

Message from Dr Paul Harden, Chairman

Transplant Sport has been working with all Team Managers over the last 2 years to review and update the British Transplant Games in light of the growing scale of the event. Increasingly we recognise that the BTG is a fantastic participation event attracting increasing numbers of transplant recipients, donors and donor families and supporters with the expectation of nearly 3,000 in Coventry this year. To cope with the increasing size of the event, optimise cost and maintain the spirit of celebrating the fantastic achievements of organ transplantation and incalculable benefits of organ donation we have introduced the following changes.

Athletes Parade: We have moved the parade of athletes to Saturday afternoon August 1st in Coventry City Centre which will replace the traditional opening ceremony. The roads will be closed in the city centre to allow the parade and following donor run to have maximum exposure to the general public and media promoting the huge benefits of organ donation and transplantation. There will be a short ceremony outside Coventry Cathedral after the parade and before the donor run including lighting the Games Flame and the Athletes Oath. We realise some of the adult swimmers may potentially arrive late, but we are trying to optimise the swimming programme to include everyone.

Civic Reception: This will take place in Coventry Cathedral in the early evening on Thursday July 30th and we are asking each team to provide 2-3 representatives if possible, at the ceremony. There is plenty of seating in the Cathedral should anyone wish to attend but the ceremony will be relatively short and focus on a welcome to Coventry to BTG 2020.

Participation Medal: We would like to recognise the key importance of participation by all competitors at this year's BTG and everyone will receive a participation medal. At this year's Team Managers Meeting it was unanimously decided to retire all the individual awards for both children and adult competitors awarded at the Gala Celebration. The Team Awards will remain in their current format for 2020 but we are exploring through Team Manager Focus groups how we can make the Team Awards open to all teams irrespective of size in the future. We will collect in the individual awards at registration and in consultation with donors return them to the most appropriate recipient to keep long-term.

Gala Celebration: It has become increasingly difficult to contain costs and deliver a satisfactory adult gala dinner event and we have decided to experiment this year by holding a Gala Celebration event commencing at 9pm on Sunday August 2nd at the University of Warwick Campus. The expectation is that individual teams will host their own dinners earlier in the evening and there are plenty of options around the University of Warwick campus as well as in surrounding towns such as Kenilworth, Warwick and Leamington Spa. The Celebration event will comprise a shorter presentation section followed by a large party with a live band and disco.

I can assure you all that this year the BTG in Coventry will be a fantastic 4 days utilising several of the best sporting and social venues in the UK including the new Fitness and Wellness Centre at Warwick University, the brand new Alex Higgs Centre with an amazing new 50m swimming pool and the spectacular new Wave waterpark in the City Centre.

Come and join the Transplant Sport Family for an incredible 4 days in the heart of England.

Best Wishes

Paul Harden
Chairman – Transplant Sport

