

TRANSPLANT GAMES 2005

Another successful year for our Transplant Games Team, despite their number being reduced. The 28th British Transplant Games were held from 26th—28th August.

The final medal tally, seven gold, three silver and twelve bronze – a wonderful achievement. Well done to you all!

Organised by the Transplant Sports Association of Great Britain (TSAGB) the Games were held at Loughborough University campus. A full and exciting schedule was made easier as the accommodation and most events were on campus. The sports track had been rebuilt and facilities were excellent.

The seven members of the St Helier Team were Helen Hayton, George Lebon, Captain, Nick Martin, Ron McPherson, Craig Morrow, David Slater and Peter Warren.

The athletes assembled in Loughborough town centre and paraded to the Town Hall where we were addressed by the Mayor of Charnwood and the Lord Mayor of Leicester. The Games torch arrived and the Games oath was read by Rachael Reynolds. Maurice Slapak President and Christine Evans, Chairperson of the TSAGB made the welcome speeches and the 2005 Games were formally open.



Helen Hayton received the Vitrex Ludorum Adult Trophy



Members of the Team with their Manager, Graham Morrow and supporters, Sue McPherson and Angie Morrow.

Early Friday morning Ron McPherson teed-off for 18 holes at Weston Park Golf Club. Peter Warren fished Braunstone Lake where he hooked sufficient fish to come second to John Harrison of Freemans Newcastle whilst George, Nick, Craig and David (“OK then, I’ll come out of retirement”) competed in the table tennis and squash competitions. By the end of the day Craig had won silver and David and Nick a bronze in the squash, George and Craig won bronze in the table tennis and Peter had his fishing silver. The day was rounded off with a visit to the Leicester Space Centre followed by a disco.

Saturday was also a fantastic day for the Team adding a further 10 medals to those won on Friday. Nick won the Team's first gold in a hard fought series of games in badminton and Craig and David, playing together for the first time, won bronze; Helen again left the competition standing and ran away with a gold in the 3K marathon.



David, Craig & Nick, bronze medallists in badminton

Saturday afternoon was the turn of our swimmers. The first medal came to Helen in the 50m freestyle then Peter won bronze in the 50m backstroke. Gold for Helen again in the 100m freestyle then Peter won bronze in the 50m butterfly and gold for Helen again (50m butterfly). The final event was the 4x50 swim relay. As we only had two swimmers in the team, the Committee decided that two swimmers from King's hospital should assist the team. One did not show, so our champions were teamed up with two members from the St. Peter's team. Unfortunately, one could not swim 50m!!! He started his length, swam about 15m, turned onto his back and floated the rest of the length. At the first handover, we were over a length behind. This of course only threw down the challenge to the rest of the team who proceeded to swim as hard and as fast as they could. They did not win any medals, but they were not



The Relay Team

downhearted. The sporting achievements of the day were crowned when Nick, almost exhausted by his badminton games in the morning, proudly won gold in the tennis, a fitting reward for his determination

and perseverance.

The TSAGB AGM was at 6pm. As all 500 competitors **must** be members of TSAGB, it was very disappointing that only about 40 people turned up to hear the annual report and the financial position. We discussed how to attract new members and retain young members when they transfer from children's units to adult units. We need to attract members not only from our own unit but from Guy's and Great Ormond Street when their care is transferred to St Helier. Age Groups were also discussed, in particular the adult group whose ages span 18 – 34. It was suggested that the ranges be changed to Adult 18-29 (18-34), Senior 30-44 (35-44), veteran 45-59 (45-54) and supervets 60+ (55+). Peter Griffin stepped down as GB Team Manager and was thanked for his contribution to the World Games; he will take up a position on the World Games

Organising Committee. After the meeting, people donned grass skirts and hideously flowery shirts for what turned out to be a very good Beach Party at the Students Union.



Bronze for Nick with this long jump

The final day, Sunday, was gloriously sunny and George was able to rejoin the team after spending two days in bed with a chest infection. First team medallist was Helen who once again raced away in the 800m for another gold. Nick added to his medal tally with a bronze in the long jump with David coming fifth. Ron, Nick and Peter competed in the cricket ball throw, Peter coming fourth and Nick fifth in their respective age groups. Unfortunately, by mid afternoon Sue was not feeling at all well so she and Ron decided to set off home. St. Helier had a full team for the 4 x 100m and Peter, Nick, Helen and David ran well and came home with a bronze. During the afternoon we were joined by Mike Palmer, who in spite of being very ill had asked his wife Jeannette to drive him to Leicester to support the team and meet their friends.

The last scheduled event was the Gala Dinner and Vegas Night which was held in the main sports hall where the meal was most enjoyable, the speeches

unusually brief and the award presentation held yet one more surprise when Helen was presented the Vitrex Ludorum Adult trophy for the best female adult swimmer at the Games – well done Helen. The band played on until 1am when, later than usual, we held hands and sang the Games anthem “You’ll Never Walk Alone”.

On behalf of the team, a huge **THANK YOU** to SHAK for their financial support and to the SHAK committee and our supporters for their encouragement, we really do appreciate it.

The next British Games will be held on Bath University campus, 17th – 20th August 2006 and will be a great opportunity for athletes and non-athletes alike to experience the warmth and friendship of all who attend the Games in a beautiful part of this country of ours.

If you are interested in taking part and wish to be on the mailing list, contact me on 01252 325230 or through a SHAK committee member or Christina Ho at St. Helier.

*** NOW IT IS UP TO YOU *****

Every year I end with this statement and every year I really mean it, just ask those who attended this year. Whilst we will always admire those who won medals, the only person you really compete against is yourself; there are more winners at the Games than medallists.

The Games are a wonderful experience, so please remember it really is the taking part that counts. If you have already received the “Gift of Life” why not help promote awareness into the need for more organ donors and ensure someone else can receive this precious Gift!

Diary Events:

November 11-13, 2005

Volleyball Tournament, Belfast, NI

April 20, 2006

Badminton Tournament – Birmingham

August 17-20, 2006

British Transplant Games, Bath

Graham Morrow, Team Manager



Craig, silver and David, and Nick won bronze



*Above:
Peter Warren
gained silver in the
fishing*



Helen wins gold



*Left:
David and Craig*

The St Helier Transplant Team goes Transatlantic

The 15th World Transplant Games London Ontario Canada 2005

Cheryl Buxton, Helen Hayton, Nick Martin, Peter Warren from the St Helier Team were part of the British Team

We arrived in Toronto Canada on 14th July 2005, and left the airport for London, Ontario. The following day we met other UK team members and went shopping to pick up things that we had forgotten to bring. On the 16th we went to Niagara Falls, the views were breathtaking on the land and on the Maid of the Mist

which is a boat that goes very close to the falls. As it was the trip of a lifetime a few of us took the helicopter trip over the falls. It was awesome.

On the 17th there were team photos and training and later the opening ceremony took place. All the 50 teams paraded into the John Labatt Centre, an indoor arena with 90,000 seats where we were entertained by singers and dancers. Afterwards, there was a BBQ with a country and western theme.

On the 18th Helen, Cheryl and I trained while Nick went off to his 1st squash game in his 1st World Games. Meeting Nick later he said "I did as well as expected", I asked "What does that mean?". He said "I was out in the 1st round".

On the 19th Cheryl and I trained again, Helen went off to the mini marathon and Nick went to play tennis. Helen won her race the 1st gold medal for the St Helier team, and also silver for the British being runners up as a team. In the first round of the tennis Nick met the US champ. The match was one set, first to 8 games. Most sets took 45 minutes. After 90 minutes in very hot conditions, Nick lost 6 – 8. Supporters said it was one of the best games they had seen. Not letting that get him down, Nick got through to the doubles semi final of the tennis with a good friend of the St Helier team "Amie". In the evening many people went to the World Idol, it was a sort of pop idol contest, with 3 people going onto the final later in the week.

Next day, Helen, Cheryl and I went to the swimming competition and Nick went to the tennis to see if he and Amie could do better. The swimming event was very successful for the GB team winning 35 medals in one day. Helen won Bronze in the 50m and 100m freestyle and in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay, Cheryl was also part of this bronze winning relay team. I managed a bronze in the 100m freestyle, and 2 fourth places in the breaststroke and butterfly, to finish the day Nick won a bronze in the tennis.

On the 21st it was back in the pool for Cheryl, Helen and I, Nick came along for support. Helen won gold in the 200m freestyle and bronze in the 4 x 50m medley relay, Cheryl was also part of the silver placed relay. Cheryl started a very successful Games with gold in the 50m freestyle, 50m backstroke, 50m fly and 100m freestyle. She also set new WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TIMES in her gold winning performances. I came 5th in the 50m freestyle and 5th in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay, I managed 3rd in the individual medal with medals going to 1st and 2nd, rules of the games (not my fault - only 3 wanted to take part!) Later that night all the swimmers went out for a meal into London town to round off two good days in the pool.

The 22nd and 23rd saw two days of athletics, Nick did the long jump, Helen got silver in the high jump and gold in the 800m and 4 x 100m relay. After 7 days of events the games were brought to an end, with the games flag being passed on to the hosts for the 2007 Games in Thailand.

In the evening the gala dinner took place when we were wined and dined, entertained by the 3 World Idol finalists, which was eventually won by a 10 year old Canadian girl. After that music was played by the Marginal Donors, a band made up of doctors and surgeons. It was a night to say goodbye to new and old friends.

On the 24th we packed and said goodbye to other people on the GB team.

On behalf of the team I would like to thank Graham Morrow the St Helier team manager and SHAK for support us in the British Games, so that we could get selected for the World Games.

Peter Warren

2005 World Transplant Games, Official results

Place	Country	Adult			Total
		Gold	Silver	Bronze	
1	UK	65	52	57	174
2	US	50	43	32	125
3	Australia	41	32	24	97
4	Canada	30	22	17	69
5	Hungary	18	13	14	45

Place	Country	Junior/Child			Total
		Gold	Silver	Bronze	
1	UK	23	16	11	50
2	Canada	18	16	10	44
3	US	21	11	9	41
4	Netherlands	7	5	3	15
5	Belgium	4	5	0	0

St Helier Team achievements in the World Games:

Cheryl Buxton, Swimming, 4 Gold—all World records
1 silver and 1 bronze,
High Jump, 1 silver.

Helen Hayton, Swimming, 1 gold, Track, 2 gold,
Swimming, 4 bronze

Nicholas Martin, Tennis doubles, bronze.

Peter warren, Swimming, bronze.

Congratulations to all of you for your achievements—what a wonderful way of thanking the donor families.