

2012 - The London Olympics

Later this month, the 30th modern Summer Olympic Games will be held in London. The 2012 games will feature 26 sports, two less than the last games in Beijing. Baseball and softball have been dropped from the Olympic program, and only women's boxing makes its debut in London.

Paris was the closest rival to the English capital for hosting the games, but strikes, demonstrations and alleged corruption in the French capital helped the International Olympic Committee to decide on London as the host city with a final votes tally of 54 to 50.

The jubilation felt in London at winning the right to hold the games was somewhat short-lived, as the following morning, a series of coordinated bombing attacks organised by Islamic terrorists took place on the London Transport system during the morning rush hour, leaving 52 commuters dead. In a show of sympathy, the families of the victims were given free tickets for the Olympic Games. The tickets for the games normally cost upwards of £20 and the most expensive tickets on sale were for the opening ceremony, reaching up to £2000.

One of the main areas of concern for the I.O.C. was the underdeveloped transport system in London. However, with the help of 29 Japanese-built "bullet" trains purchased from the Hitachi corporation, journey times around the south of England have been cut by up to 40%, and stations and train lines have been upgraded to cope with the huge numbers of fans and competitors who will travel to and from the Olympic venues.

The cost of bringing the Olympic games to London and redeveloping areas of London in preparation for the event is approximately £9 billion (1.1 trillion Japanese Yen), which has drawn criticism from many public figures.

Further controversy was created when the Team GB football team was announced, as David



Beckham, who had played a large part in bringing the games to London, was omitted from the football squad. Only 3 players over the age of 23 are allowed to be chosen, and the 37 year old Englishman was not one of them.

Japanese medal hopes centre on a very young group of judoka, who are expected to do well in a sport which is traditionally dominated by the Japanese. Over the course of the last 11 Olympic games, Japan has won 35 gold medals in judo, compared to the French, second with 10 golds.

The British again expect to do well in rowing and cycling, two sports in which Britons have traditionally been successful. Sir Chris Hoy, a Scottish cyclist who won three golds in the Beijing games, hopes to repeat the achievement on home soil, but will face stiff competition from the reigning world champion, Australian Shane Perkins.

Article by Craig

Net News

<u>NET LESSONS:</u> Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet*!

* Call for details: 089 9217595

SITE OF THE MONTH:

Everything you'll ever want to know about the Olympics can be found here: http://www.olympic.org/

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: This month is the last for the current term. That means, Party Night! On the 28th we will be holding our regular end-of-term party and I am looking forward to seeing many of our students enjoying this event. Food, wine, performances and more. Matthew will teach juggling to anyone who might be interested in learning, too! I'll see you then.

Junko Says: If you have been looking at our notice board, you will know we are starting up a new 1+1 campaign. We want our school to grow and, so, we are encouraging all our students to get behind this project and help out! The benefits for you and the friends you introduce to us will be great. But most of all, you will be encouraging your friends to learn a vital skill that you and they will be able to use all your lives!





<u>Matthew Says</u>: It's "rainy season" implies that the period of rainfall is long-term, i.e. the length of a "season". For countries where this occurs, like Cambodia, we use the term "Monsoon season". Therefore when using "rainy season" please explain to your listener that "rainy season", in Japan, is merely a period of around three weeks in July where the country gets heavy rain.

<u>Craig Says</u>: Having been here a month, I have been able to meet most of you by now. I haven't managed to visit the castle or any other interesting places yet, because the weather hasn't been great on my days off. But I have found some nice places to eat and drink, so my stomach and tastebuds are contented. If you have any recommendations for me for places to visit, I'd love to hear them!





Arnaud Dit: Il fait chaud ici, bien trop chaud pour nous pauvres français. Alors, on s'adapte, on survie. Pour ma part, j'utilise souvent l'air conditionné. Mais la facture en fin de mois est toujours un peu... salé. Ahhh l'été... L'été c'est aussi de beaux coucher de soleil! Rien de tel qu'une balade sur une belle plage en fin de soirée!

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忙しい方のための週1レッスン

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