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In following the London Olympics, 2013 appeared to have an impossible task. How could British sport reach anything like the heights attained by our athletes last year, or the mass public interest that the wonderful event created? In fact, in terms of achievement, 2013 came pretty close.

The highlight must be Andy Mur-

ray becoming the Men's Wimbledon Champion. For 77 years this had become British Sport's greatest challenge and the most debated topic every summer. Having failed the previous year, the pressure on Murray must have been unbearable when, on a beautiful afternoon, he faced the top seed, Novak Djokovic, and defeated him in straight sets. It was one of those seminal moments that we will always remember – I was in the village pub – and although I am used to witnessing emotional scenes at great sporting events, I found Murray's triumph very moving indeed.

Of course, Murray had won the gold medal the previous year and there was more success for some of the other stars of the Olympics. Mo Farah became only the second person in history to complete an Olympic and world 'double-double' when he won the 5,000m and 10,000m events at the World Championships. Earlier in the year he broke Steve Cram's 28-year-old record in the 1,500m. Christine Ohuruogu timed her run brilliantly to win the 400m to become the first British female to claim two world titles.

Not only was 2012 Olympic year,

it was also the first time Britain won the Tour de France. In 2013 they did it again through Chris Froome who took the title by more than four minutes.

Other notable successes for individuals include Justin Rose, who won the US Open golf tournament to become the first Englishman to do so for 43 years; and AP McCoy is the first jump jockey to ride 4,000 winners.

The most notable team achievement must be that of the Lions who won in Australia with Leigh Halfpenny named man-of-the-series, and while England's cricketers won the Ashes in the summer, they followed that by defeat in the return series in Australia.

The biggest sports story was the end of the Alex Ferguson era at Manchester United, and the image of football was tarnished by the recent match-fixing allegations. Cricket's 'Spirit of Cricket' was challenged by some unsavoury incidents during the Ashes.

But perhaps the most disturbing news is that despite it all, 50,600 fewer people played sport in 2013*.

Looking back at the sports highlights of 2013

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*Source: Sport England