

Colour change



The new IW Island Games flag is unveiled. Accompanied by athletes from the Primary School Island Games are, back, from left, Andrea Sheridan, IW County Press sports editor Clare Newman, IW Island Games Association chairman Martin Goodall, Steve Solley and Keith Lane.

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By Clare Newman

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A NEW flag will fly high at next year's NatWest Island Games in Jersey after the IW decided to change its colours.

Since the games' inception in 1985, the IW has always traditionally used the cross of St George as its flag for the opening ceremony and medal ceremonies.

But, after some thought, the IW Island Games Association has decided to change that and bring in the IW flag, with its blue background, dark blue waves and white diamond shape, for the games.

Martin Goodall, chairman of the IW Island Games Association, said: "Flags are symbols of a national or local

identity. We hope that, by using the IW flag in future, it will show the public we are representing them at the games. It is a recognisable symbol, which we can all use to show our identity as Islanders. It is still relatively new but we hope that, by using it at the NatWest Island Games, it will start to get a memorable history of its own."

To launch the change, the IWIGA gained sponsorship from the *IW County Press* and had a huge version of the flag made, with help from South Coast Flagpoles, and it was unveiled at last weekend's Primary School Island Games.

The giant flag will be used for a unique fundraising and support campaign, where it will be going to sporting events around the Island over the next 12 months — and hopefully major public events too — so people can make a donation and sign the flag.

The money raised will help subsidise the team's travel and kit for Jersey next year, and the flag, complete with all

its signatures and good luck messages, will travel with them to the games, appearing at the opening ceremony and then put on display in the team hotel to motivate and inspire the athletes.

It is hoped the IW will be represented in all 14 sports at the Jersey games, with an estimated 250 IW athletes going for medals. Sports, including shooting, swimming, triathlon and athletics, are already making their selections.

Updates on where the flag will appear will be at the IW Island Games Facebook and Twitter pages.

Isle of
Guernsey
County
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Palace signals thanks for gift

AN ISLAND businessman is flying high after receiving a letter from Prince William and his bride-to-be, Kate Middleton.

Darren Axford, who owns the company southcoastflagpoles.co.uk, specialises in flags of the world, nautical and signal flags and decided to send the IW flag to the future king as a wedding gift.

Mr Axford, 33, said: "I sent a copy of the IW flag to the Queen a couple of years ago and thought it would be a nice gesture to send one to Prince William and Catherine before their wedding on April 29."

"I was very surprised when I received a letter on behalf of them just a few days later. I sent one to the Queen and received a thank-you letter and I am delighted to receive one again."

The letter from St James's Palace read: "*Prince William and Catherine Middleton have asked me to thank you most sincerely for the flag of the IW which you so generously sent to mark the occasion of their wedding. The Prince and Miss Middleton very much appreciate your incredible kind thought and were so touched you took the trouble to send a gift.*"

Mr Axford has supplied numerous flags to customers and events on the Island and even as far away as Australia, New Zealand and Canada.



Darren Axford with his IW flag and the letter of thanks he received. Picture: JENNIFER BURTON 0411-J45751

Island apathy over wedding celebrations



Osborne House is hoping for patriotic celebrations in its grounds on the wedding day. FILE

A house used to love stories