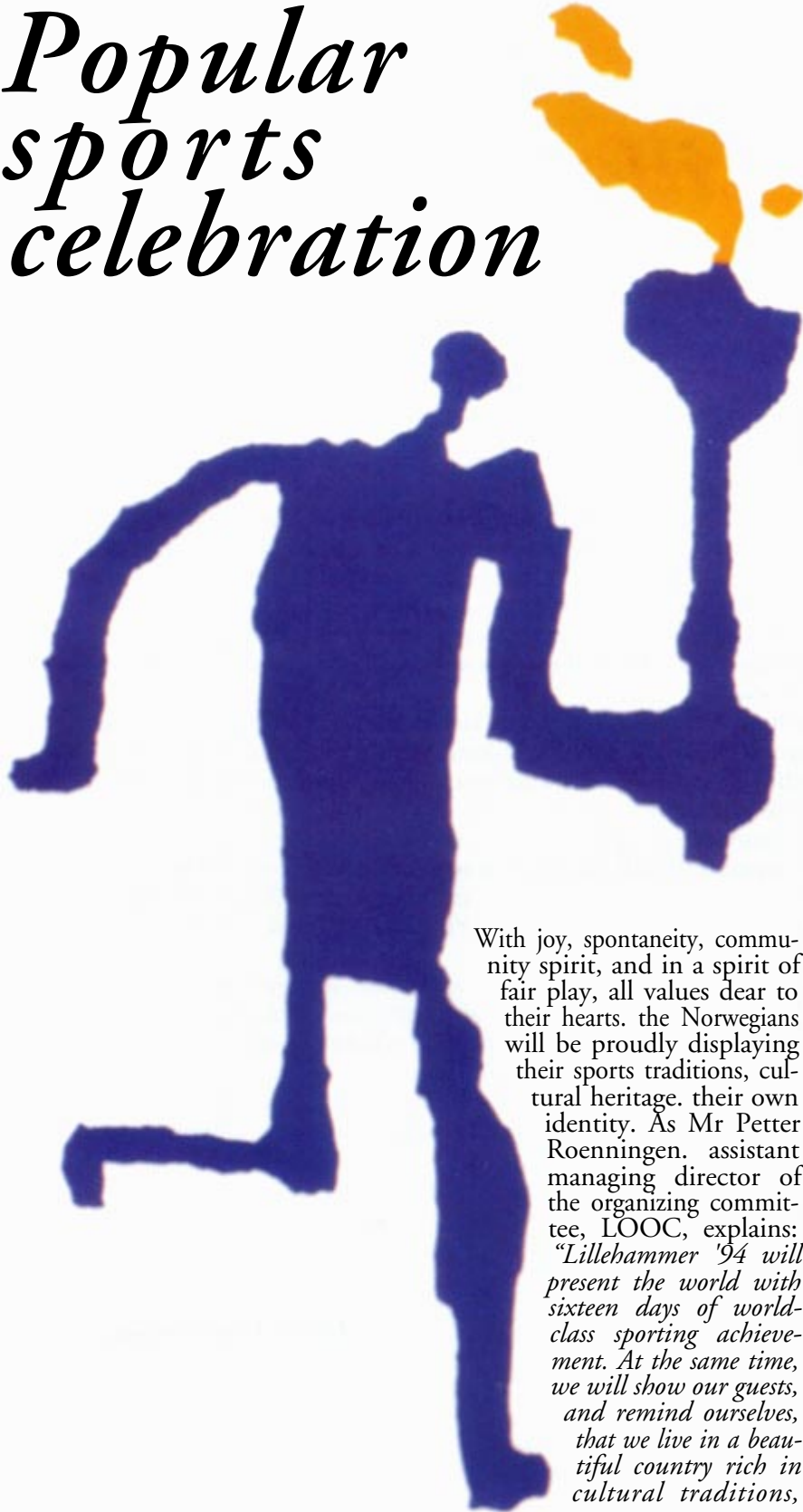


Popular sports celebration



With joy, spontaneity, community spirit, and in a spirit of fair play, all values dear to their hearts, the Norwegians will be proudly displaying their sports traditions, cultural heritage, their own identity. As Mr Petter Roenningen, assistant managing director of the organizing committee, LOOC, explains: *"Lillehammer '94 will present the world with sixteen days of world-class sporting achievement. At the same time, we will show our guests, and remind ourselves, that we live in a beautiful country rich in cultural traditions,*

At 16.00 on 12th February 1994, the XVII Olympic Winter Games in Lillehammer will begin. Norway is hosting this great sports extravaganza for the second time: forty-two years ago Oslo, the capital, organized the sixth Games. It was 1952. Twenty-eight years earlier, the first medals for Olympic winter competitions had been awarded in Chamonix.

one in which "winter games" are part and parcel of our everyday winter life".

ECOLOGY, A PRIORITY

The whole world will be shown that it is possible to arrange a Winter Olympics which take on board environmental considerations. Protecting nature was made a priority right from the start of the planning process. LOOC won the respect of *Naturvernforbund*, the powerful organization affiliated to the international *Friends of the Earth* association, notably by accepting the "Friendly Olympics" project and an ecological charter, whose launch was strongly supported by the IOC. The aim was to avoid previous mistakes and several alternative projects were finally accepted. For instance,

the Ice Hall in Hamar, the upturned Viking ship, was moved in order not to harm a bird sanctuary and the delicate blue anemones growing by the ski jump were uprooted and moved to safety. The bob run, though always controversial because of the danger of ammonia, was well camouflaged on a hillside. The charter dictated rules for partners. Firms had to agree to the strictest conditions and avoid any unnecessary destruction. Natural materials like wood and stone, and those which are degradable or recyclable - like the lead shot in the biathlon, cups and plates, as well as a constant recourse to Norwegian design, have contributed to setting the natural tone to these Games which is a Scandinavian trademark.

In Lillehammer and in the four neighbouring municipalities with Olympic arenas - Hamar, Gjøvik, Oyer and Ringebu -, the construction of the Olympic installations is a showcase for Norwegian technology and architecture. They cost around NOK 2 billion to build and an estimated further NOK 2.5 billion for infrastructure. Those

responsible for each Olympic venue, all specialists with a great deal of experience in their fields, have been hard at work. *"Our overall strategy focuses on the importance of each individual site a successful Olympic Games depends on everything going well at all of them,"* says Petter Ronningen, who has appreciated the good col-

laboration between LOOC and the Winter IFs, even if discussions were tough at times. Each venue, after test-events that enabled alterations to be made, was finally given approval by the IF concerned.

112 EVENTS, ALL CLOSE

Six winter sports are on the programme: skiing, skating, ice hockey, bob, luge and biathlon. A total of a hundred and twelve competitions will take place within a radius of fifty-eight kilometres of Lillehammer. A hundred and seventy one medals, made for the first time in stone and set in one of the three metals, will be awarded. Cross-country skiing, ski jumping, Nordic combined, freestyle and biathlon are close together less than three kilometres from Lillehammer, where there is the Olympic Nordic Ski Park,

with the jumps on the northernmost side of Lake Mjøsa, the largest in the country, near the city between the regions of Oppland and Hedmark. Ice

hockey matches will also be held in Lillehammer, with some in Gjøvik. Hamar's Viking ship will be used for the speed skating, figure skating and short track speed skating



Souvenirs of Oslo 1952.

competitions, whilst fifty kilometres further north, the downhill and the Super G will be on the slopes of Kvitfjell. The small mountain of Hafjell has the other Alpine competitions, with, on the other bank, at Hunderfossen, hidden behind the fir trees, the bob and luge track snakes along, barely fifteen kilometres north of the Olympic village. Distances are never considerable, as Peter Ronningen points out:

"Our aim has been to make Lillehammer '94 as compact a Games as possible. This gives us a good basis for





View of Lillehammer and Lake Mjøsa.

creating a real spirit of community, which I believe will help make the 1994 Olympics a sports celebration."

A LITTLE VILLAGE OPEN TO THE WORLD

Enthusiastic words which welcome the sports delegations. Sixty-seven countries are expected to send par-

ticipants to the Games. The Olympic Village (with 2,680 beds), situated within walking distance from the centre of Lillehammer and the Olympic Park, has opened its doors to athletes, trainers and heads of delegations, and five hundred other people are lodged in Hamar.

(Continued on page 14)



These villages, constructed in wood on piles will be dismantled after the Games and sent to the university towns in the North. Another important delegation: the seven thousand journalists and broadcasters. While seventy-two international telephone lines out of the country were set up during the 1952 Winter Games in Oslo, the TV signals alone from Lillehammer will require a capacity equal to 30,000. Up to twenty-four satellite channels are broadcasting pictures and sound will be supplied from the different venues. Added to this, an "Olympic Force" of 8,500 people, mostly volunteers, who will work during the events, supplement-



THE PARALYMPICS IN MARCH

Norway is continuing the tradition and, immediately after the Olympic Games, will host the VI Winter Paralympics, the great sports encounter for disabled athletes, which will this year take place from 8th to 20th March using the Olympic facilities and venues.

WEATHER

"Daytime temperature minus 6 degrees, partial cloud cover, light winds, stable snow conditions' are what the weather conditions should be like during the Games, according to the LOOC meteorologists. They have based their calculations on the averages recorded for February in Lillehammer over the last one hundred years. The lowest temperature (17 degrees) was recorded in 1947. According to the experts, there is only a 2% risk of having an average temperature below -20 degrees!

LOCAL SPONSORS

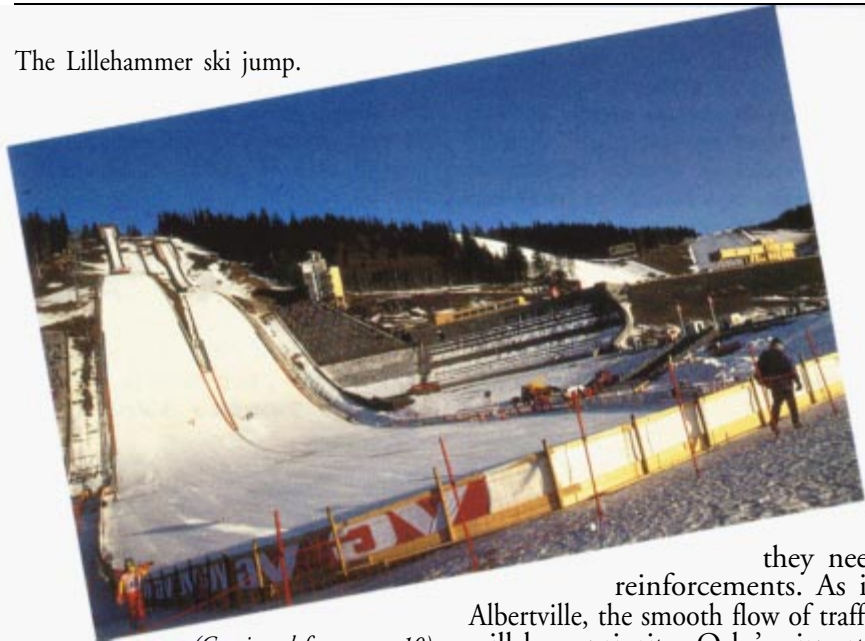
Albertville had its Club Coubertin, Lillehammer has created the Birkebeiner team made up of nine major companies (ABB, IBM, Statoil, Norge

Post Procordia, Sparebanken, TBK, Norge Telecom and Volvo) which have paid the minimum entrance fee of 28 million kroner. In addition to these, a dozen notional firms can use the title of "official supplier to the Games".

SONG

The theme song of the Games was revealed for the first time during a grand New Year's celebration broadcast on television. Entitled *La llden lyse* ("Let the Flame Burn"), the words and music were composed by two Norwegians, Jon V. Johannessen and Svein Gundersen. It was chosen from 28 entries and is sung in Norwegian and English by one of Norway's great singing stars, Sissel Kyrkjebø.

The Lillehammer ski jump.



(Continued from page 10)

mented by some 2,500 police for security, keeping order and traffic control.

REDUCED PRICE FOR CHILDREN

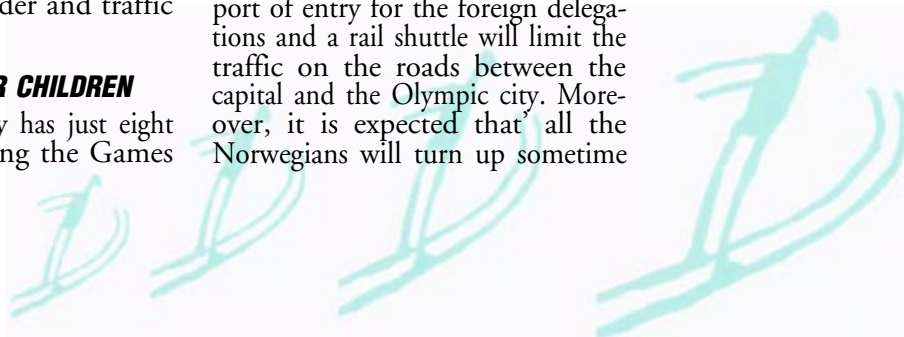
Lillehammer normally has just eight policemen but during the Games

they need reinforcements. As in Albertville, the smooth flow of traffic will be a priority. Oslo's airports, two and a half hours' drive from Lillehammer, will be almost the only port of entry for the foreign delegations and a rail shuttle will limit the traffic on the roads between the capital and the Olympic city. Moreover, it is expected that all the Norwegians will turn up sometime

during the fortnight to encourage the participants. You're either a sports fan or you're not!

For the finals, almost a hundred thousand spectators are expected, with school buses acting as shuttles between the car parks and sites as the schools will be closed. "Public satisfaction is of major importance to us, because what would the Games be without enthusiastic spectators?" says Petter Roenningen. The average price of a ticket is around 150 crowns, their price varying between 50 and 825 crowns. Nearly a million and a half were put up for sale and the Games will be almost sold out. A novelty: children are entitled to reduced prices for the first time at the Games.

100 Norwegian crowns is equivalent to approximately US \$15.



PODIUMS

For the medal ceremonies, the Olympic podiums will be sculpted out of blocks of ice. Some 20 tons of ice, hewn from enormous blocks of glacier ice several centuries old at Sogn, in western Norway, have already been transported to Lillehammer where they are stored. Norway has some 1,700 glaciers, including the largest in Europe, the Jostedalsgreen.

CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Olympic Games are also an important cultural encounter. Without waiting for the athletes to give the best of themselves, artists, musicians, sculptors and actors, over 8,600 people in all, have already started showing off their own know-how in the framework of the 350 cultural events of the Olympic festival. This festival offers to its international audience a huge programme of

exhibitions on the ancient Lapp culture in particular, Norwegian design and handicrafts, art displays, operatic performances, ballets, folk dances, plays and concerts. It has already been flying the Norwegian flag abroad and has opened Norway to the world.

DATA-PROCESSING

By taking and adapting the information system used in Albertville, LOOC estimates that it has knocked a third off the cost of developing its own data-processing system. The software produced by Andersen Consulting will offer information in English, French and Norwegian to journalists, participants and volunteers as well as managing the logistical administration, transport and security of the 50,000 accreditation holders. It will be accessible through 2,000 terminals and can even be used wearing ski gloves. (AFP)

FLAME

The Olympic Flame, which was lit at Olympia on 16th January, will reach Lillehammer on 12th February. After several stops in Germany, it will arrive in Scandinavia on 29th January at Copenhagen, before going on to Helsinki and Stockholm. On 5th February in Oslo, it will meet the Norwegian flame in the presence of Mrs Aase Kleveland, Norwegian Minister of Culture, and Messrs Lambis W. Nikolaou, IOC member in Greece, and Gerhard Heiberg, President of LOOC. After being lit in Morgedal, in the province of Telemark where legend has it that skiing was born, the Norwegian flame will end its journey through Norway after having passed through Tromsø, high above the Arctic Circle.