

Olympic Games

## Olympic Torch Crosses England's Longest Lake

Monday, 25 June 2012

On its way to London, the Olympic Torch travelled on one of the oldest steamers on Windermere, England's longest lake.

The torch was carried by local schoolgirl, Stephanie Booth, on the Tern steamer which is operated by Windermere Lake Cruises. Managing Director, Nigel Wilkinson said "The Tern was built in 1891, 5 years before the start of the modern Olympiad. She is on Britain's national historic fleet, one of the 200 most significant vessels in the country."

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 to this day 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 in the air, and plunged into the lake killing him instantly.

The wreckage of Campbell's 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 English Lake District continues to attract large numbers of sports enthusiasts. Many aspiring world championship contenders train on the Lake District's lakes, fells and mountains.

Next week, twice open water World champion and Olympic favourite, Keri-Anne Payne, will take part in the Great North Swim on Windermere. She said "The Great North swim will play a useful build-up to the summer" as she prepares for the London Olympics in July. Last year 10,000 people took part in the Great North Swim on Windermere.

The Olympic torch continues its journey around the UK arriving in London on July 27th for the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games.



Source = English Lake District

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