

**GRAEME  
SMITH  
SILVER  
AND  
BRONZE**

PHOTO: Bill Black



**SCOTTISH  
SWIMMING  
2000  
magazine**



**GOLDEN GIRL  
ALISON SHEPPARD**

**EDO**  
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**BANK OF SCOTLAND Scottish Team  
COMMONWEALTH GAMES MANCHESTER 2002**

**COMMONWEALTH  
GAMES SPECIAL**



Scottish Commonwealth Games Swimming Team

Photo: Satish Birrell

**BANK OF SCOTLAND Scottish Team**  
COMMONWEALTH GAMES MANCHESTER 2002

The Commonwealth Games in Manchester provided British sport with a showcase that many of us will remember for the rest of our lives. Despite the cynical press predicting yet another British sporting disaster, Manchester and in particular the "Mancunians" fabulous volunteer workforce proved them wrong and delivered a spectacular event we can all be proud of.

For Scottish sport and Scottish Swimming it was a successful games with thirty medals, our country's second most successful next to the 1986 home games in Edinburgh, which were boycotted by so many country's. Much then to be pleased about yet much more work to be done as I believe these games purely provide all of us in Scottish sport and in particular Scottish and British swimming a foundation for the future and not an end result.

Our swimmers acquitted themselves well and returning with five medals was our best games performance since 1974 in Christchurch, New Zealand. Alison Sheppard's superb gold in the 50 metre freestyle in a Commonwealth and British record was our first female Commonwealth gold for forty eight years! A marvellous achievement and great reward for both her own, her coach and her family's dedication over many years. Her bronze in the 50 metre butterfly was in her own opinion a bonus and true to the end Alison anchored two record breaking relay performances, before being given the honour of carrying the flag at the closing ceremony for Scotland.



Braveheart - Graeme Smith

Photo: Bill Black

Another stalwart of both British and Scottish teams in the 90's, Falkirk born Graeme Smith picked up two medals, silver and a bronze. Smith's Scottish record breaking 400 metre freestyle performance was his highlight, pitched against Thorpe and Hackett he smashed the 3:50.00 barrier for the first time which set him up well for the favoured 1500 metres freestyle where he swam strongly to secure the runners up position.

City of Edinburgh backstroker Gregor Tait provided our fifth medal and an excellent silver in the 200 metres backstroke. After a tight heat the evening

final was a two horse race between Tait and England's James Goddard, the Stockport man getting the better of the race in the final fifteen metres. Gregor's first major games medal will however give him great confidence towards next summer's World Championships in Barcelona and the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

There were many outstanding swims in Manchester, too many to highlight and the overriding statistic of eighteen final swims as opposed to four in Kuala Lumpur shows the improvement of our athletes, Well done.

Our youngsters followed the footsteps of their senior counterparts with eight great days of racing at the National Age and Youth Championships in Sheffield in August. Scottish swimmers returned from the Yorkshire pool with sixteen gold, twelve silver and thirteen bronze medals, and also made finals on no less than sixty one occasions, our best showing ever! Excellent swimming and congratulations to all clubs and swimmers on these outstanding performances, which will stand our sport in good stead.

**Paul Bush**  
CEO Scottish Swimming  
and  
General Team Manager  
Bank of Scotland Scottish  
Team M2002



25 July - 4 August 2002

www.commonwealthgames.com



Photo: Bill Black

Scotland's lone synchro swimmer Pauline McFadyen was first in the pool - an unenviable draw- the synchro and diving events were held at the start of the Games to allow extra seats to be installed for the swimming events which began on the fifth day.



Gregor Tait

Photo: Bill Black

Manchester was a memorable event for Scottish Swimming. Alison Sheppard's Gold Medal was the highlight of a fantastic 6 days of swimming which also saw silvers for Graeme Smith & Gregor Tait and second medals of the bronze variety for Alison and Graeme in their additional events.

In total, 6 Scottish Records fell, Alison Sheppard's 50 Free heat time of 24.68, not only claiming GB and Commonwealth marks, but also good enough to rank her No1 in the world this year.

**Day 1**

Graeme Smith won bronze on the opening night in the 400 Free. Having set a Scottish Record in the heats, his final time of 3.49.40 was another 3/4 second better and the close race with Aussie Craig Stevens was a sign of things to come later in the week. Overall highlight of the evening was Ian Thorpe's World Record in the same race. Alison Sheppard and Kerry Martin qualified for the 50 Fly final in a good opener for the Scots.



Kerry Martin with her personal mascot

Photo: Satish Birrell

**Day 2**

Two days gone and two medals for Scotland! Alison Sheppard showed her sprint prowess with a bronze in the 50 Fly behind two Aussies. Her time of 27.30 was identical to the semi-final on Day 1 and just outside her national record. Kerry Martin finished a very creditable 7th in her first major final. Cameron Black in the semis of the Men's 50 Fly set a Scottish Record of 24.62 in qualifying 8th for the final on Day 3. David Carry was 8th in the 200 Free final with 1.51.22 and Lara Ferguson was 6th in the EAD 50 Free final.

**Day 3**

Keeping up the strike-rate of a medal a day was Gregor Tait with our first silver medal in the 200 Back. His time of 2.00.55 was

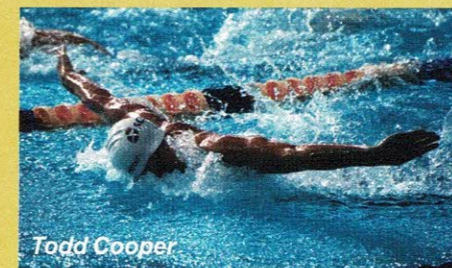
**Action from the pool**

slightly slower than his best time, set at the Trials in April. Cameron Black maintained his ranking by finishing 8th in the 50 Fly and Alison Sheppard led the field for 70m before fading slightly to finish 6th in the 100 Free. Sarah Price's

100 Back win for England over shadowed even Thorpe in the eyes of the swimming officianados this evening.

**Day 4**

No medals tonight, but another great evening of swimming in the Manchester Aquatic Centre. Alison Sheppard set a fantastic Commonwealth Record of 24.68 in the morning heats of the 50 Free and although slightly slower in this evening's semi-final, she still showed a clean pair of heels to all her rivals. Kirsty Balfour qualified through the semis for the 100 Breast, Gregor Tait did likewise in the 100 Back, as did Todd Cooper in the 100 Fly. Solitary finalist was Lara Ferguson who finished 6th in the EAD 100 Free behind South African superstar, Natalie du Toit.



Todd Cooper

**Day 5**

SCOTLAND THE BRAVE reverberated around the arena as Alison Sheppard delivered a Gold medal in the 50 Free. Leading the race from the start, she powered to victory in 24.76, almost a full second ahead of second placed Jodie Henry from Australia. No more medals, but agonizingly, the Women's 4 x 100 Freestyle relay came within 0.75 of beating swimming giants, Canada for 3rd place. A final leg of 54.62 from gold medal winner Alison Sheppard almost saw Scotland onto the podium, but the quartet of Sam McNeilly, Kerry Martin, Karen Nisbet and Alison Sheppard were delighted with a Scottish Record by over 5 seconds (3.46.08).

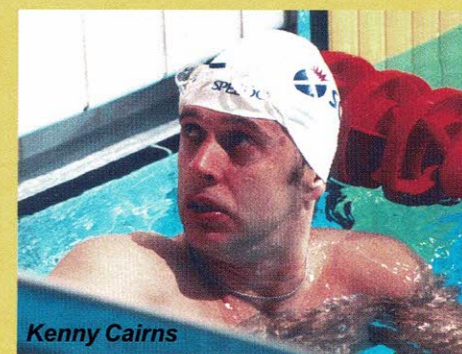
In a busy night of finals, Todd Cooper came 6th in the 100 Fly (54.33), Kirsty Balfour was 7th in the 100 Breast (1.10.61), Gregor Tait was 5th in the 100 Back (56.08), Karen Nisbet was 6th in the 400 Free (4.16.76), and Mike Cole was 8th in the 200 IM (2.01.02). Arguably won of Scotland's finest sessions in Commonwealth Games history.



Photo: SWpix

Michael Cole in the 200m I/M

Earlier that day World record holder, Kenny Cairns swam a strong 100 Free EAD heat, setting a new Games Record but unfortunately just missed out on qualifying for the final.



Kenny Cairns

**Day 6**

Braveheart, aka Graeme Smith, also delivered in his favoured event with a hard fought silver in the 1500 Free. Up against World Record holder and Olympic champion, Grant Hackett, it was "the other Aussie" Craig Stevens who put up the medal challenge to Graeme with no more than 0.5s separating the 2 swimmers throughout. With Hackett leading the way by almost 15 seconds, Smith pulled ahead of Stevens with 150m to go and although not his best time (15.07.19), a gutsy performance was a great way to end the Meet in his home pool. In the same race, Andy Jameson put an injury hit season behind him with a 6 second personal best (15.31.84) to finish 7th. Ian Edmond was 6th in the 200 Breaststroke (2.14.59) and both 4 x 100 Medley Relays finished 5th in Scottish Record times: Coull, Balfour, Martin, Sheppard, (4.11.40); Tait, Edmond, Cooper, Leith (3.43.55).

Alan Lynn  
Aquatics Team Manager

