

# Olympic Solidarity

*Six months after the close of Olympic Solidarity training courses, the scholarship holders having participated in these courses write a detailed report on the application and usefulness of the methods they are taught. In 1975 and 1976 courses were held at the Rome Central Sports School (CSS) in Italy and we present below extracts from some of the reports.*

## **Mr. Hassan Bin AHMAD (MAL) - boxing**

Mr. Ahmad's report begins with a description of the course. "Although I have been involved in this field of sport for many years, I was surprised to note that there are many aspects of boxing to which one should pay attention as a coach. The many different methods of conditioning training were of great interest."

Mr. Ahmad then goes on to talk of his present work in the context of Malaysian boxing. "... On my return I was surprised to see how well all this information could be utilised in my work as a boxing coach to the Malaysian Armed Forces and clubs.

... Now I am able to draw up a training programme in the correct sequence, paying attention to factors that prove important at each stage and for everyone involved in the courses and training sessions that I conduct at the Malaysian Army Physical Training School."

## **Mr. Bruno ELOMBO (CMR) - swimming**

"Since I am the first to benefit from the modern swimming methods previously unknown in my country, I tried to pass them on as quickly as possible. This involved a programme that has got under way on a truly large scale by means of information transmitted via radio or published in the press of our Republic and aimed at popular or mass consumption, in particular at young

people. Recently a group of youngsters aged between 8 and 13 attended courses, similar to the Rome one, which I had organised for the benefit of our future swimming champions.

I placed great emphasis on the importance of sound athletic training for sport in general in order to accentuate the factors previously overlooked when getting ready for competitions.

Since these new methods have been put into practice young people involved in this sport have already obtained valid results."

## **Mr. Ivan PACE (MLT) - swimming and water polo**

"On my return to Malta I immediately got down to organise a coaching course under the auspices of the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) of Malta, which was a big success...

Then I was put in charge of seven swimmers by the ASA in order to prepare them for the German/Arab/Maltese swimming tournament that was held in August 1975. Although they did not win any medals they obtained good placings and better times...

My main concern is water polo and I applied most of the tactics that I had learned, with the good result that my first, second and minor teams won the Malta water polo championship..."

## **Mr. Hassan MOHAMMED (GUY) - cycling**

"On my return to Guyana after having successfully completed a course in cycling coaching in Rome, with the assistance of the Guyana Olympic Association, I gained an appointment with the government as the national cycling coach and I have been actively employed in coaching cyclists throughout Guyana since May 1975.

I was assigned the responsibility of coaching our national cycling team selected to represent Guyana at the VII Pan-American Sports Organisation's Games in Mexico in October 1975, where 33 nations from the Americas and the Caribbean took part. I accompanied the team to the Games as the national cycling coach."

**Mr. Eduardo RIOS DA FONSECA  
and Mr. Luis GONCALVES (POR) -  
volleyball**

"...Our work is divided between the following bodies:

- General Sports Management Committee (training sector).
- Portuguese Volleyball Federation (training sector and planning organisation sector).
- Clubs.

1. In our relations with the General Sports Management Committee we have helped in work on shaping and planning mini-volleyball on a national scale as well as lending a hand on editing sports documentation and acting as teachers for the courses for promoters of mini-volleyball in the Porto district (the second largest in the country).

2. With regard to the Portuguese Volleyball Federation, our activities have been divided into three sectors:

a) *professional training and planning*

We have already started throughout the country with courses for trainers up to the 4th and 3rd levels.

b) *background material*

Quite apart from the material needed for all the courses, we have already edited three documents to be used for background: "Volleyball in pictures", "A documentary study of floating services" and "Volleyball, sport for everyone".

Each volume was printed in 600 copies and distributed free of charge.

c) *up-dating of existing professional staff*

Together with the Portuguese Olympic Committee and the Portuguese Volleyball Federation we organised two

meetings on volleyball, one held at Lisbon with an audience of 110 and the other at Porto with an audience of 92..."

**Mr. Mamadou MAZEI (NIG) - volleyball**

"At the end of my course in Rome I went back to Niger with a store of knowledge that enabled me to carry out my assignment in the best possible way. When I came to implement the knowledge I had acquired of various techniques, tactics and theories, I came to realise the true value of the highly beneficial initiative taken by Olympic Solidarity.

On my return I was given the task of accompanying my departmental team to a Youth Sports Festival held at Zinder between 1st and 15th April 1976. My team was the winner of this event...

I then went on to take part in a training course for novice trainers. You really are subjected to a test of will-power, self-control and creative spirit if you want to work successfully as a trainer in a society in which, to date, people are not convinced of the importance of sport...

Apart from various school teams that I train, I am also responsible for the basic and advanced training of the military team. Furthermore I am trying to set up a volleyball school which I consider vital. At the moment I am the only volleyball trainer in my country. You will therefore understand the work that awaits me, especially bearing in mind the climatic problems that spare no one and the enormous geographical distances that separate the urban centres of Niger.

I should particularly like to draw your attention to the fact that we have great difficulty in obtaining news of developments in the field of volleyball and are therefore relying on your understanding and readiness to keep us informed of developments in sport in general and volleyball in particular."

