

## **MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

Enclosed with this issue of *Citius, Altius, Fortius* you will find a ballot providing for voting for officers of ISOH for the next Olympiad, 1996-2000. It should be noted that the ISOH Constitution does not strictly call for a mail ballot to elect officers, but rather specifies that the election should take place at the meeting of the ISOH general membership during the Games of the Olympiad.

After much discussion with Ian Buchanan, we felt it best to include a mail ballot in lieu of the election in Atlanta. Though this may be considered a "coup" by Buchanan and myself, our rationale is that it is likely that relatively very few members will be at our meeting in Atlanta. We doubt that more than 30-40 of our full membership (approaching 200) will attend the Atlanta Meeting. We felt that a mail ballot, giving all members a chance to vote, would be more representative and a better method of election in the future. We thus took the bold move of introducing an amendment to that effect, and including the ballot based on the amendment, should it be approved.

However, we discussed the "legality" of this at some length. Included with the ballot, all members may elect to declare our decision "inappropriate" or "unconstitutional" by checking the appropriate box on the ballot. If we receive any "significant number" of ballots indicating this option, we will void the mail ballot, and simply allow the Atlanta meeting election to take place and elect officers, however small the group may be. If the "vast majority" of ballots accept our reasoning of voting by mail, and approve the amendment, we will institute it "in advance" and accept the results of the elections. Finally, should the amendment not be approved, we would also void the results of the mail ballot. Note that "significant number" and "vast majority" are purposely vague, as they must be.

The Quadrennial General Meeting of ISOH will take place in Atlanta on Tuesday, 30 July, at the Interview Room at the Olympic Stadium, the main track & field athletics stadium. The time will be from 1:00 - 3:00 PM (1300- 1500). The meeting takes place on the off day of track & field athletics during the Olympics.

I need to know if you are coming to the ISOH Meeting. If you do not have accreditation for the interview room, you will not be allowed in. Ms. Jayne Pearce of ACOG Press Information is arranging day passes for any ISOH Member without accreditation. But you need to tell me that in advance. I am also enclosing a separate form in which you can let me know if you are coming to the meeting, and if you need credentials.

Lastly, I will step down as editor after the next issue of *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, to be replaced by Tony Bijkerk (NED). Please send me as many articles as you may have so that we can make the transition to Tony's editorship a relatively painless one.

Bill Mallon  
Durham, NC 27712  
May 1996

## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

Tuesday, 5 December 1995, marked the fourth anniversary of the founding of ISOH and our first "Olympiad" has now come to a close. Sadly, just a few weeks earlier we learned of the death of Erich Kamper, our Honorary President, and the doyen of Olympic historians. Although I never had the pleasure of meeting Erich, my first letter from him was dated 20 April 1974 and after 21 years of regular correspondence it seems as if I have lost a close friend. I am sure you will all share the sentiments expressed by Bill Mallon in the accompanying obituary.

When ISOH was founded by a small group of historians in London in 1991, I was delighted to be asked to serve as the first President although I can now confess that I entertained some reservations about the need for such an organization. I felt that I knew of just about everyone interested in Olympic History and that the need to formalize many years of amicable correspondence was perhaps not necessary. How wrong I was! Since the founding of ISOH, I have made countless new and knowledgeable friends, many of whom I have had the pleasure of meeting personally and I am sure that through ISOH other members have also been able to widen their field of contacts.

The main vehicle for learning of members with similar interest is, of course, our journal, *Citius, Altius, Fortius*, and we owe an immense debt to Bill Mallon for editing a publication of such high quality. From the very first issue he produced a journal which was far superior to many of the publications of societies of much longer standing. However, all of Bill's efforts would have been in vain without the necessary finances to meet the printing and postage costs. Here we are indebted to IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, for making funds available to meet the cost of publication.

Speaking of the IOC, many of you will already know that Karel Wendl, former Director of the Olympic Studies and Research Centre for the IOC, has now retired and I am delighted to report that, in recognition of all the help he gave to ISOH during our early years, Karel has been elected an Honorary Life Member by the Executive Committee. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

I believe it can be safely said that our first "Olympiad" has been successful. We are now recognized by a number of international academic bodies, and many of our members have published the results of their researches in a particular field. The wide-ranging nature of the articles in the Journal also serves to confirm the growing interest in Olympic history. Starting in 1996, ISOH will be listed as a recognized organization in the *Olympic Movement Directory*, published by the IOC.

In closing, I would like to express my thanks to the members of the Executive Committee for their support during my term of office and I look forward to meeting them and many other members in Atlanta.

Ian Buchanan  
President, IS OH