

SWIMMING

by Elspeth Burnside,
Freelance Sports Correspondent

Scots have always lived in the shadow of swimming "super powers" Australia and Canada and, of course, England. In fact, this year, the Aussies have predicted they will win every gold! But some of Scotland's greatest performances in the sport have come in pools all over the Commonwealth.

William Francis was one of Scotland's first Games winners. Following his silver medal in the 100 yards backstroke in Hamilton in 1930, he went one better in 1934 with a Games record at the same distance. Norman Hamilton also won gold in 1934 in the 200 yards breaststroke but we had to wait until 1958 before Scotland's next gold in men's competition came from Ian Black in the 220 yards butterfly. Black had a superb personal Games in 1958. In addition to his gold he also won silver in the 440 yards freestyle and combined with James Leiper, Athol Still and Robert Sreenan to win silver in 4x220 yards freestyle relay.

It is a measure of the quality of opposition that one of Scotland's most famous swimmers, Bobby McGregor, never won gold for Scotland in the Commonwealth Games. But he did win two silvers, in the 110 yards freestyle in 1962 and 1966. David Wilkie was a Games legend. The Warrender man, who had thrilled the home crowd with a bronze in Edinburgh 1970, won two golds and a silver in 1974 en route to his 1976 Olympic gold.

In the first five Commonwealth Games swimming competitions, Scotland's women never failed to bring home at least one medal, although it took until 1950 and several near misses before that medal became gold. Ellen King and Margo Hamilton were among Scotland's unlucky swimmers in the pre-war events. King won silver in the 100 yards freestyle, bronze in the 220 yards breaststroke and bronze again in the ladies team race; while Hamilton won silver in the 100 yards backstroke and bronze in the medley team race.

The silver-bronze pattern was broken in 1950 with the emergence of one of Scotland's best every Commonwealth Games performers. Eleanor Gordon won three golds and a bronze for Scotland during the 1950 and 1954 Games. She achieved something unique for a Scottish swimmer, when she successfully defended her 200 yards breaststroke title in 1954. Her three gold medals in the Commonwealth Games for Scotland has only been bettered by Alan Wells.

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A series of barren years followed before the 1974 team, with Kim Wickham and Sandra Dickie prominent, won a silver and two bronzes, while Jean Hill won the two silvers in 1986 at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh in the 200 metres medley and 100 metres breaststroke.

Since Edinburgh 1986, medals have been in short supply, although Fraser Walker came home from the last Games in Victoria with a bronze medal in the 200m individual medley.

So what of the prospects for 1998? The Kuala Lumpur team is a mixture of youth and experience.

Alisha Sheppard, already a triple Olympian, is entering her third Games as the leading medal hope. The 25 year-old broke the British record (she has since lost it to England's Sue Rolph) in the 50m freestyle at the Scottish Championships in June.

"There are several of us all around the same time, and it will all depend what happens on the day," said the Milngavie and Bearsden swimmer, who has been training in Canada over the past two years.

Olympic bronze medallist Graeme Smith will also be on the medal trail in the 1500m freestyle, although he will face stiff opposition from three world-class Australians.

For youngsters Bryan Morgan and David Leith, it will be a first major senior championship, and they arrive in Kuala Lumpur fresh from having represented Britain in the European Junior Championships in Antwerp, Belgium.

"Medals will be hard to come by, but it is a strong well-balanced team," said Scotland's Team Manager, Danny McGowan. "I'm sure they will achieve a host of personal best times and they are all capable of reaching finals. If they do, then anything can happen."

McGOWAN Danny Team Manager



Age: 56
Date of Birth: 23/09/41
Born: Coatbridge
Home: Cumbernauld
Occupation: Swimming Consultant

Main Achievements: Coached Jean Hill, double silver medallist at the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

Notes: Managing the swimmers for the fourth time, having taken control at the 1978, 1986 & 1994 Commonwealth Games.

BORLAND Diana 100m & 200m Freestyle/Relay



Age: 17
Date of Birth: 28/09/80
Height: 171cms
Weight: 57kg
Born: Glasgow

Home: Glasgow
Occupation: Schoolgirl
Club: Ren 96
Coach: Grant Robins
Personal Best: 58.01 (100m Free)
2.04.57 (200m Free)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish Championships 200m Freestyle (1st), 100m Freestyle (2nd), 1996 World Cup Individual Medley finalist.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1998

Notes: Coach Grant Robins is a former British Record Holder.

LYNN Alan Coach



Age: 34
Date of Birth: 21/02/64
Born: Greenock
Home: Kinross
Occupation: Swimming Coach

Main Achievements: Scottish international swimmer 1980-84 in breaststroke and medley.

Notes: National swimming coach since 1992. Gained a BEd in Physical Education from Jordanhill College, Glasgow in 1986.

COLE Michael 200m & 400m Individual Medley



Age: 19
Date of Birth: 10/11/78
Height: 183cms
Weight: 74kg
Born: Dundee

Home: York
Occupation: Swimmer
Club: York City
Coach: Paddy Garrat
Personal Best: 2.06.47 (200m IM)
4.30.50 (400m IM)

Main Achievements: 1998 North-East England Championships 100m, 200m & 400m Freestyle Champion, 1998 British Grand Prix 3rd in Individual Medley aggregate.
Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1996, represented Great Britain since 1998.

Notes: Swam in 1996 Malaysian Championships winning 200m & 400m Individual Medley events.

PARK Jim Coach



Age: 52
Date of Birth: 24/07/46
Born: Lanark
Home: Glasgow
Occupation: Teacher

Main Achievements: Coached Scottish teams to 1986, 1990 & 1994 Commonwealth Games, also coached Great Britain teams to 1988 and 1992 Olympic Games.

Notes: Coached David Wilkie, Scotland's Olympic and Commonwealth Gold Medallist.

EDMOND Ian 100m & 200m Breaststroke



Age: 20
Date of Birth: 02/06/78
Height: 191cms
Weight: 85kg
Born: Reading

Home: Edinburgh
Occupation: Student
Club: City of Edinburgh
Coach: Tim Jones
Personal Best: 1.04.39 (100m Breast)
2.20.21 (200m Breast)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish 100m & 200m Breaststroke Champion, 1995 European Youth Olympics 100m Breaststroke Silver.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1994.

Notes: Missed out on 1996 season due to Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Currently studying Medicine at University of Edinburgh.

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GRIFFITH Tom 50m Freestyle



Age: 25 Home: Glasgow
Date of Birth: 24/01/73 Occupation: Swimmer
Height: 183cms Club: Milngavie & Bearsden
Weight: 79kg Coach: Alex McNeil
Born: Elgin Personal Best: 23.71 (50m Free)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish Championships 50m Freestyle 2nd, 1996 Scottish 50m & 100m Freestyle Champion.

Notes: Missed out on qualification for the 1994 Games by 0.02secs, made sure of his place this time by producing a personal best performance at this year's Scottish Championships. Held Scottish 50m Freestyle record for 5 years up until this year. Missed majority of 1997 season due to injury and illness. Graduated in Sports Management from Strathclyde University in 1997.

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MARTIN Kerry 100m Butterfly/50m Freestyle



Age: 22 Home: Dunblane
Date of Birth: 29/10/75 Occupation: Student
Height: 165cms Club: Stirling Students
Weight: 57kg Coach: Alan Lynn
Born: Inverness Personal Best: 64.41 (100m Fly)
26.71 (50m Free)

Main Achievements: Scottish Champion at 50m Butterfly from 1994-98, 100m Champion in 1994, 1995, 1996 & 1998, 1998 Scottish Championships 50m Freestyle runner-up, 1995 European Championships Silver for the sprint relay with Great Britain.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland since 1994, represented Great Britain in 1995. **Notes:** Scottish Record holder for 50m & 100m Butterfly. Former Scottish Junior Gymnastics Champion, changed sports after a knee injury. Mother Louise Martin is the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland's Executive Director and reached 100m & 200m Backstroke Final at the 1962 Commonwealth Games.

LATIMER Paul 100m Butterfly/200m Individual Medley/Relay



Age: 22 Home: Edinburgh
Date of Birth: 12/10/75 Occupation: Student
Height: 180cms Club: Texas Aquatics
Weight: 70kg Coach: Eddie Reece
Born: Edinburgh Personal Best: 56.41 (100m Fly)
2.06.50 (200m IM)

Main Achievements: 1996 American Colleges Champion with University of Texas team

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1993. **Notes:** Scottish record holder for the short course 200m Butterfly. Studying Biology at the University of Texas in Austin.

MackINTOSH Myles 100m Freestyle/Relay



Age: 22 Home: Stirling
Date of Birth: 01/10/76 Occupation: Student
Height: 192cms Club: Stirling Students
Weight: 82kg Coach: Alan Lynn
Born: Inverness Personal Best: 52.61 (100m Free)

Main Achievements: 1998 British Universities 50m Butterfly Champion, 1998 Leeds Grand Prix 50m Freestyle runner-up, 1996 Scottish Universities 50m & 100m Freestyle Champion.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1997.

Notes: 1994 Inverness Sports Personality of the Year. At Stirling University he does Marketing and Sports Studies.

LEITH David 100m & 200m Freestyle



Age: 18 Home: Edinburgh
Date of Birth: 19/07/80 Occupation: Student
Height: 192cms Club: City of Edinburgh
Weight: 83kg Coach: Tim Jones
Born: Edinburgh Personal Best: 51.82 (100m Free)
1.54.12 (200m Free)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish Championships 100m Freestyle (1st), 200m Freestyle (2nd), 1998 European Junior Championships, 4x100m Freestyle Silver & 4x200m Freestyle Bronze, 1997 British Age Group Champion for 200m Freestyle, 1996 British Age Group Champion for 100m Freestyle.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1998.

Notes: Studying Sports Coaching at Telford College, Edinburgh.

McLAREN Lynn 50m & 100m Freestyle/ 200m Individual Medley



Age: 17 Home: Cowdenbeath
Date of Birth: 18/04/81 Occupation: Swimmer
Height: 172cms Club: Carnegie
Weight: 62kg Coach: Carrie Roberts
Born: Kirkaldy Personal Best: 27.06 (50m Free)
58.69 (100m Free),
2.21.62 (200m IM)

Main Achievements: 1998 Leeds Grand Prix 200m Individual Medley (1st), 1997 Scottish Championships 50m Butterfly (1st), 50m Freestyle (2nd).

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1998.

Notes: Youngest swimmer in Bank of Scotland Scottish Team.

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McLEAN Pauline

Relay



Age: 22
Date of Birth: 14/10/75
Height: 170cms
Weight: 68kg
Born: Dundee

Home: Wormit
Occupation: Student
Club: not attached
Coach: Alan Lynn
Personal Best: 27.10 (50m Free)
58.41 (100m Free)

Main Achievements: 1995 & 96 Scottish Champion at 50m Backstroke, 1994 British Universities Championships Gold for the 50m Freestyle, 1997 World University Games fifth in 4x100m Freestyle relay.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1995.

Notes: One of only two Scottish girls who represented Great Britain at the 1997 World Student Games. Graduated from Stirling University with a BSc in Marine Biology in 1997. Recently returned from an 8 months training period in Canada, where she competed for Calgary Swimming Club.



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ROBERTSON Beverley

100m & 200m Breaststroke



Age: 18
Date of Birth: 15/04/80
Height: 167cms
Weight: 63kg
Born: Aberdeen

Home: Aberdeen
Occupation: Swimmer
Club: City of Aberdeen
Coach: Alastair Johnson
Personal Best: 1.11.98 (100m Breast)
2.34.60 (200m Breast)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish 100m & 200m Breaststroke Champion, 1997 Scottish 50m, 100m & 200m Breaststroke Champion.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1996.

Notes: Awarded several honours in her hometown including the 1996 Aberdeen Junior Sportsperson of the Year, the prestigious Chris Anderson memorial medal for outstanding sporting achievement in 1997. Attends same school as Gymnastics team member Lindsay Warrack.



MORGAN Bryan

50m & 100m Freestyle



Age: 18
Date of Birth: 10/07/80
Height: 193cms
Weight: 86kg
Born: Dunfermline

Home: Dunfermline
Occupation: Swimmer
Club: Carnegie
Coach: Garrie Roberts
Personal Best: 23.39 (50m Free)
51.10 (100m Free)

Main Achievements: 1998 World Short Course Championships 50m Freestyle finalist, 1998 British Grand Prix Finals 100m Freestyle (1st), 50m Freestyle (2nd), 1998 Scottish Champion at 50m Freestyle & 100m Butterfly, 1998 European Junior Championships 4x100m Freestyle Silver, 100m Freestyle Bronze & 4x100m Medley Bronze.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1998, represented Great Britain at senior level since 1998.

Notes: Holder of 4 Scottish Senior Records, all broken in 1998 at 50m Freestyle and 100m Freestyle (long and short course). Voted Scottish Junior of the Year in 1995 & 1996 by SASA.



SHEPPARD Alison

50m & 100m Freestyle



Age: 25
Date of Birth: 05/11/72
Height: 175cms
Weight: 63kg
Born: Glasgow

Home: Glasgow
Occupation: Swimmer
Club: Milngavie & Bearsden
Coach: Gary Vandermaulan
Personal Best: 25.73 (50m Free)
56.83 (100m Free)

Main Achievements: 1987-1998 Scottish 50m Freestyle Champion, 1992-1998 Scottish 100m Freestyle Champion, 1998 Scottish Champion at 50m Backstroke & 50m Breaststroke 1994 Commonwealth Games 50m Freestyle finalist.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1987 including 1990 & 1994 Commonwealth Games, represented Great Britain since 1988 including 1988, 1992 & 1996 Olympic Games. **Notes:** Broke British 50m Freestyle record at this year's Scottish Championships. Currently ranked no.2 in the Commonwealth. Coach and partner Gary Vandermaulan swam for Canada in the 1988 Olympic Games. Sister Elaine, swam for Scotland, father, Mike is treasurer for the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland, mother Elaine, played Tenpin Bowls for Scotland and Grandfather Harold played cricket for Scotland.



PULLAN Alisdair

Relay



Age: 25
Date of Birth: 30/06/73
Height: 194cms
Weight: 83kg
Born: Dunfermline

Home: South Nutfield
Occupation: Swimmer
Club: Leatherhead
Coach: Ron Philpot
Personal Best: 23.95 (50m Free)
52.74 (100m Free)

Main Achievements: 1997 Scottish 50m Freestyle Champion.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1997.

Notes: Recently returned from training in Canada alongside Alison Sheppard and Pauline McLean with the Calgary Swimming Club. Graduated in Japanese and Asian Studies from Leeds University in 1995. Recovered from a heart operation in 1993 to make the Bank of Scotland Scottish Team.



SMITH Graeme

400m & 1500m Freestyle



Age: 22
Date of Birth: 31/03/76
Height: 187cms
Weight: 85kg
Born: Falkirk

Home: Stockport
Occupation: Swimmer
Club: Metro
Coach: David Calleja
Personal Best: 3.51.52 (400m Free)
15.02.48 (1500m Free)

Main Achievements: 1995 European Championships 1500m Freestyle Silver, 1996 Olympic Games 1500m Freestyle Bronze, 1997 World Short Course Championships 1500m Freestyle Silver, 1996-98 Scottish Champion at 200m, 400m & 1500m Freestyle.

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland at senior level since 1994, including 1994 Commonwealth Games, represented Great Britain since 1994 including 1996 Olympic Games.

Notes: British Record Holder for the 1500m Freestyle, Scottish Record Holder for the 400m Freestyle. Third place in the 1996 BBC Scotland Sports Personality of the Year awards.

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TAIT Gregor 100m & 200m Backstroke



Age:	19	Home:	Doune
Date of Birth:	20/04/79	Occupation:	Apprentice Mechanic
Height:	183cms	Club:	Stirling Students
Weight:	73kg	Coach:	Alan Lynn
Born:	Glasgow	Personal Best:	58.09 (100m Back) 2.04.90 (200m Back)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish Champion at 100m & 200m Backstroke.

Representative Honours: Represented Great Britain Juniors in 1997.

Notes: 1998 has been Gregor's big breakthrough year, the Commonwealth Games will be his first major championship for Scotland.

THOMSON Kirsty 200m Backstroke



Age:	18	Home:	Leeds
Date of Birth:	27/06/80	Occupation:	Student
Height:	178cms	Club:	City of Leeds
Weight:	62kg	Coach:	Terry Denison
Born:	Leeds	Personal Best:	2.17.78 (200m Back)

Main Achievements: 1998 Scottish 200m Backstroke Champion

Representative Honours: Represented Scotland since 1998.

Notes: Scottish 200m Backstroke record holder for long course and short course. Scottish record holder for the 400m Individual Medley.

TENPIN BOWLING

by Roddy MacKenzie, Scottish Sports Agency

Scotland's tenpin bowlers are hoping for a gold strike in Kuala Lumpur. The sport, an unofficial demonstration event at the last Games in Victoria four years ago, will make its debut as a full medal sport this year.

Scotland is sending a four-strong team - two men and two women - and the squad has ambitions to bring home a medal. As Cumnock janitor Robert Baird puts it: "We're quietly confident, without being Ally MacLeod confident!"

Baird, 48, first started playing in the air force but it is only in the last eight years that he has started bowling competitively again. This year's Scottish Masters champion, he beat four times world champion Paeng Nepomuceno from the Philippines in 1997.

"Tenpin is a very big sport in Malaysia and they attract huge crowds. They will be favourites but it promises to be a close competition with Canada, Australia, England, South Africa and ourselves also strong," Baird pointed out.

"But we are making progress in Scotland and there are more and more people taking up the game. But there is a big difference between playing socially and playing competitively."

"I don't think some people appreciate the skill that is involved to be perfect. To get a strike, you are really only looking at hitting a three-inch target from 60 feet away with a 16lb ball."

Scotland's team also includes Carol Pirie who has bowled for Scotland at junior and senior level since 1984. Coached by her father Bernard, the Glenrothes-based player is the only Scottish female player to have competed in a World Cup.

With players having bowls hand-fitted and custom-made, they can cost £170 each. Baird will take six to the Games which shows the sport demands considerable financial outlay at the top level.

Mamie Killen, secretary of the Scottish Tenpin Bowling Association, believes the Commonwealth Games will give the sport a massive fillip in this country.

"We have around 1,700 registered players who play in leagues but there are around 20,000 playing regularly in Scotland," she explained. "In the