

## Message from the President

---

The sad state of affairs, which has caused the world's media to focus on the IOC has undoubtedly occupied the attention of members in recent months. While investigations continue, it is not appropriate to comment on recent developments concerning the IOC membership. But in the years to come the year 1999 will certainly provide a rich field of research for future Olympic historians.

It is interesting to recall that the first IOC member to be expelled was the founding member Jose Zubiaur of Argentina, who was declared demissionaire in 1907 for his failure to attend the Sessions. Zubiaur was particularly unfortunate to be expelled on these grounds as De Courcy Laffan's proposal that a member could be expelled for failing to attend three consecutive Sessions, was not passed until 1913. Zubiaur was succeeded as the member for Argentina by Manuel Quinta, Jr., and he too was expelled from the IOC. Quinta's 'crime' was to style the meeting he was organising to celebrate the Centenary of the Argentine Republic in 1910 as 'Olympic' and he further angered Coubertin by engaging professional athletes to take part in the Games. Interestingly, Dorando, of 1908 Olympic fame, and by now a professional, won the marathon in what proved to be the last race of his career.

The current problems facing the IOC will surely have more far-reaching effects.

The progress made by ISOH in recent years has again been recognised by the IOC and, subject to final approval of the design we have submitted, we have been granted permission to use the Olympic Rings as our logo, which can be used on publications, notepaper, etc. This is a privilege, which is not given lightly and reflects creditably on the status of ISOH within the Olympic Movement.

Through the good offices of Harry Gordon, our *chargé d'affaires* in Sydney, it has been arranged for the ISOH meeting at the 2000 Games to be held on the rest day in the track & field programme. Full details will, of course, follow later, but I thought you would wish to make a preliminary note in your diary

As can be seen from the Treasurer's statement in this issue, the Society is in a sound financial position and while we remain indebted to the IOC for their grant, the fact members have this year been much prompter in paying their annual dues has helped the situation considerably. I trust that by the time this issue of the Journal reaches you, those members who have been delinquent in their payment will have rectified the situation. If you are not sure as to your own position, please contact the Secretary-General, Tony Bijkerk.

*Ian Buchanan*  
President, ISOH