



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **TEAM NI BOX CLEVER AT COMMONWEALTH GAMES**

It was another victorious day for Team NI's boxers in Glasgow on Saturday after Conor Coyle and Sean Duffy defeated their opponents with dominating performances.

That makes it five out of five straight wins for the boxers with Conor Coyle beating Lesotho's Lungile Dyamdeki in the men's middleweight division round of 32. He'll fight again on Monday.

*"It feels good to get a win and I'm glad I got the first fight out the way and the rustiness out the way. This is the best team in my lifetime. I'm expecting us to get a few medals," said Coyle, speaking after his match.*

Sean Duffy (64kg) put up a poised fight to unanimously defeat Sri Lanka's Dilshan Mohamed. He'll take on Tanzania's Gaudence Fabiana on Sunday.

*"I knew it would be a tough one, the first fight. There was a lot of pressure, the boxers have done fantastic so far with straight wins. My opponent had plenty of tricks up his sleeve, a strong boxer, but I stuck to the game plan and it all paid off in the end," said Duffy.*

Commenting on the positive atmosphere within the team, he added: *"All of the boxers have been through the same training camps and we have all bonded well as a team. We're all behind each other, they were all supporting me tonight and I'll be there to support them. I'm really looking forward to the next match, I'm confident now that I have my first fight over, got a feel of the ring and a feel for the atmosphere, it was brilliant."*

Duffy is confident he is back to fighting fit after sustaining a broken jaw last year: *"This time last year I was sitting up in a hospital bed, jaw wired up and eating through a straw. A lot of people put me down then and said I would never come back to boxing but as I said then and I'll say it again, it takes a lot more than a broken jaw to keep me down. I have no worries about it all, in every fight your jaw gets a wee tester. I believe I'm stronger than ever."*

Martyn Irvine will be back fighting for a Commonwealth Games medal on Sunday despite the disappointment of retiring from the points race at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome.

Irvine had gotten off to a good start in the gruelling 40km, 160 lap race and gained an early lap on the field with a number of other riders but then began to struggle and pulled out with 73 laps remaining.



Coach Brian Nugent explained: *"It's obviously an unusual thing to happen to Martyn. He was very down afterwards but we had a chat and looked at what happened. There were five teams with three riders helping each other and Martyn got caught and the way the race unfolded there was no way he could control those five teams and as the race went on he began to see what was happening and that only ten riders finished the whole event and so it's not as bad as he first thought."*

At a world cup or world championships each nation is only allowed to enter one rider in the race so that team tactics don't come into play and that it is as fair as it can be but in the Commonwealth Games each country can enter up to three riders and in the end it became a battle between a trio of New Zealanders and three riders from the Isle of Man led by Team Sky rider and GB international Peter Kennaugh.

The Kiwis would stay together to the end and that allowed Thomas Scully to take gold ahead of Kennaugh with Scully's team mate Aaron Gate in third.

*Nugent added: "That's not the usual way a points race goes, it usually starts off pretty fast for the first twenty laps and then there's a lull and then it goes again but for Martyn, he was out there on his own and it's difficult when you come from a small country. They kept attacking and attacking and he found himself alone and with nothing left in his legs."*

However Nugent is confident the 2013 World Scratch Race champion will be ready to race again on Sunday.

*"Martyn will be back for the scratch race, don't worry about that, he's been a world champion in it and he regenerates pretty quickly and we've already spoken about the next race and he'll be back and ready to fight for that medal."*

*"He knew it wasn't going to be his day, he came in, there's no injury and he'll be ready to go on Sunday. The last time he pulled out of a points race was in a European Championship and he won the next day."*

He added: *"It's a shorter race with more of an element of control about it. It's only 60 laps as opposed to 160 so for Martyn it's a special event for him, he knows where to be at the right time. It will be difficult again with the teams but he can infiltrate that a little bit better and this is the event he came here to do."*

In the women's 10km scratch race yesterday Northern Ireland's Lydia Boylan raced well but was lost for speed over the final lap in a frantic finish and was 14th.

In bowls, Catherine McMillan in the women's singles and the men's triples - Neil Booth, Paul Daly and Neil Mulholland - are guaranteed at least a bronze medal play-off after reaching the semi-finals but there was heartbreak for Martin McHugh and Ian McClure in the men's pairs.

McMillan beat Caroline Taylor of Wales 21-13 and will now face Jo Edwards from New Zealand. McMillan had only booked her place in the knockout stages with a morning win over Natalie Melmore from England.



After losing their last group match to South Africa, the men's triples found their form again and defeated Scotland 19-12 in their quarter-final and now take on Wales.

However, Martin McHugh and Ian McClure, who had won three games in a row to reach the last eight including the morning win over Canada were 14-11 up on England and just two ends from the semi-finals but lost a two on the penultimate end and then another on the final end to go down 15-14.

In table tennis, Northern Ireland's women beat Ghana 3-0 in the classification round this afternoon following up a 3-0 win over Mauritius in the morning. The classification final takes place against Scotland on Sunday morning with the winners ranked 17th overall in the competition.

In shooting, David Calvert and Jack Alexander took ninth place in the full bore rifle pairs, in what was Calvert's tenth Commonwealth Games. David Luckman and Parag Patel took Gold for Team England with 592. There was a score of 581 for Calvert and Alexander. Calvert is back in action on Sunday in the full bore rifle singles. David Christie (13th) and Clement Buchanan (22nd) both missed out on the final of the men's skeet.

Swimmers Jordan Sloan or Curtis Coulter missed out on the finals. Sloan was 12th fastest in the Men's 50m Backstroke Semi-final with a time of 26.28 while Curtis Coulter was 12th in the men's 100m freestyle in a time of 50.48. Earlier in the day, David Thompson just missed out in 18th place in the heats (51.15) with Conor Munn 30th (53.30).

In the women's 50m butterfly Gemma Kane was 20th in a new personal best time of 28.22 with Bethany Firth just behind in 22nd (28.51). And in her least favourite event, the 200m breaststroke, Sycerika McMahon was 12th fastest in 2:31.98.

In Badminton, the Northern Ireland team lost to Jersey 5-0 in their final group game of the mixed team event and failed to make the knockout stages.

Despite a strong fight, Judo's Mark Montgomery lost his opening match in the men's -100kg class and was eliminated from the competition.

In the +100kg class Gavin McNeill appeared to have won his repechage to move into a fight later for the bronze medal but the referee reversed the decision and eliminated him.

Madeline Perry was beaten 11-6, 11-4, 11-6 by the world number four Joelle King from New Zealand in the quarter-finals of the women's squash bringing to an end a Commonwealth Games singles career that has spanned sixteen years and five Games.

*"She was really good today, I don't think I played particularly well but she didn't let me in. That was the first match I'd played on the glass court and I struggled with my timing and my hitting and my movement just wasn't flowing. It was always difficult," explained Perry after the game.*



Perry had come through a tough game in the last sixteen on Friday against Kasey Brown. The Australian had beaten her in five sets in Delhi four years ago but Perry had gained revenge. However she added that hadn't affected her performance against King.

*"I've actually a pretty good record against Joelle so I was pretty confident but on that court today she was better than me."*

Reflecting on her Commonwealth Games singles campaign Perry added, *"I'm a little bit more satisfied this time, I really went out there and gave everything and came up against a better player. In Delhi I didn't think I did myself justice but this time I came in here and I've enjoyed it, the Commonwealth squash tournament is a tough one. I'll reflect on this performance and I guess I won't be playing for too much longer but I'll keep assessing it in the short term and once I stop enjoying it I won't do it anymore."*

The Northern Ireland squad finished sixth in the first ever mixed team triathlon relay at the Commonwealth Games.

Aileen Reid led the way and stormed to the front in a group that included England, Canada and New Zealand. Conor Murphy held that position though the second leg but the group grew to eight countries.

Eimear Mullen and Russell White brought the team home in 6th in a time of 1:15.52, just under 2.30 behind winners England who included both individual winners, Alistair Brownlee and Jodie Stimpson.



## **COLLATED RESULTS:**

### **Lawn Bowls:**

Women's Singles - Sec. C, Rd 5, Match 1, MELMORE Natalie ENG vs McMILLEN Catherine NIR, 12 – 21

Men's Triples - Section D, Rd 5, Match 1, (Paul Daly, Neil Mulholland, Neil Booth ), Northern Ireland vs South Africa, 17 – 19

Women's Fours – (CUNNINGHAM Mandy, DOWDS Jennifer, CAMERON Barbara, McCLOY Donna) Section B, Rd 5, Match 2, Northern Ireland vs India, 13-12

Men's Pairs - Section C, Rd 5, Match 1 (Martin McHugh, Ian McClure) Canada vs Northern Ireland, 15-22

Women's Singles Quarter-final C, McMILLEN Catherine NIR vs TAYLOR Caroline WAL, 21-13

Men's Pairs Quarter-final D, (Martin McHugh, Ian McClure) England vs Northern Ireland, 15-14

Men's Triples Quarter-final D, (Paul Daly, Neil Mulholland, Neil Booth), vs Scotland, 19-12

### **Badminton:**

Mixed Teams Group Play Stage - Group F, (CHAMBERS Sinead / BLACK Caroline), Jersey vs N. Ireland, 5-0

### **Shooting:**

Skeet Men's Qualification - Day 2, BUCHANAN Clement (22), CHRISTIE David (13)

### **Table tennis:**

Women's Team Classification QF 2, MOGEY Amanda vs CHOWREE Isabelle (Mauritius)3-0

Women's Team Classification Semi-final 1, MOGEY Amanda vs Ghana's KWABI Cynthia, 3-0



### **Judo:**

Men's -100kg Preliminary Round of 16, DUGASSE Dominic SEY vs MONTGOMERY Mark NIR, 100s1 - 0s1

Men's +100kg Quarter-final, SHERRINGTON C SCO vs McNEILL G NIR, 100 – 0

Men's +100kg Repechage contest, KUMAR Parikshit IND vs McNEILL Gavin NIR, 100s1 - 10

### **Swimming:**

Women's 200m breaststroke, Sycerika McMahan, 12th

Men's 50m backstroke, Jordan Sloan, 11th

Women's 50m Butterfly, Bethany Firth, 22nd; Gemma Kane, 20<sup>th</sup>, 28.22 PB

Men's 100m Freestyle, Conor Munn, 30<sup>th</sup>, 53.30; David Thompson, 18<sup>th</sup>, 51.15; Curtis Coulter, 12<sup>th</sup>, 50.63

Men's 50m Backstroke Semi-final 2, Jordan Sloan, 12<sup>th</sup>, 26.28

Men's 100m Freestyle Semi-final 2, David Thompson, 12<sup>th</sup>, 50.48

### **Cycling:**

Men's Sprint B2 Tandem Qualifying, James Brown, 5<sup>th</sup>

Men's 40km Points Race Qualifying Round, Martyn Irvine, 12,12,12

Women's 10km Scratch Race Finals, BOYLAN Lydia Helene, 14<sup>th</sup>

Men's 40km Points Race Finals, Martyn Irvine, did not finish

### **Triathlon:**

Mixed Team Relay's Final, (Aileen Reid, Conor Murphy, Eimear Mullan, Russell White), 6<sup>th</sup>

### **Squash:**

Women's Singles Quarter-final 2, KING Joelle NZL vs PERRY Madeline NIR, 3-0



**Boxing:**

Men's Middle (75kg) Round of 32, COYLE Connor NIR vs DYAMDEKI Lungile LES, 3-0

Men's Light Welter (64kg) Round of 32, DUFFY Sean NIR vs MOHAMED Dilshan SRI, 3-0

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