

# Press Release

Date: 25th September 2020

## Isle of Man Post Office Commemorates Centenary of the 37<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Miles Isle of Man TT Course

### Home of the World's Greatest Road Races Celebrated on a Set of Eight Stamps



The Isle of Man Post Office is pleased to present a set of eight stamps to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 37<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile Isle of Man TT Course. The set of eight stamps will be issued 30<sup>th</sup> September and provides a then and now look at the legendary Course. The stamps picture the iconic vantage points 'Signpost Corner', 'Cronk-Ny-Mona', 'Governor's Bridge' and 'Grandstand', where fans have gathered in their thousands to witness best in class road racing.

The original course (1907) was the St John's Short Course, covering a distance of just 15 miles. Although racing on this course was popular, the engineering capabilities at the time limited the motorcycles from venturing further afield and onto a more demanding circuit.

By 1920 engineering had progressed and subsequently, changes to the circuit layout were made. The 37<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> mile course was born; and with it a much more daunting and challenging task that now enabled spectators in the Island's capital to witness the machines travel at high speed along Glencrutchery Road. It was in 1920 that the first races took place on the course in its current iteration, the same notorious course that is still raced on to this day.

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Like so many other sporting events 2020 the TT Races had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. This has so far only happened during the two World Wars and during travel restrictions associated with the animal foot and mouth outbreak in 2001.

**Adrian Earnshaw, said** *“This year, along with all major sporting events, the TT became a victim of the Coronavirus pandemic, but to help lift our spirits, the IOM Post Office has produced this latest TT stamp issue commemorating some fine competitors. I have been pleased to assist the project and, along with all TT fans, I’m hoping we’ll soon be racing again on our wonderful Mountain Circuit.”*

**Maxine Cannon, General Manager Isle of Man Stamps & Coins,** said: *“Of the many tourist attractions and celebrated marvels the Isle of Man has to offer, the Manx TT is probably the most famous, with a festival atmosphere second to none in the world. We would have loved to have commemorated the centenary with thousands of spectators, regardless of sunshine or rain, with the noise of the racing machines flying by but it was not to be. We at least hope to somewhat soften the blow whilst waiting for 2021 when the races hopefully return with an even bigger bang.”*

‘IOM TT Centenary of 37¾ Mile Circuit’ collection includes a set of eight stamps, a Presentation Pack, a First Day Cover and a Sheet Set which can be ordered from [www.iompost.com/tt2020](http://www.iompost.com/tt2020).

**-ENDS-**

## Technical Details

Text: Adrian Earnshaw

Design: Isle of Man Advertising

Printer: Cartor

Process: Offset Lithography

Colours: 4

Paper: 110 gms PVA gummed

Perforations: 13 per 2cm

Stamp Size: 28 x 42mm se-tenent

Format: Sheets of 10

Date of Issue: 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## NOTES TO EDITOR

- For images of the stamps, please visit [this link](#).
- Attachment 1: Issue Text
- Attachment 2: Stamp Set

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- Attachment 3: Presentation Pack
- Attachment 4: First Day Cover
- **Issue text author Adrian Earnshaw says:** My personal TT memories began in 1958 when, sheltered inside my Dad`s overcoat, I remember watching a cold evening practice at Signpost Corner. Suddenly, a fantastic sound arose from the direction of Hillberry and John Surtees, aboard his fabulous red and silver MV Agusta, shrieked into our view. Smoothly rounding the corner, he disappeared as quickly and as noisily as he`d arrived leaving an image I have never forgotten. Many of you will have shared a similar experience and I was bitten by “The TT bug”.
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- Keep up-to-date with the latest news on Twitter: @IOMstampscoins
- Isle of Man Stamps and Coins is proud to be accredited and partnered with various organisations. For more information please visit [here](#).

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