

MESSAGE FROM THE ISOH-PRESIDENT

With this issue of the *Journal of Olympic History*, we come to the end of our 11th year of publication, including the parent title, *Citius, Altius, Fortius*. This is also the first year of a new set of editors, Stephan WASSONG and Karl LENNARTZ. They continued to be assisted by Philip BARKER (UK) and Tony BIJKERK (NED). They have certainly done an able job and we look forward to them continuing in these roles. The journal had now four editors. I started as editor from 1991-1996, followed by Tony BIJKERK, who was the editor from 1997-2002, while Steve HARRIS (USA) also served briefly (two issues in 2001) as editor, and now Stephen WASSONG and Karl LENNARTZ have assumed this position starting with the first issue of 2003.

ISOH continues to grow and to have growing pains. We have approximately 320 members in 47 nations of the world. We have lost some members because of failure to pay dues. Some of this may be related to the difficulties in currency conversion. Though we have done so before, we are again looking into possible ways to develop a credit card payment system for ISOH, to eliminate that problem. Our previous investigations into the matter showed that our relatively small size did not make this financially feasible, when taking into account the fees that are charged by credit card companies. We will keep you posted on this matter.

In early 2003, ISOH was granted tax-exempt status as a non-profit educational organization under the United States Internal Revenue Service. We had previously been granted legal status as a non-profit educational organization in North Carolina of the United States. These designations are not necessarily permanent, but unless the structure and financial status of ISOH drastically changes, it is unlikely these will be revoked. Thus, ISOH can look forward to legal and tax status that will enable us to remain viable for the foreseeable future.

The ISOH Website has been a source of some of the growing pains. We have had difficulty converting the registration to the appropriate people and even gaining access to it for changes to be made to the Website. The current Website is at www.olykamp.org/isoh but it has not been changed in over two years because of these problems. We are in the process of converting this to a new Website that will be based at www.isoh.org. I hope that by the time you read

this, the conversion will be complete and you will be able to access our group at that URL. ISOH Member Brandon SANDERS has been assisting us and has designed the new Website, taking over as Webmaster from Kyle WHELLISTON.

The new Website will allow membership application over the Internet. It will also contain the *ISOH Directory* in a database format. To protect membership information, the *ISOH Directory* will be a protected page requiring a password for access. To obtain that password, please contact any of the following via e-mail:

Bill MALLON at bmallon@nc.rr.com,
Tony BIJKERK at tony.bijkerk@tiscali.nl,
Karl LENNARTZ at Lennartz@culda.de, or
Brandon SANDERS at
brs89@brandonsanders.com .

One feature of the new Website will be that it will have a great many more links to other Olympic-related Websites, and we hope that the members and others use the site to follow these links, making it the main site for access on the Web to Olympic information.

Further, we hope all of you will be developing e-mail and Internet capabilities, as it is a very inexpensive, easy, and quick way for us all to communicate. Those of you who are new to the Internet and e-mail, please send your e-mail addresses to Tony BIJKERK at the above address. Any other members who change e-mail addresses should also send that information to Tony to keep the ISOH Directory updated.

Tony BIJKERK is beginning the process of accepting nominations for ISOH Officers and the Executive Committee for the coming Olympiad. These positions will take effect after the Athens Olympic Games. As stated earlier, with the reasons outlined in an earlier journal message, I will not be standing for re-election as ISOH President. Any member wishing to nominate a deserving member for these positions may do so by contacting, either Tony BIJKERK, Karl LENNARTZ, or myself,



Bill Mallon

11. November 2003