

## Innsbruck 1976

“One new Olympic record will have been broken before the XIth Winter Olympic Games have even started: on 4th February 1976, it will be exactly 3 years to the day that the International Olympic Committee took their decision to honour Innsbruck with the task of organising the Games.”

This is how Dr. Karl-Heinz Klee, Secretary General of the Organising Committee, expresses himself in the first information bulletin issued by Innsbruck. Edited in four languages, Austrian, French, English and Russian, the first issue, in the form of a photographic report, presents the second report which the Organising Committee submitted to the 74th Session of the International Olympic Committee in Varna.

This bulletin, which will be followed by twelve others, is the work of the Press Service of the Organising Committee, placed in the competent hands of Bertl Neumann, from whom we take the following declaration, which seemed to us to sum up perfectly the objectives of the Organising Committee:

### Unpretentious games:

*“For the second time, Innsbruck is staging “unpretentious games”, since it simply cannot afford elaborate games, nor wishes to do so. An end to gigantism — back to rational Olympic Games which, however, at the same time retain high sporting standards — that is the motto. As is well known the continued existence of Winter Olympic Games is endangered: firstly because the Winter Olympics, strongly dependant upon weather conditions, have reached such gigantic organisational and financial proportions that, in future, hardly any nation would be able to afford the expenditure; secondly because certain*

*developments in diverse forms of winter sport have stood in contradiction to the ones.*

*Innsbruck now intends to bring a return to reason and the salvation of the winter Olympic events...*

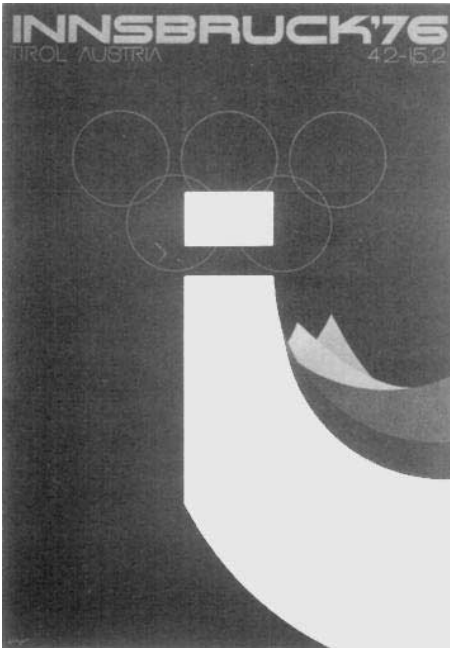
*For many decades Innsbruck has now been a true sporting town. Here mountaineers and alpine skiers have always achieved outstanding performances. 60% of the population actively participate in alpine skiing; a percentage matched by no other town in the world.”*

### The dates of the Games

We have specified above that the Opening Ceremony will take place on 4th February 1976. The Games will end on 15th February, making a total duration of 12 days, although the Rules stipulate 10 days. But taking into consideration the short notice of 3 years given to the Organising Committee, the IOC has accepted this overstepping as an exceptional case.



*Olympic Village: laying of the foundation stone. From left to right: Mr Alois Lugger, Ferdinand Obenfeldner, vice-mayor, and Dr. Hermann Knoll, senator.*



### **Olympic emblems and stickers**

As soon as Innsbruck was nominated, the Executive Committee of the Organising Committee asked Professor Arthur Zelger, who designed the emblem for the 1964 Games, for a new idea (see page... Medals of the Winter Games).

The artist then took the general outlines of his former work, keeping the basic form but adding slight modifications of detail.

As for the first official Olympic sticker, this has recently been presented to the press. An "I" symbolises the town of Innsbruck, in the foreground of a mountainous view.

Finally, the Austrian Olympic Committee has taken up a position in favour of a plan to create a law protecting the Olympic emblems on Austrian territory, and is waiting for the decision of the National Council of Austria.

### **Installations and Equipment**

As in 1964, the Opening Ceremony will take place at the Bergisel stadium, at the foot of the magnificent 90 m. ski-jump, on which the last event of the Games will be held on 15th February. Moreover, in view of this competition the jump will be made bigger, conserving the essential characteristics which make it appreciated by sportsman all over the world.

Close to the jump stands the Olympic ice stadium, where all the principal hockey matches will be held, as well as the figure skating events.

To the south of the stadium, the speed circuit is at present in the process of adaptation: the gravel base is replaced by a concrete coating through which run the cooling system pipes. The radius of the bends has been modified and the width of the track reduced from 14 to 12 m., in order to improve the speed of the skaters. Finally, the central area has been reconstructed as an artificial skating rink, in order to facilitate training.

Some hockey matches as well as skating competitions will also be held in the exhibition hall, converted into a skating rink. Finally, a skating rink covered by an inflatable structure will be available for training at the Tivoli all-sports centre.

The Patscherkofel track, where the men's downhill will take place, is in the process of reconstruction. The track is considerably larger than it was in 1964 and the shape of the finalschuss has been modified. All this work is aimed at obtaining a wider safety margin.

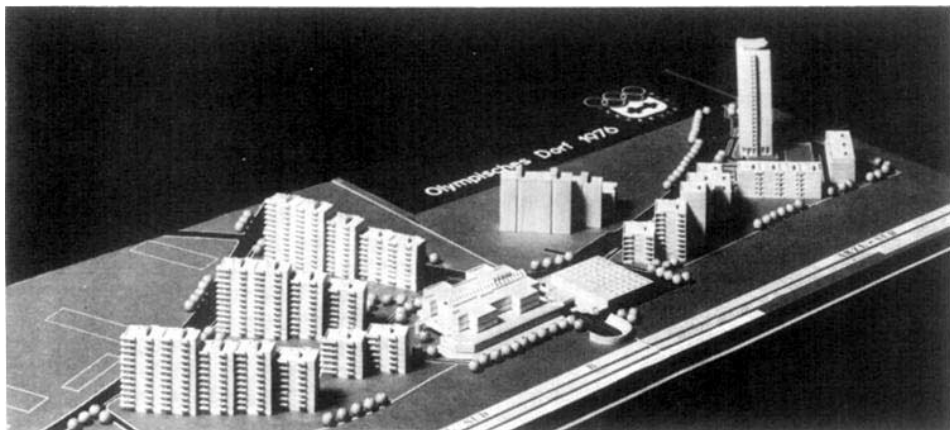
For the other alpine competitions to be held in the Axamer Lizum, a change has come about in contrast to the 1964 Games: the men's and women's slaloms will be held on the former women's slalom track, as well as the second rounds of the giant slalom. This makes the preparation of tracks much easier and will allow a communal finish line to be arranged for these three events. The first round of the men's giant slalom will be contested on the other side of the valley, as will the women's giant slalom, while the women's downhill will take place on the Hoادل downhill run.

The nordic skiing events will be held on the high plateau of Seefeld, 25 km from the Olympic Village. By 1976, the west branch of the Inntal motorway will allow a fast journey from Innsbruck to Zigel, where a good road leads to Seefeld. The cross country runs in this region are already planned and the Seefeld Council is to build a sports centre with a cross-country stadium which will provide the start and finish. The shooting range for the biathlon will serve for

both start and finish, conforming to the Federations' new rules.

About 5 km from the ice stadium, an artificial track is at present being constructed for both disciplines on the site of the former bobsleigh and luge tracks used in 1964. This arrangement was agreed to by both federations concerned. The two-man and four-man bobsleigh events as well as the one or two passenger luge events will be able to be held here. The design of the new track was conceived by the German architect Robert Deyle from Stuttgart. 1200 m long, and useable for four or five months in the year, the track comprises a daring novelty: the "spinning top" leading into an underground passage. This new track should be completed for winter 74-75.

The Olympic Village, where athletes and officials will be accommodated, is under construction. The first stone was laid on 3rd May 1973 (see our document). The new Village, situated to the south of the previous one, will be made up of 35 modern blocks with a total of





#### *Innsbruck*

- 1 *Olympic ice stadium with speed skating oval.*
- 2 *Artificial indoor skating rinks "Messengelände".*
- 3 *Bergisel special ski jump.*
- 4 *Olympic village.*

#### *Igls*

- 5 *Men's downhill.*
- 6 *Artificial olympic bobsleigh and toboggan run.*

#### *Axamer Lizum*

- 7 *Men's giant slalom.*
- 8 *Men's slalom.*
- 9 *Ladies' slalom.*
- 10 *Ladies' downhill.*
- 11 *Ladies' giant slalom.*
- 12 *Men's downhill, alternate course.*

#### *Seefeld - Telfs*

- 13 *Cross-country courses and biathlon.*
- 14 *Toni Seelos ski jump.*

642 apartments, making 1714 living quarters. In addition, it includes a school with three gymnasia, which will also be used as refectories during the Games. A medical unit is also planned here with first-aid helpers and ambulances.

Sportsmen and journalists will have to submit themselves to certain strict rules of control, in order to ensure the safety of athletes and the successful staging of the Games.

Simple Games in a grandiose setting — this seems to be the case for the

Opening Ceremony, where the accent will be on an artistic note, and which, for the first time, will take place at night.

Finally, the question of the transport of the sacred flame of Olympia to Innsbruck has been examined by the Organising Committee. The procedure followed in 1964 of transporting the flame from Greece to Vienna by plane, has been retained in principle, but the route from Vienna to Innsbruck will be changed and extended, in order to give this relay the importance it merits.