

INTERNATIONAL  
SOCIETY OF  
OLYMPIC HISTORIANS

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Harrassowitz

## Farewell Dick Fosbury - the high jump revolutionary

- Sport for a World of Peace – 50 years since the Varna Congress
- Korfball's Olympic courtship
- 100 years ago – From Much Wenlock to Paris
- Where is the Hippodrome in Olympia?
- Wu Guanying and the Beijing 2008 mascots

75 years ago,  
towers were installed for the shooting  
of the Olympic Games official film at  
Wembley Stadium

© 1948 / Comité International Olympique (CIO)  
/ RÜBELT, Lothar



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF OLYMPIC HISTORIANS

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## ERRATA

In the last Journal the name of contributors Soya Ishizuka and Natalia Camps Y Wilant were incorrectly transcribed. Our apologies to both for this.

The entry in IOC Biographies for Mr Tsunekasu Takeda should read FEI Vice President and not FEI President.

## Monuments of Olympic Culture

by Christian Wacker



When people talk or write about Olympic heritage, wonderful scenes in stadiums and sports halls, on ski slopes and ski jumps play out in their minds' eye. One remembers the great moments of the athletes, their clothes, their medals; memorabilia that is collected, books, films and interviews through which protagonists achieve immortality.

But how can and should monuments of Olympic culture, those stadiums, halls, and outdoor facilities, be preserved in the collective memory, how can they be protected and preserved for posterity? In collective memory, categories of remembering do not play a role and memory is linked to events that can be traced with film and narratives, objects, and monuments. The event itself is lost, but these things help remembrance to build a narrative that feeds collective memory. Olympic heritage is done in a similar way as cultural heritage in general, i.e., things are collected, organised, and made available.

Olympic Heritage, a coinage of words that unites cultural heritage, the memory of Olympic events and Olympic memories in general, and collective remembrance of the Olympic Games. The cultural heritage of the Olympics is managed and shaped by the International Olympic Committee, the National Olympic Committees and a wide variety of federations, associations, and organisations around the Olympic Movement. In the same way that nations or religious groups participate as social frames in their specific cultural heritage, those involved in the Olympics also shape, nurture, and mould the Olympic Movement. The Olympic Movement is also such a social frame and thus endeavours to preserve its heritage, to describe it, to evaluate it, to perpetuate it, to stipulate it and to remember it. Olympic heritage is not a history carved in stone, but an amalgam of stories – told and documented – a collec-

tive remembering and above all the festive embellishment of the heritage through rites, i.e., recurring Olympic Games with their rituals.

Olympic museums, libraries and archives have dedicated themselves to this task. In addition, there are monuments of remembrance such as stadiums, Olympic villages, and Olympic history sites such as the Villa Mon-Repos in Lausanne, which are listed and researched by the IOC. Attractions and emotional anchors can also be found in sports architecture, such as the Olympic stadiums in Stockholm, Helsinki, or Munich, which are still preserved and listed as cultural monuments, even though none of the Olympic Stadiums except the archaeological site of Olympia found its way to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

These thoughts should end with a plea to states, cities, and organisations to better protect their monuments of Olympic culture, to make them the subject of Olympic research and to develop them for tourism. In many cities this works excellently; the stadiums of Stockholm, Amsterdam, or Munich, for example, are still in use today and are protected as cultural monuments. The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property regulates in an international treaty the protection of cultural property against destruction or damage as well as theft, looting and other forms of unlawful seizure. Cultural property is defined as “movable or immovable property of great importance for the cultural heritage of peoples”. The stadiums mentioned and many more are registered as cultural property; Munich has even applied to have the Olympic Stadium recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It should be a concern of the Olympic community to protect monuments of Olympic culture and not leave them to decay like the Aquatics centre in Rio de Janeiro.

With such decay or even destruction, we are destroying a part of our collective memory in Olympics!

Entrance to the  
Stockholm Stadium

© Markus Osterwalder



VÄLKOMMEN TILL STOCKHOLMS STADION

# Sport for a World of Peace

## The 1973 Olympic Congress in Varna

by Richard W. Pound

### Olympic Congresses



The Olympic Congress in Varna during 1973 was the tenth Olympic Congress, following the original event in Paris in 1894, the goal of which had been to consider creation of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and possible renovation of the Ancient Olympic Games, an objective spearheaded by a young French educator, Pierre Frédi, Baron de Coubertin.

A second was held at Le Havre in 1897, the year following the first of the modern Olympic Games celebrated in Athens. Its principal subject matter had been consideration of hygiene, pedagogy, history and physical exercise and was followed up eight years later in Brussels with a gathering which dealt with considerations of sport across various societal segments and communities. In 1906 at Paris, the following year, consideration was given to other aspects of the young movement, including sculpture, literary and visual arts and architecture.

At Lausanne in 1913, the delegates dealt with sport psychology and physiology and the following year, on the eve of World War I, in Paris, the questions addressed by the congress included qualifications, whether women should be eligible, and various sport rules. Subject matters at congresses in Lausanne (1921), Prague (1925) and Berlin (1930) were similarly narrow in scope.

Enthusiasm waned for the next forty years. This was partly because of the second world war and partly because of the challenge of recovery from the second world war,

It was not until 1973 that another congress was convened in Varna. On this occasion, it had a much broader scope than earlier Congresses, namely consideration of the Olympic Movement against a theme of Sport for a World of Peace. Very few (if any) of the Varna Congress participants would have been active in earlier Olympic Congresses, with the result that there was much potential for new ground to cover by an Olympic Movement populated with a fresh and different collection of individuals and organizations.

### New Perspectives

I was, at the time of Varna, in my sixth year as the Secretary of the Canadian Olympic Association, the Canadian National Olympic Committee (NOC) and living in Montreal, the host city for the upcoming 1976 Olympic Games. When information regarding the Varna Congress was circulated by the IOC, the potential of the platform provided by the Congress was clear. As Secretary of the NOC, I wrote at once to the redoubtable Monique Berlioux, then IOC Director of the IOC, requesting (and receiving) confirmation that, as the host NOC for 1976, we would have the opportunity to speak on each of the three Congress themes.

One of the gathering points for Congress participants, especially from the Americas, was Paris. Special flights were arranged to bring them from Paris to Bulgaria. I was at the airport with a delightful and cheery group from the Caribbean countries, including Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. There was cheerful anticipation of what might come out of the Congress. None of us knew very much about Bulgaria, it was a place none of us had ever been. The latent excitement of a Congress after a 40-year interlude was, however, pale by comparison with the visceral excitement of our flight on a Bulgarian Soviet-built Tupolev jet aircraft. Boarding and preparation for takeoff were routine, which soon changed. The pilot (whom I assumed to have been a military pilot) held the plane on the runway long after it would have been possible for a normal takeoff to occur and when he rotated the aircraft he climbed at so steep an angle that I thought we would certainly stall. We did not, but it took several minutes for our pulse rates to return to normal. There is excitement and there is Excitement!

Varna was held during Lord Killanin's first year as IOC President, having replaced Avery Brundage at the end of the well organized, but ill-fated, Munich Games the previous year.

He faced the determined efforts of international sports federations, led by Thomas Keller, President of the international Rowing Federation (FISA) aiming to effectively depose the IOC as the leading authority of the Olympic Movement. That was not going to happen in Varna. The IOC catechism was,

and remains, that Olympic Congresses are not legislative occasions, but merely consultative.

Killanin had learned quickly and deflected the intended coup to a recently established Tripartite Commission (consisting of IOC, IF and NOC representatives) that held desultory and ineffective meetings for several years before fading away into a well-deserved oblivion. As time went on, the IOC became more influential and, especially under Juan Antonio Samaranch, Killanin's successor, financially independent. There is no longer talk of possible replacement of the IOC at the head of the Olympic Movement.

There were three principal themes of the Congress, in addition to various protocol speeches delivered by senior representatives from the Olympic Movement and the Congress organizers.

The accommodation, amenities, food and beverages, Congress facilities and logistics were comfortable and excellent. The surroundings, on the shores of the Black Sea, were very appealing. The beaches were beautiful, but swimming was challenging due to the presence of huge jellyfish, fortunately not poisonous, although viscerally off-putting when one bumped into them, especially when not wearing goggles.

While swimming, I encountered Vitaly Smirnov, coopted in 1971 to replace Alexei Romanov as a member in the USSR. Smirnov would spend many years on the IOC Executive Board and on the Executive of the 1980 Moscow Organizing Committee, and eventually become Doyen of the IOC.

The Varna Congress had come at an interesting time. Avery Brundage had retired after 20 years as IOC President. He had been a fierce defender of the principle that only amateur athletes should be eligible for Olympic participation and that professionals must be excluded. One of his final efforts, at the 1972 Olympic Winter Games in Sapporo, had been to disqualify Austrian skier Karl Schranz, on the basis that he was a professional. Given the IOC's organizational mental set, the future of several of the winter sports and, indeed, the Olympic Winter Games might have been in serious jeopardy.

With all the brashness of a 31-year-old, it seemed to me more than time to re-examine the amateur issue, which had become more dogma than principle. As has been said, if one spends too much time at the feet of the master, even they begin to smell.

### Themes of the Varna Congress

As for the Congress itself, structurally, each of the major constituencies was given a lead-off presentation on each of the three Congress themes. Other participants representing IFs and NOCs (as well as



1 The official poster

© Markus Osterwalder

the IOC itself) then had the opportunity to intervene. Congress speakers, other than lead speakers from the IOC, IFs and NOCs on each theme, were limited to ten minutes.

Conspicuous by their complete absence at the Congress were athletes, other than a few invited as guests by the Bulgarian Olympic Committee. These were still the days before athletes were acknowledged as meaningful contributors to the Olympic Movement. The role of athletes in the governing pa-



2 Commemorative Postage stamp issued for the Congress

© Markus Osterwalder

3 A general view of the hall during the meetings

© IOC



4 Richard Pound (centre) in discussion at the Olympic Congress in Varna

© IOC



5 IOC President Lord Killanin beneath the emblem of the Congress

© IOC



triarchy at the time was to do what they were told by sports officials and to accept without complaint whatever decisions they made.

The three themes (each occupying a full day) for the Congress were: Redefinition of the Olympic Movement and its Future; Relations between the International Olympic Committee, the International Fed-

erations and the National Olympic Committees; and Plans for Future Olympic Games.

Not surprisingly, Killanin as IOC President, spoke on the Redefinition of the Olympic Movement and its Future. He reminded participants that in 1894 only two European states were not monarchies (in a heavily Eurocentric organization, if it did not happen in Europe, it did not happen).

The Olympic Movement was not just concerned with the Olympic Games, hence the description of the first theme, and the IOC was aware of the challenges of cooperation, but it was no longer simply the club it used to be. The IOC did not want to be an organization on which the NOCs dumped ageing presidents. He gave examples of changes that might be considered.

These included the possible expansion of Games beyond the current programme, asking was the period of the Games too short, that there should be no discrimination regarding women, and also spoke regarding the IOC's initiatives with respect to doping in sport. It was a refreshing attitudinal change from the Brundage era.

Thomas Keller then intervened with the IF perspective, speaking of the need for the development of modern rules as sport evolved. He sneered at the fiction of "amateur" Games. He identified Rule 26 as typical of one that needed changes, given its limitation of 30 days of full-time preparation (60 days by exception) for Olympic competition, a Rule, he stated, that was already honoured more in the breach than observance. It was high time that the IOC recognized that the changes which had come about were irreversible and it should act accordingly. He said the IOC should leave matters of eligibility to the IFs. The choice of events (as opposed to sports) on the Olympic programme should also be left to the IFs. IOC members, he said, did not have the necessary knowledge and experience to make such decisions. He was not keen on the ceremonial aspects of the Olympic Games. As to leadership in sport, the IOC must ally itself with modern competitive sport or be ready to face the "full consequences" if it failed to do so. His general contempt for the IOC's traditional positioning was all too obvious.

The intervention on behalf of the NOCs (of which there were then 131) was made by Trendafil Martinski, of the Bulgarian host NOC, whose presentation covered the fact that physical culture and sports had become a vital necessity for all members of society and that high performance sports had developed at a rapid rate, the increasing role of sports science, increasing attention being given by state authorities to both physical culture and sports, the growth of Olympic solidarity and cooperation and, finally, the development of sport in



6 The Congress featured displays on the 1976 Games in Innsbruck and Montreal

© IOC

newly liberated and developing countries and their increasing involvement in the Olympic Games, with Soviet bloc emphasis on democratization issues.

The first theme was the most important of the Congress and the strategic positions were quite clear. The IOC, not the Congress, would decide what amendments (if any) would be made to the Olympic Charter. There were many IOC members who had IF and NOC connections, so its decisions would not be taken in a complete sports vacuum. The IFs wanted more power and authority.

The NOCs were at the bottom of the organizational pyramid and had the additional challenge of having to act autonomously, but at the same time, interface with governments who had financial and political clout that could easily, and often did, impinge upon their autonomy.

The second and third themes were impossibly broad and were little more than a smorgasbord of ideas, often repetitive, many of which would require considerable further preparatory work before they could properly be considered, such as issues like the dreaded “flavour-of-the-month” widely known as Olympic “gigantism,” the role of team sports, greater inclusion of women, post-Munich concerns and political issues such as China and Taiwan.

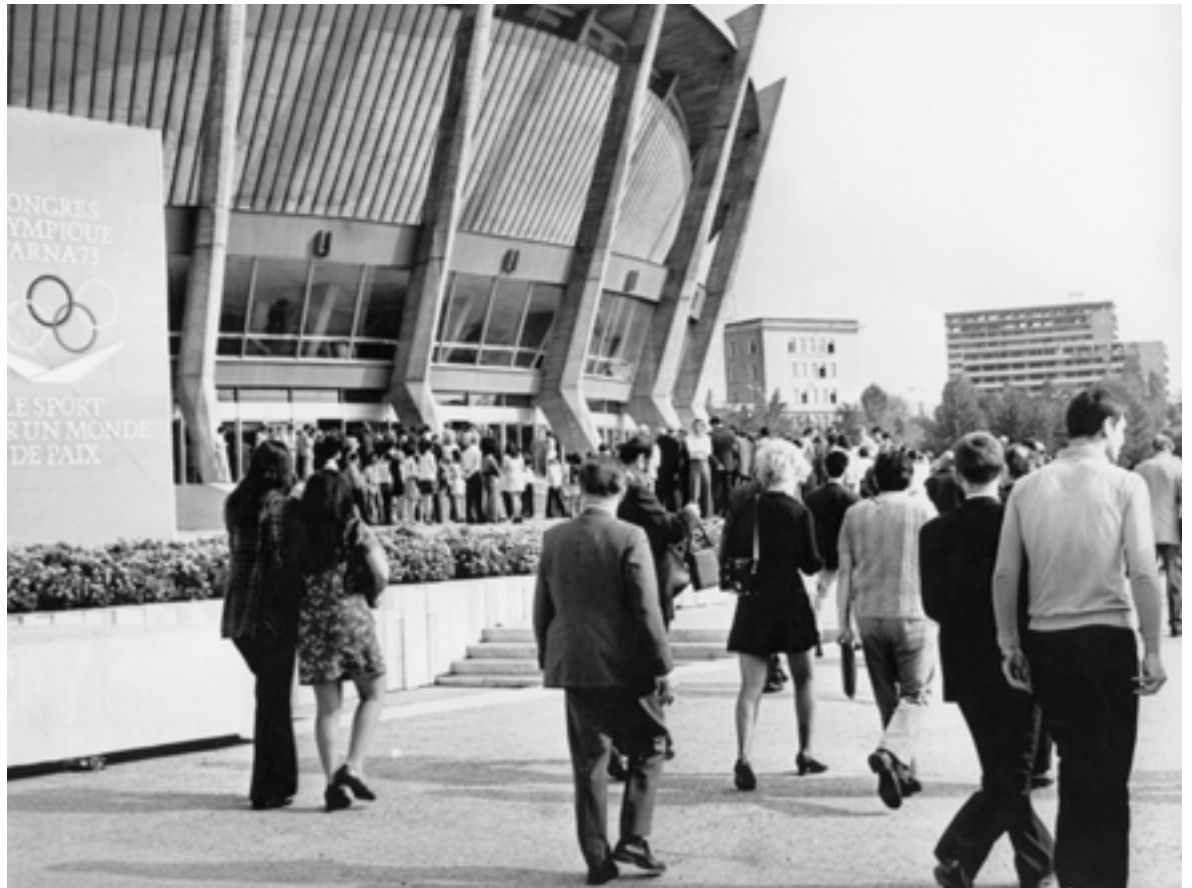
Participants were apparently untroubled by the huge costs attached to ideas expressed, given the general impecunious state of the Olympic Movement. Sug-

gestions regarding future Congresses ranged from every two(!) years to much longer intervals.

In fact, the next Olympic Congress was held eight years later in Baden Baden, which seemed to me to be a workable minimum, and did consolidate some of the Varna suggestions, not the least of which was the formal inclusion of Olympic athletes.

By the third day of the Congress, participants had begun to realize the value of the Congress platform and were clamouring to speak, with the result that time limits were halved. Many also wanted to be on record for home consumption. Fortunately for me, the COA president of the day was not interested in speaking, preferring instead to work the room with IOC members in the hope of becoming an IOC member himself following the Montreal Games in 1976. Under the existing rules, in principle, there could be only a single IOC member in each country, but a second member could be added if the country had hosted an Olympic Games. There were several exceptions to that rule, including India, Spain, the USSR, and Brazil.

China was not yet a factor, given the IOC’s recognition of the NOC of the Republic of China located in Taiwan and the objection of the Peoples’ Republic of China on the mainland to such nomenclature, an issue that would not be resolved until 1981. The other countries with two members had “earned” the right to an additional member after hosting Games.



7 Participants walking  
outside the Congress Hall

© IOC

By the time the COA president might have become an IOC member (1977 at the earliest), he would have been 70 years of age and, pursuant to the IOC retirement age then in force, would have had to retire at 72, so it was not a likely outcome. In terms of Congress outcomes, however, his lack of interest in speaking gave me a double opportunity to make a presentation as a COA representative.

I was scheduled to speak on the first two days and Marcel de la Sablonnière, a Jesuit member of the COA Board, on the third day. I had already had some experience in international meetings, mostly in the Latin American theatre of what was then the Pan American Sport Organization and had already learned at least two things about such meetings. First, that short interventions are more appreciated than lengthy ones. Second, that where any significant portion of the audience does not have a good grasp of English, you are, as a speaker, at the complete mercy of the simultaneous interpreters, all desperately trying to translate, in real time, what you are saying. So, I prepared and edited my remarks very carefully, with short uncomplicated sentences and no attempt at humour. I brought copies which I gave to the interpreters to help them as well as to non-English-speaking members of the media. Then I rehearsed the delivery to make sure I finished well within the 10-minute limitation.

The subjects I addressed included the need for a

critical examination of the Olympic eligibility rules. My submission was that those rules had not kept pace with the social changes bearing on modern athletes and should not have the effect, especially in western countries, of enabling only well-to-do athletes to aspire to Olympic competition. Since those rules embrace so many sports, they needed to be able to deal with the different training requirements and recognize that preparation for Olympic competition was now much more demanding than ever before. Recasting those rules would make athletes in both hemispheres more able to compete on an equal footing without any suggestion of having to bend or break the rules. Athletes live and compete in a world which is constantly evolving at a faster and faster pace. Their general norms of behaviour must change as society changes and the eligibility requirements for Olympic competition must also be prepared to respond positively or become obsolete. On the second day, I reviewed some of the content of the first intervention (repetition in large forums has its value-added benefits), but sharpened the focus on the athletes themselves, saying that we in Canada were concerned that the desire to make the Olympics work on a mechanical basis (such as eligibility rules, restricted entries and events, suitable venues, restriction of support personnel, protocol, accreditation and others) had caused us and our organizations to lose sight of the single most

important element in the equation – the athletes – the youth of the world. I warned that if the Olympic Movement (and those who direct it) were to lose the respect of the athletes, it would have no future. If the youth of our countries were no longer to respect the Olympic ideals underlying participation in the Olympic Games as meaningful and relevant in a current context, our Movement could not continue to flourish. We should also expect that youth will question and challenge the basis of the Movement and we should welcome any such challenges because the questions should be answerable in a positive and acceptable manner; if not, our ideas should expand to fill gaps which are pointed out and revamped where contradictions appear. We submitted that it was out of the Varna Congress that should come the steps necessary to reverse the de-emphasis of the athlete as a person in the Olympic Movement.

The athletes of the world are not prepared to be, and nor should they be, pawns in a game larger than sport itself. As sports and Olympic officials, we exist for the athletes, not *vice versa*. All of us must recognize and accept this or risk losing the athletes and eventually the Movement.

The final statement of the Congress was expressed in the “vanilla” language familiar to participants of congresses generally. Of the twelve elements in the statement, three were of particular interest to me. First, that the IOC eligibility rules should be brought up to date, second, that the IOC, the IFs and the NOCs should consider the inclusion of women in their membership and commissions and, third, that the three bodies should explore how they could have closer contact with athletes.

Regarding the eligibility rules, the issues were finally resolved in 1986 when the IOC decided that any athlete eligible to participate in a World Championships organized by an IF governing the sport would be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games. The inclusion of women remains very much a work in progress, led by the IOC, where there is now essential equality on the Olympic field of play and on IOC commissions, with increasing IOC membership and elected positions on its Executive Board.

Athlete inclusion in the IOC has been dramatically successful, with athlete representation as a class equaling the representation of IFs and NOCs, and athlete representation is included on the Executive Board and all meaningful IOC commissions. IFs and NOCs lag behind (as they do regarding the involvement of women) but are regularly prodded by the IOC to improve their progress.

### The Future of Olympic Congresses

In my view, while Olympic Congresses may have been useful in their time, in today’s world, the nature of sport and its place in society require

more concerted and targeted consideration than is afforded by, or even possible, in a congress format. With some 206 NOCs and more IFs, Congresses are now massively expensive and cumbersome. Everything is closely scripted, including interventions and speakers, so there is a complete lack of spontaneity or “out-of-the-box” thinking. The views expressed by participants may or may not reflect the views of the constituents they purport to represent. Congresses, as always, do not result in any outcomes and, at best, are merely preordained wish lists of dubious reliability. Serious treatment of particularly important issues is better achieved in focussed, expert-assisted, meetings that are cheaper and facilitated to ensure that outcomes are responsive to the perceived challenges.

Missing as well from Olympic Congresses is a concerted involvement of the public authorities that can itself be helpful, while nevertheless engaging the political issues, for public authorities, will inevitably trump sport issues. Such interactions are almost invariably better managed if no public platform is provided for them. I have now attended and participated in all Olympic Congresses since Varna. Since that time each Congress has become more mechanical and less relevant. The Olympic Movement needs a different approach to collective decision-making.



8 Lapel badge used by IOC members at the Congress

© IOC / PETER, Grégoire

# The 1948 Olympics – I Was There

by Stan Greenberg



I had been interested in the Olympic Games since my early teens, but it wasn't until 1948 that I had the opportunity to attend and even that was not really planned. I was still a teenager, and paid a pittance in my first job, so it never occurred to me to buy tickets to the Games. They were being held at Wembley stadium in North London.

Happily, my best friend came to my house on the first day of competition, and said he had been given two tickets for the athletics on the next day.

I leapt at the offer, and found myself, at eight in the morning, with food and drink, standing up against the barrier to the brand new cinder track, directly opposite the finish line at the famous stadium, which until then had been better known for football. Actually the first event, the qualifying competition for the hammer, was not till 10.00am, but the weather was good, and by the time action start-

ed, there was a crowd of over 80,000 people. That day I saw six finals, the men's 100 metres, 400 m hurdles, 50km Walk, long jump, hammer, women's javelin and also various preliminary rounds. After a session of eight or nine hours, I was very tired, but completely entranced with the sport, and it changed my life. I no longer followed football, and I became a virtual athletics and Olympics fanatic, researching every book and newspaper I could get hold of.

Actually, nowadays I think I can claim to have started with the 1936 Games, for although obviously I didn't go to Berlin, I have watched that highly criticised, but magnificent film, *Olympische Spiele* produced by Leni Riefenstahl, so many times that I almost feel as though I was there.

Indeed my first athletics hero was Jesse Owens, and my late friend Mel Watman and I always celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> May, that fabulous day in 1935 that Owens officially set six world records. (In fact per-



1 Stan Greenberg (left) with his great friend, the late Mel Watman. They recorded the athletics at London 2012, 64 years after watching their first Games at Wembley in 1948.

haps the only disappointment I have had in my 63 year old marriage is when my son, Keith, was born on the 24<sup>th</sup> May).

It was only later that I realised what a phenomenal introduction to the sport that day had been. I watched, and closely followed practically everything that moved, many of the greatest athletes of all time.

I saw the world's best hurdler, Harrison Dillard (USA) who hadn't made the American team for the 110 metres hurdles claim the gold medal in the 100m instead. To do so he defeated two co-holders of the world record (10.2) in Lloyd la Beach (PAN) and Barney Ewell (USA), as well as the 100y record holder (9.3) Mel Patton (USA). Also in the field was Trinidad-born McDonald Bailey (GB) who later equalled that 10.2 world mark.

The hammer was won by the world record holder, the great Imre Nemeth (HUN), who later broke the record twice more, coached the 1952 Olympic champion, and whose son, Miklos, broke the world javelin record winning the 1976 Olympic gold.

Years later I met Imre when he was manager of the excellent Budapest stadium.

In the women's javelin I watched world record holder, Herma Bauma of Austria win gold. Back in seventh was one Dana Ingrova of Czechoslovakia.

She married Emil Zatopek and four years later won gold in 1952.

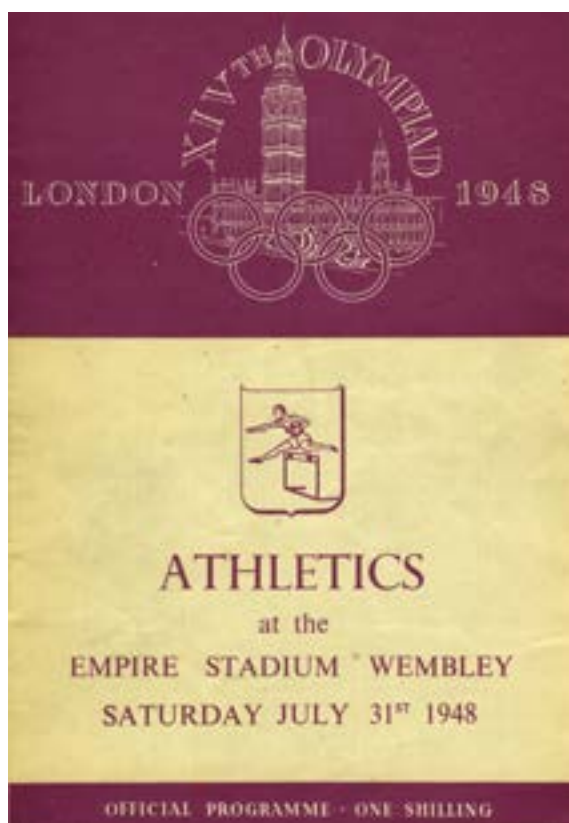
She later set a world record herself.

Talking of world record holders, reminds me that in the 800m semis, I watched both Doug Harris (NZL) and the wonderful Mal Whitfield (USA), both world record holders at 880 yards. Unfortunately, Harris was spiked in his race and didn't finish, but Whitfield went on to win the gold medal three days later, a feat he repeated in 1952. Second in his semi, and silver medallist behind to Whitfield in the final, was of my favourite runners, Arthur Wint of Jamaica, a mainstay of British meets.

Later in the week he won the 400m title. In 1952 he placed second yet again, but gained another gold in a fabulous Jamaican 4 x 400m team.

While on the subject of the 1948 800m semi-finals, I have to admit that I took little interest in a runner from Luxembourg who came sixth in the same semi final as Whitfield. His name was Joseph Barthel, and I certainly took more note of him four years later in the Helsinki 1500m final when he won gold, still Luxembourg's only Olympic champion.

There was also the 400 metres hurdles final. This was won by 29 year old Leroy "Roy" Cochran (USA) in an Olympic record 51.1. He was the world record holder for 440 yards hurdles and his much older brother, unusually named Commodore, had won a



2 The Official programme for the day which ignited Stan Greenberg's passion for the Olympics

gold medal in the 4 x 400m US relay team in 1924 in a world record 3:16.0.

Cochran also won another gold medal later in the week in the 4 x 400m relay.

Of especial interest in the 1948 race was the man who placed second.

He was Duncan White of Ceylon (now named Sri Lanka) who had improved from a pre-Games best of 53.0 to a time of 51.8. Cochran also won another gold medal later in the week in the 4 x 400m relay. Although it was an aspect of the sport which never really appealed to me in the years to come, I had to applaud the 50km walk triumph of John Ljunggren (SWE), who clocked 4:41:52, over six minutes ahead of the runner-up, Gaston Godel (SUI).

He in turn was only 14 seconds ahead of "Tebbs" Lloyd Johnson (GBR). The latter became the oldest ever Olympic medallist at 48 years and 115 days.

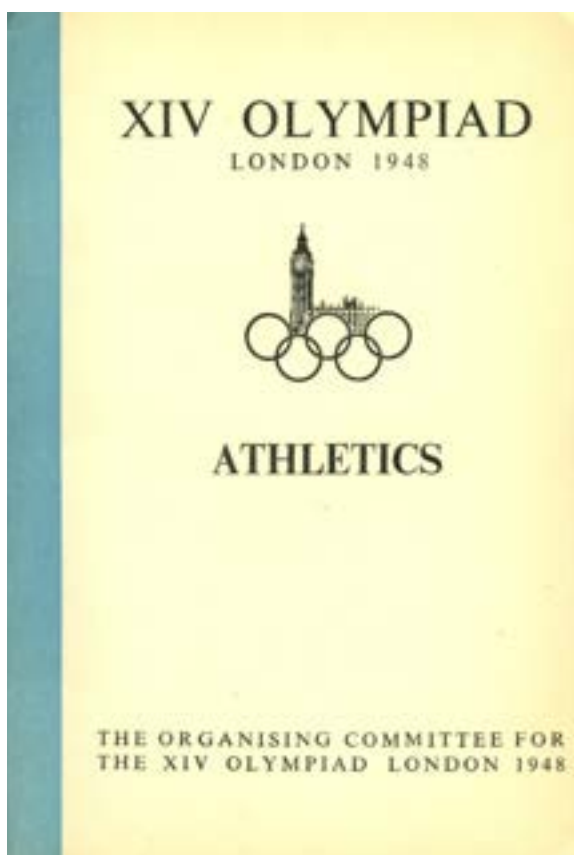
While the walk was underway on the road, the long jump final was being contested in the stadium.

It was fairly obvious, even to a "newcomer" like me, that the runway for that event was not particularly good. The three American competitors were had previously jumped much better than the others, but they were having problems. The best of them, Willie Steele had once jumped 8.07m.

At the time only Jesse Owens had jumped further, but his best at Wembley was 7.825m, nevertheless well ahead of a surprise second place by Theo Bruce (AUS) 7.555m, followed by the other two Americans, Herb Douglas 7.545m and Loren-

3 The regulations for athletics at London 1948

4 Stan Greenberg's Olympic Facts and Feats has proved a useful handbook for many Olympic fans



zo Wright 7.45, the latter gaining a gold later in the 4 x 100m final.

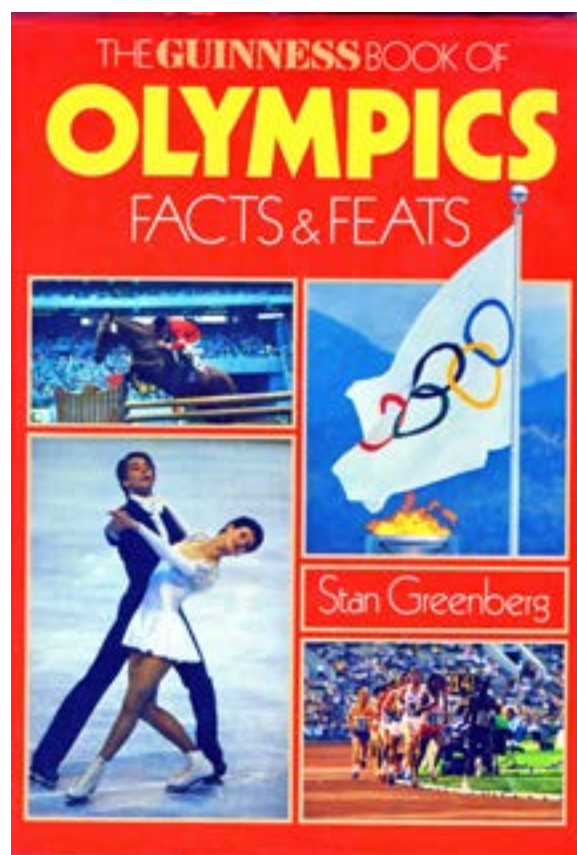
The other events that day included the 5000m heats in which the renowned Emil Zatopek, who had won the 10,000m the day before, had a ridiculously close tussle with Erik Ahlden (SWE) to qualify easily for that final.

Another heat was won by Willie Slijkhuis (NED), for many years a very popular attraction in Britain, with Gaston Reiff (BEL) second.

Later in the week Reiff won the 5000m final just ahead of Zatopek, with the Dutchman third.

There was also the pole vault qualifying, when the vivid colour of the track suits of the two Puerto Ricans was especially eye-catching.

I recall being impressed with the style of the Americans Guinn Smith, who later won the final with 4.30m, and Bob Richards, who was third.



I watched him win in Helsinki in 1952 with a clearance of 4.55m. (he also won again with 4.56m in 1956). Remember these were the days when bamboo poles were used.

Last but by no means least were the women's 100m heats which gave me my first sight of one of the greatest female athletes ever, Fanny Blankers Koen of the Netherlands.

At this time she held world records at 100y, 100m, 80mH, high jump, long jump, and as part of the 4 x 110y and 4 x 200m relays. I watched her run the fastest heat time of 12.0. Later in the week she won gold medals in the 100m, 200m, 80mH and 4 x 100m relay – one of the Olympic stars of all time.

It is surely not surprising that after all that I was totally enamoured with the sport, and have spent the rest of my life watching, reading and writing about it.



London 1948:  
The crowd is going to the  
Wembley Stadium

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# A Courtship Without Results – Korfball and the Olympics

by Michel van Gent

The Olympic stadium is a place where both dreams and nightmares can be realised. Korfball players from the Netherlands experienced these emotions at the Olympic Games of 1920 and 1928.

The Nederlandsche Korfballbond was one of the first sporting bodies to become a member of the Dutch Olympic Committee in 1912. Korfball is a unique sport because it is the only sport played by teams of women and men. However, this special feature has never led to a place on the full Olympic programme. It was demonstrated at the 1920 Games in Antwerp and 1928 in Amsterdam. This article examines the relationship between korfball and the Olympics and seeks an explanation to why korfball has never been included on the Olympic programme.

## The rise of korfball

### 1 Fluks the Dutch champions in 1918–19

(Author's collection)

In the summer of 1902, Amsterdam teacher Nic Broekhuysen (1876–1958) took part in an international craft course in Nääs (southern Sweden). Here he became acquainted with a form of basketball, which had probably been brought to Sweden by students from America.

In this game, teams tried to score by throwing a ball through a ring attached to a post at either end of the field. This playing area was divided into three sections: attack, centre and defence. The sport was played by teams comprised of both men and women, which was very unusual at this time.

Broekhuysen saw in this game a wonderful way to give physical exercise to Dutch school children. After returning to the Netherlands, he further developed his plan, modifying the game somewhat. For example, the ring was replaced by a wicker basket, hence the name korfball.<sup>1</sup>

Korfball was played on a court divided into three sections: attack, middle section (centre) and defence. Each team consisted of six women and six men, equally divided among the sections. When two goals had been scored, the sections moved forward, so that after six goals the teams were back in the positions in which they had begun the match. In September 1902, students from Broekhuysen's

Nieuwe Schoolvereniging, played the first korfball match near the school building on the Jan Luykenstraat and van de Veldestraat in Amsterdam.

The Association for Physical Education of Amsterdam immediately supported the spread of the new game, because it was ideal for school children. Korfball was played mixed, it gave all-round exercise (throwing, catching, shooting and running) and it was cheap in terms of equipment (a ball, two posts and baskets and ribbons for the demarcation of the



### 2 The cover of the Official Report for the 1928 Olympics.





3 Long dresses made it difficult for women to play effectively in early korfball matches.

(Author's collection)

playing areas). Broekhuysen also demonstrated the game at meetings of teachers and female teachers all over the country. The first korfball clubs were therefore often school clubs or had many school pupils among their membership.<sup>2</sup>

The Dutch Association for Physical Education (NBLO) was also committed to the spread of korfball in the country.

On 2 June 1903, the Nederlandsche Korfballbond (N.K.B.) was founded in Amsterdam by five local clubs, one from Bussum and one from Weesp. Broekhuysen became chairman of the association. It was a very optimistic move to set up a national association so soon, but now there was an organization that could coordinate the establishment of the rules and the distribution of the game. The N.K.B. started with the release of an official body entitled *Korfball* and with the setting up of a league, in which the clubs in the first division competed for the national title.<sup>3</sup>

### From game to sport

Korfball was a special sport in the Netherlands because women and men took part together. Around 1900, women did not have much to say in social and societal terms. Men called them the “weaker sex” and they decided which sports were fitting for them, these included gymnastics, hockey, tennis, and cycling.

Sports that required a lot of effort were taboo for women. Moreover, women were not able to easi-

ly participate because they wore corsets and long skirts that reached well below the knee.

Many men thought it was bizarre that there were men who wanted to play korfball with women.

Some sports journalists were very derogatory about the game, stating that men only played korfball because of the presence of young women. One of them characterized korfball as “men with beards playing against and with schoolgirls”.<sup>4</sup>

In 1908, an official edition of the Rules stated: “Ladies do best to wear dark undergarments, preferably with bicycle trousers; this is because falling is so common and white undergarments often cause public comments.”<sup>5</sup>

The game of korfball itself was rather static in the early years and not very attractive to spectators.

Men dominated the game and scored most of the goals. Women didn't have a big role in the game at many clubs, partly because they found it difficult to run in their long skirts. Players often threw the ball haphazardly and were often all under the post, especially when a goal attempt was made. Men were allowed to defend only men and women only women, but there was no tactical plan in the sense that the strongest defender played against the opponent's best attacker.

However, in the years between 1908 and 1915, the game evolved into a real sport with a considerable group of practitioners and spectators.

This was as a result of all a number of changes, such as raising the basket from 3 metres to 3.5 metres, larger areas in each compartment of the field,

shorter skirts and new ideas about training and tactics.<sup>6</sup> Clubs from Amsterdam and Leiden played an important role in this development.

D. E. V., D. T. V. and D. V. D. originated as school clubs of the Hoogere Burgerscholen (secondary schools) in Amsterdam. D. E. V. became national champions in 1911 and D. V. D. in 1915 and 1916.

Vitesse and Fluks also started as school clubs with teachers and pupils from secondary schools in Leiden.

Vitesse won the national title in 1913, 1914 and 1917 and Fluks was the strongest team in the Netherlands in 1919. The clubs enjoyed success, because they took korfbal seriously with a number of intensive training sessions each week and tactical discussions in the preparation for their matches.

Players set up their attacks in an organised way and defended according to the principle that everyone had a personal opponent. They did not just throw the ball forwards haphazardly as in the old days, but carefully passed the ball over to fellow players. Women were now also given more opportunities to score goals.

### Olympic aspirations

Korfbal soon became the second field sport in the Netherlands behind football, but the N. K. B. wanted

to spread the game abroad as well. However, the young association had no money to make demonstration trips. Initially it was only able to send a translated version of the rules of the game if people abroad showed an interest in the game. The N. K. B. also looked at the Olympic Games, as those were the only major international sports event at the time.

On 20 June 1908, Dutch champions Swift (Amsterdam) played a demonstration match in Haarlem against a dozen of Dutchmen during the Olympiad. This was intended to raise money for a squad to be sent to the Olympic Games in London later that year.<sup>7</sup>

Baron F.W.C.H. van Tuyll van Serooskerken (1851–1924), chairman of the Dutch Olympic Committee (N.O.C.), was introduced to korfbal for the first time here. He was also an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member.

It was the NOC's responsibility to promote the interests of the Olympic movement in the Netherlands and to arrange Dutch participation in the Games.<sup>8</sup>

In March 1911, IOC President Baron Pierre de Coubertin (1863–1937) came to the Netherlands at the invitation of the NBLO. He gave lectures in The Hague, Leiden and Amsterdam.<sup>9</sup> On Wednesday March 29, 1911 he was present at a demonstration match between D. E. V. and D. T. V.



4 A cover with stamps issued for sports on the official programme at the Games.



**5 The demonstration match during the Amsterdam Olympics.**

(Official Report 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games)

Afterwards, De Coubertin stated that he found korfbal an interesting sport, but he did not comment in its inclusion in the Olympic programme.<sup>10</sup>

Meanwhile, Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken had become enthusiastic about the game on display. He invited the two teams to play a second match at Velzerbeek, his estate near Velzen.

That happened at the end of May 1911. Federal chairman Broekhuysen was also present.<sup>11</sup>

On 11 September 1912, the N. K. B. joined the NOC. In July 1913, the federation board persuaded Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken to become patron of the korfbal association.<sup>12</sup> He started to promote korfbal in the Olympic movement, but the First World War (1914–1918) brought international sport to a complete standstill.

The Baron was present on 2 May 1915 at a match between Amsterdam and Zuid-Holland at the Olympic stadium in Amsterdam, a predecessor of the current stadium.

Vitesse and Fluks together supplied eight players to the twelve from Zuid-Holland. The demonstration match was low scoring and finished 1–1, but was otherwise a huge success. It showed an attractive game, there were more than 8000 spectators and the national press were positive in their reports.

On 24 May 1915, a second match followed in the same stadium between Amsterdam and Leiden.<sup>13</sup> Amsterdam narrowly won 6–5 in a match that was

again played at a high level and attracted 5000 spectators. Afterwards, Federal chairman Broekhuysen thanked the teams “who have contributed in such an enormous way to making our sport popular through their magnificent game.”

In April 1919, the IOC entrusted the organization of the seventh Olympic Games to Antwerp. Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken immediately began attempts to include korfbal on the Olympic programme.

“The chairman of the NOC informed us... that there will be an opportunity to give a demonstration of our sport in the Stadium in Antwerp and that we could count on his support to make that match as propagandistic as possible. With great gratitude to our Patron, we announce this announcement to you”, *Korfbal* reported on 24 September 1919.<sup>14</sup>

At the end of February 1920, the Games Organising Committee confirmed its inclusion as a demonstration sport, but did not give a definite date for a match. That would prove to be a complication in the preparation of the korfbal players for a long time to come.<sup>15</sup>

### The preparations

The Federal Board established three committees to prepare the “Olympic mission”.

The Broekhuysen committee would take care of the trip and accommodation, the translation of the

rules of the game and the publicity surrounding the trip. The Heyboer committee considered the selection of the two dozen and the Wilson committee would take care of all financial matters.<sup>16</sup>

Initially, funding for the Olympic mission was a major problem. Donations were soon received from many korfbal clubs and individual korfbal players, even former players from the Dutch East Indies. The N. K. B. had estimated that the trip would cost around 1400 guilders, but by April 1920 only 411 guilders had been raised. After that things went better, because in July 1920, 1380 guilders had become available. From a financial point of view there were no longer any objections to the mission to Antwerp.<sup>17</sup>

ous that clubs from Amsterdam and Leiden would provide the most players for Antwerp, given their previous performances in the league and in demonstration matches.

In July 1920, the selections were finally announced. Team "A" consisted of fourteen players from Amsterdam: four from D.T.V. and D.V.D., three from D.E.D. and one by Allen Weerbaar.

Team "B" also had fourteen players: seven from Vitesse and five from Fluks from Leiden and one from O.S.C.R. (Rotterdam) and one of Deetos (Dordrecht). Fluks and Vitesse had performed modestly to finish mid table in 1919–1920, so the choice of many players from Leiden came as a surprise.

On 5 July 1920, the *Leidsch Dagblad* strongly criti-



6 The Black and Red team at Amsterdam 1928.

On the right Mr. N. Broekhuijsen.

(Official Report 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games)

The *Leidsch Dagblad* had good connections in the national korfbal world through Vitesse and Fluks. A. Ballego was secretary of the national selection committee and a member of Vitesse. That probably explains why the newspaper was able to print the letter from the national selection committee in the edition of 23 April 1920. The committee asked all members and clubs in the first division to forward candidates for Antwerp before April 25, 1920. It explicitly stated that only players who did not "show a tendency towards roughness" would be eligible and also specified players "also had sufficient self-control during tough matches."

However, the selection procedure got off to a slow start, because enough money had to be collected first and there was still no date set.<sup>18</sup> It was obvi-

cized the choice of the national selection committee, because it had been "too one-sided".

It had chosen players who would only demonstrate "the quickness in the game" and not "the sturdy", while foreigners had more affinity for "solid sport". The reporter even claimed that he had heard that the selection committee had been guided by its own preferences.<sup>19</sup> Incidentally, both selections were to be changed later, as some players declined the invitation.<sup>20</sup>

### The mission to Antwerp

At one stage, it even seemed that the demonstration was not going to take place at all.

In July, Antwerp organisers suddenly shifted the

date from 1 to 22 August. In addition, it wanted the Dutch team to play against an American YMCA team in a match according to the rules of basketball.<sup>21</sup> The N.K.B. immediately protested and, with the support of Baron Van Tuyll van Serooskerken, it was given its way. There was to be a demonstration featuring two Dutch teams. The new date meant that Broekhuysen was forced to cancel his own attendance because of other commitments. That is why federation manager S.A. Wilson came in charge of the mission. The necessary travel documents for the new date were arranged in haste. The players had to pay part of the travel costs themselves.<sup>22</sup> On Saturday, 21 August 1920, officials and players left Amsterdam for Antwerp on the 11.38 am train.

The carriages mistakenly went to a fairground outside the city, also known as the "Olympic Games". At 1.50 pm the group arrived at the Beerschot stadium, where it was received by Baron van Tuyll van Serooskerken. Shortly after two o'clock, he also set the game in motion with a throw in the middle section. The match lasted two periods of twenty minutes each and was refereed by W.L. Repko, former member of the national board.

It had rained before the demonstration, but remained dry during the match. The two teams were styled "North" and "South" had to get used to the slippery field and the slippery ball in the beginning. In the northern team, Miss Donker sprained her ankle after a slide. She was replaced by Miss Abeling.



**7 The Red and White team which took part in the match. On the left Mr. N. Broekhuijsen, on the right Mr. H. Vliegen (Referree).**

(Official Report 1928 Amsterdam Olympic Games)

In Rotterdam, those players from Leiden, Dordrecht and Rotterdam boarded the train, insofar as they had not traveled on their own.

The group was met on arrival in Antwerp by members of Scaldis, a korfbal club that had been founded in Antwerp on March 31, 1920.

They spent the night in the De Wit guest house on the Constitutiestraat. The players were allowed to go out in the city, provided they behaved well and returned before midnight.

On Sunday at 12.30 p.m. a dinner was taken in the guest house, after which the players had to change into the uniforms of D.E.V. and Deetos. The officials and players went to the Olympic Stadium in two carriages, but a misunderstanding over the venue meant that the journey took longer than planned.

After eight minutes, Van Nieuwenhuizen opened the score for the southern team. He also scored the second goal ten minutes before the end. The Northern team also wanted to score a goal, but that did not work because they played very one-sidedly on the men.

Afterwards, the players were addressed by Jonkheer van Vredenburg, the Dutch envoy in Belgium. He particularly complimented the women for their excellent playing. After the interview with the envoy, everyone was allowed to watch the start of the marathon, after which the group went back to the guest house in one carriage at 4.15 p.m. Two hours later most officials and players had already left for home by train. The Olympic mission was already over.

### Effects of the match

On 23 August 1920, the korfbal reporter of the *Leidsch Dagblad* concluded that the match in Antwerp had been “a great success”: “The various representatives watched their play with tension and admiration, expressing admiration and regret in all kinds of languages. The applause of the audience when a point was made and at the end of the game proved the success the korfbal players had.”<sup>23</sup>

The *Nieuwe Rotterdamsche Courant* wrote that “as far as we could tell, the competition was very much to the taste of the public. The game was thought to be fun, exciting and interesting.”

The correspondent of *Het Vaderland* was also positive: “I thought it was beautiful. It happened completely noiselessly, some distance from the stands in the middle of the field. The ball was handed over from hand to hand; a game of reason and peace.”

The reporter of *Het Sportblad*, one of the leading sports magazines in our country, could not help but play with the mixed character of korfbal:

At first the game was taken up calmly from the side, but gradually people apparently thought it was interesting. The fact that it was initially regarded as a bit of a children’s game was apparently the result of the fact that several young girls participated with hanging locks and childlike bows in their hair.

That was a bit out of place at the Olympic Games. The game, however, had suddenly conquered the heart of a French journalist, sitting right in front of us, when, after one of the girls fell on the ground and injured herself in the process, one of the gentlemen immediately began to massage the painful calf. He felt a lot for the immediate introduction of the game in France, but then it had to be played on slippery surfaces.

The Dutch korfbal players have meanwhile made good propaganda for the game in Belgium. At least it was a nice game, especially when the game is kept open, korfbal is certainly interesting.<sup>24</sup>

It soon became apparent that the match in Antwerp had indeed triggered something in Belgium. Many korfbal clubs were founded in and around the city and on April 28, 1921 the Belgian Korfbal Association was founded.

### The failure of Amsterdam

From August 1923, international matches between the Netherlands and Belgium were regularly played. The N.K.B. was therefore hopeful that korfbal would be part of the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris.

However, the organization was not interested.

On 13 February 1924, Baron van Tuyll van Se-

rooskerken died, and at a stroke, korfbal lost its patron and best Olympic lobbyist.

However, he had already promised that korfbal would be back on the programme as a demonstration sport at the 1928 Olympic Games in Amsterdam.<sup>25</sup>

In June 1928, the names of the players for the demonstration in Amsterdam were announced.<sup>26</sup> The selections show that the game had now reached a decent level of play throughout the Netherlands. In 1920, the selection consisted of players from ten clubs from four cities in the west of the country. This time the players came from sixteen clubs from twelve cities, including Arnhem, Enschede, Oosterbeek and Groningen. It was also telling that Leiden, purveyor to Antwerp, now only supplied one reserve player.

The N.K.B. did not have to pay so much in travel costs for officials and players.

Instead they spend money on 11,000 copies of a special issue of the official magazine for spectators with an explanation about korfbal and the rules of the game in Dutch, German, French, English and Spanish, illustrated with attractive action photos.<sup>27</sup> At 1,30 pm on 6 August 1928, NOC and N.K.B. officials and players came together in the Olympic stadium.

Federal chairman Broekhuysen gave a short speech in memory of Baron Van Tuyll van Serooskerken and placed a wreath at his monument.

Then Baron Schimmelpenninck van der Oye, the new NOC chairman, spoke a word of thanks for this gesture.<sup>28</sup>

An hour later, the two teams started the match under the names Red and Black and Red and White. G. de Meij from Deetos, the only surviving player of the 1920 demonstration was this time captain of Red and White. The referee was H.W. “Huub” Vliegen, who eight years earlier had captained the Northern team.

The match produced little smooth play or suspense and hardly generated excitement among the spectators. The players appeared to be barely attuned to each other and regularly dropped the ball. Red and White dominated and won 4–0 with from De Wedemeyer (2), Storm and Trupp.<sup>29</sup>

The game ended prematurely due to the behaviour of the predominantly Dutch spectators. They preferred to see the medal presentation to the Dutch cyclists Bernard Leene and Daan van Dijk, who had won the tandem race. They tried to enforce this by shouting “Ceremony, Ceremony” and singing the “Wilhelmus”, the Dutch national anthem. In response the cycling officials insisted on ending the korfbal match earlier.<sup>30</sup>



# GIDS VAN AMSTERDAM



Voor bezoekers IX Olympiade 1928 - Amsterdam



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8 Map of the Olympic city of Amsterdam

(Osterwalder collection)

Newspapers were united in their negative assessment of the match. The *Haagsche Courant* wrote: "The korfbal demonstration was not bad in terms of demonstration. A demonstration must if it is to achieve its goal be short and sweet. It was neither the first nor the last, it became annoying." The *Maasbode* stated: "What we missed was the surprising interplay, the graceful looseness in placing and the smooth passing and catching, which makes korfbal an attractive viewing game." The *Nieuwsblad van het Noorden* dismissed the match simply as "a mediocre game".<sup>31</sup>

Korfbal experts were also dissatisfied, because they found the entourage in the stadium lacklustre, partly due to the great distance from the stands to the field.<sup>32</sup> As a member of the board of the N. K. B., S.A. Wilson was present in the Olympic Stadium. More than thirty years later, the leader of the mission to Antwerp looked back on the match with a bad feeling, as if it had been a nightmare. „The game shown was far below the expectations which one might have for elite teams. It was a relief for the players and for all who represented korfbal in the stands when the final whistle sounded.”<sup>33</sup> No wonder that this demonstration had no positive effect for the internationalization of korfbal.

## Conclusion

After the unsuccessful demonstration of 1928, korfbal was no longer seen at the Olympic Games. This is due to a number of factors. In the 1930s, the economic situation meant that the N. K. B. did not have the financial resources to publicise the sport abroad. It was therefore out of the question that teams would have sent to the Olympic Games of 1932 (Los Angeles) and 1936 (Berlin) even if requested by the organising committees.

It was only in 1946 that the N. K. B. found enough money for a demonstration trip to England.

After the death of Baron Van Tuyll van Serooskerken, the sport no longer had a major advocate in the IOC. Moreover, many within the Olympic movement objected to the participation of women.

From 1900 women had been allowed to participate in tennis, sailing, croquet, equestrianism and golf and from 1912 also swimming.

Athletics was not included until 1928 and even then only five athletic events for women were permitted. At the Amsterdam Olympics women took part in the 100 metres, 4 x 100 metres, 800 metres, discus throw and high jump.

However, even this provoked a lot of resistance. De Coubertin, himself, now Honorary President, had even objected to the expansion of sports for women.

In the late 1920s and early 1930s, there were several voices calling for the removal of women's sport from the Olympic programme altogether.<sup>34</sup> In such a climate, a mixed sport like korfbal could never become Olympic, all the more so because the sport was then only played in the Netherlands and Belgium.

Korfbal has evolved enormously since the demonstrations in the 1920s. It is no longer only played outdoors, but also in sports halls. The game has become much more athletic and faster and the tactical possibilities have expanded enormously. Many more goals are scored and women play a full part

In 1991, the middle compartment on the court was abolished, leaving only two compartments (attack and defence), and later on wicker baskets were replaced by plastic baskets.

Today, korfbal is played in 61 countries, but it seems unlikely that it will ever become part of the already packed Olympic Games schedule

## Appendix: Korfbal demonstrations at the Olympic Games

Sunday, August 22, 1920 in the Olympic Stadium in Antwerp

North – South 0–2. Referee W. L. Repko. Score development: Van Nieuwenhuizen 0–1 and 0–2.

Line-up North: Attack Mrs. T. Jansen (D.V.D.), Mrs. M. Gregorius (D.T.V.), J. Brinck (D.V.D.) and N. Ouweland (D.E.V.); Centre Mrs. L. Teunisse (D.E.D.), Mrs. T. Donker (D.T.V.), G. Sieverts (D.E.D.) and L. Brinck (D.V.D.); Defense Mrs. W. Stiens (Allen Weerbaar), Mrs. A. van Beek (D.E.V.), H. W. Vliegen (D.E.V.) captain and G. de Nie (D.V.D.). Reserve: Mrs. Th. Abeling (Nausikaä).

Line-up South: Attack Mrs. A. van Noort (Vitesse), Mrs. A. S. Ballego (Vitesse), A. van der Reyden (Vitesse) and C. van Nieuwenhuizen (Vitesse); Centre Mrs. C. Christiaanse (Fluks), J. Schilthuisen (Fluks), A. Ouwkerk (Fluks) and F. van Zimmeren (Fluks) captain; Defense M. Schijfsma (Vitesse), T. Buys (Fluks), M. Ragut (Fluks) and G. de Meij (Deetos). Reserve: T. Dekker (O. S. C. R.).

Monday, August 6, 1928 in the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam.

Red and Black – Red and White 0–4. Referee: H. W. Vliegen. Score development: De Wedemeyer 0–1 and 0–2, Storm 0–3 and Trupp 0–4.

Line-up Red and Black: Attack Mrs. F. Hendriksen (Olympia), Mrs. L. Wagenvoort (Excelsior), H. Gerding (D. D. V.) captain and H. Venema (D. D. V.); Centre

mrs. A. Krelage (D.T.V.), mrs. J. de Koning (Onder Ons), A. Madsen (D.T.V.) and K. Gruys (Koog Zaan-dijk); Defense mrs. M. Klijn (Swift Amsterdam), mrs. C. Cohen (Excelsior), E. Eggink (Westerkwartier) and A. Hendriksen (Olympia). Reserves: mrs. C. van Tuyl (E. K. C. A.), Jambroes (D. T. V.) and Kelle (Eendracht).

Line-up Red and White: Attack mrs. G. Voordenberg (Deetos), mrs. M. t Hart (Deetos), G. de Meij (Deetos) captain and L. De Wedemeyer (Deetos); Centre mrs. M. Klamer (Het Zuiden), mrs. M. Trupp (H. S. V.), L. Looy (Het Zuiden) and G. Storm (H. S. V.); Defense mrs. A. Vaandrager (Het Zuiden), mrs. D. Richel (Het Zuiden), B. Dorsman (Het Zuiden) and J. van der Geest (Nic.). Reserves: Bornebroek (Nääs), Kaiser (Vitesse) and J. Visscher (H. S. V.).

## Endnotes

- 1 For a detailed discussion of the origins of korfbal: Roland Renson, 'De wortels van het korfbalspel – een genealogisch onderzoek', in: Fred Troost (red.), "... en maakte ik een reis naar Zweden". Negen beschouwingen bij 100 jaar korfbal (Bunnik 2003) 13–68 in particular 24–59. N. Broekhuysen, 'Het ontstaan van korfbal' in: *Dat is korfbal*, 11–19. Van Gent, Sportbonden (preface Korfbal).
- 2 Broekhuysen, 'Het ontstaan', 12–13.
- 3 S.A. Wilson, 'De geschiedenis van de K. N. K. B. (1903–1947)', in: *Dat is korfbal*, 59–72, aldaar 59.
- 4 Michel van Gent, "'Mannen met baarden spelen tegen en met schoolmeisjes". Korfbal en de emancipatie van de vrouw als sportster' in: *Historica. Tijdschrift voor gendergeschiedenis* 2–39 (2016) 14–19.
- 5 J. Godefroy, *Het korfbalspel. De spelregels en wat daaraan annex is* (Baarn 1908), cited in Van Gent, "Mannen met baarden", 18.
- 6 J.P. Mazure, 'Korfbal van openluchtspel tot sport (1903–1915)' and 'De verdere ontwikkeling van de korfbalsport (1915–1940)' in: *Dat is korfbal*, 20–58.
- 7 KNKV: Vademecum. Historisch overzicht: 20 juni 1908.
- 8 Biographical data in [https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frits\\_van\\_Tuyl\\_van\\_Serroskerken](https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frits_van_Tuyl_van_Serroskerken). Compare N.O.C. in 1907–1912 in <https://sportgeschiedenis.nl/olympische-sporten/nederlands-olympisch-comit-werd-al-in-1907-opgericht/>.
- 9 *De Telegraaf* 13 jan. 1911, 5. *Algemeen Handelsblad* 21 mrt. 1911, 5 en *Idem* 30 mrt. 1911, 5. De Coubertin gave a lecture to students about the Olympic Games in the Academy Building in Leiden. The local press has not written about it.
- 10 *Korfbal* 22 mrt. 1911, 1–2 (announcement) en *Idem* 5 apr. 1911, 1 (report). D.E.V. en D.T.V. were connected to the secondary schools De Eerste Vijfjarige en De Tweede Vijfjarige; Van Gent, Sportbonden.
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# A Hop, Step and a Jump from Olympic Glory, Harold Langley – Olympic Athlete, Paris 1924

by Chris Cannon



A hop, step and jump was one of four jumping events held at the first modern Olympics in Athens 1896. The event there actually comprised of two hops on the same foot followed by a jump and was won by James Connolly of the USA with 13.71 metres. There was a second event of a standing two hops and a jump. The event soon changed to the modern pattern of a hop, step and jump. It was not until one hundred years later, Atlanta 1996 that a women's triple jump was added to the Olympic Games schedule. The hop, step and jump was the first world record recognised by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (now World Athletics) in 1912 and was set by Dan Ahearn, of Ireland at 15.52m. He went on to represent the United States Olympic team at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics. After Antwerp the 1924 Games were held in Paris and immortalised in the Oscar winning film 'Chariots of Fire.' The film depicted British Olympic team members

Eric Liddell, Harold Abrahams and Lord Burghley (named Lord Lindsay in the film) as true Olympic heroes upholding the true Olympian values. But what of the other less well known members of that British Olympic team in Paris in 1924? Harold Arthur Langley, a hop, step and jumper, was one of these.



1 Langley wearing his Wenlock Olympic Games Pentathlon medal



2 | 3 Langley winning the Wenlock Olympic Games Pentathlon medal 1923



Langley was a humble working man who progressed from club athlete through regional and national competitions to being able to call himself an Olympian. He "had the adventure of his lifetime" competing in the Paris Olympics of 1924.

Harold Langley was born in the English midlands on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June 1903, the youngest of four children. He spent his working life as a toolmaker for Brooke Tools Manufacturing Ltd an engineering factory in Birmingham, England. The company had been formed in the year of his birth and manufactured a range of small tools for industry. It called for long hours of tiring work and left little time for outside pursuits such as athletics.

The Langley family were keen on sport and encouraged him to join the local athletic club, Sparkhill Harriers. After finishing his working day on the factory floor, he would then walk six miles to get to his training session carrying a 16lbs shot put in one hand and a javelin in the other.

Harold was always a member of Sparkhill but the club had no proper pit or board for his main event the hop, step and jump. All that was there was a "lump cut out of the earth." From 1924 until 1931 when he retired injured, he travelled around seven miles to Perry Barr to use the nearest proper jump pit.

His experiences were in marked contrast to the life led by the elite members of the British athletic team such as Liddell, Abrahams and Burghley with whom he would have to compete with in the athletic track and field events of the day.

Not that Langley would have wanted to change the way things were. He said it was the amateur status of athletics that appealed to him and gave him pleasure. Throughout his athletic career he did not have a coach and said he would not have wanted one. As he said there was no money in athletics in his day, only medals and prizes. That was the way he wanted it, the taking part was important not the winning, true to the original Olympic values of the early Games.

Langley's wife Winifred said he was shy and embarrassed by what he had achieved in the sporting world, and when he wore his Great Britain Olympic blazer, he would drape his coat over the badge to hide it from people.

Harold Langley first competed for Sparkhill Harriers as a 17 year old in 1920, finishing second in the high jump at Villa Park, Birmingham.

Sparkhill Harriers had been formed in 1902 after a group of athletes, mainly cross country runners, were tired of competing for road space with carts, wagons, trams, horses and even motor vehicles as they raced along Broad Street and New Street right

in the heart of Birmingham city centre.

The newly formed Sparkhill Harriers, motto "A Club is what its Members make it," met a little away from the city centre.

By 1908, the club had produced its first Olympian, Joe Kinchin who competed in the steeplechase at the London Games.

In 1920 another club member, Charles Edward Lively competed in the triple and long jump.

In 1924 Arthur Clark took part in the 3,000 team race and Langley. It was the Tokyo Olympics of 1964 before Sparkhill had an Olympic medallist. Maurice Herriott broke the Olympic record in his heat of the 3,000 metres steeplechase with a time of 8 minutes 33.0 seconds before finishing second to Olympic and World record holder Gaston Roelants of Belgium in the final, winning a silver medal.

Harold Langley came to notice as a notable athlete through competing at the Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) Midland competitions.

In 1922 he competed at Coventry:

"The field events were very good in some respects. H.M. Abrahams won the broad jump with a leap of 20 ft. 10 inches. So too was the hop, step and jump which went to a young Sparkhill Harrier. H.A. Langley with an effort of 41 ft. 6 ins. This young gentleman will make a name for himself in jumping contests before he is much older."

In 1924 the AAA Midland Championships were held at St. George's Ground, Oakengates, Shropshire. About 5,000 spectators witnessed Harold Abrahams winning each of his three events, the 100 yards



4 The British team handbook issued to Langley in 1924.

and the 200 yards sprints and the broad (long) jump. Lord Burghley, whose wife presented the prizes, finished second in the 120 yards hurdles. The winner of the hammer and discs field events, Malcolm Noakes, joined Abrahams and Lord Burghley in the British Olympic team that went to Paris two months later. Langley who was also in the team finished second in the hop, step and jump. The gold medal which Abrahams won was some years later returned to St George's as a reminder of the connection with Abrahams and the 1924 Paris Olympics. In his athletic career, Langley won a total of 75 medals, but the one he cherished above all others came in 1923 at the Wenlock Olympian Games. The medal was awarded to winner of the Pentathlon. This was an event which comprised high jump, hop step and jump, 200 yards flat, putting the 16lbs shot and half mile hurdles.

"The 67<sup>th</sup> annual festival in connection with the Wenlock Olympian Society was held on the Linden Field, Much Wenlock. The weather conditions left much to be desired but there was an excellent attendance and the meeting was in every way a success. There was a record number of entries and as usual the competitors included some of the best sprinters and cyclists in the country. The chief event of the day was the competition for the much coveted Wenlock Pentathlon Gold Medal, the winner of which has to prove superior ability in five distinct events. The honour went to H.A. Langley, of Sparkhill Harriers, a young fellow and a fine all round athlete for whom a great future can be predicted. His victory was a popular one."

The following year, 1924, the newspaper wrote: "The Wenlock Medal is for the Pentathlon competition of the following five events – High Jump, hop-step and jump, putting the 16lbs shot, 200 yard flat race and half a mile hurdle race. There are prizes for each of these events as individual competitions, but the wonderful Wenlock medal goes to the competitor who gains the most points in the whole five events. The medal is worth £10. I could name quite a number of men who would be hard to beat in a competition of this character. H.M. Abrahams would be one of them. Last year H.A. Langley, the Sparkhill Harrier, won the Wenlock Pentathlon medal."

A Pentathlon had been added to the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1868, with a prize of a handsome 'first class silver medal to be awarded for General Competition' in five contests, valued at £14. Initially, the five disciplines were: climbing a 55-foot rope,

running high leap, putting a stone of 35lb, running long leap, foot hurdle race.

The medal was an elaborate design which encompassed every aspect of the Wenlock Olympian Games competitions and honours: an oval medallion on a Maltese Cross bears the winged figure of 'Nike', Goddess of Victory, standing on an orb and holding a tiny crown of olive leaves and surrounded by a further crown of olive leaves with an inscription from Pindar's Olympic Ode: "there are rewards for glorious deeds."

The cross is suspended from an Emblematic Bar decorated with the motto 'Arte et Viribus' (skill and strength) across four shields. The first shield has a scroll and lyre representing literature and music; the second a bust and palette representing sculpture and painting; the third a tilting ring and lance, a quoit and a cricket bat and ball representing sporting skills; and the fourth a rifle and sword for military skills. The medal was made by Queen Victoria's Silversmith, Hunt & Roskell, emphasising its importance to the Wenlock Olympian Games. The medal dies were purchased at the considerable cost of £84. 4shillings in 1865/66.

The significance of the medal won by Langley is its place in Olympic history.

Coubertin visited the Wenlock Olympian Games in 1890 and was inspired to champion the cause of reviving the Olympic Games of ancient times.

In Much Wenlock, Shropshire, England, standing alongside William Penny Brookes, founder of the Wenlock Olympian Society he witnessed processions, Olympic hymns and a medal ceremony with music, flowers and speeches.

On the medal, presented since 1868, Coubertin saw the image of Nike, Greek Goddess of Victory.

At the first Olympic Games in Athens in 1896 the medal awarded had an image of Nike as have the medals of every Olympic host city since. Today Olympians from Olympic Games in London, Rio, Tokyo and soon Paris proudly hold the glittering prize of an Olympic medal, one half of which displays an image first seen in the nineteenth century Olympian Games of Much Wenlock.

This Wenlock Olympian gold medal thus made Langley a decorated Olympian before he began the "adventure of his life" at the Paris Olympics.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> May 1924 Langley received a letter from Harry J. Barclay, Honorary Secretary, Amateur Athletics Association, London.

"I am instructed by the General Olympic Committee to advise you that you have been selected to represent Great Britain at the VIIIth Olympiad, to be held in Paris from the 5th July to 13th.....



5 Langley was an athletics judge in the 1948 Games



6 Langley recording the winning long jump at the London Olympics. An Olympic record distance of 7.82m by Willie Steele of the USA



7 The British athletics team at the 1924 Olympics

If you anticipate any difficulty in getting away from business, I shall be glad to hear from you and possibly a letter from this Association or some other source would be of assistance.

It is also proposed to assemble the team as from 28th June at Uxbridge, to enable the Coach to get into touch and give final advice. As well as to enable the various representatives to meet and become known to each other and thus go over as a united party and engender "esprit de corps."

Arrangements have been made with a firm of outfitters for the equipment of the British Team, in a uniform manner, with blazers, flannel Trousers, Straw hats, Vests & Shorts together with tie. Will you therefore fill in up the enclosed self-measurement form." In the film "Chariots of Fire" the athletes are depicted crossing the English Channel serenely from Dover to Calais. The reality for Langley was a crossing from Newhaven to Dieppe in third class with a horizon at all angles causing him dreadful sickness. On arrival in Paris he was housed in the Hotel Moderne, Place de La Republic where he shared a room with marathon runner Jack McKenna who was also from Birmingham. This hotel was the base for the British and Hungarian teams.

Langley had just finished his apprenticeship at Brooke Tools in 1924 and had little money. He took £4 with him but only spent £2 in his time there. He felt he had eaten well and enjoyed the new experience of drinking 50% wine 50% Vichy water to wash his food down.

The athletes travelled to the Games in the Stade de Colombes by open charabanc. The weather was terrifically hot and Langley recalled three of the four British runners dropped out of the cross country. He also remembered a Spanish runner coming into the stadium and collapsing, falling straight on to his face.

In correspondence with his future wife, Winifred, Harold wrote:

"We went to the Stadium yesterday to have a trial spin. It is a great ground, there are about ten jumping pits. The Hop Step and Jump is all cinders run up and a jump on the blinking track....

We rehearsed for the Grand March Past for Saturday. We have got Pipers from the Cameron Highlanders to lead. At a given point you pull your straw hat off then place it on your chest, then eyes right, back again and then put your hat on again.

It is a striking sight at the Stadium when the results of an event is declared, the flags of the three first nations go up at the end of the ground and the first country's anthem is played while everybody bares the head and faces the flag."

In later life Langley said:

"I was just an insignificant member of the team, the youngest I think, with the exception of Lord Burghley. I didn't do very well in the competition. I managed only one legal jump out of three and failed to make the final.

But it was a wonderful experience. I watched Abrahams and Liddell win. Actually Liddell had run faster that season in the 100m, but as he would'nt race on a Sunday they had to obtain special dispensation for him to change events to the 400m.

I knew nothing of this at the time. I never saw Liddell again after the Paris Olympics."

The winner of the hop, step and jump competition in Paris was Nick Winter of Australia with a world record jump of 50 feet 11.25 inches (15.52m). He would hold the world record for over seven years before it was beaten by Mikio Oda, the first Japanese gold medallist.

Winter was the first athlete from Australia to take part in any field event. The event was not that well known in Australia and was not included in their national Championships until 1930. Winter remained the Australian triple jump record holder for another 36 years until 1960.

Before Paris, Winter had established an Australian record of 47 ft.7in (14.5 metres) in the hop, step and jump but his experience was limited to club competition.

The thirty-seven competitors in Paris were divided into two pools, and Winter was drawn against the favourite, the Argentinian Luis Brunetto. After Brunetto leapt 15.42 metres, easily beating the Olympic record, Winter fouled at the first attempt, overstepping the mark. With his second leap he covered 15.19 metres, also inside the old record; he fouled again on his third jump, but his one good jump was enough to carry him into the final. With his first jump in the final, Winter equalled his first-round performance. His second attempt would have won, but he fouled again, and bruised his heels badly. So great was the pain that he had to remove his track shoes. Jumping barefoot Winter's third and final jump of the final was the last of the competition. He was still behind Brunetto, who had been unable to improve on his first-round distance. Having fouled three times in five jumps, Winter decided to make a certainty of a valid jump by taking off inches before he reached the board. He bounded through a hop of 5.78 metres, a step of 3.97 metres, and a jump of 5.78 metres for a total distance 15.52 metres, further than any man had covered before. Winter broke a world record that had stood for thirteen years. He had improved on his pre-Olympic best performance by fourteen and a half inches ensuring it was Australia's flag that was raised over the Stade de Colombes.

To Langley the real unchallenged hero of the 1924 Olympics was not Eric Liddell or Nick Winter but the Finn Paavo Nurmi. Langley proudly collected

his autograph and described him as a magnificent track and cross country runner. Nurmi seemed to be completely unaffected by the heatwave affecting Paris at the time winning gold in both the 1500 metres and 5,000 metres within two hours and he returned home with a total of five gold medals.

Harold Langley himself continued to develop as an athlete, winning regional Hop, Step and Jump titles on a regular basis and competing in national finals His best performance was jumping 45 feet 7 ¼ inches ( 13.90 metres) in 1928. This meant he was chosen to represent Great Britain once more at the Amsterdam Olympics in 1928. He was proudly measured for the latest style in blazers and boater hats. Then, to his great disappointment, the team numbers were cut to reduce costs and he was left at home due to the need to reduce costs meant the team numbers had to be cut.

In the following years Langley continued to improve, winning five Midland Championship titles.

One newspaper report noted:

"Harold Langley astonished himself by landing out of the pit for the H, S, and J. T'was a great leap."

Sadly Langley's athletic career was ended in 1931 by a serious knee injury. This meant he would no longer be able to take part in active competition. His love of the sport meant that he wanted to continue being involved and so he transferred his knowledge of field events to become an official.

"There was only one new record at the AAA Midland Championship. This was in the hop, step and jump when the British record holder, Sid Cross ( Birchfield Harriers) set up new figures with a fine effort of 46ft 8 ¾ in.

First to congratulate him was Harold Langley, a judge yesterday, but winner of the event from 1926–1931, and holder of the previous record of 45 feet 7 1/4 in (1928)."

Langley was committed to his new role becoming a regional and national track official. His officiating career reached its pinnacle in 1948 when he was invited to the 1948 Olympics.

The highlight of the Games came when he was one of the officials to record a new Olympic record in the long jump by Willie Steele of the United States.

Langley also acted as an official at the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Cardiff.

Langley demonstrated the true Olympian spirit both as an athlete and official, he contributed greatly to sport in general becoming President of Sparkhill Harriers in his later years. He was proud of what he achieved and contributed but was never boastful or seeking glory. A perfect gentleman of track and field.

In the 100 years since Paris 1924 the triple jump has continued to advance.

Jonathan Edwards of Great Britain broke the world record at the 1995 World Championships in 1995 and then 25 minutes, later broke it again. His world record of 18.29m has now stood for more than 25 years.

Jonathan Edwards, won Olympic, World, European and Commonwealth gold medals. As the President of the Wenlock Olympian Society Jonathan is honoured to wear Langley's proudest possession, his Wenlock Olympian Society medal.

At the opening ceremony of 2012 London Olympic Games Jonathan Edwards can proudly be seen wearing the WOS medal for the world to see.

In 2024 at the Much Wenlock Games, a replica of

the medal won by Langley was presented Howard Langley, a fellow hop, step and jumper, would have approved.

### Sources

This article was compiled using the personal archive of Howard Arthur Langley.

It was donated to the care of the Wenlock Olympian Society archives by his daughter, Mrs Christine Greatrex, in 2006.

All photos from the personal archive of Howard Arthur Langley. It was donated to the care of the Wenlock Olympian Society archives by his daughter, Mrs Christine Greatrex, in 2006.



8 Langley with some of his 75 medals





Where are they now? by Norman Edwards



# ISOH member wins best book prize 2023 at inaugural Olympic & Sports Literature Festival

by Christophe Ait-Braham (President of AICO)

From Left to Right  
Markus Osterwalder  
Massimiliano Bruno  
Christophe Ait-Braham

© Christophe Ait-Braham



## "Olympic Games – The Design"

ISOH Secretary General Markus Osterwalder's two volume history has won first prize as the best book in the inaugural Festival of Olympic and Sports Literature.

The competition was held during the 27th World Olympic Collectors Fair (WOCF) in Paris from June 23-25, 2023. The fair was organised by International Association of Olympic Collectors (AICO) an organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee. A space dedicated to the Festival was accessible to the general public within the Exhibition "Share our Olympic History" exhibition held under the aegis of the Paris 2024 "Cultural Olympiad". Visitors were able to view all the entries in which prizes were awarded in four categories:

### 1 Best Book

Specialised and general catalogues, special studies, newsletters and other publications with a focus on sports and the Olympic Games.

### 2 Best Periodical and magazine

**3 Best website** from an association or individual member

### 4 Best Article by Members

The winners were announced at a gala dinner held on the Seine, just as the Olympic Opening Ceremony will be next year. Appropriately, the winners received coins from the Paris 2024 "Heritage" collection as a reflection of the cultural dimension of the event.

### 1 Best Book

#### Winner: **Olympic Games – The Design**

by Markus Osterwalder (Switzerland)

42 books were submitted, which

were judged by all participants at the 2023 WOCF.

### 2 Best Periodicals and magazines

#### Winner: **PhilaSport Magazine**

by UICOS (Italy)

### 3 Best Website

#### Winner: **Collection Olympique**

by Catherine Salaün (France)

### 4 Best Articles

#### 1st Place: **"China 1961: 26th World Table Tennis"**

by Fabio Bisogno (Italy)

#### 2nd Place: **"Daguin Tennis Postmarks and the Tennis Clubs They Promoted"**

by Norman F. Jacobs (USA) & Jean-Pierre Picquot

#### 3rd Place: **"Pictograms Conquer the World"**

by Markus Osterwalder (Switzerland)

Details about the Festival of Olympic Sports Literature can be found at: [www.aicolympic.org/afosl/](http://www.aicolympic.org/afosl/)

### About the winner:

One idea, 2 volumes, 58 Olympic Games, 260 designers, on 1,560 pages, 6,500 images and a million hours of research went into producing.

### Olympic Games – The Design

It is the first book to focus in detail on the visual identities of all Olympic Games since Athens 1896. The book shows all the iconic symbols and graphic artwork of the modern Olympic Games. If you love the sports pictograms from Lillehammer 1994 or the Athens 2004 Look of the Games, the minimalist emblem of Tokyo 1964, the distinctive graphics from Mexico 1968 or the sports posters from Munich 1972, this is the definitive catalogue.

When was the first logo, the first mascot, the first Design manual? Each edition of the Olympics has a unique identity and many of its design elements have been further developed. In fact, some of these identities proved to be a challenge for designers. More than that, they marked milestones in the development of corporate design.

The books are available in bookstores and online platforms around the world.



**Titel: Olympic Games – The Design**  
**Author: Markus Osterwalder**

Period: From Athens 1896 to Tokyo 2020  
 Chapters: 58 (incl. the story of the Olympic Rings)  
 Amount of pages: 1,560  
 Biographies & Interviews: 260 Designers  
 Language: English and a Japanese Edition  
 Publisher: Niggli Publishing  
 English Edition: 4000 copies  
 ISBN 978-3-7212-1000-2





# The Lost Hippodrome of Olympia – The organization of the Equestrian Games in Ancient Olympia

by Christian Wacker

This contribution<sup>1</sup> is dedicated to Norbert Müller, who made the research of the Hippodrome possible and actively supported it. Under the leadership of Norbert Müller (University of Mainz), Reinhard Senff (German Archaeological Institute in Athens) and Christian Wacker (Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum), Christian Hübner and his team from the company GGH carried out this geo-magnetically research project in 2008<sup>2</sup>.



Archeologists have been investigating the site of ancient Olympia in the west of the Greek Peloponnes peninsula for the best part of 200 years (Herrmann, 1972, 200–207; Kalpaxis, 2002). For over a century Olympic Games of the Modern Era have been organised. These have strengthened the meaning of Olympia as a „cradle of sports“ and tourist attraction. However, antiquarian studies in ancient athletics have been a recent phenomenon. For example the excavation of the stadium itself did not interest the German scientists in the 19th century. It was not until 1962 that the site was completely uncovered

and restored (Schilbach, 1992, 33–37).

The Hippodrome as a stage for equestrian events is not known till this day, even its location can only be estimated. Through ancient literature and inscriptions, we have quite a lot of information regarding the “how” of equestrian events, but the site itself is not yet known. It seems that one of the biggest architectural facilities in ancient Olympia disappeared completely.

## Equestrian Events in ancient Olympia

The oldest written source to deliver detailed information about competitions with horses in ancient Greece, is the writing of Homer. In the Iliad he describes events are described which happened in the time of the Trojan heroes of the 14<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century BC(BCE), but also stories from his own time Homer (8<sup>th</sup> century BC(BCE)).

The Iliad describes the Trojan War in the style of the legend. In the 23<sup>rd</sup> hymn, competitions take place after the end of the burial ritual for the warrior Patroklos.

Most space in the account is devoted to the chari-



1 Chariot race  
on an ancient Greek vase,  
6th/5th century BC (BCE)

© Martin-von-Wagner Museum Würzburg  
[Inv.-No.: L327]

ot race. The participants were respected warriors and all came from noble families. The competition chariot was also in use in the battle of Troy and had been the two horses pulled quarrel chariot (Olivová, 1989, 74–78; Wacker & Weck, 2007, 158–159).

In the epics of Homer, chariot races as competition of chariot races are described for the first time, however, horse races still seem to have been unknown. This changed with the development of aristocracy in the archaic time from the seventh century BC (BCE) when horse breeding became an important status symbol. A good breeding horse had according to Aristophanes the value of 1000 daily wages of a worker.

According to Thucydides, the possession of horses was a means for With the nobility to express its 'extensive wealth', .

Those who rode were part of this rich upper class, those who could afford to participate with horses and chariots at Pan-Hellenic competitions like those in Olympia or Delphi, could be certain of eternal honour and fame far beyond their hometown (Decker, 1995, 107; Wacker & Weck, 2007, 159–160). A four horse chariot was new and presumably introduced especially for competitions in Greek sanctuaries. the chariot with two horses still described by Homer was removed.

The middle animals took over the brunt of work as yoke horses pulling the chariot, while the quicker accompanying horses supplied the speed. The shaft of the light chariot with high wheels led to the withers of the horses and was fastened there skilfully with ropes. Various images on vase paintings show chariots and harnessed horses. Even details like a „sting stick“ moving to the scapulas of the horses to „encourage“ the animals towards the finishing of the race are visible (Fig. 1).

The charioteers took over leading this very fragile vehicle with big talent (Wacker & Weck, 2007, 160). One recognizes them by their typical costumes, known above all by the charioteer of Delphi. The figure is a part of a bronze votive offering, the representation of a victorious team from the Pythian games. It reveals many details of the garment reaching up to the ankles with a narrow belt and reinforced leather straps in the upper garment (Fig. 2). Against modern trot and gallop races with distances usually less than three kilometres ancient races had been proper long-distance races. Even if the distances varied for centuries, the sources always record a huge number of laps, which would correspond to races which on average were of a distance of more than ten kilometres (Decker, 1995, 108–109). The races themselves were barely to be outdone in drama and 'action' what could have every now and

then there were also fatalities among the charioteers as Sophocles reports in *Electra* 744–760:

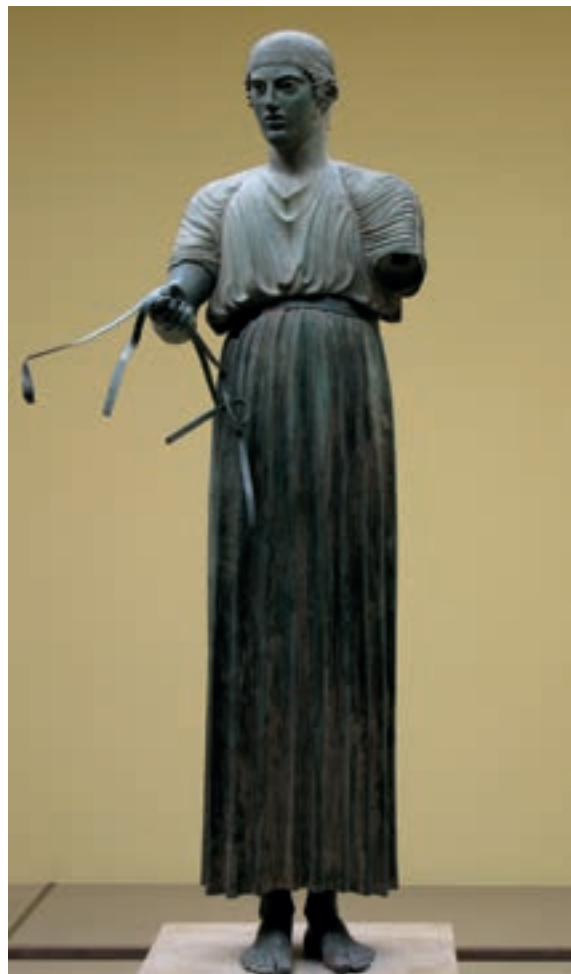
“ ... the wheel axis cracks, he falls from the chariot and gets embroiled while falling in his straps. The team scattered, barely this happened, in the middle of the track. [...] on the ground dragging, soon the limbs to the sky whirling, since the charioteers untied him [...] flooded with blood, so that the friends barely recognized the unblest figure. ”

Yet it was not the charioteers who received the wreaths as winners of the races but the horse owners. Those distinguished Greeks like Alcibiades or Cimon, Megakles or the Spartan woman Kyniska earned immortal fame like a victory in Olympia (Wacker & Weck, 2007, 161). The same also was also true in horse races because it was not the Jockeys, but the horses and their owners who were acclaimed for the victory.

The Jockeys usually had been children from the age of seven to twelve years. They rode bareback without a saddle but with considerable skill.

The only aids to the control of the horses were short switches within pendulous straps beside the reins, the tools of the ancient Jockeys (Decker, 1995, 111–112) (Fig. 3).

The most famous competitions were organized af-



**2 Charioteer of Delphi;**  
erected 474 BC (BCE) for a  
winner of a chariot race in the  
ancient sanctuary of Delphi

© Delphi Museum

ter the eighth century in ancient Olympia. One of oldest and most respected competitions apart from running, the throwing or „heavy“ events in athletics and the pentathlon had been the equestrian events. They are recorded in a variety of ancient texts, which tell us the disciplines, the rules for the races, famous stable owners and courageous charioteers (Petermandl, 2013).

### The location of the ancient Hippodrome

The area to the east of the sanctuary of Olympia had not yet been an object of archaeological research, even though, according to ancient documents, it must have been there and would have been the largest building by surface area for the realization of the competitions.

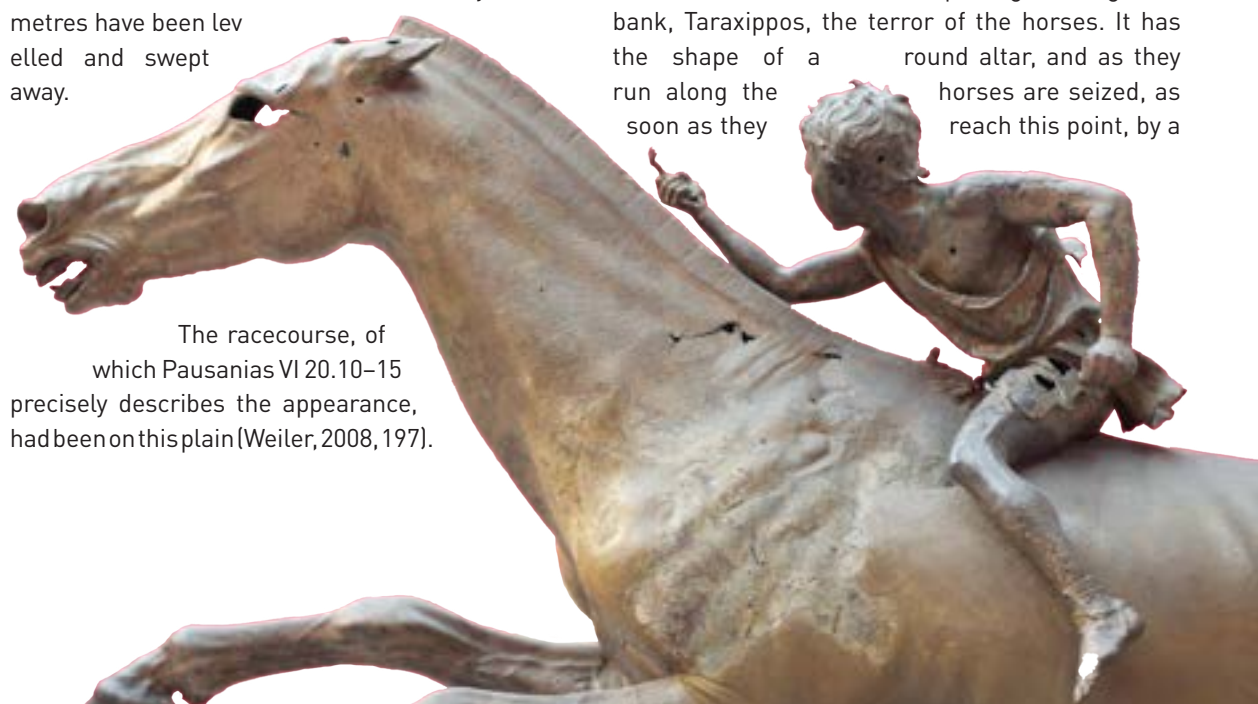
Referring to the ancient traveller Pausanias from the second century AD(CE), the Hippodrome was situated in the south of the discovered and fifty years ago (1958–61) reconstructed ancient Stadium, and several metres under today's ground level (Schilbach, 1992).

Only between the related hills, beyond a street to Arcadia in the north, and the riverbed of today's straightened Alpheus in the south, the geographical conditions are given to possibly accommodate the racecourse, having a length of more than one kilometre (Fig. 4, 5, 6).

Still, the geological and geographical conditions are poor. On the one hand, the agricultural utilization has greatly changed the historical geography and on the other hand, the river Alpheios has shifted its riverbed several times over centuries and meandered its way through the plain. The landscape in this area has been changed in such a way that the ancient appearance can barely be reconstructed.

Nowadays it is known that the level of the river during the Middle Ages lay approximately nine metres over that of the ancient world, but until today seven metres have been levelled and swept away.

“When you have passed beyond the stadium, at the point where the hellanodikai sit, is a place set apart for the horse-races, and also the starting place for the horses. The starting place is in the shape of the prow of a ship, and its prow is turned towards the course. At the point where the prow adjoins the porch of Agnaptus it broadens and a bronze dolphin on a rod has been made at the very point of the ram. Each side of the starting place is more than four hundred feet in length, and in the sides are built stalls. Lot to those who enter for the races assigns these stalls. Before the chariots or racehorses is stretched a cord as a barrier. An altar of unburnt brick, plastered on the outside, is made at every Festival as near as possible to the centre of the prow, and a bronze eagle stands on the altar with his wings stretched out to the fullest extent. The man appointed to start the racing sets in motion the mechanism in the altar, and then the eagle has been made to jump upwards, so as to become visible to the spectators, while the dolphin falls to the ground. First on either side the porch of Agnaptus withdraws the barriers, and the horses standing thereby run off first. As they run they reach those to whom the second station has been allotted, and then are withdrawn the barriers at the second station. The same thing happens to all the horses in turn, until at the ram of the prow they are all abreast. After this it is left to the charioteers to display their skill and the horses their speed. It was Cleoetas who originally devised the method of starting, and he appears to have been proud of the discovery, as on the statue at Athens he wrote the inscription: – Who first invented the method of starting the horses at Olympia; he made me, Cleoetas the son of Aristocles. It is said that after Cleoetas Aristeides added some further device to the mechanism. The racecourse has one side longer than the other, and on the longer side, which is a bank, there stands, at the passage through the bank, Taraxippos, the terror of the horses. It has the shape of a round altar, and as they run along the horses are seized, as soon as they reach this point, by a



The racecourse, of which Pausanias VI 20.10–15 precisely describes the appearance, had been on this plain (Weiler, 2008, 197).

### 3 Jockey of Artemision



4 A view of the relevant area from the east

© Christian Wacker



6 A view of the relevant area from the north with the stadium in front

© Christian Wacker



5 The valley of the Alpheios.

© Google Earth

fear without any apparent reason. The fear leads to disorder; the chariots generally crash and the charioteers are injured. Consequently the charioteers offer sacrifice, and pray that Taraxippos may show himself propitious to them.”

Therefore, the teams, shaped like a ship's bow, were positioned in starting positions in front of a hall (Fig. 7). A bronze eagle, which was raised and dropped by a lift mechanism, was functioning as a starting signal, and a dolphin figure was moving in front of the charioteers. The spectators were placed close to a rampart in the south and related hills in the north. It does not seem that a stonewalled terrace similar to the Circus Maximus in Rome or Carthage had existed.

The description of Pausanias led to different reconstructions, in which the racecourse has mostly been reproduced in doubled latitude to the starting place. Only through the correct interpretation of a middle-aged handwritten document from the 11<sup>th</sup> century AD (CE) by Joachim Ebert, clarified the appearance and dimension of the Hippodrome. It was equivalent to 1052 metres in length and 64 metres in width plus the ramparts for the spectators. The starting place equated the width of the racecourse (Ebert, 1989).

“The Olympic (equine) Competition used a racecourse with a lap length of eight stadia. Each side

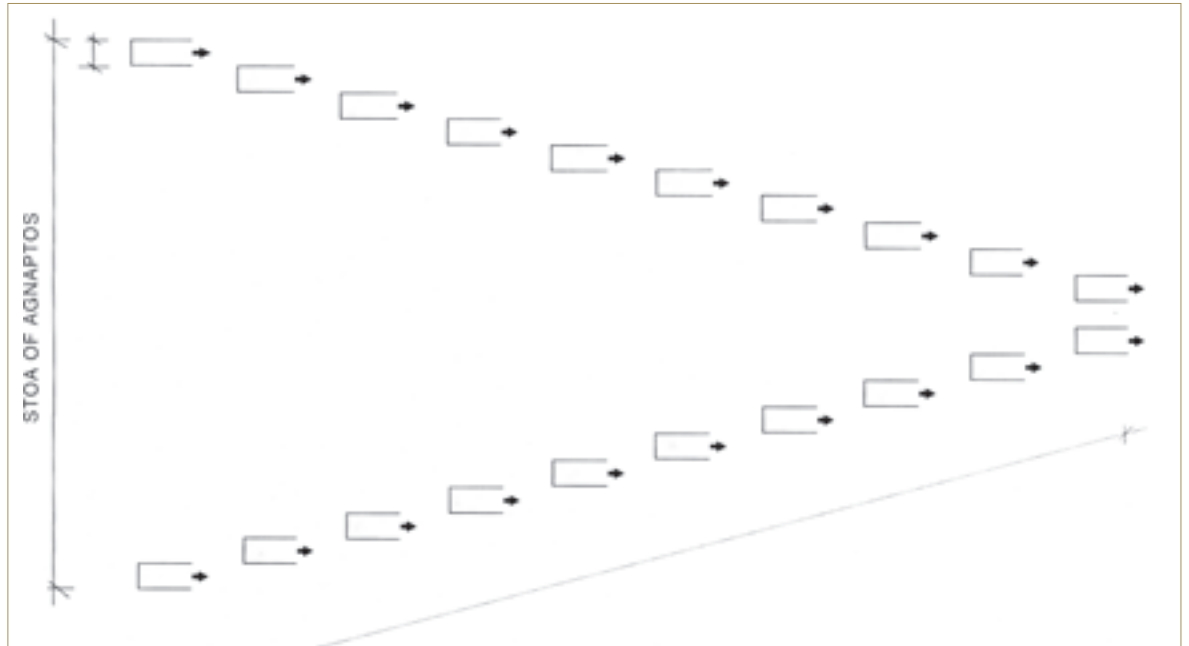
measures three stadia and one Plethron. However, the wide stretch up to the starting line measures one Stadium and four Plethra, i.e. 4,800 feet (in total). Close to the Taraxippos, behind which, as the saying goes, a hero is hidden, the horses gallop round a turning post during a race; the winning post is the statue of Hippodameia. In mounted horse races, the colts have to run 6 stadia and fully-grown horses 12 stadia; in chariot-and-pair races, the colts have to run three laps and the fully-grown horses eight laps; in chariot-and-four races, the colts run eight laps and the fully-grown horses twelve laps.” (Tabula Heroniana II, Fol. 27f [11<sup>th</sup> century AD(CE)] (Fig. 8)

### A research project to locate the ancient Hippodrome

In April and May 2008 the research team previously mentioned explored the accessible terrains in the described plain with modern and geomagnetic methods for the first time. Two different physical methods were used. The geomagnetic field mapping of archaeological structures is based on the precise and high-resolution registration of spatially limited magnetic anomalies, which generate these in the terrestrial magnetic field. In general, foundations, large objects made out of stone, layers caused by fire, cause such anomalies. This method

### 7 The positions of the chariots at the start

© Kapon Editions, Athens [Valavanis, P. (2004). Games and Sanctuaries in Ancient Greece (Fig. 123). Athens: Kapon Editions]



### 8 The reconstruction of the Hippodrome following the theses of Joachim Ebert

© Kapon Editions, Athens [Valavanis, P. (2004). Games and Sanctuaries in Ancient Greece (Fig. 123). Athens: Kapon Editions]



of measurement was combined with a ground radar, which can be described as an electro-magnetic impulse procedure that radiates short impulses of a few nanoseconds into the bedrock and then after a reflection caused for example by an aquitard or an object, reflected back. With the combination of both of these procedures, it becomes possible to locate so-called „anomalies“ and also determine their depth in the soil. Thus, also probabilities can be given according to the affiliation of layers (modern, middle-aged ancient). (Fig. 9)

Using geomagnetic mapping 10.5 hectares of the area were searched and by means of ground radar 3.6 hectares. It was not always possible to penetrate the thick layers of fine sand to reach a certain depth. The tracks of decade-long farming, such as fences, streets, or concrete compounds, also de-ranged and distorted the results.

Nevertheless, a number of significant details could be observed. The area does not seem to have ever been intensively developed or overbuilt. Countless grooves, which stretch up to the northern parts, defined the terrace edges or return flows of the water-distribution system of recent dates. Thus, the Alpheios River had actually flooded the entire plain over and over again right up to the hillside edges. Since the ancient level used to be approximately two metres under today's ground level, it was at least

partially spared. Thus, also parallel constructed anomalies (rifts, walls or ramparts) could be seen on a length of almost 200 metres, which could be connected with the ancient Hippodrome. (Fig. 10) For these reasons, follow-up examinations took place in April and May 2009 at selected locations, which had been identified a year earlier as promising „anomalies“.

The results were consistently disappointing and unfortunately it has not yet been able to locate structural remains of the ancient hippodrome. Unfortunately, the terrain to the north of the Alpheios and southeast of the stadium was disturbed strongly by the shift of the riverbed, so that most ancient remains may have disappeared through the cen-

### 9 Geomagnetic field mapping (with Norbert Müller, left)

© Christian Wacker





10 Geophysical mapping  
(in yellow ancient remains)

© GGH

turies. Even the architectural design of the hippodrome (solid walls or embankments reclaimed) is not recorded in Olympia and the horse race might well have been conducted only on an open area. If this was the case, then it would hardly be possible to find archaeological remains in a highly geologically disturbed area at all. The written sources indicated that the hippodrome of Olympia can be located in this area with these few archaeological indications added through the research project. Marion Meyer of Vienna University has compiled a comprehensive and richly illustrated history of one of the most important athletic, religious, and political sites in the ancient Greek and Roman world. “She presents complex and controversial topics in a way that will satisfy the scholar and the general reader alike.”

### Endnotes:

1 This article is an extended and corrected version of an article published in the anthology *Horse Games – Horse Sports: from traditional horse games to Olympic horse sports*, edited by Andreas Amendt and Christian Wacker (Beirut 2012, 123-129).

2 Christian Hübner and Armin Grubert from the GCH company delivered an unpublished paper with the results of a geo-magnetic research in that area.

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# Wu Guanying | 1955–2022

## The mascots for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games

by Markus Osterwalder

15 years ago, the Summer Olympics were held in China for the first time. As part of a national competition, a suitable mascot was sought for the 2008 Beijing Games. Since then, there has been a considerable amount of writing and speculation regarding the authorship of the mascots, which was attributed to two different designers.



The purpose of this article is to provide clarity on the matter of authorship, drawing from various interviews, documents, archives, and documentation gathered during my visit to Beijing in 2019. It was during this time that I also had the opportunity to meet Wu Guanying, who played a significant role in the development of the mascots.

1 Wu Guanying in 2019 in his office at the Tsinghua University in Beijing

© Archive Markus Osterwalder



2 Human faced – fish decorated bowl recovered at Banpo

© Wu Guanying

On September 15, 2004, the Organizing Committee of the 2008 Summer Games, (BOCOG), initiated a public competition to develop the mascot for the XXIX Olympiad.

### Wu Guanying – participation in the mascot competition

Participating in the creation and design of Olympic mascots was an unforgettable experience and design adventure for Wu. Initially, he intended to design a series of images in five different colours, based on the concept of China’s five elements – gold, wood, water, fire and earth.

On one hand, it was primarily about the connection between China’s 5,000-year-old civilization and the five-ring emblem of the Olympic Games. The “five elements” were used by ancient Chinese thinkers as symbols for all things in our world. The number “five” has an auspicious meaning of “blessing” in China. Phrases like “Five blessings come to the door,” “Five grains are abundant,” “Five sons ascend the throne,” etc.

During the design process, he used the symbol on the shell with the human-faced and fish-patterned motif of the most representative “Double Fish” found in the painted ceramics unearthed in Banpo, Shaanxi Province, as design elements.

Adding the body and limbs, it became what he originally called “Xiwa.”

According to some archaeologists and cultural scholars, this pattern has the connotation of praying for good harvests and human prosperity.

It should be regarded as one of the earliest auspicious patterns in China. His thoughts on including this pictorial element as the prototype of the Olympic mascot is to represent the origin of Chinese civilization, this icon is unique. This was his initial idea for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games mascot, which became the prototype for the later Five FUWA mascots.



### About Wu Guanying

Born in Zhongshan, Guangdong Province, in 1955, Wu was a notable figure in the world of art and design. He was the mastermind behind the concept of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Mascot „Fuwa“ and also designed the Paralympic Games' mascot, the cow Fu Niu LeLe. Wu contributed to the design of several sets of zodiac stamps and gold and silver coins, including the commemorative coin of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. Wu Guanying died in December 2022 at the age of 67.



3 First rendition of the sports poses

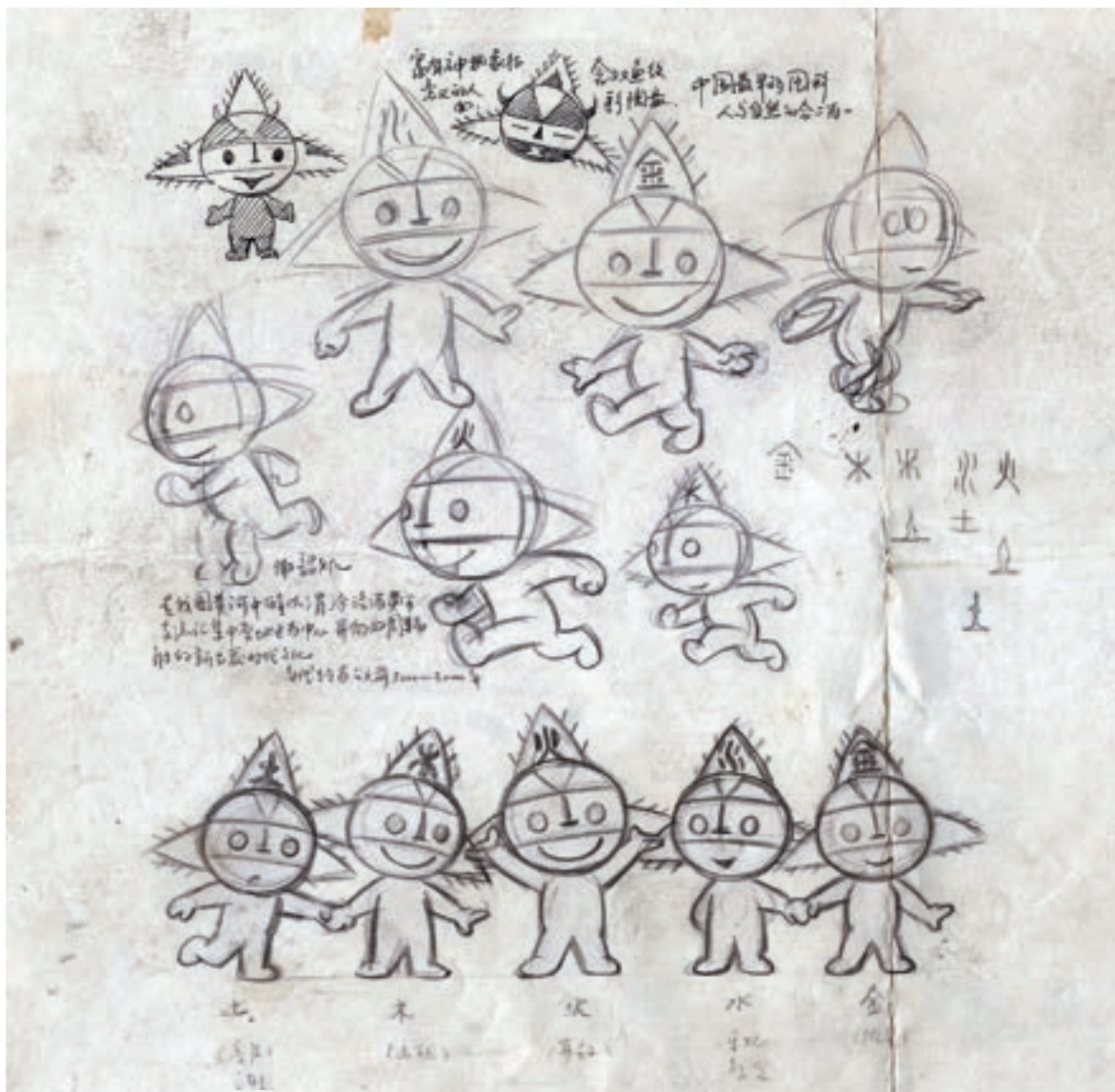
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**TV documentary on CCTV International**, Redecovering China, Tracey Grebinski, Creation process of the Beijing 2008 Olympic mascots, November 2005

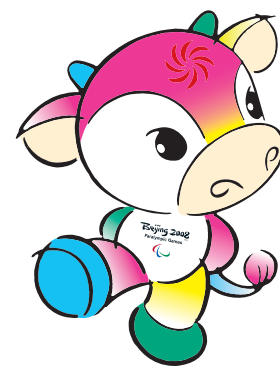
4 First sketches that led to the submitted proposal

© Wu Guanying



5 Wu Guanying working  
in the Studio of Han Meilin

© Wu Guanying



Paralympic Games' mascot,  
the cow Fu Niu LeLe  
Designer: Wu Guanying

### The creative design process for the Beijing 2008 mascots

To achieve this goal, the organisers called upon the skills of 24 respected painters, graphic designers and illustrators. Their job was to assess the proposals and choose the best mascot. One of the esteemed judges on the panel was the famous Chinese artist and painter Han Meilin. During the competition, several suggestions gained popularity among the judges, including the panda, monkey king, Tibetan antelope, and a dragon. From the 662 submissions received, the top 50 proposals were chosen to advance to the next round, showcasing the creative diversity and talent of the participants.

By December 17, 2004, the competition had narrowed down to the final round, where only six proposals remained under consideration. Don Don, a rattle drum, received the most votes, followed by a tiger, a monkey king, a cute dragon, two lucky dolls and a panda. BOCOG assigned Mr. Han Meilin to further develop these six designs.

From January 2005, Han Meilin worked intensively on these. At this stage of the process, special attention was paid to how well they worked in the various sport poses and whether the many patterns and designs still worked on small applications. Meilin became very concerned that the designs would not work out in the end.

In March 2005, he shared his concerns with BOCOG. As a result a team of nine designers was assigned to assist him. Among them was Wu Guanying. For two weeks, this new team worked on the six de-

signs but they arrived at the same conclusion as Meilin. Han Meilin reviewed all 50 designs from the second round again and came up with a new approach. It was the design by Wu Guanying that had convinced him from the beginning. It was the idea of China's five elements – gold, wood, water, fire, and earth – that fascinated him.

On March 24, 2005, the team presented to BOCOG 108 suggestions for improvement from the 6 finalists, including the new idea of the five mascots.

Meilin was convinced that this idea had the greatest potential and convinced the Organizing Committee to continue working on this idea. It was collectively decided to further develop this idea and not pursue the six finalists anymore. They wanted to incorporate as much of Chinese culture as possible into the characters. In the new idea they wanted to integrate the animals that had made it into the final round. These were the panda, the dragon and the monkey king. In the further process, the dragon was replaced by the Olympic flame.

After several months of intensive improvements and adjustments, on November 11, 2005, the five „Friendlies“ were presented to the public worldwide, just in time for the 1000 days to go celebration. Intended to showcase the lively essence of five little companions who constitute a close-knit group, the five mascots were also symbolic of the inherent qualities of four of China's beloved creatures: the Fish, the Panda, the Tibetan Antelope, the Swallow, and the Olympic Flame.

Each Friendly possesses a two-syllable name that rhymes, a customary term of endearment for children in China. Beibei represents the Fish, Jingjing

embodies the Panda, Huanhuan symbolises the Olympic Flame, Yingying represents the Tibetan Antelope, and Nini embodies the Swallow.

When their names are combined—Bei Jing Huan Ying Ni—they form the phrase „Welcome to Beijing,“ extending a warm invitation that embodies the purpose of the Five Friendlies as youthful ambassadors for the Olympic Games.

Moreover, the Five Friendlies embody the landscapes and aspirations of individuals from all corners of China, an expansive nation. Their origins and headpieces incorporate the five elements of nature—the sea, forest, fire, earth, and sky—all artistically rendered in a manner that reflects the profound traditional influences of Chinese folk art and embellishment.

**In summary, it can be said that several creative minds had a significant influence on the creation of these mascots. However, Wu Guanying and Han Meilin should always be mentioned together. The other designers who were also involved in the process remain unknown.**



6 Submitted design for the mascot competition by Wu Guanying

© Wu Guanying

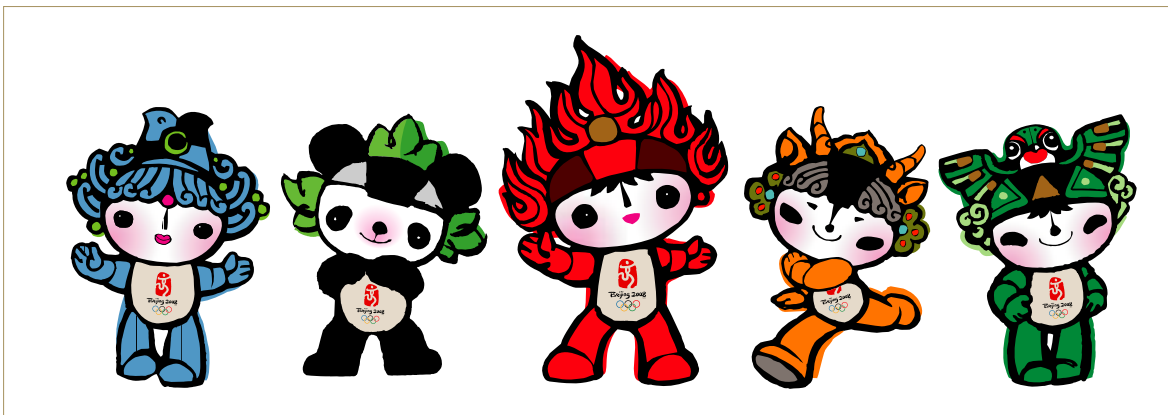


7 On the left: Excerpt from Han Meilin's sketchbook

© Han Meilin

8 Sketch study for the development of the mascots

© Wu Guanying



9 Definitive and final version of the five FUWA mascots



# International Pierre de Coubertin Committee honours its educational mission

by Stephan Wassong

The International Pierre de Coubertin Committee (IPCC) is pleased to announce the translation of Pierre de Coubertin's Olympic Memoirs into Hindi and Swahili.



Both translations were presented for the first time on Olympic Day June 23 on the IPCC website.

The translation into Hindi was carried out in collaboration with the Abhinav Bindra Foundation.

Hindi spoken in India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, South Africa, Uganda and Yemen, is the first language to 425 million and second language to 120 million.

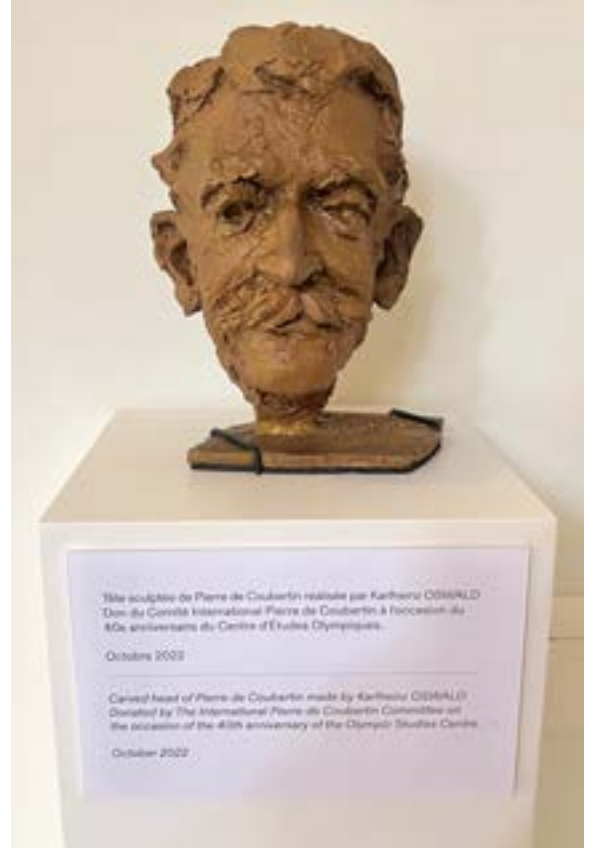
The translation into Swahili was carried out by Mr. Muharam Mchume, IPCC member in Tanzania and member of the Tanzanian Olympic Academy.

Swahili is a native language in East-African communities: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It is Lingua franca in Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Somalia and Zambia and it is the official language of the African Union with 150 million Swahili speakers. International Swahili Day is celebrated every year on 7 July. The publication is the latest development on the continent.

Our activities based on education have been greatly multiplied and developed in Africa since the creation of the Association of National Pierre de Coubertin Committees of Africa on 28 June 2022. We congratulate the elected President, Malik Atour Evéle, Cameroon, and the Secretary General, Marion Keim of South Africa and their teams. The setting up of this association allowed them to improve the work of each national Pierre de Coubertin committee and to reach their desired goals in the first year of their work together.

A series of seminars and conferences have taken place entitled "International Training Course for Olympic Educators". Their first aim was to set up a programme to "educate the educators" on the work and life of Pierre de Coubertin and the Olympic values education programme.

Congo Brazzaville, Congo Kinshasa, Cameroon, Mauritius and South Africa are the founding national committees of the Association of National Pierre de Coubertin Committees of Africa.



We are also proud of the work carried out by the Latin American Center for Coubertinian Studies, Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios Coubertinianos, which was founded in March 2020. They have developed into a powerful team developing education programmes at various academic levels and for different target groups. Currently, the Center counts with the national Pierre de Coubertin committees of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. They fulfill the mission of the International Pierre de Coubertin Committee in making known the work and the person of Pierre de Coubertin. We also thank them for building bridges with their colleagues at the Association of National Pierre de Coubertin Committees of Africa.

1 The IPCC bust of Pierre de Coubertin

© Stephan Wassong





## Hangzhou opens museum to celebrate the Asian Games

by Hou Kun



A museum of the Ancient Games has been set up at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium by the Qiantang River,

It is believed to be the first museum established with the Asian Games as its theme which has been opened to the public before the Games.

It shows priceless treasures which have been gathered by generations of people associated with the Asian Games and displays the history of the Games and

Asian culture and demonstrate that the the spirit of sport shines here.

The first hall is devoted to the Asian Games in Hangzhou and is devoted into four elements, pursuing, building, fulfilling and sharing the dream of the Games.

It covers the period from Hangzhou's bid through preparations for the Games to the hosting of the Games.

A second hall has a display entitled "The Asian Games and Asia," and is divided into five parts.

These feature the history of the Asian Games, memories of the Games, the Asian Games on China and Asia's focus on Hangzhou.

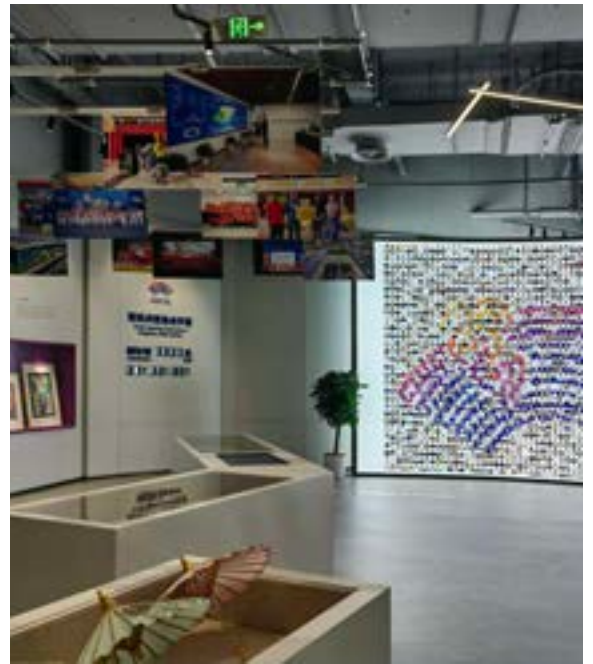
The third section is an interactive experience to showcase the Asian Games and the Future.

The hall is equipped with a theatre, special exhibitions and a rest area.

The author visited with Luzeng Song, Sports Committee Chairman for the Olympic Council of Asia.

The Asian Games in Hangzhou are scheduled to run from September 23 to October 8.

They were originally intended to take place in 2022 but were postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.







亚洲记忆

1951	1954	1955	1957	1962	1963	1974	1978	1983

2014	2016



## Part XLII

Our series on the biographies of International Committee members has been one of the longest running features of the Journal.

It was launched in 2009, based on the substantial material researched and compiled by our distinguished IOC founder members Ian Buchanan and Wolf Lyberg.

Since then, many others have taken on the Baton, most recently Marcia Neto Wacker, who has added the biographies which complete the register up to 2013. This final instalment for now takes into account the members inducted at the two IOC sessions in 2013 which brings the series to the end of the Presidency of Jacques Rogge.

Thomas Bach was elected as President in Buenos Aires in 2013 and since he took office many members have been co-opted.

Most are still active in the work of the IOC.

The very nature of IOC Sessions has also altered appreciably in this time, particularly after the COVID-19 pandemic when sessions and IOC votes were conducted on a remote platform.

It seems therefore a sensible course, to reserve historical analysis of current members to a future date.



**Born 19 October 1984, Trencin  
Slovakia**

**Co-opted 3 July 2013**

**Attendance Ongoing**

© 2022 / IOC / MARTIN, Greg

### 522 Danka Bartekova (Slovakia)

A skeet shooter, Bartekova competed in four Olympic Games from 2008 and won bronze at London 2012 where she was elected to the athletes commission. She also won nine World Championship medals in the sport and was individual European Champion in 2008, 2010 and 2018.

A member of the Slovak National Olympic Committee since 2012, she has been Vice President of the Olympic and Sports Committee since 2021.

She served eight years as a member of the IOC Athletes Commission and was its Vice Chairwoman from 2018 to 2021.

She also sat on the IOC Commission for Public Affairs and Social Development through Sport from 2013 to 2021 and on the Ethics Commission from 2018–2021.

She joined the board of Olympic Channel Services in 2015.

She had been a member of the Coordination Commission for the 2018 Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires and led the Coordination Commission for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympics in Lausanne.

Bartekova is currently a member of the Digital Engagement and Marketing Communications commission and Olympism 365.

From 2018 to 2021 she sat on the Executive Committee of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) and was also a member of its Athletes Committee and Foundation Board in the same period.

In 2010, she had been a Young Ambassador for the inaugural Youth Olympics held in Singapore.

She also served as ambassador for the 2022 European Youth Olympic Games in Banska Bystrica.

### 523 James Tomkins (Australia)

One of the finest rowers of all time, Tomkins was a member of the Australian four which won successive gold medals in 1992 and 1996 and earned the nickname "Oarsome Foursome".

From 1988, Tomkins competed in six successive Olympics over a twenty year period.

He switched to the coxless pairs for the 2000 Sydney Games where he won Bronze with Matthew Long and took a third Olympic Gold at the 2004 Athens Games with Drew Ginn.

His competitive swansong came in the eights in Beijing where he finished sixth after carrying the Australian flag at the Opening Ceremony.

Tomkins also won seven World Championship Gold medals and became the first to do so in all five sweep rowing events.

Tomkins had joined the Australian Olympic Committee's athletes commission in 2008, he served as a member of the IOC Athletes Commission from 2013 to 2021 and also served on the commissions for the Olympic Programme and marketing commissions, but has now joined the IOC Revenue and Commercial partnerships Commission.



**Born 19 August 1965 Sydney**

**Co-opted 3 July 2013**

**Resigned 2021**

**Sessions Attended:**

**Present 13, Absent 0**

© 2019 / IOC / MORATAL, Christophe

### 524 Kirsty Coventry (Zimbabwe)

Coventry is the most successful Olympic competitor in Zimbabwe's history.

She competed in five Olympic Games from 2000 to 2016.

Her gold medal in the 200 metres backstroke at the Athens 2004 Games was the first individual gold medal to be won by a Zimbabwean.

At the same Games she won silver in the 100m backstroke and bronze in the 200m individual medley.

She won 200m backstroke gold again at the Beijing Games and this time collected silver in both medley relays.

Her first major international title was at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games when she won the 200m medley.

Coventry also won gold in 100m and 200m backstroke at the 2005 World Championships in Montreal and 200m backstroke at the 2009 championships in Rome. She also won four golds at the 2008 World Short Course Championships in Manchester.

She also won seven African Games gold medals in 2007, added four further titles in 2011 and gold in both 100m and 200m backstroke and the 200m medley in 2015 at Brazzaville.

She served as a member of the IOC Athletes Commission from 2013 and became its Chairwoman in 2018 when she also joined the IOC Executive Board.

She was a member of the IOC Coordination Commission for the Tokyo Games and now heads the Coordination Commissions for the 2026 Youth Olympics in Dakar and the 2032 Olympics in Brisbane.

She had previously been part of the evaluation commissions for the 2022 Youth Olympics and the 2024 Olympics.

She remains a member for the IOC Commission on Olympic Solidarity and had also served on the board of Olympic Channel Services.

She was also the IOC Athlete Representative to the World Anti Doping Agency until 2021.

She had been Vice President of the Zimbabwean Olympic Committee until 2018 when she took up the role of Minister for Sport in Zimbabwe.



**Born 16 September 1983, Harare**

**Co-opted 3 July 2013**

**Attendance Ongoing**

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**Born 6 May 1978 Pau Pyrenees**

**Atlantiques**

**Co-opted 3 July 2013**

**Resigned 8 August 2021**

**Sessions Attended:**

**Present 13, Absent 0**

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### 525 Tony Estanguet (France)

Now the President of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee, he had co-Chairman of the Paris 2024 Bid Committee with the late Bernard Lapasset.

He won Canadian singles slalom gold in Sydney and Athens and after a ninth place finish in Beijing, won his third career gold at London 2012.

Estanguet had been a board member of French National Olympic Committee (CNOSF) and Chairman of the CNOSF Athletes Commission. He was also Vice President of the International Canoe Federation (ICF)

In 2010 the inaugural Youth Olympics in Singapore he was nominated as one of the Athlete Role Models (ARM). He later served as Chef de Mission for the French team at the 2014 Youth Olympics.

After becoming a member of the IOC, he served as Athletes' Commission Representative on the Executive Committee and Foundation Board and the Athlete Committee of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

He was Vice Chairman of the Athlete's Commission from 2016 to 2018 and had also been a member of the commissions for Solidarity from 2014, Sport and Environment from 2014–2015, Sustainability and Legacy from 2015 to 2018, Legal Affairs and legal affairs from 2016 to 2018.

### 526 Octavian Morariu (Romania)



A rugby union player, Morariu was capped twice by Romania in 1984–5 and later coached.

He became President of the Romanian Rugby Union Federation in 2001 and was elected Rugby Europe President in 2013.

He assumed the leadership of the Romanian Olympic Committee in 2004

He led the evaluation commission for the 2026 Winter Olympics and the co-ordination Commission for Beijing 2022 and also chairs the future host city commission.

He also sits on the IOC Commission for the future programme.

### 527 Bernard Rajzman (Brazil)



**Born 25 April 1957 Rio de Janeiro**

**Co-opted 10 September 2013**

**Attendance Ongoing**

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A three time Olympian in volleyball, he won silver at the 1984 Los Angeles Games. In a career of 17 years he appeared 540 times for the Brazilian team and was known throughout his playing career as Bernard.

He received the Olympic Order in 2003 and was inducted into the volleyball Hall of Fame in 2005.

He became a member of the Rio 2016 Olympic Organising Committee.

He was Chef de Mission of the Brazilian team at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympics.

He sat on the Entourage and later the Athletes Entourage Commissions from 2015 to 2020.

He had also been part of the Evaluation Commission for Paris 2024 and has sat on the Programme Commission in two separate terms since 2014.

He had been a congressman in Brazil and held positions in the sports ministry from 1991.

**Born 7 August 1961 Bucharest**

**Co-opted 10 September 2013**

**Attendance Ongoing**

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### 528 Mikaela "Mikee" Maria Antonia Cojuangco-Jaworski (Philippines)

Elected to the IOC Executive Board in 2020 and sits on the Coordination Commissions for Paris 2024 and Brisbane 2032, She had earlier served on the Coordination Commission for Tokyo.

She had previously served on the Evaluation Commission for the 2024 Games. Earlier she had worked on the Women and Sport Commission from 2014 to 2015, for the Olympic Channel from 2015 to 2021.

She has sat on the Digital Engagement and Marketing Communications since 2022. She joined the Olympic Education Commission in 2015 and has led it since 2019. As an equestrian she won individual gold and team silver at the 2002 Asian Games in Busan.

She became Director of the Philippines Equestrian Federation in 1999 and later served as its Secretary until 2006.

She has been a member of the Olympic Council of Asia Athletes Committee since 2011.



**Born 26 February 1974 Paniqui**  
**Co-opted 10 September 2013**  
**Attendance Ongoing**

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### 529 Aleksandr Zhukov (Russia)

President of the Russian Olympic Committee from 2010 to 2018, he played a leading role in the Organisation of the Sochi 2014 Olympics.

He served less than five years on the IOC and was suspended on December 5 2017 as a result of Russia's involvement in the doping scandal.

He had served as a member of Russia's State Duma from 1994 to 2014 and held ministerial posts. He was Deputy Prime Minister from 2004 to 2011.

He remains a member of the Russian State Duma.



**Born 1 June 1956, Moscow**  
**Co-opted 10 September 2013**  
**Resigned 29 May 2008**  
**Sessions Attended: Present 6,**  
**Absent 0**

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### 530 Paul Kibii Tergat (Kenya)

A triple Olympian, Paul Tergat won successive silver medals at 10000 metres in Atlanta and Sydney.

He became Kenyan Olympic Committee President in 2017.

He sits on the Coordination Commission for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar and is also a Board Member of the Olympic Refuge Foundation.

He was a member of the Women and Sport Commission from 2015, and say on the Olympic Channel Commission from 2015 to 2021.

He also joined the Communications Commission in 2015 and became a member of the Digital Engagement and Marketing Communications in 2022.

He had also been a member of the Sustainability and Legacy Commission.

He became part of the Education Commission in 2015 and became its Chairman in 2019.



**Born 17 June 1969 Karbarnet**  
**Co-opted 10 September 2013**  
**Attendance Ongoing**

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**Born 3 June 1950**  
**Coopted 10 September 2013**  
**Resigned 31 December 2008**  
**Sessions Attended:**  
**Present 7, Absent 0**

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### 531 Lawrence "Larry" Probst III (United States)

Elected in connection with his role as United States Olympic Committee President and was the first Chairman of the Olympic Channel Commission. Probst stood down from both roles in 2018. He had studied for a Bachelor of Science at the University of Delaware and had joined gaming giants Electronic Arts Sports in 1984. He was Chief Executive of the company from 1991 until 2007.

**Born 16 September 1973**  
**Valkenburg aan de Geul**  
**Coopted 10 September 2013**  
**Resigned 5 January 2008**  
**Sessions Attended:**  
**Present 6, Absent 0**

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### 532 Camiel Eurlings (Netherlands)

Eurlings was co-opted at the IOC Session in Buenos Aires to succeed King Willem-Alexander after his accession. Eurlings chaired the IOC's Communications Commission and Finance Commission but tendered his resignation in 2018 after he was accused of assaulting a former girlfriend. Earlier he had been a member of Parliament in the Netherlands and also sat in the European Parliament from 2004 to 2007. He served as Minister for Transport, Public Works and water management. His business career had been in aviation, first with the Dutch national carrier KLM and Air France and later with the group's association with GOL in Brazil. He also served as a Director with American Express Global Business travel and later as an associate with Knighthood Holdings, an advisory and investment company.

**Born 26 May 1976 Forshaga**  
**Elected 10 September 2013**  
**Resigned 8 August 2021**  
**Sessions Attended:**  
**Present 13, Absent 0**

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### 533 Stefan Holm (Sweden)

Holm was a three time Olympian who won high jump gold at the Athens 2004 Olympics. In a period when he was amongst the elite his event he also won silver at the World Athletics Championships in Paris. He also won four World Indoor Championship titles and remained active as a veteran. He stood down from the IOC Athletes Commission after the Tokyo Games.

## 2014

- Poul-Erik Høyer (Denmark), linked to his function as President of Badminton World Federation.

## 2015 Kuala Lumpur 3 August 2015

- Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye (Senegal), linked to his Function as President of the Senegalese Olympic Committee;
- Nenad Lalovic (Serbia), linked to his function as President of United World Wrestling.

## 2016 Rio de Janeiro 4 August 2016

- Nita Ambani (India), as an individual member;
- Sari Essayah (Finland), linked to her function within a National Olympic Committee
- Ivo Ferriani (Italy), linked to his function within as President of the International Bobsleigh and Toboggan Federation (FIBT)
- Luis Moreno (Colombia), as an individual member;
- Auvita Rapilla (Papua New Guinea), linked to her function as Secretary General of the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee
- Anant Singh (South Africa), as an individual member;
- Tricia Smith (Canada), linked to her function as President of the Canadian Olympic Committee
- Karl Stoss (Austria), as an individual member

## 2017 Lima 16 September 2017

- Baklai Temengil (Palau), as an individual member;
- Kristin Kloster Aasen (Norway), as an individual member;
- Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul (Thailand), as an individual member;
- Luis Mejia Oviedo (Dominican Republic), as an individual member;
- Neven Ivan Ilic Alvarez (Chile), linked to his function as Chilean Olympic Committee President;
- Khalid Muhammad Al Zubair (Oman), linked to his function as Oman Olympic Committee President;
- Jean-Christophe Rolland (France), linked to his function as World Rowing President;
- Ingmar de Vos (Belgium), linked to his function as International Equestrian Federation President.

## 2018 Pyeongchang 7 February 2018

- Jiří Kejval (Czech Republic), as an individual member.

## 2018 9 October 2018

- Giovanni Malagò (Italy), as an individual member;
- Felicite Rwemarika (Rwanda), as an individual member;
- Camilo Pérez López Moreira (Paraguay), as an individual member;
- Daina Gudžinevičiute (Lithuania), as an individual member;
- Samira Asghari (Afghanistan), as an individual member;
- HRH Prince Jigyel Ugyen Wangchuck (Bhutan), linked to his function as President of the Bhutan Olympic Committee;
- William Frederick Blick (Uganda), linked to his function as President of the Ugandan Olympic Committee;
- Morinari Watanabe (Japan), linked to his function as International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) President;
- Andrew Parsons (Brazil), linked to his function as International Paralympic Committee President.

## 2019 Lausanne 26 June 2019

- Odette Assembe Engoulou (Cameroon), as an individual member;
- Filomena Fortes (Cape Verde), as an individual member;
- Matlohang Moiloa-Ramoqopo (Lesotho), as an individual member;
- Tidjane Thiam (Côte d'Ivoire), as an individual member;
- Laura Chinchilla (Costa Rica), as an individual member;
- Erick Thohir (Indonesia), as an individual member;
- Spyros Capralos (Greece), as an individual member;
- Mustapha Berraf (Algeria), linked to his function as President Association of the National Olympic Committees of Africa
- Narinder Dhruv Batra (India), linked to function as President of Indian Olympic Association;
- Kee Heung Lee (South Korea), linked to his function as President of Korean Sports and Olympic Committee.

**2020 Lausanne – 10 January 2020**

- Yasuhiro Yamashita (Japan), linked to his function as President of the Japanese Olympic Committee;
- David Haggerty (USA), linked to his function as President of the International Tennis Federation;
- Gianni Infantino (Switzerland) linked to his function as President of FIFA.

**2020 Virtual Session 17 July 2020**

- Maria Colon (Cuba), individual member;
- Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović (Croatia), individual member;
- Reema Bandar Al-Saud (Saudi Arabia), individual member;
- Battushig Batbold (Mongolia), individual member;
- Sebastian Coe (Great Britain), linked to his function as President of World Athletics.

**2021 Tokyo (all Athletes Commission)**

- Pau Gasol (Spain);
- Maja Włoszczowska (Poland);
- Federica Pellegrini (Italy);
- Yuki Ota (Japan)
- Humphrey Kayange (Kenya).

**2022 Beijing (Both Athletes Commission)**

- Martin Fourcade (France);
- Frida Hansdotter (Sweden).





IOC MEMBERS OATH



139th IOC Session, Beijing, 2022  
– Election of the New IOC Members  
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AC = Andrey Chilikin, AG = Arild Gjerde, BM = Bill Mallon, CM = Connor Mah, DT = David Tarbotton, GM = George Masin, HE = Hilary Evans, IM = Ian Morrison, JH = Jeroen Heijmans, JS = Jase Stoke, OM = OlyMADMen, PT = Paul Tchir, RL = Rudolf Laky, RR = Ralf Regnitter, RS = Ralph Schlüter, SB = Sven Buren, SO = Stein Opdahl, TK = Taavi Kalju, WR = Wolf Reinhardt

### Greta Andersen (DEN)



\* 1 May 1927 in København (Copenhagen) (DEN), †6 February 2023 in Solvang, California (USA).

Greta Andersen began swimming at the age of 16 at the Triton swimming club, where she was discovered by former Olympic bronze medallist Else Jacobsen. In 1946 she switched to Denmark's Christian Gymnasiastbevægelse (DKG) where she was coached by the renowned gymnastics teacher Ingeborg Paul Petersen and swam with fellow Danish medallists Karen Margrethe Harup and Fritze Carstensen. In 1947, Andersen participated in her first European Championships in Monaco, winning bronze in the 100 m freestyle and gold in the 4×100 free relay. At the London Olympics, Andersen won gold in the 100 freestyle and a silver in the 4×100 relay. She had also been also the favourite to win the 400 free, but fainted suddenly and almost drowned because of stomach cramps in the heats, before being towed ashore by fellow competitors Nancy Lees and Elemér Szathmáry. In her autobiography Andersen attributed this incident to dysmenorrhoea. In 1949 Andersen set a world record of 58.2 in the 100 yard freestyle, which stood until 1956. At the 1950 European Championships in Vienna, she won another bronze in the 100 freestyle and silver in the 4×100 free relay. In her career Andersen won nine individual Danish championships, several team championships, and four individual Scandinavian titles. In the mid-1950s she emigrated to the United States, where she settled in Long Beach, California, and later obtained US citizenship. She then began a new career as a professional straits swimmer. She was the first person to swim a major channel both ways (Santa Catalina, California). With her six English Channel crossings during the period 1957–65, she set the record for the most Channel swims by a woman, and even won open competitions in Channel swimming while competing against men. In 1958 she crossed in 10:59 hrs a women's record for the swim. Her world records extended from 100 y (1949) to 50 miles (Chicago to Kenosha, Wisconsin in 1962). She and her husband John Sonnichsen, who she married in 1957, opened a swimming school in 1960. In 1969 she was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame (OM).



### Klaus-Michael Bonsack (GER/GDR)

\* 26 December 1941 in Waltershausen, Thüringen (GER), †5 March 2023 in Innsbruck (AUT).

Three-time Olympian Klaus-Michael Bonsack was the East German flag bearer at the 1972 Sapporo Olympics. He was one of the most successful East German lugers winning four Olympic medals: gold in 1968 with Thomas Köhler in the doubles, silver in the 1964 singles, and two bronzes in the 1968 singles and in 1972 with Wolfram Fiedler in doubles. Bonsack also won five World Champion-

ship medals with one gold (doubles in 1967), two silvers (doubles in 1965, singles in 1967), and two bronzes (singles in 1963, doubles in 1969), and also won 11 East German Championships. After his retirement he studied at the engineering high school at Schmalkalden and found a job at the scientific centre of the East German bobsleigh federation. After German reunification he became a coach for the Austrian Luge Federation where he coached, among others, the Neuner sisters Doris and Angelika. Bonsack later served as chairman of the track construction commission, approving the final homologation of Cesana Pariol prior to the 2006 Winter Olympics at Torino for luge. He was among the first three inductees in the International Luge Federation Hall of Fame in 2004, along with Paul Hildgartner and Margit Schumann (WR).

### **Tori Bowie (USA)**

\* 27 August 1990 in Jackson, Mississippi (USA), † 23 April 2023 in Winter Garden, Florida (USA).

At the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Tori Bowie won silver in the 100 metres, adding a bronze in the 200 metres, and helping the USA win gold in the 4x100 relay. This made her one of only four women (through 2020) to win a full set of medals in track & field athletics at a single Olympics. Bowie's top international victory came a year later, when she came from behind in the last few metres to win gold in the 100 metres at the World Championships in London. She also won gold in London in the 4x100 metre relay. Bowie competed at two other World Championships, winning bronze in the 100 in 2015 and finishing fourth in the long jump in 2019. She won NCAA titles in the long jump in 2011, both indoors and outdoors. She also competed at the 2014 World Indoor Championships in the long jump but failed to make the final. At the 2015 US Championships she won the 100 metres and repeated the victory in 2017. In between she won over 200 metres in 2016. Injuries limited Bowie's career after the 2019 Worlds, and she did not compete at the 2020 USA Olympic Trials. She later worked as a model for Valentino and ESPN. She was only 32-years-old when she died. On 2nd May, she was discovered at her home after not being seen for several days, her family stated 23rd April as the date she had died. (BM).



### **Ralph Boston (USA)**

\* 9 May 1939 in Laurel, Mississippi (USA), † 30 April 2023 in Peachtree City, Georgia (USA).

Until a few weeks before the 1960 Olympics, Ralph Boston was regarded as no more than an average long jumper. But in August he beat Jesse Owens' 25-year-old world record with a mark of 8.21 m and went on to take the gold medal. In 1961 he twice improved the record, becoming the first man to jump 27 feet (8.23), but then lost the record to Igor Ter-Ovanesyan of the Soviet Union in 1962. Boston equalled that mark in August 1964, broke it the following month, and in May 1965, set his last world record with 8.35. Boston won the AAU outdoor long jump for six successive seasons (1961–1966), the AAU indoor in 1961, and the Pan American Games in 1963 and 1967. Competing for Tennessee State, he won the NCAA outdoor title in 1960. Boston was also a gifted performer in other events. In 1961 he was undefeated in the high hurdles and



won the AAU indoor in 1965. He placed fourth in the 1963 Pan American Games high jump, and in that year headed the U.S. lists in the triple jump. Ralph Boston competed for a few more years after the 1968 Olympics. He was later a coordinator of minority affairs and assistant Dean of Students at the University of Tennessee from 1968–75. He also became a corporate executive, serving as president and chief executive officer of ServiceMaster Services in Stone Mountain, Georgia. Boston was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame in 1974 and into the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame in 1985 (BM).



### **Herb Douglas (USA)**

\* 9 March 1922 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA), †22 April 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (USA).

Herb Douglas of the University of Pittsburgh won the AAU outdoor long jump in 1945 and the indoor title in 1947 and 1949. At the IC4A he was the outdoor winner in 1946 and was the indoor champion three times, and he was second in the long jump at the 1947 NCAA Meet. Douglas transferred to Pittsburgh after starting at Xavier University (Louisiana), and he also played football at Pittsburgh. At Xavier he had run lead-off on their winning 4x100 relay team at the 1942 Penn Relays. The best long jump mark of his career came at the 1948 Final Trials when he jumped 7.69 but he could not match this at the Olympics and took the bronze medal. Douglas later obtained a masters' degree in education from Pitt and started a business career. He joined Schieffelin & Company in Philadelphia, later Moët Hennessy USA, and stayed with the company for 30 years. Douglas eventually became a vice-president of the company, only the third African-American vice-president of a major North American company. He later became a trustee of the University of Pittsburgh (BM).



### **Dick Fosbury (USA)**

\* 6 March 1947 in Portland, Oregon (USA), † 12 March 2023 in Salt Lake City, Utah (USA).

Dick Fosbury will be remembered more for the high jump style he perfected than for his gold medal. With his "Fosbury Flop", he completely revolutionised the event. Though now often called simply the "Flop," many Eastern European jumpers also called this style of jumping the Fosbury. While attending Oregon State he won the NCAA in 1968 and after his Olympic victory he won the title again in 1969. This was his only major post-Olympic victory and Fosbury turned professional in 1973, with limited success. Fosbury later became a civil engineer near Sun Valley, Idaho working with Galena Engineering. He also became accomplished at swing dancing and later married his swing dancing instructor. Fosbury served as President of the US Olympians Association and the World Olympians Association (BM).



### **Pavel Kharin (URS)**

\* 8 June 1927 in St. Petersburg, St. Petersburg (RUS), † 6 March 2023.

After having served in the Soviet Navy during the second world war, and had been present at the Siege of Leningrad. After the war Pavel Kharin made his breakthrough in international canoeing. Prior to taking up the sport, he had

tried football, volleyball, skiing, and athletics. He made his international début at the Olympics in 1952, where he finished 10th in the C-1 10000. He was much more successful four years later, however, winning the C-2 10000 and coming in second in the C-2 1000, both with Gratsian Botev. The following year he won the C-2 1000 and took silver in the C-2 10000 at the European Championships, both times with Aleksandr Silayev, as Botev had become ill and could not compete. Nationally, he won four titles across various distances between 1956 and 1960. For his achievements, he was awarded the title of Honoured Master of Sports in 1957. Away from the water, he was a factory worker (OM).

### Siirri Rantanen (FIN)

\*14 Dec 1924 Tohmajarvi, † 5 May 2023 Lahti

When Rantanen died at the age of 98, she was hailed as a “pioneer of women’s sports in Finland” in a tribute by national television station YLE. Finland’s IOC member Sari Essayah insisted that Rantanen was „One of Finland’s most prominent women athletes, it was easier for us to ski behind,” Rantanen was one of the first women to compete in the discipline when cross country events for women were introduced at the 1952 Oslo Winter Games. She won bronze behind compatriots Lydia Wideman and Mirja Hietamies in a Finnish clean sweep of the medals in the 10 kilometres race at the Games. Rantanen had finished fast to claim the bronze in 42.50 only three seconds ahead of the fourth place finisher Marta Norberg of Sweden. Two years later at the International Ski Federation (FIS) World Championships in Falun, Rantanen teamed up with Hietamies and Sirkka Polkunen to win silver in the 3 x 5 km relay, the first time a women’s event had been included. She also won silver in the individual 10 kilometres event four days later. At the 1956 Olympics in Cortina D’Ampezzo, again with Hietamies and Polkunen, she skied the anchor leg to take the Finnish team to gold in the 3x5 km. She skied the anchor leg and overtook Radiya Yeroshina of the Soviet Union with less than 1800 metres remaining and eventually crossed the line with a winning margin of 27 seconds. She had earlier finished fifth in the individual 10 km, which was still the only other race for women. At the 1958 FIS Nordic World Championships in Lahti, she added a further bronze in the 10 kilometres and another relay silver, this time with Toini Pöysti and Pirkko Korkee. At Squaw Valley, Rantanen led the team off to relay bronze at her third and final Olympics. In 1962 at the age of 37, she won her World Championship medal, a bronze in the 3x5 km relay. Rantanen worked as an upholsterer but continued to ski after her international career was over. She was also a successful cross country runner who won three Finnish titles. She was the best female competitor in the “Finlandia Hiihto”, an annual ski marathon in 1976 and 1977 and continued to take part in the event until 1996 when she was 71 years of age. She remained an active skier into her 80s. In 2009 she received the Great Cross of Merit for Finnish Sports Culture, the highest decoration in Finnish sport. She died in a nursing home in Lahti.





### Vera Kalashnikova-Krepkina (URS)

\* 15 April 1933 in Kotelnich, Kirov (RUS), †25 April 2023 in Kyiv,(UKR).

Vera Krepkina (née Kalashnykova) was one of the top Soviet female sprinters in the 1950s. During her career, Krepkina competed at three consecutive Olympics, starting in 1952, and was fourth with the Soviet 4×100 relay team three times. She was also eliminated in the quarter-finals of the 100 metres in 1952 and 1956, and in the first round of the 100 in 1960, but the highlight of her career came in the 1960 Olympic long jump, where she won a surprising gold medal. Before the 1960 Olympics, Krepkina had competed rarely in long jump although she had won a competition at the 1959 USA-USSR international match held in Philadelphia. At the Olympics, Krepkina was not considered a favourite, but after taking the lead in the third round of the final with 6.22 metres, she improved to 6.37m in round four. It remained her personal best in the discipline. Krepkina won the gold medal defeating defending champion Elżbieta Krzesińska of Poland and world record holder Hiltrun Claus from Germany. Krepkina had earlier competed at two European Championships during her career, winning a 4×100m relay gold in 1954 and 1958, and a 100m silver in 1958. Krepkina also set four world records. In 1958 she equaled the 100 world record of 11.3; was a member of two Soviet squads which set 4×100m relay world records – 45.6 in 1953 and 45.2 in 1956; and in 1953 ran on a 4×200 relay team that recorded 1:36.4. Krepkina won eight Soviet titles – 100 in 1952, 1957 and 1958; 200 in 1952; 4×100 relay in 1952, 1960 and 1965; and 4×200 relay in 1952. Krepkina worked as a children's coach in Ukraine after retiring from competitive athletics (PT).



### Pat McCormick (USA)

\* 12 May 1930 in Seal Beach, California (USA), †7 March 2023 in Santa Ana, California (USA).

With victories in both the springboard and platform at the 1952 and 1956 Olympics, Pat McCormick of the United States became the first woman diver in history to win three Olympic gold medals. Her double-double Olympic diving victories have been matched only by Greg Louganis among the men. Her second double victory at Melbourne came only five months after the birth of her son. McCormick won 17 AAU titles: Outdoor – 1950–51, 1953–56 1-metre springboard; 1950–51, 1953–56 3-metre springboard; and 1949–51, 1954, 1956 platform; Indoor – 1951–55 1-metre springboard; and 1951–52, 1954–55 3-metre springboard. At the Pan American Games she won three gold in springboard (1955) and platform (1951 and 1955) and one silver in springboard (1951). Her husband, Glenn McCormick, was the AAU champion on the platform in 1950–51 and her daughter, Kelly, competed for the United States at the 1984 and 1988 Olympics, winning a silver in 1984 and a bronze in 1988, both on the springboard (BM).



### Vladimir Morozov (URS)

\* 4 March 1940 in Türkmenbaşy (TKM), †8 February 2023.

Vladimir Morozov was a Soviet sprint canoeist. He trained at the Armed Forces sports society in Krasnovodsk and later in Kiev. Morozov began canoeing in 1957 and was chosen for the Soviet team in 1963. He won gold medals for the

Soviet Union at three consecutive Olympics between 1964 and 1972, with the kayak fours in 1964 and 1972 and with the kayak doubles in 1968. Morozov also won six medals at the World Championships with three golds (kayak fours 1.000 m in 1970 and 1971; kayak fours 10.000 m in 1966, two silvers (kayak relay 4x500 m in 1963, kayak fours 1.000 m in 1973), and a bronze (kayak fours 1.000 m in 1966). At Europeans he added two golds and both one silver and bronze. Morozov was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labour in 1969 and 1972 (WR).

### Bob Richards (USA)

\* 20 February 1926 in Champaign, Illinois (USA), †26 February 2023 in Waco, Texas (USA).

Bob Richards was the second man to vault 15 feet and, like the first over this height, Cornelius "Dutch" Warmerdam, he dominated the event for a number of years. Richards is the only man in history to win two Olympic gold medals in the pole vault, and these came after an Olympic bronze in 1948. Unlike many champions in this event, he was not an outstanding collegiate athlete, and while at Illinois, his best placing at the NCAA meet came in 1947 when he was in a six-way tie for first. However, he went on to win the AAU title a record nine times and won eight AAU indoor crowns. He was also American Games champion in the Pan-American Games in 1951 and 1955. Richards was also a top decathlete, winning the AAU title three times and the All-Around Championship once. In the 1955 Pan American Games decathlon he won the silver medal. In 1956 he made the Olympic team in the decathlon but, hampered by an injury, did not finish. Richards later became a familiar face on TV. He did sports commentary and was a commercial spokesman for Wheaties. He formed his own company that specialised in motivational speaking and film producing. He had a brief, unsuccessful foray into politics and ran for US President in 1984 on the Populist Party ticket. He received 66,324 votes and but no electoral votes. A church minister, and therefore known as the "Vaulting Vicar", lost his family record of 4.72 in the pole vault when his son, Bob, Jr., cleared 5.33 in 1973 (BM).



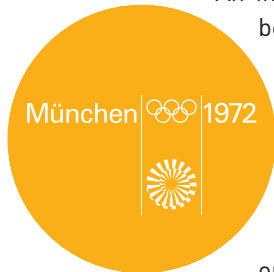
### Jeremy Robert "Jim" Fox (GBR)

\*19 September 1941 Pewsey Wiltshire, †28 April 2023

Fox was a trailblazer for modern pentathlon in Britain and hit global headlines in 1976 when he revealed a major scandal at the Montreal Olympics before winning team gold. He was competing in the fencing round when he came up against Boris Onishchenko, a soldier in the Soviet army. As a result of Fox's intervention, it was discovered that Onishchenko had tampered with his weapon and he was disqualified. Fox won team gold with Adrian Parker and Danny Nightingale. An army sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, he was the outstanding competitor at national level for over a decade and competed in four Olympic Games finally fulfilling his ambition. He was first made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) and later invested with the Order of the British Empire (OBE). Fox was later a much respected chairman of Pentathlon GB. He suffered a degenerative disease in the later part of his life but remained a very popular figure in British sport.



## Scholars Revisit Events of Munich 1972



An international team of researchers have begun a special research project to re-examine the tragic events at the 1972 Munich Olympics when 11 Israeli team members and a policeman died as the result of a terror attack. “The fact that the commission to examine and reappraise the 1972 attack on the Israeli Olympic team in Munich is beginning its work sends an important signal,” German Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser said.

The attack has left deep wounds, It is shameful that agonising questions were left unresolved for far too long. For much too long, there was a lack of understanding or reappraisal of the events, transparency about them or acceptance of responsibility for them.”

The commission was announced last year at events in Munich to mark the 50th anniversary of the at-

tack and represents the final part of an agreement with the families of the victims.

“Now, the events surrounding this terrible attack will finally be examined thoroughly and transparently,” pledged Faeser.

“The research findings should deliver answers to the many unresolved questions – answers which the German government has owed the victims’ family members and the public for more than 50 years.”

The research group is made up of Professor Ofer Ashkenazi, Associate Professor of History and Director at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Professor Dr. Shlomo Spiro at Bar-Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Dr. Shulamit Volkov, Professor Emerita of Modern European History at Tel Aviv University, Margit Szöllösi-Janze formerly Professor of Contemporary History at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich, Dr. Petra Terhoeven Professor of European Culture and Contemporary History at the Georg-August University of Göttingen and Professor Klaus Weinhauer Professor of History at Bielefeld University, Dr. Michael Brenner Professor of Jewish History and Culture at the Ludwig-Maximilians University of Munich and Director of the Center for Israel Studies at the American University in Washington and Christopher Young Professor of Modern and Mediaeval German Studies at Pembroke College, Cambridge who has studied the impact of the Munich Games on modern Germany.

“The commission will also rigorously examine the period before and after the attacks. It is particularly important to me for their work to also thoroughly address the treatment of the victims’ family members as well as issues related to the culture of remembrance,” Faeser said.

The Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community has entrusted The Leibniz Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ) has been put in charge of coordinating the research and is setting up a special office to organise and provide support for this project.



Wreaths at the Foot of the Control Tower at Fürstenfeldbrück

# NEWS

## Olympians at the Coronation

By Philip Barker in Whitehall

Olympians from Australia and Great Britain both played their part in the Coronation of King Charles III in London. Chelsea striker Sam Kerr had been chosen to carry the Australian flag at Westminster Abbey during the Coronation Service. Then for the Procession, The Princess Royal took the ceremonial role of “Gold Stick in Waiting” and rode behind the King’s carriage in the procession from the Abbey to Buckingham Palace. The Princess had competed in the 1976 Olympics in eventing and later became British Olympic Association President and a member of the International Olympic Committee.

The parade made its way along Whitehall and into the Mall under Admiralty Arch which had been decorated with the words “Happy and Glorious” from the National Anthem.

The words had been used by then International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Jacques Rogge in his closing speech at the 2012 London Olympics.



The Princess Royal  
as Gold Stick in waiting

## Return of the Rings to Athens Stadium



The Olympic Rings have returned to the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens after an absence of almost twelve years. They have once again been positioned beneath the trees at the far end of the stadium from the main entrance. "It is a great moment for the Hellenic Olympic Committee and I cannot hide my joy but also my emotion, because the symbol of the Olympic Games has returned to the place where they had been after many years," said Hellenic Olympic Committee President Spyros Capralos. "Now all Greeks and foreigners who visit the Panathenaic Stadium will remember the presence of the Olympic Circles, where historic sporting events took place. We had to overcome many obstacles for the placement of the Olympic Rings and I have to thank the Ministry of Culture for issuing the relevant permits." Capralos paid tribute to Hellenic Archery Federation President and HOC member Petros Synadinos. "He personally dealt with the issue and had a decisive contribution to their placement."

The project was carried out with the backing of HOC gold sponsor Mytilineos.SA and supporters Sidonor.SA. The stadium dates back to the fourth century BC but was restored for the first Olympics of

the modern era in 1896 with the financial backing of Georgios Averoff, an expatriate Greek businessman. During the Games, athletics, gymnastics, weightlifting and wrestling were all held there. The 1906 Olympic Games held in the stadium to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the revival. The Olympic Rings had not yet been introduced. In 1936, the stadium was also the setting for a Ceremony to formally entrust the Olympic Torch to representatives of the Host City, a tradition which has continued at most Olympic Games since then.

In 1996, the rings were illuminated for a special commemoration to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first Olympics attended by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch. A re-enactment of the athletics events from the first Modern Olympics was held in the stadium, conducted as far as possible under the sporting regulations in force in 1896. A symbolic Torch Relay was conducted in the stadium featuring runners representing each nation which had hosted the modern Olympics in the its first century.

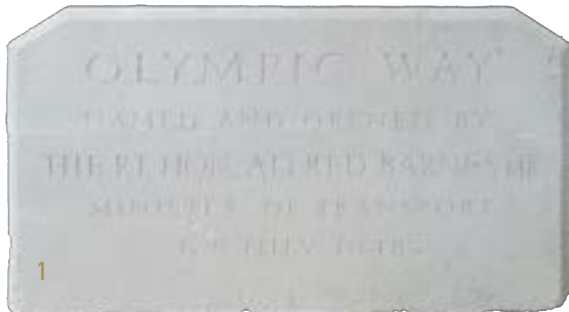
During the 2004 Athens Olympics, archery and the finish of the marathons took place in the stadium. The Handover Ceremony for Paris 2024 is expected to take place in the there next year.



The rings have returned to the stadium

© Hellenic Olympic Committee

# Then and Now: Wembley Plaques remember 1948 Olympics



1

Commemorative plaques have been unveiled at Wembley to mark the beginning and end of Olympic Way, inaugurated for the 1948 Olympic Games. A stone tablet was originally placed at the start of Olympic Way close to the Wembley Park Underground Station in 1948. The plaque was rediscovered last year by sports journalist and historian Mike Collett but it was in a poor state of repair. Wembley Park developers Quintain were persuaded to restore the plaque to its former state and also commissioned a companion piece by sculptor Louis Russell which has placed at the foot of the new steps which lead to the main entrance to the stadium. The inscription informs visitors that the stadium was the venue for the 1948 Olympics. The original building project for Olympic Way had been supervised by the Wembley Council's chief engineer Walter Steedman. His daughter Margaret Winter was a guest at the unveiling of the plaques. "I am very happy that it has been restored and that more notice is being taken of it and the part it played in the history of Wembley," Mrs Winter said. "It was obviously a very big project for him because he talked a lot about it when he came home and I never remember him talking about other work, and it was a big thing that the Olympics were coming to London."



2

1 Olympic way restored.

2 Mr. Alfred Barnes, Minister of Transport, making his speech.



3

3 Mayor Abdi Eden joins Mike Collett and Margaret Winter to view the restored plaque.

4 The men who are making possible the staging of the Olympic Games at Wembley are seen inspecting the tunnel.



4



5

5 The companion plaque unveiled at the stadium end of Olympic Way.

## “The Olympic Museum at Departure Gate number 8”

An exhibition promoting Estonia's Olympic history has opened at Tallinn Airport to mark 100 years since the foundation of Estonia's National Olympic Committee (NOC). It has been placed at departure gate number eight and has been



created in association with the Estonian Sports and Olympic Museum.

“Turning one gate at Tallinn Airport into an Olympic history display is certainly unique; nothing of a kind was attempted by museums in Estonia or abroad before on such a scale,” said museum director Siim Randoja. “We hope this project will increase the general public's awareness about important sports history values and the importance of an active lifestyle.” An interactive display is also included to promote Estonia's Be Active Year. Physical activity is one of the core aspects of health, and airport visitors will now have a nice opportunity to move around instead of sitting while they wait for their flight. It is good to know we can educate millions of people passing through the airport about the history of sports in our country,” said NOC President Urmas Sõõrumaa. There is also a fitness challenge on the Reaction Wall developed with advice from 2008 Olympic discus champion Gerd Kanter.

Visitors can also take a virtual tour of the permanent sports museum located in Tartu, which is a member of the Olympic Museums Network. This is presented by Estonian 400m hurdles record holder and Olympian Rasmus Mägi. The airport exhibition is expected to remain in place until the Paris Olympics.





Tallinn airport Olympic museum

© Philip Barker

**OLYMPIA. A CULTURAL HISTORY**

JUDITH M. BARRINGER  
 ISBN 9780691210476  
 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS,  
 PRINCETON/OXFORD 2021 PP. 281, 38,00 \$,  
 REVIEWED BY CHRISTIAN WACKER



The memory of ancient Olympia lives on in the form of the modern Olympic Games. But in the ancient era, Olympia was renowned for far more than its athletic contests. In *Olympia*, Judith Barringer provides a comprehensive and richly illustrated history of one of the most important sites in the ancient Greek and Roman world, where athletic competitions took place alongside — and were closely connected with — crucial religious and political activities.

Barringer describes the development of the Altis, the most sacred area of Olympia, where monuments to athletes successful in the games joined those erected to the gods and battlefield victories. Rival city-states and rulers-built monuments to establish eminence, tout alliances, and join this illustrious company in a rich intergenerational dialogue. The political importance of Olympia was matched by its place as the largest sanctuary dedicated to Zeus, king of the gods. Befitting Zeus's role as god of warfare, the Olympian oracle was consulted to ensure good omens for war, and the athletic games embodied the fierce competition of battle. Other gods and heroes were worshipped at Olympia too, Hera, Artemis, and Herakles among them.

Drawing on a comprehensive knowledge of the archaeological record, Barringer describes the

full span of Olympia's history, from the first monumental building around 600 BCE to the site's gradual eclipse in the late Christianized Roman empire. Extensively illustrated with maps and diagrams, *Olympia* brings the development of Olympia vividly to life for modern readers.

A comprehensive and richly illustrated history of one of the most important athletic, religious, and political sites in the ancient Greek and Roman world. "She presents complex and controversial topics in a way that will satisfy the scholar and the general reader alike."

**SPUREN AUF DEM EIS (TRACES ON ICE)  
THE BERND WAGNER COLLECTION**

VOLKER KLUGE/ BERND WAGNER  
 ISBN 978-3-00-071155-8  
 REVIEWED BY MARKUS OSTERWALDER



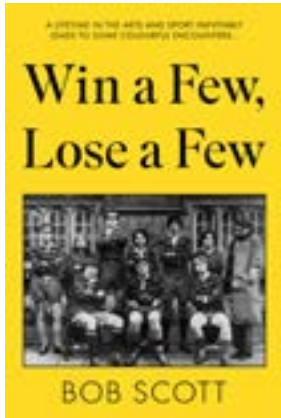
„Traces on Ice“ is a pictorial retrospective that delves into the captivating history of figure skating at the Olympic Games, focusing on the male and female athletes who have participated throughout the years.

In 236 pages of captivating content, this book is written in German and accompanied by hundreds of illustrations that bring the stories to life. It tells the tale of figure skating through the remarkable collection of Bernd Wagner, who dedicated his life to this passion. Within its pages, readers will encounter prominent items such as Sonja Henie's doll, Anett Pötzsch's winner's diploma from Lake Placid 1980, Dorothy Hamill's medal, Katharina Witt's accreditation, and a signed autograph card from Patrick Chan, the three-time Olympic meda-

list. Whether you are a devoted figure skating fan or simply appreciate the artistry of the sport, this book is a captivating journey that shouldn't be missed

### WIN A FEW LOSE A FEW

SIR BOB SCOTT  
ISBN: 9781914471735  
BOOK GUILD  
£12.99 204 PP  
REVIEWED BY PHILIP BARKER



The voice of the author is unmistakable through this autobiographical memoir.

Sir Bob Scott became a familiar figure to the Olympic world in the late 1980s as he spearheaded two ultimately unsuccessful bids from Manchester for the Olympics. Two trenchant chapters detail the campaigns made by the city. In his story of the bid for the 1996 Games, eventually awarded to Atlanta. Scott recounts his encounter with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Manchester bid again for the 2000 Games and came a distant runner up to Sydney and Beijing.

There are stories of encounters with many interesting personalities, among them a young Russian official called Vladimir Putin. After the double disappointments with Manchester, Scott became a key figure in bringing the 2002 Commonwealth Games to Manchester. The success of those Games proved a considerable factor in the ultimate decision to award the 2012 Olympics to London. Scott does however offer an intriguing postscript to his bidding experience.

"If the BOA had stuck with Manchester, then I believe the Games would eventually have come to Manchester and the North West for the same reason they are going to Brisbane in 2032."

### A HISTORY OF SPORT IN EUROPE IN 100 OBJECTS

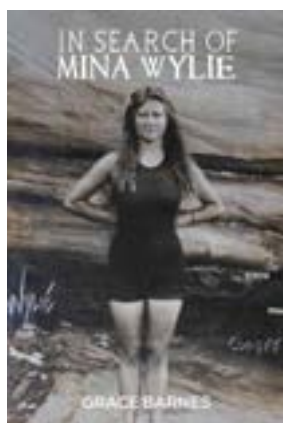
DAPHNÉ BOLZ / MICHAEL KRÜGER  
ARETE VERLAG, HILDESHEIM 2023  
PP. 440, 50,00 EUR, ISBN 978-3-96423-107-9  
REVIEWED BY CHRISTIAN WACKER



Modern sport originated in Europe. During the age of Enlightenment, gymnastics and athletics from Antiquity were rediscovered and changed into new cultural and educational forms, which shaped both the body and the mind. The industrialisation of Britain and Europe eventually introduced organisational patterns that gave 'sport' not only a name, but also a new structure. This was a distinctive product of European civilisation, which spread across the modern world. The 100 objects that are collected here are both material objects and forms of communication which explore the transformation and diversity of sports, games and physical education in Europe whether for training, performing or as part of other forms of celebration or festivity. This book is the first attempt to create a kaleidoscopic history of European sport through its rich material culture and emerged from a desire to develop transnational research in sports history. 110 authors from 39 countries have participated in a genuinely pan-European project, introducing the reader to the fascinating range of people, institutions and places which made up the world of modern European sport.

**ALSO RECEIVED:****WYLIE  
IN SEARCH OF MINA**

GRACE BARNES  
AUSTIN MACAULEY PUBLISHERS  
ISBN: 9781398437715



In 1912, amid growing feminist and nationalist movements, the Australian public united behind a fundraiser to send two swimmers to Stockholm to compete in the Olympics for the first time.

Mina Wylie from Coogee in Sydney was one of those women, and after winning silver at the 1912 Olympics, she became one of the greatest swimmers Australia had ever produced.

Her career coincided with a growing view of beach culture and swimming as essential to a uniquely Australian way of life, and Mina became a role model for the strong and healthy 'Australian girl'.

One of the first female sports celebrities, she embodied the new "modern" woman as she travelled Europe and the US, living an independent lifestyle and defying societal conventions.

In 1975, Mina was elected an honoree to the Florida-based International Swimming Hall of Fame. When her application to the federal government for reimbursement to attend the induction ceremony was denied, another nationwide fundraiser put Mina back in the spotlight. 60 years after the Australian public sent Mina to the Stockholm Olympics, the populace welcomed the forgotten champion and sent her to Florida to take her place among the greats of international swimming. The book rediscovers Mina Wylie, a woman who twice inspired a nation sixty years apart. And a woman determined not to be written out of Australian sporting history.



München | 1972



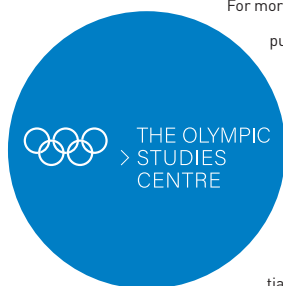
©Mel Watman

#### WHEN STAN MET JESSE

Stan Greenberg's recollections about the 1948 Games can be found elsewhere in the journal but here is a memorable photo taken by the late Mel Watman, the much respected athletics historian. "We had been looking around the athlete's village had been looking around when Mel recognised Owens and pointed him out to me," Stan recalled. "Owens was there as representative of the American President. He had been my "idol" for years, and I went up to him and said that I had never done anything like this before, but would he kindly shake my hand. Jesse was quite delighted to do so, and Mel photographed it. It has pride of place in my study."

Owens was an honoured guest at many Games. At the Munich 1972 Olympics, he could be seen in television pictures of the memorial service. The Montreal 1976 Games were the last he attended as Owens died in 1980 at the early age of 66.

## The Journal of Olympic History is now accessible to all



For more than 30 years, the Journal of Olympic History (JOH) has been publishing insights into Olympic history, curiosities about Olympic sport, its athletes, and organisers. Counting on the contribution of our valued members and Olympic historians from all corners of the world, the journal has become an important source of information on the history and legacy of the Olympic Games. Until recently it was only available as a printed document, which limited the reach for a potentially global audience.

As a result of a close cooperation between the International Society of Olympic Historians (ISOH) and the IOC's Olympic Studies Centre (OSC), 85 issues of the JOH have now been digitised and are freely available for online consultation. The total of 1300 short and long entries are accessible via the ISOH site <https://isoh.org/archives-journal/>. The OSC broadens the reach to 734 longer articles via the Olympic World Library (OWL) <https://library.olympics.com>, its library catalogue dedicated to Olympic literature which serves a global audience of students, scholars and professional. Only the editions of the last two years are uploaded with a corresponding delay; these are exclusively available to members of the ISOH only.

### Various Journals of Olympic History in recent years

© Archive Osterwalder



## Editorial

### CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

Paris 2024 is fast approaching and we want to reflect as much of the Olympic history of the World as possible. Please consider writing something for the journal. Please do not worry if English is not your mother tongue, we can offer guidance on this.

### ENGAGE WITH ISOH ONLINE & IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Visit us on [www.isoh.org](http://www.isoh.org). The site now includes all Journal of Olympic History articles through 2020 searchable by term as a free service available to anyone interested. ISOH members can logon to access their subscription area, and also access the remainder of the JOH editions since 2021, and other services.

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Inside page – London 1948 75 years On: © IOC

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temporary exhibition

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up to March 3 2024

It is 75 years since Trinidad and Tobago first competed in the Olympic Games at the London 1948 Olympics. A frieze on the waterfront in Port of Spain depicts every Olympic medallist since weightlifter Rodney Wilkes won silver in the featherweight class in 1948.

In 1976 Hasely Crawford's victory in the men's 100 metres was the first by a Trinidadian athlete. Keshorn Walcott was the second individual champion when he won javelin gold in 2012. The 4x100 metres medal from Beijing 2008 is portrayed on the frieze as silver but in 2022 the medal was upgraded to gold by the International Olympic Committee.



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