

## EDITORIAL NOTE

**The editorial team's decision to only publish information on the IOC scandal direct from the IOC's 'Olympic Highlights' has created quite an uproar from some members.**

With the virulence expressed in some of the correspondence (from members who at the same time have requested for their letters to "not be published"), and with letters spattered with inference of "endorsement", this is a matter we certainly felt needed to be addressed again.

Firstly, the decision to "not publish" should in no way be taken as the ISOH's or the editorial team's endorsement or otherwise of the events of the last year.

We also want to state quite emphatically the Society and your Journal publishes without fear or favour. The IOC has certainly never attempted to direct or dissuade the Journal from covering any issue. In fact, quite the opposite could be said. The IOC, and many of its senior members, has always been approachable and candid in its comments. The statement of Dr Jacques Rogge (IOC Executive Board member), that the IOC [or some members of it] had "betrayed the athletes, betrayed the spectators, and betrayed the values" is a case at hand.

From the Journal's perspective, upon hearing a recent speech by Sandy Hollway, chief executive of the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG), Harry Gordon approached Hollway and asked him if he could write an article expressly for the Journal, exploring the question of the crisis and its impact on the 2000 Olympic Games. Hollway's article appears on page 17 of this issue. We have also initiated contact with senior IOC members for similar comment.

In so doing, the editorial team certainly does not feel it is in any way being a "mouthpiece of the IOC", as one writer implied.

The question of whether the Journal should or should not be addressing the current IOC crisis, and by implication, any other issues related to the Olympic Games, really amounts to the simple issue of "what is the purpose of the Journal?".

The Journal, in line with the Constitution of this Society (published on pages 59-60 of this issue), was started for the purpose of offering a forum for like-minded Olympic 'historians' and a vehicle in which to publish historical research, articles, papers and findings with relation to the Olympic Games and the Olympic Movement.

The editorial team do not believe the Journal's founding purpose was to act as a newspaper, and we see no reason why this should change.

The research of contemporary Olympic history has never been seen as the responsibility of the Journal's editorial team. Our role is one of reviewing and selecting submissions, sub-editing, proofing and laying-out the pages. We can independently write and submit articles for the Journal, but these would be published under our own names.

We [the editorial team] do not believe it is our place, on behalf of members, to initiate comment, or opinion, on issues.

We do however firmly believe the Journal should be a vehicle for members to express their opinions and commentary - on any issue.

This we encourage in the form of submissions or Letters to the Editor.

We believe a publication like this Journal should facilitate and express the opinions of its readership - and certainly not just those of the editorial team. This may be why we have hedged on the side of diplomacy; we attempted, some might say unsuccessfully, to try to steer a neutral course.

In closing, this Journal will publish your opinions and commentary. We encouraged you, the members, to feel free to express yourselves.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue.

**Anthony Th. Bijkerk**, Secretary-general and editor  
**Stephen L. Harris**, associate editor. **Harry Gordon**, associate editor, and **Anthony Edgar**, associate editor (newly attached to the team)