On behalf of British Universities & Colleges Sport I am delighted to welcome you to the 2009 World University Winter Games in Harbin, China and wish you a successful and enjoyable Universiade.

What a difference ten years can make. Ten years ago, to just about the day, the Great Britain team departed to the World University Winter Games in Slovakia. Well, I say team in the loosest sense of the word, Rob Mitchell (short track) and myself would be a more accurate description. Now ten years and 5 Games later a team of 78 athletes and 35 officials head to Harbin. It has been a long and sometimes difficult but mostly rewarding road to get to get to this point. However it is not an understatement to say Team GBR has arrived, and is here to stay.

We will be one of the largest teams at the Games competing in men's and women's ice hockey, curling, alpine, cross-country, snowboard, short track and figure skating. It is with some pride that we will be one of the six teams competing for the first time ever in women's ice hockey, and that we can welcome back two of the silver medal winning men's curling team from two years ago. With the hope that John and his team can go one better this time.

With a growing team we have to ensure that the support we offer is equal to the standard of the athletes, and it is with great pleasure that I can welcome support staff from BUCS, the Scottish and English Institutes of Sport, Sport England, Podium and numerous NGBs. They will all endeavour to provide a level of support that world class athlete deserve.

In each one of these welcome messages I write the list of those individuals and bodies requiring a thank you grows, so this time I am going to say a very big thank you to everyone that has made this possible. There is however one body I must mention as without their support this size of team would not be possible. Either through direct athlete grants, funding of preparation programmes, funding individual athletes and support officials, or simply providing the kit, all of the team athletes and officials are here today because of the support of the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme. I hope that you will all be as successful at these Games and in your future sporting endeavours as one of the first Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme competitors to attend the World University Winter Games back in 2005. Where she won her first World Gold Medal, and now currently sits on top of the World Rankings in her sport, having collected a Olympic Silver medal on the way (while still as TASS athletes), Shelley Rudman.

So use these Games as a stepping stone to great things and good luck, for as members of Team GBR, I can promise you a fantastic sporting and cultural experience, give of your very best and enjoy every minute!

Guy Taylor
Chef de Mission
1 - CURLING - Heilongjiang University
2 - SHORT TRACK - Harbin University of Science and Technology
3 - Gymnasium for training on ice
4 - Harbin training base for ice sports
5 - ICE HOCKEY - Harbin Institute of Physical Education
6 - FIGURE SKATING - Harbin International Conference Exhibition & Sports Centre
In the Alpine Ski team Harry Brown (Loughborough College) joins the squad as the British Under-18 Giant Slalom Champion while Craig Macfie (Aberdeen), who has been selected on the British Development Ski Team for the last five years, is expected to perform well.

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

The smallest GBR squad in the delegation is the Cross Country Ski team with only two athletes and a coach. The 2008 World Junior Champion Simon Spencer (Gloucestershire College) and 2005 and 2006 British Champion (6km double pursuit), Rosamund Musgrave (Birmingham), will both be looking to impress in Harbin.
Curling Silver medallists from the 2007 Torino World University Winter Games John Hamilton (Napier) and Andrew Craigie (Strathclyde) will return in an attempt to go one better in Harbin this time round. They are joined by Thomas Pendreigh (Strathclyde), Michael Goodfellow (Strathclyde) and Ian Copland (Glasgow).

Three of the five women’s curlers, who came tenth in Torino, return to the squad for Harbin. Sarah Reid (Glasgow Caledonian), Sarah Macintyre (Strathclyde) and Laura Kirkpatrick (Glasgow) are joined in their quest for glory by sisters Kay & Victoria Adams (both Stirling). Since returning from Torino two years ago Sarah Reid has gone onto claim gold in the 2007 World Junior Championship, while juggling her studies at Glasgow Caledonian University.
Figure Skater Thomas Paulson (Open University) returns for his second World University Winter Games, after finishing 21st in Torino 2007 in the men’s overall final. Both the men’s and women’s British Junior Ice Dance Champions of 2007 join the squad with Nicholas Buckland and Penny Coomes (both Nottingham Trent) pairing up in the doubles competition.
ICE HOCKEY (MEN)

Nottingham dominates the men’s Ice Hockey squad with seven of the twenty athletes studying in the city. Stewart Bliss (Nottingham) was the first-ever goal scorer for a university GBR team in Torino and is back in the squad for 2009. Stephen Fone (Coventry) tends goal for the 2007 and 2008 league and cup Champions Coventry Blaze and will try to bring his winning ways to Team GBR. Robert Lachowicz (Nottingham Trent) has appeared in England squads from under 13s to 20s level at World Championships and continues his record with his selection for the Harbin team.
ICE HOCKEY (MEN)

Christopher Wilson
Glasgow

Stephen Fone
Coventry

Oliver Barron
Sheffield Hallam

Robert Lachowicz
Nottingham Trent

Joseph Millard
Open University

Lee Haywood
Nottingham Trent

Marcus Maynard
South Nottingham College

Thomas Norton
South Nottingham College

Simon Hopkins
Team Manager

Matthew Bradbury
Head Coach

Andrew Marshall
Fitness Coach

Michael Urquhart
Assistant Coach

Great Britain
Harbin 2009
ICE HOCKEY (WOMEN)

Rachel Butcher
Birmingham

Suzanne Grieve
UWIC

Charlotte Willey
Durham

Jennifer Ball
City of Bristol College

Emma Bird
Sheffield

Catherine Homolka
UWIC

Laura Saunders
Sheffield Hallam

Amy Lack
Birmingham

Hannah Carnegy
Oxford

Leanne Ganney
Queen Mary's College

Michaela Walker
Basingstoke College of Technology

In the women’s Ice Hockey squad, National Premier League playoff winner with the Sheffield Shadows, Rachel Butcher (Birmingham) flies the GBR flag. Amanda Carr (Thames Valley) has tasted international success winning a gold medal with the GB Senior Squad in the third tiered National Division in 2008 while Welsh International Catherine Homolka (Cardiff) will use her experience from her Premier League club Cardiff Comets in the squad this year.
ICE HOCKEY (WOMEN)

Laura Millard
Leeds Met

Lauren Halliwell
Sheffield Hallam

Emily Turner
Sheffield Hallam

Amanda Carr
Thames Valley

Alanna Byrne
Roehampton

Lydia Howton
Bedfordshire

Katherine Wiggins
Sheffield Hallam

Kathrine Cady
Team Manager

Fiona King
Team Coach

Simon Manning
Team Coach

Stephanie Turner
Team Coach
Loughborough dominate the Short Track (speed skating) selection with six athletes from a squad of nine studying at the college or university. Paul Worth (Loughborough College) will travel to Harbin straight from the Samsung ISU World Cup in Dresden, Germany where he is competing against the best short track skaters in the world. Worth ranks 21st in the world in the men’s 2008-09 star class and is the one to watch on the ice for Team GBR. Rebecca Collett (Loughborough College) is presently sitting at the top of the rankings for the ladies world StarClass for 2008-09 and will be the one to beat in Harbin.
Six students have been selected for the Snowboarding event, including Laura Hill (Open University), Ivy Taylor (Newcastle) and Daniel Breen (Edinburgh) who have been selected for their second winter games after competing in Torino.
HEADQUARTERS STAFF

Guy Taylor
Chef de Mission

Trudi Else
Deputy Chef de Mission

Dave Crossbe
Deputy Chef de Mission

Abi Ashby Burns
HQ Administrator / Athlete Services manager

Jo Kirk
Organising Secretary

Kate Filochowski
HQ Administrator / Communications

Annabel Pollock
Translator

Harriet Collins
Chief Medical Officer

Great Britain
Harbin 2009
The Great Britain Delegation thank the following for their invaluable assistance:

- BRITISH UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES SPORT
- Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme
- AIR CHINA
  Carrying China, Linking the World
  A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER
- Ice Hockey UK
- Sheffield International Venues
  English Institute of Sport
  Sheffield
- British Universities Ice Hockey Association
- NATIONAL ICE SKATING ASSOCIATION
- SNOWSPORT GB
  TAKE IT TO THE EDGE
- SCOTTISH INSTITUTE OF SPORT
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- Lucozade
  SPORT
- British Curling