



As the Island's cartographer I was called upon to put together a mapping programme to suit the organiser's requirements and although we only produced one map that could be called a brand new publication we were quite busy in the run up to the event producing "technical" maps to support event planning.

These technical maps were based on the Island's large scale map data and contained a variety of themed overlays including venues, competitor information, games HQ, hotels, transport routes, recycling locations and road closure information. The maps were printed on large format sheets and posted at strategic locations during the games. They were also used during volunteer training which was satisfying to see (I was also a volunteer).

We also produced a glossy folded map guide which was intended for the volunteers but was also popular amongst the visitors and quickly sold out (if that term can be used for a give-away map?). This was a close cousin to the maps that I saw at the Olympics and included the games logo, sponsors information, a picture of Tosha, the Manx cat mascot, plus plans and information that we expected the visitors to need. This guide included much more in terms of design than the functional technical maps and we worked in partnership with Peel-based commercial cartographer, Vic Bates in order to complete the map and get it printed to a looming deadline.

What I remember now about this project was the quick turnaround demanded for each set of maps. For obvious reasons, deadlines weren't negotiable – if there was a meeting scheduled for a certain evening, they had to have the maps available. Likewise for the glossy guides, the volunteer training was on one date and the teams arrived on another. Therefore the guides had to be available on those dates.

At the time I was a bit bemused when they all disappeared but after visiting London and becoming a collector myself I can now understand what was happening.

Postscript: As we have three children, I've been putting my Olympic souvenirs together in sets of three in the hope that one day in the distant future they'll thank me for it. eBay has helped fill in the gaps and it's interesting to see how much competition there is for many of the games maps and guides.