

Belgium and Olympism

"If one does not want athletics to be the ruthless, arrogant embodiment of the Nietzschean conception of life, it must be-as you want and must want it to be—a work of social education..."

"Today, the competitions in the stadium are a preparation for peace and at the same time for the terrible contingencies that have not yet disappeared from the horizon."

Cardinal Mercier
to the Olympic athletes at the Games in Antwerp
(14th August 1920).

BELGIUM

30,514 sq.km.

9,690,000 inhabitants (1976).



COMITE OLYMPIQUE ET INTERFEDERAL BELGE (COIB)

Created on 18th February 1906.

Recognised by the IOC in 1906.

President in office : Mr. Raoul Mallet *.

Secretary General in office : Mr. Adrian Vanden Eede *.

Address : Avenue de Bouchout 9 - 1020 Brussels.

Telephone : 02/478 96 19 - 478 84 75 - 478 49 57 - 478 49 58.

Telex : 63760 olybel b.

* See biographical notes.
(100 Belgian francs = 5.68 Swiss francs)

Role of the COIB

- The aim of the COIB, as laid down in Article 2 of its statutes, is "the organisation and development of physical education and sport in any form whatsoever".
- The COIB deals specially with the organisation, preparation and participation of athletes in the Olympic Games.
It is completely independent and autonomous. It must resist all political, religious, linguistic or other pressure. It is subject to the "Olympic" Charter.
- In order to achieve its aim, the COIB undertakes to make all decisions of a general nature likely to favour the practice of all forms of sport in Belgium.

Creation and development

In his efforts to revive Olympism, Pierre de Coubertin was given a favourable response when he called on Belgium for support. Thus, the Paris Congress which in 1894 resulted in the revival of the Olympic Games, counted among its honorary members HM the King of Belgium, H. Lafontaine, a member of the Belgian Parliament and, among the delegates, Messrs. Carroen and J. Hanser, of the Belgian Cycling League, Adolphe Ziane, of the Brussels Athletic



Henri de Baillet-Latour,
President of the IOC

and Running Club, Messrs. Ketels and Charles Dereine, of the Belgian Federation of Running Clubs. In addition, the Belgian Outdoor League, which had been unable to send any representatives, had indicated its adherence in writing.

The original members of the IOC also included a Belgian, Count Maxime de Bousies *, a lawyer of renown, devoted to the cause of sport.

In a letter to Coubertin, dated 11th September 1894, Count de Bousies* accepted this nomination in the following manner : *“I think that both you and Mr. Claes will be pleased to hear that I agree to represent Belgium on the International Committee of the Olympic Games, under the terms indicated in your kind letter. I shall therefore, as you suggest, wait until you come to Brussels to take the necessary steps to form a Belgian committee...”*

Too occupied by his own activities, which often obliged him to leave Belgium, Maxime de Bousies * resigned from the IOC in 1901. Coubertin then called on Commander Reyntiens, former aide de camp to the King of Belgium, and two years later, in 1903, on Count Henri de Baillet-Latour * who subsequently from 1925 until his death in 1942 succeeded Coubertin in the very delicate task of performing the duties of President of the IOC.

The *“Olympic Review”* announced in glowing terms the nomination of the young member of the IOC : *“Count Henri de Baillet-Latour, the new IOC member for Belgium, is an outstanding sportsman whose enthusiasm and competence will make Belgium’s participation in the Olympic Games worthy of his country and his sovereign.”*

In Baillet-Latour *, Belgian Olympism had found its greatest support, and from then on, experienced great development. His role was a vital one in all the important moments of Belgian Olympic activity :

- organisation from 9th to 14th June 1905 in Brussels of the “Olympic Congress on the technique of physical exercise”, with 210 delegates from 21 countries,
- creation on 18th February 1906, in the Ravenstein Hotel, of the “Belgian Olympic Committee” (COB), whose first President was Baron Edouard de Laveleye *, President of the Belgian Union of Athletics Clubs, a federation which governed both football and athletics and even had a cycling section,
- the successful organisation of the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920. The COB accomplished a veritable feat on this occasion, when one considers that the First World War, during which Belgium had been almost completely occupied by the enemy’s armies, had come to an end less than two years previously.

First groups and federations belonging to the COB :

Athletic sports, ballooning, automobile, rowing, cycling, riding, fencing, gymnastics, tennis, swimming, polo, shooting, yachting.

On 16th July 1925, the COB merged with the National Committee for Physical Education and Social Hygiene, itself founded in 1919, to form the “National Committee for Physical Education and Belgian Olympic Committee”. Baron de

Laveleye * who had become an IOC member in 1919, became President of this new organisation, which was in the form of a non-profit association, in accordance with the Belgian law dated 27th June 1921.

On 4th May 1953, the Committee changed its name to the "Belgian Olympic Committee Union of National Physical Education and Sports Associations."

On 27th February 1958, HRH Prince Albert of Belgium *, became honorary President of the COB, having been elected a member of the International Olympic Committee the same year.

On 19th March 1962, a statutory General Assembly decided on a general revision of the statutes. The association, dissolved on 28th May of the same year, was reconstituted on 27th June by an act published in the Belgian State Bulletin on 19th July 1962.

Finally, on 16th December 1978, the General Meeting of the COB decided to change the title of the association to the "Comité Olympique et Interfédéral Belge" (Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee). In adopting this new name, the Belgian Committee grouping the Olympic and non-Olympic federations, expressed its determination to contribute to the development of sport in all the branches practised in the country and to constitute an organisation representing national sport as a whole.



*Raoul Mollet,
President of the COIB*

Following in the wake of Presidents Baillet-Latour * and de Laveleye *, a number of energetic personalities succeeded in firmly maintaining the destinies of the COB. Let us mention Baron de Trannoy *, an IOC member from 1939 to 1957, Rodolphe William Seeldrayers *, President of the FIFA and IOC member (1946-1959), Victor Boin *, a brilliant fencer, ex-captain of the Belgian Olympic team, first athlete in the world to have the honour of giving the Olympic oath at Antwerp in 1920, and for many years President of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), Alexandre de Mérode *, an IOC member since 1964 and keystone of the Medical Commission, and lastly Raoul Mollet *, the current President of the NOC.

H.M. Baudouin I, King of Belgium, who takes a keen interest in the preparations for, and participation in, the Olympic Games. Before their departure for the Games, he enquires personally as to the morale of all those who have been selected. Below, he is seen among the athletes as they are setting off for Montreal (1976).



Successive Presidents of the COB

1906-1923 : Baron Edouard de Laveleye *.

1923-1942 : Count Henri de Baillet-Latour *.

1942-1945 : Prince Albert de Ligne *.

1945-1955 : Rodolphe William Seeldrayers *.

1955-1965 : Victor Boin *.

Since 1965 : Raoul Mollet *.

IOC MEMBERS IN BELGIUM



*Prince Alexandre
de Mérode,
IOC member*

Members

1. Count Maxime de Bousies *, member of the original Committee, from 1894 to 1901.
2. Commander Reyntiens, from 1901 to 1903.
3. Count Henri de Baillet-Latour *, from 1903 to 1942, member of the Executive Board from 1921 to 1926, President from 1925 until his death in 1942.
4. Baron Edouard de Laveleye *, from 1919 to 1939.
5. Baron de Trannoy *, from 1939 to 1957.
6. Rodolphe William Seeldrayers *, from 1946 to 1955.
7. HRH Prince Albert de Liege *, from 1958 to 1964.
8. Prince Alexandre de Mérode, since 1964 ; Chairman of the Medical Commission since 1967.

BELGIUM AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- **Date of first participation : 1900.**

Since then, Belgium has sent delegations of varying sizes to all Olympic Games (except 1904) and to all Winter Games (except 1960 and 1968).

- **Belgian cities which have applied to stage the Olympic Games**

Antwerp : host city for the Games of the VIth Olympiad in 1920.

Brussels : candidate city for the staging of the 1960 and 1964 Olympic Games.



1976 - Montreal. Gaston Roelants, Olympic 3000 metre steeplechase champion, flag bearer for the Belgian delegation.

Representation of Belgium at the Olympic Games from 1900 to 1980¹

	Athletics	Rowing	Basketball	Boxing	Canoeing	Cycling	Equestrian Events	Fencing	Football	Gymnastics	Weightlifting
1900	1	9	●	●	●	1	11		11 ²		●
1904			0 ²		●		●				
1908	6	10	●		●	5	●	20		2	●
1912	3	6	●	●	●	1	4	12			●
1920	49	20	●	14	●	15	19	23	14	48	7
1924	16	15	●	10	●	9	11	19	11		8
1928	33(9)	22	●	6	●	10	9	22(4)	14		7
1932			●		●			7(1)			
1936	12(2)	7	8	8	9	8	3	20(3)			
1948	17(2)	4	12	8	9(1)	13		18(3)		8(8)	3
1952	21	12	13	5	4	11		14		3	2
1956	6	7		1	2	7	3(1)	6			1
1960	12	5		4	4	13	2(1)	15(3)		5(3)	2
1964	10	2			2	10	2			1(1)	1
1968	15(1)	1			3	15		3		2(2)	2
1972	17(2)	5			9(1)	16	4(1)	1(1)			1
1976	27(8)	8		1	12(4)	8	5	4(3)			1
1980											

1 The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.

● Not included on the programme.

x Sport included in the programme but in which no event was contested.

z Demonstration sport.



	Handball	Hockey	Judo	Wrestling	Swimming	Modern Pentathlon	Shooting	Archery	Volleyball	Yachting	Total
1900	●	●	●		8	●	10				51
1904	●	●	●			●	●		●	●	●
1908	●		●	4	12	●	18		●	10	87
1912	●	●	●	1	12(1)			●	●		39
1920	●	13	●	15	21		29	14	●	14	315
1924	●	●	●	16	17(1)	4	14	●	●	9	159
1928	●	18	●	13	11	3	●	●	●	6	174
1932	●		●					●	●		
1936	0 ²	17	●	11	9	3	3	●	●	3	121
1948	●	13	●	10	16(4)	3	3	●	●	12	149
1952	●	11	●	9	20(5)	1	4	●	●	4	134
1956	●	13	●	3	6(3)		2	●	●	1	58
1960	●	17	●	5	10(1)	1	3	●	●	3	101
1964	●	16		3	12		1	●	●	1	61
1968	●	16	●	2	6(2)		3	●	12	3	83
1972		18	4	2	4(1)		6	3		6	96
1976		16	2	2	10(8)		5(2)	2		5	108
1980											

Representation of Belgium at the Winter Games from 1924 to 1980¹



	Biathlon (skiing & shooting)	Bobsleigh	Ice Hockey	Luge	Speed Skating	Figure Skating	Skiing	Total
1924	●	5	10	●	4	2(1)		21(1)
1928	●	10	12	●		2(1)		24(1)
1932	●	4		●		1		5
1938	●	8	10	●	2	4(2)	4	28(2)
1948	●	5		●	1	3(1)	2	11(1)
1952	●	4		●	3		2	9
1958	●	5		●	2		2	9
1980		●		●				0
1964		5			1		1(1)	7(1)
1988								0
1972							1	1
1978					2(1)		2	4(1)
1980								

¹ The figures in brackets represent the number of women included in the first figure.
● Not included on the programme.

N.B. In 1920, at Antwerp, Belgium took part in the ice hockey events (8 athletes) and skating (2 athletes).



1948 - St. Moritz. The Belgian bobsleigh team.

The Olympic champions

1912 - Belgian fencers with the brilliant Paul Anspach, who was to become president of the *Fédération Internationale d'Escrime*, his brother Henri, and Fernand de Montigny.



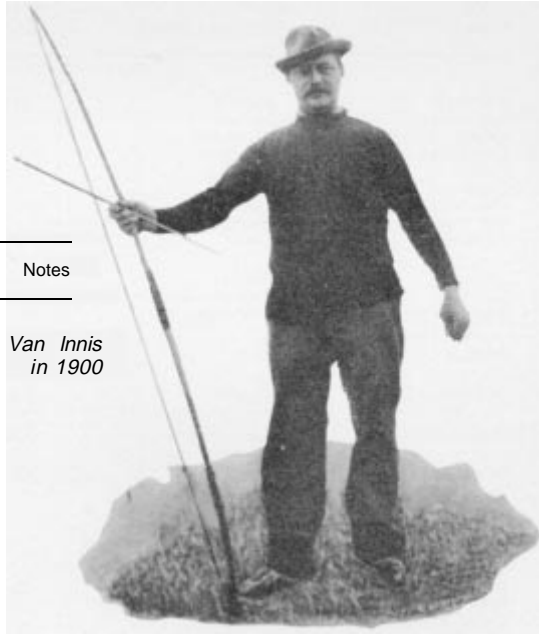
The Belgium Olympic Champions

I. Titles obtained at the Olympic Games

* The names in heavy print indicate that the champion in question will be mentioned again later on.
 * We would like to thank in advance all readers able to help us complete this table and give us news of all the champions.

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
Van Grombuge De Sonville		Rowing	Uncoxed pairs
Haegeman Van Langendonck	Aimé Constant	Equestrian	Jumping Long jump
Van Innis Van Innis	Hubert Hubert	Archery	58 m perche Chapelet
Lunden	D.	Shooting	Clay pigeon
Van Asbroeck	Paul	—	Revolver
Anspach Anspach Anspach Hennet De Montigny Ochs Rom Salmon Willems	Paul Paul Henri Robert Fernand Jacques Francis Gaston Victor	Fencing	Indiv. épée Team épée
George	Henry	Cycling	50 km track
Missonna Bonckaert Bonckaert Finet Van Ranst	J. T. T. T.	Equestrian	20 km Mounted gymnastics Team mounted gymnastics
De Bie Swartenbroeks Verbeeck Musch Hanse Fierens Van Hege Larnoe Bragard Coppee Bastin Balyu Nisot Hebodin	Jan Armand Oscar Joseph Emile Andre Louis Henri Mathieu Robert Desiré Félix Fernand Georges	Football	
De Haes	Frans	Weightlifting	Featherweight
Van Moer Cloetens Van de Perck Cloetens Van Moer Flamand Hermans Van de Verre Van Innis	Edmond Edmond Louis Edmond Edmond Firmin Joseph Auguste Hubert	Archery	Small birds Large birds Large and small birds, team event
			Berceau 28

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1900			<i>Hubert Van Innis in 1900</i>
—			
1900			
—			
1900	1866	1961	
—	1866	1961	
1900			
1908	1874		
1912	1882		
—	1882		
—	1882	1979	
—	1886		
—	1885	1974	
—	1883		
—	1869		
—	1868	1917	
—	1877		
1920	1891	1978	
1920			
—			
—	1894		
1920	1892		
—	1892		
—	1891		
—	1893		
—	1892		
—	1898		
—	1888		
—	1897		
—	1895		
—	1895		
—	1900		
—	1891		
—	1895		
—	1895		
1920	1895		
1920			
—			



Architect of the Olympic stadium in Antwerp, founder of the Association of Belgian Olympic medallists.

Belgium was declared the winner following the withdrawal of the Czechoslovak team in the final.



1920 - The Olympic champion football team.

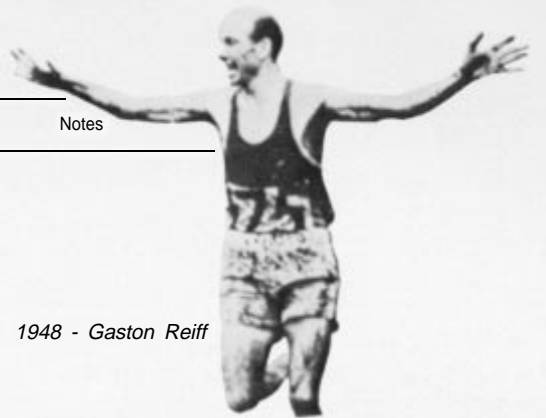
Name	Christian Name	sport	Event
Van Innis	Hubert	Archery	Berceau 33
Van Innis	Hubert		Team event :
Allaert	Alphonse	—	— Berceau 33
De Knibber	Edmond	—	— Berceau 50
Delcon	Louis	—	—
DeMayer	Jérôme	—	—
Van Beeck	Louis	—	—
Van Thielt	Pierre	—	—
Fierens	Louis	—	—
Cornelie	Emile	Yachting	6 m (gauge 1907)
Cornelie	Florimond	—	—
Bruynseels	Frederic-Albert	—	—
Delarge	Jean	Boxing	Welterweight
Delporte	Charles	Fencing	Epée
Huybrechts	Léon	Yachting	Monotype
Delathouwer	Léon	Cycling	Road, team event
Van Roosbroeck	Eugène	—	—
Wouters	Lode	—	—
Reiff	Gaston	Athletics	5,000 m
Noyelle	André	Cycling	Road
Noyelle	Andre	—	Road, team <i>event</i>
Grondelaers	Robert	—	—
Victor	Lucien	—	—
Roelants	Gaston	Athletics	3,008 m steeplechase
Sercu	Patrick	Cycling	One-kilometre time trial

II. Titles obtained at the Winter Games

Name	Christian Name	Sport	Event
Lannoy Bagniet	Micheline Pierre	Figure skating	Pairs

III. Titles obtained in the Art competitions

Name	Christian Name	Category	Work
Collin	Albéric	Sculpture	"Strenght"
Monier	Georges	Music	"Olympic Music"

Year	Birth	Death	Notes
1920	1866	1961	 <p>1948 - Gaston Reiff</p>
—	1866	1961	
—			
—			
—			
—			
—			
1920	1869		
—	1894		
	1888		
1924	1906		
1924	1893		
1924	1876	1956	
1948	1929		
—	1928		
	1929		
1948	1921		
1952	1931		
—	1931		
—	1931		
1964	1937		
1964	1944		



1952 - Victor, Grondelaers and Noyelle

Well-known painter.

Year	Birth	Death
1948	1925	
	1925	
Year	Birth	Death
1920		
1920		



1948 - Micheline Lannoy - Pierre Baugnet

PRESENT ORGANISATION OF THE COIB

- *The present statutes* were adopted on 27th June 1962 and amended on 18th December 1978.

- *Composition*

The COIB is composed of active members (national sports federations and the IOC member) and associate members (other sports groups, administrative bodies and personalities elected individually).

- *Active members of the COIB*

a) *Federations governing an Olympic sport*

Royal Belgian Athletics League, Royal Belgian Rowing Federation, Royal Belgian Federation of Basketball Clubs, Belgian Bobsleigh and Luge Federation, Royal Belgian Boxing Federation, Belgian Canoeing Federation, Royal Belgian League of Fencing Clubs, Royal Belgian Union of Football Societies, Royal Belgian Gymnastics Federation, Belgian Handball Union, Royal Belgian Hockey Association, Royal Belgian Ice Hockey Federation, Belgian League of Judo and Associated Disciplines, Royal Belgian Wrestling League, Royal Belgian Swimming and Lifesaving Federation, Royal Belgian Figure Skating Federation, Royal Belgian Speed Skating Federation, Royal Belgian Weightlifting Federation, Belgian Skiing Federation, Royal Belgian Equestrian Association, Royal Union of Belgian

Shooting Clubs, Royal Belgian Archery Federation, Belgian Clay Pigeon Shooting Federation, Royal Belgian Cycling League, Belgian Volleyball Federation, Royal Belgian Yachting Federation.

b) *Federations governing a non-Olympic sport*

Belgian Cultural Aikido Society, Alpine Club of Belgium, Royal National Federation of Belgian Archers, Royal Automobile Club of Belgium, Belgian Badminton Federation, Royal National Pelota Federation of Belgium, Belgian Baseball and Softball Federation, Royal Amateur Billiards Association of Belgium, Royal Belgian League of French Boxing, Belgian Dancing Union, Belgian Federation of Physical Education, Belgian Indoor and Miniature Football Association, Royal Belgian Golf Federation, Belgian Karate Association, Royal Belgian Korfball League, Krachtball Federation, Union of Belgian Land Yachting Clubs, Royal Belgian Lawn Tennis Federation, Belgian Federation of Mini-Basketball Clubs, Belgian Motorcycling Federation, Belgian Orienteering Association, Belgian Roller Skating Federation, Belgian Deep-Sea Fishing Federation, Belgian Sports Fishing Federation, Belgian National Federation for Horizontal Vaulting, Belgian Pétanque and Provence Games Federation, Belgian Shot Putting Federation, Belgian Bowling Union, Belgian Federation for Underwater Research and Sub-Aqua Sport, Belgian Rugby Federation, Belgian Ski-Bob Federation, Belgian Water Skiing Federation, Belgian Spelunking Association, Belgian Squash Rackets Federation, Royal Belgian Table Tennis Federation, International Federation for Physical Education, Belgian Federation of Gliding Clubs, Belgian Yoga Federation, Belgian Sports Bowling Federation.



"Olympic House", headquarters of the COIB, was founded in 1973 and is situated 200 m. from the Heysel stadium and the Atomium.

- *Associate Members*

Belgian Labour Centre for Gymnastics and Sports, Belgian Catholic Federation for Gymnastics and Sports, Belgian Sports Federation for the Handicapped, Royal Belgian Catholic Sports Federation, Belgian Liberal Gymnastics Federation, Belgian Police Sports Federation, Royal Belgian Sports Federation for the Deaf, Royal Belgian League for Sports on Ice, Belgian University Sports Federation, Sporta.

- *The ordinary General Assembly* is held twice a year, usually in June and December.

Extraordinary general meetings are convened whenever the Executive Board deems necessary and, in any case, whenever a fifth of the active members so request.

- *The Executive Board* is composed of a President, an ex-officio Vice-President, four Vice-Presidents, a general treasurer and thirteen members, all appointed and removable by the Gene-

ral Meeting of members. The powers of the Executive Board are those laid down by law. In addition to all other powers conferred by the law or the Statutes, the Board may confer any special powers on a Secretary General or special officers of its choice as it sees fit.

- **Place for meetings**

In 1973, the COIB had a modern and functional "Olympic House" built in the vicinity of the Brussels City stadium (Heysel). It included in particular a sports medical centre.

A second building to be used as a base for the federations, is nearing completion.

The building of this centre, constructed on a site given by the town of Brussels, has been made possible thanks entirely to the generous gesture of Mr. Charles Debeur, a former general treasurer of the COIB and a current member of the Executive Board, who provided all the necessary financial guarantees.

- *Right to vote*

All federations are entitled to one vote.

For questions connected with the Olympic Games, only those members whose sport is included on the programme of the Olympic Games in question may take part in the discussions and voting.

- *Governing bodies*

The four vice-presidents of the COIB are each responsible for one of the following steering committees :

No. 1 : Competitive sport.

No. 2 : Mass sport.

No. 3 : Interfederal studies and activities.

No. 4 : Sports sciences.

Apart from the IOC member or members who serve on the Board as of right, the Executive Board of the COIB must have ten French-speaking members and ten Dutch-speaking members, the ex-officio Vice-President and the assistant (financial adviser) to the General Treasurer respectively belonging to the other language group than the President and the General Treasurer, and the four steering committees comprising as many French—as Dutch-speaking members.

- *The structures*

Since the current President assumed office in 1965, the COIB has been restructured twice.

In 1966, reorganisation concentrated on the following main points :

- creation of specialised departments ;
- launching an assistance programme for athletes ;
- improvement of the administration of the Committee ;
- search for contacts and exchanges of ideas throughout the country.

In order to achieve the last aim, each of the nine Belgian provinces has a provincial Olympic Committee.

The presidents are appointed by the national President.

Subsequently two national congresses were held, one in 1967 which included six "round table conferences" attended by leading personalities in Belgian sport, who examined all problems concerning sport and physical education, from both the technical and the social points of view. A second congress in 1970 dealt more particularly with the question of recreational sport.

The second major reorganisation of the COIB occurred in 1971, when a complete administrative chart was adopted.

This is still in force.

That year, the General Assembly adopted the system of Olympic "cells" or, more precisely, extended and codified it, each of these cells specialising in one of the three categories—the "probables", the "possibles" and the "Olympic hopefuls"... as well as a financial aid group.

In order to cope with the problems involved in modern sport, the COIB has set up several consultative organisations or bodies intended to help the development of sport. These are :

- the Athletes' Committee ;
- the Olympic Coaches Association ;



(The medal of the COIB.)

THE COIB AND OLYMPISM



(The medal of the COIB.)

- the Sports Vocation foundation ;
- the fund for athletes at the end of their sports career ;
- the Sports Medicine Development Foundation.

● Present members of the Executive Board

The Executive Board of the COIB was made up on 1st April 1979 as follows :

President : Raoul Mollet *.

Ex-officio Vice-President : Frans Meulemans.

Vice-Presidents : Dr. Albert Dirix, Mr. Jean Leeuw, Dr. Jacques Rogge, Miss Lydie Willem.

General Treasurer : François Narmon.

IOC member : Prince Alexandre de Mérode *.

Members : René Bruneel, Charles Debeur, Raymond Delforge, Maurice Deveen, Paul Dirix, Marcel Hebbelinck, Jose Hoffmann, Xavier Sturbois, Livin Van den Breede, Vincent van den Meersch, Roger Vanmeerbeek, Etienne Wante, Jean-Michel Wyns.

● IOC Sessions and congresses organised in Belgium

1905 - Session in Brussels.

1905 - 3rd Olympic Congress in Brussels.

1920 - Session in Antwerp.

● Olympic Awards

Olympic Cup

1916 - To the Ghent Confrérie Saint Michel (fencing).

1950 - to the Belgian Olympic Committee for the creation of a permanent medical sports inspection scheme.

Olympic Order

1975 - Charles Debeur, bronze medal, eight times Belgian épée champion between 1930 and 1949, competitor at the Olympic Games in 1928 and 1936, technical delegate of the "Fédération Internationale d'Esclime", member of the Executive Board of the COIB, and for many years the shrewd treasurer of the COIB.

1976 - Paul Anspach, silver medal, who celebrated his 97th birthday on 1st April 1979, is undoubtedly the oldest of the Olympic champions. He was 3rd in the individual and team épée events in London in 1908, 1st in 1912 in these two events, and 2nd in the team event in 1920 and 1924. For sixteen years he was President of the FIE.

1977 - René de Raeve, bronze medal, for his work on the Executive Board of the Fédération Internationale de Natation Amateur beginning in 1930 ; he was President of this Federation from 1949 to 1952.



Victor Bouin taking the first Olympic oath at Antwerp in 1920.

1979 - Marcel Leclef, bronze medal, for having taken part in four Winter Games and 17 ice hockey, speed skating and bobsleigh world championships, and for having been an active vice-President of the Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh et Tobogganing for 30 years.

Olympic Diploma

To Victor Boin *, 39th holder in 1963, for his qualities as a sports journalist, a man of letters, and an athlete who had taken part in four Olympic Games.

Mohamed Taher Trophy

1951 - To Paul Anspach, first holder of this trophy for the brilliance of his

career as a fencer and international sports official.

1961 - To Marcel Vandewattyne, an exemplary athlete and a cross-country champion.

- **Protection of the Olympic emblems**

The bill has been introduced in the Belgian Parliament and the COIB is doing everything in its power to see that a favourable solution is found within a reasonable period of time.

- **The International Olympic Academy**

Since 1977, a delegation from the COIB has taken part regularly in the sessions of the IOA.

- **Olympic Day**

Although Olympic day has not yet been celebrated, various events organised by the COIB help promote the Olympic spirit during the course of the year.

- **Publications of the COIB**

Down through the years, various bulletins and periodicals have been published. At present, the COIB publishes "Olympics", a quarterly news review in two languages (French and Dutch), each edition consisting of 48 offset pages, abundant illustrations and many feature articles.

- **National Olympic Bibliography**

The official report of the Olympic Games in Antwerp in 1920 has never been printed. It did however appear in the form of stencilled copies.

Another title : "Les Jeux Olympiques" by Camille Fichet and Jean Corhumel. Publishers : Marabout Verviers, Belgium 1964, out of print, Spanish translation, published by Diana (Mexico City in 1967).

SPORT IN BELGIUM

- **Other sports governing bodies**

Belgian sport has a large number of governing bodies. From the legislative point of view, professional sport is governed by the national parliament, while non-professional sport comes under the jurisdiction of the Cultural Councils (French and Dutch-speaking) and partially under the Brussels Urban Council.

From the executive point of view, in addition to the Ministry of Employment and Labour and the Ministry of Social Welfare which see to the execution of the legislative provisions concerning professional athletes, there are the Ministries of Culture with the two Departments of Physical Education and Sport, the Ministries of National Education which govern physical education and Sport in the school system, the Ministry of National Defence with regard to sport in the armed forces, the Ministry of Public Works which is responsible for infrastructure and finally the Ministry of Public Health for the problems of sports medicine and doping tests.

Such a wide dispersal of responsibilities is obviously not conducive to the drawing up of a general policy for physical education and sport offering a unity of doctrine and that is why the COIB, the spokesman in this instance for almost the whole of the voluntary sports movement, wishes—in fact insists—that all the duties and powers relating to sport be reorganised and entrusted to a coordinating organisation with its own budget, within the framework of existing institutions.

- **Public authorities and sport**

In Belgium, the mainly voluntary origin of organised sport is fully understood and respected by the public authorities, who play an essentially complementary role : the public sector, at all levels, helps and backs voluntary sports activities provided they are accessible to all. This complementary role does not however preclude the public authorities' right to initiative, which is exercised mainly in the fields of sports infrastructure and promotion.

The execution and planning of sports policy are based on the understanding that in Belgium characterises relations between the public authorities and the voluntary sector.

Two pyramids can thus be distinguished from the point of view of implementation : on the one hand, the civil service ; on the other, the voluntary groups consisting of sports groups, federations and the COIB. A third pyramid concerns consultation of the voluntary sector by ministers with sports coming under their jurisdiction.

This triple pyramid is an original method of organisation guaranteeing the independence of the voluntary sector while associating it with the political decisions concerning it.

- **Sport and the cultural communities**

In 1970 the revision of the Belgian constitution made official the existence of different cultural communities, that is the French, Dutch and German communities.

In 1971, a law was introduced defining cultural subjects and among them "Physical education, sport and open-air activity", the term physical education here being taken to mean all phy-



The Belgian Government is equally interested in mass sport, sport for the handicapped, and Olympic sport. Mr. Tindemans, Prime Minister at the time, pays tribute here to the 1976 sports awards winners. To the left is the President of the COIB.

sical education other than that practised in schools. Since then, it is the ministers of the French and Dutch cultural communities that have jurisdiction with regard to sport, each for his own respective community.

In each ministerial department of the community there is a general governing body (ADEPS and BLOSO), responsible for the drawing up and carrying out policy with regard to physical education, sport and open-air activity, but also with respect to cultural and sports infrastructure.

• **State aid for sport**

Financing of sport by the state is provided by :

1. The national sports fund, itself deriving its resources from the following receipts :
 - tax charged on the receipts of competitions and wagering on sports events,
 - its own receipts,
 - budgetary receipts.

2. The ministerial budgets of the French and Dutch communities.

With regard to these two communities, subsidies of over 550 million Belgian francs (approximately 30 million Swiss francs) were paid out in 1979 :

- for the running of federations,
- to sports groups,
- for sports events,
- for the training of officials,
- for the preparation of top athletes.

The COIB's operating budget for 1980 totals BF 15,800,000, a balanced budget having been achieved on the strength of income earned on shares owned by the Committee. The COIB's extraordinary budget totals BF 24,400,000.

The problems of joint interest for the two administrations and to the COIB (for example the financing of Belgian participation at the Olympic Games) are discussed by a commission called the "ABC Commission" (ADEPs, BLOSO, COIB). In this respect, worthy of mention is Belgium's participation at the Games in Moscow which will be fully covered by the state.

Finally, it should be pointed out that other ministerial departments act in particular spheres of sports policy, e.g.:

- the Ministry of National Education for physical education in schools (three hours of physical education a week are provided for on curricula) ;
- the Ministry of National Defence for sports policy in the army ;
- the Ministries of Welfare, Employment and Labour for arrangements concerning the social status of professional athletes ;

— the Ministry of the Interior for certain matters relating to safety in sport (racing cyclists for example).

● Mass sport

For several years now, the public authorities have made a point of encouraging the practice of sport and physical activities by the largest number of citizens possible, regardless of social class, age, sex or physical handicaps.

The policy followed in this respect tends to create optimum conditions to encourage the regular practice of sport ; the two major lines of this policy are the setting up of a multi-faceted infrastructure, created with a wish to integrate the various interests and schemes for getting the public involved in sport, such as "Sport for all", "Sports holidays", "Toss 80" and "Stay young".

The COIB encourages such action and insists on the voluntary movement being actively associated with these efforts.

● Sports installations

In this respect, both the private sector and public institutions play their part. A calculation of the value of the programmes undertaken is difficult to determine with regard to both private and public initiatives, as many programmes originate with the state, community bodies, the provinces or the municipalities.

The following figures will indicate the nature of some of the public programmes :

- in 1979, the two communities financed construction totalling 2,000 million BF at a maximum participation rate of 60 percent.



Heysel Stadium.

— total state expenditure in 1979 for construction of sports facilities was more than 800,000,000 BF.

In addition, for the year 1978, the Credit Communal de Belgique (a provincial and municipal banking institution) advanced more than 5,000 million BF in credits.

This policy has allowed for the establishment of a great many small and moderate-sized sports centres providing, local services, for the most part.

Facilities also include some twenty stadia each having a capacity of greater than 20,000. Heysel Stadium, owned by the City of Brussels, is capable of holding 65,000 spectators.

Approximately twenty swimming pools meeting Olympic requirements may also be found throughout the country.

- **Sports which draw the biggest crowds**

Football, which numbers 400,000 participants, is certainly, both from the point of view of spectators and players, the No. 1 sport in Belgium.

During the 1978 season, no fewer than 177,560 matches were played under the auspices of the official federation (Royal Belgium Union of Football Associations), while in 1970 the number of matches was only 101,292.

Next come : tennis 100,000 members ; basketball 60,000 ; volleyball 50,000 ; judo 35,000 ; cycling and athletics 20,000 ; swimming 12,000.

- **Sports experiencing the greatest development**

Canoeing-kayak, volleyball, riding (jumping).

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

These notes can cover only a few personalities who have played a leading role in the Olympic movement.

We have unfortunately been obliged to omit a certain number of people who have occupied an important place in particular sports.

Count Henri de Baillet-Latour

President of the IOC from 1925 until his death in 1942.

Son of the former governor of the Province of Antwerp, he was 27 years old when he became an IOC member in 1903. Until 1942, that is for 39 years, he proved himself a leader without equal, and at the same time an outstanding sportsman. In 1905, he was largely responsible for the organisation of the Olympic Congress in Brussels, which was a brilliant success. Member of the Supreme Council of Physical Education in Belgium, President of the Jockey Club (he was himself an excellent horseman), Count Henri de Baillet-Latour succeeded in having the Games of the VIth Olympiad awarded to Antwerp which, in spite of the difficulties inherent in the situation resulting from the First World War, were a great success.

In 1923, he succeeded Baron Edouard de Laveleye as President of the Belgian Olympic Committee.

In 1925, the confidence of his peers won him the great honour of succeeding Pierre de Coubertin at the head of the IOC, where his amiable personality and inherent courtesy in no way prevented him from vigorously defending the eternal character of the Olympic ideals.

He died suddenly in Brussels on the night of the 6th to 7th January 1942.

Victor Boin

President of the Belgian Olympic Committee for 10 years, from 1955 to 1965.

Victor Boin was one of the leading figures in Belgian sport, both as an active sportsman, then as an official for over half a century.

A sportsman of diverse talents, he represented Belgium in fencing and water polo, as well as practising many other sports. He was Belgian speed skating champion, an excellent boxer, a fine carman a keen judoka and skier. In addition, he was a pilot in the Belgian air force during the First World War.

He was member of the Belgian water polo teams at the 1908 Olympic Games (silver medal) and 1912 (bronze medal) and, in fencing, of the épée team at the 1920 Olympic Games (silver medal) and the 1924 Games in Paris.

And it was Victor Boin, too, who had the rare honour of swearing, for the first time in Olympic history, the oath on behalf of all participants in the Games at Antwerp.

An active journalist (he was one of the founders of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS), of which he was President for 24 years), Boin was undeniably a humanist and an aesthete. Very fond of music, he was one of those who considered that sport was inseparable from culture... He died on 31st March 1974 soon after his 88th birthday.



Baron Edouard-Emile de Laveleye

Count Maxime de Bousies

IOC member from 1894 till his resignation in 1901.

A distinguished sportsman, lawyer, and personal friend of Pierre de Coubertin, who chose him to be a member of the founding group of the IOC.

Baron Edouard-Emile de Laveleye

IOC member from 1919 until his death in 1938.

Son of the economist Emile de Laveleye, and member of a group of jurists who collectively won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1904, Edouard de Laveleye, born in Ghent on 22nd October 1854, was a keen sportsman. In 1896, when he was 42 years old, he played in the first Belgian football championships for the Leopold Club which he had helped to found three years earlier. He was also a good tennis player and fencer.

He was largely responsible for the creation of the Belgian Olympic Committee in 1906, of which he became the first President, a post he occupied until 1923.

HRH Prince Albert de Liège

IOC member from 1958 until his resignation in 1964.

Brother of HM King Baudoin, he was a much appreciated member of the IOC whose meetings he regularly attended.

His many official tasks subsequently obliged him to ask his colleagues to accept his resignation.

Prince Albert de Ligne

President of the Belgian Olympic Committee from 1942 to 1945.

On the death of Count de Baillet-Latour in 1942, Prince Albert de Ligne agreed to succeed him at the head of the BOC. Prince Albert de Ligne, former Belgian ambassador to Washington, aware of the threats hanging over Belgian sport at that time, accepted — to use his own words — to serve as a buffer and until the end of hostilities he devoted himself untiringly, with a real sense of mission, to a task which even though obscure was not without significance.



**Rodolphe William
Seelldrayers**

**General Baron
de Trannoy**

**Adrien Vanden
Eede**

Prince Alexandre de Mérode

IOC member since 1964.

Born on 29th May 1934, he became at the age of 30 the youngest member of the IOC. Prince Alexandre de Mérode continues to be an extremely active participant in the sports world. At one time a keen underwater diver, parachutist, water skier and horseman, he regularly rows, plays tennis and goes on long cycling excursions. He is at present President of the Belgian Rowing Federation and Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission. He devotes all his energy to the fight against doping substances. In addition, he is President of the Supreme Council for Physical Education and Sport.

Colonel Raoul Mollet

President of the COIB since 1965, member of the IOC Tripartite Commission.

He has played a decisive role in the restructuring not only of the Belgian Olympic movement but also of Belgian sport as a whole. Born at Lanquesaint in 1913, he discovered his sports vocation thanks to the army. Selected, while an NCO in the 1st Regiment of Guides, for the modern pentathlon at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin, he came second in the equestrian event, 5th in fencing and 4th overall after a technical incident in the pistol shooting had made him lose his chance of a place of honour. In 1948, after taking part in the Olympic Games in London, in pentathlon once again, he played an important role in the constitution of the International Military Sports Council of which he is still permanent Secretary General. Author of several books, including: "L'entraînement total" (Complete Training) ; Interval Training ; "Cross promenade" (Cross country Outing) ; "Carnet d'entraînement" (Training Notebook) ; "Football et entraînement" (Football and Training) and "Deux heures de santé" (Two Hours for Health).

Rodolphe William Seelldrayers

IOC member from 1946 until his death in 1955.

An all-round sportsman, interested more particularly in athletics (Belgian champion in the 110 m

hurdles in 1897), football, hockey and golf. Founder, in 1895, of the Royal Belgian Union of Football Clubs., President of the Brussels Racing Club, and technical secretary for the 1920 Olympic Games. An eminent lawyer, a formidable debater, and from 1899 to 1935 a journalist, he had during the dark period of the occupation adopted a very courageous stand in favour of the independence of Belgian sport as an official of the Belgian Olympic Committee, whose President he was to become from 1945 to 1955.

Owing to his authority in the upper echelons of the international sports movement he was chosen in 1954 to succeed President Jules Rimet as head of the FIFA, but unfortunately he died suddenly one year later.

General Baron de Trannoy

IOC member from 1939 to 1957, honorary member from 1957 until his death in 1960.

A horseman of international repute, he took part in the Olympic Games in 1912 and 1920. President of the national equestrian federation beginning in 1932, from 1939 till 1957 he was also President of the International Federation governing this sport while at the same time playing an important role as an IOC member.

Adrien Vanden Eede

Secretary general of the COIB since 1975.

A physical education instructor and a post secondary school teacher, athletics and volleyball instructor at Brussels Free University. Mr. Vanden Eede was also coach of the national volleyball teams from 1968 to 1972, and of the Olympic team at Mexico City. He attended the Games in Munich as a member of the Executive Board of the COIB.

