



GoodSport NEWS

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SPORTS NEWS

Sailing nationals 2021 successfully held

Nanayakkara brothers create the ripples at the Bolgoda Lake

Four siblings from the Nanayakkara family dominating the event was the highlight of the Yachting Association of Sri Lanka (YASL), the National sports body for the sport of Sailing in Sri Lanka held the Sailing Nationals 2021 on the 10th and 11th of December 2021 at the Ceylon Motor Yacht Club at Bolgoda Lake, last week.

The four brothers – Dhanika, winner of the Laser 4.7 class, Tharen – the first runner-up of the Optimist Class, Nikhil, second runner-up of the Optimist Class and Niven, the second runner-up of the Laser 4.7 Class; all students of S. Thomas' Mt. Lavinia -

bagging places was the special feature at this Sailing event.

President of the National Olympic Committee, Mr. Suresh Subramaniam and Vice Chairman of LOLC, Mr. Ishara Nanayakkara were the Chief Guests at this event.

Sailing National Coach Krishan Janaka commenting on the performance of the four brothers said "Four brothers winning medals at a National event is special.

"However, I honestly must say that the four brothers are keen on doing well in the sport they are -

engaged in and they keep training even out of the given schedules and they have been at it from a very young age.

"That is very noteworthy. It is heartening to say that if they continue with this kind of dedication they could come up with good performances at competitions like the Asian Games and World Championships.

"I believe that I would not be surprised if even one of them would win a medal at a major international event very soon.

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"Dhanika is the National Title holder in the 4.5 Laser Class. With a little more polishing up Dhanika may be very good medal prospect at the next Asian Games.

"Then two younger siblings Nikhil and Tharen could look for a brighter future as they have the age on their side.

"Dhanika is 16 years old and he also has two more years in the 4.5 Laser Class category. Besides all four brothers have had the experience of taking international exposure which is a definite advantage."

The experienced Dhanika explained in this manner "The 4.7 Laser Class Championship is coming on in January and I am aiming for a medal in the Asian Games in China."

Moving on to a more serious note, the Sri Lanka Sailing chief Mr. Joseph Kenny said "The Asian Games will be held next year.

"Before that the Sailing Association World Sailing body, through the Asian Sailing Body will stage the Asian Sailing Championships in Doha in March next year.

"That is the very reason that we are trying to get them prepared and see if they could qualify during that competition. This is the qualification for the Asian Games; so that is very important.

"In addition, in 2024, we will have the GP 14 World Championships in Sri Lanka. It's a World Body of Class of boats and the World Championships will be held in Negombo. It will be held in February that year. What we find is very critically important. We need quite a lot of private partnerships, in other words the private sector getting involved.

"Towards that LOLC has come in a big way and we are very keen that with the support of LOLC we could support the next generation of Sailors and take them to the international standards. Prior

to that we must reach the Asian standards and that is what we are striving to do initially.

"In addition, in 2024, we will have the GP 14 World Championships in Sri Lanka. It's a World Body of Class of boats and the World Championships will be held in Negombo."

"Also, we are trying to have a headquarters where the water way is there – a place where we could go to the open sea. In the last year it was situated inside the Colombo Harbor, but we are hoping to have a location at the Port City. I feel private partnership come at the Port City. There we could team up with an entrepreneur there and Lankan sailing could take from that point onwards. There, there would be new opportunities to do training and getting the youngsters up to the World Standards."

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Also taking pride of place was The Sri Lanka Navy who not only participated with great success, winning multiple events, but also excelled in the organizational aspects with the Ceylon Motor Yacht Club. This year saw and welcomed a record number of 116 sailors sailing at this coveted and most prestigious event in the sailing calendar, organized and sanctioned by YASL.

Boats belonging to all sailing classes were represented at this event. The GP 14 Class, Enterprise Class, Laser Radial Class, Laser Standard Class & Windsurfing Class were won by the Sri Lanka Navy, the Laser 4.7 Class (Under 18 event) was won by St Thomas College, Mt. Lavinia and the Optimist Class (Under 15 event) was won by Royal College, Colombo. Besides, among the seniors' Sri Lanka Navy ended up holders of nine titles.

Final Results

Optimist Class

Winner – Usef Hazari (Royal College, Colombo)

1ST Runner-Up – Tharen Nanayakkara (S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia)

2nd Runner-Up- Nikhil Nanayakkara (S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia)
Laser 4.7 Class

Winner – Dhanika Nanayakkara (S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia)

1ST Runner-Up – Jehan De Silva (S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia)

2nd Runner-Up- Niveyn Nanayakkara (S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia)
Laser Radial Class

Winner – J.M.P.L. Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka Navy)

1ST Runner-Up – P.N.P.K Dissanayake (Sri Lanka Navy)

2nd Runner-Up- Dhanika Nanayakkara (S. Thomas' College, Mt. Lavinia)

Laser Standard Class

Winner – K.G.C.U.S. Bandara (Sri Lanka Navy)

1ST Runner-Up – U.D. Rajapaksa (Sri Lanka Navy)

2nd Runner-Up- J.S. Senaviratne (Sri Lanka Navy)

Enterprise Class

Winner – J.M.P.L. Jayasuriya / T.D.S. Perera (Sri Lanka Navy)

1ST Runner-Up – K.C. De Soyza/ J.P.S. De Silva (Sri Lanka Navy)

2nd Runner-Up- J.H.T.C. Appuhamy/ Kithsiri Kumara (Sri Lanka Navy)

G.P 14 Class

Winner – W.M.C. Marambe/ G.P.P. Karunaratne (Sri Lanka Navy)

1ST Runner-Up – N.G.M.U. Ghanawardene/ A.S.K. De Soyza (Sri Lanka Navy)

2nd Runner Up- Devin Goonawardene/ Kaif Sally (Royal Colombo Yacht Club)

Windsurfing Class

Winner – Priyantha Gunawardene (Sri Lanka Navy)

1ST Runner-Up – Chaminda Silva (Bentota Windsurf Club)

2nd Runner-Up- Chameera Gunawardene (Bentota Windsurf Club)

CGF mark anniversary awarding 2022 Commonwealth Games to Birmingham

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) have celebrated the four-year anniversary awarding the 2022 Commonwealth Games to Birmingham with a return to Arena Academy, the school in the West Midlands where the host city was announced.

On 21 December 2017, CGF President Dame Louise Martin DBE paid a special visit to Arena Academy, a CORE Education Trust school, where she formally declared Birmingham as the host city of the 2022 Games.

Four years on from the announcement, Dame Louise returned to the school to celebrate the milestone and to commemorate the occasion, she gifted a special commemorative plaque to Arena Academy Head-teacher Raj Mann, which has now been placed permanently at the school.



The CGF President was joined at Arena Academy by Birmingham City Council Leader Ian Ward, Birmingham 2022 Head of Youth Programmes & Policy Alton Brown and Birmingham 2022 official mascot Perry, where a sporting assembly took place that was inspired by the Commonwealth Games.

CGF President Dame Louise Martin said: "It is amazing to return to Arena Academy and to the exact place where we awarded the 2022 Commonwealth Games to Birmingham four years ago.

Birmingham 2022 is already having a huge impact on the young people of the West Midlands and it is clear to see from the students at Arena Academy that they cannot wait for the Commonwealth's best athletes to compete at the Games next year.

Arena Academy will forever hold a special place in the story of Birmingham 2022 and the school serves as a symbolic reminder that our top priority is to use the Games to create a positive legacy for the young people of the city, the country and the Commonwealth."



Arena Academy Head-teacher Raj Mann said: "Four years ago, we were proud to welcome guests from the Commonwealth Games Federation to announce the exciting news that Birmingham would host the Games in 2022.

"This is an amazing opportunity for the city and for all of us who live here to have a global sporting event on our doorstep. And as the start date gets closer, anticipation is building here at Arena Academy, where many students have signed up for our own CORE Games – living the legacy of the Games by getting active, trying new sports and enjoying the thrill of representing their school." Cllr Ian Ward, Leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "It only seems like yesterday that we were stood in the school assembly at Arena Academy in 2017 when Birmingham was named as the Proud Host City for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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“We’ve come so far with our planning and preparations for the biggest event that will have ever been staged in the city, but we will never forget the momentous role the school had to play in that journey.

“The Games are about more than just 11 days of sport and the students of Arena Academy are amongst those who stand to benefit most from the legacy of the event.

“You only need to step outside the school grounds to see the £700million plus investment into new homes, transport and leisure facilities in Perry Barr that the Games have been a catalyst for in their neighbourhood.”

Birmingham 2022 Head of Youth-

Programmes & Policy Alton Brown said: “It was fantastic to visit Arena Academy as the school has such a special connection to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

“We are planning to officially launch our learning programme in the New Year, and we are looking forward to continuing to engage with children and young people aged from five to 25. As part of the programme, schools from -

schools from across the West Midlands region will be able to follow Arena Academy’s wonderful example of how to embrace the Games and to ensure a positive impact on their pupils.”



Two new members join CGF Athletes Advisory Commission

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Executive Board has appointed Matt Levy of Australia and Ashley Kelly of the British Virgin Islands as new members of the Athletes Advisory Commission (AAC).

Matt Levy is a highly decorated Australian para swimmer who topped the podium in the men's 50m freestyle S7 event at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. He has competed at five editions of the Paralympic Games, from Athens 2004 to Tokyo 2020, where he has won three gold, one silver, and six bronze medals.

Levy has become the new para-sport representative on the CGF AAC, replacing South Africa's Natalie Du Toit.

Du Toit, a seven-time Commonwealth Games champion and 13-time Paralympic gold medallist, steps down following the conclusion of her term on the Commission at the 2021 CGF General Assembly. Ashley Kelly is a sprinter who competed at both Glasgow 2014 and Gold Coast 2018. She also ran at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, where she was flag bearer for the British Virgin Islands during the Opening Ceremony.

Kelly has become the Caribbean representative on the CGF AAC after Brendan Williams of Dominica vacated the position to become Chair of the Commission in March 2021. Williams, the first Caribbean athlete in history to lead the athletes -

commission of a major International Sports Federation, replaced hockey player Rhona Toft of Scotland as AAC Chair. The new appointments bring the CGF AAC to a full quota of eight members, with the Chair, six regional representatives (one from each region), and the para-sport representative.

CGF AAC Chair and Executive Board member Brendan Williams said: "I am delighted to welcome Matt and Ashley to the CGF Athletes Advisory Commission. This is a hugely exciting time for

Commonwealth Sport and with Birmingham 2022 fast approaching, a significant part of our role is to ensure the athlete voice and views play a central role in everything the CGF does.

Matt and Ashley will bring real insight and expertise across many areas and on behalf of the Commission, I congratulate them on their successful applications." Matt Levy said: "I am delighted to be appointed to the CGF Athletes Advisory Commission as the new para-sport representative.



Matt Levy

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The fact that the Commonwealth Games has an integrated para sport programme always makes the event particularly special for athletes and fans and is something to be celebrated.

I look forward to working with Brendan and all of my new colleagues on the Commission to ensure that the athlete voice is at the heart of everything we do."

Ashley Kelly said: "It is a privilege to be joining the Commission as the new athlete representative from the Caribbean. The Commonwealth Games is one of the biggest sporting events in the world and for the athletes of the Caribbean, it is the pinnacle of elite competition.

"I am delighted to be working with a fellow athlete from the Caribbean, Brendan Williams, as well as all my Commission colleagues from across the Commonwealth.

"I look forward to helping create the very best athlete experience and interaction with Commonwealth Sport."

The members of the Athletes Advisory Commission are:

Chair: Brendan Williams: Dominica, Athletics (High Jump), 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games



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Para-sport representative: Matt Levy: Australia, Swimming, 2018 Commonwealth Games, winning gold 50m freestyle S7

Europe: Colin Gregor: Scotland, Rugby Sevens, 2006 and 2014 Commonwealth Games

Asia: Lim Heem Wei: Singapore, Gymnastics, 2010 and 2014 Commonwealth Games, winning silver in 2010

Africa: Lechezdani Luza: Botswana, Boxing (51kg), 2002 and 2006 Commonwealth Games, winning silver in 2002

Americas: Dr Nicole Forrester: Canada, Athletics (High Jump), 2002 and 2010 Commonwealth Games, winning gold in 2010 and bronze in 2002

Oceania: Alison Shanks: New Zealand, Track Cycling, 2006 and 2010 Commonwealth Games, winning gold in 3000m Individual Pursuit in 2010

Caribbean: Ashley Kelly: Virgin Islands, Athletics (Sprinter), 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games



Ashley Kelly