



events at all major Games. Gymnastics first appeared at the Commonwealth Games at Edmonton in 1974 and has featured in the last three Games at Auckland, Victoria and Kuala Lumpur. And competition is bound to be intense when the action starts at Manchester's G-Mex Exhibition and Conference Centre

There was a time when Rugby Sevens was seen as little more than an end-of-season jaunt or a useful way to hone fitness for the serious business of the new 15-a-side season. But not any more, for many people, the most spectacular version of the handling code is now the rugby sevens, the special brand of high-speed, all-action rugby that will feature at the 2002 Commonwealth Games for the second time after making a high-profile debut in Kuala Lumpur four years ago. The competition will be staged on the final three days of the Games at the state-of-the-art City of Manchester Stadium.

Unlike Manchester 2002, when the XVII Games will attract more than 4,000 competitors in 17 different sports, there were less than 500 entrants for six sports (athletics, bowls, boxing, rowing, swimming and wrestling) 72 years ago. Then known as the British Empire Games, the festival was held in Hamilton, Ontario, and Canada and England provided 94 of the 131 athletes involved in those track and field events.

The 100 yards (no metric measurements in those days) was won by England's Arthur Sweeney in a time of 10 seconds and there was also gold for England in the women's 100 yards, Eileen Hiscock winning in 11.3 seconds. From the beginning though, Athletics has been a major attraction since those first Games in 1930.

The vision for 2002 is to be the most ambitious, multi-cultural festival linked with a major sporting event ever to take place in the UK. The Games will undoubtedly play a crucial role in the continued physical, economic and social regeneration of Manchester, but will also bring regional economic benefits and provide a boost to national claims to host many future international sporting events.



For me it means a whole summer of sport, which is always good! This is a fantastic opportunity for the Sport Industry to lead from the front and show what can be achieved with a bit of cash and lots of fun
Gary Linekar



Sport Relief gives everyone the chance to come together across every sport and give something back. This is not just about winning, it's also about achieving
Denise Lewis

During a TV broadcast in December, comedian Jonathon Ross announced that last years Comic Relief events had now raised over £61 million pounds for Charity. This incredible sum surpassed the previous target by some £26 million pounds.

Comic Relief was born to harness the power of comedy and the passion of the public to help end poverty and social injustice in the UK and in Africa. Up until now this has been possible because everyone has been hugely generous on Red Nose Days.

In the last 16 years since Comic Relief began, thanks to the help of literally hundreds of thousands of people, Comic Relief has raised over £228 million and improved the lives and chances of vulnerable people in the UK and Africa and beyond.

Now the sporting community is ready and willing to give their all to help change the world. A team effort from Comic Relief and BBC Sport, running through the BBC's extraordinary Summer of Sport will culminate in a 5-hour live TV show on July 13th 2002.

Sporting heroes like Sir Steve Redgrave, Gary Lineker OBE, Sue Barker MBE, Audley Harrison MBE, Tanni Grey-Thompson OBE, Denise Lewis OBE and John Inverdale will all be doing their bit to create opportunities for the UK sporting nation; both amateur and professional to have a great season of sport and do some good.

2002 will see a whole series of fundraising events and competitions based around TV, Radio and Online sports coverage.

Even at this early stage the support has been fantastic. A number of sport's greatest names have already offered their support to the campaign, including Nasser Hussain, Martin Johnson, David Beckham, Ellen MacArthur, Michael Owen, Jenny Pitman, Mike Atherton OBE, Mick McCarthy, Paula Radcliffe, Matthew Pinsent, Sebastian Coe OBE, Sir Henry Cooper, Katherine Merry, Jonathan Edwards, Lawrence Dallaglio and Martin Offiah.

In addition, The FA and the England football team, the England Cricket team, The Epsom Derby, Sport England, The Youth Sport Trust and SportsAid, have signed up. The Lawn Tennis Association is making plans to raise money through grass roots sport for Sport Relief and the England and Wales Cricket Board has also given its support to the campaign.

To find out more about how you could take part in this years fundraising effort take a look at:
<http://www.sportsrelief.com>