

# THE BRITISH OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION

## 1905-2005 - A CHRONOLOGY

by Philip Barker\*

The *British Olympic Association* celebrated its centenary this May. It is one of the oldest National Olympic committees and it can point to a proud record of Olympic attendance. Never has Great Britain missed an Olympic celebration Summer or Winter.

In fact Olympism had been alive and well in Britain far longer, and scholars such as ISOH member Don ANTHONY have produced exhaustive histories of the development of the movement in Britain throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup>

Britain's first IOC members were Lord AMPHILL and Charles HERBERT. Both joined in 1894 and though AMPHILL soon resigned, The Reverend de COURCY LAFFAN began his long service to Olympism. In 1904 the IOC visited London for the first time and during their stay saw Cricket and Archery.<sup>2</sup>

The meeting galvanised Britain's three IOC members to circulate a letter proposing the "formation of a *British Olympic Association*"<sup>3</sup>.

### Formation of the BOA

The Association was duly constituted at a meeting room in the House of Commons on 24<sup>th</sup> May 1905. Frustratingly little is recorded of that meeting, but the members of the new body were listed in the *Olympic Review*.<sup>4</sup> William Henry GRENFELL, Lord DESBOROUGH was chosen as the Chairman and COURCY LAFFAN was asked to be secretary on a temporary basis. He was still in the job fifteen years later. The BOA sent delegates to the Congress on the theme of Sport and Physical Recreation in Brussels that summer and fund raising was soon under way to send a team to the Interim or Intercalated Games in Athens in 1906.

DESBOROUGH led the Epee team which placed second in Athens. Whilst there it became clear Rome would be unable to stage the 1908 Olympic Games as originally planned. He sounded out British opinion about taking over as host city and a meeting of the Council in November 1906 agreed to do so.<sup>5</sup>

DESBOROUGH was by now a member of the IOC himself. He did a deal with the organizers of the Anglo-French exhibition to make sure the games

of an appropriate new stadium at White City in West London.<sup>6</sup>

All but two of the original BOA council members found a role on the organising committee for London 1908, they were supplemented by men like Colonel ONSLOW of the *National Physical Recreation Society*.

The judges were chosen from the British sports governing bodies. Though British eyes saw this as a great tribute to home standards of fair play,<sup>7</sup> it was a policy that was to lead to problems later on.<sup>8</sup>

The BOA was responsible for coordinating a British team for the first time. They marched behind the Union Flag and United Kingdom name board but in certain team sports, Scotland and Ireland entered separate teams.<sup>9</sup>

Britain eventually won 56 gold medals which inevitably meant subsequent games would suffer in comparison.

### Reactions to disappointment in Stockholm 1912

Britain only won 41 medals in 1912 so a protracted debate after the relative disappointment of Stockholm saw Sir Arthur CONAN DOYLE offer a robust defence of Britain's continuing Olympic participation and joined a "Special Committee" headed by Sir John Edward Kynaston STUDD. Royal support was canvassed and a fighting fund of £100,000 equal to millions today.<sup>10</sup>

War meant the plan was never put into operation but in 1919 Lieutenant-Colonel Arnold Nugent Strode JACKSON picked up the theme in a series of articles in *The Times*. The magic figure of £100,000 was mentioned once more.<sup>11</sup>

In September 1919 the BOA met in Russell Square and resolved to accept the invitation to compete at the Olympics in Antwerp. William Hayes FISHER, now Lord DOWNHAM was installed as Chairman but died only a week before the main events of the summer began in Antwerp.<sup>12</sup> In the aftermath of Antwerp disaffection continued.

There was even talk of changing the name to the "*British Sports Association*" but no agreement was reached.



British  
Olympic  
Crest

\* I am indebted to fellow ISOH member Don Anthony for his invaluable help with this article.



But change was coming. COURCY LAFFAN resigned. He was now 67 and determined to make way for a younger man. He was replaced by an RAF physical training Instructor Flying Officer Albert ADAMS. (LAFFAN had also been pressed into service as an emergency chairman after DOWNHAM'S death.) ADAMS was soon posted abroad and relinquished his post to Brigadier Reginald KENTISH, IOC member in Britain.

### The Army and Navy Meeting 1922

The meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1922 is generally credited with establishing the BOA on a firm footing. In the first instance it resolved that Britain would certainly take part in future Olympiads. The initiative for the meeting came from Brigadier KENTISH, and the BOA report of proceedings emphasises the significance of the meeting.

*"The direct outcome of that meeting has been the placing of the British Olympic Association on a sound and permanent footing and the determination of the country, no matter what a small section of the press or public may say to the contrary, to play her role in this great educative movement."*<sup>13</sup>

### Chariots of Fire and the 1920s

Earl CADOGAN became the new chairman and King GEORGE V agreed to become Patron. The Prince of Wales (Later EDWARD VIII) The Duke of YORK (Later GEORGE VI) and Prince HENRY were all recruited as vice patrons. An appeal fund was set up which initially raised only £7,900. The national newspaper the *Daily Mail* then campaigned for funds with Winston CHURCHILL speaking at the launch of its appeal at the Mansion house. The final appeal totalled £26,767 and a team of 450 went to Paris accompanied by the Prince of Wales.

Amateurism and sportsmanship continued to be an issue for the British. The Great Britain football team did not participate in the Olympic Games again until 1936, because of a disagreement about what constituted an amateur.

Though publicity and marketing had not yet become widespread but in 1926, the *British Olympic Journal* appeared for the first time and later BOA chairman and IOC member Lord ROCHDALE took advantage of the new medium of Radio to give a talk on the Olympics.<sup>14</sup>

Even so the appeal fund needed bolstering by another newspaper appeal and also British Olympic stamps.<sup>15</sup>

The team handbook at this time included strict guidelines on what was expected from team members.<sup>16</sup> The message which came from the King made it clear just how important Olympic performance had become to the prestige of the British Empire.<sup>17</sup>

### Los Angeles and Berlin

In 1932, the BOA faced the biggest financial drain yet on its resources to take a team to the USA. The gathering depression meant only £10,000 was raised and a team of only 74, the smallest since 1904 was sent to the games.

The Berlin Olympics were a watershed in many ways. Lord BURGHLEY<sup>18</sup>, already an IOC member had just become chairman and launched an appeal which realised £9,034.<sup>19</sup> A large team attended and were provided with a detailed handbook which gave details of uniform, luggage collection and so on but no guidance as to how the team should behave passing the saluting dais. Lester FINCH a footballer recalls a decision was made to give a simple "eyes right" to HITLER.<sup>20</sup>

The BOA report would pass comment on other teams' salutes.<sup>21</sup>

### The Austerity Games 1948

London had been allocated the 1944 Olympics and then in early 1946, was confirmed as the host city for 1948 The British Olympic council conducted the preliminary work before handing over to the organizing committee to make preparations for the games.

The team itself nearly had an embarrassing moment at the opening ceremony. It appears the Union flag had been forgotten and Roger BANNISTER, working as an assistant to the BOA Secretary Evan HUNTER made a dash through the crowds with a replacement.<sup>22</sup>

The games opened by King GEORGE VI were considered a tremendous success. In the immediate aftermath the BOA had a new secretary, Kenneth Sandilands (Sandy) DUNCAN to remain at the helm for the next quarter of a century.<sup>23</sup>

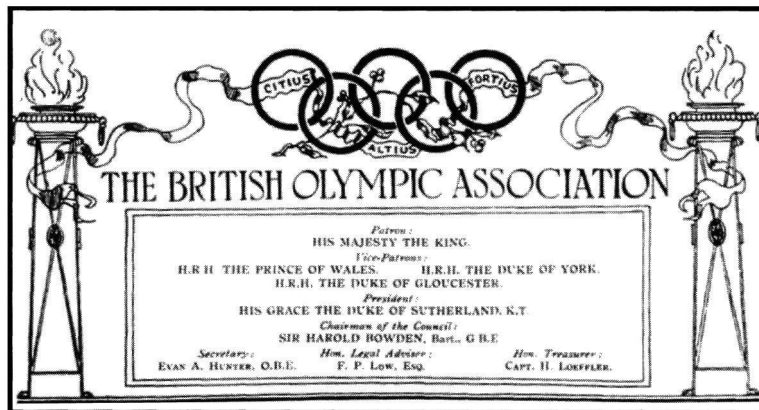
In 1950 the BOA staged a ceremony at Wembley. Two plaques were unveiled to mark the 1948 Olympic Games.<sup>24</sup>

### The Elizabethan Era

A small team arrived in Oslo for the Winter Games to the saddest news. King GEORGE VI died on the eve of the Opening Ceremony. His daughter ELIZABETH succeeded him and also became BOA patron receiving the team at Buckingham Palace before the summer games.

Another big newspaper appeal had helped raise £68,000 which the BOA saw as valuable insurance with the long and expensive journey to Melbourne still to come.<sup>25</sup>

BOA stamp



Prince PHILIP visited the team in the Olympic village but they had to wait till the very last event for their first gold medal.

A celebratory dinner, attended by the Prince marked the Golden Jubilee of the BOA in 1955, but the Olympic year which followed was one of the most expensive in the Association's history with three British teams to cater for (Cortina (Winter) Stockholm (Equestrian) and Melbourne (Summer Games)).

For the only time the association's patron had a direct hand in the competition. Countryman, part owned by The Queen and BOA Chairman the Duke of BEAUFORT, helped win the gold medal in three day event.<sup>26</sup>

For Melbourne, a massive airlift was organized with 236 competitors transported to Melbourne at a cost of over £123,000.<sup>27</sup>

For the Footballers, there was the strange experience of being eliminated twice, by the same opponents. Bulgaria beat Great Britain home and away in the qualifying competition but were invited to make up the numbers in Melbourne following withdrawals over the Soviet intervention in Hungary and the Suez crisis.

The latter crisis forced the resignation of Sir Anthony EDEN but his successor as Prime Minister Harold MACMILLAN unwittingly inspired part of the British uniform for the Squaw Valley Winter Games. Team members wore a "Macmillan" hat. Into the sixties British teams adhered closely to the guidelines on amateurism. The Football team qualified for the final stages for the last time in 1960 and subsequently the Football Association decided to end the distinction between Amateur and Professional players in England, rendering a Great Britain team ineligible to participate after the 1972 games.<sup>28</sup>

The BOA moved offices again in the early seventies and was now positioned at the very heart of London's Oxford Street. A new royal crest came into use in 1971 and commercial sponsorship was openly courted for the first time.

Sandy DUNCAN'S long spell of service as BOA Secretary came to an end in 1975. His successor Michael SPARKES a former appeals secretary unveiled a campaign aimed at achieving £500,000 in sponsorship. The Cigarette firm *Rothmans* were closely associated with the appeal at this time.

The venue of the winter games was switched late from Denver to Innsbruck and the British administration was also forced to make a late change. 1964 Bobsled champion Tony NASH was to have returned to the scene of his great triumph, this time as Chef de Mission but a last minute illness saw SPARKES drafted in.

The cost of sending a team to the games had been increased, partially because of the added need for security Lord Rupert NEVILL led the Montreal delegation as Team Commandant and this time the Chef de Mission was Christopher DAVIDGE, Deputy Chairman of the BOA council and himself a former Rowing competitor. For the only time, the team included a member of the Royal Family HRH Princess ANNE, later as Princess ROYAL, IOC member in Britain. In 1977 the BOA made the Olympic torch from 1948 available for the Queen to use when she lit a beacon in Windsor Great Park to mark her Silver Jubilee.<sup>29</sup>

### Moscow

The games of the XX<sup>th</sup> Olympiad were to have been the Soviet Unions coming out party. Britain sent a team to the Spartakiade in 1979 by way of a fact finding mission.<sup>30</sup>

Then on 26<sup>th</sup> December, the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Calls for a boycott came almost instantly and British Olympic Chairman Sir Denis FOLLOWS<sup>31</sup> found himself under intense governmental pressure to comply.

In the following months, the campaign intensified and potential competitors in the civil service or armed forces were advised they would not be granted leave of absence to attend the games. The issue was debated at length in Parliament. Public support grew and at the BOA meeting, 18 national federations voted to attend the games.<sup>32</sup> A change in the rules meant the team could march in under an Olympic flag and the Olympic anthem would be played for medal ceremonies.<sup>33</sup>

At the opening and closing ceremony therefore the Olympic flag was carried by the lone figure of Dick PALMER, Chef de Mission, <sup>34</sup> though the host broadcaster cameras did not show the Olympic flag in close up.<sup>35</sup>

At the five gold medal ceremonies, the Olympic anthem was played.<sup>36</sup>

Sir Denis FOLLOWS outlined the reason for the stance in the official report of the games.<sup>37</sup> Later though it became clear the stand over Moscow had seriously affected the financial wellbeing of the BOA.

### A new era

The new decade heralded a new kind of Olympism. At the 1981 Congress Sebastian COE spoke on behalf of a nascent athletes' commission. But that



Signing the flag on the occasion of the London bid for 2012

congress was to be Lord EXETER'S last and before the next games, Sir Denis FOLLOWS had also died.

The IOC co-opted women for the first time Mary GLEN-HAIG Olympic fencer and NOC member was one of the first women inductees. Later on the resignation of the Lord LUKE in 1988, The Princess Royal, president of the BOA since 1983 also took her seat on the IOC.

The *British Olympic Association* moved to its present headquarters in Wandsworth South West London as the demands on a modern NOC increased. The former Judo player and International Federation president Charles PALMER became Chairman.

A new magazine was launched as the BOA sought ways of getting the Olympic message over.<sup>38</sup>

Education became an increasingly valuable tool in spreading the Olympic message. The first *National Olympic Academy* was established, and in a sub committee was eventually succeeded by a full time department and the establishment of a *British Olympic Foundation*.<sup>39</sup>

### Bidding for the Games

Attitudes to bidding changed after the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. Manchester, Birmingham and London all decided to bid for the 1992 Olympic Games. On 12<sup>th</sup> July 1985, the BOA decided to endorse Birmingham.<sup>40</sup>

The following year, the "Heart of Gold" themed bid led by Denis HOWELL MP promoted Birmingham but Barcelona was chosen.

In 1987 the two provincial cities announced they would try again.<sup>41</sup> This time the BOA endorsed Manchester but despite the efforts of Sir Robert SCOTT, the candidacy was unsuccessful.

Sir Arthur GOLD another internationally active administrator took over the chairmanship of the

BOA into the nineties. He'd shown his capacity for original thinking as a pioneer in the use of ballet training techniques in sport and presided over a successful games in Barcelona as Team Commandant.

Manchester were selected as candidates for the 2000 games but were defeated again.

Craig REEDIE<sup>42</sup> had taken over as Chairman after Barcelona and made it clear the *British Olympic Association* would henceforth only support a London bid Manchester's Olympic dream did come to reality, albeit for the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

### The Modern Era

In the meantime the BOA played host to an IOC session in Birmingham 1991 and the European Youth Olympic Days at Bath 1995 organised by current Chief Executive Simon CLEGG.<sup>43</sup>

The new open era saw a sea change in the organisation of the association. A medical centre was opened in 1987 at Northwick Park North London and an athletes group was founded.

After the 1988 games a technical director was introduced as the BOA role shifted from co-ordinating participation to sharpening up standards of the Olympic team.<sup>44</sup>

Sponsorship on an organised and highly sophisticated level enabled training camps to be established and since 1996, athletes were held at so called "holding camps" prior to the games.

The BOA were also responsible for the groundwork on London's 2012 Olympic bid.

Almost a century ago Coubertin had paid tribute to the role of its members in cementing the revival of the games and creating a model for other National Olympic Committees.<sup>45</sup>

## Appendix: the first NOC 1905



**R' Hon. Lord DESBOROUGH of TAPLOW, born GRENFELL**  
1855-1945

IOC Member 1906-1909

BOA Chairman 1905-1913

All round sportsman.

He was President of *Oxford University Athletic Club* in 1876 and the *Oxford University Boat Club* in 1878 a rare "wet-dry" double. Placed 2<sup>nd</sup> for Oxford in the 3 miles in 1876 and rowed twice in the Boat Race including the famous dead heat of 1877. Swam across the base of Niagara Falls twice, the second time in a snowstorm and climbed the Matterhorn three times. Won the Punting Championship three successive years from 1888.

His political career saw him as Member of Parliament for Salisbury 1880, 1885, Hereford 1892 Wycombe 1900-1905

President *Royal Life Saving Society* and of the Epee Club

Led the British team to second place in the Epee competition at the Interim Games in Athens 1906.

He was chief organiser of the 1908 Olympics

President of five national governing bodies.

MCC *All England Lawn Tennis Club*, *Amateur Fencing Association*, *National Amateur Wrestling Association* and the AAA.

Hon. Secretary

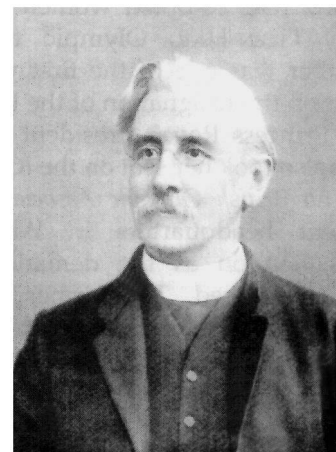
**R' Rev. Robert Stuart de COURCY LAFFAN M. A.**

1853-1927

IOC member 1899-1927. First Secretary of the BOA 1905-1920 and acting Chairman 1920-1922.

Became a church of England vicar in 1883 taught classics at Derby school from 1880-1884 and was Headmaster of King Edward VI School Stratford from 1884-1895. As principal of Cheltenham College, he attended the 1897 IOC congress on behalf of the Headmasters Conference. There he began a friendship with COUBERTIN. Became the first secretary of the BOA and remained in the post for 15 years.

Also served as BOA Chairman.



**R' Hon. Lord MONTAGU of BEAULIEU**

1866-1929

Rowed in winning trial eight at Oxford 1887. He was also in the New College eight for the head of the river race in 1887.

MONTAGU was the first person to drive a car into the House of Commons courtyard in 1898 and took King EDWARD VII for his first journey in a Motor Vehicle. Founder and late Editor of *The Car* and was Vice President of the RAC.

**Colonel Sir Howard Vincent, K. C. M. G.; C. B.; M. P.**

1849-1908

IOC Member 1901-07

Soldier, Newspaper reporter and politician.

In 1878 he was given the job of developing Scotland Yard as its Director of Criminal Investigations, becoming the MP for Central Sheffield in 1885.

In 1898 he was the British Delegate to the Anti Anarchist Conference in Rome

A member of the London County Council 1889-1896 never lived to see London stage the Olympics as he died on 7 April 1908.

**Sir Lees KNOWLES, C. V. A. C.**

1857-1928

1<sup>st</sup> Baronet Politician and Writer on Military Matters

Educated at Rugby School shortly before COUBERTIN made his visit, he went up to Trinity College Cambridge where he won blues for Athletics finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> behind his future BOA Chairman Lord DESBOROUGH in the 3 mile race at Lillie Bridge in 1876. He also raced over a mile in the Varsity match and was President of the *Cambridge University Athletics Club* in 1878. Later a barrister, he was created Baronet in 1903 and helped host the IOC on their visit to London in 1904.

**T. W. J. BRITTEN**

Treasurer *National Cycling Union*. He had attended the 1894 meeting which founded the IOC one of three delegates from the *National Cycling Union* to do so. He was also involved with the organisation of the 1908 games.

**William Hayes FISHER MP later Lord DOWNHAM**

1853-1920

Chairman of the BOA 1919-20

Became a lawyer

A golfing enthusiast, a member of *Sandwich and Hayling Island Golf Clubs* and also of *Leander Rowing Club*. Called to the bar in 1879, he was Member of Parliament for Fulham from 1895-1906 and again in 1910. Made a privy counsellor in 1911 he was created Baron DOWNHAM.

President of the NATIONAL SKATING ASSOCIATION from 1894-1920 in which capacity he served on the Organising Committee for the 1908 London Olympics. Made the presentation of a gift to Lord DESBOROUGH at the end of those games. Elevated to the peerage in 1918. Elected Chairman of the BOA at a meeting in Russell Square in September 1919 but died from pneumonia on 2<sup>nd</sup> July shortly before the Antwerp games.

**Reginald Claude Moor Gillett GRIDLEY**

1860-1916

Rowing's first representative of the BOA .

Known as "*Boss Gridley*" during his competitive days, he was an Etonian who raced at Henley as a schoolboy and won his blue for rowing in 1882. Rowed Bow. In his third and last boat race he was Cambridge President and led the team to victory. Theodore COOK noted "*it must have been a satisfaction to him to turn the tide*".

He was a regular member of Leander Crews at the Royal Regatta but as COOK observed "*like many good oarsmen he could not point to a brilliant total of successes*"

ARA and Leander Secretary, he was elected to the Committee at *Henley Royal Regatta* in 1903.

He worked on the organising committee for the 1908 Olympics

**Charles HERBERT**

1846-1924

IOC Member 1894-1906

He had a traumatic childhood and lost most of his family in the massacre at Kanpur (India).

Hon Secretary of the AAA from 1883 to 1906. Met COUBERTIN in December 1893 and was invited to the IOC Congress at the Sorbonne and became IOC Member. He was described by COUBERTIN as part of the "*immovable trinity*" at the head of the IOC. Represented the AAA on the first NOC council. In 1906 he fell from a London horse bus and suffered severe injuries forcing his resignation from both the AAAs and the IOC (DESBOROUGH took his place)

**George Rowland HILL**

1855-1928

First elected to the *Rugby Football Union* committee in 1879 he was a referee and also a member of the *International Rugby Board* from 1890 until his death.

Hill had been Honorary Secretary of the RFU from 1881-1904 before becoming the 18<sup>th</sup> President of the RFU. At the time Rugby Union was part of the Olympic movement and would be contested in 1908. He was re-elected to the Presidency twice.

A record keeper in the Principal Probate office at Somerset House, he was also a member of London County Council.

Knighted in 1926 for services to the game he died in 1928 and the following year a memorial gateway at Twickenham was dedicated in his honour.

**Alfred HUTTON**

1839-1910

A pioneer of modern fencing. He graduated from University College Oxford. He pursued a career in the military He became the first president of the *Amateur Fencing Association*.

A keen historian of the sport he wrote extensively on the subject and was immortalised in caricature form with the drawing titled after one of his own volumes *Cold steel*. Member of the Organising Committee in 1908

**Edward Lawrence LEVY**

born 1851

Won the first British Weightlifting Championship in 1891, a competition which included a 16 year old Launceston Eliot.

He was intimately involved with the development of Gymnastics - much of work was in Birmingham.

Had travelled to the 1896 Olympic Games. He judged events after his own discipline was not included and also wrote extensive articles for the *Birmingham Daily Post* on the games. He was honorary secretary of the of the *Amateur Gymnastic Federation* of Great Britain and Ireland 1900-1911 and also Honorary secretary of the *Amateur Gymnastic Association* of England 1901-1911 and

was intimately involved with the development of physical education and gymnastics in Birmingham with his membership of the *Birmingham Athletics Club* and the *Birmingham Institute of Athletics*. Later became a member of the organising committee for the 1908 Olympics.

#### Edgar SYERS

1863-1946

The only representative of a winter sport on the original BOA. Although he founded the *Great Britain Ski Club* in 1903 and represented the organisation on the first Olympic council, it was in Ice Skating that he actually competed at the Olympics. He met his wife Florence "Madge" (1908 Individual Champion) through the sport of skating. He encouraged her to adopt the "international style of skating and they won the British Championship in 1899". They were married in 1900. In 1904 he lost the British Singles championship to his wife. In 1908 she won Olympic gold and partnered her in the pairs skating where they won Bronze.

#### Sir Frederick J. WALL

1858-1944

Started with the *London Football Association* in 1881 and became an FA Council member on behalf of Middlesex in 1891-1895. Became Secretary of the *Football Association* in 1895, a post he held until his retirement in 1934.

Theodore  
Andrea  
Cook

Knighted for services to Football. At the 1908 Olympic Games he was in charge of press operations and later wrote an account of his work *Fifty Years In Football*.

#### Colonel Sir Henry WALROND

1841-1917

Went to Christ Church College, Oxford. Joined the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Devon Regiment in 1863. Became a captain in 1872 and by the time he retired had the rank of Honorary Colonel. Was honorary secretary of the *Royal Toxophilite Society*.

#### Sir Theodore Andrea COOK

1867-1928

IOC Member 1909-1915

Forged his reputation as a sportsman whilst at Radley College, where he captained football and rowing teams.

He rowed in the 1889 boat race.

An oarsman and fencer who participated in the Interim Games.

Became a member of the Organising Committee of the 1908 Olympics and is credited as the author the Official report. Also edited the booklet *A response to certain Criticisms* which responded to the Americans who were unhappy at aspects of the 1908 games.

Editor of *St James' Gazette* from 1900. Joined the *Daily Telegraph* in 1901 and became editor of *The*

*Field* in 1910 and wrote a number of books on Rowing.

He acted as official time keeper for the *Henley Royal Regatta* and edited official histories of the event as well as the *ARA Annual*.



#### Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> ANTHONY, Don, *Minds Bodies and Souls - An Olympic Trilogy*, BOA 1995-1999.
- <sup>2</sup> *Revue Olympique* (August 1904) 13 pp. 67-75. They visited Lord's Cricket ground to see the second days play in the Middlesex v South Africa tour match. The Organising Committee for the IOC meeting comprised Sir Howard Vincent COURCY LAFFAN and Charles HERBERT, Herbert GLADSTONE, Sir Lees KNOWLES, Lord KINNAIRD, Lord DARNLEY (Previously the Hon Ivo BLIGH) CB (Charles Burgess) FRY and WG (William Gilbert) GRACE.
- <sup>3</sup> The three IOC members in Britain at this time were Charles HERBERT, Reverend Robert COURCY LAFFAN and Colonel Sir Howard VINCENT.
- <sup>4</sup> *Revue Olympique* (May 1906), p 80
- <sup>5</sup> *Official Report 1908*, p23. Lord DESBOROUGH circulated the national governing bodies and received a "favourable response". The decision to proceed was ratified at the BOA Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1906.
- <sup>6</sup> *Official Report 1908*. The White City Stadium was built at a cost of £40,000.
- <sup>7</sup> *Bailey's Magazine* (Sept 1908) p 18. "Few greater compliments to English fair play than the delegation to our great associations for the judging of these games have ever been paid."
- <sup>8</sup> COOK, Theodore Andrea (ed.), *A response to Certain Criticisms*, 1909. The judging of the 400m race in which Carpenter the American was disqualified for obstructing Wyndham HALSWELLE was a particular source of discontent.
- <sup>9</sup> Scotland competed in Hockey. An All England team competed in Football representing the United Kingdom.
- <sup>10</sup> *BOA Report 1912*, p 17, and following. The Special Committee, chaired by JEK STUDD, included BJT (Bernard) BOSANQUET (the inventor of Cricket's

googly), Sir Arthur Conan DOYLE author (creator of *Sherlock Holmes*). Theodore COOK, PL (Percy) FISHER, AED (Arthur) Anderson JC HURD, E MACKAY-EDGAR, Sir Claude MACDONALD, Mr George ROBERTSON. An appeal to the press released on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1913 and signed by Lords GREY, HARRIS, Roberts ROTHSCHILD STRATHCONA and the Duke of Westminster, "we [...] appeal with confidence to our fellow countrymen for the financial support which is necessary for the adequate representation of the United Kingdom at the Berlin games [...] the results in Stockholm were a shock [...] such results must never occur again!"

<sup>11</sup> *The Times* (26th September 1919). Strode JACKSON was Olympic 1500m Champion in 1912.

<sup>12</sup> *The Times* (25th September 1919)

<sup>13</sup> *BOA Report 1924*, p 22 and following and appendix iii. This gives the full texts of speeches made at the Army and Navy Meeting.

<sup>14</sup> *British Olympic Journal* (Spring 1928), pp. 162-163, Includes a transcript of Lord ROCHDALE'S broadcast on radio. "Why Great Britain should be represented at Amsterdam [...] extracts from a broadcast Lord Rochdale gave on March 10<sup>th</sup>."

<sup>15</sup> *British Olympic Journal* (Autumn 1927), p. 133. "Stamps" produced. These were not legal postage stamps but intended to be used in addition to provide publicity. They came in books comprising three values: 1 shilling (blue) 2s6d (red) and 10 shillings (Green), "the stamp has been produced from a design made especially for the purpose and based on a photograph of the actual march round of the British competitors in Athens 1924.. Note: the Royal Mail later issued commemorative stamps for the 1948 Olympic Games which could be used as legal postage".

<sup>16</sup> *Handbook and Notes for Competitors 1928*, p. 5.

- i. Play the game for the games sake;
- ii Play for his side and not for himself;
- iii Is a good winner and a good loser i.e. modest in victory, generous in defeat;
- iv. Accept all decisions in a proper spirit
- v Is chivalrous towards a defeated opponent
- vi Is unselfish and helps others to become proficient
- vii As a spectator applauds good play on both sides
- viii Never interferes with referees or judges whatever the decision

<sup>17</sup> *The Times* (July 27 1928). "The King hopes that they will add fresh laurels to the fame of British Athletes and his majesty is confident that they will display as ever whether in victory or defeat, that spirit of sportsmanship which is the tradition of their race."

<sup>18</sup> The Marquess of Exeter (Lord Burghley 1936-56), 1905 -1981, IOC Member 1933-81, BOA President 1966-76, Born David George Brownlow Cecil, competed in the 1924 Olympic Games and was Olympic 400m Hurdles Champion in 1928. His final Olympic Games as a competitor was in Los Angeles where he won a silver medal in the 4x400m relay. He joined the IOC in 1933. Executive Board member 1951-70 Vice President 1954-76. He chaired the NOC for thirty years from 1936 before becoming President for the next decade.

<sup>19</sup> *1936 Handbook*. The appeal from Lord BURGHELY, Viscount Portal and Sir Noel Curtis BENNETT underlined that the British team would be chosen regardless of creed colour etc.

<sup>20</sup> Personal interview in 1994 with Lester FINCH GB football team member Berlin 1936

<sup>21</sup> *BOA Report 1936*, p. 35. "It was a little unfortunate that no uniformity of saluting was agreed on by the IOC. The French team giving the Olympic salute so similar to the Nazi form of salutation received a tumultuous welcome. The British contingent with, their eyes right met with almost complete silence". Note subsequent handbooks suggested the British team should make no other gesture when passing the head of state.

<sup>22</sup> Roger Bannister *Four Minute Mile*, p. 70, pub Putnam 1955

<sup>23</sup> DUNCAN (1912-2005) was Chef de Mission at Twelve Olympic Games Summer & Winter 1952-72.

<sup>24</sup> *Daily Telegraph* (15th April 1950). "Lord Burghley

unveiled a roll of honour of Champions. Guests at the unveiling included the Lord Mayor of London Sir Frederick Rowland and Mrs Fanny Blankers Koen". Lord BURGHELY said the games -were more than a sports event. They were a coming together of the youth of the world. The games proved to be Wembley's finest hour.

<sup>25</sup> *BOA Report 1952*, p. 107. DUNCAN gave this assessment "our team acquitted itself with distinction, the public does not yet fully appreciate that the standard of Olympic competition is enormously high [...] we can produce great teams in the future but we must realise precisely what we are up against and discard any surviving old time methods, and start now planning ahead."

<sup>26</sup> WILLIAMS, Dorian, *Travels of a Commentator*, Methuen 1985, pp. 3-9. Dorian WILLIAMS was the BBC TV commentator, his father was the Chef de Mission of the Great Britain team which won the 3 day event team gold in Stockholm. The Queen part owned Countryman (ridden by Bertie HILL) with BOA President the Duke of BEAUFORT.

<sup>27</sup> *BOA Official Report 1956*. Note of cost.

<sup>28</sup> Amateur status was abolished in English Football at the end of the 1973-4 season to combat "shamateurs". Illegal payments to players who were ostensibly amateur. Great Britain were eliminated by Bulgaria in the qualifying tournament for Munich 1972 and have never appeared since, but the eligibility for Football has changed.

<sup>29</sup> Authors interview with Sir Michael PARKER, May 2002, In a ceremony to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee 1952-77, she used a torch to lit the first in a chain of beacons in Windsor Great Park on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1977.

<sup>30</sup> N.N., "Dick Palmer Spartakiade", in: *Sport Magazine* (Autumn 1979)1, p. 19.

<sup>31</sup> Sir Denis FOLLOWS, 1908-1983, BOA chairman from 1977 until his death, widely credited with saving the Olympic movement by ensuring Britain's participation in Moscow. Succeeded Sir Stanley Rous as FA Secretary in 1962 and was closely involved with the organization of the 1966 World Cup. Represented the FA on the NOC council. Knighted in 1978 He was at the vanguard of the *Association of National Olympic Committees* and sat on the Executive committee of the *European Olympic Committees Association*. Awarded the *Jim Manning award* by the *Sports Writers Association* in 1980 for services to Sport.

<sup>32</sup> *Sport Magazine Olympic Guide Summer 1980*, No 3 p 9-11. At the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March Federations vote 18 to 5 to go to Moscow. Equestrianism, Sailing, Hockey, Shooting boycotted the games. In team sports Basketball, Football, Handball and Volleyball there was no representation but this was because the team did not qualify or in the case of Football there was no entry.

<sup>33</sup> *Olympic Review* (May 1980)151, p. 273. Eighteen NOCs met in Rome on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and decided to use the Olympic flag and anthem. They also resolved that no teams would march in ceremonies and that they would not participate in any ancillary events such as the International Youth Camp.

<sup>34</sup> Richard William PALMER, born 1933, BOA Secretary 1977-97, joined the BOA in 1975 as Deputy Secretary attending the Innsbruck and Montreal games as Deputy Chef de Mission. Became Secretary in 1977 and as Chef de Mission in 1980, he was the only member of the British team to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies and the first man to be flag bearer at both.

<sup>35</sup> BBC TV Olympic Grandstand (Saturday 19th July 1980). In the Sunday times Ian JACK playfully referred to "A hitherto undiscovered country called Boa [sic!]." More seriously he reported the words of the Soviet TV commentator "several countries are not carrying their national flags [...] these are strange decisions of some Olympic committees [...] part of Washington's stupid plot to undermine these Olympics."

<sup>36</sup> BBC Radio 22nd July 1980, Interview with Duncan GOODHEW, "I personally am prepared to forfeit the union



jack and national anthem for the sake of sports and I trust and hope that other athletes will agree with me."

BOA Report 1980

Publications of the BOA have included *British Olympic Journal* 1926-34; *World Sports* 1936-72; *Sportsworld* 1972-75; *Sports Review* 1976, *Sport* 1979-80, *Olympic Sport* 1982-84; Official Reports have been produced for every summer games since 1924; Winter Games reports were also included until Lillehammer 1994

National Olympic Academies - Initially a one day event in 1982, the concept was expanded the following year in Cardiff where speakers included Olympic competitors Lyn DAVIES, Beryl MITCHELL and Lin CLARK as well as TV commentator Ron PICKERING. The BOA established a Sub Committee dedicated to Education and later recruited an Education Director, Jan PATERSON who oversaw the development of the Academy into an annual event. Participants were chosen from the NOA to visit the *International Olympic Academy* at Olympia. Later the Education wing established the *British Olympic Foundation*. A series of Olympic days was held in the early eighties and Olympic Day runs were later established.

Press Conference Cafe Royal July 12th 1985

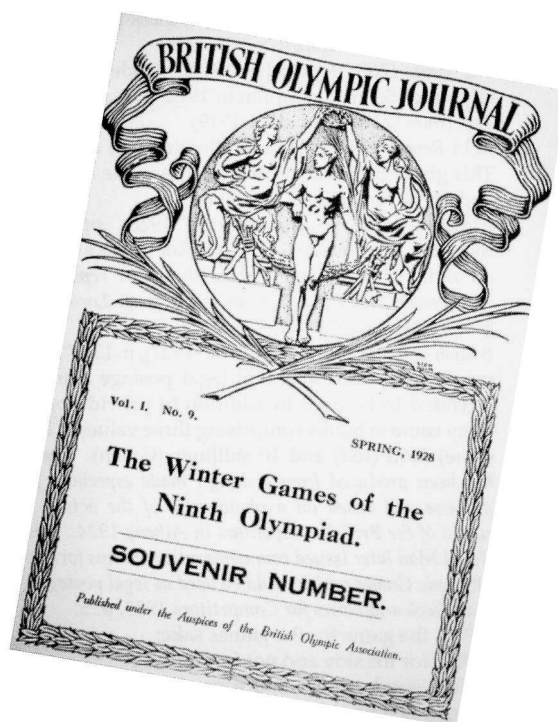
*The Times* (24th December 1987).

Craig REEDIE, born 1941, Chairman of the BOA since 1992, a lawyer President of the International Badminton Federation in 1992 and was instrumental in the sports successful assimilation into the Olympics. IOC Member from 1994.

Simon Paul CLEGG OBE, born 1959, BOA Chief Executive from 1997, after Military career in the 7<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment, was seconded to the British team as quartermaster for the games in 1988. Joined the BOA in 1989 as Assistant General Secretary, became Deputy General Secretary two years later, organising 1991 IOC session in Birmingham. Organised the European Youth Olympic Days 1995. Deputy Chef de Mission before becoming Chief Executive in 1997. Subsequently Chef de Mission at Nagano, Sydney Salt Lake and Athens.

BOA Report 1992, p. 15. "We must make sure that we leave no returned in our search for that small percentage that might mean the difference" said performance director Kevin HICKEY on his appointment in 1988.

COUBERTIN, in: BOA yearbook 1914, pp15-16. "None of the National Olympic committees has understood and fulfilled its duties towards the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic movement better than the British Olympic Council"



During a ceremony at Shepherd's Bush Stadium on May 24th 2005 IOC President Count Dr. Jacques Rogge unveiled the Roll of Honour with the medal winners of the IVth Olympiad London 1908

