



Chapter 34

Contributing to Team GB at London 2012

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SHORTLY AFTER the publication of *Physical Education and Sport in Independent Schools*, I was asked in an interview with John Goodbody to forecast the number of privately-educated members of Britain's team for the London Games who would win Olympic medals. The figures for the 2004 and 2008 Games were 15 and 26 respectively. My answer was 'more than 30' (*The Sunday Times*, 8 July 2012).

John Goodbody was responding to a wide-ranging speech on the theme of school sport that the Prime Minister had delivered at Loughborough University a few days earlier. David Cameron had complained that too many state schools paid insufficient attention to sport, adding: "around a third of the athletes competing at the (London) Olympics are thought to be privately educated" and "the result is that independent schools produce more than their fair share of medal winners" (*Daily Telegraph*, 5 July 2012).

The advice on the size of the fraction, and its source, had been identified two years earlier by Aislinn Laing: ‘both UK Sport and Olympics bosses privately admit that more than a third of athletes (in the 300-500 strong Team GB for the London Games) could be private school-educated’ (*Daily Telegraph*, 2 February 2010).

One of those ‘bosses’, Lord Moynihan, the chairman of the British Olympic Association, chose to be more outspoken on the subject when the first gold medals of the London Games were won by a pair of privately-educated rowers: “It is one of the worst statistics in British sport, and wholly unacceptable, that over 50% of our medallists in Beijing came from independent schools, which means that half of our medals came from just 7% of the children in the UK” (*The Guardian*, 2 August 2012).

Around one-third of Team GB and over 50% of the medallists – do they give the true measure of the contribution of independent schools to the Beijing and London Games? Figures for Beijing already published in the final chapter of *Physical Education and Sport in Independent Schools* suggest otherwise so, with the London Games successfully completed, now was the time to analyse the performance of Team GB.

Enquiries conducted in tandem with Rudolf Eliot Lockhart, head of research at the Independent Schools Council, and shared with the Sutton Trust, identified 93 members of Team GB for London 2012 who were educated at independent schools. They are listed in the table below. They represent 17% of the total strength of 542 competitors, well short of the oft-quoted fraction of one-third.

Name	School	Sport
Andy Turner	Nottingham High	Athletics
Carl Myerscough	Millfield	Athletics
Eilish McColgan	High School of Dundee	Athletics
Emily Diamond	Bristol Grammar	Athletics
Goldie Sayers	King’s, Ely	Athletics
Lawrence Clarke	Eton	Athletics
Lawrence Okoye	Whitgift	Athletics
Lynsey Sharp	Mary Erskine	Athletics
Mara Yamauchi	Oxford High	Athletics
Marilyn Okoro	Stowe	Athletics
David Florence	Stewart’s Melville	Canoeing
Chris Hoy	George Watson’s	Cycling
Emma Pooley	Norwich High & Norwich	Cycling
Tom Daley	Plymouth	Diving

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Name	School	Sport
Carl Hester	Elizabeth College, Guernsey	Equestrianism
Laura Bechtolsheimer	St Mary's, Calne	Equestrianism
Mary King	Manor House, Honiton	Equestrianism
Nick Skelton	Bablake	Equestrianism
Nicola Wilson	Teesside High	Equestrianism
Tina Cook	Bedgebury, Hawkhurst	Equestrianism
William Fox-Pitt	Eton	Equestrianism
Zara Phillips	Gordonstoun	Equestrianism
Anna Bentley	Norwich High	Fencing
James Honeybone	Truro	Fencing
Sophie Troiano	Wimbledon High	Fencing
Sophie Williams	Prior Park & Millfield	Fencing
Beth Tweddle	Queen's, Chester	Gymnastics
Jennifer Pinches	King's, Macclesfield	Gymnastics
Lynne Hutchison	King Edward's, Bath	Gymnastics
Alex Danson	Farnborough Hill	Hockey
Anne Panter	Wellingborough	Hockey
Ashleigh Ball	St Edward's, Cheltenham	Hockey
Ashley Jackson	Sutton Valence	Hockey
Crista Cullen	Oakham	Hockey
Georgie Twigg	Repton	Hockey
Harry Martin	Ipswich	Hockey
Ian Mackay	Bishop's Stortford	Hockey
James Fair	King's, Chester	Hockey
James Tindall	St George's, Weybridge	Hockey
Laura Bartlett	Glasgow Academy	Hockey
Nicola White	Hulme Grammar, Oldham	Hockey
Rob Moore	King Edward VI, Southampton	Hockey
Sally Walton	Bromsgrove	Hockey
Alan Campbell	Coleraine Academical	Rowing
Alex Partridge	Monkton Combe	Rowing
Andrew Triggs Hodge	Belmont Grosvenor	Rowing
Chris Bartley	King's, Chester	Rowing
Constantine Louloudis	Eton	Rowing
Frances Houghton	King's, Canterbury	Rowing
George Nash	Winchester	Rowing
Greg Searle	Hampton	Rowing

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Name	School	Sport
Heather Stanning	Gordonstoun	Rowing
Helen Glover	Millfield	Rowing
Katherine Copeland	Yarm	Rowing
Katie Greves	Headington	Rowing
Louisa Reeve	Downe House	Rowing
Olivia Whitlam	King's, Chester	Rowing
Peter Chambers	Coleraine Academical	Rowing
Phelan Hill	Bedford	Rowing
Richard Chambers	Coleraine Academical	Rowing
Sophie Hosking	Kingston Grammar	Rowing
Stephen Rowbotham	Clifton	Rowing
Tom James	King's, Chester	Rowing
Tom Ransley	King's, Canterbury	Rowing
Victoria Thornley	Abbey Gate, Chester	Rowing
Will Satch	Shiplake	Rowing
Zach Purchase	King's, Worcester	Rowing
Andrew Simpson	Pangbourne	Sailing
Ben Ainslie	Truro	Sailing
Hannah Mills	Howell's, Llandaff	Sailing
Iain Percy	King Edward VI, Southampton	Sailing
Jennifer McIntosh	Dollar Academy	Shooting
Jonathan Hammond	Glenalmond	Shooting
Peter Wilson	Millfield	Shooting
Caitlin McClatchey	Northampton High	Swimming
David Carry	Robert Gordon's	Swimming
Eleanor Faulkner	The Royal Wolverhampton	Swimming
Francesca Halsall	St Mary's, Crosby	Swimming
Gemma Spofforth	Portsmouth High	Swimming
James Disney-May	Millfield	Swimming
Joanne Jackson	Cundall Manor	Swimming
Stacey Tadd	Ellesmere	Swimming
Jenna Randall	Hurst Lodge, Ascot	Synchro-swimming
Heather Watson	Ladies' College, Guernsey	Tennis
Jamie Murray	The Leys	Tennis
Laura Robson	St Catherine's, Twickenham	Tennis
Ross Hutchins	King's College School	Tennis
Alistair Brownlee	Bradford Grammar	Triathlon

Name	School	Sport
Jonny Brownlee	Bradford Grammar	Triathlon
Shauna Mullin	Mary Erskine	Volleyball
Ed Scott	Bolton Boys'	Water Polo
Sean King	Trinity	Water Polo
Jack Oliver	Eltham	Weight-lifting

As around 7% of the total school population is educated privately, the figure of 17% in Team GB lends support to the assertion that independent schools punch above their weight in Olympic sports. However, since most pupils in independent schools stay on in full-time education until the age of 18, it might be more appropriate to compare that 17% with the percentage of the total school population over the age of 16 who are educated in independent schools. That figure of 18% almost matches the Team GB percentage and perhaps suggests that independent schools win their fair share of places – and no more.

The composition of the independent school contingent in Team GB had gender equality – 47 women and 46 men. In the one sport where men and women competed on equal terms, equestrianism, women outnumbered men five to three.

The 93 team members attended 75 different schools. More went to co-educational schools (53 or 57%) than to single-sex ones (40 or 43%), with figures that almost match the proportion of schools of each type (60% co-educational; 40% single-sex). There was gender equality across the two types of school (28 women and 25 men attended co-educational schools; 19 women and 21 men went to single-sex ones.) The majority went to day schools (51 or 55%), many to mixed boarding and day schools (38 or 41%) and only a few to wholly boarding schools (four or 4%, with three going to Eton). As schools with boarding make up 40% of independent schools for all age groups, and the number of schools with boarding increases from age 11, these figures probably match the percentage of senior schools in each type. Once again there is gender equality at both day schools (27 women and 24 men) and in schools with boarding (20 women and 22 men). No one type of school had a more than its share of success – whether co-educational or single-sex, or day or boarding. This playing field is definitely level!

Schools with more than one representative were: Millfield School with five; King's School, Chester, four; Coleraine Academical Institution and Eton College three each; Bradford Grammar School, Gordonstoun School, King Edward VI School in Southampton, King's School in Canterbury, The Mary Erskine School in Edinburgh, Norwich High School and Truro School each with two. The schools at Canterbury, Chester and Coleraine provided

a total of eight rowers whereas Millfield's five competed in five different sports, as did Eton's three. The Brownlee brothers, Alistair and Jonny from Bradford Grammar School, both won medals in the triathlon, whereas the pairs from Gordonstoun, Southampton, Canterbury, Edinburgh, Norwich and Truro competed in separate sports.

Privately-educated members of Team GB for the London Games were not present in all sports: ten of the 28 sports had no representatives from independent schools, including the men's and women's teams for basketball, handball and football. The situation might have been different if rugby, cricket and lacrosse, the team games with the strongest independent school input at international level, were played at the Olympics. Sports with their highest presence were rowing (24), hockey (14), athletics (10), equestrianism (eight) and swimming (eight). The order changes if the proportion of the total number of competitors in each sport is calculated: current and former pupils of independent schools made sizeable contributions to the teams in equestrianism (62%), rowing (52%), tennis (50%), hockey (44%), fencing (33%), triathlon (33%), shooting (27%), sailing (25%), weight-lifting (20%), gymnastics (17%) and swimming (17%). Their contribution to the other 17 sports was small – but occasionally very effective.

Turning attention to success, as recorded in the following table, and believing that to concentrate solely on medal-winners would be too limiting, let us examine how many competitors reached the top eight positions in their sport or, in the case of multi-event sports such as gymnastics and swimming, who reached the top eight in one of their events. Nearly half of Team GB matched this achievement – 239 of the team of 542, or 44%. Of the 93 privately-educated members of Team GB, 72 or 77% reached the last eight; of the other 449 competitors, 167, or 37%, did so. Sportsmen and sportswomen educated at independent schools may have only won their fair share of places in Team GB, but they were over-represented at the sharp end of competition – and twice as likely to reach the last eight as their teammates. The average best performances of the two groups were 3.54 (just short of a bronze medal) and 6.20. Top eight places were achieved by all the privately-educated competitors in rowing, hockey, equestrianism, sailing, cycling and triathlon, and by most of those in swimming and gymnastics.

Sport	Name	School	Achievements
Athletics	Andy Turner	Nottingham High	semi-final
Athletics	Carl Myerscough	Millfield	29th
Athletics	Eilish McColgan	High School of Dundee	heat
Athletics	Emily Diamond	Bristol Grammar	5th

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Sport	Name	School	Achievements
Athletics	Goldie Sayers	King's, Ely	dnf
Athletics	Lawrence Clarke	Eton	4th
Athletics	Lawrence Okoye	Whitgift	12th
Athletics	Lynsey Sharp	Mary Erskine	semi-final
Athletics	Mara Yamauchi	Oxford High	dnf
Athletics	Marilyn Okoro	Stowe	5th
Canoeing	David Florence	Stewart's Melville	2nd & semi-final
Cycling	Chris Hoy	George Watson's	1st & 1st
Cycling	Emma Pooley	Norwich High & Norwich	6th & 40th
Diving	Tom Daley	Plymouth	3rd & 4th
Equestrianism	Carl Hester	Elizabeth College, Guersney	1st & 5th
Equestrianism	Laura Bechtolsheimer	St Mary's, Calne	1st & 3rd
Equestrianism	Mary King	Manor House, Honiton	2nd & 5th
Equestrianism	Nick Skelton	Bablake	1st & 5th
Equestrianism	Nicola Wilson	Teesside High	2nd & 19th
Equestrianism	Tina Cook	Bedgebury, Hawkhurst	2nd & 6th
Equestrianism	William Fox-Pitt	Eton	2nd & 15th
Equestrianism	Zara Phillips	Gordonstoun	2nd & 8th
Fencing	Anna Bentley	Norwich High	8th & L in 1st round
Fencing	James Honeybone	Truro	L in 1st round
Fencing	Sophie Troiano	Wimbledon High	8th & L in 1st round
Fencing	Sophie Williams	Prior Park & Millfield	L in 1st round
Gymnastics	Beth Tweddle	Queen's, Chester	3rd & 6th
Gymnastics	Jennifer Pinches	King's, Macclesfield	6th
Gymnastics	Lynne Hutchison	King Edward's, Bath	12th
Hockey	Alex Danson	Farnborough Hill	3rd
Hockey	Anne Panter	Wellingborough	3rd
Hockey	Ashleigh Ball	St Edward's, Cheltenham	3rd
Hockey	Ashley Jackson	Sutton Valence	4th
Hockey	Crista Cullen	Oakham	3rd

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Sport	Name	School	Achievements
Hockey	Georgie Twigg	Repton	3rd
Hockey	Harry Martin	Ipswich	4th
Hockey	Ian Mackay	Bishop's Stortford	4th
Hockey	James Fair	King's, Chester	4th
Hockey	James Tindall	St George's, Weybridge	4th
Hockey	Laura Bartlett	Glasgow Academy	3rd
Hockey	Nicola White	Hulme Grammar, Oldham	3rd
Hockey	Rob Moore	King Edward VI, Southampton	4th
Hockey	Sally Walton	Bromsgrove	3rd
Rowing	Alan Campbell	Coleraine Academical	3rd
Rowing	Alex Partridge	Monkton Combe	3rd
Rowing	Andrew Triggs Hodge	Belmont Grosvenor	1st
Rowing	Chris Bartley	King's, Chester	2nd
Rowing	Constantine Louloudis	Eton	3rd
Rowing	Frances Houghton	King's, Canterbury	6th
Rowing	George Nash	Winchester	3rd
Rowing	Greg Searle	Hampton	3rd
Rowing	Heather Stanning	Gordonstoun	1st
Rowing	Helen Glover	Millfield	1st
Rowing	Katherine Copeland	Yarm	1st
Rowing	Katie Greves	Headington	5th
Rowing	Louisa Reeve	Downe House	5th
Rowing	Olivia Whitlam	King's, Chester	5th
Rowing	Peter Chambers	Coleraine Academical	2nd
Rowing	Phelan Hill	Bedford	3rd
Rowing	Richard Chambers	Coleraine Academical	2nd
Rowing	Sophie Hosking	Kingston Grammar	1st
Rowing	Stephen Rowbotham	Clifton	5th
Rowing	Tom James	King's, Chester	1st

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Sport	Name	School	Achievements
Rowing	Tom Ransley	King's, Canterbury	3rd
Rowing	Victoria Thornley	Abbey Gate, Chester	5th
Rowing	Will Satch	Shiplake	3rd
Rowing	Zach Purchase	King's, Worcester	2nd
Sailing	Andrew Simpson	Pangbourne	2nd
Sailing	Ben Ainslie	Truro	1st
Sailing	Hannah Mills	Howell's, Llandaff	2nd
Sailing	Iain Percy	King Edward VI, Southampton	2nd
Shooting	Jennifer McIntosh	Dollar Academy	36th & 42nd
Shooting	Jonathan Hammond	Glenalmond	41st & 17th
Shooting	Peter Wilson	Millfield	1st
Swimming	Caitlin McClatchey	Northampton High	7th
Swimming	David Carry	Robert Gordon's	6th
Swimming	Eleanor Faulkner	The Royal Wolverhampton	5th
Swimming	Francesca Halsall	St Mary's, Crosby	5th, 6th, 14th & 5th
Swimming	Gemma Spofforth	Portsmouth High	5th
Swimming	James Disney-May	Millfield	12th
Swimming	Joanne Jackson	Cundall Manor	21st & 5th
Swimming	Stacey Tadd	Ellesmere	18th & 8th
Synchro-swimming	Jenna Randall	Hurst Lodge, Ascot	9th & 6th
Tennis	Heather Watson	Ladies' College, Guernsey	L in 2nd round & L in 1st round
Tennis	Jamie Murray	The Leys	L in 1st round
Tennis	Laura Robson	St Catherine's, Twickenham	2nd, L in 1st round & L in 2nd round
Tennis	Ross Hutchins	King's College School	L in 1st round
Triathlon	Alistair Brownlee	Bradford Grammar	1st
Triathlon	Jonny Brownlee	Bradford Grammar	3rd
Volleyball	Shauna Mullin	Mary Erskine	L in 2nd round
Water Polo	Ed Scott	Bolton Boys'	L all
Water Polo	Sean King	Trinity	L all
Weight-lifting	Jack Oliver	Eltham	10th

Most observers, however, will judge success in the Olympic Games on the number of gold, silver and bronze medals won. It was a record Games for Team GB, winning 65 medals – 29 golds, 17 silvers and 19 bronzes. A total of 114 competitors went home with medals (21% of the team) – many were won in team events where every member gets a medal. Twelve members of Team GB won two medals – most notably the double golds for Sir Chris Hoy, Laura Trott and Jason Kenny in cycling, Charlotte Dujardin in equestrianism, and Mo Farah in athletics. Of the 93 privately-educated members of Team GB, 45 or 48% won medals; of the other 449 competitors, 67, or 15%, did so. The over-representation of sportsmen and sportswomen educated at independent schools, this time on the medal podium, has increased; they were three times as likely to win a medal as their team-mates. Most competed in rowing (18), equestrianism (eight), hockey (eight) and sailing (four), whilst in equestrianism and sailing every privately-educated competitor won a medal. Other medals were won in triathlon (two), cycling, diving, gymnastics, shooting and tennis (one each).

Fewer medals were won at the Beijing Games of 2008: 47 altogether comprising 19 golds, 13 silvers and 15 bronzes. A total of 72 competitors won medals for Team GB – one won three medals, three won two medals – and 26 of them, or 36%, were educated at independent schools – Sir Chris Hoy won three medals, all gold; Tina Cook won two bronze medals. Beijing medallists from independent schools competed in rowing (11), equestrianism (six), cycling (four), sailing (four), swimming (two), canoeing and modern pentathlon (one each). Thus at both the Beijing and London Games about a third of the medals were won by those who had been educated privately, with rowing, equestrianism and sailing figuring prominently on both occasions.

It is likely that the privately-educated members of the 311-strong Team GB at Beijing in 2008 formed a greater proportion than they did in 2012 because Team GB, as the host nation, entered all 28 sports in London but only 20 of the 28 in Beijing. These additional sports – football, basketball, handball and wrestling among them – contained no team members from independent schools. As some of these sports are likely to be dropped for Rio de Janeiro in 2016, the percentage of the team educated privately may well increase again.

Sportsmen and sportswomen who were educated at independent schools may or may not have won more than their fair share of places in Team GB but, as a group, they did outperform their team-mates once the competition started. Can this success be attributed to their schooling? Alan Bairner, professor of sport and social theory at Loughborough University, has cited the contribution of ‘incredible sports facilities at the private schools, and (their) specialist coaches’, the commitment of teachers to take ‘teams to matches on Saturdays’, and the dominance of independent schools in the

‘allegedly “posh” disciplines of rowing, sailing and equestrianism’ (Agence France-Presse, 7 August 2012). The willingness of teachers in independent schools to contribute to extracurricular and weekend activities is well documented, but whether independent schools dominate rowing, sailing and equestrianism is debatable – as recorded earlier, these schools provided 52%, 25% and 62% respectively of the teams for the London Games. But is he correct about ‘incredible’ facilities and ‘specialist’ coaching?

Information readily available in biographies, on websites of schools and sports associations, and from other internet sites reveals much about the early sporting careers of the 93 members of Team GB for London 2012 who were educated at British independent schools. Most were introduced to their Olympic sport at school (52 or 56%), many at a sports club (28 or 30%), some through their parents (eight or 9%) and a few at university (five or 5%). Schools were particularly influential in three sports found in most physical education programmes – athletics, hockey and volleyball. The majority of the rowers, 18 of 24, met the sport at schools with a strong rowing tradition, and both water polo players had attended schools with national reputations in the sport. Schools, however, played no or little part in the first experience in several other sports, notably canoeing, cycling, diving, equestrianism, gymnastics, synchronised swimming, triathlon and weight-lifting, and their influence matched that of clubs for fencing, swimming and tennis. Parents provided the first taste for many riders and most sailors. One fencer, one shooter, both cyclists and the remaining six rowers took up their Olympic sports after leaving school – including Team GB’s first gold medallists, Heather Stanning and Helen Glover in the women’s double sculls.

The influence of the schools attended by the 93 competitors increased slightly in the years after the introductory stage. Several of the sports that had been started with the help of parents or clubs would have developed through coaching by teachers. Schools provided both coaching and appropriate facilities in their Olympic sports for 60 of the 93 in Team GB, or 65%. Fencing, sailing, shooting, swimming and tennis all benefited from school involvement, whereas canoeing, cycling, diving, equestrianism (only Laura Bechtolsheimer seems to have ridden at school), gymnastics, synchronised swimming, triathlon and weight-lifting owe little to schools other than the important contribution of an effective and comprehensive programme of physical education and sport. The suggestion that independent schools commonly provide velodromes, purpose-built rowing lakes, show-jumping arenas and 10m diving platforms above 50m swimming pools – with expert coaching to match – is, alas, unfounded.

A further factor that needs examination is the role of sports scholarships to independent schools. When, shortly after the Beijing Games, Margaret Talbot wrote in the Association for Physical Education’s journal (*Physical*

Education Matters, Autumn 2008) that ‘talented sports persons’ were often ‘scholarshipped into private schools specialising in sport’, she implied that state schools had done all the hard work and then independent schools bagged the glory. Professor Talbot presented no data to support the assertion, but the assumption of ‘shabby’ practice lingers on (*The Guardian*, 13 August 2012).

Scholarships granting remission of fees have been awarded by independent schools to candidates of proven ability or perceived potential for over two centuries. Most were, and still are, awarded for academic prowess, but more recently music, art, sport, design, technology and information technology have been added to the list in accordance with holistic principles. Full sports scholarships and all-rounder scholarships with a sports ingredient are normally offered at age 11 or 13 in line with this policy. Sports scholarships at age 16 are generally awarded to support the candidates’ international or professional ambitions and to boost the performance of school teams. Occasionally awards may be made at any age from 11 to provide academic and pastoral support for outstanding performers in individual sports who then receive high-level coaching at specialist clubs associated with the school or, in some cases, at the school.

The first type rarely attracts publicity if only because the chances of spotting long-term winners at the age of 11 or 13 are much smaller in sport than in, for example, mathematics or music. Sports scholarships at 16, however, have been a bone of contention within schools and between schools since the 1990s when they first became widespread. Most are awarded to boys in the traditional team sports of rugby, football and cricket. Parents of pupils who lose their team place to imported stars can feel aggrieved, and schools on the sporting circuit dislike being thrashed at senior level when they have held their own in the junior years. The third type, specially-tailored to an individual’s needs, has a history that stretches from Mary Bignal at Millfield School in the 1950s (she won gold, silver and bronze medals in athletics at the Tokyo Olympics of 1964) to Tom Daley of Plymouth College (the 10m diving bronze medallist at the London Games). Tom has been coached at Plymouth Diving Club since he was eight. Schools gain little other than publicity and the exemplary role of a high achiever from awards like Tom’s and no pupils, parents or rival schools are disadvantaged.

Schools, of course, are unlikely to divulge personal and financial information about their current and former pupils, but they do advertise openly in the annual Independent Schools Yearbook and on their websites whether or not they award sports scholarships. Of the 75 independent schools attended by members of Team GB, 42 or 56% currently offer sports or all-rounder scholarships and 33 or 44% do not. These figures, of course, may have been different when the team members were at school.

Publicly-available information lists Jamie Murray with a tennis scholarship at The Leys and Tom Daley's scholarship at Plymouth College. It is probable that another 20 members of Team GB received sports scholarships at school: eight in hockey, four in athletics, four in rowing, three in swimming and one in tennis. Possible but less likely award-holders are a further 15 – but here I am relying on hunches. This list comprises four rowers, two athletes, two fencers, two hockey players, two swimmers, one gymnast, one sailor and one water polo player. Hunches also suggest that a further 10 competitors are unlikely to have won sports awards: two riders, two rowers, two shooters, one cyclist, one fencer, one sailor and one weight-lifter. If I add the 'unlikely' category to the 'no' group and combine the more positive three, then my guess is that about 40% of the 93 members of Team GB had sports awards at school and about 60% did not. I suspect that I have been over-generous with these awards – so I welcome confirmation and corrections to the information recorded in this table.

Sport	Name	School	School awards sports scholarships	Scholarship awarded
Athletics	Andy Turner	Nottingham High	No	No
Athletics	Carl Myerscough	Millfield	Yes	Probably
Athletics	Eilish McColgan	High School of Dundee	No	No
Athletics	Emily Diamond	Bristol Grammar	Yes	Possibly
Athletics	Goldie Sayers	King's, Ely	Yes	Probably
Athletics	Lawrence Clarke	Eton	No	No
Athletics	Lawrence Okoye	Whitgift	Yes	Probably
Athletics	Lynsey Sharp	Mary Erskine	No	No
Athletics	Mara Yamauchi	Oxford High	Yes	Possibly
Athletics	Marilyn Okoro	Stowe	Yes	Probably
Canoeing	David Florence	Stewart's Melville	No	No
Cycling	Chris Hoy	George Watson's	No	No
Cycling	Emma Pooley	Norwich High & Norwich	Yes	Unlikely
Diving	Tom Daley	Plymouth	Yes	Yes
Equestrianism	Carl Hester	Elizabeth College, Guernsey	No	No
Equestrianism	Laura Bechtolsheimer	St Mary's, Calne	Yes	Unlikely
Equestrianism	Mary King	Manor House, Honiton	No	No

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Sport	Name	School	School awards sports scholarships	Scholarship awarded
Equestrianism	Nick Skelton	Bablake	No in 1980s	No
Equestrianism	Nicola Wilson	Teesside High	Yes	Unlikely
Equestrianism	Tina Cook	Bedgebury, Hawkhurst	No	No
Equestrianism	William Fox-Pitt	Eton	No	No
Equestrianism	Zara Phillips	Gordonstoun	No	No
Fencing	Anna Bentley	Norwich High	No	No
Fencing	James Honeybone	Truro	Yes	Possibly
Fencing	Sophie Troiano	Wimbledon High	Yes	Possibly
Fencing	Sophie Williams	Prior Park & Millfield	Yes	Unlikely
Gymnastics	Beth Tweddle	Queen's, Chester	No	No
Gymnastics	Jennifer Pinches	King's, Macclesfield	No	No
Gymnastics	Lynne Hutchison	King Edward's, Bath	Yes	Possibly
Hockey	Alex Danson	Farnborough Hill	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Anne Panter	Wellingborough	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Ashleigh Ball	St Edward's, Cheltenham	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Ashley Jackson	Sutton Valence	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Crista Cullen	Oakham	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Georgie Twigg	Repton	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Harry Martin	Ipswich	Yes	Possibly
Hockey	Ian Mackay	Bishop's Stortford	Yes	Possibly
Hockey	James Fair	King's, Chester	No	No
Hockey	James Tindall	St George's, Weybridge	Yes	Probably
Hockey	Laura Bartlett	Glasgow Academy	No	No
Hockey	Nicola White	Hulme Grammar, Oldham	No	No
Hockey	Rob Moore	King Edward VI, Southampton	No	No
Hockey	Sally Walton	Bromsgrove	Yes	Probably
Rowing	Alan Campbell	Coleraine Academical	No	No

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Sport	Name	School	School awards sports scholarships	Scholarship awarded
Rowing	Alex Partridge	Monkton Combe	Yes	Probably
Rowing	Andrew Triggs Hodge	Belmont Grosvenor	No	No
Rowing	Chris Bartley	King's, Chester	No	No
Rowing	Constantine Louloudis	Eton	No	No
Rowing	Frances Houghton	King's, Canterbury	Yes	Probably
Rowing	George Nash	Winchester	No	No
Rowing	Greg Searle	Hampton	No	No
Rowing	Heather Stanning	Gordonstoun	No	No
Rowing	Helen Glover	Millfield	Yes	No
Rowing	Katherine Copeland	Yarm	No	No
Rowing	Katie Greves	Headington	Yes	Possibly
Rowing	Louisa Reeve	Downe House	Yes	Unlikely
Rowing	Olivia Whitlam	King's, Chester	No	No
Rowing	Peter Chambers	Coleraine Academical	No	No
Rowing	Phelan Hill	Bedford	Yes	Unlikely
Rowing	Richard Chambers	Coleraine Academical	No	No
Rowing	Sophie Hosking	Kingston Grammar	Yes	Probably
Rowing	Stephen Rowbotham	Clifton	Yes	Possibly
Rowing	Tom James	King's, Chester	No	No
Rowing	Tom Ransley	King's, Canterbury	Yes	Probably
Rowing	Victoria Thornley	Abbey Gate, Chester	Yes	Possibly
Rowing	Will Satch	Shiplake	Yes	Possibly
Rowing	Zach Purchase	King's, Worcester	No	No
Sailing	Andrew Simpson	Pangbourne	Yes	Unlikely
Sailing	Ben Ainslie	Truro	Yes	Possibly
Sailing	Hannah Mills	Howell's, Llandaff	No	No
Sailing	Iain Percy	King Edward VI, Southampton	No	No

Contributing to Team GB at London 2012

Sport	Name	School	School awards sports scholarships	Scholarship awarded
Shooting	Jennifer McIntosh	Dollar Academy	No	No
Shooting	Jonathan Hammond	Glenalmond	Yes	Unlikely
Shooting	Peter Wilson	Millfield	Yes	Unlikely
Swimming	Caitlin McClatchey	Northampton High	Yes	Possibly
Swimming	David Carry	Robert Gordon's	No	No
Swimming	Eleanor Faulkner	The Royal Wolverhampton	Yes	Possibly
Swimming	Francesca Halsall	St Mary's, Crosby	No	No
Swimming	Gemma Spofforth	Portsmouth High	Yes	Probably
Swimming	James Disney-May	Millfield	Yes	Probably
Swimming	Joanne Jackson	Cundall Manor	No	No
Swimming	Stacey Tadd	Ellesmere	Yes	Probably
Synchro-swimming	Jenna Randall	Hurst Lodge, Ascot	No	No
Tennis	Heather Watson	Ladies' College, Guernsey	No	No
Tennis	Jamie Murray	The Leys	Yes	Yes
Tennis	Laura Robson	St Catherine's, Twickenham	No	No
Tennis	Ross Hutchins	King's College School	Yes	Probably
Triathlon	Alistair Brownlee	Bradford Grammar	No	No
Triathlon	Jonny Brownlee	Bradford Grammar	No	No
Volleyball	Shauna Mullin	Mary Erskine	No	No
Water Polo	Ed Scott	Bolton Boys'	No	No
Water Polo	Sean King	Trinity	Yes	Possibly
Weight-lifting	Jack Oliver	Eltham	Yes	Unlikely

And so to a summary:

- 93 members of Team GB for London 2012 attended independent schools.
- They comprised 17% of the 542-strong team.
- It is debatable whether or not they won more than their share of team places.
- This percentage was probably greater at Beijing in 2008 where a smaller Team GB of 311 competed in eight fewer sports.
- The 93 comprised 47 women and 46 men.
- They had been educated at 75 schools.
- Day schools and schools with boarding were almost equally represented.
- So too were co-educational schools and single-sex ones.
- The 93 competed in 18 of the 28 Olympic sports.
- Rowing, hockey, athletics, equestrianism and swimming had most representatives.
- Equestrianism, rowing, tennis, hockey, fencing and triathlon had the largest concentrations of privately-educated competitors.
- 72 of the 93 finished in the top eight positions in one of their events.
- They were twice as likely to finish in the top eight as other members of Team GB.
- 45 of the 93 went home with one medal; two of them won two.
- They were three times as likely to win a medal as their team-mates.
- At both the Beijing and London Games about a third of the medals were won by those who had been educated privately.
- About half of the 93 were introduced to their Olympic sport at school; about a third at clubs; and the remainder through parents or at university.
- About two-thirds of the 93 received coaching in their Olympic sport at school, usually by teachers.
- Most of the schools attended by the 93 have good sporting facilities but few boast lavish ones.
- Lavish facilities were more likely to be provided by specialist clubs.
- 42 of the 75 schools attended by the 93 team members currently offer sports scholarships or all-rounder scholarships.
- I guess that about 40% of the 93 members of Team GB were supported financially at school with sports scholarships or all-rounder scholarships.

In my view, the most remarkable of all the facts and figures about the 93 privately-educated members of Team GB at the London Games is how well they performed once the competition began. The average member of the 93 finished between third and fourth place in their best event – just short of a

bronze medal. Collectively, as shown in the table at the end of this chapter, they won 7.66 gold medals, 4.75 silver and 7.03 bronze medals; this would have placed 'independent schools as a country' 12th in a fantasy medal table – just below Australia.

It is this, the ability to give of their best when the demands are greatest, that will be the most important contribution of the 93 privately-educated members of Team GB to the legacy of London 2012. That was surely learnt at their schools – from long-standing expectations of high achievement, from the commitment and example of teachers, from the competition and co-operation with fellow pupils, and from a collective 'you can do it' philosophy. These schools are committed to contributing to the Olympic legacy in terms of facilities, expertise and know-how, but it is the sportsmen and sportswomen who have shown that it is motivation, determination and self-belief that count most when the going gets tough.

Corrections to the information displayed in the tables should be sent to the editor at tozer.peandsport@gmail.com. And if you missed in the text the outcome of John Goodbody's forecast challenge – my 'more than 30' fell well short. Forty-five independently-educated members of Britain's team for the London Games went home with medals.

6 September 2012

Additional team member

Elizabeth Simmonds (swimming) should have been included in the analysis. Her 4th place in the 200m backstroke matches the average performance of the other 93 team members. Her school, Lincoln Minster, does not award sports scholarships.

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Name	Medal	Fraction	Sport	School	Event	Date
Heather Stanning	Gold	0.50	Rowing	Gordonstoun	Women's coxless pairs	1-Aug
Helen Glover	Gold	0.50	Rowing	Millfield	Women's coxless pairs	1-Aug
Peter Wilson	Gold	1.00	Shooting	Millfield	Men's double trap	2-Aug
Chris Hoy	Gold	0.25	Cycling	George Watson's	Men's team sprint	2-Aug
Tom James	Gold	0.25	Rowing	King's, Chester	Men's coxless four	4-Aug
Andrew Triggs Hodge	Gold	0.25	Rowing	Belmont Grosvenor	Men's coxless four	4-Aug
Katherine Copeland	Gold	0.50	Rowing	Yarm	Women's lightweight double sculls	4-Aug
Sophie Hosking	Gold	0.50	Rowing	Kingston Grammar	Women's lightweight double sculls	4-Aug
Ben Ainslie	Gold	1.00	Sailing	Truro	Finn class	5-Aug
Nick Skelton	Gold	0.25	Equestrianism	Bablake	Team jumping	6-Aug
Alistair Brownlee	Gold	1.00	Triathlon	Bradford Grammar	Men's triathlon	7-Aug
Laura Bechtolsheimer	Gold	0.33	Equestrianism	St Mary's, Calne	Team dressage	7-Aug
Carl Hester	Gold	0.33	Equestrianism	Elizabeth College, Guernsey	Team dressage	7-Aug
Chris Hoy	Gold	1.00	Cycling	George Watson's	Men's keirin	7-Aug
Total		7.66				
Mary King	Silver	0.20	Equestrianism	Manor House, Honiton	Team eventing	31-Jul
Nicola Wilson	Silver	0.20	Equestrianism	Teesside High	Team eventing	31-Jul
Tina Cook	Silver	0.20	Equestrianism	Bedgebury, Hawkhurst	Team eventing	31-Jul
William Fox-Pitt	Silver	0.20	Equestrianism	Eton	Team eventing	31-Jul
Zara Phillips	Silver	0.20	Equestrianism	Gordonstoun	Team eventing	31-Jul
Chris Bartley	Silver	0.25	Rowing	King's, Chester	Men's lightweight coxless four	2-Aug
Peter Chambers	Silver	0.25	Rowing	Coleraine Academical	Men's lightweight coxless four	2-Aug
Richard Chambers	Silver	0.25	Rowing	Coleraine Academical	Men's lightweight coxless four	2-Aug
David Florence	Silver	0.50	Canoeing	Stewart's Melville	Men's slalom C-2	2-Aug
Zac Purchase	Silver	0.50	Rowing	King's, Worcester	Men's lightweight double sculls	4-Aug
Iain Percy	Silver	0.50	Sailing	King Edward VI, Southampton	Star class	5-Aug
Andrew Simpson	Silver	0.50	Sailing	Pangbourne	Star class	5-Aug
Laura Robson	Silver	0.50	Tennis	St Catherine's, Twickenham	Mixed doubles	5-Aug
Hannah Mills	Silver	0.50	Sailing	Howell's, Llandaff	Women's 470 class	10-Aug
Total		4.75				
Alan Campbell	Bronze	1.00	Rowing	Coleraine Academical	Men's eight	1-Aug
Alex Partridge	Bronze	0.11	Rowing	Monkton Combe	Men's eight	1-Aug
Constantine Louloudis	Bronze	0.11	Rowing	Eton	Men's eight	1-Aug
George Nash	Bronze	0.50	Rowing	Winchester	Men's eight	1-Aug
Greg Searle	Bronze	0.11	Rowing	Hampton	Men's eight	1-Aug
Phelan Hill	Bronze	0.11	Rowing	Bedford	Men's eight	1-Aug
Tom Ransley	Bronze	0.11	Rowing	King's, Canterbury	Men's eight	1-Aug
Will Satch	Bronze	0.50	Rowing	Shiplake	Men's coxless pair	3-Aug
Beth Tweddle	Bronze	1.00	Gymnastics	Queen's, Chester	Women's uneven bars	6-Aug
Jonathan Brownlee	Bronze	1.00	Triathlon	Bradford Grammar	Men's triathlon	7-Aug
Laura Bechtolsheimer	Bronze	1.00	Equestrianism	St Mary's, Calne	Individual dressage	9-Aug
Alex Danson	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Farnborough Hill	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Laura Bartlett	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Glasgow Academy	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Crista Cullen	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Oakham	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Ashleigh Ball	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	St Edward's, Cheltenham	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Anne Panter	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Wellingborough	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Georgie Twigg	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Repton	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Sally Walton	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Bromsgrove	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Nicola White	Bronze	0.06	Hockey	Hulme Grammar, Oldham	Women's tournament	10-Aug
Tom Daley	Bronze	1.00	Diving	Plymouth	Men's 10m platform	11-Aug
Total		7.03				