



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

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MESSAGE...

...from John Crabtree

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

I am very pleased to advise you that there are two new board members for Birmingham 2022, as Ama Agbeze and Geoff Thompson were recently appointed by Oliver Dowden, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Both have a fantastic background in sport and they are incredibly inspiring. They are also both extremely passionate about Birmingham and the West Midlands and share in our vision to bring the benefits of these Games to as many people as possible.

Geoff is now Deputy Chair of the board and Ama has taken over as Chair of the Athletes' Advisory Committee for Birmingham 2022. I'm looking forward to working with them both.

This is such an important year for the Birmingham 2022 team and I'm extremely proud of how we are continuing to move forward at such speed, despite the background of the global pandemic.

Soon we will be launching our volunteer programme, our ticketing programme and of course the full, detailed schedule for the Games.

We look forward to providing you with more information on these exciting developments very soon.

JOHN CRABTREE OBE
CHAIRMAN,
BIRMINGHAM 2022

...from Ian Reid

Welcome to the latest CGA newsletter, providing you with information about our progress on organising Birmingham 2022.

As well as updates from key departments such as security, the villages team and transport, you will also find some information about the impressive progress which is currently being made on our two main capital projects – the brand new Sandwell Aquatics Centre and the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium.

You'll also find details about our session competition schedule. Our sports programme will include 286 sessions of sport and we now know the start and finish times of each of the sessions and when medals will be won.

We continue to carefully monitor the situation in relation to COVID-19 and you will find an update on the work that we are doing on page 3. We have brought in additional resources and we are working with medical and scientific experts who are supporting our monitoring efforts.

We will also carefully scrutinise how other major, global events implement safety measures over the next 12 months, so we can learn from their experiences.

We hope you find the information provided extremely useful.

IAN REID
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
BIRMINGHAM 2022



CGA UPDATE

The CGA Relations Team has hit the ground running since the start of the year, arranging virtual visits, and supporting several internal Organising Committee functional areas with activity to assist CGA planning.

Birmingham 2022 has also been working closely with the CGF's CGA Advisory Group on several areas including the multi-site village operations, village service levels, and transport and fleet vehicles.

This edition of the newsletter provides an update on the topic that is dominating our world at this time – COVID-19 – as well as other key planning updates from Birmingham 2022, as we continue to move forward with organising the Games.

COVID-19 Planning

Across Birmingham 2022, we are committed to delivering a safe Games for everyone, whilst also offering a beacon of light in a post COVID-19 world.

Aside from our normal planning efforts, we have been tracking the impact of COVID-19 and the success of measures to counteract it, and we have now established a scenario planning framework, so that we can evaluate the environment across all our Commonwealth nations and territories.

This framework allows us to review the situation on a regular basis, and to implement necessary changes to our planning and delivery processes in a timely and efficient manner.

The Birmingham 2022 team will be observing the implementation of a number of safety measures introduced at events prior to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, including at Tokyo 2020, Expo 21, and Beijing 2022.

The plans outlined above have been subject to a great deal of scrutiny and we have established specific governance to allow us to make timely decisions.

Birmingham 2022 has brought in additional resource and scientific expertise, in order to help support our monitoring and implementation efforts. This has allowed us to remain on track and we look forward to delivering a safe Games in 2022.





CGA UPDATE

NEW TEAM MEMBER

Gina Dawson joined Birmingham 2022 in August 2019 as an Operations Co-ordinator within the Central Operations Team, working closely with the Games Family Services, Security, Sport, Transport, Village and Venue Management departments.

Gina has been a great asset to Birmingham 2022 and her hard work was rewarded when she was appointed as the CGA Relations Manager, supporting Africa and Asia CGAs in planning and preparation for the Games.

Gina has 15 years' experience in Event and Operations Management, including roles with the Organising Committee for the UEFA Champions League Final in 2017, and she also worked closely with the England Rugby and the British and Irish Lions' travel partner.

Gina has also previously worked for Swim England and Cardiff City Football Club.

Team Size Calculator - Version 1

CGAs should now have received the Team Size Calculator V1 for Birmingham 2022.

In this document, CGAs will see Excel fields are required for the number of Athletes, Team Officials and Accreditation entitlements.

Please complete this document to the best of your knowledge at this time, as it will support our planning and enable you to develop a better picture of your team size.

CGA Visits

The Birmingham 2022 CGA Relations Team has recently hosted virtual visits from CGA England and CGA Canada. These visits were attended by several key operational staff from these CGAs including:

ENG - Mark England (CdM) Louise Mackie, Paul Blanchard, Paul Ford and Frankie Kelly

CAN - Scott Stevenson, Kelly Laframboise, Antoine Atallah, Marni Wesner, Pat Kenny and Brian MacPherson

KEY DATES

Please find below the updated key dates table. Some dates have been added and some have been updated, so please do check the information provided.

| Timing | Key Dates | Information/Action Required |
|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| 16 Months | March 2021 | Team Size Calculator V1 due from CGAs |
| 14 Months | May 2021 | Sport Event Schedule released |
| 14 Months | May 2021 | CGA Ticketing Manual released |
| 14 Months | 31 May 2021 | CGA Accommodation Brochure released |
| 13 Months | June 2021 | CGA Ticket Request Portal P1 Open |
| 12 Months | July 2021 | CGA Ticket Request Portal P1 Closed |
| 12 Months | July 2021 | Chefs de Mission Dossier distributed |
| 11 Months | August 2021 | CGA Ticket Requests P1 confirmed |
| 10 Months | September 2021 | CGA Tickets 50% payment |
| 10 Months | 21 September 2021 | Team Size Calculator V2 deadline for returns from CGAs |
| 8 Months | November 2021 | CGA Ticket Request Portal P2 Open |
| 8 Months | 18 November 2021 | Accreditation system goes live and manual published |
| 8 Months | 18 November 2021 | Sport Entries Guide distributed |
| 7 Months | December 2021 | CGA Tickets 50% payment |
| 6 Months | January 2022 | CGA Tickets Returns & Final request window (immediate payment) |
| 6 Months | 27 January 2022 | Team Size Calculator V3 due from CGAs |
| 6 Months | 27 January 2022 | Entry by number submitted by CGAs |
| 6 Months | 27 January 2022 | 20% Travel Grant Payment |
| 4 Months | 18 March 2022 | Accreditation deadline for CGA athletes and team officials |
| 4 Months | March 2022 | 50% Travel Grant Payment |
| 3 Months | 27 April 2022 | Sport entry system goes live |
| 3 Months | 29 April 2022 | Accreditation deadline for CGA dignitaries and guests |
| 3 Months | April 2022 | Pre-delegation registration meetings |
| 4 Weeks | 29 June 2022 | Team Size Calculator V4 due from CGAs |
| 4 Weeks | 29 June 2022 | Entry by name submitted by CGAs |
| 3 Weeks | 11 July 2022 | Team Sports final squad submission |
| 2 Weeks | July 2022 | Delegation registration meetings |
| | 22 July 2022 | Official Opening of Commonwealth Games Villages |
| | 28 July 2022 | Opening Ceremony |
| | 8 August 2022 | Closing Ceremony |
| | 10 August 2022 | Closing of Commonwealth Games Villages |
| | September 2022 | 30% Travel Grant Payment |

PRE-GAMES TRAINING CAMPS

The Pre-Games Training Camp list of facilities has now been shared with all CGAs. Birmingham 2022 is delighted with the quantity and quality of the venues on the list, so please do take a look to see if there are any facilities that your CGA would be interested in using.

Please contact B2022trainingcamps@DCMS.gov.uk for more information.



UPDATE ON PROTOCOL

Throughout the Organising Committee, the co-operation between functional areas is working well and the Protocol Team has continued to work with several teams across the organisation.

This includes liaising with Security, Arrivals & Departures, and Venue Management on a wide range of matters that affect the Games Family.

Examples include the team's involvement in the competition venue planning process and working hard with the venues team to identify spaces that will be used as Games Family lounges and as the exclusive Games Family seating bowl. Good progress has been made and this work will continue throughout 2021.

Internal co-operation is not the only area of work as the team has also established excellent working relationships with a range of external stakeholders and partners, such as Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police and UK Government departments, such as the Department for Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

Representatives from each of these stakeholders and partners have been brought together and an inaugural Dignitary Working Group meeting was held. This forum will see representatives work together to manage the processes that will ensure that both domestic and international dignitaries have safe and enjoyable visits to Birmingham, both in advance of and during the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

New Team Member

Kyle Borley will be joining the Protocol Team as Protocol Co-ordinator. Kyle joins from a cycling charity and is excited to be involved in Birmingham 2022.

Recruitment in the Protocol Team will continue at pace with the team aiming to recruit a Games Family Hotel Manager and a Venue Protocol Cluster Manager in the autumn.

SECURITY UPDATE

The Security team has been making great progress on the procurement of a Private Contract Security provider, with tender documents from all companies now received, evaluated, and moderated.

Presentations also took place just before Christmas and these are currently being followed by dialogue sessions with each potential provider, giving those evaluating the tenders a real opportunity to delve into the detail of the proposed plans.

The Security team and West Midlands Police Integrated Security Partners have also recently been involved in an independent Home Office led budget review which has identified several recommendations.

There have also been changes to the security governance structure with the creation of a Ministerial Security Assurance Board, chaired by the Rt Hon James Brokenshire,

Minister of State for Security. The Security Board has also been renamed to the Multi-Agency Gold Strategic Group and will be chaired by Assistant Chief Constable for West Midlands Police, Matt Ward.

West Midlands Police (WMP) also report the following:

- Joint transport procurement is underway with OC/WMP & Transport for West Midlands (TfWM)
- New Security co-ordinators (5 x Police Inspectors) have just joined WMP team - currently undergoing induction prior to starting work on their respective clusters of venues
- WMP is sending a planner to the National Police Ops Co-ordination Centre (NPOCC) in London (full-time secondment to plan the mutual aid from other forces)
- Our Testing & Exercising team is getting ready to move into and start testing out the brand new Command and Control facility, which will be utilised as the Events Control Suite during the Games
- Now recruiting a WMP Security team for the domestic leg of the QBR



TRANSPORT UPDATE

NEW HEAD OF FLEET

Chip Schug has joined the team as Head of Fleet and brings with him a wealth of mega-event fleet operations experience. His background in managing large fleets whilst balancing operational needs, plus his use of technology to find operational efficiency, will be put to good use in planning fleet operations for the Games. Chip is also looking forward to working with the CGAs as planning progresses.

Reducing the carbon footprint

Transport, and its main external stakeholders, are now focused on delivering key details found within the Chefs de Mission Dossier and other important operational documents and publications.

The team is also working to reduce our carbon footprint by creating the most sustainable Commonwealth Games fleet ever used within the Games. Consideration is being given to alternative fuel, electric, and hybrid vehicle options.

The Transport team will explore new strategies to deliver transport services more efficiently and effectively whilst reducing resources, miles driven per vehicle, and maintaining service levels.

The team will work with CGAs to ensure that a reliable service is provided to all athletes and team officials.

Due to Birmingham 2022's three-village solution, transport will heavily rely on key information provided by the CGAs to help us develop a comprehensive transport system. With this in mind, we need an earlier indication of the baseline information and estimates on where athletes and team officials will stay by sport and village.

Below is a snapshot of key deliverables for transport over the next few months:

- Full complement of Cluster Venue Transport Managers to be recruited, to allow for transport planning around the venues
- Recruitment of new members of the Transport team by the summer
- Establish the concept of operations surrounding the CGA vehicle fleet and T1/T2 service delivery
- Develop Venue Transport Operational Plans
- Design of Games Village temporary transport malls and associated operations
- Procuring a bus supplier for all Games Family and spectator requirements, including full integration of Para athletes
- Procurement of light-duty vehicle supplier is anticipated before August
- Development of the first bus and fleet operations plans
- Work with the CGF CGA advisory board to understand how services could be better provided and gain valuable insight and feedback
- Collaborating with Sport and Games Family service colleagues to scope and document service level requirements for stakeholders
- Engagement with Ports of Entry and planning with all relevant functional areas
- Review the Games Management System tender for arrivals and departures
- Continue the search for light-duty fleet depots and develop supporting plans





VILLAGES UPDATE

Sam Allen joined the Birmingham 2022 Team as Head of Village Operations last summer and has been working on the feasibility and planning of the three-village solution.

Sam has overall responsibility for the Village Management team and for ensuring integration into the Village planning of the different internal functional areas and external stakeholders.

The Village team has been growing over the past few months and there are now three Village Operations Managers in place who will lead on the day-to-day planning going forward.

Allotment Lead, **Charli Payne**, has also recently joined the team and will be working closely with each CGA on the allocation of

accommodation and CGA administration space across the three villages. Charli has a huge amount of experience having worked on the Village Recreational Services team at Gold Coast 2018.

Since the announcement of the move to a three-village solution, the village operational planning has been in full swing. The first stage of the Village Integrated Planning process took place at the end of 2020 and focused on the space planning and design of each Village.

The service level principles are now being finalised, ensuring a similar standard of services for each village, although the means of delivery might be different, depending on the location.

These service level principles have been discussed with the CGF CGA advisory group and plans were recently shared in the regional CGA meetings.

After taking onboard feedback from these discussions, next steps will be to work on the updated allotment plan, once the version 1 Team Size Calculator has been received.

The aim is to present individual allotment plans to all CGAs by September 2021.



SESSION COMPETITION SCHEDULE UNVEILED



The session competition schedule has now been unveiled on the Birmingham 2022 website and a link has been shared with all CGAs.

The session schedule has been developed through partnership working between Birmingham 2022, the International Federations, the Commonwealth Games Federation, and broadcasters.

The schedule provides key information on what sessions of sport will take place on each day of the Games and includes the planned session start and finish times.

The schedule has been structured to:

- Create an environment that facilitates maximum athlete performance
- Adhere to the rules and regulations for competition format set by the International Federations
- Maximise ticket sales whilst also considering operational functions and their impact on spectators

- Consider time zones of key broadcast rights holders and create a diverse sport offering to television viewers
- Maximise the use of weekends within the programme
- Position road events in a way that maximises public involvement and minimises inconvenience

The schedule for Birmingham 2022 includes 286 sessions of sport. It is the biggest ever sports programme at a Commonwealth Games and includes more Para sports than ever before.

Ama Agbeze, Team England gold medallist and Chair of the Birmingham 2022 Athletes' Advisory Committee, said:

"The competition schedule for the Games is really taking shape – not only do we now know which sports will take place on each day, but we also know the number of sessions and when those all-important medals will be decided.

"This makes the Games even more real for all of the athletes looking to compete at Birmingham 2022, plus it provides the teams with key information to help them plan and prepare."

For more information, please take a look at the session competition schedule at birmingham2022.com



BIRMINGHAM 2022 PICTOGRAMS ARE UNVEILED

Birmingham 2022 has unveiled the official pictograms that will be used in the build-up to and during the Commonwealth Games.

A total of 23 pictograms have been designed to represent the 19 sports, including the eight integrated Para sports, that are part of the programme for Birmingham 2022.

Gymnastics has separate icons for the artistic and rhythmic disciplines, whilst aquatics has also been split into swimming and diving. Track, road, and mountain bike cycling each have an individual design.

Typically, sport pictograms take on the form, movement or shape of athletes' bodies, but the Birmingham 2022 pictograms have a unique focus on the objects that unite the athletes in their pursuit of greatness.

CELEBRATION OF INCLUSIVITY

This approach is a celebration of inclusivity as the equipment and poses that are used in the Birmingham 2022 pictograms are representative of all genders and of disabled and non-disabled athletes.

For example, just one pictogram has been designed to represent both weightlifting and Para powerlifting, by focusing on the barbell weights equipment, whilst table tennis and Para table tennis is depicted with a simple, distinguishable bat and ball graphic.

The designs reinforce the message that Birmingham 2022 will be the 'Games for Everyone'. With wheelchair basketball 3 x 3 included in the programme for the first time, alongside Para athletics, Para swimming, Para cycling track, Para table tennis, Para triathlon, Para lawn bowls and Para powerlifting, Birmingham 2022 will have the largest integrated para sport programme in Commonwealth Games history.

All 23 icons have been developed in a range of colour variations, using the vibrant and diverse colours that are now synonymous with the Birmingham 2022 brand.

An integral asset to any multi-sport Games, the pictograms first use is on the session competition schedule pages of the Birmingham 2022 website.





NEC PRECINCT

The NEC is the UK's largest exhibition venue with 18 interconnecting halls comprising 182,000m² of flexible exhibition space, in addition to 392 acres of hard-standing ground and 75 acres of woodland.

The venue regularly welcomes around 2.4 million visitors and over 34,000 exhibiting companies to more than 125 exhibitions every year, including flagship shows such as BBC Good Food Show, Spring Fair International and Crufts.

Part of the NEC Group, a UK leader in live events, the NEC has unrivalled connectivity by road, rail and air and is totally accessible to audiences from across the UK and further afield.

The NEC will host the competition and training facilities for the weightlifting, Para powerlifting, table tennis, boxing and badminton, and the site will also be the location for the netball competition (to be staged at the NEC Arena).

Birmingham 2022 will also utilise hotels on the site to create one of the three campus villages for athletes and team officials and the International Broadcast Centre will be located on the site too.

ARENA BIRMINGHAM

Another venue which is part of the NEC Group is Arena Birmingham.

Located in the heart of Birmingham city centre, Arena Birmingham is the third largest indoor arena in the UK and has a capacity of 15,800. In recent years the arena has hosted 700,000 spectators and approximately 100 events per year.

From a music perspective, some of the world's biggest stars, including Ed Sheeran, Lady Gaga, and Bruno Mars have performed there.

The venue has an excellent reputation when it comes to staging sports events having previously hosted the BMX World Championships and two editions of the World Indoor Athletics Championships (in 2003 and 2018). It has also previously staged both the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup Final and the European Gymnastics Championships, which makes it the perfect venue for the artistic and rhythmic gymnastics at Birmingham 2022.

Arena Birmingham first opened in 1991 but a £26 million investment led to the redevelopment of the venue and it reopened in 2014, with a brand-new look that included a glass façade, allowing visitors a fabulous view of the canal.





HUGE PROGRESS ON VENUES

In recent weeks, excellent progress has been made on the brand-new Sandwell Aquatics Centre and on the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium, with both projects on schedule and on budget.

SANDWELL AQUATICS CENTRE

Another significant milestone has been reached at the Sandwell Aquatics Centre as the dive tower was completed at the start of the year.

The structure took five weeks to build, includes 31 separate concrete pieces and weighs more than 233 tonnes.

One of Team England's most recent diving medallists is Noah Williams, who won silver in the men's 10m synchronised platform competition on the Gold Coast in 2018. Noah recently saw photos and video footage of the completed dive tower and said: "The dive tower looks so impressive, as does the whole Sandwell Aquatics Centre – it is going to be a fantastic facility to compete in and there will be lots of divers across the Commonwealth who will be really excited to see this phenomenal progress."

For the first time ever at a Commonwealth Games, the diving competition at Birmingham 2022 will include mixed synchronised 3m springboard and mixed synchronised 10m platform diving.

ALEXANDER STADIUM

Since planning permission was granted just over a year ago, the demolition of three existing stands has been completed and the site remodelled with steelwork that will form the eye-catching new West Stand, which is now taking shape.

And despite the challenges posed by the Coronavirus pandemic, the £72.4million scheme remains on schedule for completion in spring 2022.

Kelly Sotherton, Team England's Track and Field Team Leader for Birmingham 2022, said: "It is fantastic to be able to take a closer look at the progress that has recently been made on the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium. I'm impressed with how quickly the new parts of the stadium are taking shape.

"This will be an amazing venue for Birmingham 2022 and I'm sure that athletes from across the country, and around the world, are looking forward to competing here during the Games. This stadium has long been associated with great events and great athletes and that association can now continue in 2022 and beyond."



CULTURAL FESTIVAL

FUNDING ANNOUNCED



Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund have awarded £3 million each to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games cultural festival, which will run for six months from March to September 2022.

The festival will reach 2.5 million people through a range of high-profile events and participatory projects which will take place in the heart of West Midlands communities.

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games cultural festival will include:

- 29 headline artistic commissions showcasing the region's distinct creativity across arts and heritage. Commissioned projects will range from the intimate to the spectacular, and will also explore the rich diversity of communities from across the region
- Six themed 'Open Calls' seeking ideas from local artists and organisations, leading to a further 28 commissioned projects

- Funding 200+ cultural and creative commissions and projects
- Investment in 450 artists and creatives with 90% of commissioned work from people based in or originally from the West Midlands

Martin Green CBE, Chief Creative Officer, Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, said:

"This timely investment and partnership underlines a significant moment of genuine confidence in the West Midlands' arts and heritage sectors.

"Through the cultural festival, we will support and commission some incredible creative projects that connect communities across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

"What we love about the arts and heritage sectors is their uniquely transformative power, and there has never been a greater need for this hope and optimism than right now, as we all stare down the impact that the pandemic has had on the creative industries.

"This funding announcement marks a welcome milestone as it takes us just over halfway to our income target for the festival. Whilst there is plenty more work to do, we are optimistic that we can now welcome more funders to the region, who share our ambitious aims."

As a direct result of the awards, the culture team will begin to commission projects, launch Open Calls and support artists and heritage-makers to develop their ideas for 2022.





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LONGINES




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