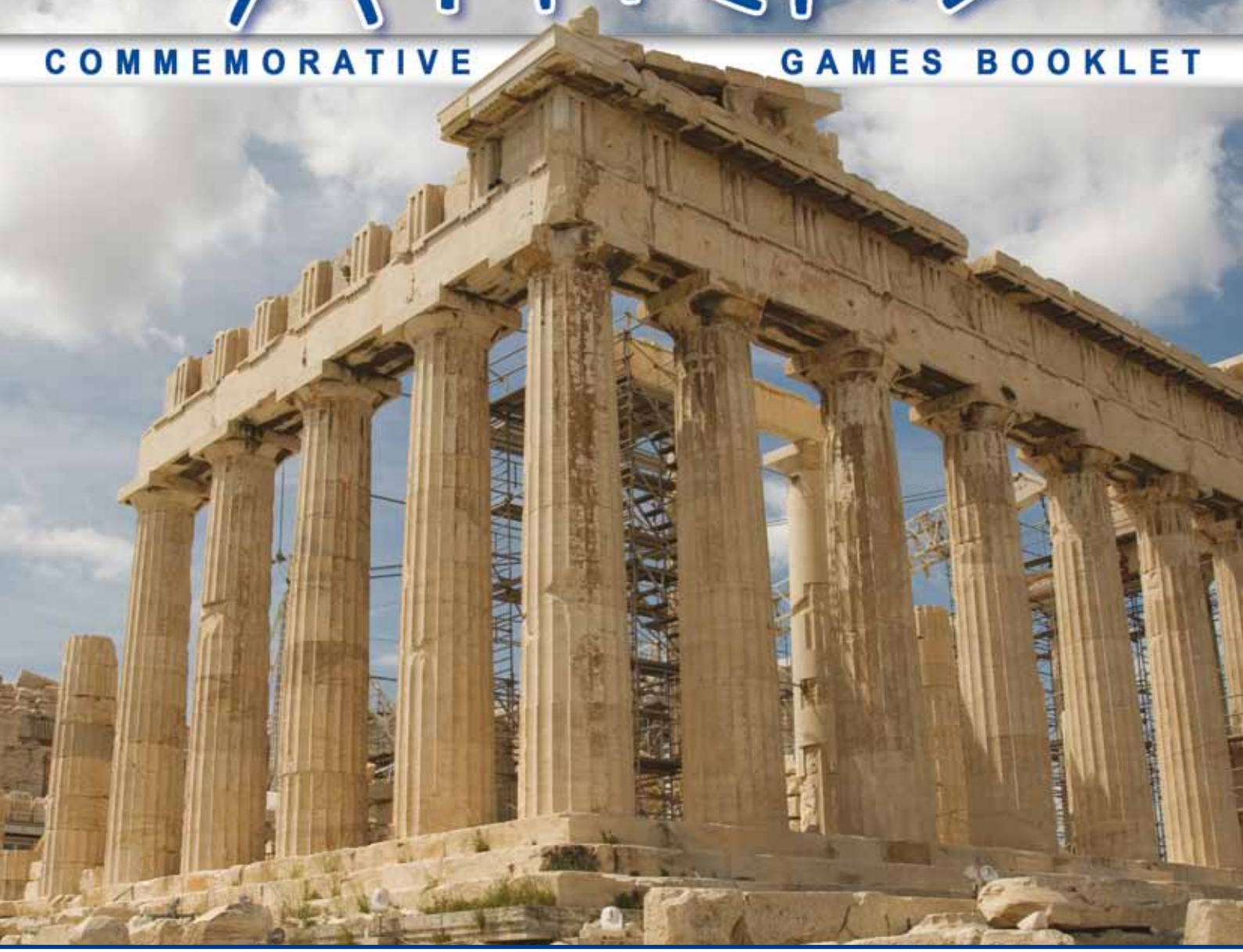
THE ROAD TO ATHENS

COMMEMORATIVE GAMES BOOKLET



SPECIAL OLYMPICS GIBRALTAR

WORLD SUMMER GAMES ATHENS, GREECE 2011

Special Olympics Gibraltar

Special Olympics WORLD SUMMER GAMES ATHENS 2011

Special Olympics Gibraltar Be a fan™

The Games

Greek Special Olympics athlete Iliana Simeonidou, (back) in the role of the High Priestess, flames the torch of Special Olympics World Games 2011 at the archaeological site of Pnyx in Athens, capital of Greece, June 9, 2011.

Special Olympics, the global leader for people with intellectual disabilities, will hold the world's largest sporting event in 2011, uniting the world through sports in a celebration of the abilities and accomplishments of people with intellectual disabilities and forming a global vision of acceptance.

The Games will be a milestone event of a long lasting movement founded by Eunice Kennedy Shriver in 1968 to create a world that is not dominated by those who are excluded but by those who are included. The talents and skills of the athletes will remind us that the participants are winners in their struggle for respect, unity and inclusion. Special Olympics is a non profit making organisation that provides year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic style sports for children from eight years old and adults with intellectual disabilities. The skills the athletes learn on the playing field help them to be thriving citizens in their communities.

Special Olympics athletes, 7,500 from over 180 countries with 2,500 coaches and tens of thousands of family, friends, media and spectators will fill the ancient Kallimarmaro Panathenaikon stadium in Athens, home to the 'modern' Olympics since 1896. In this venerable stadium, one of the first sports events in history used to take place over 3,000 years ago. It is an impressive U shape, covered in white marble, the same used to build the Parthenon. The Opening and Closing ceremonies will be held here.

Athletes attend weekly training sessions

The milestone for every athlete is to strive to achieve a place in the World Games.
Our quota for Gibraltar is sufficient for our athletes to realise that they need to work hard to achieve a place.
So quite early on there is a general buzz when they are striving for selection. They know that this depends on many factors. To mention a few…..

- **Athlete conforms to Special Olympics Code of Conduct.**
- **Athlete attends weekly training sessions.**
- **Athlete attitude to others** (Athletes/ coaches).

To make things a little clearer Special Olympics is not about elite athletes, it is about giving opportunities to all athletes to compete at their own level. So everyone at some point of their lives will have an opportunity to be selected.
However, it is not easy and with this commemorative magazine Special Olympics Gibraltar would like to pay homage to all the athletes attending Special Olympics World Games, Athens 2011 and also the many that have gone before.
Having been at all Games since 1985 I know and have experienced the incredible effort our athletes make.. How they flourish in competition, how they handle the winning and the losing with such dignity, how we all live and breathe their efforts. The pride on their families faces

whether they are there with them or waiting for them on their return is all so worthwhile to see.
I would like at this point to thank all the coaches who throughout the year battle through diverse weather conditions to support the athletes and help them achieve their potential.
We are all volunteers in this great family and with everyone's support let us wish our athletes the best experience of their lives with many more to come.

Annie M. Risso MBE
Programme Chief Executive/ Head of Delegation
SOWSG2011 Athens, Greece.

RECOGNITION

GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
Ministry of Culture, Heritage, Sport & Leisure
310 Main Street
Gibraltar

Message from The Minister for Sports and Leisure
The Honourable Edwin J Reyes MP

On behalf of the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority and also on behalf of everyone in Gibraltar, I wish to congratulate our Athletes for having been selected to represent Gibraltar at the Special Olympics World Summer Games 2011 being held in Athens, Greece.

Our athletes have demonstrated great determination and commitment through their continuous training sessions leading up to the World Games. Gibraltar's participation at the World Games will be a special and proud moment for our Athletes' families and friends - and this in reality means everybody back home at the Rock.

I know that our Athletes' past participation at International Events has resulted in our team becoming exemplary ambassadors for our homeland. I have no doubt that our sportsmen and sportswomen, together with their coaches and officials, will once again make Gibraltar the topic of conversation in a praiseworthy manner amongst all participants at the 2011 World Games.

In wishing our Team the best of luck at the World Games, I must conclude with the Movement's oath: **"Let me win, but if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt".** We are all really proud of you.

Telephone No. (350) 200 47592 (centrex 2624); Fax No. (350) 200 47579 (centrex 1983)
Email: culture.minister@gibtelecom.net

Kallimarmaro Panathenaikon Stadium Athens, Greece.

GREETINGS FROM DENIS LAFFERTY, GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR COCA COLA GIBRALTAR. LONG TIME SPONSOR OF SPECIAL OLYMPICS GIBRALTAR.

It gives me great pleasure as sponsor and friend of Special Olympics Gibraltar to extend heartfelt congratulations to all you intrepid athletes who have been chosen to represent the Rock at the World Summer Games in Athens, Greece.

To have reached this stage you will have put in untold hours of training to be the best you can be, and this courage is always manifest at the National Games every year and will be without doubt in June at these World Games.

It was a delight as well as a privilege to have been at the last world Games in Shanghai, China, and with my wife Janet we are once again looking forward to being with you all in Greece. From this past experience I look forward to cheering each athlete in his/her chosen sport of; Athletics, Aquatics, Bocce, Bowling, Equestrian and 7-a-side Unified Football.

You have never let us down and once again I am preparing myself to be amazed.

There is no better time to quote the Oath;

"Let win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt".

GOOD LUCK TO ALL.

Sponsorship

Special Olympics Gibraltar

Be a fan™

Sponsoring an athlete allows the community to share in the support, inclusion and acceptance of people with intellectual disabilities. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR.

SPORTS AND MEDIA INTERNATIONAL KENNETH ASQUEZ.

SELECT SPORTS MANAGEMENT MARK CURTIS.

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5-A-SIDE WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT.

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Special Olympics Gibraltar

GIBRALTAR HEAD OF DELEGATION
ANNIE RISSO

ASSISTANT HEAD OF DELEGATION
CAINE SANCHEZ

AQUATICS — **HEAD COACH**
JOHN GOLDING
ASSISTANT COACH
CHRISTINE BUGEJA

ATHLETICS — **HEAD COACH**
KELLIANNE PELIZA

BOCCE — **HEAD COACH**
PAOLA POGGIO

BOWLING — **HEAD COACH**
RICHARD HARMAN
ASSISTANT COACH
TONY SLATER

EQUESTRIAN — **HEAD COACH**
KERI MORGAN

FOOTBALL — **HEAD COACH**
BRIAN FERNANDEZ
ASSISTANT COACHES
RAFAEL CELECIA
STEVEN TOSSO

Team Gibraltar

Athletics

TYRONE DAVIES

Tyrone is keen on athletics. He has competed in Special Olympics Gibraltar national Games achieving several medals, the highest being Gold. This year at the Straits Games in Tarifa, Spain he came in 3rd in the 1000 meters race. It will be his first time away from his family but he is really keen to participate and have the opportunity to experience World Summer Games.

VIRGINIA WINK

Virginia has been with us from a very young age. She enjoys her training schedules and her two favourites sports are Equestrian and Athletics. She has competed in many World Summer Games. Virginia's last World Summer event was in Shanghai, China 2007 where she competed in Equestrian events achieving Silver and Bronze. In Athens she will be competing in Athletic events.

MIGUEL RUBIO

Miguel is a keen footballer and also trains in athletics. His last participation in Athletics was in European Games held in Warsaw, Poland. In Athens he will be competing in Athletics and has been training regularly to reach a good competitive standard for World Summer Games.

Team Gibraltar

SHANE MARTINEZ

Shane has been selected to participate in athletic events in Athens. He is a good all-rounder as he also shines in bowling which is one of his preferred sports. Shane is a regular competitor at National games where his running skills are evident as his medal count shows.. He participated in Tarifa, Spain for the Straits Games where he completed the 1000 meters run. Athens will be his first major games away from Gibraltar.

Aquatics

SALLYANNE MAURO.

Sallyanne trains regularly in Aquatics and Athletics which have given her a chance to participate in several games. Her last competition was in the European Summer Games held in Warsaw, Poland 2010. For these Games she competed in Athletics achieving Silver and Bronze. After these Games she will start training in Snowshoeing for the forthcoming World Winter Games which will be in 2013.

FRANCIS MAURO

Francis also trains in Aquatics and Athletics and he loves both sports. He is Special Olympics Gibraltar's first marathon runner and his first attempt was in Warsaw, Poland 2010 where he came in with a commendable Bronze medal. For Athens, Francis will compete in Aquatics.

DOUGLAS PITALUGA

A keen swimmer, Douglas's first experience was in 2006 where he attended European Youth Summer Games held in Rome, Italy. Douglas normally started his race from inside the pool but at these games he was so taken up with the whole atmosphere and for the first time he dived in and has never looked back. He will be competing in Aquatics for the World Summer Games.

Bocce

ALOHA FINLAYSON

Aloha took a breather from Special Olympics Gibraltar after her participation in Winter Games Toronto, Canada 1997 in Floor Hockey. She has now joined again, training in Bocce a sport that she is definitely enjoying. She is looking forward to taking on the other competitors.

MALCOLM MIEL

Malcolm's favourite sport is swimming. However he also trains in Bocce and Athletics. He fulfilled his dream last year in the European Summer Games in Warsaw, Poland competing in Athletics where he achieved a Silver medal. Athens will see him compete in Bocce which will be a first for Gibraltar at World Summer Games.

Bowling

JOHN CHARLES YEO (CARLITO)

Our oldest and dearest athlete. Carlito in his lifetime has had the opportunity to take part in many diverse Games. His very first games were in 1985 at the European Special Olympics Summer Games held in Dublin, Ireland. His last World Games experience was in 2007 in Shanghai, China. His sports over the years have varied between Athletics, Bocce and Bowling. For Athens he will be part of the Bowling team.

JAN LOPEZ

Jan has been in Special Olympics Gibraltar since the age of 16. Over those years he has trained in Swimming, Athletics, Equestrian, Bocce and Bowling. His preferred sport is bowling and he will be participating in Athens in that sport. Jan's last World Games competition was in Shanghai, China 2007. He achieved Bronze in singles and Gold in Doubles.

PATRICK SLATER

Patrick has recently joined Special Olympics Gibraltar. His favourite sport is bowling where he meets up with his friends and shares competition time. He also trains in Athletics where he has been able to compete in National Games. Athens will give him the opportunity to experience Bowling in its purest competition and he is certainly looking forward to it.

SAMYR ANAKKAR

Samyr participated in competition for the first time in 2002 when a Unified Football Team participated in a single sport event in 7-a-side Unified football held in the Czech Republic. He joined the Bowling team over a year ago and was selected for Athens to participate in Bowling. It will be his first experience in World competition.

EQUESTRIAN

JOHN JOSHUA BUTTIGEIG

J.J. as he is known to his friends loves to train in Athletics, Bowling, Aquatics, Equestrian and Football. His very first participation in World class competition was in Shanghai, China where he competed in Aquatics. He is classified a natural rider and was therefore selected for Athens for this sport. He was able to judge his progress when he participated this year in Vienna in Dressage and Working trials achieving Silver in Dressage.

GLEN WIMBLETON

For Glen there is no sport he does not want to do.
As a sportsman he is an all-rounder. He trains weekly in Football, Athletics, Equestrian, Aquatics and Bowling. His last World Games experience was in Shanghai, China 2007. His sport was Equestrian where he acheived a Gold medal. He is an excellent rider and for Athens he has been selected to compete in the Equestrian events.

Football

JANSEN GILBERT

A keen footballer, he came with experience having played in Cannons Football Club. His first game away from Gibraltar was in Andorra where they held the 5th 7-a-side football tournament. He is a newcomer to Special Olympic Games and is delighted to have been selected to participate in the forthcoming World Summer Games.

DARREN VINENT

Darren has been in Special Olympics Gibraltar for a number of years and it was due to his love of football that a team was put together with his father Bryan being one of the coaches. He has successfully participated in a number of International events and his last competition was in Shanghai, China Summer Games where the team achieved a Gold medal.

SAM HOOK

Sam has not been long on the Rock but soon made contact with Special Olympics Gibraltar and joined the football team. He loves this sport and his very first competition away from Gibraltar was in 5th 7-a-side football tournament held in Andorra in 2010. He is certainly looking forward to the World Summer Games.

JEREMY PRESCOTT

.Jeremy is a skilled footballer who also plays reserve in Red Imps Lincoln Football Club. His first World Summer Games experience was in Shanghai, China 2007 where the team achieved a Gold medal.

NICHOLAS DANINO

Nicky, also a keen footballer, was instrumental with the support of his father Henry (coach) in the setting up of a football team to participate in International events. Nicky's first attempt was way back in 2000 for the European Games held in Groningen, Netherlands. His last World Summer Games competition was in Shanghai, China 2007 where the team achieved a Gold medal.

LEE GUERREIRO

Lee is good at running but prefers football. He is a keen football player and trains regularly with his team three days a week. His last international Competition in football was in 2003 in Dublin, Ireland. He also forms part of the Floor Hockey team which gives Gibraltar an opportunity to compete in Winter Sports and Lee was there at the last games held in Boise, Idaho achieving a Bronze medal.

Team Gibraltar

Football

MARVIN ZAMMITT

Marvin loves his goalkeeping position on the football team. Over the years his improvement has been notable. He also plays goalkeeper for the Floor Hockey team which participates at World Winter Games. In the 7-a-side tournament held in Andorra in 2010 he was awarded Best Goal Keeper of the tournament.

Unified Partners

KEITH CHIARA

Keith was head hunted as were all other unified partners for his interpersonal skills, being a team player and an asset to the team. As a unified partner his motivational and mentoring skills will be thoroughly put to the test, which he will be more than able to achieve.
He has background in football having played with the Sporting Football Club.

JAMES DANINO

James's football background comes from his father Henry who was the initial head coach for Special Olympics Gibraltar and also his brother Nicholas is a Special Olympic athlete on the team.
James has inherited his fathers skills in coaching and his quiet and unassuming ways has earned him the respect of the team.
James's football background comes from playing with Cannons Football Club.

Unified Partners

HEZRON PEREZ

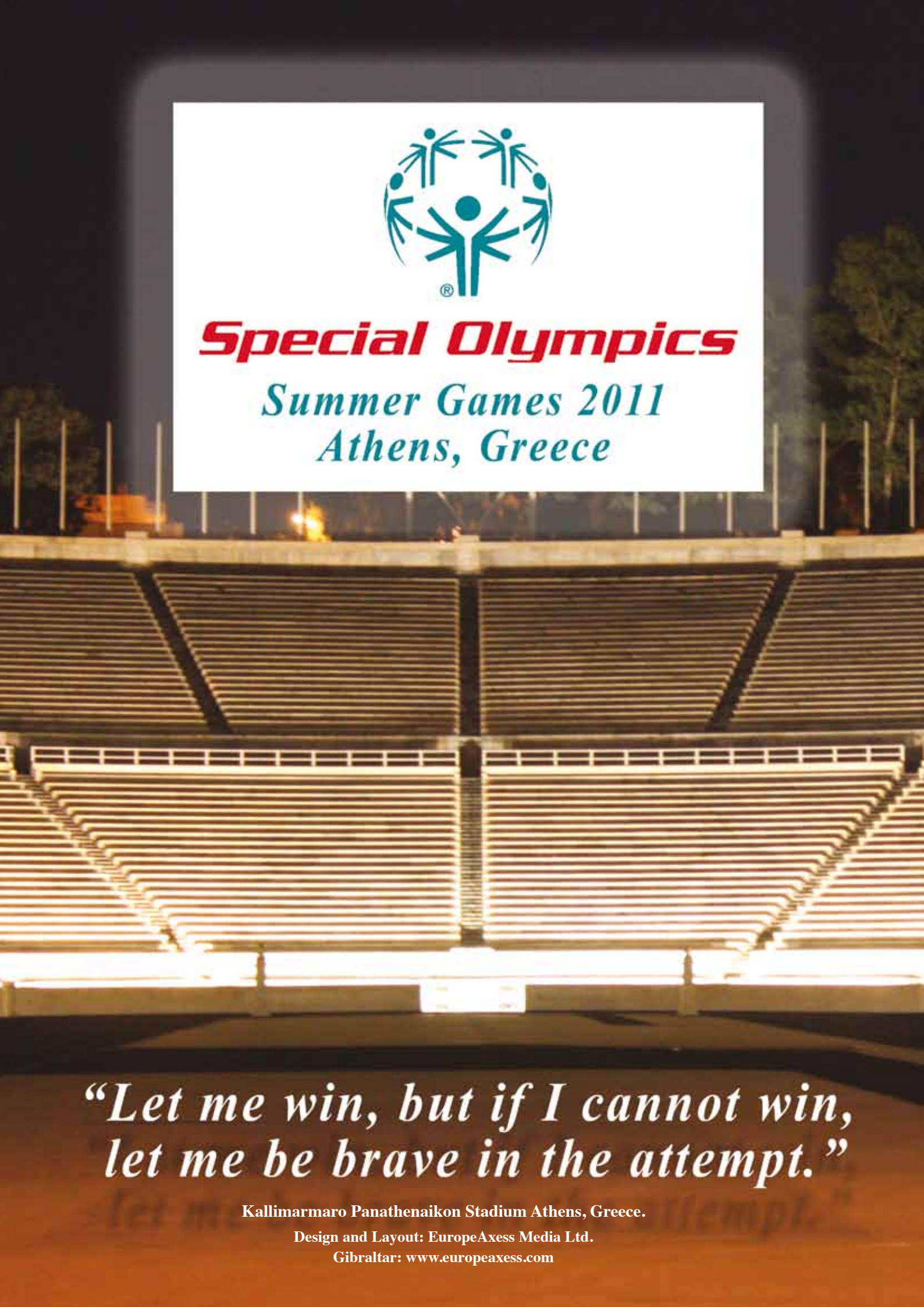
Hezron was a Unified partner when Gibraltar participated in a single sport event in 7-a-side Unified Football. Hezron demonstrated companionship, respect, and is a great team player. He was away from Gibraltar for some time, but on his return when the opportunity arose to again be part of a Unified Team he welcomed it.

CHRISTIAN JEFFERIES

Christian was delighted to have been selected as a Unified Partner and has, along with all his fellow partners demonstrated team spirit and great interpersonal relationships with the athletes.
His football experience comes from being a player in the Cannons Football Club.

DARREN ROBBA

Darren's first experience of participation away from Gibraltar was when he was asked to accompany the Athletic team as coach to the European Summer Games held in Warsaw, Poland 2010. His skills as a team mentor and motivator are excellent. His football background is team player with Shamrock Football Club.



Kallimarmaro Panathenaikon Stadium Athens, Greece.

Design and Layout: EuropeAxess Media Ltd.
Gibraltar: www.europeaxess.com