

Tamara to perform at World Cup opening ceremony



AFTER failing, yet again, to qualify for a World Cup, the Scottish will not be represented on the pitches of Germany's finest football arenas this month - or will we? While our footballers will probably be at home watching events unfold on television screens, another Scot by the name of McCuish will perform at one of Germany's largest stadiums, the brand new Allianz Arena in Munich.

Tamara McCuish, aged 18, is the daughter of former Oban man Donald. Tamara's uncle and auntie are Roddy and Marian McCuish who live in Oban. Donald, Tamara, mum Sonja and another daughter, Vanessa, live in a town similar in size to Oban called Bad-Reichenhall and are the only McCuish family in Bavaria.

Although Tamara was born and raised in the Bavarian region she still considers herself half-Scottish.

Her role this summer will be performing as part of a 200-strong group of traditional Bavarian dancers in front of 66,000 people in the stadium and billions more around the world.

She is one of only 50 girls performing and was chosen, after an audition, from thousands throughout the region.

Only the dancers and choreographers know what their part in the opening ceremony will be as it is being kept a secret until it is shown to the world.

Having a Scottish father and learning English at school from a young age has made Tamara a fluent speaker to the point where she is sitting three A-Levels in Latin, English and either Maths or Biology.

She told *Lorn Life*: 'It was brilliant to be chosen from so many dancers. They phoned me and asked me if I wanted to dance at the opening ceremony and I said, 'of course'.

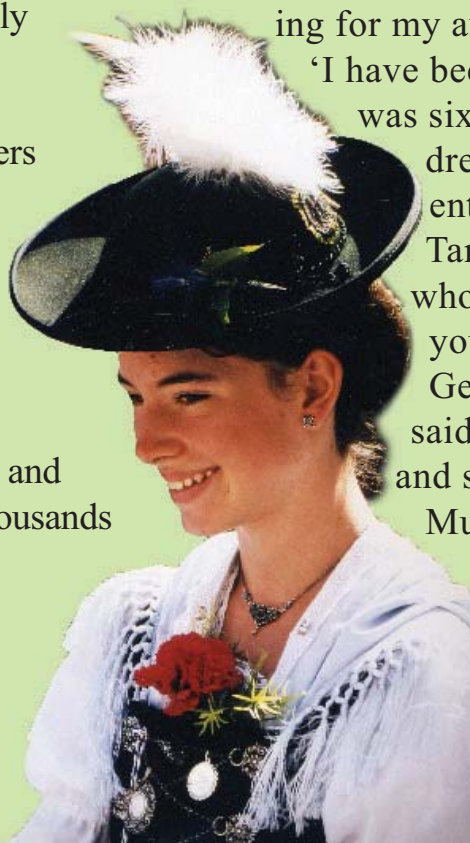
'I was so excited I ran downstairs too quickly and fell down the stairs. Luckily I didn't injure myself. 'My grandfather was crying on the phone saying he was very proud but my dad said, 'can I carry your suitcase so I can go.

'My friends can't believe it and have been asking for my autograph.

'I have been dancing competitively since I was six but since I could run I had the dress on and went with my grandparents to dancing festivals.'

Tamara's uncle Roddy said the whole family was excited for her. His youngest brother, Donald, moved to Germany 28 years ago but Roddy said he hasn't lost his Oban accent and still supports Celtic although 1860 Munich is his first team now.

He added: 'We will be glued to the telly and hope to see her but the fact she is on the pitch is special. My brother is football minded and he knows what it means.'



Tamara McCuish dressed in her traditional Bavarian dancing outfit.