

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Just before this issue of the Journal of Olympic History went to press, I learned with deep sadness from our honorary member Wolf Lyberg, that Bob Miyakawa, our Japanese member, and a close friend of Wolfs, passed away on Sunday, August 6th, 2000, in a hospital in Tokyo. Miyakawa succumbed to a thrombosis in the lungs. Bob Miyakawa was Japan's first member of the ISOH and he was responsible for the contacts of your editor with Mr. Masaji Kiyokawa, honorary member of the International Olympic Committee, who later not only joined ISOH, but also submitted the interesting article "My Olympic Golden Moment - Swimming Into History", about his personal experiences as an Olympic swimmer.

On a more personal basis, Bob Miyakawa and I had many contacts over the past four years, and I will forever cherish his memory and his friendship.

This year, in May, the election for the new Executive Committee for the period 2000-2004 took place, and in June the results of that democratic process became known.

Here are the results of that election:

Dr. Bill Mallon [USA], one of the founder members of ISOH, will take over as the new ISOH President from the current President, Ian Buchanan [GBR].

Dr. Karl Lennartz [GER] was elected Vice-President to succeed Bill Mallon, while I will retain the post as Secretary-General for another four years.

In the new Executive Committee [for the period 2000-2004] were further (re-)elected: **Dr. Kostas Georgiadis (GRE)**, **Wolf Lyberg (SWE)**, **Harry Gordon (AUS)** and **Peter Lovesey (GBR)**.

Because there had been no nominations for the position of Treasurer, **David Wallechinsky [FRA/USA]** was asked if he was willing to continue in this position for another four years. David accepted to again serve the ISOH as its Treasurer for the period 2000-2004.

With **Fékrou Kidane** as the ninth member of the Executive Committee (on behalf of the I.O.C.), all positions have now again been filled.

The new Executive Committee will take over after the quadrennial meeting of ISOH on September 26th, 2000, in Sydney.

With an overwhelming majority (for all proposed changes running up to over 90 percent) the members approved the proposed changes in the ISOH Constitution, so that these have all been adopted. The amended and revised Constitution will be published in the next issue of the Journal of Olympic History.

Because this will be my last issue as the editor of the Journal of Olympic History, I wish to pay tribute to all the members, who assisted me and the Editorial team by regularly supplying contributions. Of course, this assistance from the members should continue when Steve Harris takes over as editor, and I appeal to all ISOH members to think about possible contributions to our own important publications.

Finally, although we will of course honour our current President during the quadrennial meeting in Sydney, I personally thank him for the help, the guidance and the friendship he gave me in the past four years.

I will lose him as a President, but I have gained him as a lifelong friend! That's for sure.

In the first place I want to thank Steve Harris profusely for his never failing patience and help over the past four years, when this editor had to rely on him many times for details in editing, and especially for producing the journal of Olympic History.

Finally, I want to thank Harry Gordon for helping us in getting a steadily improving quality of that Journal, to which he contributed to a great extent. His experience in the field and his many years as a leading journalist, editor and author made him an indispensable part of the editorial team.

Anthony Edgar has done a great job in the last sixteen months, during which he took over the task of producing the Journal from Steve. Thanks to his efforts, the journal of Olympic History could be part of a worldwide effort to let the NOCs know about the existence of the ISOH. His contributions, together with those of Steve and Harry, has made the journal into what it is today: something to be proud of.

Anthony Th. Bijkerk
Secretary-General