Let the Games begin ...

Hold your collective breath dear readers as 2012 fever takes hold, it may not be too long before IT makes it to the Olympics.  I coach javelin throwers in my spare time, (pleasant outdoor work with no heavy lifting), and I was idly perusing the sport section of a newspaper recently when I came across the following alluring heading:- "Asian Games sound wake-up call for IOC" - IOC is the International Olympic Committee.  Plunging into the article I began to experience the same other-worldly feeling that I frequently get when reading Microsoft product announcements.  I don't know if you find this but every time I am tempted to make a joke about something, life outbids me in no-trumps.  It transpires that the 15th Asian games has recently taken place in Doha, (its in Qatar for the geographically challenged).  The President of the Olympic Council of Asia, one Sheikh Ahmad al-Sabah apparently believes that the expanded Games program of this particular event should set a trend which the IOC should consider and was quoted as saying, "The ghost of Olympic founder Pierre de Coubertin may shudder, but the IOC have some hard thinking ahead.  We have horses, why not computers ?".  Why not indeedy ?

It is 2024 and the Olympics are being hosted somewhere in the middle East.  It is the final of the Doom 27 competition.  Eddie "the Reboot" McGoggins, the charismatic Scottish "shoot 'em up" king is flexing his fingers whilst engaged in a pre-match stare-out with his protagonist, Sheikh "fast Omar" al-Domar.  McGoggins already has a silver medal under his belt for his astonishing performance in the middle-weight deep fried Mars bar consumption category. His score of 47 in 7 minutes was surpassed only by the heroic and ultimately doomed efforts of the late Billy "Wee Jockie" McManus.  McManus, the first recipient of a posthumous Olympic gold medal, tragically exploded half way into his 49th.

After ensuring a level ground, making sure that both machines had been rebooted within the last few minutes so that Windows TurboMegaVista 2023 had a modest chance of staying up for the entire competition, battle commenced with blazing thumbs. Meanwhile, in the programming dojo, the super heavyweight category for VisualC++ version 11.0 sees the USA team, all from Florida, pitted against the Russian team of algebraic topologists from Novosibirsk.  The USA team is slightly handicapped in terms of communication as they are not allowed to be closer to each other than about 100m or their collective mass will exceed the Chandrasekhar limit and there is a small but not insignificant chance that they will form a white dwarf star before the competition is over, leading to an inconvenient program-off.

In the pool, the Great Britain hopes for the underwater semaphore synchronised SQL commands medal are lining up in the shallow end, attaching the nose clips so essential to a calm mental state for those particularly tricky SELECT * WHERE ... clauses.  They also help keep the water out in the ever popular inverted SORT routine.  As is often the case with the sole British hope for a medal, the team have been the subject of intense interest from the Press and will need to keep a firm nose-clip to deal with the pressure.

Let the games begin.  Sigh.

l.hatton@kingston.ac.uk