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Communicating forecast uncertainty from the Met Office convective-scale ensemble for the London 2012 Olympic Games

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Effectively communicating the uncertainty in a probabilistic weather forecast is a challenging problem. For the London 2012 Games, the Met Office developed and demonstrated a Showcase of probabilistic products derived from a state of the art convection-permitting configuration of the Met Office Global and Regional Ensemble Prediction System over the United Kingdom (MOGREPS-UK). The products were developed to enhance guidance by providing a range of scenarios for decision-making. This supported spectator travel plans, the Local Organising Committee (LOCOG) in their management of the Games, and the emergency response community. The Showcase of products included probability maps utilising a neighbourhood sampling method (similar to that used in verification by Roberts & Lean, 2008); site-specific time series forecasts for all venues; bespoke wind products for the rowing and sailing venues; and a web-based interface complete with documentation addressing a range of audiences. Significant effort was made to describe the products in language that is understandable to a general audience, defining products to help people in making relevant decisions, and providing clear language documentation. The particulars of the forecasting products and interface will be presented along with subjective evidence of their performance and utility during the Games.