



British Masters Medical Services

To all our athletes and friends travelling to the World Championships in Spain 2018

British Masters Medical Services was set up in 2000 by athletes, for athletes travelling to international competitions. It is not financially supported by BMAF in any way (although they do help us with accreditation and support when we are abroad) and is a non-profit making organisation run and supported by volunteers who are not paid in any way, give up their time to help the British and Irish teams when they are abroad. It charges a nominal fee to cover costs of accommodation and flights (not always food and not supplies) for four treatments/ massages from volunteers who are experienced therapists and who enjoy helping athletes in the field. It was primarily set up to deal with injuries that occurred during a championship but due to success and demand it now encompasses sports massage when needed.

Over the years we have travelled the world with the GBR/ Irish team, enjoyed their company, made many friends, learnt vast amounts from our fellow team members, worked long days and gained a tremendous satisfaction from helping Masters athletes. BMMS is the envy of the rest of the world; that we can persuade therapists to give up their time unpaid, just to help GBR/Irish athletes that contribute to the BMMS scheme.

We now come to the problem that is Malaga Spain 2018

I am sure that you have all seen the provisional schedule and if not, I would encourage you to do so immediately. The events are spread over four stadiums, all between 7-10 km from the main stadium and do not appear to be consistent. Heats, semi- finals and finals are in different stadia, age groups on different days in different stadia and an organisational nightmare. **This is where we need your help.**

We have a team of 5, Myself, Alex, Nicky, Sharna, Iain and Mel (well 6 really; it was difficult to get commitment for the full 2 weeks, so we have Iain and Mel covering a week each). The original letter said that we would be based in the Main Stadium however one look at the schedule shows that this will mean great difficulty for some of the athletes to access the service, so we are looking to try and cover at least one other stadium each day. To do this effectively we need information from you as soon as possible. **If you wish to sign up for the service, please do so by the 3rd August and let Carole know in which events and age groups you are entered.**

If I have that information, I will look at the distribution of BMMS athletes and send therapists to those stadia that are the busiest. If that information is available by the 3rd August I will try and formulate a timetable - That is my plan – it may fall apart if the LOC in Spain will not allow us to treat in the supplementary stadiums or radically change the timetable, and we will need to hire cars etc. It also makes record keeping more difficult, but we will try to help as many as possible and it will only work if we have the information early. It will not work if athletes leave it to a week before the competition before they decide to contribute to the service.

We were aware of problems in Madrid, and of the commentary on social media, but to date no one has contacted myself, Steve or Carole since that time, to express their thoughts or ideas. I appreciate all the emails, texts and messages of support and help that have been offered and assure you we are not blind to the problems that have been expressed; we are looking to find solutions. Please help us do that. I look forward to these events, meeting with old friends and helping all those who subscribe to the BMMS service, but these events can be stressful for us all. Let us see if we can work together to make this work.

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