

EDITORIAL MESSAGE

The present issue of the Journal of Olympic History has been brought back to the original size, but the editorial team will continue to try to keep up with the much enhanced quality of our commemorative issue which was published in December 2001/January 2002.

In this issue, you will find several articles of great historical interest, such as the one on Hannes Kolehmainen, the Finnish long-distance runner; a biography of Sammy Lee, the American diver of Korean ancestry; and the history of the manufacture of the Olympic torch for the Moscow Olympics in 1980.

We also have in this issue "The Mellander Story", about the Challenge Trophy awarded to the Swedish pentathlist Hjalmar Mellander for his exploits in the 1906 Intercalary Games in Athens, a story with an unbelievable rescue!

We follow up with a couple of short stories on our continuing series: "Olympians and War" and finally we have an addition to an earlier article about the commemorative medal from the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam.

There are quite a few bookreviews of recently published Olympic books.

We invite our members to inform the editor about recently published books on the Olympic Games, or on the Olympic Movement, which have not yet been reviewed in our Journal.

The Editorial team:

Anthony Th. Bijkerk, Editor
Harry Gordon, Associate Editor,
Anthony Edgar, Associate Editor,
Stephen Harris, Associate Editor,
Karl Lennartz, Associate Editor.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Again ISOH wishes to congratulate two of its members who were awarded the Olympic Order in silver by the Council of the Olympic Order, which convened just before the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. The two ISOH members are Treasurer David Wallechinsky (USA), and the former President of the World Olympians Association and Olympic waterpolo player, Peter Montgomery (AUS). You can read about these two members in this issue.

We congratulate both David and Peter with this great and well deserved honour.

Just before closure of the deadline for this issue, Bill Mallon informed me about the passing in December 2001 of our ISOH-member Dick Schaap. With his family, we mourn the death of a good Olympic historian, who through his books, left an undelible legacy. Bill Mallon wrote Dick Schaap's obituary, which you will find in this issue.

On March 6, 2002, I received a letter from Fé krou Kidane, Director of the Executive Office of the President of the IOC and representative of the IOC in the Executive Committee of the ISOH, informing the ISOH Executive.

Committee that he would be leaving the IOC at the end of March 2002, of his own free will and in order to live his life differently.

In an unanimous decision, the members of the Executive Committee decided to award Fé krou Kidane the Honorary Membership of the International Society of Olympic Historians to thank him for his many contributions to our cause.

In August, 2001, ISOH President Bill Mallon received a letter from the new IOC President Dr. Jacques Rogge, inviting to the ISOH to meet with him in the beginning of the new year (2002). This meeting has been postponed until after the Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City in February.

During this meeting, the replacement of Fé krou Kidane in the ISOH Executive Committee will be

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one of the points to be discussed with President Rogge.

One more "historical" point:

On January 18, 2002, the oldest living gold medal winner in the world today, Mrs Alida Johanna "Alie" VAN DEN BOS, gymnast at the Games of the IXth Olympiad, Amsterdam 1928, celebrated her centennial birthday in good health.

IOC President Jacques Rogge sent her a congratulatory letter from his headquarters in Lausanne.

The Netherlands Olympic Committee brought her a bouquet of one hundred beautiful orange coloured roses.

Please note that all changes in your personal situation, such as changes in address, telephone/fax numbers, or e-mail should be forwarded only to me, and if this happens to you then don't forget to inform me.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk
Secretary-General of ISOH

CHANGE OVER OF UK ACCOUNT:

Peter Lovesey has now taken over from Ian Buchanan as the member to whom annual dues should be sent by ISOH members wishing to pay in pounds sterling.

His address:

Peter Lovesey,
43 Grosvenor Road,
Chichester, PO 19 8RT,
United Kingdom

Members can also make over the dues direct to the Bank as follows:

Abbey National business, Abbey National p.l.c.,
P.O. Box 10102, 21 Prescott Street,
London E1 8TN.
Sort Code: 09-06-66.
Account Number: 40127648.

PAYMENT BY VISA

Over the last few years, several ISOH Members have inquired about paying their dues with VISA or some other credit card. This problem relates to the difficulty for some of our international members not having access to the proper currencies or being charged exorbitant fees to obtain different currencies. We have discussed this situation at several Executive Committee Meetings.

At the moment, the bottom-line answer is that we are not able to accept credit card payments and cannot in good faith put this into practice at the moment. I have thoroughly investigated this several times and in 2001, after our May Executive Committee Meeting, was charged with trying to find a way to work out credit card payments.

The problem is that we have 300 members, of which only a few (probably less than 100), would pay via credit card each year. Fees to set up this service, and for each transaction, would end up costing as much as our annual dues. Effectively, we would be receiving no money for dues from the members because of the credit card transaction fees. Although we are solvent financially, after I presented this information to the Executive Committee last summer, we unanimously agreed this was not a wise financial decision for ISOH and we elected not to proceed with credit card payments at this time. It is possible that should our membership increase or another method of payment via credit be found, that we may re-visit the situation in the future.

Bill Mallon, M.D.
President
International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH)