



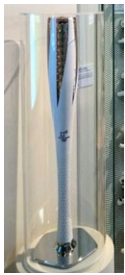
## South Korea's Sensational Opening Ceremony

Millions of viewers tune in to watch the greatest show on the planet.

Last night, the 2018 Winter Olympics kicked off in style with a two-hour long opening ceremony held at the Olympic stadium in Pyeongchang. Hundreds of performers honoured South Korean culture and history, followed by a parade of athletes from over 90 nations who will compete in various winter sports over the next few weeks. This major sporting event, which takes place every four years, is an international tradition that first began in 1924.

Eve Muirhead. Short track speed skater Elise Christie was also present after her disappointing disqualification in 2014, having been believed to have caused a crash. When interviewed, she defended her actions by stating, "You are going at 35mph and you've got to make a decision in less than a second. My sport is unpredictable and that's why I love it."

Following the event, one of the 35,000 spectators said, "Absolutely unforgettable! The atmosphere was electric!" When asked about the cold weather, one British spectator commented, "It was a very cold night, but the ceremony warmed my heart." Team USA combatted the freezing temperatures by wearing heated parkas during their parade into the stadium.



The 2018 Winter Olympic torch relay began in Greece back in October 2017. It then covered 2,000km of South Korea before reaching Pyeongchang for the opening ceremony.

The evening commenced with the lighting of the stadium's Olympic cauldron, which will remain lit until the closing ceremony on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February. Next, the story of South Korea's history was presented through music and dance, showcasing wonderful costumes and special effects. There were further performances which shared the same theme of 'peace', sending out a strong message to the world.

The 59-strong Team GB arrived in South Korea some time ago. In a recent interview, Lizzy Yarnold, who won skeleton gold in 2014, said that she was on great form and ready to defend her title. She was joined in the Team GB parade by figure skaters Penny Coomes and Nick Buckland and sibling curlers Glen, Thomas and



Winter Olympian, Lizzy Yarnold, competing in the skeleton event.

Hopes are high that this will be Team GB's most successful Winter Olympics yet, enabling them to break their four-medal record. With British athletes also competing in bobsleigh, luge, biathlon, alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, freestyle skiing and snowboarding, can they do it? Watch this space.

by Dave Perry