

Minutes

Of the Quadrennial Meeting of the International Society of Olympic Historians Held at Sydney on 26 September 2000

PRESENT: President Ian Buchanan, Secretary-General Anthony Bijkerk, treasurer David Wallechinsky, Vice-President Bill Mallon, Karl Lennartz, G. Ezekiel, J. Brian Carberry, R.A. Huurman, Jean-Pierre Caravan, Oleg Milschtein, John A. Lucas, John McCoy, Anthony Edgar, Ruud Paauw, Patricia Eckert, Stephanie Daniels, Anita Tedder, Harry Gordon, Ian Jobling, Esmail Kadkhodazadeh, Willis L. Platt, Peter Kadar, Fekrou Kidane, Dr. Kostas Georgiadis, Dr Richard Cashman, Sid Marantz, Jim Greensfelder, Kevin Berry, Anthony Hughes, Peter Schollmeier, Kristine Toohey, Ana Moreno, Bruce Coe, David Wiseman, Bruce Kidd, Janet Cahill

Minutes: Anne Deal

OPEN: The meeting commenced at 2:05 p.m. with President Ian Buchanan welcoming all those present to only the second meeting of ISOH, and stated he was confident the meeting would be as successful as the previous one. Mr. Buchanan said his President's Message was in the last issue of the *Journal* and he would not repeat it here.

He commented on two of the aims of the Society, one of which included increasing the number of members, and the other, improving the quality and content of the *Journal*. He said the Secretary-General would report on the number of members, and the latest issues of the *Journal* speak for themselves. The quality has improved, and he hopes it will continue to do so. He said a great deal of credit for the improvement in the *Journal* should go to SOCOG, which has assisted with the printing and editing. Many thanks should also go to Anthony Edgar and all his colleagues in SOCOG for their assistance.

The President also thanked Kevin Berry who

has borne the brunt of organising this particular meeting. He said it was unfortunate that the meeting clashed with the ATFS' meeting thus preventing some members of ISOH attending.

He said it was also unfortunate that during the last year, two of our members have died, Bob Miyakawa from Japan and Francisco Peris Vidal of Spain. He didn't know them well, but they were great members of the Society. On the same note, Members should be aware that, on their behalf, he signed the Condolence Book for IOC-President Samaranch on the death of his wife, and expressed all Members' deep sympathy.

The President advised there would be discussion on two points that have been raised prior to the meeting.

A presentation was made to Anthony Edgar on behalf of all Members for his assistance with the *Journal*.

APOLOGIES: Peter Lovesey, Wolf Lyberg, Paul Jenes

SECRETARY-GENERAL REPORT

Anthony Bijkerk read a letter from Wolf Lyberg who, unfortunately, could not be present. Wolf expressed his thanks to Ian, and to all members for their cooperation over the years, and extended best wishes to incoming President, Bill Mallon.

The Secretary-General commented on the election of the Executive Committee and changes to the ISOH constitution. All the changes have been adopted with an overwhelming majority and the amended Constitution will be published in the next issue of the *Journal*. Any members who have stood for nomination to the Executive

Committee are free to look at the voting documents in his possession.

He advised on the number of changes in the last 4 years from when he took over as Secretary-General in 1996. In that year there were 194 members of ISOH - two Honorary Members, 185 members and seven Patron members. One year later there were 238 members, in 1998 - 262 members, and December 1999 - 275 Members. At this time there are 288 members including three Honorary Members, 255 full Members and 30 Patron Members. Compared with 1996, this means membership has risen 48-50%, a good result.

During those four years from 1996, ISOH lost five members through death, 27 full Members and two Patron Members due to resignation, or because they had to be deleted due to non-payment of subscription dues for two years as stated in the ISOH constitution. There are a few members who have not paid their 1999/2000 dues who may have to be deleted shortly and thus cause a reduction in membership.

The Secretary-General said he would like to use this opportunity of saying to President Ian what a great help he has been over the past few years, and that there has been wonderful cooperation between the President and himself. He also made a presentation to the President as a "thank you" for that assistance.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. David Wallechinsky said the Treasurer's Report was now all good news. In the last report it was stated that at that time we had not received funding from the International Olympic Committee for 1999 or the year 2000. This has now been quickly rectified and we are now solvent. \$4,000 was received this year in dues. We are looking at on-line electronic rights for the *Journal* and it should appear on the web site of the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA) by the end of November when members will be able to access articles from previous issues, but not the current year.

HAND-OVER OF PRESIDENCY:

President Ian Buchanan handed over the Presidency of ISOH to in-coming President, Bill Mallon. He wished him good luck, and knows he will be well supported by the Executive Committee.

PRESIDENT BILL MALLON:

President Bill Mallon said he would like to join in offering condolences to IOC-President Juan Antonio Samaranch

on the death of his wife, and knows it is a difficult time for him. He thanked Ian for his leadership without which we would not have so many current members.

The President said he has had ISOH pins made, having received permission to use the rings on them, and they will be handed out at the end of the meeting. He said we currently have 4 Honorary Members, Juan Antonio Samaranch, Karel Wendl, Wolf Lyberg and, now, Ian Buchanan, and a presentation of the Honorary Member pin was made to Ian.

The President said it is nine years since ISOH was formed, when he, himself, started out as Editor of the *Journal*. There were only about 50 members then, and he had no idea the original meeting of 10 members would grow to so many more. He expressed the wish that each country would have a member of ISOH so the history could be written in a factual manner.

He also said he would like to establish a closer affiliation with Olympic Study Centres in terms of the ISOH *Journal* and would like to get to the point where articles are "referred articles" reviewed by a Board, rather than just the Editor. Obviously that would involve a lot more articles being submitted, but the quality of the articles in the *Journal* should improve.

The President said ISOH needs to look at the tax status of the Society as more monies were coming and going into the account, which means we will need a tax-exempt status for the organisation.

He also wants to make it easier for members to pay due and suggested we should look at a visa account, or some thing similar, whereby international currencies can be transferred more easily.

He thanked all the members who voted for him and thanked David Wallechinsky for standing against him for Presidency and said David's book on the Olympics is the best book ever written on the topic, and knows they will work well together in the future.

DISCUSSION

KARL LENNARTZ: Mr. Lennartz spoke on two topics:

1. He has asked some members of ISOH to write about IOC members and said we need a lot more information. He has asked members to research their IOC members and write scientific biographies about them.
2. On the history of smaller countries, he wants two members from the Association, or historians from those countries to write histories for the *Journal*. President Bill Mallon said it is difficult to get replies from NOC's. His aim is to try and get a member from each nation on ISOH, as a

written history by ISOH would be valuable.

DISCUSSION

FEKROU KIDANE: Mr. Kidane made a presentation to past President Ian Buchanan. He said the IOC is trying to set up a Culture Department and, we also need Guidelines for national committees who need assistance in researching information. We need to set up within each National Olympic Committee the possibility of finding a sports historian who can read material available and act quickly through the Society or IOC, with ISOH members helping the National Olympic Committee's with their historical data and work. He said we need to start work now on the project as within the next 4 years historians will be the most important people in the movement. He said the next meeting should be a properly organised meeting to exchange views and develop a history. He suggested a one-day conference, or similar. President Bill Mallon said if not a whole day, perhaps a morning or afternoon session could be organised about writing guidelines for a history over the years.

GENERAL BUSINESS & QUESTIONS FROM

THE FLOOR: Sid Marantz - Would the Executive Committee consider having a meeting at the Olympic Winter Games so we can get together more often.

President Bill Mallon said we would consider it, and try for Salt Lake City in 2002.

Esmail Kadkhodazadeh - Can IOC recommend to the NOC's to appoint a cultural attache? SOCOG has 20,000 athletes on the database, where is it going from here is the question.

President Bill Mallon will mention it to the people involved in setting up IOC databases on the Internet and try to ensure that Athens will also hand over information. If managed effectively, it will work fine.

Information needs to go to someone who knows how to store it properly.

President Bill Mallon said the IOC need an international organisation that will take information from SOCOG to Athens - whatever Sydney can teach Athens would be helpful.

David Wallechinsky - Now that we have the database we need as much information as possible on line on the web site.

President Bill Mallon also wished to place on record his thanks to Kevin Berry for setting up the meeting.

Kevin Berry welcomed everyone to Australia and thanked all for their comments on how well the Sydney

Olympics were organised. Kevin was, however, disappointed in one aspect of the Games and that regards the fact that, try as he might, he could not get the tradition followed whereby in 1936 trees were given to the gold medallists. He would like to see that history and tradition followed again and would like support from members to see it happen in Athens in 4 years time.

President Bill Mallon said he would certainly support that completely.

Karl Lennartz said that in 1896 laurel wreaths were presented to winners and, later on, Olive branches in other countries. The system now seems to have progressed to presenting flowers, but he thinks we should support a special wreath of flowers from the host country for medal winners.

Jim Greensfelder said he gathered oak leaves from the tree planted by Jesse Owens (1936) during his Olympics. Each year the tree produces acorns. If anyone would like any leaves, please let him know.

A presentation was made by Esmail Kadkhodazdeh to Past President Ian Buchanan, incoming President Bill Mallon, Secretary-General Anthony Bijkerk, Treasurer David Wallechinsky, new Vice-President Karl Lennartz, and Dr Bob Barney.

The meeting closed at 3:00 p.m.

ISOH Website

The International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) now has a website. It can be accessed via one of two URLs -

www.olykamp.org/isoh; or www.isoh.org.

Eventually, complete access will be via www.isoh.org.

Please look at the web site and contact us with your thoughts. You may contact Bill Mallon at (bmallon@olykamp.org) and give us any suggestions you would like to see on the website.

We have listed the ISOH Membership roster on the website, along with current research interests, as listed in the members' original application and in our directory. For privacy considerations, no addresses or telephone numbers will be listed. However, we are considering listing members' e-mail addresses. Let us know your thoughts on this. Specifically, if you would like your e-mail address listed on the website, or you do not want it listed, we need to know that. Also, we do not have everybody's e-mail address and we would like to have that information.