

Stamp Issue Information

LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES Designed by Sir Paul Smith

Issue Date: 1st January 2012

The official Olympic motto is 'Citius, Altius, Fortius', a Latin phrase that means 'Swifter, Higher, Stronger', something that will be very important to the 10,500 competitors from 205 National Olympic Committees expected to take part in the London 2012 Olympic Games.

There are twenty six Olympic Sports which will be held in thirty four venues across the UK. Some of the UK's most well known sites will feature events with stunning locations such as Hampton Court Palace, Horse Guards Parade and The Mall providing backdrops to the action.

The Isle of Man Post Office is pleased to present this gleaming new cycling miniature sheet to accompany our set of seven stamps celebrating the 2012 London Olympic Games.

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ISLE OF MAN PROFESSIONAL CYCLING STAR, MARK CAVENDISH MBE

Mark Cavendish from the Isle of Man will start as one of the favourites in the cycling events, a sprinter whose single minded approach has made him the most feared man in the field - we asked Mark to focus on the day:

"The Olympics are big, they're in London and they're in front of my home crowd so of course I'd love to do well but there is a lot of racing between now and then. It's the first Cycling medal on offer at the Olympics and it would be pretty special to win, a once in a lifetime opportunity. I have already inspected the route and I am confident it provides me and my GB Team mates with the best possible opportunity of a victory. I am certainly motivated to win in front of my home crowd and become Olympic Champion.

My great friend and cycling enthusiast, Sir Paul Smith, has designed the Olympic stamps for the Isle of Man Post Office which includes two cycling stamps and I see this as a good omen for the GB Team – we will be ready to take up the challenge!"



DESIGNER SIR PAUL SMITH

“My life changed at the age of eleven when my father bought me a pale blue Paramount racing bike. It was purchased from one of his friends who was a cyclist and member of the local cycle club, The Beeston Road Club. He suggested that I should join the club and that perhaps I would enjoy going out on what they called ‘club runs.’ During these club runs at the weekends we would go to the countryside of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. I quickly enjoyed the freedom the bike gave me and there were no parents around!

I loved the bikes, the freedom, the wind in your face, the challenge of the sometimes very hard rides, which included lots of hills. At the age of twelve I started racing and got a ‘schoolboy licence’. I learnt a lot about team work, keeping fit and realised I had a competitive spirit. Later on I became a Junior and had dreams of becoming a Professional. This would never have happened as I simply wasn’t good enough or brave enough, but it was a lovely dream.

Apart from road riding, I also rode on the track. There was a small one in my home town of Nottingham and also the famous track in London called Herne Hill; I rode on both of these. More recently I rode on the Velodrome in Manchester, which was fantastic but seriously frightening! The new London track looks amazing. I imagine it will be a very fast surface and also provide a great atmosphere for the audience.



It’s a real honour to be asked to design these stamps. I’ve tried to make them positive and colourful with a strong graphic style of design. I hope you like them.”

Paul Smith

Please visit our website at www.iomstamps.com to find out more about the London 2012 Olympic Games Paul Smith collection of stamps and products

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