

# JOURNÉE OLYMPIQUE MONDIALE

Ainsi que le C. I. O. l'a décidé lors de sa dernière session tenue à Saint-Moritz, les Comités olympiques nationaux ont été invités (sans que ce soit une obligation pour eux) d'organiser, si possible dans le courant du mois de juin 1948, une Journée olympique mondiale. Les C. O. N. ont reçu à cet effet les indications nécessaires quant à cette organisation. Le C. I. O. espère que nombreux seront les comités qui voudront bien répondre à son appel et collaborer par ce moyen à son action de propagande en faveur de l'olympisme.

## *Le message de M. J. Sigfrid Edström à la jeunesse du monde.*

A cette occasion, le président du C. I. O. adressera un message à la jeunesse du monde. Nous le reproduisons ci-dessous dans les deux langues officielles du C. I. O. :

Mes chers amis,

Nous sommes assemblés aujourd'hui pour célébrer la Journée olympique mondiale.

Des milliers de jeunes gens et de jeunes filles sont réunis en ce mois de juin dans de nombreuses villes du monde pour exprimer l'intérêt qu'ils portent au mouvement olympique et au développement de la culture physique. Le rénovateur de ce mouvement olympique fut Pierre de Coubertin. Il avait tout de suite compris que les nations avaient besoin d'une compensation au travail journalier des fabriques et à la vie remuante des quartiers surpeuplés.

Je veux rappeler aujourd'hui le message que de Coubertin avait adressé à la jeunesse du monde, il y a vingt ans, à l'occasion de notre visite à Olympie, en Grèce.

Il exposa que « ses amis et lui n'avaient pas travaillé à la restauration des Jeux olympiques pour en faire un objet de musée ou de cinéma, ni pour que des intérêts mercantiles ou électoraux s'en emparent. Ils ont voulu, en rénovant une institution vieille de deux mille cinq cents ans, que la jeunesse du monde puisse redevenir l'adepte de la religion du sport, telle que les grands ancêtres l'avaient conçue. Dans le monde moderne, plein de possibilités puissantes et que menacent en même temps de périlleuses déchéances, l'olympisme peut constituer une école de noblesse et de pureté morales autant que d'endurance et d'énergie physiques. Cependant cela ne sera possible que si la jeunesse élève sans cesse sa conception de l'honneur

et du désintéressement sportifs à la même hauteur de son élan musculaire. L'avenir appartient à la jeunesse et dépend d'elle ».

**Puissions-nous tous suivre les sages conseils du Rénovateur du Mouvement olympique.**

*My dear Friends!*

*We have come here today to celebrate the Olympic Day of the World.*

*During this month thousands of young men and women are gathered in different cities to express their interest in the Olympic Movement and the development of physical culture. The originator of the Olympic Movement was the great enthusiast Pierre de Coubertin. He understood that the nations needed a counter balance to the unwholesome influence of work in factories and life in cramped quarters. I will therefore today recall the message that de Coubertin sent to the youth of the world twenty years ago when we visited Olympia in Greece.*

*He said that his friends and he had not worked with the restoration of the Olympic Games in order to make them an object for a museum or a cinema show. Nor was it his wish that mercantile or political interests should influence them. The object in renovating an institution 2500 years old was that the youth of the world should become new adepts of the religion of Sports in the same way as conceived by their great ancestors. In this modern world, so full of powerful possibilities and yet threatened by perilous degeneration, the Olympic Movement can be a school of moral nobility and purity as well as of endurance and physical energy. But, so will be the case only if the youth always elevate their conception of honour and unselfishness in sport to the same height as they develop their muscular strength. The future depends upon the youth.*

*May we all follow the wise guidance of the originator of the Olympic Movement!*

## LE RAMEUR

Psychiquement le rameur est joyeux de se sentir une machine pensante et d'éprouver à chaque coup d'aviron, comment la force se forme en lui, se répand et s'écoule. D'autre part il doit s'imposer une discipline austère et s'y abandonner avec abnégation.

P. de C.

estrangement extended to the Games held at Amsterdam in 1928 when, once again, Great Britain did not enter a team. The Olympic Records present a picture of the intense interest aroused by Association Football during those years, and the results — both Finals being won by Uruguay — set the seal in no uncertain manner to the successful entry of the Americas into the realms of International Football.

In 1932, The Olympic Games were held in Los Angeles, and for the first time since 1908 there was no Football Tournament, and it was not until 1936, at Berlin, that Great Britain was once again matched in an Olympic Football Tournament. At Berlin, the lesson was learnt that if Great Britain was to hold her own against the strong challenge of her one-time pupils, more preparation and planning would be necessary. Great Britain was beaten in the Second Round by Poland by five goals to four, her conquerors losing to Austria by three goals to one in the next Round, and after extra time in the Final, Italy defeated Austria. From the performance of the British team it was apparent that they lacked practice as a team, and their individual ball control left much to be desired. The latter, however, was in part due to the fact that the Olympic matches were played in the British close season when the players had not touched a ball for some time.

At this point I would like to digress to deal with an aspect of pre-war International Football which occasioned considerable concern to a number of participating nations. It became apparent that two or three countries were using Football as a part of a political campaign, and the importance of winning matches was stressed at the expense of the true spirit which should alone inspire those participating in the Olympiad. Of course we all want to win matches, but it is senseless to pretend that the result of a game in any way reflects upon aspects of national life unassociated with, for instance, the playing of football.

Great Britain then, is eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming games as an opportunity for pitting her prowess against all-comers in a specific field of sport. It is obvious that if this challenge is to be met successfully, lessons learnt at Berlin in 1936 must be taken to heart, and already a number of important steps have been taken towards this end. Commencing with the young players, since 1945 an inter-County Football knock-out competition for Youth Teams has been organised in England. These young players have thus been given the opportunity of taking part in representative football with a view to getting them accustomed to the atmosphere of big matches. During the current season, these opportunities for big match play have been further extended by the inauguration of an International Youth Championship between the four British Associations, which provides a chance for young players to represent their respective countries. All this, of course, is a long-term policy, and it will be too soon to have any effect upon Great Britain's chances in this year's Olympiad.

Once again, then, those responsible for selecting a team to represent (Great Britain will be faced with many of the same problems which arose between the two World Wars. It is true that the Amateur leagues from which most of the players will be drawn, have had two seasons of competitive football, but generally speaking it cannot be claimed that the standard of play, although rapidly improving, is high enough in itself to provide experience of the kind of opposition which Great Britain will have to meet in the Olympiad. To provide this experience of big-match play, The Football Association has arranged an International Triangular Tournament which is additional to the normal programme of International and Representative matches. This new Tournament provides an opportunity to the Selectors to give experience to players on the borderline of International class without the risk of including them prematurely in full International teams.

I now come to what is probably the most important problem of all — training. Britain's normal social life has been greatly disturbed by the supreme effort which her workers of all classes are being called upon to put into the Nation's drive for increased production, and such adjustments as the introduction of staggered hours, make the planning of consistent training extremely difficult. Nearer the time of the Olympic Tournament, however, it is hoped to be able to call together the best amateurs throughout Great Britain to undergo intensive training, probably being assisted by some full International players. This training, under the control of an experienced team manager would do much, I am sure, to weld a team together with the necessary skill and confidence to put up a hard fight against opponents from any part of the world.

All this leads me to an emphasis of the fact that we in Great Britain are taking the Olympic Games as seriously as present circumstances will allow. We appreciate that all our possible opponents have reached a standard of play which will demand the very best we can produce if we are to stand a chance of regaining our former supremacy in Olympic Football. Thus our policy for 1948 is directed towards hard work allied to long-term planning. The effectiveness of this policy cannot be judged until the 1948 Games are over, but even if we do not achieve our aim this year, I feel sure that 1948 will mark the first step towards our goal.

London, april 1948.

Stanley Rous.

## L'AVIRON

Sa valeur hygiénique est exceptionnelle en raison des conditions respiratoires dont il bénéficie, de la façon dont l'effort y est réparti, de l'absolue régularité et du caractère apaisant de l'automatisme qu'il établit.

P. de C.