

MEETING WITH IOC PRESIDENT DR. COUNT JACQUES ROGGE, SEPTEMBER 2, 2002, AT THE CHÂTEAU DE VIDY IN LAUSANNE



Attending the meeting were:

Count Dr. Jaques ROGGE, on behalf of the *International Olympic Committee* [IOC]

Dr. Bill MALLON, President of the *International Society of Olympic Historians* [ISOH];

Prof. Dr. Karl LENNARTZ, Vice-President of ISOH;

Anthony Th. BIJKERK, Secretary-General of ISOH;

Dr. Kostas GEORGIADIS, member of the Executive Committee of ISOH.

Before starting the discussions about the agenda; all attending members of the ISOH Executive Committee presented themselves to the IOC President.

1. After the presentations were finished, Bill MALLON handed over a copy of the specially bound and enhanced version of the earlier published article on the 1906 Intermediate Games, written by Dr. LENNARTZ for the special issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*, Volume 10, # 1, December 2001/January 2002, with which ISOH celebrated its ten years anniversary. This new published version includes a motion signed by the ISOH president and addressed to the members of the IOC, requesting them to reassess the position of the 1906 Games and to give these Games the well-deserved official recognized status of real Olympic Games. Dr. ROGGE informed the ISOH delegation that he will study this proposal carefully and will then ask the IOC Executive board to make a ruling. Dr. LENNARTZ emphasized that the 1906 Games should be an integral part of the series of Olympic Games, because if they had not been held, it is almost certain that the Games of 1908 and later Games would not have taken place. The 1906 Games are a turning point in the history of the Olympic Games, because they have so many 'firsts', for example the parade of teams during the opening ceremony took place for the first time the article details many more examples.

2. The replacement of Mr. Fé krou KIDANE as representative of the IOC in the ISOH

Executive Committee has already been decided. Mr. Dick POUND has expressed his willingness to accept this post, and this has been agreed after consultation with the IOC President.

3. After an introduction by Dr. MALLON, the IOC President informed the ISOH delegation that he will give careful thought to our request for official recognition by the IOC. He will then submit the request to the Executive Board for a decision.
4. Karl LENNARTZ asked to have more copies printed of future official reports and have them made available for University libraries, National libraries, and other interested organisations and individuals, who are at present unable to get hold of a copy for a reasonable price. Dr. ROGGE promised to study this proposal carefully.
5. The ISOH delegation informed the IOC President that Honorary President SAMARANCH raised the IOC subsidy for ISOH by a considerable amount last year, to enable ISOH to have better publishing, more opportunities and better administration. ISOH received nothing as yet over the year 2002. ISOH now needs the subsidy, because we have started a more expensive and much improved quality of the *Journal of Olympic History* and have incurred various other costs like the printing of the extra copies of the special 1906 article.
6. Dr. ROGGE then requested ISOH to send a financial report of the year 2001 to the Financial Department of the IOC. He pointed out that the IOC is working on an internal audit to tighten up financial procedures and to cut costs where appropriate. The original promise will be honoured.
7. The *Olympic Games Study Commission* [the Reform Commission under presidency of IOC member Dick Pound] are considering the questions of about which team members may be regarded as Olympic participants and which members of those teams should receive an Olympic medal.

The President is personally very much in

favour of counting all reserves, as full participants in the Olympic Games even if they did not play a single minute. In his opinion, those people form an integral part of a team; they have trained and worked together for months, maybe even years, to reach the same goal. Through their dedication they have made it possible for others to become better players. With regard to the distribution of medals, he informed the ISOH delegation that the current version of the Olympic Charter is being studied to eliminate all discrepancies between the French and English versions.

8. After a short introduction by Bill MALLON, Dr. ROGGE acknowledged the representation of Dr. Karl LENNARTZ on the IOC *Commission for Culture and Olympic Education*.

He assured the ISOH delegation that in his priority to cut costs, the various IOC Commissions could not be neglected. He pointed out that even Dr. GEORGIADIS, as dean of the IOA was no longer on this commission. This was of course not personally intended, as he emphasized to Dr. Kostas GEORGIADIS, but part of a general effort to get the commission working better in general and reduce the costs for the IOC at the same time. However, as a result of our request he will again look into this matter, the next time changes are due.

9. The issue of accreditations and access to the Olympic Games is subject for a further study by the IOC *Olympic Games Study Commission* [the Reform Commission].

ISOH's request will be brought under the attention of this commission.

10. The request from the ISOH delegation for access to the IOC archives on a more contemporary basis [while disregarding embargoes] needs very careful study according to Dr. Rogge. There are many rather sensitive issues included in the archives, which might concern people who are still alive today, and who might be embarrassed by early publication. This request also has some logistical restraints and because it was recently decided to further register and open up both the

ancient and modern parts of the Olympic archives, possibly even entered into some sort of database, this will need more time to be considered. Even a list of those approved by the Executive Committee of the ISOH is currently not an option for the above reasons.

After the discussions on the points of the agenda had been concluded, Dr. ROGGE reminded the ISOH delegation about his letter concerning the handing over of the 1920 Olympic flag which was stolen by the American diver Hal PRIESTE and returned to the IOC in 2000 during the Olympic Games in Sydney.

He repeated that the returned flag was certainly not the official Olympic flag from 1920, but one of the many smaller copies hanging around in the City of Antwerp during the Games of the VIIth Olympiad.

Dr. LENNARTZ pointed out that the official Olympic flag from 1920 was replaced in 1985 by a new one offered to the IOC by the Korean NOC. The old official Olympic flag from 1920 has since disappeared. When he, LENNARTZ, wrote his article about the Olympic rings, published in the commemorative issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*, Volume 10, # 1, December 2001/January 2002, he contacted the *Olympic Museum* for a photograph of the old official Olympic flag. To his surprise, they could not find the flag and they had no good photograph as well. A search for this very important piece of Olympic history should be implemented as soon as possible.

The IOC President then invited Dr. LENNARTZ to write a letter to him about this subject.

Dr. Bill MALLON thanked IOC President Dr. Jacques ROGGE for his kindness in receiving the ISOH delegation. ISOH will be looking forward to further cooperation with the *International Olympic Committee*, the *Olympic Museum* and the *Olympic Games Study Centre*.

Dr. ROGGE once again expressed his admiration for the work of ISOH and promised his support and cooperation.

Lausanne, 2 September 2002.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk,
Secretary-General of ISOH

Additional notes by the Secretary-General of ISOH:

With regard to point 5: the IOC subsidy to ISOH, it can be noted that ISOH President Bill MALLON has already received a letter from IOC President ROGGE honoring this request.

With regard to point 8: Dr. Karl LENNARTZ has been appointed by the IOC President to the IOC *Commission for Culture and Olympic Education*, by his letter from October 11, 2002.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“The Mellander Trophy”

by Ture Widlund

In *Journal of Olympic History* No 2-2002 there is an interesting article about the Mellander Trophy by Karin WIKBERG. In the article it is stated that the Greek *Organizing Committee* is referring to the rules of the Challenge Trophy “set up with the acceptance of the IOC” and published in the March 1906 issue of *Revue Olympique*.

What were the rules published in this issue? I looked it up and all I could find was a small notice of 5 lines on page 47 under the heading “PARTIE OFFICIELLE. BULLETIN DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE”.

Le Prix-challenge offert par le Comité International Olympique pour les Jeux d'Athènes, est une pièce d'art ancienne de très grandes dimensions, ayant fait partie de la célèbre collection Sagan. Ce prix a été présenté par une délégation du Comité International à S. E. le Ministre de Grèce à Paris, qui en fera remise au Comité d'Athènes.

Notice: Collection Sagan, not Sagon as in the article in no 2-2002.

There is no photo of the Challenge Trophy in the March 1906 issue of *Revue Olympique* (as stated in the article). There is, however, a photo in the April 1906 issue on page 59 in connection with an article that has nothing to do with the Challenge Trophy.

So, there was no article about the Challenge Prize and no rules for it in the March 1906 issue of *Revue Olympique*, just a small notice saying that a Challenge Prize had been presented by an IOC delegation to the Greek Minister in Paris to be forwarded to the Athens Committee. The event of the Challenge Prize is not mentioned and there is nothing in the notice that is linking it to Ancient Pentathlon.

How come that this Trophy was contested for in

Ancient Pentathlon? Viktor Balck is giving us a clue in *Olympiska Spelen i Athen 1906 Redogörelse för Sveriges deltagande (The Olympic Games in Athens 1906 Report of the participation of Sweden)*. He says:

Mellander's prize in pentathlon was an antique urn of art historical value presented by the International Committee to the Crown Prince to be awarded by him in the event he considered most important. In addition Mellander got an antique bronze sword, an imitation, from the (Athens) Olympic Committee.

There is no mention in BALCK's report that the prize Mellander received was a Challenge Prize, although he, as an IOC member, must have had access to *Revue Olympique* and that it must have been his duty, as an IOC member, to read the “PARTIE OFFICIELLE”. May be he was not aware it was a Challenge Prize. May be the notice in the March 1906 issue was too insignificant to attract his attention or may be he had just forgotten it when he was writing the report.

It should be noted that the Challenge Prize was not the only extra prize Mellander received for his victory in Ancient Pentathlon. He also got an antique bronze sword, as mentioned by Viktor Balck. An other question is whether he brought this bronze sword home from Athens, because in the Swedish sports paper *Nordiskt Idrottslif* July 18, 1906, there is a notice:

Another prize from Athens. As a recognition of the Swedish victor in pentathlon, Hj. Mellander, the Greek Committee has sent an as valuable as beautiful extra prize to be forwarded to him, viz. a shorter bronze sword with a golden handle, a copy of an ancient Greek weapon.

This must most probably be the same bronze sword as mentioned by Viktor BALCK. Or did he get 2 bronze swords for his victory in Ancient