



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**DATE: 25 JULY 2014**

### **ACTION-PACKED DAY AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

It was an action-packed second day at the Commonwealth Games for Team NI, with many athletes qualifying and achieving personal bests.

Four years ago Madeline Perry was inconsolable after losing her quarter-final of the Delhi Commonwealth Games to Australian Kasey Brown.

Perry was two sets up in that match before losing the next three. On Thursday the 37 year-old served up revenge as she beat Brown in four tough games to exorcise one of her worst days as a professional – 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, 11-5.

*“Obviously I would have rather won in Delhi more but it was good to get revenge today. I had so much support which was nice, I felt like in Delhi I had let everyone down because you are always playing for yourself and I kind of bottled it there so I was determined to push through and show what I was made of,” she said.*

Dame Mary Peters was among those who watched on alongside Chef de Mission of the Northern Ireland team Robert McVeigh.

It's the third Commonwealth Games in a row Perry has reached the last eight and in her fifth appearance for Northern Ireland she would love to go further for the first time but it won't be easy as she'll face the fourth ranked player in the world, Joelle King from New Zealand.

*“This result doesn't get me a medal does it? If I'd won the game in Delhi I would have had that medal as there wasn't a bronze medal play-off due to an injury but Delhi was stressful for me because I put way too much pressure on myself. I've achieved so much in my career and I don't want this medal to become the be all and end all because I've done so much, more than I could have ever dreamt off. It's all about enjoying it this time and even though I looked a bit tense on court at times I was really enjoying the battle.”*

Perry added, *“Looking forward to the next match, I'm going to get on the show court now and it's a great atmosphere and a great court and I'm going to take it one game at a time.”*

There would be no second medal for Northern Ireland in the judo for Eoin Fleming but the 19 year-old from Belfast put in a brave display in the -73kg class, falling just short in the bronze medal contest.



Inspired by Lisa Kearney's bronze twenty-four hours earlier the former Rathmore Grammar pupil was eventually beaten by ippon by the experienced African champion Jacques Van Zyl from South Africa.

*"I came looking to see how far I could get without any real expectations. I trusted my ability and with all the training that I put in I thought there was something here for me. To win my first fight settled some nerves and taking on Danny Williams from England who went on to make the final, I gave him a good fight and was happy with how I performed despite the defeat.*

*"To work my way through the repechage and get to the medal fight was important. I really hoped that I was going to get the medal in the end and match Lisa's result, but it wasn't meant to be."*

He added: *"I didn't execute my plan fully but this is a learning curve and hopefully I'll be in many more big fights. I'm still young. I'm only 19 and am still a junior in the sport so I will learn from this. You have to get over defeats and now my aim will be to compete at another global event."*

Northern Ireland's other two judoka in action yesterday Caoimhíh Thompson (-73kg) and Kristy Kee (-63kg) both lost their last 32 contests and failed to progress in the competition.

The boxers fought with confidence in their opening matches, with Ballymena's Steven Donnelly defeating his Pakistan opponent Hasan Asif by knockout in 37 seconds.

*"I trained tremendously hard for this and as you saw in the first round it all paid off. But I'm not going to get carried away, it's only the first round and I have a hard second round ahead."*

Ruairi Dalton (52kg) comfortably beat his Zambian opponent Christopher Katanga 3-0 with a unanimous decision from the judges, which sees him through to fight in the last 16 this Sunday.

*"It's good to get in there and get the win, that's the main thing. There is a lot of pressure, you want to keep on winning and you don't want to let anyone down but that spurs you on. I'm going for Gold. The support from the crowd was brilliant, it felt like home," said Dalton.*

Michael Conlan defeated Nauru's Mathew Martin in a unanimous decision in the Men's Bantam. He'll be back in action on Monday. *"I was fully in control and felt happy with my performance. I'm looking forward to the next fight. It's going to be a tough one," said the boxing star.*

*"It's against an Indian who is the world's number 3 and I'm the number 2. It's a finals kind of fight and one I'm definitely going to have to win and be in the best form," added Conlan.*



After a curtailed first day on the shooting range in the full bore rifle pairs, David Calvert, competing at his 10th Commonwealth Games, is in fourth position alongside his teammate Jack Alexander.

Men's Skeet Clement Buchanan finishes Day 1 on 69/75 & David Christie on a score of 68. Second day of qualification is tomorrow.

Parag Patel and David Luckman from England were leading the way on day one of qualification before heavy fog stopped competition early.

The England pair currently sits on top of the qualification group with a score of 200-29v, just ahead of James Corbett and Geoff Grenfell (Australia) on 200.26v. Calvert and Alexander have an overnight score of 119-25v.

All 19 teams will complete the remainder of their stage 1 shots at the 600-yard range tomorrow before moving on to the stage 2 targets of 900 and 1000 yards. Meanwhile after three rounds in the men's skeet Clement Buchanan lies 11th and David Christie 15th.

The Northern Ireland badminton team will face Jersey on Saturday morning at the Emirates Arena with the winners advancing to the quarter-finals of the mixed team event later in the day.

Brother and sister Tony and Alannah Stephenson led the way in the 4-1 victory over Mauritius on Friday with wins in the men's and women's singles.

Tony then teamed up with Tony Murphy to win the men's doubles that made the win assured with Sinead Chambers and Caroline Black also victorious in the women's doubles before Sinead and Ciaran Chambers narrowly lost the mixed doubles but by then it was a dead rubber. Jersey were beaten by Group winners England 5-0.

In cycling, James Brown and Dave Readle came 5th in the Men's 1000m Time Trial B2 Tandem, 7.317 behind victorious Scottish duo Neil Fachie and Craig Maclean.

Northern Ireland had two more semi-finalists in the pool on Friday night giving them five over the first two days of competition. Michael Dawson finished in 16<sup>th</sup> place overall in the Men's 100m breaststroke in a time of 1:04.65.

Meanwhile, after winning a swim-off this morning to make the semi-finals of the 100m backstroke where she set a new personal best time of 1:05.36, 14-year-old Danielle Hill finished in 15<sup>th</sup> place in a slightly slower time of 1:06.17. Hill's PB time gave Northern Ireland swimmers seven PBs so far at the Commonwealth Games.

In this morning's heats, Paralympic gold medalist Bethany Firth was 19th overall in 1:08.30.

Firth is positive about her experience at the Games: *"It is great to be competing in mainstream events and the atmosphere is amazing! My first swim isn't always the best so I'm looking forward to getting back in again. Team NI is really close and we all looking out for*



*watch other, I'm looking forward to following my other Paralympic teammates in their events," she said.*

Jordan Sloan set a new personal best, his second of the Games so far, in the heats of the men's 200m freestyle. Sloan finished fifth in a time of 1:50.01 and was ranked 12th overall.

Speaking after the race, Sloan said: *"That is another PB so things are going well after a shaky start in the pool yesterday morning but a PB last night and today is great!"*

In the women's 50m freestyle heats Danielle Hill set the sixth personal best time for Northern Ireland swimmers so far at the Games, finishing second in 27:23 just ahead of team mate Rachel Bethel in 5th in 27:70. Bethany Firth was 8th in her heat in a time of 27:61. The three girls ranked 22nd, 32nd and 31st respectively.

In table tennis after qualifying for the knockout stages of the men's team event the Northern Ireland trio of Paul McCreery, Ashley Robinson and Peter Graham were narrowly beaten 3-2 in the last 16 by fourth seeds Nigeria. McCreery warmed up for the singles competition to come by winning both his games.

However the women's team - Ashley Givan, Amanda Moge, Hannah Lynch-Dawson and Emma Ludlow - lost out to Sri Lanka 3-1 despite a doubles win for Moge and Lynch-Dawson and will now go into the classification round.

In netball, despite a strong performance, Northern Ireland suffered a defeat by Jamaica 65 – 34. They face New Zealand on Sunday.

In Lawn Bowls, the Men's triples (Paul Daly, Neil Mulholland, Neil Booth) beat Fiji 23-8 and are into the Quarter Final with a game to spare. The Women's fours lost their third game 15-11 to Malaysia and cannot qualify for the quarter finals.

In the Women's Singles, Catherine McMillen has kept her hopes alive of reaching the quarter finals after a 21-15 win over Carmela Spiteri of Malta. McMillen now has three wins out of four but will need to beat England's Natalie Melmore in her final group game to make it into the last eight. Meanwhile, Ian McClure and Martin McHugh remains alive in the Men's Pairs after two wins yesterday but will still need a victory over Canada and other results to go their way if they are to qualify.



## **COLLATED RESULTS:**

**CYCLING:** Men's 1000m Time Trial B2 Tandem, BROWN James, READLE Dave, (5<sup>th</sup>)1:09.413

**LAWN BOWLS:** Women's Fours, Section B, Rd 3, Match 3, NI (CUNNINGHAM Mandy, DOWDS Jennifer, CAMERON Barbara, McCLOY Donna) vs Niue 31-9;

Mixed Teams Group Play Stage - Group F, Mixed Doubles, NI (CHAMBERS Ciaran / CHAMBERS Sinead) vs Mauritius (FOO KUNE Kate / LUBAH Aatish) 4 – 1;

Women's Singles - Sec. C, Rd 3, Match 2, NI McMILLEN Catherine vs Samoa's ADAM Alofa, 21-14

Men's Pairs - Section C, Rd 3, Match 2, NI (Martin McHugh, Ian McClure) vs Papua New Guinea (Joe Morgan, Peter Juni) 19-13

Women's Fours - Section B, Rd 4, Match 1, NI (CUNNINGHAM Mandy, DOWDS Jennifer, CAMERON Barbara, McCLOY Donna) vs Malaysia, 11-15

Men's Triples - Section D, Rd 4, Match 1, NI (DALY Paul, MULHOLLAND Neil, BOOTH Neil) vs Fiji, 23-8

Women's Singles - Sec. C, Rd 4, Match 2, McMILLEN Catherine NIR vs SPITERI Carmela MLT, 21-15

Men's Pairs - Section C, Rd 4, Match 2, Northern Ireland vs Samoa, 29-4

**TABLE TENNIS:** Women's Team - Group 1 Match 1, NI (GIVAN Ashley) vs Sri Lanka (WARUSAWITHANA Erandi) 1 – 3

Men's Team - Group 3 Match 2, Team Match 34 Match 3, NI (Paul McCreery/ GRAHAM Peter / ROBINSON Ashley) vs Vanatu (LULU Ham / SHING Yoshua) 3-0

Men's Team First Round, N. Ireland vs Nigeria, 2-3

**JUDO:** Men's -73kg Preliminary Round of 32, England (GOSIEWSKI Jan) vs NI (THOMPSON Caoimhin) 100s1 / 0s2 (SGT)

Women's -63kg Preliminary Round of 16, Canada's VALOIS FORTIER Beatrice vs NI Kirsty Kee (100/0)



Men's -73kg Preliminary Round of 16, NI (FLEMING Eoin) vs Seychelles (JEANNE Naddy), 10s1 / 0s3

Men's -73kg Quarter-final ENG Danny Williams vs NI Eoin Fleming (100s1 / 0s2)

Men's -73kg Repechage contest – NI Eoin Fleming vs KENYA GANZO James Mashobo (100 / 0s2)

Men's -73kg Bronze Medal Contest B, FLEMING Eoin NIR vs van ZYL Jacques RSA, 0s2 – 101

**SWIMMING:** Men's 200m Freestyle - Heat 4, Jordan Sloan, 5<sup>th</sup>, 1:50.01 PB

Women's 50m Freestyle, Danielle Hill (22<sup>nd</sup>), 27.23; Bethany Firth (31<sup>st</sup>), 27.61; Rachel Bethel, 32<sup>nd</sup>), 27.70

Men's 100m Breaststroke – Michael Dawson (13<sup>th</sup>), 1:04.37

Women's 100m Backstroke – Danielle Hill (=16<sup>th</sup>), 1:07.18; Bethany Firth (19<sup>th</sup>), 1:08.30

Men's 4 x 100m Freestyle Relay – NI (SLOAN Jordan, THOMPSON David, MUNN Conor, COULTER Curtis) 6<sup>TH</sup>.

Men's 100m Breaststroke Semi-final 2, DAWSON Michael, (8<sup>th</sup>), 1:04.65

Women's 100m Backstroke Semi-final 1, HILL Danielle, (8<sup>th</sup>), 1:06.17

**BOXING:** Michael Conlon defeated Nauru's Mathew Martin in a unanimous decision in the Men's Bantam (56kg) Round of 32, MARTIN MathewNRU vs CONLAN Michael NIR 0 – 3

Men's Fly (52kg) Round of 32, DALTON Ruairi NIR vs KATANGA Christopher ZAM, 3-0

Men's Welter (69kg) Round of 32, ASIF Hasan PAK vs DONNELLY Steven NIR, L(TKO) - W

**SQUASH:** Men's Plate Round of 32, CRAIG Michael vs SVG HANNAWAY Kevin, 3-0

Women's Singles Round of 16, Madeline Perry vs AUS Kasey Brown, 3-1

Men's Plate Round of 16, KOENIG Xavier MRI vs CRAIG Michael NIR, 3-0

**BADMINTON:** Mixed Teams Group Play Stage - Group F, Mauritius vs N. Ireland, 4-1

**NETBALL:** Netball Pool A Match 5, Jamaica vs N. Ireland, 65-34

**SHOOTING:** Full bore rifle pairs, CALVERT David, in fourth position alongside his teammate ALEXANDER Jack. Men's Skeet, BUCHANAN Clement 69/75 & CHRISTIE David on a score of 68



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