

Team GB Donation Helps Vancouver Kids Play Sport

After 17 days of fantastic sporting competition, the curtain has now fallen on the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

In the true spirit of the Olympic Movement, the British Olympic Association (BOA) is delighted to announce that it will be donating Team GB's equipment from the Olympic Village in Vancouver to MoreSports, a local charity in east Vancouver, which inspires children through sport participation.

Items being donated include Panasonic televisions, office furniture, and printers and scanners. Some of these items will be used directly by the charity, while others will be sold and turned into funding for their fantastic programmes.

MoreSports is a collaborative initiative that provides sustainable sport and physical activity opportunities for children and families living in Vancouver. They aim to reduce the entry barriers to sport and physical activity for members of Vancouver's poorest communities. Football, basketball, floor hockey and badminton are just some of the great sports programmes that they currently run.

Andy Hunt, Team GB Chef de Mission and BOA Chief Executive said:

"MoreSports runs a fantastic programme, providing children from a deprived area of Vancouver with the opportunity to play sport, which is a core fundamental principle of Olympism. As an organisation responsible for the development of the Olympic Movement, it is particularly rewarding to be able to support a project such as More Sports, which aims to spread the Olympic spirit through sport, developing mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.

"The opportunity for Team GB athletes and many of the youngsters involved in the MoreSports programme to meet each other before we departed Vancouver was a great moment. Hopefully many of those young people will be inspired by the sight of Amy Williams' gold medal for a long time to come."

Speaking about the generous donation from the BOA, Dick Woldring, MoreSports Coordinator said:

"It's absolutely amazing for the kids; this is really going to help the programme here. The donation from Team GB to Vancouver is remarkable, it is unusual, and it is unique.

"I never would have thought that the British Olympic Association would see the value in helping global kids in Vancouver do better and be involved in sport at an introductory level.

"Our kids are over the moon at the chance to meet Team GB Olympic athletes and touch a gold medal."

Before heading back home the 52 strong Team GB athletes met with some of the children and teenage coaches from Moresports. Speaking after meeting with the Team GB Olympians, Moresports coach James Naknakin said;

"It has been a great experience, I have met a lot of good athletes and seeing them share this moment together is just amazing.

"This is my first Olympic experience and it has been the best experience of my life. The way the crowds have pulled together, not just the Canadians, but all of the participating countries was really warming to watch, let alone feel!

"It's pretty cool, especially meeting Amy Williams, the gold medallist. I cannot believe how much that gold medal weighs. I watched her win gold so it is just amazing."

James was one of 20 children from the charity involved in the Vancouver 2010 torch relay.

Notes to editors:

Team GB consisted of 52 athletes from 6 sports and 11 disciplines at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Visit www.teamgb.com for further information.

The British Olympic Association (BOA) is the National Olympic Committee for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Its mission is to transform British lives through the power of the Olympic values and the success of Team GB. The BOA's role is to prepare the 'Best of British' athletes for, and lead them at, the summer, winter and youth Olympic Games. The BOA delivers extensive support services to Britain's Olympic athletes and their National Governing Bodies to enhance Olympic success and is responsible for championing the Olympic values and brand in the UK. For further information, go to: www.olympics.org.

MoreSports was founded in 1999. Along with their partners MoreSports works to reduce barriers to sport and physical activity. Things such as the cost of participation, lack of programming, transportation and facility infrastructure, plus the inability to participate in more typical competitive sport systems. The goals of MoreSports are to introduce coaching and leadership for high school children to develop our communities and give the opportunity for young children to enjoy introductory level sport. For more information please visit www.moresports.org