

Five new members of the IOC

**A PERSON
IN A FEW WORDS**

**WHICH IS YOUR
DEFINITION OF THE
OLYMPIC MOVEMENT ?**



Georg von Opel
(Germany)

Born on 18th May, 1912. German. Place of residence : Frankfurt am Main. Independent entrepreneur. Speaks German and English. Was active in rowing, cycling, shooting, skiing and ice hockey. Participated in eight rowing championships in Germany, one in the United States and one in Canada. Member of the German rowing team at the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936. Member of the National Olympic Committee of Germany, President of the German Olympic Association, Vice-President of the International Recreation Association, President of the German Shooting Association. Initiator of an Association for the promotion of walking. Works on the preservation of animals from extinction and owns a private zoo. Author of eight books on animals, foreign countries, and sports.

"The Olympic Idea is the good conscience of sports." When the German Olympic Association (Deutsche Olympische Gesellschaft), president of which I have the honour to be, was founded in 1951, I tried to interpret that sentence as my program. The sentence was and still is the main thought of my endeavours for sport in general and the Olympic Idea in particular. We all know that sport of our time is exposed to many dangers and has to resist to various tendencies of our modern society. Thoughts and work of Baron de Coubertin raised sport to the level of human ideals that are understood throughout the world. If they did not exist, one had to invent them.



Juan Antonio Samaranch
(Spain)

Born in 1920. Spanish. Place of residence : Barcelona. Industrialist. Speaks Spanish, French and English. Was active particularly in hockey and boxing (several national championships in both sports). When elected Vice-President of the Spanish Olympic Committee, resigned from his other offices as member of the National Council of the Spanish Football Federation, and President of the Spanish Skating Federation (of which is today Honorary President). Organized the IInd Mediterranean Games in Barcelona in 1955 and is Vice-President of the Committee for the Mediterranean Games since 1962. Was chef de mission of the Spanish teams at the Games at Cortina d'Ampezzo, Rome and Tokyo. As Deputy and President of then Sports Commission, for the province of Barcelona, promoted the building of fourteen swimming pools over the sole period of 1965 and 1966.

The Olympic Movement, a movement for the youth of the whole world, brings men together through physical effort and proposes an ideal common to all which abolishes political, nationalist, religious and racial barriers.

**WHAT DOES
AMATEURISM MEAN
FOR YOU? IS IT
COMPATIBLE WITH
THE LEVEL OF
INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITION TODAY ?**

**WHICH AMONG
THE PRINCIPLES UPHELD
BY THE OLYMPIC
MOVEMENT WILL YOU
ADVOCATE
PARTICULARLY ?**

(It is nearly impossible to write a 12-line statement on amateurism, however, I shall try.)

Literally, I understand amateurism as hobby. Engagement in sport means the chance to become acquainted with oneself, to find strength, and to realize one's personality. There is no doubt that the records challenged to-day exceed the possibilities of an amateur. Struggle for records is limited to a rather short time, and during that time the society which keeps demanding records must help the amateurs. This is not a question of money but human care. Sports records do not guarantee a successful life ; but the latter is what really matters.

I do not want to speak of paragraphs but of Coubertin's ideal, which he once defined as " marriage between muscle and spirit ". In my opinion this is an important criterion for the Olympic Movement. I cannot offer any patent for solution of this problem ; however, we should not rest to find a connection between sport, spirit and art.

The amateur is a sportsman who does not make, nor intends to make, sport his profession, and who goes in competition for fun and well-being.

Naturally amateurism is compatible with the level of competition today. Most athletes who participate in the Olympic Games are amateurs. The example of outstanding champions who are amateurs strictly according to the rule is illuminating and proves it. With a more severe control by the International Federations, most of those problems will not arise.

Its world-wide significance, and the idea of peace among the young people of the whole world.

A person in a few words

Which is your definition of the Olympic Movement ?



Heinz Schöbel
(East Germany)

Born in 1913. German. Place of residence : Leipzig. Publisher. Speaks German and a little English. Was active in gymnastics and in ball games, especially in football. As a junior player, was member of the Leipzig team. A serious knee injury put an end to his competitive career. Was member, then president from 1953 to 1958, and now member of the Board, of the German Football Federation in G.D.R. In 1955 was elected president of the Olympic Committee of East Germany and, in 1957, member of the Board of the German Sports and Gymnastics Union in G.D.R. Delivered several papers on the Ancient Olympic Games and the " Philosophical Foundations of the Olympic Games of the Modern Era " at the German Academy of Physical Culture in Leipzig. Is the author of an important book recently published : " The Ancient Olympic Games ".

As a world-wide organization, the Olympic Movement demonstrates to the whole world the Olympic principle of equality of all nations, states and races in the field of sport. By bringing together in peaceful competition people from different countries, it helps to promote mutual respect, understanding and co-operation and thus renders a distinct service to the cause of peace.



Jan Staubo
(Norway)

Born on 28th September, 1920. Norwegian. Place of residence : Oslo. Shipowner and businessman. Next to all Scandinavian languages speaks English, German and a little French and Spanish. Was active in athletics, ski-ing and football, and particularly in Nordic hockey or " bandy " (member of Norwegian team) and in tennis (twelve times Norwegian champion and member of the Davis Cup team and the Norwegian tennis team). Was President of the Norwegian Lawn Tennis Association from 1962 to 1964. Today a member of the Board of the Norwegian Sporting Association. Has been Chairman of the Organizing Committees for the Bandy World Championship in 1961, and the Scandinavian Tennis Championship in 1966. Is also interested in fishing, shooting, and is a keen collector of stamps.

The Olympic Movement can be defined as an idea which should bring the youths and the people of the world together, irrespective of race, colour, politics or belief, and through sporting activities develop mutual understanding and goodwill among all, bringing the world forward in harmony and peace.



**H. R. H. Prince
George of Hannover**
(ex officio member)

Born in 1915. German. Place of residence : Neuhaus am Schliersee (Germany). Doctor in law. Speaks German and English. A prominent rider, rides every day. Also active in ski-ing, swimming, tennis and *squash*. A specialist of the techniques of rescue in water and mountain. Studied at the Salem School famous for its "school and sport" educational system — which is the Olympic system — and eventually became director of the same school, from 1948 to 1959. Is the author of two books on sporting psycho-pedagogy : " Der Erzieherische Wert der Military-Reiterei " and " Fairness und Leistungssport ". Member of many organizations for sport, pedagogy and human welfare in Germany and in Europe. Since 1966, President of the International Olympic Academy and consequently *ex officio* member of the I.O.C.

The olympic idea is meant to further international understanding through fair and chivalrous competition of the finest athletes of the world. This idea will only become a movement if we manage to influence already the education of our young through all schools and universities to that extent that physical education with the olympic spirit becomes an essential part of character building.

	<p>What does amateurism mean for you ? Is it compatible with the level of international competition today ?</p>	<p>Which among the principles upheld by the Olympic Movement will you advocate particularly ?</p>
<p>It has not yet been possible to arrive at a definition which takes into account all factors of our modern times. In comparison with past decades, performance standards of international sport have risen unprecedentedly. The Olympic Movement is, on the one hand, faced with the task of seeing to it that the basic principles of amateur sport are maintained. On the other, it should however not close its eyes to carefully thought-out reforms.</p> <p>To my mind, Olympic ideas and amateurism are cultivated in the best way where society, with the help of all its educational bodies, strives to materialize the Olympic ideal of a harmonious education of every citizen's body and mind. Thus the prerequisites are created for man to be educated from childhood on to a sporting way of life which involves physical strength, mental power, cultural interest as well as the furtherance of human development and culture as a whole. Such a basic approach and a corresponding educational policy exclude professionalism in sport.</p>		<p>First of all there is the fundamental principle of absolute equality in rights. Not only should it hold good for the different sports but also for the countries participating in the Olympic Games and in other international meetings. It is imperative nowadays that this principle should categorically be carried into effect by the I.O.C., the N.O.C.s and all International Sports Federations. Any attempt at discrimination and interference with international sports meetings should be firmly opposed. At the same time, colour bars, inconceivable as they should be in our modern times, should be abolished so as to prepare the ground for Coubertin's ideas to come to fruition also in this respect.</p>
	<p>To me amateurism means the only way whereby one can reach all people of the world. Professional sport is based upon material gain, but amateurism has its aim in itself and is therefore able to create mutual understanding, respect and goodwill among participants.</p> <p>With regard to actual results obtained, I feel that professionals naturally in certain sports will surpass amateurs. However, I believe that an amateur according to the Olympic definition can be a world record-breaker in many of the sports competing in the Olympic Games.</p>	<p>I would especially stress the importance of spreading the ideas of the Olympic Movement throughout the world.</p>
	<p>An athlete is only an amateur if he takes part in international or olympic competitions without being paid for his participation. I think this is very important. To be an athlete should never become a profession. Therefore it is our responsibility to encourage every athlete to keep in mind that his profession should not be neglected during his training. The rules have to be adapted to the present economic circumstances. That is to say that it cannot be expected of an athlete of olympic caliber to pay all the expenses that arise for his training. The rules must of course be controlled in some way but I think it is important to keep an atmosphere of confidence between I.O.C. and athletes as far as possible.</p>	<p>The answer is : the furthering of international understanding. I feel that the personal effort of the successful athlete should be given more importance than the nationality of the country to which he or she belongs. Therefore I advocate the de-nationalization of the olympic victory ceremonies. No flags, no national hymns when the victors are honoured, but every victor should be honoured in the same way by trumpet fanfares like in Ancient Greece.</p>