

# LEEDS

Wenlock and Mandeville, the London 2012 Olympic mascots, say hello.



## Olympic year is finally here

**As I write this newsletter, it is 142 days to the start of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games! It will be a very exciting and busy year of events for our City, with many sporting and cultural events planned. More information and a calendar of events can be found at [www.leedsgold.co.uk](http://www.leedsgold.co.uk)**

Over the last 12-18 months, Leeds City Council has been undergoing a number of changes in order to meet some challenging budget reductions. The Sport and Active Recreation Service is at the end of a major staffing restructure and this has included changes in the sport development team. The 'wedges' of the City that we have previously worked in alter from eight to three, and several of the names and job roles in the team have changed.

We will be in touch very soon with an update that will include specifying the person who is undertaking each role and the contacts who can support and work with your club/organisation in the future.

Until then, please continue to contact our team as normal for any assistance you need, and if you have any queries contact Katy Elliott on 0113 3950161 or by e-mail at [katy.elliott@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:katy.elliott@leeds.gov.uk)

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# Are you ready?

**Is your club ready for what is the greatest year in our sport for generations?**  
If not, don't worry; there is still time to ensure your club is ready.



## What is the *Are you ready?* campaign?

The campaign works as part of the England Athletics Volunteer Initiative, driving recruitment forward as the starting point for retaining and rewarding volunteers.

The campaign is for England Athletics to support clubs to address the challenges that will be faced with the increase in interest, participation and volunteering that the games will bring.

## 100 days to go – *Try Athletics Day*

To celebrate the '100 days to go' milestone, clubs are being invited to host a *Try Athletics Day* between the 16-20 April. It will provide you with the chance to open your doors to the local community and showcase your club to potential new members and volunteers. The open session can stand alone, incorporate your existing training session but with a twist, or even something completely new – it's up to you.

## What is in it for your club?

Hosting a day like this provides a chance for your club to let potential members engage with parents to show them what support or skill they can offer. It will showcase your whole club and will provide the local community with a unique opportunity to come and see you in action and, with luck, encourage them to get involved.

## What support can England Athletics provide?

When you sign up for a *Try Athletics Day* you will be given:

- a welcome pack, including an introduction to the campaign;
- a checklist of items that will be useful before, during and after your event;

- details of how England Athletics, County Sports Partnerships and the local CCSO will advertise your events on their webpages; and
- online resources including the Volunteer toolkit, which contains details of how to recruit, retain and reward your volunteers, and volunteer role descriptions.

## Rewards available to all clubs after hosting a *Try Athletics Day* include:

- a free A5 Athletics 365 Coach book
- 25% discount on Aviva Grand Prix tickets
- Athletics Weekly offering all volunteers of host clubs that subscribe to AW the first three copies free, and a free digital subscription with any magazine sub. Every time a member subscribes the club will receive a £5 donation.
- £1 off each AW Series 'bookazine' purchased in excess of the current bulk discounts.
- 20% discount on the Eveque Sportshall and Track and Field range of equipment – including landing areas
- A certificate celebrating your involvement in the campaign.

All clubs that register to take part before March 16 will be entered into a prize draw on March 26 - the three winning clubs' prize is for an international athlete to attend a club event. More prizes will be confirmed on the website.

## How to sign up:

Go to the England Athletics website [www.englandathletics.org/areyoureadyevents](http://www.englandathletics.org/areyoureadyevents) and visit the club section.

# Back to Netball



*Back to Netball* is a 10-12 week, gentle re-introduction to the sport for adult females of all ages. Sessions are coach-led and will cover the basics of game from chest passes to footwork. Whether it's about rediscovering sporting abilities, getting active again or just meeting a group of like-minded ladies, these sessions are for you.

For regular updates

follow us on facebook  
@Back to netball Leeds

or twitter  
@Back to netball Leeds

or contact  
emily.hearle@englandnetball.co.uk

## Monday

Leeds Metropolitan University, Headingley Campus, Carnegie Sports Centre, Mondays 5pm-6pm £3 for non-sport members, free to Carnegie Sports members.

Mandela Centre, Leeds, LS7 3HY, 6pm-7pm, £3.00

## Tuesday

Armley leisure centre, LS12 3HB, 1pm-2pm, £3.00

Kirkstall leisure centre, LS5 3BE, 5pm-6pm, £3.00

Morley leisure centre, LS27 9JP, 8.30pm-9.30pm starts 17 April, £3.00. Next Step Netball session

## Wednesday

Kirkstall leisure centre, 6pm-7pm, £2.50

Carr Manor High School, 5.30pm-6.00pm CircuitNet £2.00

6pm-7pm Back to Netball £2.00

## Thursday

Mandela Centre, Leeds, LS7 3HY, 10am-11.00am, £3.00

Scott Hall leisure centre, LS7 3DT, 10.30pm-11.30pm, £3.00

Rothwell leisure centre, LS26 8EL, 7pm-8pm, £3.00

## Friday

Bruntcliffe High School, Morley, Leeds, Circuits, 5.30pm-6.30pm, CircuitNet £2.50

## Sunday

Bruntcliffe High School, Morley, Leeds, Circuits, 6.00pm-7.00pm, £2.50

Rothwell leisure centre, LS26 8EL, 7pm-9pm, £4.50

## Olympic volunteers at Leeds Fencing Club

Three members of Leeds Fencing Club will be working as volunteers at the London 2012 Olympic Games. They are Moya McNamara, John Crouch and Karen Garvie.

All three have extensive fencing experience and are regularly involved in organising and running fencing events, but this will be a completely different experience.

Foil, sabre and epee will be fenced, a wonderful to see performed at world-class level.

Moya and John will be working in the Technical Team as scorers so will be right in among the action in the fencing salle and able to observe it up close. At present, Karen is allocated to the Weapon Control Team. The process

of becoming a Games Maker volunteer began last year.

The fencing will be held at the ExCel Centre and in November 2011 all three were involved in the Fencing Test Event, where the photos of Moya and John were taken. More visits to London will be required before the Olympics for further role-specific training such as collecting uniforms. Unfortunately, all travel and accommodation expenses have to be paid for by the volunteers themselves, so it promises to be an expensive experience for them



Leeds Fencing Club [www.leedsfencing.co.uk](http://www.leedsfencing.co.uk) is based at Kirkstall Leisure Centre on Monday evenings.

# Community Tennis - Volunteers wanted



**Leeds has been selected as one of only eight sites in the country to host a Community Tennis project and volunteers are needed to support this new way of getting more people – those who traditionally don't play the game – on court.**

Tennis facilities will be provided in schools and parks, and at each site it is planned to have a lead coach, an assistant coach and a number of volunteers. This team will be responsible not only for promoting the site but also for deciding the type of activity delivered. The programme of informal and structure activities, suitable for all ages, will start from March 2012.

## The proposed sites are:

Springhead Park, Rothwell  
Cross Flatts Park, Beeston  
Woodhouse Moor, Hyde Park  
Chapel Allerton Park, Chapel Allerton  
Dartmouth Park, Morley  
John Smeaton leisure centre, Crossgates

Meanwood Park, Meanwood  
Harehills Park/Potternewton Park, Harehills  
The Hollies/Becket Park, Headingley  
Roundhay Park, Roundhay  
Kirkstall Abbey Courts, Kirkstall Abbey  
Boston Spa School, Boston Spa

Volunteer teams will consist of people who can deliver on court and those who can support the project off the court. No specific qualifications are required, but experience/qualifications in marketing or tennis coaching would be desirable.

A key element of this volunteer opportunity is the ability to work as team, be good communicators and possess an enthusiasm about tennis and broadening the appeal of the game. In return, volunteers will benefit from the practical experience of supporting a project that will improve their future employability. Volunteers will be involved in social events, kit, training and prizes.

Volunteers are being recruited on an ongoing basis. To find out more, e-mail [charles.tatman@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:charles.tatman@leeds.gov.uk) or contact 07891 275383.



Photograph: Katie Angus

## Everyone for VI Tennis

Tennis for people who are blind or partially-sighted is now part of the weekly disability tennis programme, and sessions are held at the Tennis Centre at John Charles Centre for Sport every Friday, 5.30 - 7.30pm.

VI Tennis was served up during an Inclusive Tennis Festival that took place at the Indoor Tennis Centre at John Charles in December 2011. Three more Inclusive Tennis festivals are planned to take place in 2012 and will coincide with major tennis grand slams and before and after the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

To find out more about tennis opportunities in Leeds, contact Charlie Tatman on 0113 395 0186 or email [charles.tatman@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:charles.tatman@leeds.gov.uk).

More information about disability sport opportunities can be found at [www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/disabilitysport), by following [www.facebook.com/leedsdisabilitysport](https://www.facebook.com/leedsdisabilitysport), or email [ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:ross.bibby@leeds.gov.uk)

# Lead the way for Leeds – become a leader in running fitness



**Leeds Athletics Network, Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Sport have joined forces and got involved in a national project aimed at getting people into running.**

We are looking to set up 50 new running groups throughout Leeds for beginners. Groups can be set up anywhere and for anyone. We are looking for leaders to run 3+ weekly running groups each.

## **Starting April 2012**

You don't need to be an expert or a high-performing runner to start a beginners' running group.

A leaders' course starts on Sat 17 March, 10 am – 5 pm, at Kirkstall Leisure Centre.

For more information, e-mail Holly Williams on [holly@leedsathletics.net](mailto:holly@leedsathletics.net) or visit [www.leedsathletics](http://www.leedsathletics) and click on 'Run Yorks/Humber'.

## **Benefits:**

FREE leader in running fitness course (worth £90 and includes all the training you need to start a group)

- Groups identified for you if you don't have any local people/areas in mind
  - Promotional materials provided.
  - Insurance
  - £50 expenses per group
  - Potential income from charging £1 - £2 per person
  - Part of national campaign feature in press releases and much more
  - An opportunity to be part of the 2012 legacy
- Become a SportsMarker and receive a FREE Adidas t-shirt and bag.

# Leeds Gold

**Leeds Gold brings together all the activities in Leeds being planned to celebrate the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics.**



Lord Coe and Eddie Izzard welcome volunteers

Leeds will be hosting teams from China, Russia, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada and the USA. A volunteer workforce will be needed to support the teams throughout the duration of their visits and to get involved in helping to run some of the cultural events being held in the city. An interviewing and recruiting process will take place from May and the main requirement for people to help will occur in the months of June, July and August.

## **What are volunteers needed for?**

Torch relay volunteers in support of the National Torch Relay team in Leeds on Tuesday 19 June, Sunday 24th June and Monday 25th June to help control access to the road, to provide information to pedestrians and car drivers and to help generate excitement and enthusiasm among the torchbearers and the general public.

Training camp volunteers - the main training camp venues are the University of Leeds and the John Charles Centre. Other locations will be Leeds Met, Bradford University and the Wakefield Hockey Centre.

Volunteers are needed to deliver the best possible training experience for each of the teams based in Leeds. Volunteers will be assigned to one specific venue, and their roles could range from office-based administration to hands-on operations.

Help will be needed at the main team accommodation locations, the University of Leeds, and at other locations throughout the city. The role will be to welcome everyone to Leeds and will include making sure the various sites run smoothly.

Based in the designated hotels/Leeds University accommodation, an information assistant will be responsible for supervising the reception area, ensuring that all event information is available to teams, competitors and officials, and liaising with the hotel

Become a volunteer team attaché and help get teams to where they need to be, safely and on time.

## **Where can I sign up?**

If you are interested in volunteering at the Leeds Olympic Training Camps, register your interest on the Leeds Gold website: [www.leedsinspired.co.uk](http://www.leedsinspired.co.uk)

Interviews and recruitment will take place during the first weeks in April and May, and the training and induction will take place during early June.

# Once in a lifetime – an Olympic experience

**Trisha Johnson, who worked for 10 years as a Senior Admin Officer for Leeds City Council's Sport department, finds being retired even more exciting than being employed and wonders how she ever had the time to fit any work in.**



Eton Forney where Trish had her first experience as an Olympic volunteer

As I was due to retire in 2012 I began to wonder what I should do, when a friend mentioned they were volunteering for the London Olympics. So I thought, why not! And that was it, on the Internet to the Olympics site to complete the application form and wait. I didn't hold out much hope – don't speak any languages; aren't involved with or participate in any sports – but you never know. A few months later an email came from the Games Maker inviting me for an interview for the Technology Team – and so began the journey to be involved in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The interview venue was the Excel Centre, which is situated near London City Airport in Royal Victoria Dock, East London and will be home to a variety of sports during the Games from boxing and table tennis to wheelchair fencing. The interview was 17th April, which coincided with the London Marathon, so not only were a number of the Underground stations closed off but the city was filled with serious and not-so-serious runners, their supporters and cheering crowds of tourists, but with the help of a friend I found my way to the venue without any trouble. The interviews were carried out in sessions and once I had registered I was given a pink wrist band and a 'pod' number and steered towards the accreditation desk, where my details were checked and my photograph taken for my Olympic ID if I was selected (here's hoping it's not like my passport!) So I passed through into the inner sanctum to join a mixed group of people wearing pink wristbands, all wondering what would happen next, plus a number of Olympic employees putting us at our ease, answering our questions and generally making us feel welcome. Eventually my group was called to go through an archway, watch a short video message from Eddie Izzard, then into our 'pod' for the interview. This lasted about half an hour, with a number of questions aimed at getting the most information about the interviewee's relevant experience and personality. Then it was all over, I was outside in the sunshine

wondering where or how my experience would fit in and hoping that I would be successful.

In June I was invited to attend the Canoe Sprint Test Event at Eton Dorney near Windsor. This event, which as suggested was to test not only the prospective volunteers but also the venue and systems, started with a training day on 31st August covering what would be expected of us, how to use the results system and where everything was. We were provided with t-shirts and a waterproof jacket – unfortunately, due to the lack of smaller sizes, I ended up with t-shirts that doubled as mini dresses and a waterproof I could use as a small tent if I ever went to Glastonbury! We were also asked to make sure the only logo designer gear we had on was Adidas – it was four days before I realised I'd been wearing a pair of Reebok trainers! Oops.

The canoeing and kayaking events took place over four days, and although I know nothing at all about either, with spectators limited to family and team members only the sheer buzz in the venue was amazing. Teams of prospective Olympic athletes were there from a number of countries – Europe, South Africa, Russia, the UK and others all competing for gold, silver or bronze. A mini-Olympics, complete with all the pomp and ceremony of standing on the podium, including receiving a medal with the national anthem played for the gold winner. I knew then that I wanted to be part of the 'real thing' in July and would be disappointed if I didn't get selected.

A couple of weeks ago I got the email. Not only had I been selected but I was going to be based in the actual Olympic Stadium in the International Broadcasting Centre. So that's it, just waiting now for my invite to the accreditation session, when I'll get my ID badge and go for my uniform fitting, my venue training and then, the day itself – the Opening Ceremony.

# It's the biggest ever year of sport. So get your running gear on Leeds.



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