

Last summer's London Olympics was undoubtedly fantastic for sport. But the last few weeks have been just as great for British players, supporters and armchair fans like me, let alone the small boost to the economy that sporting success brings as people watch and celebrate.

The pubs and sports clubs locally rather imaginatively used the flexible licensing laws to put on breakfasts for those wishing to watch the fantastic British & Irish Lions tour that culminated last weekend in a triumph, ending the 16 year losing streak that has hung like a millstone around the neck of the Rugby Union family.

Then of course Andy Murray, watched by millions of people around the country, followed his London 2012 success of last year and rid the nation of another sporting ghost by winning Wimbledon. This followed Justin Rose's win in the US Open, Hamilton's pole position for the British Grand Prix, Mo Farah's superb 5000m run in the Diamond League, and British cyclists setting the pace in the Tour de France. And now the Ashes and the Women's Euro football finals have started with the nation yet again crossing its fingers.

So where has all this success come from, can it be sustained and will it inspire the next generation? Well the answer to all three lies in investment. It is without doubt that the introduction of the national lottery under John Major's government definitely started the ball running by financing grassroots sports club and the previous government's sports policies built on that initial investment. Now, despite many barriers and challenges, the current Government is building on the Olympics legacy and maximising the success which inspires people of all ages to participate.

There is much more to do but getting the next generation into sport, whatever activity they want to do, through accessibility to first class facilities, equipment and coaching is definitely an important first step if we are to ensure that every summer is one of sporting success.