

1 YEAR TO GO

Pre-visit to Guernsey

On Thursday 7 July 2022, the Organising Committee of the Guernsey 2023 NatWest International Island Games welcomed 60 representatives from the Member Islands and the IIGA Executive Committee to Guernsey for a 3 day visit ahead of the Games next year.



As well as a chance for everyone to get together in person for the first time since the Gibraltar Games in 2019, the pre-visit trip gave the opportunity to visit a number of venues and hotels along with the announcement of the year to go countdown and the IIGA AGM.

Thursday 7 July

The day consisted of visits to many of the venues we will be using for the Guernsey 2023 Games where some of the sports representatives met us. Thank you to the sport representatives and our lovely coach drivers, Andy and John, of Island Coachways.

The tour included visits to:

- Rohais Badminton Hall
- Footes Lane - athletics, football final and closing ceremony
- Guernsey Tennis Club



- Guernsey Table Tennis Association
- Guernsey Indoor Bowls Centre
- Archery - Rovers Athletics Club
- Clay Shooting - Portinifer
- Golf at L'Ancrese

The tour ended at Beau Sejour, which will be the home for basketball, swimming and air shooting for the week of the Games. Also at Beau Sejour, our visitors had the chance to talk to travel providers and look at a bell tent set-up.

INSPIRING ISLANDERS Athletes Village

As part of the planning for Guernsey 2023, it has become apparent that accommodation is going to be a challenge. The Organising Committee appointed a working party to look at accommodation options that provide a comfortable, safe and reliable environment offering value for money and allowing the maximum number of athletes the chance to compete.



Julia Bowditch - Guernsey 2023 Games Director, Jorgen Pettersson - Chair of the IIGA and Wayne Bulpitt - Volunteer Director with one of the suggested bell tents

A full tendering process was conducted along with detailed cost analysis, and the working party proposed partnering with tent2hire - one of industry leaders in creating camping & glamping sites for large scale events. Tent2hire have provided services to many high-profile sporting events including:

- London 2012 Olympics
- UK Open Golf Championships
- UEFA Champions League Finals
- Isle of Man TT races

Following the visit, one of the first actions for the Guernsey 2023 will be to contact all of the Islands to go through their full accommodation requirements and consider all of the options available.

In the evening, we took a trip to Herm. The Travel Trident crew even managed to find some dolphins to put on a display for our guests which was followed a very good meal at the Mermaid and a walk to watch a spectacular sunset.

Friday 8 July

As part of the pre-visit, the Guernsey Organising Committee took the opportunity to invite a number of people who have already registered as volunteers for the Guernsey 2023 Games to act as Attachés for each of the visiting member islands and the IIGA Executive Committee. Their role

involved acting as a liaison between the Organising Committee and the Islands and ensuring that everyone was in the right place at the right time. Dame Mary Perkins, Chair of the Guernsey 2023 Organising Committee, said 'We have heard nothing but the highest of praise for our volunteer Attachés. Important friendships have been made with the member islands ahead of our Games next year and the Attachés have already given our visitors a good Guernsey welcome and set the tone for 2023'.

Friday morning gave the opportunity for the Attachés to take the member island representatives on visits to some of the accommodation options that will be used during Games week.

This was followed by a further bus tour, with a focus on the cycling, triathlon and athletics road events. The west coast of Guernsey looked particularly stunning.

After an excellent lunch at the Slaughterhouse, our visitors had a couple of hours free time before meeting again at Government House where we marked the year countdown to the Games.



Saturday 9 July

Saturday saw the IIGA hold their AGM at Les Cotils. Julia, our Games Director, gave an extremely detailed and professional update presentation on how plans are progressing. There were also updates from Orkney who will host in 2025 and Ynys Mon, the hosts for 2027

The main update from the AGM was the vote for a new Island to join the Island Games' family. Representatives from **Gozo** joined the rest of the member islands for the pre-visit. Gozo is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, one of 21 that make up the Maltese archipelago. It has an area of 67 square kilometres and a population of 33,000. The vote was unanimous.

Jorgen Pettersson, Chair of the IIGA, said 'We are delighted to welcome Gozo to the Island Games family. It is the first time in almost 20 years that we will welcome a new island and we are looking forward to seeing their team in Guernsey next year'.



Four representatives from Gozo came to Guernsey:
Hon. Clint Camilleri - Minister for Gozo, Joyce Farrugia - Chairperson Gozo Island Games Association, Kevin Azzopardi - Technical Director and Josef Vella - Vice Chair.

Kevin Azzopardi, the Technical Director from Gozo, said 'This is great news for sports development in Gozo and we are really looking forward to our first appearance in the Games in Guernsey. We have a preliminary idea of the sports we will bring - we're looking at shooting, athletics, cycling, badminton, football, tennis and table tennis so we're looking at quite a mix'.

Joining the NatWest International Island Games will enable the athletes from Gozo to compete internationally for the first time ever under the Gozo flag - normally they have to compete under the flag of Malta. They have associations on the Island for Archery, Athletics, Badminton, Basketball, Cycling, Football, Golf, Indoor Bowls, Sailing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis and Triathlon.

After a long day at the AGM, it was time for everyone to relax and have some fun at an evening at Golf 19 and Restaurant. There were several people, including the representatives from Froya and Greenland, who had never picked up a golf club before, but were well into the swing of it by the end of the evening! This was an important time for new friendships to be made and existing ones reinforced.

Volunteer opportunities

In the run up to the Guernsey 2023 Games, the organising committee will be seeking to recruit a number of key roles to help with planning. We are currently looking for:

- Administration support
- Accommodation coordinator
- Social media administrator

Please visit www.guernsey2023.gg for further details

INSPIRING ISLANDERS



Introducing... Our cheeky puffin

The pre-visit gave us a chance to introduce our puffin who will be the mascot for the Guernsey2023 Games. Puffins have family values and usually pair up with the same partner as previous years - some have been together 20 years. We are planning a competition to name puffin at a later date.



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