



Glasgow 2014
XX Commonwealth Games



Queen's Baton Relay

Baton Factsheet

BE THE GAMES



On 9 October 2013, the Glasgow 2014 Queen's Baton Relay will begin its 190,000 kilometre journey around 71 nations and territories, unifying the two billion people of the Commonwealth in a celebration of sport, diversity and peace.

The baton was designed by Glasgow-based 4c Design in collaboration with Scottish school students and the design community.

In a special ceremony at Buckingham Palace, Her Majesty The Queen will place Her message to the Commonwealth into the iconic baton to launch it on its way.

At the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony on 23 July 2014, the baton will return to The Queen, who will remove Her message and read it aloud, officially declaring the Games open.

The baton embodies Glasgow and Scotland's culture, history and innovation in its design and construction.

Combining leading-edge technology with artisan skills, the design centres on The Queen's Message and the tradition of the baton as the symbolic invitation to Commonwealth nations and territories to attend the Games.

At the heart of the baton is The Queen's Message, inscribed on a parchment handmade in Glasgow using linen and plant fibre. The message will be scrolled and held in a transparent cylinder within a pure titanium latticework frame. For the first time, the message forms the visual core of the baton design - illuminated from within by LED lights, yet unreadable until the Opening Ceremony.

The lattice frame takes inspiration from Glasgow's rich industrial and architectural heritage. State-of-the-art Direct Metal Laser Sintering was used to create its striking organic form, fusing together layers of pure titanium powder three hundredths of a millimetre thick with a focused laser beam.

The baton's handle is made of elm wood sourced from the grounds of Garrison House on the Isle of Cumbrae - a tribute to Scotland's natural resources. It was constructed using a boatbuilding technique called bird-mouthing, traditionally used to make masts for ships. Light, strong and durable, the handle was created by craftsmen at Galgael, a Glasgow social enterprise that teaches traditional skills.

The baton contains a granite 'gemstone' which will be gifted to each nation and territory. Housed at the very top of the baton, it is released only by opening a clever puzzle mechanism. The gemstones, made of water-resistant granite unique to Scotland, were sourced from Ailsa Craig in the Firth of Clyde, crafted by Kays of Scotland, and embellished by jewellers from Glasgow School of Art.



Height: 615mm

Width: 80mm (at widest point)

Weight: 1.6kg