



# Muhammad Ali

## The Greatest Sportsman in History

### Announces trip to the UK, August 2009

Boxing legend Muhammad Ali will be making a special visit to the UK this August. Ali, who last visited the UK several years ago, has scheduled a number of appearances across the country to meet new friends and to reconnect with old ones, and to raise support and funding for his various charities including the Muhammad Ali Centre in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, USA.

Ali and his wife Lonnie will make personal appearances at three sporting dinners being held in his honour at three of the country's top stadiums: Old Trafford - Manchester on 26<sup>th</sup> August, Britannia Stadium – Stoke on Trent on 27<sup>th</sup> August and Wembley Stadium in London on 30<sup>th</sup> August.

Although Ali has long since hung up his boxing gloves, he has been fighting a long personal battle with Parkinson's Disease since 1984. He explains his reasons for the visit:

*"The UK is very close to my heart. I want to visit again not only to raise awareness and funds for the Muhammad Ali Centre, but also to revisit such a wonderful country and to all my friends and fans here."*

Muhammad Ali is a worldwide phenomenon, but his affinity with the UK is especially profound. In 1963, Ali faced Henry Cooper in London and again in 1966. Ali also challenged Brian London in the UK and triumphed with a knockout punch in the third round. Nowadays Ali's fondness for the UK extends past sporting achievements to a love of the scenery, people and culture. His wife Lonnie explains,

*"Muhammad's popularity in the UK is legendary and he has many friends here in the UK. We're looking forward to reconnecting with old friends and to garner support for Muhammad's charities. We will also be assisting with children's charities, which is very important for both of us."*

Since his retirement from professional boxing in 1981, Muhammad Ali has devoted his life to humanitarian and charitable endeavours around the globe. The Muhammad Ali Centre which opened in 2005 is inspired by the ideals of Ali and is a cultural attraction and educational centre that focuses on core themes of peace, social responsibility, respect and personal growth. Although his public appearances are rarer these days, Muhammad Ali remains an inspirational and respected figure around the world.

Carl Holness of Mammoth Events and Management said today, *"We have worked tirelessly for over a year to bring the greatest living sporting icon to the UK and I am humbled and honoured to be welcoming Muhammad Ali back to this country. These incredible fundraising events promise to be a wonderful celebration of Muhammad Ali's life."*

The August events are an unmissable chance to meet the legend in person. Tickets are on sale now through [www.mammothevents.co.uk](http://www.mammothevents.co.uk) or 0845 612 2008.

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