoa) 334kg (142kg + 192kg).

105 KILOGRAMMES: Niusila Opeloge (Samoa) 338kg (147kg + 191kg).

OVER 105 KILOGRAMMES: Damon Kelly (Australia) 397kg (176kg + 221kg).

BENCH PRESS, PARA: Adesokan Yakubu (Nigeria) 215.1kg

WEIGHT-LIFTING – WOMEN.

Note: regulations as for men's events.

48 KILOGRAMMES: Augustina Nkem Nwaokolo (Nigeria) 175kg (77kg + 98kg)..

53 KILOGRAMMES: Marilou Dozois-Prévost (Canada) 182kg (82kg + 100kg).

58 KILOGRAMMES: Renu Bala Chanu Yumnam (India) 197kg (90kg + 107kg).

63 KILOGRAMMES: Obioma Agatha Okoli (Nigeria) 211kg (90kg + 121kg).

69 KILOGRAMMES Christine Girard (Canada) 235kg (105kg + 130kg).

75 KILOGRAMMES: Hadiza Zakari (Nigeria) 239kg (110kg + 129kg).

OVER 75 KILOGRAMMES: Ele Opeloge (Samoa) 285kg (125kg + 160kg).

BENCH PRESS, PARA: Esther Oyema (Nigeria) 148.1kg.

WRESTLING – FREESTYLE, MEN

55 KILOGRAMMES: Azhar Hussain (Pakistan).

60 KILOGRAMMES: Yogeshwar Dutt (India).

66 KILOGRAMMES: Sushil Kumar (India).

74 KILOGRAMMES: Narsingh Panoram Yadar (India).

84 KILOGRAMMES: Muhammad Inam (Pakistan).

96 KILOGRAMMES: Sinivie Boltic (Nigeria).

120 KILOGRAMMES: Arjan Bhullar Singh (Canada).

WRESTLING – FREESTYLE, WOMEN

48 KILOGRAMMES: Carol Huynh (Canada).

51 KILOGRAMMES: Ifeoma Christiana Nwoye (Nigeria).

55 KILOGRAMMES: Geeta Phogat (India).

59 KILOGRAMMES: Alka Tomar (India).

63 KILOGRAMMES: Justine Bouchard (Canada).

67 KILOGRAMMES: Anita Tomar (India).

72 KILOGRAMMES: Ohenewa Akuffo (Canada).

WRESTLING – GRECO-ROMAN

55 KILOGRAMMES: Rajender Kumar (India).

60 KILOGRAMMES: Ravinder Singh (India).

66 KILOGRAMMES: Myroslav Dykun (England).
 74 KILOGRAMMES: Sanjay Kumar (India).
 84 KILOGRAMMES: Efonayi Joe Agbonauba (Nigeria).
 96 KILOGRAMMES: Anil Kumar (India).
 120 KILOGRAMMES: Ivan Popov (Australia).

2010 GAMES MEDALS TABLE

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
Australia	74	55	48	177
England	37	59	46	142
India	38	27	36	101
Canada	26	17	32	75
New Zealand	6	22	8	36
Malaysia	12	10	13	35
Nigeria	11	10	14	35
Kenya	12	11	10	33
South Africa	12	11	10	33
Singapore	11	11	9	31
Scotland	9	10	7	26
Wales	3	6	10	19
Cyprus	4	3	5	12
Northern Ireland	3	3	4	10
Jamaica	2	4	1	7
Cameroon	0	2	4	6
Trinidad & Tobago	0	4	2	6
Bahamas	1	1	3	5
Pakistan	2	1	2	5
Botswana	1	1	2	4
Ghana	0	1	3	4
Samoa	3	0	1	4
Namibia	0	1	2	3
Isle of Man	0	0	2	2
Mauritius	0	0	2	2
Nauru	1	1	0	2
Sri Lanka	0	1	1	2
Tonga	0	0	2	2
Uganda	2	0	0	2
Bangladesh	0	0	1	1
Cayman Islands	1	0	0	1
Guyana	0	0	1	1
Papua New Guinea	0	1	0	1
St Lucia	0	0	1	1
St Vincent & The Grenadines	1	0	0	1
Seychelles	0	1	0	1

Games medals table 1930-2010

It should be noted that compiling a medals table for the Games is a hazardous business fraught with difficulties! The Commonwealth Games Federation neither publishes nor endorses medals table, as its constitution states that “the Commonwealth Games are contests between athletes and not contests between countries”. Nevertheless, medals tables have been published in the media and by the Games governing bodies in many Commonwealth countries, and these are inclined to vary slightly from source to source. There are a number of reasons for this, including (i) doubts as to whether some events at earlier Games were official or not (in rowing in the 1930s and water polo in 1950); (ii) whether or not discontinued events and sports are still taken into account; and (iii) the change of political status of countries and as to whether medals won in a former guise are recognised (Rhodesia being a prime example). Another anomaly is that Wales, for instance, not unreasonably claims 51 gold medals, including Reg Thomas in athletics in 1930 even though he actually represented England, while Canada lists Tom Chambers as one of their bronze-medallists, though he competed for Scotland at those same Games. The table below is thus my own compilation, and it differs from normal practice in that the order of ranking of countries is based on total medals and not merely gold medals. I believe this gives a better idea of the overall strengths of the various countries.

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Australia	804	674	604	2,082
2	England	615	612	615	1,842
3	Canada	439	460	494	1,393
4	New Zealand	130	190	245	565
5	India	140	123	109	372
6	Scotland	91	104	161	356
7	South Africa	104	104	105	313
8	Wales	50	77	107	234
9	Kenya	71	58	66	195
10	Nigeria	50	57	71	178
11	Malaysia*	48	58	64	170
12	Jamaica	42	34	36	112
13	Northern Ireland	27	29	44	100
14	Singapore	24	20	27	71
15	Pakistan	24	21	21	66
16	Ghana	15	18	22	55
17	Trinidad & Tobago	8	17	19	44
	Uganda	12	15	17	44
19	Zambia*	4	13	24	41
20	Bahamas	9	10	14	33
21	Cyprus	13	8	11	32
22	Nauru	10	9	9	28
23	Cameroon	9	7	11	27
24	Tanzania	6	6	9	21
25	Zimbabwe*	6	7	7	20
26	Hong Kong +	5	2	10	17
	Sri Lanka*	7	8	2	17
28	Samoa*	3	3	10	16

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
29	Guyana*	3	5	7	15
	Namibia	3	3	9	15
31	Fiji	3	4	7	14
32	Barbados	2	4	5	11
	Botswana	1	4	6	11
34	Isle of Man	3	1	6	10
	Mauritius	1	4	5	10
36	Papua New Guinea	2	5	2	9
37	Rhodesia & Nyasaland+	0	2	5	7
38	Guernsey	1	3	2	6
	Seychelles	0	3	3	6
40	Bangladesh	2	1	2	5
	Bermuda	1	2	2	5
	Rhodesia+	0	1	4	5
43	Jersey	1	0	3	4
	Lesotho	1	1	2	4
	Malta	0	1	3	4
	Mozambique	2	1	1	4
	Swaziland	0	1	3	4
48	Malawi	0	0	3	3
	St Vincent & The Grenadines	2	0	1	3
	Tonga	0	0	3	3
51	Cayman Islands	1	0	1	2
	St Lucia	0	0	2	2
53	The Gambia	0	0	1	1
	Grenada	0	1	0	1
	Ireland+	0	1	0	1
	Norfolk Island	0	0	1	1
	St Kitts & Nevis	1	0	0	1

* includes medals for the following former nations: Malaya (now Malaysia), Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), British Guiana (now Guyana), Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Western Samoa (now Samoa). + countries no longer competing at the Commonwealth Games (Rhodesia & Nyasaland included both Northern and Southern Rhodesia).

NOTE: the most significant improvement in the Medals Table by any country in 2010 was that of India, rising from 7th overall to 5th. The greatest improvement in proportion to past achievements was that of Singapore which won 11 gold medals and 31 medals in total in 2010 compared with figures for all previous Games of 13 golds and 40 medals. The countries which won gold medals for the first time in 2010 were Botswana, Cayman Islands and Samoa.

Comparing countries by the head count

As can be seen from the above table, much the three most dominant countries in Commonwealth Games history are Australia, England and Canada, who between them have won almost 62 per cent of the medals (5,317 out of 8,606), but are they really the three most successful Games participants? On the basis of medals won per head of the population, the

South Pacific phosphate-rock island republic of Nauru, which measures only eight square miles (21 square kilometres), ranks far ahead of any other country. All of Nauru's medals have been won by weight-lifters, including a future president of the island, Marcus Stephen. It is also worth noting that Norfolk Island, for whom Carmen Anderson won a bronze medal in the women's singles bowls of 1994, is a self-governing part of Australia situated in the Pacific Ocean and has a population of 2,302. Norfolk Island therefore also rates far above Australia, England or Canada in terms of medals won per head of the population! Compare the following figures regarding gold medals and total medals:

	Population	Per head of the population	
		Gold medals	Total medals
Nauru	9,378	937	334
Australia	23,388,304	29,089	11,233
Canada	35,158,300	80,087	26,257
England	53,012,456	86,199	28,779

The leading individual gold-medallists

The following competitors have each won five or more gold medals at the Games.

- 10 Susie O'Neill (Australia), Swimming 1990-1998
- 10 Ian Thorpe (Australia), Swimming 1998-2002
- 10 Leisel Jones (Australia), Swimming 2002-2010

- 9 Bill Hoskyns (England), Fencing 1958-1970
- 9 Mike Wenden (Australia), Swimming 1970-1974
- 9 David Morgan (Wales), Weight-lifting 1982-2002
- 9 Petria Thomas (Australia), Swimming 1994-2002
- 9 Michael Gault (England), Shooting 1994-2006
- 9 Jaspal Rana (India), Shooting 1994-2006
- 9 Alexandre Despatie (Canada), Diving 1998-2010

- 8 Allan Jay (England/Australia), Fencing 1950-1966
- 8 Gagan Narang (India), Shooting 2002-2006

- 7 Marjorie Jackson-Nelson (Australia), Athletics 1950-1954
- 7 René Paul (England), Fencing 1950-1958
- 7 Ralph Cooperman (England), Fencing 1954-1966
- 7 Raelene Boyle (Australia), Athletics 1970-1982
- 7 Phil Adams (Australia), Shooting 1982-1990
- 7 Lisa Curry-Kenny (Australia), Swimming 1982-1990
- 7 Hayley Lewis (Australia), Swimming 1990-1994
- 7 Marcus Stephen (Nauru), Weight-lifting 1990-1998
- 7 Samaresh Jung (India), Shooting 2002-2006
- 7 Jia Wei Li (Singapore), Table Tennis 2002-2010
- 7 Natalie du Toit (South Africa), Swimming Paraspport 2002-2010

- 6 Dawn Fraser (Australia), Swimming 1958-1962
- 6 Pam Kilborn-Ryan (Australia), Athletics 1962-1970
- 6 Don Quarrie (Jamaica), Athletics 1970-1978
- 6 Graham Smith (Canada), Swimming 1978
- 6 Christine Trefry (Australia), Shooting 1994-1998
- 6 Kiril Kounev (Australia), Weight-lifting 1994-1998
- 6 Lalita Yauhleuhsakaya (Australia), Shooting 2002-2006
- 6 Alexandra Orlando (Canada), Gymnastics (Rhythmic) 2006
- 6 Xue Ling Zhang (Singapore), Table-tennis 2002-2010

- 5 Decima Norman (Australia), Athletics 1938
- 5 Anita Lonsbrough (England), Swimming 1958-1962
- 5 Valerie Sloper-Young (New Zealand), Athletics 1958-1966
- 5 Linda Ludgrove (England), Swimming 1962-1966
- 5 Ian O'Brien (Australia), Swimming 1962-1966
- 5 David Bryant (England), Bowls 1962-1978
- 5 Alex Baumann (Canada), Swimming 1982-1986
- 5 Neil Brooks (Australia), Swimming 1982-1986
- 5 Helen Troke (England), Badminton 1982-1990
- 5 Gillian Clark (England), Badminton 1982-1994
- 5 Sally Gunnell (England), Athletics 1986-1994
- 5 Sharon Bowes (Canada), Shooting 1986-1998
- 5 Curtis Hibbert (Canada), Gymnastics 1990
- 5 Andrew Baildon (Australia), Swimming 1990-1994
- 5 Karen Van Wirdum (Australia), Swimming 1990-1994
- 5 Chris Fydler (Australia), Swimming 1990-1998

- 5 Kasumi Takahashi (Australia), Gymnastics (Rhythmic) 1994
- 5 Matt Dunn (Australia), Swimming 1994-1998
- 5 Bradley McGee (Australia), Cycling 1994-2002
- 5 Erika-Leigh Stirton (Canada), Gymnastics (Rhythmic) 1998
- 5 Michael Klim (Australia), Swimming 1998-2006
- 5 Lisbeth Lenton (Australia), Swimming 2006
- 5 Vijay Kumar (India), Shooting 2006-2010
- 5 Kien Keat Koo (Malaysia), Badminton 2006-2010

Of the 56 competitors who have won five or more gold medals 31 are men and 25 are women. The number of such gold-medallists for each sport is as follows: Swimming & Diving 22, Shooting 9, Athletics 7, Fencing 4, Gymnastics 4, Weight-lifting 3, Badminton 3, Table Tennis 2, Bowls 1, Cycling 1.

Leading gold-medallists by sports:

Athletics – 7 Marjorie Jackson-Nelson (Australia), Raelene Boyle (Australia).
 Badminton – 5 Helen Troke (England), Gillian Clark (England), Kien Keat Koo (Malaysia).
 Bowls – 5 David Bryant (England).
 Cycling – 5 Bradley McGee (Australia).
 Fencing – 9 Bill Hoskyns (England).
 Gymnastics (Artistic) – 5 Curtis Hibbert (Canada).
 Gymnastics (Rhythmic) – 6 Alexandra Orlando (Canada).
 Shooting – 9 Michael Gault (England), Jaspel Rana (India).
 Swimming – 10 Susie O'Neill (Australia), Ian Thorpe (Australia), Leisel Jones (Australia).
 Diving – 9 Alexandre Despatie (Canada).
 Table-tennis – 7 Jia Wei Li (Singapore).
 Weight-lifting – 9 David Morgan (Wales).

For other sports which are not represented in the list above, the leading gold-medallists are as follows:

Archery – 2 Duncan Busby, Nicky Hunt (both England), Deepika Kumari (India) 2010.
 Boxing – 2 Tony Madigan (Australia) 1958-62, Eddie Blay (Ghana) 1962-66, Sulley Shittu (Ghana) 1966-70, Philip Waruinge (Kenya) 1966-70, Edward Ndukwu (Nigeria) 1966-74, Muhamad Muruli (Uganda) 1970-74, Stephen Muchoki (Kenya) 1974-78, Michael Strange (Canada) 1994-98.
 Hockey (Men) – 3 Brent Livermore 1998-2006, Liam De Young 2002-2010, Jamie Dwyer (all Australia) 2002-2010.
 Hockey (Women) – 2 Rachel Imison, Nicole Mott-Hudson 1998-2006, Nicole Arnold, Madonna Blyth, Toni Cronk, Kate Hollywood, Kobie McGurk (all Australia) 2006-2010,
 Judo – 2 Elvis Gordon, Sharon Lee (both England) 1990.
 Netball – 2 Liz Ellis, Kathryn Harby-Williams, Janine Ilitch, Sharelle McMahon, Rebecca Sanders (all Australia) 1998-2002; Leana De Bruin, Temepara George, Laura Longman, Anna Scarlett, Irene Van Dyk, Casey Williams (all New Zealand) 2006-2010.
 Rowing – 4 Mervyn Wood (Australia) 1950-54.
 Rugby Union Sevens – 3 Amasio Valence (New Zealand) 1998-2006.
 Squash Rackets – 3 Peter Nicol (Scotland/England) 1998-2006, Natalie Grinham (Australia) 2006.
 Tennis – 2 Anastasia Rodionova (Australia) 2010.
 Ten-Pin Bowling – 3 Cara Honeychurch (Australia) 1998.
 Triathlon – 1 Simon Whitfield, Carol Montgomery (both Canada) 2002, Brad Kahlefeldt, Emma Snowsill (both Australia) 2006.
 Wrestling – 3 Dick Garrard (Australia) 1934-1950, Muhammad Akhtar (Pakistan) 1958-1966, Muhammad Bashir (Pakistan) 1958-1966, Muhammad Faiz (Pakistan) 1962-1970.

Note: Phil Adams (Australia) is the leader in terms of all medals won, with 18 (7 gold, 9 silver, 2 bronze), Shooting 1982-2002.

The Games Records

ATHLETICS – MEN

100 METRES: 9.88sec Ato Boldon (Trinidad & Tobago), 1998.
200 METRES: 19.97sec Frankie Fredericks (Namibia), 1994.
400 METRES: 44.52sec Iwan Thomas (Wales), 1998.
800 METRES: 1min 43.22sec Steve Cram (England), 1986.
1500 METRES: 3min 32.16sec Filbert Bayi (Tanzania), 1974.
5000 METRES: 12min 56.41sec Augustine Choge (Kenya), 2006.
10,000 METRES: 27min 45.39 sec Wilberforce Talel (Kenya), 2002.
3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: 8min 14.72sec Johnstone Kipkoech (Kenya), 1994.
MARATHON: 2hr 9min 12sec Ian Thompson (England), 1974.
20 KILOMETRES WALK: 1hr 19min 55sec Nathan Deakes (Australia), 2010.
50 KILOMETRES WALK: 3hr 42min 53sec Nathan Deakes (Australia), 2006.
110 METRES HURDLES: 13.08sec Colin Jackson (Wales), 1994.
400 METRES HURDLES: 48.05sec Louis van Zyl (South Africa), 2006.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: 38.20sec England (Dwain Chambers, Marlon Devonish, Julian Golding, Darren Campbell), 1998.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: 2min 59.03sec Jamaica (Michael McDonald, Roxbert Martin, Greg Haughton, Davian Clarke), 1998.
HIGH JUMP: 2.36m Nick Saunders (Bermuda), 1990.
POLE VAULT: 5.80m Steve Hooker (Australia), 2006.
LONG JUMP: 8.39m Yussuf Ali (Nigeria), 1990. Note: wind-assisted. The best valid performance is 8.30 by Fabrice Lapierre (Australia), 2010.
TRIPLE JUMP: 17.86m Jonathan Edwards (England), 2002.
SHOT: 21.02m Dylan Armstrong (Canada), 2010.
DISCUS: 66.39m Frantz Kruger (South Africa), 2002.
HAMMER: 77.53m Stuart Rendell (Australia), 2006.
JAVELIN: 88.75m Marius Corbett (South Africa), 1998.
DECATHLON: 8,663pts Daley Thompson (England), 1986.
Note: New specification javelin introduced in 1990.

ATHLETICS - WOMEN

100 METRES: 10.91sec Debbie Ferguson (Bahamas), 2002.
200 METRES: 22.19sec Merlene Ottey (Jamaica), 1990.
400 METRES: 50.10sec Amantle Montsho (Botswana), 2010.
800 METRES: 1min 57.35sec Maria Mutola (Mozambique), 2002.
1500 METRES: 4min 5.26sec Nancy Langat (Kenya), 2010.
5000 METRES: 14min 31.42 sec Paula Radcliffe (England), 2002.
10,000 METRES: 31min 27.83sec Salina Kosgei (Kenya), 2002.
3000 METRES STEEPLECHASE: 9min 19.51sec Dorcas Inzikuru (Uganda), 2006.
MARATHON: 2hr 25min 28sec Lisa Martin (Australia), 1986.
20 KILOMETRES WALK: 1hr 34min 22sec Jo Jackson (England), 2010.
100 METRES HURDLES: 12.65sec Brigitte Foster-Hylton (Jamaica) 2006.
400 METRES HURDLES: 53.82sec Jana Pittman (Australia), 2006.
4 x 100 METRES RELAY: 42.44sec Bahamas (Tamica Clarke, Sevatheda Fynes, Chandra Sturrup, Debbie Ferguson), 2002.
4 x 400 METRES RELAY: 3min 25.63sec Australia (Lauren Hewitt, Cathy Freeman, Tamsyn Lewis, Jana Pittman), 2002.
HIGH JUMP: 1.96m Hestrie Cloete (South Africa), 2002.
POLE VAULT: 4.62m Kym Howe-Nadin (Australia), 2006.
LONG JUMP: 6.97m Bronwyn Thompson (Australia), 2006.
TRIPLE JUMP: 14.86m Ashia Hansen (England), 2002.
SHOT: 20.47m Valerie Adams (New Zealand), 2010.

DISCUS: 65.92m Beatrice Faumuina (New Zealand), 1998.
HAMMER: 68.57m Sultana Frizzell (Canada), 2010.
JAVELIN: 66.96m Louise McPaul (Australia), 1998.
HEPTATHLON: 6,695pts Jane Flemming (Australia), 1990.
Note: new specification javelin introduced in 1990.

CYCLING - MEN

1000 METRES TIME-TRIAL: 1min 1.411sec Scott Sunderland (Australia), 2010.
4000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: 4min 14.845sec Jack Bobridge (Australia), 2010.
4000 METRES TEAM PURSUIT: 3min 55.421sec Australia (Jack Bobridge, Michael Hepburn, Cameron Meyer, Dale Parker), 2010.
750 METRES TEAM SPRINT: 43.773sec Australia (Daniel Ellis, Jason Niblett, Scott Sunderland), 2010.
20 KILOMETRES SCRATCH: 22min 57.643sec Cameron Meyer (Australia), 2010.

CYCLING - WOMEN

500 METRES TIME-TRIAL: 33.758sec Anna Meares (Australia), 2010
3000 METRES INDIVIDUAL PURSUIT: 3min 30.290sec Katie Mactier (Australia), 2006.

SHOOTING – MEN

Note: in some instances records were set in qualifying for the finals.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: 396 - 42pts Parag Patel (England), 2010.
FULL-BORE RIFLE, PAIRS: 588 - 53pts New Zealand (John Snowden, Mike Collings) 2010.
50 METRES RIFLE PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: 595 - 43pts Jonathan Hammond (Scotland) 2010.
50 METRES RIFLE PRONE, PAIRS: 1,181 - 74pts Scotland (Jonathan Hammond, Neil Stirton) 2010.
50 METRES RIFLE THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: 1,186 - 57pts Gagan Narang (India), 2010.
50 METRES RIFLE THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: 2,325 - 106pts India (Gagan Narang, Imran Hasan Khan), 2010 .
AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: 600 - 50pts Gagan Narang (India), 2010.
AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: 1,193 - 105pts India (Gagan Narang, Abhinav Bindra), 2010.
TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: 147pts Aaron Heading (England) 2010.
TRAP, PAIRS: 198pts Australia (Michael Diamond, Adam Vella), 2010.
DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: 191pts Rayjavardhan Singh (India), 2002.
DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: 189pts England (Stevan Walton, Steven Scott) 2010.
SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: 197pts Laurence Woolley (New Zealand), 1982.
SKEET, PAIRS: 195pts England (Joe Neville, Ken Harman) 1986.
50 METRES FREE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 558 - 9pts Bin Gai (Singapore) 2010.
50 METRES FREE PISTOL, PAIRS: 1,094 - 13pts Singapore (Bin Gai, Swee Hon Lim) 2010.
STANDARD PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 574pts Jaspal Rana (India), 2002.
STANDARD PISTOL, PAIRS: 1,116 - 28pts Singapore (Bin Gai, Lip Meng Poh) 2010.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 583 - 23pts Vijay Kumar (India), 2010.
RAPID-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: 1,162 - 48pts India (Vijay Kumar, Gurpreet Singh) 2010.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 580 - 16pts Harpreet Singh (India) 2010.
CENTRE-FIRE PISTOL, PAIRS: 1,168pts India (Jaspal Rana, Ashok Pandit), 1994.
AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 584 - 19pts Omkar Singh (India), 2010.
AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: 1,163 - 42pts India (Omkar Singh, Gurpreet Singh), 2010.

SHOOTING - WOMEN

50 METRES RIFLE PRONE, INDIVIDUAL: 597 - 42pts Jennifer McIntosh (Scotland) 2010.
50 METRES RIFLE PRONE, PAIRS: 1,169 - 60pts Scotland (Jennifer McIntosh, Kay Copland) 2010.
50 METRES RIFLE THREE POSITIONS, INDIVIDUAL: 575 – 26pts Althea Sedgman (Australia) 2010.

50 METRES RIFLE THREE POSITIONS, PAIRS: 1,149 - 44pts Singapore (Aqilah Sudhir, Wiang Wei Jasmine Ser), 2010.

AIR RIFLE, INDIVIDUAL: 398 - 36pts Wiang Wei Jasmine Ser (Singapore), 2010.

AIR RIFLE, PAIRS: 795pts India (Anjali Mandar Bhagwat, Suma Shirur), 2002.

TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: 93pts Anita North (England) 2010.

TRAP, PAIRS: 93pts Australia (Laetisha Scanlan, Stacy Roiall), 2010.

DOUBLE TRAP, INDIVIDUAL: 141pts Charlotte Kerwood (England), 2002.

DOUBLE TRAP, PAIRS: 137pts New Zealand (Teresa Borrell, Nadine Stanton), 2002.

SKEET, INDIVIDUAL: 93pts Natalia Rahman (Australia) 2002.

SKEET, PAIRS: 95pts Australia (Lauryn Ogilvie, Natalia Rahman), 2002.

25 METRES PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 686 - 8pts Lalita Yauhleuskaya (Australia), 2002.

25 METRES PISTOL, PAIRS: 1,156 - 40 pts India (Rahi Sarnobat, Anisa Sayyed), 2010.

AIR PISTOL, INDIVIDUAL: 383 - 17pts Heena Sidhu (India) 2010.

AIR PISTOL, PAIRS: 759 - 21pts India (Annu Raj Singh, Heena Sidhu) 2010.

SWIMMING - MEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: 22.01sec Brent Hayden (Canada), 2010.

100 METRES FREESTYLE: 47.98sec Brent Hayden (Canada), 2010.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: 1min 44.71sec Ian Thorpe (Australia), 2002.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: 3min 40.08sec Ian Thorpe (Australia), 2002.

1500 METRES FREESTYLE: 14min 41.66sec Kieren Perkins (Australia), 1994.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: 3min 13.92sec Australia (Kyle Richardson, Eamon Sullivan, Tomasso D'Orsogna, James Magnussen), 2010.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: 7min 10.29sec Australia (Thomas Fraser-Holmes, Nicholas Frost, Ryan Napoleon, Kenrick Monk), 2010.

50 METRES BACKSTROKE: 24.62sec Liam Tancock (England), 2010.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: 53.59sec Liam Tancock (England), 2010.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: 1min 55.58sec James Goddard (England), 2010.

50 METRES BREASTSTROKE: 27.18sec Cameron van der Burgh (South Africa), 2010.

100 METRES BREASTSTROKE: 1min 0.10sec Cameron van der Burgh (South Africa), 2010.

200 METRES BREASTSTROKE: 2min 10.89sec Brenton Rickard (Australia), 2010.

50 METRES BUTTERFLY: 23.34sec Roland Schoeman (South Africa), 2006.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: 51.69sec Geoff Huegill (Australia), 2010.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: 1min 56.48sec Chad Le Clos (South Africa), 2010.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1min 58.10sec James Goddard (England), 2010.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 4min 13.25sec Chad Le Clos (South Africa), 2010.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: 3min 33.15sec Australia (Ashley Delaney, Brenton Rickard, Geoff Huegill, Eamon Sullivan), 2010.

SWIMMING - WOMEN

50 METRES FREESTYLE: 24.61sec Lisbeth Lenton (Australia), 2006.

100 METRES FREESTYLE: 53.54sec Lisbeth Lenton (Australia), 2006.

200 METRES FREESTYLE: 1min 57.25sec Caitlin McClatchey (Scotland), 2006.

400 METRES FREESTYLE: 4min 5.68sec Rebecca Adlington (England), 2010.

800 METRES FREESTYLE: 8min 24.62sec Tracey Wickham (Australia), 1978.

4 x 100 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: 3min 36.36sec Australia (Alicia Coutts, Marike Guehrer, Felicity Galvez, Emily Seebohm), 2010.

4 x 200 METRES FREESTYLE RELAY: 7min 53.71sec Australia (Kylie Palmer, Blair Evans, Bronte Barratt, Meagen Nay), 2010.

50 METRES BACKSTROKE: 28.00sec Sophie Edington (Australia), 2010.

100 METRES BACKSTROKE: 59.79sec Emily Seebohm (Australia), 2010.

200 METRES BACKSTROKE: 2min 7.56sec Meagen Nay (Australia), 2010.

50 METRES BREASTSTROKE: 30.55sec Leisel Jones (Australia), 2006.

100 METRES BREASTSTROKE: 1min 5.09sec Leisel Jones (Australia), 2006.

200 METRES BREASTSTROKE: 2min 20.72sec Leisel Jones (Australia), 2006.

50 METRES BUTTERFLY: 26.43sec Danni Miatke (Australia), 2006.

100 METRES BUTTERFLY: 57.48sec Jessicah Schipper (Australia), 2006.

200 METRES BUTTERFLY: 2min 6.09sec Jessicah Schipper (Australia), 2006.

200 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 2min 9.70sec Alicia Coutts (Australia), 2010.

400 METRES INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 4min 38.83sec Hannah Miley (Scotland), 2010.

4 x 100 METRES MEDLEY RELAY: 3min 56.30sec Australia (Sophie Edington, Leisel Jones, Jessicah Schipper, Lisbeth Lenton), 2006.

TRIATHLON – MEN

1:49:16.33 Bradley Kahlefeldt (Australia) 2006.

TRIATHLON – WOMEN

1:58:02.60 Emma Snowsill (Australia) 2006.

WEIGHT-LIFTING – MEN

Note: there are 119 official weight-lifting records for men and women recognised by the Commonwealth Games Federation! These cover each of the weight limits (which have changed over the years), each type of lift and each variation of total lifts (originally three different lifts contested, now two). The records listed below are those recognised by the Commonwealth Weight-Lifting Federation for the current weight categories, rounded off by the CWF to the nearest lower kilogramme. Also listed are the Paraspport records.

56 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 260kg Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia), 2010.

Snatch - 116kg Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia) 2002.

Clean & Jerk - 145kg Amirul Hamizan Ibrahim (Malaysia) 2002.

62 KILOGRAMMES:

Total – 292kg Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 1998.

Snatch - 125kg Yourik Sarkisian (Australia) 1998.

Clean & Jerk - 167kg Marcus Stephen (Nauru) 1998.

69 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 321kg Ravi Kumar Katulu (India), 2010.

Snatch - 146kg Ravi Kumar Katulu (India) 2010.

Clean & Jerk - 175kg Ravi Kumar Katulu (India) 2010.

77 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 333kg Yukio Peter (Nauru), 2010.

Snatch - 148kg Yukio Peter (India) 2010.

Clean & Jerk - 187kg Damian Brown (Australia) 1998.

85 KILOGRAMMES:

Total – 347kg Leon Griffin (England) 1998.

Snatch - 157kg Stephen Ward (England) 1998.

Clean & Jerk - 193kg Shuja-Ud-Din Malik (Pakistan) 2006. .

94 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 370kg Kiril Kounev (Australia) 1998.

Snatch - 167kg Aleksan Karapetyan (Australia) 2002.

Clean & Jerk - 205kg Kiril Kounev (Australia) 1998.

105 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 375kg Delroy McQueen (England) 2002.

Snatch - 167kg Akos Sandor (Canada) 1998.

Clean & Jerk - 210kg Delroy McQueen (England) 2002.

OVER 105KG:

Total - 397kg Itte Detenamo (Nauru) 2010.

Snatch - 180kg Giles Greenwood (England) 2002.

Clean & Jerk - 221kg Damon Kelly (Australia) 2010.

BENCH PRESS (PARASPORT):
215.1kg Adesokan Yakubu (Nigeria) 2010.

WEIGHT-LIFTING - WOMEN

48 KILOGRAMMES:

Total- 175kg Augustina Nkem Nwaokolo (Nigeria) 2010.
Snatch- 77kg Augustina Nkem Nwaokolo (Nigeria) 2010.
Clean & Jerk - 985kg Augustina Nkem Nwaokolo (Nigeria) 2010.

53 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 188kg Maryse Turcott (Canada) 2006.
Snatch - 82kg Sananamacha Chanu (India) 2002.
Clean & Jerk - 108kg Maryse Turcott (Canada) 2006.

58 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 202kg Maryse Turcott (Canada) 2002.
Snatch - 90kg Yumnam Renu Bala Chanu (India) 2010.
Clean & Jerk - 115kg Maryse Turcott (Canada) 2002.-

63 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 220kg Michaela Breeze (Wales), 2006.
Snatch - 100kg Michaela Breeze (Wales) 2006.
Clean & Jerk - 121kg Christine Girard (Canada) 2006.

69 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 235kg Christine Girard (Canada), 2010.
Snatch - 105kg Christine Girard (Canada) 2010.
Clean & Jerk - 132kg Jeane Lassen (Canada) 2006.

75 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 239kg Hadiza Zakari (Nigeria), 2010.
Snatch - 110kg Hadiza Zakari (Nigeria) 2010.
Clean & Jerk - 129kg Hadiza Zakari (Nigeria) 2010.

OVER 75 KILOGRAMMES:

Total - 285kg Ele Opeloge (Samoa) 2010.
Snatch – 125kg Ele Opeloge (Samoa) 2010.
Clean & Jerk – 160kg Ele Opeloge (Samoa) 2010.

BENCH PRESS (PARASPORT):

148kg Esther Oyema (Nigeria) 2010.

Scotland's 91 gold medals, in chronological order, sport by sport.

Aquatics (Swimming & Diving), 20 gold medals (13 for men, 7 for women):

Willie Francis, *100 yards backstroke* 1934; Norman Hamilton, *200 yards breaststroke* 1934; Elinor Gordon, *Women's 220 yards breaststroke* 1950; Peter Heatly, *Highboard Diving* 1950; Elinor Gordon, *Women's 220 yards breast-stroke* 1954; Margaret McDowall, Elinor Gordon, Margaret Girvan, *Women's 3 x 110 yards medley relay* 1954; Peter Heatly, *Springboard Diving* 1954; Ian Black, *220 yards butterfly* 1958; Peter Heatly, *Highboard Diving* 1958; David Wilkie, *200 metres breaststroke* 1974; David Wilkie, *200 metres individual medley* 1974; Alison Sheppard, *Women's 50 metres freestyle*, 2002; David Carry, *400 metres freestyle* 2006; David Carry, *400 metres individual medley* 2006, Gregor Tait, *200 metres backstroke* 2006, Gregor Tait, *200 metres individual medley* 2006, Caitlin McClatchey, *Women's 200 metres freestyle* 2006; Caitlin McClatchey, *Women's 400 metres freestyle* 2006; Robert Renwick, *200 metres freestyle* 2010; Hannah Miley, *Women's 400 metres individual medley* 2010. Note: Peter Heatly later Sir Peter Heatly.

Athletics, 17 gold medals (11 for men, 6 for women):

Duncan McLeod Wright, *Marathon* 1930; Alan Hunter, *440 yards hurdles* 1934; Duncan McDougall Clark, *Hammer* 1950; Joe McGhee, *Marathon* 1954; Jim Alder, *Marathon* 1966; Ian Stewart, *5000 metres* 1970; Lachie Stewart, *10,000 metres* 1970; Rosemary Stirling, *Women's 800 metres* 1970; Rosemary Payne, *Women's Discus* 1970; Allan Wells, *100 metres* 1978; David Jenkins, Allan Wells, Cameron Sharp, Drew McMaster, *4 x 100 metres relay* 1978; Allan Wells, *100 metres* 1982; Allan Wells, *200 metres* 1982 (tie); Meg Ritchie, *Women's Discus* 1982; Liz Lynch, *Women's 10,000 metres* 1986; Liz McColgan (née Lynch), *Women's 10,000 metres* 1990; Yvonne Murray, *Women's 10,000 metres* 1994.

Badminton, 1 gold medal for men:

Billy Gilliland, Dan Travers, *Doubles* 1986.

Boxing, 15 gold medals for men:

Jim Rolland, *Lightweight (60kg)* 1930; Hugh Riley, *Flyweight (51kg)* 1950; Henry Gilliland, *Featherweight (57kg)* 1950; Dick Currie, *Flyweight (51kg)* 1954; John Smillie, *Bantamweight (54kg)* 1954; Jackie Brown, *Flyweight (51kg)* 1958; Dick McTaggart, *Lightweight (60kg)* 1958; Robert Mallon, *Flyweight (51kg)* 1962; John McDermott, *Featherweight (57kg)* 1962; Tom Imrie, *Light-middleweight (71kg)* 1970; Charlie Kane, *Light-welterweight (63.5kg)* 1990; Paul Shepherd, *Flyweight (51kg)* 1994; Alex Arthur, *Featherweight (57kg)* 1998; Kenny Anderson, *Light-heavyweight (81kg)* 2006; Callum Johnson, *Light-heavyweight (81kg)* 2010.

Cycling, 3 gold medals for men:

Chris Hoy, *1 kilometre time-trial* 2002; Ross Edgar, Chris Hoy (later Sir Chris Hoy), Craig Maclean, *Team sprint* 2006; David Millar, *Individual road time-trial* 2010. Note: Chris Hoy later Sir Chris Hoy.

Fencing, 2 gold medals for men:

Sandy Leckie, *Individual foil* 1962; Sandy Leckie, *Individual sabre* 1970.

Gymnastics, 1 gold medal for men:

Steve Frew, *Rings* 2002 (tie).

Judo, 2 gold medals (1 for men, 1 for women):

Loretta Cusack, *Women's Lightweight (56kg)* 1990; Graeme Randall, *Light-heavyweight (81kg)* 2002.

Lawn bowls, 13 gold medals (11 for men, 2 for women):

Robert Sprot, *Singles* 1934; John Christie, Alex McIntosh, *Pairs* 1974; Willie Wood, *Singles* 1982; John Watson, David Gourlay, *Pairs* 1982; George Adrain, Grant Knox, *Pairs* 1986; Willie Wood, Dennis Love, Ian Bruce, George Adrain, *Fours* 1990; Richard Corsie, *Singles* 1994; Robert Brand, *Singles visually impaired* 1994; Frances White, Sarah Gourlay, *Women's Pairs* 1994; Margaret Letham, Joyce Linores, *Women's Pairs* 1998; Alex Marshall, George Sneddon, *Pairs* 2002; David Heddle, Ivan Prior, John Robertson, *Triples physically handicapped* 2002; Paul Foster, Alex Marshall, *Pairs* 2006. Note: David and Sarah Gourlay are husband and wife.

Shooting, 12 gold medals (8 for men, 4 for women):

Alister Allan, *Small-bore rifle individual prone* 1978; Alister Allan, Bill MacNeill, *Air rifle pairs* 1982; Alister Allan, *Small-bore rifle individual three positions* 1982; Arthur Clarke, *Full-bore rifle individual* 1982; Ian Marsden, Jim Dunlop, *Skeet pairs* 1990; Shirley McIntosh, *Women's Sport rifle individual prone* 1994; Sheena Sharp, *Women's 50 metres rifle individual prone* 2006; Susan Jackson, Sheena Sharp, *Women's 50 metres rifle pairs prone* 2006; Jonathan Hammond, *50 metres rifle individual prone* 2010; Jonathan Hammond, Neil Stirton, *50 metres rifle pairs prone* 2010; Jennifer McIntosh, *Women's 50 metres rifle individual prone* 2010; Jennifer McIntosh, Kay Copland, *Women's 50 metres rifle pairs prone* 2010. Note: Shirley and Jennifer McIntosh are mother and daughter.

Squash 1 gold medal for men:

Peter Nicol, *Singles* 1998. Note: Nicol also won two gold medals for England at later Games.

Tennis, 1 gold medal for men and women:

Colin Fleming, Jocelyn Rae, *Mixed doubles* 2010.

Weight-lifting, 2 gold medals for men:

Phil Caira, *Light-heavyweight (82.5kg)* 1958; Phil Caira, *Light-heavyweight (82.5kg)* 1962.

Wrestling, 1 gold medal for men:

Edward Melrose, *Bantamweight (57kg)* 1934.

Note: 70 gold medals for men, 20 for women, 1 shared.

Leading gold-medalists:

4 Allan Wells, *Athletics*

3 Alister Allan, *Shooting*; Elinor Gordon, *Swimming*; Sir Peter Heatly, *Diving*.

2 George Adrain, *Bowls*; Phil Caira, *Weight-lifting*; David Carry, *Swimming*; Jonathan Hammond, *Shooting*; Sir Chris Hoy, *Cycling*; Sandy Leckie, *Fencing*; Alex Marshall, *Bowls*; Caitlin McClatchey, *Swimming*; Liz McColgan (née Lynch), *Athletics*; Jennifer McIntosh, *Shooting*; Sheena Sharp, *Shooting*; Gregor Tait, *Swimming*; David Wilkie, *Swimming*; Willie Wood, *Bowls*. Note: Peter Nicol, *Squash*, has won 1 gold medal for Scotland and 2 for England.

There have been 93 different gold-medalists for Scotland, allowing for multiple winners and team events. Of the 17 sports which will be contested at the 2014 Games, Scotland has never won a gold medal in five – Hockey, Netball, Rugby Union Sevens, Table Tennis and Triathlon.

Epilogue

What Commonwealth? What Games?

Messages of support for the Commonwealth Games from political and social dignitaries published in programmes and brochures over the years have tended to be well-meaning but dull. Almost invariably, nothing of any great consequence is said, and the words penned by Premiers, Prime Ministers, Lord Mayors, Chairmen of sponsoring companies, or whichever other VIPs are considered appropriate to the occasion, often serve no other purpose than to proclaim the fact that they are actually aware that the Games are taking place despite all the myriad matters with which their lives are occupied. Rarely, if ever, has any contribution had as much of significance to say about the purpose of the Commonwealth and its Games as that to which the Duke of Edinburgh, in his capacity as president of the Commonwealth Games Federation, put his name on the eve of the 1970 Games in Edinburgh.

In a special message which was published in "World Sports", the widely-read monthly magazine of the British Olympic Association, he wrote in a distinctly breezy manner: "Four years after a splendid meeting in Jamaica the Commonwealth Games are to be held in Edinburgh. Nothing very provocative in that statement, but after the unending attempts of many commentators to convince everyone that the Commonwealth is an illusion, one might well ask 'What Commonwealth?' Equally, 'What Games?'"

"The commentators would have us believe that there is no such thing as an amateur in any sport any more and that a competition of this sort is a sham at worst or a benefit for professionals and an entertainment for the public at best. As usual there is a bit of truth in the criticisms, but in neither case is it sufficient to provide any serious objection to the idea of a Commonwealth Games.

"In the first place I doubt very much whether the Commonwealth ever existed in the way some people seem to imagine. The old pre-first war Empire may have had some political cohesion, but the post-second war Commonwealth has never pretended to be a political entity. How can it be when every member has complete responsibility for both its internal and external affairs? Membership is entirely voluntary and consists in theory of nothing more than that The Queen is the head. The reality of the Commonwealth does not lie in some written constitution, it lies in the close relationships and similarities which have grown up between corresponding organisations in the several member countries. Not least of these are the sporting organisations which have long been in close and friendly contact.

"It could well be argued that the future of the Commonwealth depends upon continuing and developing the contacts and relationships between these corresponding organisations. The particular importance of the Commonwealth Games organisation is that it involves a great many people and it attracts a great deal of popular support from all member countries.

"As to whether the competitors are amateurs or not, I would be more than surprised if even a small handful of the competitors at Edinburgh could claim that they were any better off financially when they returned home. By far the greatest majority would be considerably out of pocket. I would be surprised for one simple reason: in my experience none of the nine sports allowed in the Commonwealth Games, with the exception of boxing, can command a sufficient public following to allow professionalism, and when it does occur the real professional is only too easily recognised for what he is".

The Duke of Edinburgh's observations still ring true more than 40 years later, even though the Commonwealth Games sports have become largely and legitimately professionalised, and his closing comments – striking very much a personal note – also still reflect the prevailing ethos of the Commonwealth Games movement. “I have been to every Commonwealth Games since those in Vancouver in 1954”, he wrote. “I am not a natural spectator, but I know of no other contest where the whole spirit and atmosphere is so happy and friendly. Everybody takes a delight in whoever wins, and the smaller the country the louder the cheers for the winner. This spirit and the whole Games are made possible by the existence of the Commonwealth and these Games in turn make the Commonwealth live”.