

# Official Diary

*The Border Holiday Group*

## London 2012 Olympic Trip

3 August - 7 August 2012









# Medal Table

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 Anna Watkins & Katherine Granger		 Alan Campbell
 Victoria Pendleton		 George Nash & Will Satch
 Burke, Clancy, Kennaugh & Thomas		 Rebecca Adlington




Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 Katherine Copeland & Sophie Hosking	Zac Purchase & Mark Hunter 	
 Gregory, Reed, James, Triggs & Hodge		
 King, Rowsell & Trott		
 Greg Rutherford		
 Jess Ennis		
 Mo Farah		

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 Ben Ainslie	 Christine Ohuruogu	 Ed Clancy
 Andy Murray	 Louis Smith	 Max Whitlock
	 Iain Percy & Andrew Simpson	
	 Andy Murray & Laura Robson	

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 Jason Kenny		 Beth Tweddle
 Brash, Charles, Amher & Skelton		

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August

Gold	Silver	Bronze
 Alistair Brownlee	 Victoria Pendleton	 Jonny Brownlee
 Laura Trott	 Nick Dempsey	 Robert Grabarz
 Sir Chris Hoy		



## Day 1 Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

Well after three years of planning and fundraising the day has finally arrived, the day the Border Holiday Group heads to the London Olympics. It's a trip different to any we have done before, only nine of us are going, there is no Jumbulance, we won't need passports and we've all been teased for the past week, with glimpses of what we are going to do on the TV.



Our drivers for the trip, Pauline and Derek, set off early to collect the bus, the rest of us meet at Myreslaw Green there is an air of excitement as the bus pulls up. We all get our photos taken before loading the bus. Robbie is loaded first and the bags and chairs are packed in around him. Pete makes a last minute dash home as he has forgotten a bag. We say goodbye to everyone and set off heading for Carlisle. The satnav "recalculating."



The journey is good, we stop three times on the way down, toilet breaks, ice-cream stop and fuel. The final stop surprising us all as £20 gave us more than 1/4 tank. Pauline got the worst of the traffic but using the Toll Road at Birmingham saved us time. By 5pm we were on the outskirts of London, watching the stationary traffic on the Northbound carriageway, we were surprised to see the Jumbulance. A quick text confirmed it was Brendon. By 6pm we were pulling into the Premier Inn car park, Welwyn Garden City.



Pauline and I go to check in, 5 check ins later and a quick check of the rooms, and a quick swap round and everyone is into their room by half past. To our surprise we have a great view of the athletics stadium, velodrome and ski slope. Not quite like it looked on TV.

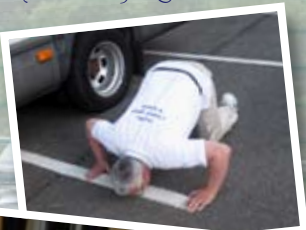


Within 5 minutes Pauline needs to take a trip to A&E to get supplies, we discover Chris has forgotten his razor and wash cloth, the wine and beer are opened and Robbie has chatted up the girl on reception, who had once lived in Gala. Just a typical BHG trip really. Dinner was booked for 9.30 so plenty of time to freshen up. A knock at the door heralds the arrival of PC Zoe Davies and her partner John. They are directed to room 25, Gillian and Glenise's, John instructed to do the knocking this time. Gillian answers the door with the line "What have I done, it wasn't me!"



We all enjoy a relaxed meal in the Beefeater, joined by Zoe, now in her civvies. Most of the group then go to the bar while Pete, Pauline & I put Robbie to bed. Well first Pauline blows the room electrics then we get Robbie settled for the night. For a first day it has been quite eventful, just as a Group holiday should be - we had forgotten a bag & supplies, been to the hospital, had a run in with the police, blew the electrics, seen the Jumbulance, swapped hotel rooms, learnt that Gordon was a granddad and we were all in bed by half past. Phew what a day and we still have four more to come.

Lesley & Pauline





## Day 2 Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August

A brilliant start to the day, the sun is shining. After a hearty breakfast the Group set off for a casual walk to Welwyn Garden City train station. After Gillian and Glenise eventually get off the lift, having visited all 7 floors (they only needed to go up one floor) we get the train to London. On arriving at Kings Cross some really helpful Games Makers direct us to the tube. While waiting on the lift Glenise looked down the escalator and uttered the immortal words...  
"Oh look at the height down there!"

After two hitch free tube rides (1st time for all VIPs and the Group Leader) we arrived at our Waterloo station, a two minute walk to our destination, The London Eye. First class assistance enabled us to side step the long queue and 15min after arriving we were all revolving round the London Eye in a glass capsule (well not quite all Pauline remained on the ground). Everyone was enthralled with the view; hearts went faster when we saw the Beach Volleyball courts.

After disembarking we met up with Pauline and enjoyed a packed lunch in the gardens, enjoying the sun and the street entertainers on the South Bank. After lunch Glenise joined Derek on the Sky rider, a carousel of swings that rise 100ft into the air. The rest of the group sponged free ice-creams on the banks of the Thames (we got ice-cream for Glenise and Derek but had to eat it as it was melting)

Our next journey saw us take a boat ride along the Thames, with an informative running commentary of all the sites by Leyton the guide. Robbie's additional commentary was just as entertaining, if perhaps not repeatable.

The afternoon continued with a stroll along the South Bank enjoying the bands, buskers and street entertainers. On seeing a Giant 3 piece suite Peter and Derek hoisted Glenise onto the armchair for a photo (much to the amusement of the gathering crowd).

We stopped for a lovely meal at Zizzi Italian Restaurant. Where we watched the chefs make our meals. It was a bit warm in the restraint Robbie asked is they could turn the fire down a bit, unfortunately it was the stone bake oven so they couldn't.

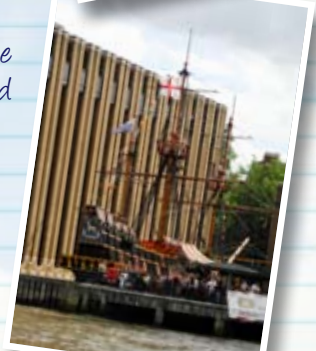
We continued along the South Bank to London Bridge tube station and started our Journey back to the hotel. On the tube a group of young French students sat next to us and Robbie tried his best chat up line - "What tribe do you come from?"







After small translation - "where do you come from?" the reply was France. Robbie then said we were from Scotland. A short discussion then took place between the two young French girls resulting in one of them giving Robbie their large French flag, which she tied round his neck. In return, on Robbie's behalf, Lesley and Peter presented her and her friend with Hawick Flag badges, the gesture reduced the two French girls to tears. One of those special moments.



On returning the Welwyn Garden City the group found themselves locked on the 1st floor of the shopping centre. Two security guards came to the rescue, starting the lifts and opening the security grills to let us out.

A quiet evening was spent in the bar reflecting on the day's events and catching up with the Olympics on the TV. This only whetted our appetites for the next day's visit to the Olympic park.

Chris & Derek





# Day 3 Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August

The day we had been waiting for arrived, it was a bit like Christmas morning, all the group are up early and eager to head out. Robbie gathers the group together and we set out for the station. The morning is bright and warm and everyone is in good spirits.

It was quieter at the station today, however when we get to the platform the fun begins, Chris is draped in the Union Flag and Robbie has his flag in hand and on his chair. On to the train, and some of the group end up in First Class! At Kings Cross it's a short walk to St Pancras where we are greeted by Pink Jacketed games makers eager to help us. We are taken straight onto the Javelin Train and a 6 minute trip across London to Stratford and the Olympics. We did consider jumping on the train at the joining platform, the Eurostar to Paris.

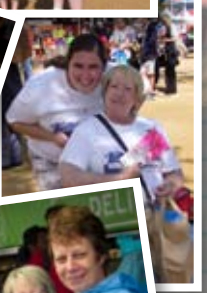
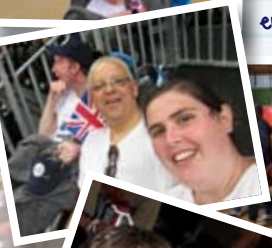
6 minutes of friendly chat with the train steward and we were there, Stratford International.

All the staff were eager to help and ask what we were going to see. A short ride in the lift, up one floor to the shopping centre (or up two floors and down one for Gillian and Glenise!) and we were nearly there. With the sky turning dark we decide to stop for coffee and cake at a café, before entering the actual park. A good decision as the rain starts. Once it stops and we have caused as much chaos as we possibly can, keeping with Border Holiday Group tradition, we set off for the Park. At the main gate we are ushered through to security where our bags are x-rayed and checked and the chairs are searched head to toe and we were in. FAB!

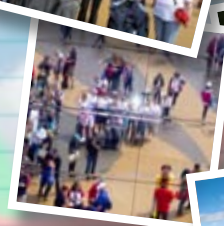
We walk over the bridge into the park following the route we had all seen on TV. We have just enough time for a few quick photos before the rain starts. Ponchos out and we head further into the park. The Olympic shop is there, we head to it for shelter from the rain. Souvenirs bought and a few pounds lighter, we head out into the rain again, a quick toilet stop and we set off past the BBC studios, the rain is now stopping and we stop for lunch. Sandwiches all round, and of course a few beverages to wash them down with.

The afternoon is brightening up and getting hot as we set off through the park again, heading for the basketball arena. Stopping for photos with the mounted police, with the athletics stadium in the background, with us all reflected in the BP building, with the Olympic Rings behind us, with the Velodrome and finally in the queue with our tickets.

In no time at all we were split into our two groups and seated. Chairs and carers courtside, Lesley, Pauline + Lorna in the Gods! We had 5 hours in the basketball in front of us and it passed in a flash. It started with the court side group being on the big screen, then Australia playing Canada. Australia winning. The half time entertainment of trampolining basketballers, skippers and acrobats all keeping







things going. During the break between games Julie and Alister phoned to say the courtside group were on TV. Lesley met her friend's sister who was only 5 seats in front, and Andy Murray won Gold in the men's singles!!!! The cheer was unbelievable, goose bumps all round. Then it was on to the second game USA v China, it started fast and furious, but China couldn't keep up with the USA and before we knew it, it was half past and time to go back outside.



Outside the sun was still shining and after scoring some free drinks we made for the big screen to watch the end on the Mixed Doubles final. There was hardly room to move, but some kind spectators made room for the chairs and explained that it was down to the golden tie break. Murray and Robson lost and had to make do with silver, but it was a great atmosphere.



We wandered through the park some more. Robbie's tea time came so we stopped to get him pie and mash. We started to make our way back towards the station stopping to shout and wave a Jake Humphries in the BBC studio. All the time the roar of the crowd in the athletics stadium rumbled round the park. With dark clouds on the horizon and the men's 100m semi-finals rumbling away in the stadium, it was time to head to the station. A 6 minute trip on the

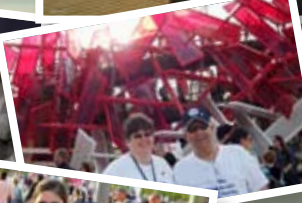
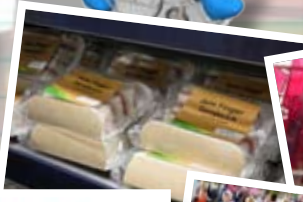


Sir Steve Redgrave high speed train, and we were back at St Pancras. The train journey back to Welwyn gave us all a chance to reflect on a great day that had been a long time coming and had passed all too soon. A quick stop for Pizza and KFC and it was back to the hotel. Pauline and Glenise exploring new job opportunities as a Pizza delivery team. Once back in the hotel we settled down to a quiet night, the bar closes early in England.



Oh what a day!

Robbie + Pete





## Day 4 Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August

It's Monday morning, the sun is shining, we walk to the train station where we meet Zoë & Charlie, her little boy, for the first time. He is gorgeous and very smiley. The journey is amazingly smooth and marvellously planned by Lesley. We here to visit London, Oxford Street, Kensington and Robbie wants to visit Harrods. It is amazing to see the food area all set out, beautiful décor, ceilings and wall tiles. Robbie has a beef sandwich from the hall, to which he is delighted. We all move off to find somewhere for us, we find a pub, the Paxton Arms, which is olde worlde and has lovely staff. Chris is happy he has a beer, the food is excellent. Little Charlie sleeps, which is a bonus for mum Zoë.

We then proceeded to Buckingham Palace and manage to see the tail end of the changing of the guard, marvellous. Lots of photographs here, we then walk along the mall (one of my personal ambitions). I must say at this point I do spend a lot of time in my wheelchair, it is a godsend. We then go through Trafalgar Square, Hyde Park, Leicester Square, all places we had just heard about, now we're here.

We make our way back through Hyde Park and make our way to Kings Cross Station and the train to Welwyn Garden City. We all say goodbye to Zoë & Charlie, I just hope it's not too long before we meet again, she loved being with the Border Holiday Group.

Pauline & Lesley buy pizza on the way back to the hotel and run with me in the chair holding a stack of pizzas. A tiring day for everyone, but a most memorable and happy one, full of personal achievements for Robbie, Chris and myself. A monumental thanks to all concerned who made it possible, donates, pushers, planners and all supporters, wheelchair lenders, fundraisers.

Thank You

glenise.

### The Abbreviated Version

- Got Up
- Got Robbed
- Got Lost
- Got Pizza
- Got to Hotel
- Got to Bar
- Got to bed

glenise xxx



KNIGHTSBRIDGE  
SW1  
CITY OF WESTMINSTER





## And now what actually happened....

A long lie, after the eventful day at the Olympics, the day before. Everyone is up and ready for a day in London. We set off at half past, to the station where we are meeting Zoë and Charlie. Lesley and Pauline go to buy the tickets; some of the group go to platform 4, as they thought it would be the same as the day before. Even though we were told to go to platform 2. The train arrives and we all pile on and set off to Kings Cross train station, unfortunately one commuter is ignorant and impatient and climbs over Chris to get off the train, Chris generously throws the man's language after him! We arrive at Kings Cross train station and when we finally get off the train, Welwyn didn't call ahead to tell them we needed the ramp, we make our way to the underground to take the tube to Green Park.

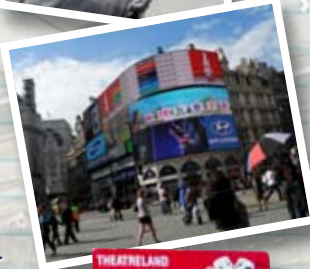
At Green Park, 7 of the group, including 2 wheelchairs and a pushchair squeeze into a lift and another lady squeezes in with us, it is after this Lesley discovers the group purse has been stolen. Two quick phone calls and the problem of stolen cards is no more.

We walk from Green Park station to Buckingham Palace, where we just miss the changing of the guards, but we still get pictures taken at Buckingham Palace. We then walk up Constitution Hill making our way to Harrods; Glenise arranges a date with the doorman of the Lanesborough.

Once at Harrods we have a look around and Robbie gets a sandwich (Roast Beef and English Mustard), we head to a pub for the others to get lunch. After lunch we headed through Piccadilly to Leicester Square and Covent Garden. Some of the group get some souvenirs and plenty of pictures of London.

After a hike to Kings Cross we head back to the Premiere Inn. Back at the hotel we all say goodbye to Zoë and Charlie and get ready for our last supper. We all go for tea at the Beefeater that's joined to the Premiere Inn. After the meal we head to the bar for a couple of lemonades before stopping off at Pauline & Lesley's room to check the Olympic results. Then it's off to bed for an early night so we are ready to travel home the next day. I am sure everyone had a brilliant time in London. A great experience.

Gillian



Today's Pavement Miles



## Day 5 Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> August

All good things must come to an end, so sadly we have to get ready to leave Welwyn Garden City and head for home once more.

After everyone has had a good breakfast, we start to load up the mini bus for the return journey. A final farewell to our hosts at the Premier Inn and we head for the A1. Pauline and Derek share the driving once more, a quick stop for diesel and we're on our way. Lunch was kindly provided by some guests that Peter met before leaving the hotel this morning.

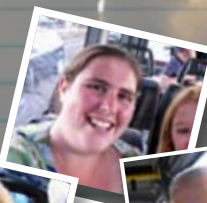
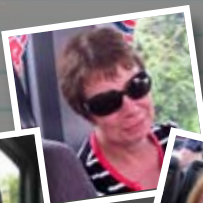
Our last stop on the journey home was at The Badger Inn, Ponteland, for tea. Once we had all given our order and had a drink to hand, we had a few toasts. Our first toast was to Robbie, his wish was fulfilled, and because of that, the rest of us thoroughly enjoyed our trip to London and the 2012 Olympics. After all the toasts, Pauline and Lesley presented everyone with a brochure from the Olympics, a map of London, and a small gift from the group.

We were soon on our last leg of the journey home, and a rousing cheer from all (except Pete) as we crossed the border back into Scotland at the Carter Bar. When we arrived in Hawick, we were met by family and friends eager to find out how the trip had gone. I'm sure that they could tell by the faces of the 9 happy travellers as we got out the mini bus.

If we had been given a gold medal at the Olympics, it would have been for making Robbie's wish come true. Just to see his face that day was reward enough.

Our group motto is, "we make the impossible, possible" and we did!

Lorna





# Babbles and Memorable Phrases

"Are we nearly there yet?" - from the whole bus even before we were out of Hawick.

"Re-Calculating" - from the sat nav all the way to Welwyn.

"Gordon says we are not to scrimp and save"

"We could start with a refreshing Gin and Tonic" - Pauline reading the menu.

Gillian on discovering the police at her door - "What have I done, it wasn't me."



Gillian - "Can I have Irn-Bru?" Waitress - "We don't have Irn-Bru."

Gillian - "Well can I have a blackcurrant and Irn-Bru?"

Pauline - "I like to fall asleep with the TV on. So what do you want to do? Do you want to fall asleep with the TV off, or do you want it switched off before you go to sleep?"

"That's a high height down there!" - Glenise in the tube station.

"I don't usually eat ice-cream." - Chris on eating his and Derek's free ice-creams.

Rokkie - "What tribe are you from?"

"I can't wait to get my boots off, my fot are heet." - Pauline

Pauline - "Is that Brendan Fosters son?"

Lesley - "Don't know, it might be Dr Fosters son."

Pauline - "What did Dr Foster do?"

Lesley - "He went to Gloucester."

Pauline - "What was the weather like?"

Lesley - "There was a shower of rain, and you'll never guess what happened."

Pauline - "What?"

Lesley - "He fell in a puddle."

Pauline - "Was it deep?"

Lesley - "It was right up to his middle." Pauline - "I bet he never went there again."

Lesley - "No."



Waiter - "Whose having the Sprite?"

Gillian - "Just put them both down here."

Waiter - "Gosh you must be gasping!"

Gillian - "Eh no, ones for her over there!"

Pauline on hearing a huge rumbling beltch - "Chris Briggs, that's terrible!" It wasn't him!

"That's not bad you can get a palate of Salad for £12" - Peter remarking on the Salad platters at the Deli.

Lesley after being admonished for clapping a USA basket - "But I'm English that's what we do!"



Rokkie to the train guard - "Do you like sheep?"

Guard - "We don't see many here, why?"

Rokkie - "Cos you're packing them in like sheep!"

Glenise - "Right stop and let me out the wheelchair and I'll run to the bar."

Pauline deadpan - "And I'll still be there before you."

"Come by" - Rokkie

"Is that train in going?" - Pete at the station.

Glenise to Peter - "Thanks for putting me to bed last night."

Peter - "I didn't."

Glenise to Derek - "Thanks for putting me to bed last night."

Derek - "It wasn't me, you managed all on your own!"

Rokkie after listening to Chris grovel to Pauline - "I'm gonna be sick!"

Rokkie to Derek as he put the pedal to the floor after crossing the Carter Bar -

"Who do you think you are, F@@king Stirling Moss!"







Thank You  
to all who helped make this possible!