

# The first international conference on women in sport

As noted in our December issue (No. 134) we now return with more details concerning *the first international conference on women in sport* which was held in London from 4th to 6th December, 1978 with the patronage of Her Royal Highness The Princess Anne and organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation (CCPR) under the chairmanship of Mrs. Mary A. Glen Haig.

During the three-day programme of lectures and detailed discussions there arose a diversity of problems affecting women's participation in Sport. The major areas of concern included the competitor's viewpoint, sportswomen and society, sportswomen and medicine, sportswomen and the media, sportswomen and sports organisations and finally, women in the Olympic context.

As the conference came to an end, the following conclusions had been reached with particular regard to four major areas of concern. The principal ones being that :

## 1. Sport and medicine

- The reasons for disparities between men's and women's performances in sports are more likely to be social cultural than biological.
- There should be no restraints on women participating in traditionally male sports on biological or physiological grounds.
- There should be no distinctions made at the pre-pubertal stage between and girls as regards sports participation

## 2. Sports organisations

- Collectively, women should strive to achieve a greater proportion of women

lected to representative sports organisations.

- Pressure should be brought to bear on countries that as yet do not recognise women's sports.
- There is a general necessity to promote world wide women's participation in sport and recreation.

## 3. Sport and media

- All organisations concerned with women's sports need to work towards media exposure which accurately reflects women's sporting interests and abilities.

## 4. Women's sport and education

- As attitudes and values towards women's sports are part fostered and encouraged within schools, educationalists should help girls to have a genuine freedom of choice through experience thus enabling them to take full advantage of the opportunities offered.