

OLYMPIC NEWS

from various sources

Olympism

- The NOCs of Bosnia/Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia met in Lausanne in January 1996 and pledged the following: 1) to intensify their cooperation with each other and all other members of the Olympic Movement, for the purpose of developing and strengthening the promotion of Olympism with a view to contributing to building a peaceful and better world pursuant to the Olympic Charter; 2) as members of the Olympic Movement recognized by the IOC, to reconfirm their reciprocal recognition as entirely independent and autonomous organizations; 3) welcoming the invitation of the IOC, to take part in a symbolic basketball Olympic Peace Tournament for juniors, in Lausanne, Olympic Capital, with the participation of a Swiss team, in order to foster long-standing sport relations for future generations; and 4) to fully support the IOC's decision to provide substantial economic assistance for the reconstruction of certain Olympic sport facilities in Sarajevo, host of the XIV Olympic Winter Games in 1984, under the coordination of the National Olympic Committee of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The tournament will take place from 24-27 May 1996, and will be entitled the "Olympic Tournament for Peace." (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 195, 19 January 1996.; and No. 197, 2 February 1996)
- Following a proposal by the Hellenic Olympic Committee, on 6 April 1996 an athletics meeting was held in the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens to commemorate the centenary of the first Olympic Games of the Modern Era. The program was an exact duplicate of the events held in 1896, with the exact same NOCs and number of athletes participating as did so in 1896. The athletes invited were world-class performers not in an advanced stage of training for Atlanta. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 193, 5 January 1996)
- Female politicians in Germany have asked the IOC to bar nations from the Olympics that do not allow female athletes to participate. Bärbel Sothmann, head of the conservative faction of German women in parliament, said 35 countries have registered only male athletes for the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Sothmann cited Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Oman, and Yemen. Sothmann was quoted as saying, "Female apartheid is no less damaging to human rights than racial apartheid, for which South Africa was barred from participating in the Olympic Games for more than 10 years." (*USA Today*, 14 February 1996, p. 9C) [*Editor's Note*: In 1964 Iran had three women competitors, and in 1976 they had four women fencers. Information from David Wallechinsky via Wolf Lyberg.]
- Eight National Olympic Committees in Southeast Europe have formed the Association of NOCs of the Balkan Countries. The nations are Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Yugoslavia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The former Yugoslav republics of Croatia, Slovenia, and

Bosnia-Herzegovina could not be convinced to join the group. Aleksander Bakocevic of Yugoslavia was appointed the provisional President of the Association. The unstated goal of the group is to obtain further financial assistance from the IOC for their nations. Another goal is to revive the Balkan Games which were held for the first time in 1929. The first meeting of the new association will be held in Athens in January 1997. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 199, 16 February 1996; *Sport intern: The International Inside Sports Newsletter*, Vol. 28, No. 3/4, 1 March 1996, p. 2)

- The Olympic Flame was lit in Ancient Olympia on 30 March by various Greek athletes. Once inside the ancient Olympic stadium, the flame was borne by a runner representing each of the Olympic host cities since 1896. The runners also passed the flame onto the mayors of their respective cities to be taken there to celebrate the Centenary of the Olympic Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 207, 12 April 1996).
- The 1994 Olympic Cup was presented on 12 February to H. M. the King of Norway to be given to the town of Lillehammer and the people of Norway for their superb organization of the 1994 Olympic Winter Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 199, 16 February 1996).
- The 1995 Olympic Cup was presented on 23 April to the Korean Olympic Committee for their role in the celebration of the Games of the XXIVth Olympiad in Seoul in 1988. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 208, 19 April 1996).

International Olympic Committee

- The IOC has reached an agreement with The Seven Network Limited to grant exclusive broadcast rights to four successive Olympic Games - the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, the 2004 Olympic Games, the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, and the 2008 Olympic Games. The rights fees agreed upon for each of these games is as follows: 2002 - \$11.75 million (US); 2004 - \$50.5 million (US); 2006 - \$14.825 million (US); and 2008 - \$63.75 million (US). This agreement excludes permission to sell pay-per-view broadcasts but allows all other forms of transmitting the Games. "The IOC," said Richard W. Pound [ISOH], "does not believe it is appropriate for the Olympic Games to be carried on a pay-per-view basis. Our objective is to ensure the widest possible coverage of the Olympic Games." (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 195, 19 January 1996.)
- The IOC has also reached an agreement with the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to televise five successive Olympic Games - the 2000 Olympic Games, the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, the 2004 Olympic Games, the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, and the 2008 Olympic Games. The EBU has paid a rights fee of \$1.442 billion (US), which will be broken down as follows: 2000 - \$350 million (US); 2002 - \$120 million (US); 2004 - \$394 million (US); 2006 - \$135 million (US); and 2008 - \$443 million (US). The EBU bid was accepted even though a consortium backed by media mogul Rupert Murdoch reportedly offered \$2.0 billion (US) for the European rights to the same Games. An IOC statement noted "EBU broadcasts are high quality, especially in terms of production. In addition to the above, a 50% profit sharing plan will be added to the total of \$1.442

billion (US), and appreciable services to the Olympic Movement, especially the promotion of all sports, including those enjoying little media coverage. (USA Today, 31 January 1996, p. 2C; *Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 197, 2 February 1996)

- For the first time in its history, the IOC Executive Board met in Ancient Olympia. This happened in early April 1996. In a resolution the Board expressed, “its gratitude to Greece, its people and government for their contribution to extending the influence of Olympism” and paid tribute “to the town of Olympia, cradle of Olympism, . . . and the city of Athens, host of the first Olympic Games of modern time. . . .” The IOC Executive Board also met in Athens, in the same room of the Hôtel Grande-Bretagne as in 1896. To mark the occasion the Board unveiled a commemorative plaque. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 207, 12 April 1996)

International Federations

- The International Equestrian Federation has accepted the quarantine restrictions set by officials of the state of Georgia for the 1996 Olympics. The Georgian officials are quite worried about horses bringing in the parasite piroplasmosis. Any horses infected with this will be isolated in stables near the Atlanta airport upon their arrival. They will be moved to Georgia International Horse Park for training and competitions. The horses must be kept away from facilities and vegetation at all times and their stay in the United States will be restricted to the shortest time possible. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*; No. 194, 12 January 1996)
- The International Handball Federation (IHF) announced the draw for the tournaments at the 1996 Olympic Games, during a meeting in January in Stockholm. The draws are as follows:
Men: Group A - Croatia, Sweden, Russia, Switzerland, Kuwait, and the United States. Group B - France, Germany, Egypt, Algeria, Cuba, and a European team to be named later.
Women: Group A - Hungary, Denmark, China, and the United States. Group B - Norway, Germany, Angola, and a team to be named later. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 195, 19 January 1996.)
- The final field for the 1996 Olympic basketball tournaments has been decided. The teams qualified are as follows:
Men: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Croatia, Greece, Korea, Lithuania, Puerto Rico, the United States, and Yugoslavia.
Women: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Italy, Japan, Korea, Russia, the Ukraine, the United States, and Zaire.
On 13 February 1996, the draw for the tournament was determined as follows: Men - Group A - Angola, Argentina, China, Croatia, Lithuania, and the United States; Group B - Australia, Brazil, Greece, Korea, Puerto Rico, and Yugoslavia. Women - Group A - Brazil, Canada, China, Italy, Japan, and Russia; Group B - Australia, Cuba, Korea, the Ukraine, the United States, and Zaire. In the tournament, each group will play a round-robin tournament. The top four teams from each group will advance to the play-offs, a single elimination tournament featuring quarter-finals, semi-finals, and finals. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 193, 5 January 1996; *ACOG News Release*, 13 February 1996)

- The draw for the 1996 Olympic baseball tournament was announced on 25 January 1996. The following eight teams have qualified (method of qualification in parentheses): Cuba and Nicaragua (America's Baseball Cup in Edmonton, Canada on 2-13 August 1995), Japan and Korea (Asian Championships in Kurashiki City, Japan on 17-25 September 1995), The Netherlands and Italy (European Championships in Haarlem, Netherlands on 7-16 July 1995), Australia (IBA Africa/Australia Olympic Playoff Championships in Melbourne, Australia on 29-31 December 1995), and the United States as the host country. The eight teams will play a seven-game round-robin tournament from 20-30 July. The four leading teams will advance to the semi-finals on 1 August, with the gold medal and bronze medal games scheduled for Friday, 2 August. (*ACOG News Release*, 25 January 1996)
- The draw for the 1996 Olympic Water Polo tournament was made in Berlin, Germany on 22 February. The tournament will be broken up as follows: Pool A: Germany, Hungary, The Netherlands, Russia, Spain, and Yugoslavia. Pool B: Croatia, Greece, Italy, Romania, The Ukraine, and the United States. (*ACOG News Release*, 23 February 1996)
- The women's field hockey tournament at Atlanta in 1996 will be composed of the following eight-team field: Argentina, Australia, Germany, Great Britain, Korea, Spain, The Netherlands, and the United States. (*Olympic Beat: Inside the USOC*, Vol. 11(3): 10, March 1996)
- The draw for the Olympic football (soccer) tournaments was announced on 5 May 1996. The preliminary rounds pairings will be as follows: Men - Group A: Argentina, Portugal, Tunisia, and the United States; Group B: France, Saudi Arabia, Spain, and the winner of a home-and-home series between the CONCACAF runner-up and Australia; Group C: Ghana, Italy, Korea, and Mexico (the CONCACAF champion); Group D: Brazil, Hungary, Japan, and Nigeria. Women - Group E: China, Denmark, Sweden, and the United States; Group F: Brazil, Germany, Japan, and Norway. (*ACOG News Release*, 5 May 1996)
- At a meeting of the IAAF Council in Cape Town (RSA) on 24 March 1996, the council announced several changes to the athletics schedule for the Atlanta Olympic Games. The timetable has been changed regarding the men's 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres, and long jump. This will allow Michael Johnson (USA) to double in the 200 and 400. The 100-long jump change was predicated on the long shot possibility that Carl Lewis may make the United States Olympic team in both events. The men's marathon start was also changed from a 6 PM (1800) start to a 7 AM (0700) start, in order to avoid the problems caused by Atlanta's summer weather. The IAAF is also apparently considering a schedule change for the women's 800 and 1,500 metres to allow Maria Mutola (MOZ) to double in those two events. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 205, 29 March 1996)

National Olympic Committees

- In March 1996, the Japanese Olympic Committee and the Olympic Committee of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea signed a cooperation agreement to facilitate sports exchange between the two countries. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 204, 22 March 1996).

1996 Olympic Games

- ACOG stated in a recent news release that it ended 1995 with over 90% of the necessary financing to meet the \$1.7 billion budget for the 1996 Olympic Games. They ended 1994 with \$928 million in financial commitments and added \$528 million in 1995. The remaining budget is to come from income during the Games period - parking, concession, and merchandising money. "From a financial perspective, we enter our final year with incredible momentum," said Billy Payne, ACOG President and CEO, "During the last 12 months, we have reached 100% of our broadcast rights objective, closed out a record breaking licensing program and launched the most successful Olympics ticket program in history." (*ACOG News Release*, 24 January 1996)
- ACOG has also announced its program to send economically disadvantaged children to the 1996 Olympics. This was inspired by a similar program started at the 1988 Olympic Winter Games in Calgary. The program is entitled the Children's Olympic Ticket Fund program, and will set aside 21,000 tickets for children. According to ACOG President and CEO, Billy Payne, "The Fund will allow many of Georgia's children, who otherwise would not be able to afford tickets, to experience the drama and excitement of the Olympic Games first-hand. Perhaps these children, like millions of others world-wide, will be inspired by exposure to such remarkable human achievement in sport." (*ACOG News Release*, 11 January 1996; and *Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 195, 19 January 1996)
- The Olympic Committee of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (PDR Korea, often termed North Korea) has accepted the IOC invitation and confirmed that it will compete at the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad in Atlanta in July 1996. Originally, PDR Korea did not respond to the invitation and it was felt that this was another boycott of the Olympics by the nation, which had previously boycotted both the 1984 and 1988 Olympic Games. With this confirmation, all 197 of the IOC recognized NOCs have confirmed that they will take part in Atlanta. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 193, 5 January 1996)
- The perfect attendance hoped for in Atlanta could be spoiled by a possible threat from China. A top Chinese sports official hinted that Beijing might not attend the Atlanta Olympics if the United States allows high-ranking officials from Chinese Taipei to attend the event. In 1994, China prevented Taiwan's President Lee Teng-Hui from attending the opening ceremony of the Asian Games by threatening a boycott. China considers the island of Taiwan a renegade province of China and has threatened military action against the island if it attempts to formally declare independence or continues to campaign for greater international status. (*USA Today*, 9 February 1996, p. 3C)
- NBC (National Broadcasting Company), which has the U.S. rights to televise the Atlanta Olympic Games, has announced that it will devote 180 hours of airtime to the 1996 Olympic Games, which averages out to over 10 hours/day. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 196, 26 January 1996)
- China has threatened a "strong response" if Chinese Taipei politicians attend the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. Wu Shaozhu, Chinese Sports Minister, state that while

China does not object to athletes from Taiwan competing in the Atlanta Games, “we are against senior Taiwan officials trying to use the Games for political purposes. If the American government allows top Taiwan[ese] officials to go to the Atlanta Games, China will make a strong response.” Phil Coles, an Australian IOC member, stated, “I’m against this sort of action.” Heads of states of many countries routinely attend the Olympic Games, he added. Beijing’s warning comes while Chinese is placing military pressure on Taiwan. (*The Times* [London], 10 February 1966) [Editor’s Note: *Plus ça change, plus sa même chose.*]

- On 23 February the IOC announced that it had made an agreement with the Union of National Radio Television Organizations of Africa (URTNA), Canal France International (CFI), and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC). Through this agreement, all parties agreed to a plan in which the IOC will offer, free of charge, comprehensive television coverage of the 1996 Olympic Games to all of Africa, especially highlighting African participation. The project will be implemented together with SABC and CFI, with the assistance of URTNA. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 201, 1 March 1996)
- It is expected that there will be nine NOCs making their Olympic debut in 1996: Armenia, Belarus, Guinea-Bissau, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Slovakia, and The Ukraine. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 206, 4 April 1996)

1998 Olympic Winter Games

- With two years to go the 1998 Olympic Winter Games, preparations are noted to be on schedule, and all facilities are expected to be finished before the end of this year, except for Ice Hockey Stadium B, which will be ready in 1997. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 197, 2 February 1996)
- With the approval of snowboarding’s addition to the Olympic Program for 1998, the Nagano Olympic Calendar encompasses 68 events in seven sports. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 197, 2 February 1996)
- Fifteen test events are scheduled to be held at Nagano prior to the 1998 Olympic Winter Games. The first one scheduled is the Alpine Skiing World Cup to be held in March 1996. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 197, 2 February 1996)
- The IOC has granted the Japanese rights to the 1998 Olympic Winter Games to the “Japan Pool” for \$37.5 million (US). Japan paid \$12.7 million (US) for the rights to the Lillehammer Olympic Winter Games in 1994. (*Highlights of the Week’s Olympic News*, No. 198, 9 February 1996)
- In its original bid to the IOC, the Nagano Olympic Organizing Committee pledged that it was “. . . prepared to bear the transportation, meals, and lodging expenses of all the delegations.” However, Nagano is now running short of funds and says it will not be able to pay all the expenses. Much of this shortfall is blamed on the downturn in the Japanese economy and the rise in value of the yen, which means that television rights, negotiated in U.S. dollars, now bring less value to the Nagano

Olympic Organizing Committee. Fumio Watanabe, deputy director general of the Nagano Olympic Organizing Committee, noted, "We never thought of breaking our promise. We are basically making our utmost efforts in a sincere attempt to keep our promise on this point and others." Watanabe and a foreign-ministry spokesman, Ken Shimanouchi, argued that Nagano was not necessarily renegeing on a promise. They said that the phrasing, "expenses of all the delegations" did not necessarily mean "expenses of all the members of all the delegations." (*International Herald Tribune*, Saturday-Sunday, 23-24 March 1996, p. 22)

- The 1998 Nagano Organizing Committee (NAOC) finally agreed to pay \$1,000 (US) to each competitor to defray his or her travel expenses. On behalf of the NAOC, Takashi Yamada said that this amount had been approved by the IOC after consultation with all NOCs, adding that the NAOC would not be paying the travel expenses of the officials accompanying their teams. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 207, 12 April 1996)
- The Nagano Olympic Organizing Committee has announced an operating budget of 94.5 billion ¥ (\$875 million [US]), which is more than \$175 million (US) over the initial estimates. The increase was stated to be inevitable because of changes in the value of the yen and the stagnation in the Japanese economy since Nagano's successful bid in 1991. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 205, 29 March 1996)

2000 Olympic Games

- The Minister of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Michael Knight, has announced that the Olympic Stadium in Sydney will be capable of seating 110,000 people for the Sydney Olympics. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 196, 26 January 1996)
- The Organizing Committee of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney has opened their own page on the Internet. The address is <http://www.sydney.olympic.org>. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 206, 4 April 1996)

2002 Olympic Winter Games

- The Salt Lake City Organizing Committee has petitioned the IOC to extend the period of the Olympic Games by one day, by starting the Opening Ceremony on Friday night. This is being done by the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, and is designed to put the Opening Ceremony in prime time television in the United States and attract more advertising dollars and a bigger audience. (*USA Today*, 23 January 1996)

2004 Olympic Games

- At the deadline of 10 January 1996 for submission of bids to host the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in 2004, eleven cities made official bids to IOC, as follows: Athens, Greece; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; Istanbul,

Turkey; Lille, France; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Rome, Italy; San Juan, Puerto Rico; St. Petersburg, Russia; Seville, Spain; and Stockholm, Sweden.
 Bid files must be presented to the IOC by 15 August 1996. The IOC Evaluation Commission, chaired by Thomas Bach (IOC Member in Germany), will begin its site visits on 15 September 1996 and conclude them by 25 January 1997. The Evaluation Commission report is to be published by 28 February 1997. On a yet-to-be-decided date in late March or early April 1997, a short list of 4-5 candidate cities will be announced by a selection committee chosen to draw up this shortlist. IOC Members may then visit the final candidate cities from April-August 1997. Final selection will occur on 5 September 1997 at the 106th Session of the IOC in Lausanne. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 194, 12 January 1996)

- The IOC Evaluation Commission, chaired by Thomas Bach (above), is composed of: Chiharu Igaya (JPN), Henry Adefope (NGR), Fernando Ferreira Lima Bello (POR), representing the IOC; Denis Oswald (SUI/FISA), Hein Verbruggen (NED/UCI), Els Van Breda Vriesman (NED/FIH), representing the IFs; Mingde Tu (CHN), Juio César Maglione (URU), Carol Anne Letheren (CAN), representing the NOCs; and Charles Battle (USA), Peter Rønningen (NOR), Olaf Myrholm (NOR), and Francisco Elizalde (PHI), selected for their expertise. An athlete's representative has yet to be appointed.
 The selection committee for the finalist cities will be chaired by Marc Hodler (IOC/FIS). The rest of the committee will be selected among members of the IOC Executive Board, save those which are nationals of a bidding nation, plus the chairman of the Evaluation Commission (Bach), and one representative each of the IFs, the NOCs, and the athletes. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 196, 26 January 1996)

2006 Olympic Winter Games

- Aleksander Kwasniewski, President of the Polish Republic, recently announced that the winter sports resort of Zakopane will likely submit a bid for the 20th Olympic Winter Games to be held in 2006. On a recent visit to Poland, ANOC President and IOC Member in Mexico Mario Vázquez Raña met with Kwasniewski. They discussed the possible bid of Zakopane to host the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 207, 12 April 1996; and *Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 197, 2 February 1996)
- Several possible bids for 2006 are materializing in Austria. One is from the province of Carinthia (specifically the city of Arnoldstein) in combination with Kranjska Gora in Slovenia and the Italian region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia. The region of Styria has discussed the possibility of bidding in combination with Salzburg and possibly Innsbruck. Salzburg has discussed the possibility of an independent bid and a border-crossing bid with Bavaria, Germany. Innsbruck, which hosted the Olympic Winter Games in 1964 and 1976, is also considering bidding again on its own. Innsbruck's population voted against a bid for the 2002 Games in a 1993 referendum. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 199, 16 February 1996; *Sport intern: The International Inside Sports Newsletter*, Vol. 28, No. 3/4, 1 March 1996, p. 2)
- Changchun, China has also expressed interest in bidding for the 2006 Olympic Winter Games. (*Olympic Beat: Inside the USOC*, Vol. 11(3): 10, March 1996)

2008 Olympic Games

- Pusan, Korea (South), has announced that it hopes to bid for the Games of the XXIXth Olympiad in 2008, according to a recent announcement by Kim Un-Yong, president of the Korean Olympic Committee and an IOC Vice-President. Kim noted that two preconditions exist for this bid - 1) that the citizens of Korea support the bid 100%, and 2) that the 2002 Asian Games are a complete success. (*Highlights of the Week's Olympic News*, No. 196, 26 January 1996; *Sport intern: The International Inside Sports Newsletter*, Vol. 28, No. 3/4, 1 March 1996, p. 2)

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