

## Editorial Preface

To mark Sydney's successful Olympic Bid, a whole issue of *Sporting Traditions* has been devoted to the Olympics. Three articles deal with the politics of the Bid process and a past Olympics. The other article discusses the related theme of the ambiguities of national sporting identity, including Olympic representation. This issue includes a review of major book on history of Australia at Olympics by ASSH member Harry Gordon.

*Sporting Traditions* has from time to time included debates on important public issues and has provided a forum for a variety of opinion on issues of controversy. One of the stated aims of ASSH is to promote, stimulate and encourage informed discussion of sport. The opinions expressed in this issue, like any other, are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of the Editor or of ASSH.

Canadian sports historian Bruce Kidd, who was involved in an unsuccessful Toronto Bid, has issued some interesting challenges to Australian sports historians. He has suggested that we should intervene in the public debate on the Sydney Olympics to insist that the Sydney organisers and the IOC live up to the 'humanitarian promise of Olympism'. Kidd has also urged us to 'undertake a systematic, interdisciplinary analysis of the Sydney Games' along the lines of the investigations pursued by the Centre for Olympic Studies at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in connection with the 1992 Games. Having cut our collective teeth on a succession of *Oxford Companions*, we have a fresh challenge.

To provide easier payment facilities, particularly for overseas members, ASSH has introduced a Visa card service which is also available to Australian members. Details of this service are set out separately.

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