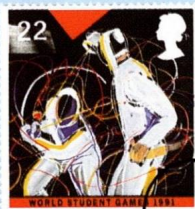


11 June 1991



Stamps featuring four popular sports will be issued on 11 June. 1991 has been designated the Year of Sport by the British Sports Council. Britain plays host to two major international sport events – the World Student Games at Sheffield in July and the Rugby World Cup (with France and Ireland) in the Autumn. These stamps pay tribute to the role which sport plays in society today, in particular the range of enjoyment it offers and the contribution it makes in forging links between people of all nationalities.

The **22p** stamp (basic inland first class and EEC rate) features Fencing, one of the sports represented at the World Student Games. Team and individual events for men will be held in the foil, épée and sabre disciplines and for women in the foil. All of these disciplines place a premium on balance, co-ordination, agility and speed of reaction.



The **26p** stamp (basic non-EEC rate) depicts Hurdling. The Student Games will include many track and field events, all demanding speed or stamina or both. Hurdling adds an extra dimension to these as competitors need to perfect stride patterns and rhythm.



The **31p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate) features Diving. Spring-board and platform diving, which are among the 11 sports in the World Student Games, require an instinctive understanding of aerodynamics, elegant manoeuvrability and considerable nerve.

The fourth stamp – **37p** (Airmail Zones 1 and 2 basic rate) shows Rugby and reminds us that the second Rugby World Cup is being held this year. The first tournament was held in Australia and New Zealand in 1987. This year the matches are being held at Twickenham; Cardiff Arms Park; Murrayfield, Edinburgh; Lansdowne Road, Dublin and Parc des Princes, Paris. The final takes place on 2 November at Twickenham, headquarters of English rugby and widely regarded as the home of Rugby Union. The winning team will be awarded the Webb Ellis Cup.

The Rugby World Cup has also been commemorated by an attractive Scottish aerogramme, issued on 12 March 1991 (see *March Bulletin*, page 155). The aerogramme also commemorates Scotland's success in the Five Nations Championship, 1990.

The World Student Games were first held in

Turin in 1959 and ranks second only to the Olympics in size. Many Olympic and World champions have had their first taste of international fame at the Student Games. Amongst the best known Student Games athletes have been Said Aouita, David Moorcroft, Jürgen Hingsen, Calvin Smith, Valerie Brisco, Olga Korbut, Nadia Comaneci and Emil Zatopek. The Sheffield Games, under the patronage of HRH The Princess Royal, will be staged in various stadia including the impressive new 25,000 seater Don Valley Stadium. Accommodation is being provided for no fewer than 6,000 competitors.

Sport has featured on many British stamps beginning with the set commemorating the 1948 Olympics. A useful article reviewing British sport stamps, by G E Drabble, was published in the January 1991 *Bulletin* (pages 110-113). Of the four sports shown on these new stamps, Hurdling and Rugby have featured on earlier issues – Hurdling on the 25p stamp in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme set of 1981 (S.G. 1165) and Rugby on the 13½p value of the 1980 Sport issue (S.G. 1135).

Bulletin readers will be aware that the Student Games was the theme for stamp designs in the 1989/90 Design Competition organised by the Royal Society of Arts. The stamp design section of this competition is sponsored by Royal Mail Stamps. Although the student designs are not being used for the issued stamps, they are of interest and illustrations will be found in the following issues of this *Bulletin*: July 1990 (page 273), November 1990 (p. 57) and February 1991 (p. 127).

Technical Details

The stamps were designed by Huntley Muir and printed by Harrison & Sons Limited in photogravure on phosphor-coated paper. They are of "almost square" format, 35 x 37mm, printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 14½.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 218) will cost £1.45; it was printed by Raithby, Lawrence. It gives details of the sports depicted on the stamps, of the Student Games and the Rugby World Cup.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two

weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 135A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections" centres, philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 11 June, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Sheffield.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 11 June.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or Northern England Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Newcastle, Forth Street, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 1AA (Sheffield postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main post offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition, pictorial "First Day of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), Durham (Cathedral) and Swindon (railway locomotive). Reposting addresses: London North SHC, Royal Mail City and International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA; Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, Royal Mail, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE and Special Postmark Duty, Royal Mail Swindon, Holbrook House, Station Road, SWINDON SN1 1AA. These handstamps were introduced on 17 January 1989, 22 March 1988 and 5 March 1991 respectively.

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from "Collections" centres and philatelic counters from 12 June, price 19p. This will be on sale for one year.

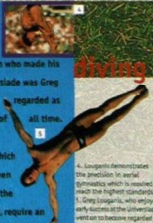
Royal Mail
First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
ILKESTON
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Another young man who made his mark at the Universiade was Greg Louganis, widely regarded as the greatest diver of all time. Springboard and platform diving, which are among the eleven sports featured in the Games at Sheffield, require an instinctive understanding of aerodynamics, elegant manoeuvrability and considerable nerve since the margin between success and serious injury is very narrow indeed.



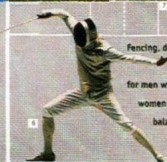
4. Louganis demonstrates the precision he needs to reach the highest standards.
5. Greg Louganis, who set Olympic records at the Universiade, went on to become regarded as the greatest diver the world has ever seen.

Sheffield is the setting for the World Student Games in July 1991, the first time any British city has been given the honour of staging this prestigious biennial event. Incorporating a cultural festival, the Games – or Universiade – bring together thousands of young people from countries throughout the world in the pursuit of sporting excellence.

First held in Turin in 1959, although its origins go back to 1923, the Universiade ranks second only to the Olympics in size. Many Olympians and world champions, in fact, have had their first taste of international fame at the Universiade. The roll-call of Universiade honours, for example, includes the names of Said Aouita, David Moorcroft, Jürgen Hingsen, Calvin Smith, Valerie Brisco, Olga Korbut, Nadia Comăneci and the legendary Czech athlete, Emil Zatopek.

fencing

Fencing, despite its violent origins, is probably a much safer sport than diving. At Sheffield, team and individual events for men will be held in the foil, épée and sabre disciplines and for women in the foil. All of these disciplines place a premium on balance, co-ordination, agility and speed of reaction.

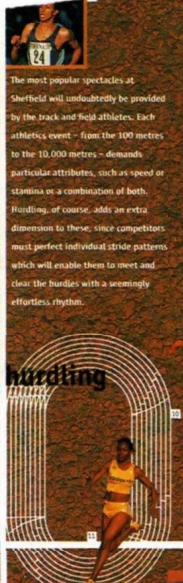


6. A fencer executing a fleche.
7. Layout and markings of the fencing piste.
8. The delicate beauty of the fencing bout.

Equally strenuous efforts have been made by the English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh and Euzepic Rugby Unions, hosts for the second Rugby World Cup to be staged in October and November of this year. Competing for this will be the top sixteen international Rugby Union teams in the world, judged by the experience of the...



Royal Mail Mint Stamps



The most popular spectacles at Sheffield will undoubtedly be provided by the track and field athletes. Each athletics event – from the 100 metres to the 10,000 metres – demands particular attributes, such as speed or stamina or a combination of both. Hurdling, of course, adds an extra dimension to these, since competitors must perfect individual stride patterns which will enable them to meet and clear the hurdles with a seemingly effortless rhythm.

hurdling