

From the Noble Art of Self Defence to the Noble Ideals of Olympism



Such was the transmission of my field of activity when on the 19th March 1973 I took up my post as Technical Director at the International Olympic Committee office in Lausanne, after a period of 25 years service with the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA).

It was a long haul through the groundwork of stewardship of an International Federation office, with Executive Committee meetings, Congresses, Regional Championships and Olympic Games thrown in for good measure, when I gained some experience of the complexity of international sport, and now, after a few weeks experience of my duties at Lausanne, the affairs of the IOC are disclosed in all their complexity and reveal a field of activity of even greater dimensions.

My sphere of interest within the IOC will be concerned with the operation of the various Commissions set up to study the questions of Eligibility, Medical Control, Programme of the Olympic Games and Solidarity. At the same time to maintain close contact with the International Sports Federations on technical matters

relating to the programming and organisation of their sports in the Olympic Games.

The rules and regulations of the National Olympic Committees throughout the world are to be studied and reviewed from the technical point of view vis-à-vis those of the IOC, and requests for recognition from new NOC's will be processed through the Technical department prior to being submitted to the Executive Board. Close contact will be maintained with the Organising Committees of the Summer and Winter Games in their preparations for those events, and assistance and guidance given them where required. Likewise with the Organising Committees of Continental and Regional Games, who can be assisted by the experiences of past events, through the intermediary of the IOC office.

My involvement in these affairs will bring me into contact with many sports personalities throughout the world whom I have known as a «boxing man» and I have already been able to appreciate their friendly cooperation in the task that lies before me. May I take this opportunity of thanking all those who have wished me well in my new undertaking.

It would not be amiss, I feel, to add that the smooth running of my undertaking will be greatly facilitated by the outstandingly efficient organisation existing at the IOC office at Chateau de Vidy, created and administered by the dynamism of the IOC Director, Madame Monique Berlioux. I look forward to a successful accomplishment of my duties and thereby contributing to the advancement and promotion of the Olympic Ideal.

Henry R. Banks
IOC Technical Director