

World Island Youth Games 2012



The World Youth Island Games has been running annually since its initial conception in 1989. Originally competitors from Corsica, Madeira Island, Sardinia and Sicily competed in a range of sports.

The Isle of Wight joined the group of Islands in 2004 and the event has grown now to include 22 wide ranging Islands, from the Isle of Wight and Jersey through the Canary Islands and Sardinia where this year's games was held.

This year a team of 20 young athletes aged 11 to 16 made the long journey to the Italian island for Sardinia.

Competing in 4 sports (Swimming, Sailing, Athletics, and Tennis) our young athletes managed a record equalling 9 medals (3 Gold, 3 silver, and 3 Bronze). They also finished 9th in the overall team competition which was the highest we have achieved to date.



9th Place award



Medallists: Isabella Blacklock, Harrison Curling, Tom Newnham, Kieran Phillips, Charlotte Skeggs

TEAM ISLE OF WIGHT MEDDLE TABLE:

Athletics:

Harrison Curling	Silver	1500mtrs
	Silver	3000mtrs
	Bronze	800mtrs
Thomas Newnham	Bronze	2000 steeple chase
Kieran Phillips	Bronze	Hammer
Charlotte Skeggs	Gold	High Jump

Swimming

Isabella Blacklock	Gold	100mtrs b/stroke
	Gold	50mtrs b/stroke
	Silver	200mtrs b/stroke

Team Reports:

SWIMMING TEAM

Four young swimmers Sam Sussmes, Izabella Blacklock, Gemma Wall and Sid McLaren left the island heading to Sardinia to participate in the World Youth Games. They were accompanied by their coaches Ian Groves and Ann Collins. The competition lasted three days where they raced six times in a 50m pool. The level of swimming was very high with times approaching national standard. In previous years we have just failed to make the podium Izabella who was making her second appearance at the Youth Games was one of those who just missed out by coming fourth last year.



This year after being spurred on by the disappointment of just missing out, she not only just meddled but won two gold's in the 50m and 100m backstroke and silver in the 200m Gemma also at her second games took on the challenge of the longer distances whilst fighting flu symptoms and held her own getting personal bests. Sam and Sid who were at their first games got personal bests in all their races and achieved a lot of experience.

TENNIS TEAM

The Island's youth tennis team for the World Youth Island Games consisted of Millie Coombes & Sian Perry for the girls, Mikey Foulkes, Regan Matthews & Austin Law for the boys.

Although being the youngest team at the event, all put up a truly spirited effort.

The girls fought but lost, through three rounds in 32 degrees heat, playing the hosts Sardinia, Elba and Jersey. They finished 8th place but have learnt a great deal from the experience, with a new born desire to improve their standing next year.

The boys played four matches in three days, losing to Jersey, and Martinique but beating Korcuna and Elba finishing a very creditable 7th, one behind Jersey.



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The learning curve of playing on clay and in intense heat proved steep, but both our teams adapted well.

They all played with determination and courtesy, and were a credit to the island. Well played to all.

SAILING TEAM



The Optimist sailors selected to represent the Isle of Wight were from Gurnard Sailing Club, William Heritage, Dan Atherton, Margaux and Isabel Welch.

12 islands were competing against one another, with each team providing their best two girls and two boys to compete for the best island team prizes as well as the boys and girls individual classification. The format was split so that the girls would race against one another and then the boys.

The competition would start with a "draw" each morning from a pool of boats that were chartered in for the event. Teams then had approximately 1 hour to prepare their boats ready to launch for the day's competition.

The first day of racing was Thursday 24th May with two races scheduled first the girls and then the boys. The winds were very light with a hot offshore breeze. Margaux got off to a flying start by posting a 2nd. By race two the wind changed direction with the sea breeze filling in, the Welch girls posting some solid early results. The boys were launched immediately after the racing on what appeared to be a building wind. The boys raced well posting good results of 6 and 10 respectively. The racing proved quite challenging with large changes in the direction of the wind as large rainclouds tracks along the shore. At one point Dan Atherton was leading the race, when a massive shift in cost him 6 places.

The following day brought similar conditions, with the boys going out first with a plan to complete 3 races for all. Dan and Will sailed well in very changeable conditions, both posting some good results for the team. Later in the day the girls went out at the racecourse, by which time the wind had disappeared altogether, and it was not until 6 p.m. that the race team managed to get in one race.

Saturday was the final day of competition, the challenge to the race officer, was how many races could she get in, she needed at least two girls races to even the boys series for the team prizes and she could only run a third race if she was confident of getting in the another race for the boys. The day brought with it excellent “Blue water” sailing conditions, wind with hot sun! Isabel set out well winning starts and posting some good results for the team with the sister working hard to get against the rest of the fleet. The race officer managed to get three races for the girls and went for one final race for the boys. By this time the wind had built to enable the boys to stretch their in the now planning wind conditions. Dan was 4th around the whole course until the final leg when a mistake costing three boats yards from the finish line. This meant that he finished equal on points overall to fifth, with three other boats, but on count back on the last race finished eighth overall.



Overall this very credible young team sailed to finished sixth, in the general classification, a solid result for the Isle of Wight.

ATHLETICS TEAM

With the athletics programme condensed over 3 days the Island Athletes had little rest between events. With the temperature touching 35 degrees on some days it was a challenge for them all.

The team was a mixture of top age and bottom age athletes so for some, the competitors would be much older, but they rose to the task and produced good performances and many gained personal bests.

On day 1 Kieran Phillips started the team’s success with a Bronze medal in the Hammer.

Then in the 1500 metres Harrison Curling stormed through in an exciting race and was only beaten by 2 tenths to gain the Silver Medal with the Tom Newnham running on well for a 6th place.



In the womens 1500 mtrs Kaya Simpson ran a new personal best for 9th place in another very competitive race.

Wallis Canning was placed 8th in the Shot putt with another personal best.

In the Long Jump Harrison Smith gained 9th place and sustained a hamstring pull, with Kieran Phillips in 11th place.



On Day 2 Charlotte Skeggs improved on her Bronze medal of 2 years ago to gain the Gold medal in the high Jump.

Harrison Curling gained a Bronze Medal in the 800 metres another very competitive excellent run and, then Tom Newnhan won bronze in the Steeple Chase in a new personal best time in the 200 metres Kieron Phillips was placed

14th and Harrison did not compete due to his injury.



Day 3 brought the hottest day of the week with temperature at 35 degrees and the two longest races the 3000 metres.

Harrison Curling again produced another fine performances storming around the final 300 metres to gain the silver medal with Tom Newnham in 5th just outside the medals.

Kaya Simpson ran close to her personal best in these very hot conditions to gain a well deserved 7th place overtaking runners as she ran an even pace race.

After being treated by the Martinique sports Doctor who was based at Athletics Harrison Smith was able to compete in the High Jump and pain free was able to finish in a creditable 5th place in the High Jump.

Finally Wallis Canning threw 6 good throws in the women's hammer to gain 5th place and a new personal best.

The hardest working person in our support team was Lucy Cowans our Physiotherapist who was constantly with the team and keeping them fit and ready to compete.

These young athletes were a credit to the Island with their attitude and behaviour and made many new overseas friends during their short stay.



Team IoW with hosts Sardinia showing the spirit of the games