



Birmingham and its sporting credentials: Did you know...?

- The city of Birmingham has **staged more major sporting events** than any other UK city
- Birmingham was the first city to be awarded the title **National City of Sport** and has been awarded the title **European City of Sport for All**
- Birmingham is **home to sporting heroes Denise Lewis**, Dennis Amis, Lee Pearson, Ian Stewart MBE, Jane Sixsmith MBE and Ann Jones
- Next year, Birmingham's National Indoor Arena (NIA) will stage the **European Athletics Indoor Championships** – the most important athletics event in the UK before the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games
- In 1850 a local GP began an annual sporting event in Much Wenlock, Shropshire, **the inspiration for the modern Olympic Games**
- **Edgbaston Cricket Ground**, Birmingham's oldest international sports venue, staged its first Test Match in 1902 when Australia were bowled out for 36 runs!
- **The Belfry Golf Course**, venue for some momentous Ryder Cup challenges, also houses the headquarters of the PGA
- **Lawn tennis was first played in Birmingham** in 1865; the Edgbaston Archery and Lawn Tennis Society, founded in 1860, is **the oldest surviving lawn tennis club in the world**
- The Edgbaston Priory Tennis Club, the venue for the **DFS Challenge**, has hosted five **Davis Cup tennis tournaments**
- In 1888, William McGregor of Aston Villa FC invited other clubs to play regularised games of football, **the creation of the Football League**
- **Aston Villa FC** has the largest single stand behind a goal in Europe with 13,500 seats in Holte End. Aston Villa will also **host Olympic football** in 2012
- The National Exhibition Centre (NEC) and the National Indoor Arena (NIA) provide **an infrastructure superior to any in the UK** with the capability to sustain major events including, in recent years, the World Indoor Championship Athletics and the International Horse of the Year Show; The **NEC will play host to the Davis Cup** on 6-8 April 2007
- The NIA has **the country's only demountable six-lane 200-metre track**. 12 world athletics records have been set at The NIA