

# Media Kit

Contact: Sofia Fay  
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Accredited media at Gold Coast 2018

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## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



### Overview

*BVI Commonwealth Games Association - President, Ephraim Pen; General Secretary, Lloyd Black; Treasurer, Mark Chapman (Chef de Mission)*

The Gold Coast 2018 is the eighth Commonwealth Games in which the British Virgin Islands competes in.

The Commonwealth Games is one of the five main international sporting events that British Virgin Islands' athletes aspire to compete in.

Comprising ten athletes in two sports, the team is one of the largest and strongest teams to represent the territory at a Commonwealth Games.

Track and Field athletes include Ashley Kelly (400m), Chantel Malone (Long Jump), Tahesia Harrigan-Scott (100m), Tynelle Gumbs (Discus and Hammer Throw), Trevia Gumbs (Discus and Shot Put), Eldred Henry (Discus and Shot Put), Khari Herbert (400m), and Kyron McMaster (400m Hurdles).

Squash players include Joe Chapman (Squash Singles and Doubles), and Neville Sorrentino (Squash Singles and Doubles).

Coaches, include head coach, Winston Potter; sprint coach, Joey Scott; jumping coach, Dwight Phillips; throwing coach Omar Jones; and squash coach, Adam Murrills. Physiotherapist, Mark Latimer who also served the team at Delhi 2010.

The BVI experienced serious floods in August 2018 which were followed the next month by the Category 5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria which devastated the islands. The flooding and storms caused severe damage to sporting venues and facilities in the territory resulting in the set back of the progress of sports in the BVI.

Approval and funds from the Panam Sports Organisation will enable repairs to the national track and field venue, and other National Federations such as the Squash Rackets Association and the Football Association are effecting repairs to their venues.

The BVICGA highly commends and congratulates all those selected and looks forward to the positive impact a successful Games will have on the morale of all our athletes and the territory.

P.O. Box 209 | Road Town | Tortola | British Virgin Islands, VG11100

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## ATHLETE PROFILES

### ATHLETICS – TRACK



TAHESIA HARRIGAN-SCOTT

Date of Birth: February 15, 1982

Age:36

Sport: Athletics - Track

Event:100m

The first female British Virgin Islander to compete at the Commonwealth Games, Tahesia made her debut in Manchester in 2002 a fairly successful one, advancing to the quarter-finals in the 100 meters in her first senior international meet. Tahesia went on to finish in 5th place in the finals in both Melbourne 2006 and Dehli 2010.

In 2005, Tahesia earned All American honors in the 100 meters with a sixth place finish, in a time just off her 11.37 seconds personal best set two weeks earlier. During the season, she also broke national records in the 200 meters and Long Jump. She currently holds the national record in the 200m with a time of 22.98.

Her 11.29 performance in winning the silver medal at the 2005 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Senior Championships in Nassau, made her the first female BVI athlete to win a senior international medal and, also significantly, let her become the first BVI athlete to attain the World Championships “A” qualifying mark, during the actual year of competition. At the World Championships in Helsinki, Tahesia advanced to the second round of the 100 meters where she finished a creditable fifth.

Tahesia went on to win the 100 meters gold medal at the 2006, 2009, and 2010 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games in Colombia, Cuba, and Puerto Rico. Tahesia also won the bronze medal at the 2008 IAAF World Indoor Championships in Spain with a time of 7.09.

Coach: Joey Scott

Personal Best

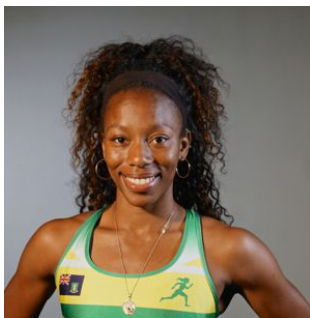
100 meters -11.15 seconds (National Record)

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## ATHLETICS – TRACK



**ASHLEY KELLY**

Birth Date: March 25, 1991

Age: 27

Sport: Athletics - Track

Event: 400m

Ashley Kelly is a sprinter specializing in the 400m who also competes in the 200m. Ashley previously made her Commonwealth Games debut in the 400m at Glasgow 2014 where she went through to the semi-finals.

An alumna of the University of Illinois where she was an All American athlete, Ashley ran 51.63 at the Tru Fit Miami Invitational in July 2017 to qualify for the IAAF World Championships and also broke her own national record of 52.29, which she set at the 2016 Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Track and Field Championships in the Virgin Islands. Ashley advanced to the Worlds semi-finals with a time of 52.70 seconds after placing third in her heat.

Ashley was the flag bearer at Rio 2016 where she made her first Olympic Summer Games appearance competing in the 200 meters.

Coach: Joey Scott

### Highlights-

200m (PB 23.69 indoor and 23.17 outdoor)

23.17 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) Florida Relays

23.98 (1<sup>st</sup> place) St. Georges, OECS Championship

23.45 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) Aliann Pompey Invitational, Miami

23.52 (3<sup>rd</sup> place) Leonora, Guyana

400m (PB 53.01 indoor and 51.63 outdoor)

52.97 (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Canada

51.63 National Record (1<sup>st</sup> place) Aliann Pompey Invitational, Miami

51.92 Leonora, Guyana

52.70 (3<sup>rd</sup> in heat) London – World Championship

### Personal Best

400 meters - 51.63 (National Record)

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## ATHLETICS - TRACK



**KYRON McMASTER**

Date of Birth: January 3, 1997

Age: 21

Sport: Athletics - Track

Event: 400m Hurdles

Kyron makes his Commonwealth Games debut this year when he competes in the 400m Hurdles.

Currently training with Coach Lennox Graham at Clemson University, South Carolina, USA, Kyron became the BVI's first individual medalist at a global event outdoors event when he placed third at the 2016 World U20 Championships.

Kyron is the sole 400m hurdler to make his mark as a sub-48-second runner in 2017. He achieved this most outstanding individual athletic performance when he clocked 47.80 seconds at the Jamaica International Invitational. The achievement is rare with no runner in the world achieving the feat in 2014, three in 2013, one in 2015, and four in 2016. Of those athletes, five have run faster than Kyron.

The result ranked him as the world's fastest for the 400m Hurdles in 2017 and placed him #2 on the 2017 IAAF World Rankings and #151 on the World All-Time list. He also ranks as the second fastest 20-year old ever, behind Trinidad-born, American Kerron Clement (47.24).

Kyron went on from a disqualification for a line violation at the 2017 IAAF World Championships to win his event at the IAAF Diamond League in Zurich with a time of 48.07.

Kyron's coach of 7 years, Xavier 'Dag' Samuels tragically lost his life during Hurricane Irma but his training in discipline and focus remain ingrained in Kyron.

Coach: Winston Potter

Highlights 400m Hurdles

47.80 (1<sup>st</sup> place) World Leading Time and National Record – Kingston

48.49 (1<sup>st</sup> place) St. George's Grenada – OECS

48.12 (2<sup>nd</sup> place) London Anniversary Games

48.07 (1<sup>st</sup> place) Diamond League Final in Zurich

Personal Best: 400m Hurdles - 47.80 (National Record)

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## ATHLETICS - TRACK



**KHARI HERBERT Jr**  
Birth Date: July 24, 1995  
Age: 22  
Sport: Athletics - Track  
Event: 400m

A graduate of Saint Augustine's University, North Carolina, USA, Khari earned National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Outdoor and Indoor Championships All American honors as a sprinter in the 400m and as anchor in the college's 4x400m Relay team.

He joined Lindel "Chef" Hodge as the BVI's second NCAA Division II All American – but the first in an individual event. Hodge, competing for California State, Los Angeles, earned the honor in the 4x400m Relay in 1983.

While Khari also includes 200 meters, and indoor 300 meters and 500 meters sprints and relays in his disciplines, the 400 meters is his pet event. He achieved his personal best of 46.10 in June 2017 when he placed third at the NCAA Division II Championships held in Bradenton, Florida.

Khari holds the National Record for the indoor 400m (46.97).

Consistently winning the title of BVI Male (Junior and Senior) Athlete of the Year, Khari also won awards for Cross Country and indoor and outdoor achievements whilst at St. Augustine.

Coach: Joey Scott

### Highlights-

11 x NCAA All-American  
3 x NCAA National Champion  
6 x Conference Champion

Personal Best  
400 meters - 46.10

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## ATHLETICS - FIELD



**CHANTEL MALONE**

Birth Date: December 2, 1991

Age: 26

Sport: Athletics - Field

Event: Long Jump

Making the most progress of any British Virgin Islands' athlete at the Commonwealth Games, Chantel starred in her Friendly Games debut when she placed fourth in the Long Jump finals with a mark of 6.41 at Glasgow 2014.

In 2017, Chantel marked the first time that an athlete from the territory has finished in the top 8 in a global Outdoor Event (Olympic Games or World Championships) outdoors when she placed seventh overall with a 6.57 leap. The result placed her third among Commonwealth long jumpers behind England's Lorraine Ugen and Australian, Brooke Stratton.

Whilst at the University of Texas, Chantel was the Conference Champion for both indoor and outdoor track and field events, named All-American at the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 Championship and was a finalist at the World Junior Championships in two events: the Long Jump and the 400 meters. She won gold at the 2014 Central American and Caribbean (CAC) Games with a mark of 6.46.

In August 2015, Chantel won the silver medal at the North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACAC) Track and Field Championships in Costa Rica when she cut the sand with a personal best leap of 6.69 meters.

Chantel currently is ranked #26 in the IAAF World Outdoor Long Jump 2018 Season.

Coach: Dwight Phillips

### Highlights-

6.57 (1<sup>st</sup> place) Gainesville

6.70 (1<sup>st</sup> place) Port of Spain

6.67 (1<sup>st</sup> place) St Georges OECS

6.57 (7<sup>th</sup> place) World Championships in London

### Personal Best

Long Jump - 6.69m (National Record)

### Seasonal Best

Long Jump - 6.41m

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## ATHLETICS - FIELD



ELDRED HENRY  
Birth Date: 18 Sept 1994  
Age: 23  
Sport: Athletics - Field  
Event: Discus, Shot Put

A student at the University of Findlay, Ohio, Eldred attended his first the Commonwealth Games at Glasgow 2014 at the age of 19. He also competed in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics.

Highlights include winning Bronze in Discus Throw and Shot Put at the 2016 North America, Central America and the Caribbean (NACAC) U23 Championships, El Salvador. Eldred was also the winner in the Shot Put at the 2017 Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Games, Grenada.

Coach: Omar Jones

### Personal Bests

Shot Put (outdoor) - 20.00m (National Record)  
Shot Put (indoor) - 19.08m  
Discus - 61.90m (National Record)

### Seasonal Bests

Shot Put - 18.70m  
Discus - 48.31m

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## ATHLETICS – FIELD



### TYNELLE GUMBS

Date of Birth: September 27, 1996

Age: 21

Sport: Athletics - Field

Event: Discus, Hammer Throw

Tynelle is a student athlete at the University of Findlay, Ohio, USA.

Representing the BVI from a young age, Tynelle quickly staked her mark as a strong thrower and won the British Virgin Islands' first Gold medal in five years with a distance of 41.46 with the Javelin Throw at the 2012 CARIFTA Games in Bermuda. The mark would also make her the holder of the National Youth, National Junior, and National Scholastic Record.

With a number of medals won at regional events in the Caribbean and as a sophomore at Central Arizona College in the years that followed, Tynelle became the 2017 indoor USA national champion in the Weight Throw and was named Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) athlete of the year and of the meet during the Outdoor season.

Tynelle also won Midwest Region athlete of the year. She is the current BVI national record holder in the Hammer and Discus.

### Highlights:

Hammer Throw- 59.30, (3<sup>rd</sup> place) GLIAC Outdoor Championship  
Discus Throw – 51.43 (1<sup>st</sup> place) Polar Bear Invitational, Ada, Ohio  
Shot Put – 15.23 (1<sup>st</sup> place) OECS Championships, Grenada

Coach: Omar Jones

### Personal Bests:

Hammer Throw - 59.30 (National Record)

Discus Throw – 51.43 (National Record)

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## ATHLETICS - FIELD



TREVIA GUMBS

Date of Birth: September 27, 1996

Age: 21

Sport: Athletics - Field

Event: Discus, Shot Put

A final year student at the University of Findlay, Ohio, USA, Trevia has been representing the British Virgin Islands in the Shot Put and Discus Throw since her early teens with her first Gold achieved at the 2012 Leeward Islands Junior Championships.

Trevia continued her medal drive bagging the Shot Put Silver medals at the 2012 and 2015 CARIFTA Games and at the 2012 Central American and Caribbean Jr. Track and Field Championships in El Salvador. A moment of pride for Trevia was representing the BVI as part of a team of 7 athletes at the 2013 IAAF World Youth Championships in the Ukraine.

Trevia also took fourth place in the 2017 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Indoor Championship in the Shot Put and earned all-region honors during the Outdoor season in the Shot Put.

Trevia holds the BVI's National indoor Shot Put record of 15.42 attained at the 2018 Findlay Meet for Everyone.

Coach: Omar Jones

Personal Bests

Discus - 47.87

Shot Put (indoor) - 15.42 (National Record)

Shot Put (outdoor) - 14.83

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## SQUASH



JOE CHAPMAN

Date of Birth: July 22, 1990

Age: 27

Sport: Squash

Event: Singles, Men's Doubles

Joe represents the British Virgin Islands in squash at regional Games as well as at the Central American and Caribbean Games. He made his Commonwealth Games debut at the age of 15 when he competed at Melbourne 2006 and became the youngest player to compete in squash.

Joe went on to compete at Delhi 2010 where he was the nation's flag-bearer, and competed at Glasgow 2014 making the Gold Coast 2018 his fourth Commonwealth Games.

A graduate of the University of Rochester, Joe, who played for the Division I Squash team (the Yellowjackets), was the first alum to make it to the top 100 in the PSA rankings in 2013.

Coach: Adam Murrills

Current rankings:

World: #282

BVI: #1

Caribbean: #4

Past Major Games Events attended:

X World Games - Wroclaw, Poland - July 2017

XVII Pan Am Games - Toronto, Canada - July 2015

XXII Central American and Caribbean Games - Vera Cruz, Mexico - November 2014

XX Commonwealth Games - Glasgow, UK - July 2014

XIX Commonwealth Games - Delhi, India - October 2010

XXI Central American and Caribbean Games - Bogota, Colombia - July 2010

IX World Games - Kaohsiung City, Taipei - July 2009

XVIII Commonwealth Games - Melbourne - March 2006

Past Men's World Open Championships attended:

Men's World Open Championships - Manchester - November 2017

Men's World Open Championships - Bermuda - November 2007

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## SQUASH



NEVILLE SORRENTINO

Date of Birth: July 25, 1962

Age: 55

Sport: Squash

Event: Singles, Men's Doubles

Neville Sorrentino grew up playing squash and tennis in the British Virgin Islands in the 1960s but he really only took up playing squash seriously in his late thirties.

Currently ranked #1 Over 50 in the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States and #3 in the Caribbean, Neville has represented the BVI consistently at regional level over the past 20 years and this year ranks as the #2 player in the BVI.

During those 20 years Neville has been in the top four players in the BVI and has represented the territory in all six PSA Open squash tournaments played in the BVI since 2012. Neville's current PSA ranking is #458 in the world.

The pinnacle of Neville's representation for the BVI came in the XXI Central American and Caribbean Games in Bogota, Colombia in July 2010. Surpassing that this year, Neville makes his first Commonwealth Games appearance in the Gold Coast and will be representing the BVI in both the singles and men's doubles tournament.

Coach: Adam Murrills



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### THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS COMMONWEALTH GAMES HISTORY

BY Rey O'Neal

(updated)

The British Virgin Islands, on the basis of its membership in the International Olympic Committee has been eligible to participate in the Commonwealth Games since 1982, when we became a member of the IOC. The territory's first actual participation was in Auckland, New Zealand in 1990. However, we did have two athletes — one in athletics and the other in rowing — selected to represent the territory in Edinburgh, Scotland four years earlier, but there was an unofficial boycott by many of the Caribbean countries in which we got caught up.

Lindel 'Chef' Hodge, a sprinter was our first participant in the Commonwealth Games and he succeeded in getting to the second round in both the 100 and 200 meters in Auckland.

Four years later, we had the biggest team by our standards competing in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. It was a young team consisted of all track and field athletes, most 22 or younger: Raymond Solomon, High Jump; Keita Cline, and Ralston Varlack, Long Jump; Sprinters/sprint relay; Mario Todman, Steve Augustine, Dewrin Scatliffe, and Roger Mathavious Jr. A few of them did make some strides forward, but injuries hampered the quality of our performances in the relays to some extent

In 1998, at the games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, track and field was the only sport represented. We had once more a High Jumper, Karl Scatliffe, and Long Jumper Ralston Varlack.

The most diverse team to represent the British Virgin Islands participated in Manchester, England, in 2002. We had for the first time a female athlete - sprinter Tahesia Harrigan making her international debut. She advanced to the quarter finals of the 100 meters. Dion Crabbe competed in the 200 meters and advanced to the second round as well, but was hampered by an injury sustained in his final tune up for the games and pulled out of the quarter finals. Unfortunately, our relay team which included Dion, Keita Cline, Ralston Henry, Aliston 'Al' Potter - who at 16 - was the youngest athlete who ever represented us at a major games, failed to get the stick around in the 4 x 100 meter relay.

In our fifth time at the games, we were well represented in Melbourne, with two new sports coming on board: Cycling and Squash. Our track and field athletes included Dion Crabbe, Keita Cline, Tahesia Harrigan, and our two new sport debutants, cyclist Neil Thomas in and squash player, Joe Chapman. Joe, at age 15, was the youngest player to compete in squash.

At Dehli 2010 the BVI was represented by two athletes, Tahesia Harrigan-Scott in her third appearance at a Commonwealth Games and competing in the 100m and, Joe Chapman competing in the Men's Squash singles event.

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Swimming was a new sport in which the BVI would be represented at the Commonwealth Games when sisters, Amarah and Elinah Phillip competed at Glasgow 2014.

Amarah Phillip had personal bests in all her 3 three races. In the 50m Freestyle, Amarah placed 42nd overall with a time of 28.95 improving on her previous personal best which was 29.18. In the 50m Butterfly, she placed 38th overall with a time of 30.94 shaving a couple of seconds off her previous Personal Best of 32.10. In the 100m Butterfly, she placed 26th overall with a time of 1.09.16, a remarkable improvement on her previous Personal Best of 1.16.35.

Elinah Phillip was right on her personal bests in both her races placing 30th overall in the 50m Freestyle with a time of 27.57 (Personal Best - 27.54), and placing 31st in the 100m Freestyle with a time of 1.00.82 (Personal Best - 1.00.72).

In squash, Joe Chapman won his match in Round of 64 in three straight sets to play in Round of 32 which he lost 1-3. Joe won his match in the Men's Classic Plate Quarter Finals, 3 -1 and went on to play in semi-finals but lost by 1-3 against Scotland's Kevin Moran to bring his 2014 Commonwealth Games to a close. The all-round good performances from Joe secure him a top 20 squash finish and credit him as the highest-ranking finisher of all players from the Caribbean.

In Athletics, Karene King finished the 100m to place 5th in her heat and 27th overall – just three places out of qualifying in a time of 11.93. Karene also won her heat in the 200m to run in the semi-final where she placed 8<sup>th</sup> with a time of 24.67.

Ashley Kelly placed 3rd in her heat with a time of 24.40 to make it through to the semi-final of the 200m and completed the race in 5<sup>th</sup> place with a time of 24.0.

Eldred Henry threw the Shot Put 17.08 and was just four places away from making the final. Eldred also competed in the Discus Throw with a hurl of 51.39m, which placed him 7th in his round and 15th overall to fall short of the qualifying mark.

Chantel Malone, who competed in the Long Jump, leapt to the finals with her seasonal best of 6.55m (PB: 6.65m) in the qualifying rounds at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. The mark ranked her 2nd overall in the qualifiers but the elements were not in her favour during the finals. Chantel's best jump of 6.41m landed her in 4th place with just a narrow margin between her and the 3rd place jump of 6.49 by Canadian, Christabel Nettey. The event Gold medal winner was Ese Brume of Nigeria with a 6.56m jump and Silver was won by Jazmin Sawyers of England with 6.54m.

The fourth place finish in a finals is the highest spot held by a BVI athlete in the territory's Commonwealth Games history to date. The outcome replaces Tahesia Harrigan-Scott's fifth place 100m finish during the 2006 Games in Melbourne, Australia, as the territory's best performance.

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## ABOUT THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS



### QUICK FACTS

GOVERNOR: His Excellency  
Augustus James Ulysses  
Jaspert

PREMIER: Dr. the Hon. D.  
Orlando Smith, OBE

COMPOSITION: Tortola,  
Virgin Gorda, Jost Van  
Dyke, Anegada & 50+ cays

CAPITAL: Road Town,  
Tortola

POPULATION: 29,151 (est.  
based on 2009 census)

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) comprises 60 islands and cays located at 18°30'N 64°30'W, 80 kilometers (60 miles) east of Puerto Rico, in the northwestern region of the Caribbean Sea. The main islands of Tortola (21.5 square miles), Virgin Gorda (8 square miles), Anegada (15 square miles), and Jost Van Dyke (3 square miles) have attracted travelers globally with its cultural Caribbean authenticity. Located in Tortola, Road Town is the British Virgin Islands' capital.

With average temperatures around 82°F (28°C), the BVI recently was ranked #1 Best Place to Visit in the Caribbean for 2017-2018 by U.S. News. The BVI, known as Nature's Little Secret offers pristine beaches, azure seas, towering sage mountains and burnt-orange sunsets.

Despite its status as a United Kingdom territory, the BVI uses the U.S. dollar as its official currency. Highest income generators are tourism and financial services.

The territorial colors chosen to represent various aspects of the Virgin Islands and its people are Yellow – for the rising sun, Green – for the verdant hills, Blue – Reflecting the Caribbean Sea, White – for the beaches, Red – Representing the feisty nature of Virgin Islands.

The territorial coat of arms depicts Saint Ursula framed by eleven oil lamps, which represent the 11,000 virgins after whom the Virgin Islands were named. Beneath St. Ursula is a scroll that reads "Vigilate" (Be Watchful). A garland of two green branches tied in the centre with a blue bow surrounds them both. The territorial Badge was officially adopted on 15th November 1960.

For more information about the BVI, visit [www.bvitourism.com](http://www.bvitourism.com).

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