

Commonwealth Games lowdown



Rod Gilmour provides all the background you need for squash's participation in the Glasgow Games from July 24 to August 3

VENUE

Scotstoun Sports Campus – 15 minutes from Glasgow city centre – will house six new permanent squash courts for the singles matches. These will then be converted to four doubles courts. There will also be one glass show court.

Scotstoun will also play host to the table tennis competition, played across two show courts and eight match courts. The adjacent Scotstoun Stadium has been the official home of the Glasgow Warriors rugby team.

FORMAT

The Commonwealth Games squash event will comprise two 64-draw tournaments for both the men's and women's singles, which will take place from July 24 to 28, thus starting the day after the Opening Ceremony. The men's, women's and mixed doubles competitions begin on July 29 with pool matches, leading to knockout ties from the last 16 onwards.

TV

BBC will provide live and red button coverage.

MEDAL TOTALS

(top 5)

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Australia	7	8	13
England	7	6	10
New Zealand	3	3	1
Malaysia	1	1	1
Canada	1	1	0

WHAT HAPPENED IN DELHI?

England's Peter Barker guaranteed the first clean sweep of the men's squash medals in Commonwealth history – Nick Matthew and James Willstrop took gold and silver respectively – when he won his bronze-medal play-off against Malaysia's Mohamad Azlan Iskandar in straight games. Matthew then linked up with Adrian Grant to claim the men's doubles title.

Malaysia's Nicol David, the world no.1 since 2006, won her first Commonwealth title after a one-way women's singles final against England's Jenny Duncalf, the then-world no.2, while Australia and New Zealand continued their domination of the women's and mixed doubles events for the third successive Games, with New Zealand's Jaclyn Hawkes and Joelle King winning the former, and Australians Cameron Pilley and Kasey Brown the latter.

GLASGOW CONTENDERS

Gold is surely destined for English necks in the men's event, with the top four Commonwealth spots in the current world rankings held by Englishmen – Matthew, Willstrop, Barker and Daryl Selby. Matthew is clear favourite to retain his title, while outside threats are likely to come from Botswana's Alister Walker, Pilley and India's Saurav Ghosal. The women's event, in contrast, is tough to call, with England's Laura Massaro set to meet David in the final.

see Scotstoun packed out for the doubles! My entire focus for the last four years has been on Glasgow and, to be honest, I haven't really thought beyond the Games at all. I will start work as a junior doctor immediately after the Games – I gained a place on the Academic Foundation Programme in Cambridge. My long-term goal is to be a clinician-scientist at the cutting edge of regenerative medicine and I'm very motivated to pursue my research interests. To the outside eye, there's not much room for squash in there... but then that's always been the case! So who knows? Ask me in August!"

WHAT THE GAMES MEAN

"It is important not to think about how big the other countries are or how big the talent pools they have to choose from, rather to focus on yourself" – Joe Chapman, from the British Virgin Islands, was 15 in Melbourne in 2006 and the youngest squash player to ever at the Commonwealth Games. Now 23, he will compete in Glasgow as a professional.

GLASGOW STATS

- There will be more than 1,380 medals awarded at 261 ceremonies this summer. Fifteen of those will be for squash.
- A set of souvenir stamps is being released to mark the Commonwealth Games. The set, available from July 17, will feature swimming, cycling, judo, netball, athletics and squash.



Natalie Grinham's golden treble in 2006

THE HOME CHARGE

Scotland's doubles specialist, Doctor Harry Leitch, will compete in his third Commonwealths and says there is no better motivation than a home Games: "Coming fourth in Delhi with Alan Clyne was tough, but we're both big boys and we got over it. We also realise that we played well to get there. Glasgow will be a new adventure and we won't be looking back at Delhi for motivation. We have grown and developed as individuals, and as a team, so it's not a case of 'same again but one better'. I think this would underestimate the task in hand. It's a totally new campaign with new challenges. It will be a massive ask to medal, but we both firmly believe that if we play our best, we can beat anyone. We take quiet confidence from our performance in 2010, but do not underestimate the quality of the field. Having a home crowd will be amazing and for me to have my family there will be really special. We hope to give them something to cheer about and we hope to



- In Delhi there were 6,700 competitors from 71 countries.
- Sports: Aquatics, athletics, badminton, boxing, cycling, gymnastics, hockey, judo, lawn bowls, netball, rugby sevens, shooting, squash, table tennis, triathlon, weightlifting, wrestling.
- Website: www.glasgow2014.com