

Mancunians have always believed that when it comes to sport, no one does it better.

That was ably demonstrated in 2002 when the city hosted its much praised Commonwealth Games.

However, instead of basking in a post Games glow, the city's politicians and sporting leaders set about ensuring Manchester would always be a world leader when it came to hosting sporting events.

And that hard work and foresight was rewarded last year when we won our own gold medal. The occasion was the Sportsbusiness Sports Event Management Awards where the title of the world's number one sporting city was up for grabs.

New York, Moscow, Melbourne and Berlin aspired to the honour. They didn't get it!

Can there be anywhere else in Britain home to or has been visited by more sportsmen and women of the highest calibre than Manchester?

Off the back of Manchester's hosted World Track Championships, the Sportcity trained cyclists became Britain's most successful Olympic squad in Beijing 2008. Britain's most successful individual Olympian-Sir Chris Hoy, a Salford resident – not bad for starters!

The British High Performance Centre for water polo is located at the Manchester Aquatics Centre. Only recently, Britain's rapidly improving women's team were given the royal seal of approval by Prince William when they won the LEN European Nations Trophy for the first time.

As soon as the water polo players moved out, the Australian World Championship swimming squad moved in for their pre Rome training camp. And they'll be back in 2012 to use the Oxford Road facility and the city as their base for London's Olympic Games.

The nation's finest taekwondo exponents can be found honing their skills in Ardwick. In 2012, the 'Feat Factory' will unleash Aaron Cook and Michael Harvey on the London 2012 Olympics.

If you want swimming, how about the award winning 2008 FINA World short course championships at the MEN Arena? Madonna, Britney and Co would marvel at the ingenuity that saw the installation of two, 25 metres pools in Europe's biggest indoor concert venue. And not a drop of water spilled.

The UEFA Cup final at the City of Manchester Stadium between Rangers and Zenit St Petersburg and the World Squash Championships at Sportcity were two other components of World Sport 08 that helped attract more than 317,000 visitors that year, generating £23 million of net economic impact to the Manchester area.

Not to mention providing social and participatory benefits for community and youth groups across the city and the Northwest.

In fact, it was so good, Manchester has decided to do it all again this year. Already the country's top badminton players have shuttled off after their National Championships.

Triple Olympian Usain Bolt, the world's fastest human, managed to do what every Mancunian struggles to do-speed along Deansgate! His 150 metre dash at the first ever Bupa Greatcity Games has been confirmed as the fastest race ever ran anywhere on the planet.

More sedately, but every bit as impressive, was Ethiopian long distance legend Haile Gebrselassie leading home a field of 33,000 at the Great Manchester Run. And there's plenty more action still to come.

Manchester wouldn't be Manchester without its football teams. Home to the Premier League champions for a record equalling 18th time, the city now boasts the world's richest club - City.

Could this be the year when City fans are no longer singing the blues?

However, we don't just watch a good game, we can talk one too. From 2010 and for three further years we are doing just that at the Soccerex European Forum - a new event organised by Soccerex as part of their networking events for the football industry.

The deal sees the forum take place at Manchester Central between 2010 to 2013. Each year, the two-day event is expected to attract around 2,000 delegates from around the world, will include seminars by leading industry figures and footballing legends; and will generate between £1.5m and £2.5m economic benefit for the city.

So, who's the daddy? London, Liverpool, Sheffield, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Cardiff, Newcastle, Belfast.....

We think not. Sport-Made in Manchester.