



MEDIA RELEASE

To be issued at 07.45 AM, Wednesday 23 July

Magic moment: Official Glasgow 2026 mascot Finnie unveiled

The unicorn was revealed at the top of iconic Clydeside landmark as Games countdown begins

The wait is over as the official mascot of the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games has been revealed marking a year to go until the most eagerly anticipated sporting event of 2026.

Finnie – a proud Glaswegian unicorn – was spectacularly unveiled at dawn (Wednesday 23 July), appearing at the top of the city's famous Finnieston Crane, which is also her namesake. The 'hooved-hypemaster' could be seen alongside a special banner on top of the Clydeside landmark to announce her arrival and symbolically mark 365 days to go until the Games.

The magical mascot was imagined with the help of 76 children from 24 schools from communities across Glasgow – known as Mascot Makers. 'Fun, cool, and sassy' Finnie's signature feature is a horn inspired by the famous traffic cone on top of the Duke of Wellington statue outside Glasgow's Gallery of Modern Art (GOMA) – a nod to Glasgow's renowned sense of humour.

The big-hearted unicorn was born in Glasgow's green spaces with a sport-loving spark and gathered her soon-to-be famous features across the city. As well as her horn, Finnie has a silver flash in her shoes in homage to the Clyde's shipbuilding history and she got her earring from the Glasgow Coat of Arms. Her flowing purple mane is inspired by the bright lights of Games-time venue The Hydro, and the world-famous Barrowland Ballroom gave her sparkling stars on her arms and nose. She also wears a friendship bracelet created by the Mascot Makers and will be spotted making a heart-shaped gesture as her signature move.

The all-action mascot's extraordinary aerial entrance marks the start of a special day of events celebrating the one-year countdown, during which she will meet Scottish athletes including Commonwealth 10,000m champion Eilish McColgan, Olympic medallist and Glasgow 2014 Team Scotland flagbearer Eilidh Doyle, Team Scotland basketball player Kieron Achara, Judoka medallist Sarah Adlington and Commonwealth Para Bowls gold medallist Pauline Wilson.

She will also be introduced to Scotland's First Minister John Swinney, Glasgow's Lord Provost Jaqueline McLaren, alongside the Mascot Makers.

In a statement released alongside the launch, Finnie said: "I'll be at the Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games next summer with a grin, a wave, maybe even a wee dance. I'm here to turn the nerves into excitement, stir the cheers and help turn every moment into something magic as Glasgow 2026 swings into the city."

Maskeen Bhullar (11) who attends St Patrick's Primary School in Anderston, wants to be an athlete in the future and has been inspired by being part of Glasgow 2026, "It has been an extraordinary experience being part of the Mascot Maker team for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The last time the Commonwealth Games were held in Glasgow I was one year old. I want to be an athlete one day and take part in a future Commonwealth Games. Being involved in creating the mascot has inspired me even more to work towards that dream. To me, the mascot represents my city, Glasgow, and stands as a symbol of the 2026 Commonwealth Games. It's something I'll always feel proud to have contributed to."

Leila Cairney (12) who attends St Paul's Primary School in Shettleston loved the experience of being a Mascot Maker and is so proud of Finnie, "I am so excited to be part of the Mascot Makers. To see our ideas come to life from paper to reality has been an amazing experience. I hope you all love the mascot as much as we do."

Glasgow 2026 Chief Executive Phil Batty OBE, said: "Finnie represents everything Glasgow 2026 is about – fun, friendliness and of course that little bit of magic! She'll be at the heart of everything that's exciting about these Games, from building up the crowd to hyping the athletes. She'll visit communities across Glasgow, Scotland and beyond, and bring them all together next summer.

"It means so much that she comes from the imaginations of Glasgow's young people. They have all been fantastic throughout this process and introducing Finnie to the world is the perfect way to start the countdown to these altogether brilliant Games."

Scottish Commonwealth 10,000m champion, Eilish McColgan said "There's something really special about the Commonwealth Games – the atmosphere, the energy, the way it brings communities together. And now, with Finnie leading the charge as our new mascot, I think Glasgow 2026 will capture hearts far beyond Scotland. As someone who's grown up watching and then competing in the Games, it means a lot to help welcome Finnie to the team today.

"Finnie represents the spirit, pride and togetherness that makes the Commonwealth Games unlike any other. I can't wait to see where her magic takes us."

The Mascot Makers wanted Finnie to be a unicorn due to its unique and proud place as the national animal of Scotland.

Earlier this year, the Mascot Makers took part in a creative workshop at Glasgow City Chambers, where they worked in groups to design their ideal mascot. A unicorn emerged as the clear favourite. Their moodboards inspired Finnie's final look, and a focus group of pupils later reviewed design drafts, with their feedback helping to shape the final mascot who was brought to life through the Mascot Makers programme by Glasgow creative agency 999 Design, Scottish actor Libby McArthur and Impact Arts.

The Games, which will take place from 23 July to 2 August 2026, are expected to welcome more than 3,000 athletes from 74 nations and territories. The competition will feature a packed programme of 10 sports and 6 Para sports across four Glasgow venues, including Athletics and Para Athletics (track and field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball.

More than 200 medals will be awarded during the 11-day event, which includes a record-breaking Para sport programme featuring 47 medal events across six sports. Glasgow 2026 will also feature the largest Track Cycling and swim programmes ever seen at a Commonwealth

Games. On the Athletics track, the infamous Commonwealth Mile will return, which is anticipated to be one of the must-see moments of the Games.

Finnie will now begin a busy schedule of appearances at schools, sporting events and community celebrations across the country ahead of the Opening Ceremony next July.

To find out more, register your interest in volunteering, tickets and to stay up to date with the latest news, visit www.glasgow2026.com.

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Notes to Editors

For media enquiries and interview requests, contact: media@glasgow2026.com

Keep up to date with all the latest Games news via Glasgow 2026 social media channels:

- **Facebook** – <https://www.facebook.com/GlasgowCG2026/>
- **Instagram** – https://www.instagram.com/Glasgow_2026
- **LinkedIn** – <https://www.linkedin.com/company/Glasgow2026>
- **The Games hashtag is #Glasgow2026**
- **Threads** – https://www.threads.net/@glasgow_2026
- **X** – https://x.com/Glasgow_2026

About Glasgow 2026

Glasgow 2026 promises an altogether brilliant Commonwealth Games, paving the way for a new era of Commonwealth Sport.

Taking place from 23 July to 2 August, Glasgow 2026 is an 11-day celebration that combines world-class sport with a future-focused vision, built and delivered by the vibrant spirit of Glasgow.

Set within a concentrated, eight-mile corridor that brings the Games closer to the fans than ever before, Glasgow 2026 will deliver:

- A record-breaking Para sport programme – 47 events across six sports
- The biggest Track Cycling, Swimming and 3x3 Basketball competitions seen at a Commonwealth Games
- Groundbreaking events like the return of the Commonwealth Mile in Athletics

10 exhilarating sports across four of the city's iconic venues; from Scotstoun Stadium to the Scottish Event Campus (SEC), the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and Arena, to Tollcross International Swimming Centre.

Glasgow 2026 will see 3,000 volunteers, alongside thousands of fans, and communities from across the city join together to welcome 3,000 athletes from 74 nations and territories to the city.

Led by Chair George Black CBE, an independent Board and Chief Executive Officer, Phil Batty OBE, Glasgow 2026 Limited is the Organising Company (OC) which will deliver the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow next summer.

Based in the city centre, the OC will directly employ around 160 people and is privately funded, securing its income through Commonwealth Sport, corporate sponsorship, broadcast rights, global partnerships and ticket sales, which will see almost £150 million direct external investment into the city of Glasgow, with no cost to the public purse to deliver the sporting competition.

About Commonwealth Sport

Commonwealth Sport is the organisation with responsibility for the direction and control of the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games, and for delivering the vision of the Commonwealth Sport Movement: 'Our Commonwealth, united through sport'.

Our mission is to deliver inspirational and impactful Games; to excite and empower athletes and young people; and to drive equality in sport and society across the Commonwealth. Established in 1930, the Commonwealth Sport Movement brings together 74 independent nations and territories creating a diverse Commonwealth community of over 2.5 billion individuals, representing one-third of the world's population.

Together we stand as a beacon of unity, diversity, and equality, completely integrating Para athletes, driving gender equality and advocating for legacy and social change through sport.

About Commonwealth Games Scotland

Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS) is one of 74 Commonwealth Games Associations who are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Commonwealth Games Scotland is the lead body for Commonwealth sport in Scotland, and is the organisation responsible for selecting, preparing and leading Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games and Commonwealth Youth Games.

Scotland has competed in every Games since the first Empire Games in 1930 and has hosted the Games three times - twice in Edinburgh 1970 and 1986 and most recently in Glasgow in 2014.

Scotland's most successful Games were at home at Glasgow 2014, when Team Scotland won a record 53 medals (19 gold, 15 silver and 19 bronze) to finish fourth on the medal table, closely followed by Birmingham 2022 with 51 medals.

Working closely with Scotland's national governing bodies of sport and the sportscotland institute of sport, Commonwealth Games Scotland aims to have the best prepared team possible at every Games, creating the right performance environment and giving athletes every opportunity to excel at the Games, as part of a world class sporting system.

Commonwealth Games Scotland and its member sports rely on investment, including National Lottery support, from sportscotland, the national agency for sport. CGS also actively seeks additional support for team preparations from commercial partners, fundraising activities and the Commonwealth Games Endowment Trust.

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