

Field Newsletter (24) August 2026

Welcome to a Commonwealth Special Edition.

Congratulations to all at the Commonwealth Games 2026



Well done, Glasgow.

The Athletics at Scotstoun exceeded expectations and was, I feel, a great success. For those of us who arrived on the Saturday to a half ready stadium and a massive pile of things to be unpacked, it did not seem likely that it was going to be possible, but everyone worked very hard to make it work.

As at any big event things could have been better and, once again, the Tech team and those working in Warm Up and Training venues were faced with the IMPOSSIBLE, but achieved great results albeit with unacceptable demands on their time and effort.

In this edition we hope to highlight some of the experiences and memories of those involved.

Post Event Control – Brenda Stephen

If you look up Post Event Control in the Rule book you will find it does not exist so preparing to be Post Event Control Manager was an interesting challenge.

As the name suggests PEC controls everything to do with athletes after their event. We received Accreditation, Confiscations and Kit from Call Room and arranged these ready for the athletes' return.

PEC has the reputation for being a cross between a Sick Bay and an Emotions hub and it certainly lived up to its reputation after the heats of the 400m, when the area looked more like an Emergency Triage.

However, I loved every minute. We were constantly reorganising the chairs to suit and when we had 4 Relay Races arrive within 30 minutes the place was organised chaos.

We met every athlete, every star performer and every first timer. Every event had athletes who were elated and those deeply disappointed, and we tried to provide a safe space for both emotions.

I was lucky to have a great team of officials and volunteers and as this was most likely my last international experience it was a great way to finish.

Brenda X



Delights of the offsite training venue – Hutchison's Grammar School.



As with the Stadium, the Offsite training venue had its challenges, not least through the monsoon that whirled around Glasgow on Tuesday night. Luckily, the dream team of Chrissy, Ailsa, and Nicky, (Events Team), Hugh and Sheila Baillie and Caroline Johnston (Technical Officials) and an outstanding group of volunteers, physios and security personnel, the athletes and coaches hardly noticed the weather. This is clearly far from the truth, but humour and flexibility prevailed and we were able to provide a number of track and field athletes with a venue that was almost fit for purpose.

Open from 8am to 10 pm, buses were constantly dropping off and picking up athletes and coaches. the majority of whom were track, with occasional field athletes. Equipment included new Pole Vault and high jump beds (now winging their way to Birmingham). The long jump had been given a new Mondo run up. There were two well equipped gyms inside, plus a rest area.

The atmosphere was relaxed and athletes and coaches enjoyed gentle intervention from the Team when they requested it - usually for cones and batons. On the whole, activities reflected the Stadium timetable, with the busiest days being pre competition and the lead up to the relays. Watching the teams training for these events proved interesting, as every team seemed to have a different routine.

Highlights for me included witnessing the commitment of Thea LaFond, Dominica's triple jump champion, who trained on the track throughout the monsoon on Tuesday evening and then practiced startups in the corridor. The positivity of two pole vault athletes whose pole vaults had been left in Delhi was inspiring. They too, arrived in the rain, and whilst unable to use the pole vault due to the conditions, borrowed a couple of poles, and sloshed through the rain to get measure of them. Throughout the week Team Nigeria kept us amused with the music and their consumption of flapjacks. It was a privilege to be up close and personal with the best in Commonwealth Athletics – and the athletes were great too

– well done Team Hutchie. *Caroline Johnston.*

Opening Ceremony – Leslie Roy

I had the privilege and honour to be an Oath Taker on behalf of Technical Officials at the Glasgow 2026 Opening Ceremony. Along with Paul Foster (Athletes) and Robyn Love (Coaches) it will be an experience I will never forget.

Was I able to learn my lines before the big event? No. The rehearsal was on the afternoon of the Opening Ceremony with two 'run throughs', (this was when I saw the Oath for the first time) to ensure sound and camera positions were in order, the paper with the written Oath was taken back again at the end, so no time for practicing between then and the main event. Five minutes before walking on stage, I received the piece of paper with the Oath back again.



Wearing the Technical Officials uniform I delivered the Oath in front of the King, who was only a few paces away. The atmosphere was electric and my main aim was not to 'mess it up', although I have to admit my legs were shaking terribly.

I had a seat in the arena to watch the first hour before being taken to the 'floor' ready to walk 'on'. After taking the Oath I was taken back to my seat to watch the rest of the Ceremony, which was fantastic.

I was chauffeured around like royalty, being taken back and forwards from home to the Hydro by a driver who lives in London but turned out he was in the year behind me at school and competed in the steeplechase for Victoria Park AAC, who would believe, it's a small world.

This was my seventh Commonwealth Games; every one has been different but this one was unique

Being a volunteer was an amazing experience! Evelyn Roxburgh



I got to be the Guernsey flag bearer at the opening ceremony rehearsal. Along with other 'stand ins' we proceeded nation by nation to our seats to watch the preview of the ceremony, which was wonderful. They even had a stand in king and queen.

Travelling back and forwards each day to Scotstoun, I was able to engage with visitors to the city, all with lots of questions about the games but mostly about how to get to the venues. One day I journeyed with a lady who had come to watch her Australian granddaughter compete in the 100m!

Arriving at Scotstoun every day was fun. I would catch up with all my official friends and then there was the rewards: socks, a drinks bottle, badges, a pack of cards and a certificate!

My main job for the duration of the games was with Brenda in Post Event Control, which was laid out with military precision every day; chairs in bays, whiteboards detailing events written up, a plentiful line of sick bags and lots of water. At times it felt like a chaotic changing room.

I also had the opportunity to take out the shots for the decathlon which was my only chance to see what was going on in the stadium.

Highlights for me were: the quiet dignity and relief of Melanie Woods after her second 1500m race, Andy Butchart's friendly chat after his race and the great joy and cacophony of the relay teams.

It was a pleasure to be part of such a wonderful team every day and a privilege to witness the highs and lows of all these elite athletes.

The lead up to the event was busy, collaborating with the other chiefs to allocate teams and duties. We quickly realised this was not going to be an easy task, but the final amendments made, before we arranged for the duties spreadsheet to go to the printers, was done the night before the prints were required... however, we knew there would be changes to be made as the competition progressed. A sense of relief that the print had been done and like any duty sheet, changes can be made as and when and believe me lots of changes made when additional duties were added to the mix. We did these changes with a smile, sometimes into the early hours of the morning – thanks to Norma for being our keeper of the spreadsheet. Duty sheets were updated daily and put on the officials' wall for everyone to see their duties for the next day – similar to the spreadsheet but not identical.

Our location for the next 10 days, Golden Jubilee Hotel. First task on the Friday was to collect the uniforms – great set up well organised and a bus took us to the collection centre and brought us back to the hotel. Great excitement to see the actual uniform, and it did not disappoint, everyone thought the uniform was practical and everyone really liked the back-pack bag with the little bit of tartan.



Hotel was a great location and so handy for the stadium. The stadium was not available to be set up until the Saturday morning so it was all hands-on deck to help set up the official's room. Not a lot of space but we managed to use the squash courts as our breakout areas. Well done to the tech team for the effort in getting the competition set up with very limited time (for a major championship the tech team are usually in days ahead of the event). Also well done to all the other areas getting their set up ready for the competition.

Different to the Scottish Championships in terms of how the event was run, and timings were key for each event for the Host Broadcasting Companies, but no difference to the weather we are used to having.

The test event on the Sunday night was about testing where equipment was placed and where we would be sitting to ensure we were not in the way of cameras etc. Some events could not be tested as still undergoing installation, but as the saying goes, the show must go on, and it did and what a show it was. Well done Glasgow and well done to everyone who made this work.

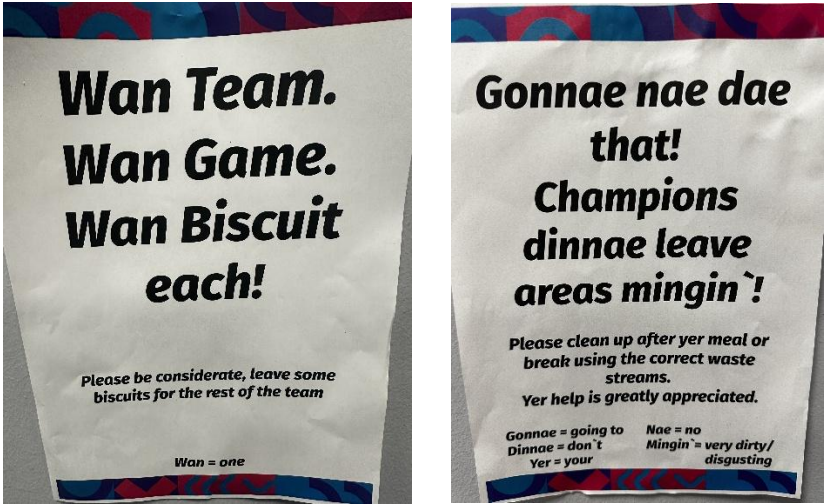
There were 5 field teams covering all the 60 field events, and each team made the difference to get the show on the road and make it work. It was very hard at times, early mornings, late finishes, and late dinners (dinner was usually around 11pm). The Tuesday evening session was particularly challenging when we had the very heavy downpour of rain, I was on the hammer ladies final, and moving the cage gates did get hard (as the wheels dug deeper and deeper into the mud), but the remarkable tech team were on hand to lend a hand. That night we did indeed test the waterproof jacket and we did stay dry, so it worked... the hotel was also tested as to how to work bathroom radiators or heaters in the room to hang up the wet clothes to be dry for the next day....

Memories will be forever, and although CWG 2026 was challenging in so many ways, it will be remembered. Well done to all the teams taking part from Call room, Video room, PEC, TIC, Tech team, to warm up areas at Scotstoun well managed by Liz, Amparo and Mick, and at Hutchie. Well done to Scotland for hosting and putting this event together at very short notice – normally 4 years to organise – not this time. Also so many photo memories, and this also includes some AI enhancements to photos which made us all laugh. The meeting managers found a Scottish word each day to share with all our colleagues, this was lots of fun. I attach a few pics below which captures some of the memories.

Team 4 having their de-brief around the table looking smart in their uniform.



Signs on the officials’ room wall at the coffee/tea station.



EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

Sat, 05 Sep	Open Graded	Monument Mile Classic	Stirling	Michael Wright	michaelwardwright@hotmail.com
Sun, 06 Sep	League	RAM League - Final	Aberdeen	Carol Rose	carolvrose@hotmail.co.uk
Wed, 09 Sep	Disability	SDS Senior Championships	Grangemouth	Ally Love	alasdhair.love@scottishathletics.org.uk
Sat, 12 Sep	Championship	Lanarkshire AAA Track Relay Championships	Crownpoint	Barbara Knox	LAAA.SEC@outlook.com
Sun, 13 Sep	League	Forth Valley League	Grangemouth	John McOmish	admin@forthvalleyleague.org.uk
TBC	Open Graded	Livingston AAC OG Meeting		Livingston AAC	events@livingstonac.com
TBC	Open Graded	Scottish Athletics Throws Grand Prix		Ally Love	alasdhair.love@scottishathletics.org.uk