



Munich, 5th September 2022

Report of the 2022 General Assembly

The annual meeting of the ISOH took place this year in Munich on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1972 Olympic Games from 2nd to 4th September. ISOH was a guest in the historically authentic ambience of forum2 within the Olympic Village.

All members and some guests were invited to attend the event in person or online, as all lectures and discussions were streamed. A well-balanced programme was offered with a lecture by San Charles Haddad on the historical dimension of Israeli-Palestinian Olympic relations, a hitherto unknown collection of press photographs of the Olympic Games in Munich was presented by Markus Osterwalder, the Munich architect Maya Reiner guided the ISOH group through the Olympic Park, David Wallechinsky gave a moving speech at the memorial site of the assassination and several offers were made to exchange ideas directly over Bavarian food.

These annual ISOH meetings have become central to the networking of Olympic historians and indispensable to the essence of the Society.

Storytelling and writing Olympic history thrives on discourse and dialogue, which is why offering a meeting once a year (physical and online) is essential for the further development of our networks and the ISOH. In the future, too, only venues that have written, are writing or are preserving Olympic history will be selected. ISOH is not only concerned with preserving and disseminating Olympic history, but also with promoting and advertising the collection of Olympic memories, souvenirs and memorabilia. Olympic sites also have an important role to play here, preserving and passing on memories. They are sites of Olympic cultural heritage and must be protected and preserved.

The following topics were presented at the General Assembly.

1. Statistics on members: ISOH currently has a total of 531 members. Of these, 477 regular, 51 patrons and 3 honorary members. Our members come from 56 countries on all 5 continents. 227 from Europe, 186 from the Americas, 30 from Asia, 29 from Oceania and 5 from Africa. Most members come from the United States of America, followed by Germany, Great Britain, Australia and Canada.

2. Digitisation projects: ISOH has successfully implemented its first digitisation projects. All issues of the JOH are freely accessible to all on the ISOH website and can be searched in full text. A large part of the JOH is also already available in the Olympic World Library. All future editions of the JOH will also be offered as open source, but with a delay of two years, during which our members should be able to enjoy the current editions. The JOH itself has been offered digitally for some time, and according to a survey, about 70% of the members will make use of it. This noticeably reduces the need for postal deliveries and the print run.

After the ISOH had already been active in social media for a few months in 2016, an initiative by Nicholas Wolaver to reactivate these activities was discussed positively. A stronger presence of the ISOH in social media will be the consequence and we will cordially invite all members and interested parties to support us in this.

3. News on the JOH: After more than a decade as editor of the JOH, Volker Kluge has retired from this position. His successor is Philip Barker, who was unanimously nominated by the ISOH Board and has already started his work. In future, the journal will be produced and delivered by Harrassowitz Verlag.

Safe the date:

The next General Assembly will take place in Colorado Springs in October 2023.