

Around the National Olympic Committee

Jean-Louis Meuret, responsible particularly for the study on Olympism and the National Olympic Committees, warmly thanks everyone able to help him in his historical research and publication of documents. We recall that the following National Olympic Committees were presented in the Olympic Review: Swiss (No.66-67), Irish (No.70-71), Bulgarian (Special Congress), French (No.72-73), New Zealand (No.74-75), Senegalese (No.76-77).

Belgium



- *Belgian sport mourns the death of Victor Boin.*

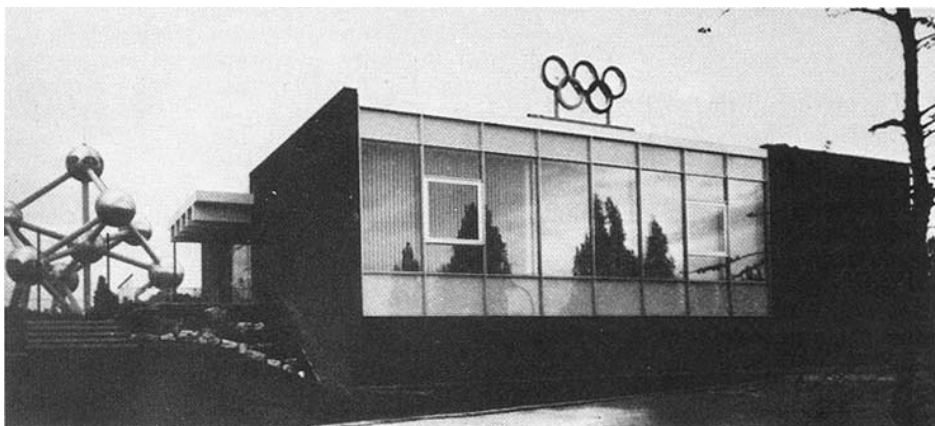
He had just celebrated his 88th birthday. His disappearance saddens not only Belgian sport, but also the world sports movement. For many years Victor Boin stamped them with his personality, either as an athlete, a journalist or a leader; he never ceased to demonstrate an extraordinary enthusiasm and eclecticism. A brilliant fencer and remarkable water-polo player, he took part in four Olympic Games with these two sports (1908, 1912, 1920 and 1924), gaining three silver medals and one bronze. He also practised successfully boxing, jiu-jitsu, skating, hockey, rowing... Journalist from 1903, he was the founding Vice-President and then the Honorary President of the AIPS which has just celebrated its 50th anniversary. Leader, he was a referee for many disciplines, one of the founders of several federations, and President of the Belgian Olympic Committee from 1955 to 1966. But he was also a theatre



1920 - Antwerp

critic, an informed music-lover and took pride in the friendship of many great names in the arts and literary world. For his former captain and friend, Paul Anspach, amazing senior Belgian Olympic champion, now aged 92 years, "the death of Victor Boin is heart-breaking," he said in "Les Sports".

"I have lost more than a friend, a brother. Victor Boin was a truly great sportsman, for whom sport is not an end in itself, but is indispensable for



The "Maison des Sports" of the Belgian Olympic Committee.

everyone in his physical, moral and intellectual development..."

This explains Victor Boin's invariable reply when asked what was his happiest memory:—"The day when for the first time I had the honour of taking the oath, the text of which had been written by Pierre de Coubertin, on behalf of all the competitors at the opening ceremony of the Antwerp Olympic Games..."

An oath which he respected all his life.

- The "Maison des Sports" of the Belgian Olympic Committee, opened on 9th March 1974 by HRH the Prince of Liège, is situated on the Heysel plateau in Brussels, on a site where sports history dates back to 1930. At that time, the stadium built there welcomed world cycling championships.

This Olympic house symbolises the efficiency and zeal of the present Belgian leaders, especially the President, Raoul Mollet, helped by an outstanding Treasurer, Mr. Charles Debeur. The latter has taken on the triple responsibility of being in charge of the work, of directing the construction and of dis-

charging a large part of the total expenses.

A meeting place, lively centre, means of assistance to the federations—such are the three objectives that the "Maison des Sports" hopes to achieve.

How?

- By putting rooms, equipped with simultaneous translation, at the disposal of the federations.
- By giving them access to photocopying, printing and document distribution facilities.
- By setting up an evening service, on a set day when legal, financial and sports advisers will be put at their disposal.

In the long term, the Belgian Olympic Committee is considering the construction of a second building to house the federations.

The Belgian Olympic Committee has appointed two press attaches, namely Comte de Grelle for the Dutch press and Mr. Genin for the Frenchspeaking press.

Belize

(formerly British Honduras)



- On 1st June 1973, British Honduras changed its name to Belize. As a result, the NOC modified its title as follows:

Belize Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association.

Present board: *PT:* Mr. E. A. Pitts; *VPT:* Mr. P. Rosado; *SG:* Mr. G. C. Hinkson; *Asst. SG:* Mr. H. A. Martinez; *T:* Mr. Leni Jo Usher; *Advisers:* Messrs. Norrin Meighan, Jorge Pelayo, Owen Young.

ral of the Armed Forces since last October, was recently appointed Secretary General of his country's State Council, with ministerial rank.

New board: *PT:* Colonel Joachim Yombi Opango; *VPTs:* Captain Pascal Mouassiposso, Mr. Emile Bongouande; *SG:* Mr. Henri Elende (elected), replaces Mr. Jérôme-Basile Becale; *Hon. SG:* Mr. Jean-Claude Ganga; *Asst. SG:* Mr. Fulgence Massamba; *T:* Mr. Gilbert Mankoundia; *Asst. T:* Mr. Alihounou; *M:* Dr. Séraphin Bakouma, Miss Berthe Maleka, Messrs. Pascal Dinga, François Dimi, Gérard Biyoundoudi, Henri Mondjo.

China



- *The official report of the Republic of China Olympic Committee on the Games of the XXth Olympiad* has just been received. Introduced in English by Mr. Henry H. Hsu, IOC member for the Republic of China, and illustrated with many photographs, this report in Chinese appears to be comprehensive and vivid.

France



Georges Rigal

Congo



- At its last general assembly, held in Brazzaville Town Hall's conference room under the chairmanship of Mr. André Mouelle, Minister for Culture, the Arts and Sport, Colonel Joachim Yombi Opango was confirmed in his work as President of the Congolese Olympic Committee. We would point out that Colonel Opango, 35 years old, former Chief Staff Officer and Inspector Gene-

- *Death of Georges Rigal*, Olympic water-polo champion in 1924 and former President of the French Swimming Federation. Born on 6th January 1890, he was the first swimmer in his country to use the crawl and secured

for himself the French record in 100 m and 200 m freestyle. He took part in the Olympic water-polo tournament in Stockholm in 1912, and 12 years later—with the French team—he gained his Olympic title. His career as a practising sportsman did not end until 1930; after that date he devoted himself with enthusiasm and singular loyalty to sports administration.

● *The French Antilles will not be able to take part in the Central American and Caribbean Games.* The CNOSF has intervened in vain with the Federation of these Games to authorise the nationals of these French departments to participate more often in high competitions without going too far from their islands.

Great Britain



*Mr. Sandy Duncan,
Director of International
Affairs*



BRITISH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

● *Mr. Sandy Duncan, Director of International Affairs and Technical Adviser of the British Olympic Association.* For 27 years, Mr. K. S. Duncan has fulfilled the duties, amongst others, of Secretary General of the BOA with enviable success and ability. Of course, his reputation outside his country has been established for a long time, and no doubt his efficiency will be maintained in his new job. Mr. Michael Sparkes succeeds him as Secretary General.

● *New board: PT: The Marquess of Exeter; Ch: Lord Rupert Nevill; VPT: Mr. C. G. V. Davidge; VCh: Mr. J. W. Dudderidge; T: Lt. Col. J. Innes; Legal Adviser: Mr. J. Emrys Lloyd; Medical Adviser: Mr. J. R. Owen; SG: Mr. G. Michael Sparkes; Director of International Affairs & Technical Adviser: Mr. K. Sandy Duncan.*

India



● *Brilliant success for Indian athletics at the First Asian Athletics Championships:* its three shot-putters took the first three places. This feat has never before been achieved in any other event in the history of this continent's athletics. We would like to thank Mr. Umrao Singh, President of the Indian Amateur Athletics Federation and member of the IAAF Council, for sending us the photograph which we are printing here and in which he appears (second from the left) with the three medalists.

Italy



● *Sport for all in Italy.* In a recent speech, Mr. Giulio Onesti, IOC member and President of the CONI, recalled the development of the “sport for all” movement in his country. We are printing large extracts below.

“The inventor of modern Olympism, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, wrote many books that very few people have read. Baron de Coubertin denounced before the world the harm to well-being and the illnesses that the new industrial society would bring to man. For this reason he prescribed sport, exercise, running, walking. For these same reasons, his contemporaries never took him seriously. Equally, they did not think he was serious in his idea of renewing the Olympic Games. But time has proved him right and today many now recognise the prophetic qualities of Baron de Coubertin.

On the other hand, the International Olympic Committee founded by Baron de Coubertin in spite of criticism and scorn does not aim only at organising and realising the Olympic Games. The National Olympic Committees are in fact invited by Olympic Rule 24 “to promote the development of physical and moral qualities of the youth and so contribute to the formation of character, good health and good citizenship.” The Italian Olympic Committee has always remained faithful to the principles of Rule 24. Already a long time ago, it set up the first training centres for the very young in 1954. They were real preparatory schools for competition sport on a prototype basis. In 1966 the CONI National Council published its White Paper on Sport which called for the establish-

ment of sport for everyone. There were passages such as the following: “... non-competitive sport should extend to school pupils, workers in factories, office workers and peasantry; moreover, such sport hardly exists, does not have the benefit of any legislation, form or tradition. The State is called upon to act in this enormous sphere. This intervention is also demanded by society as a cure for boredom, weariness from work, lack of exercise, the rat race in urban communities...”

After attempting to spread sport for everyone in all sectors of the country’s life, unfortunately coming across strong opposition in school itself which should however represent the main centre of physical and sports education—the CONI started the Youth Games. The first edition was an enormous success immediately, with the participation of nearly one million boys and girls. The following editions have confirmed the value of this initiative. As a result, other European countries should follow our example...

The Italian Olympic Committee is engaged in a constantly developing policy. This involves a heavy task for an organisation which, representing some 32 sports federations and all their problems, already bears considerable current expenses. However, sport for all is a good idea which the CONI cannot abandon to others without helping them with its advice and experience. Sport for all also stands for the fight against hardened groups of thinkers and researchers who are opposed to sport in general, even in its most elementary forms. The CONI therefore contacted artists, writers and men of science with wider views. Those with eyes to see cannot ignore all that happens in our society.

Formerly, anyone who ran in the street in a track-suit or shorts was subject of jeers and derision. Today, he excites envy, if not admiration. Until a few years ago, no one would ever have thought that Italians could enrol in their masses for walking or long-distance running events, as do habitually Nordic peoples.

Moreover, such initiative is increasing nearly everywhere. Italians, always criticised for not liking nature, are today discovering their country. Unfortunately, they realise that they have neglected ecology and see with their own eyes the damage, imbalance and disasters which have affected their land and water.

Sport for all is consequently indispensable to the reawakening of the consciousness. Faced with the increasing demand for exercise and open-air life, sport for all must be encouraged in its most simple and basic forms, without however making it official and therefore subject to bureaucracy."

- *Luigi Moretti*, the designer-architect of the Rome Olympic Village, has died at the age of 66.



Luxemburg

- *Once again the sports press is in mourning* after the death of Mr. Emile Goebal (74 years), former President of the *Luxemburg Association of Sports Journalists* (18 years) and former Vice-President of the *International Sports Press Association* (AIPS).

New Zealand



- According to the press, the recent Commonwealth Games organised in Christchurch have made a substantial profit for the organisers: 312,000 pounds. Apparently, the sale of tickets fetched 250,000 pounds more than expected, whilst expenses were reduced by 62,000 pounds.

Puerto Rico



*Dr. José Enrique Arraras,
Président*

- Messrs. Jose Enrique Arraras and Ismael Delgado Davila have become President and Secretary General respectively of the Puerto Rican Olympic Committee.
- New address: Comité Olimpico de Puerto Rico, P.O. Box 4722, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936. Telex: Olimpro 3450421.

German Democratic Republic



- *Helmut Behrendt is 70 years old.* A well known personality in the world of international Olympism, Secretary Ge-

neral of the NOC for more than 20 years (1951-1973), Helmut Behrendt celebrated his 70th birthday on 18th January 1974. Surrounded by his friends and colleagues, he received the warm congratulations of Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the German United Socialist Party, the GDR government, the sports movement's managing committee, etc. Having retired in 1973 from the general secretariat because of his age, Helmut Behrendt was nominated honorary member of the NOC praesidium and member of the German Sports and Physical Science Union. He therefore remains closely attached to sport to which he has devoted his life since childhood.

Turkey



*Mr. Turgut Atakol
Secretary general*

● The *Turkiye Millî Olimpiyat Komitesi* celebrated its 50th anniversary of its creation in 1973.

The Turkish NOC's bulletin traces the history of Olympism and the ups and downs which led to the formation of the TMOK in 1923. Note should be made of various letters between Selein Sirri Tarcan and Pierre de Coubertin as well as a table of Turkish participation in the Olympic Games.

● New board: *PT*: Mr. Burhan Felek; *VPT*: Mr. Jerfi Firatli; *SG*: Mr. Turgut Atakol; *Asst. SG*: Mr. Güner Frik; *M*: Messrs. Mustafa Vefa, Haluk San, Vahit Colakoglu and Suat Eler, IOC member for Turkey.

● New address: PO Box 90, Tesvikiye Istanbul. Tel: 47 67 30.

USSR



● *Yuri Vlassov*, Olympic heavyweight wrestling champion, has many talents. After passing the highest scientific studies, he is now following a brilliant literary career. An author of fairy tales and a work entitled "To conquer oneself", he has just completed, at 38 years of age, a new novel whose subject remains sport.

Venezuela



*Mr. Luis Felipe
Rodriguez,
President*

New Executive Board of the *Comité Olimpico Venezolano*, elected on, 23rd January for the period 1974-1978:

Honorary PT for life: Mr. José Beracasa A., IOC member; *PT*: Mr. Luis Felipe Rodriguez B. (elected previously Vice-President); *VPT*: Mr. Angel Zambrano; *SG*: Dr. Carlos Felice Castillo (elected to replace Mr. Pedro Cabello Gibbs); *T*: Ing. Arturo R. Redondo; *M*: Lic. José Luis Vera, Prof. José A. Bermúdez, Sr. César Rojas C.

