

LETTERS FROM MEMBERS

Dear ISOH,

As usual, I enjoyed the latest issue of the Journal and you are to be congratulated on maintaining such a quality production. There were, however, three small factual errors in the articles which I feel should be pointed out.

Writing on the Amsterdam Olympic Stadium (p. 33) Tony Bijkerk says that it will be the first Olympic Stadium to be destroyed. Not so! This doubtful honor goes to the 1908 Stadium. After the London Games, the White City Stadium was used for a variety of purposes and the last event to be held there was a greyhound race at 10:15 PM (2015) on 22 September 1984. The bulldozers moved in a few days later and reduced the once great Stadium to a pile of rubble. The site is now the BBC Television Centre.

On p. 26 of his article, Don Sayenga writes that in 1908 the same rings were used for both wrestling and boxing. This is not the case, as the wrestling events were held in July and the boxing events were staged indoors at the Clerkenwell Institute on 27 October.

Finally, in the editor's message, it should be pointed out that Tony Bijkerk is from The Netherlands, not from Belgium, as you stated.

I thought it worthwhile setting the record straight.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Buchanan

Dear ISOH,

Received the ISOH-issue Nr. 3/1995 and I must congratulate you to the contents which was much better than the last issue.

I must however correct you in one matter. Erich Kamper is not the only ISOH member (besides Mrázek and Lucas, mentioned in this number) to have received the Olympic Order. I received the Olympic Order in 1988 in Calgary.

As for your article on the two croquet players I doubt very much that croquet really was on the program and I am sure that [Walter] Teutenberg would never have mentioned Mme. de

Pourtales if he had not clear evidence that she participated. He is so correct and exact that probably nobody can match him in ISOH.

Sincerely yours,

Wolf Lyberg

Dear Wolf,

Thanks for your note. I apologize for not listing your Olympic Order. I also omitted ISOH Member Bud Greenspan, who has also been awarded the Olympic Order. As to the 1900 croquet event, it is listed in the Official Report, which is truly only the official report of the physical culture section of the 1900 world's fair. Which events in 1900 can be considered Olympic is quite controversial and can probably never be decided definitively. Most sources continue to list croquet as an Olympic sport in 1900, however.

As to Mme. de Pourtales, I was not aware that it was Walter Teutenberg who had discovered that fact, and did not know the actual source. While Teutenberg is very meticulous, as stated in your letter, I wonder if Mme. de Pourtales actually competed, or whether she and her husband were simply co-owners of the yacht. While technically, that entitled her to Olympic status in 1900, it is similar to the Ancient Olympics in which the crowns went to the owners of the chariots, not the drivers. I have since been informed (by Karl Lennartz) the source of information for Mme. de Pourtales participation was an interview with a family member in the 1960's.