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Olympic excitement hits fever pitch

Sue Preston 09/07/2012 3:11 pm

ON its way to London for the start of the Games, the Olympic Torch travelled on one of the oldest steamers on Windermere, England's longest lake. The torch was carried by a local schoolgirl on the Tern steamer which was built in 1891, five years before the start of the modern Olympiad.



Steaming towards London.

Windermere Lake is in the heart of the English Lake District, the country's largest national park. It attracts tourists from all over the world - from those wishing to relax in its stunning landscapes and many luxury hotels to those seeking extreme sports.

The Lake District's sporting connections include many world records. Sir Henry Segrave broke the world water speed record on Windermere in his boat Miss England in 1930. On neighbouring lake, Coniston Water, Donald Campbell broke the world water speed record in 1955 in his now famous craft Bluebird K7.

He remains the only person to set both world land and water speed records in the same year. His later attempts to improve on his record ended in disaster when Bluebird exceeded his previous record speed, somersaulted and plunged into the lake killing him instantly.

The wreckage of the craft was recovered in 2001. It is currently undergoing restoration and will soon be housed in the Ruskin Museum, Coniston Water, where it will be open to the public.

The Olympic torch will arrive in London on July 27.

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