

2.10 Deputy K.C. Lewis of the Minister for Education Sport and Culture regarding the adequacy of the pool facilities in Jersey for the 2015 Island Games:

As the Swedish island of Gotland is planning to build a competition-size swimming pool to challenge Jersey for the 2015 Island Games, is the Minister satisfied that the pool facilities in Jersey will be adequate?

The Deputy of St. Ouen (The Minister for Education, Sport and Culture):

Unlike Gotland, I am totally confident that Jersey can host the 2015 Island Games utilising our existing, very good facilities. We, too, have a competition pool and that is the existing pool at Les Quennevais sports centre which will be used for the swimming. The pool is, as I said before, a competition pool, 25 metres long and has 8 lanes. The venue has been already used to host many galas and has all the necessary equipment to support an event such as that. I would just like to say, to reinforce the fact how good our facilities are, that Jersey has received notification that several of our facilities have been accepted for inclusion in a guide which was issued to the International Olympic Committee at the Beijing Games in 2008. This is to be used for the training camps prior to the Olympic Games in London for 2010. These include the Fort Regent, St. Helier Yacht Club, the new Gilson Hall for badminton ...

The Bailiff:

I think Minister this is getting rather off the subject.

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

The suggestion has been made that Gotland is requiring to provide extra facilities to bid for the Games and I am just underlining the fact that our facilities do exist and they are recognised by the Olympic Committee.

The Bailiff:

I see. Any follow up question, Deputy?

2.10.1 Deputy K.C. Lewis:

If Jersey were to be successful this would be an enormous boost to Jersey Tourism with several thousand people coming to Jersey. Can the Minister outline any other plans he has to upgrade existing facilities?

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

The only major refurbishment that is planned is the renewal of the athletes track at the F.B. Fields, which has already been included within the capital programme I think for 2013 to ensure that that facility meets the standards that will be required in 2015. All other efforts, and there have been considerable, are being made by a bids committee ably led by Mr. Austin. Thank you.

2.10.2 Deputy J.A. Martin:

It is very good news to hear that Jersey has made the list of training camps for the 2012 Olympics. Could the Minister inform the House how closely he is working with Economic Development because it would be lovely to have all these people over here, but I am just slightly concerned where they will be staying, in what accommodation?

[Approbation]

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

Many departments have been involved, and are involved, in the process of the bid and what is required, including tour operators and travel agents and providers of actual transport to and from the Island. I believe that we do have all of that covered and we will be progressing that as we move forward to finalise our bid.

2.10.3 Deputy J.A. Martin:

Just supplementary to that, it is very, very reassuring to hear all this work is in train. When will it be presented to the States because again, it is not too far off now and there does seem to me to be done a lot work especially in the accommodation facilities? Thank you.

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

The priority is to ensure that we are successful in the bid. This, I believe, will be confirmed in October/November next year. In that time, we are accumulating and, as I say, promoting the Island and all that we have to offer. The sense we have had up to date is extremely positive and many of the islands would like to return because of the experience they had in this Island in 1997. Thank you.

2.10.4 Connétable L. Norman of St. Clement:

The Minister spoke about refurbishing the athletes track at the F.B. Fields. I wonder if he could tell us what plans he has to refurbish the netball courts at the F.B. Fields now being rendered unusable because of lack of maintenance and include terribly wasted facilities?

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

I would dispute that it is a wasted facility. It can still be used in the dry weather. The difficulty is when it is wet. Discussions have been going on with regard to dealing with the resurfacing, however, we do have another very good facility up at the Les Quennevais Sports Centre and the Netball Association, in conjunction with the department, have agreed to better utilise those facilities while we come to some decision over how we can afford and deal with the resurfacing of the area in the F.B. Fields. Thank you.

2.10.5 The Connétable of St. Clement:

Would the Minister undertake to advise the Fixtures Secretary of the Jersey Netball Association in advance when it is going to rain over the F.B. Fields?

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

I do not believe it is necessary. Already agreements have been reached with the Association to ensure that they can enjoy their sport.

The Bailiff:

Do you wish to ask a final question, Deputy Lewis?

2.10.6 Deputy K.C. Lewis:

Does the Minister have any plans for Fort Regent? **[Laughter]**

The Deputy of St. Ouen:

I am waiting very patiently for the Scrutiny Report review to come out so I will be able to respond to that. Thank you.