

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Dear Mr. Editor,

In your editorial message in the Spring 1999 issue of our journal you say that the journal is not the place in which to re-publish allegations and rumours concerning the crisis in the IOC and that you have made the 'obvious' choice only to re-publish official information from the IOC Bulletin.

The wisdom of this choice is far from obvious. It seems to me that the Journal is exactly the place in which future historians might reasonably expect to find the allegations summarised, with a chronology and an authoritative commentary by a respected academic or journalistic figure. Instead, any future student will be as puzzled as I am now to find that you have made this editorial decision and have described it as 'obvious'.

I have always understood that the Society is not an organ of the IOC, though of course the IOC approves of it and gives it a modest grant-in-aid. It is now doubly important to safeguard our reputation for independent expertise: indeed, the crisis gave us an opportunity to reinforce that reputation. Its loss would be widely regretted among our membership.

**Christopher Hill**

West Sussex, England

### Dear Mr. Editor,

This letter is to express our gratitude for the overwhelming support shown by ISOH members to our Olympic Sport Programs project, and to give an update on where we are in our planning and commissioning of articles.

Following the editorial you ran on the project in your last issue of the Journal, we have received many emails and facimiles from members offering their support and expertise. We have also received a number of very good suggestions and submissions from members for articles such as: "100 years of women at the Olympic Games". Unfortunately, we have had to decline many of these, not based on the quality of submissions, but because the submissions relate primarily to the "Olympic Games" as the subject matter. It must be remembered our brief is to produce programs for each Olympic sport, not a program about the Olympic Games.

We have also been able to identify a number of specific areas of expertise which we were hoping ISOH members may be able to assist us with. These are: specialists in the Olympic history of a number of (primarily European based) sports; capable sports correspondents/journalists based in a certain countries; and, collectors of sports specific memorabilia which could reproduced in the programs.

As such, if there are members who have specific areas of expertise in the following, we would love to here from them:

1. Specialist in the Olympic history of the sports of: archery, handball, judo, modern pentathlon, weightlifting, wrestling
2. Olympic correspondents/journalists in: China, Cuba, Brazil, Russia, Japan, Romania, Italy, Hungary, and countries within South America and Africa
3. Olympic sporting memorabilia: Sport specific memorabilia (e.g. old equipment [running shoes, swords, guns, uniforms etc] used at Olympic Games; sport posters and pins; or - copies of original score cards or athlete entries cards of famous Olympic athletes etc.)

Also, if members believe they have a strong sport specific Olympic story or anecdote, we encourage them to contact us for consideration. This way we can see if it tits within our editorial plans. Please note we are not only seeking feature-length contributions. Small articles (approx. 150-300 words) will be a popular feature of the programs, and members with strong sport-specific ideas for this vital content area are most welcome to make submissions.

In finishing, thank you again to all members for your support of this project. We are sure our association will assist in ensuring the Olympic Sport Programs will be a product worthy of the Olympic Games.

**Anthony Edgar & Travis Cranley**

Manager & Editor

Olympic Sport Programs

Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games

**Anthony Edgar:** anthony\_edgar@socog.com.au

**Travis Cranley:** travis\_cranley@socog.com.au