

# The Biographies of all IOC-Members

## Part VIII



### No. 142 | Miguel Moisés **SÁENZ** | Mexico

**IOC member:** No. 142

**Born:** 13 February 1888, Monterrey/Mexico

**Co-opted:** 25 July 1928

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Gómez de Paranda

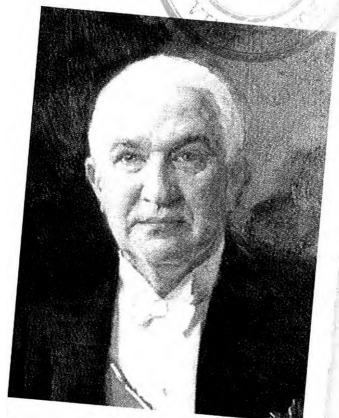
**Died:** 24 October 1941, Lima/Peru

**Resigned:** 7 June 1933

**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 4

As a distinguished student at local schools and Colleges he was given a government grant to continue his studies abroad. He attended Washington & Jefferson and Columbia University in America and the Sorbonne in Paris. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree at Washington & Jefferson and a Bachelor of Arts degree at Columbia. On his return to Mexico, he held various government posts in the field of education which led to his being appointed the Minister of Education. He spent time studying the habits of the indigenous Indians in Canada and later in South America where he visited Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia. He wrote books on his experiences in both locations. In 1934 he was appointed Ambassador to Ecuador, the following year he became Ambassador to Denmark and in 1937 he was made Ambassador to Peru. This proved to be his final diplomatic post as he died in Lima four years after his appointment.

He was the organiser of Mexico's first Olympic participation in 1924 and of the Central American Games in 1926. Although he was unable to attend any of the four IOC Sessions held during his mandate he was the first Mexican IOC member who truly embraced the Spirit of Olympism.



### No. 143 | Friedrich **AKEL** | Estonia

**IOC member:** No. 143

**Born:** 24 August 1871, Pärnumael/Estonia

**Co-opted:** 25 July 1928

**Attendance at Session**

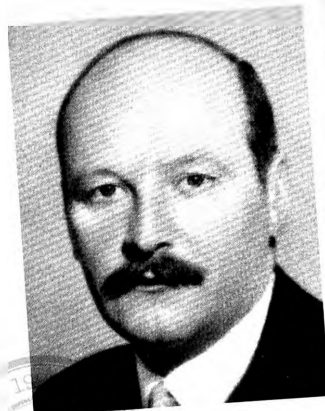
**Died:** 2 July 1941, Tallinn/Estonia

**Resigned:** 28 July 1932

**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 3

Educated at Tartu University, he was a fluent Linguist, an asset which served him well in his chosen political career. He served as Foreign Minister in several cabinets, was briefly the Head of Government from March to December 1924 and was also the Estonian Ambassador to a number of countries and was he decorated by the governments of Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Finland, Sweden, Germany and France. His varied ministerial and diplomatic duties allowed him little time to pursue his profession as an oculist.

He was a member of the Estonian Olympic Committee but did not attend any of the three IOC Sessions held during his mandate. He was also Chairman of 'Kalev', the country's leading sports Club. Soon after the Russian Invasion he was arrested on 17 November 1940 and, after spending eight months in a prison camp, he was executed by a NKVD firing squad.



### No. 144 | Theodor **SCHMIDT** | Austria

**IOC member:** No. 144

**Born:** 3 August 1891, Vienna/Austria

**Co-opted:** 25 July 1928

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Martin Haudek

**Died:** 18 October 1973, Vienna/Austria

**Resigned:** 13 March 1938

**Present:** 12 **Absent:** 0

After studying law at the University of Innsbruck he spent one year at Oxford University in England. During the war he served as a lieutenant in the Dragoons in the defence of Kärnten Province and in 1918 he became a partner in the family business. In 1928 he was nominated by the government as Austria's Olympic attaché for the Winter Games in St. Moritz and the Summer Games in Amsterdam. The following year he became President of the Austrian General Association for Physical Sports and revitalised a rather ineffectual organization.

He accompanied a small Austrian team to Los Angeles for the 1932 Games and in 1933 he helped organise the highly successful IOC Session in Vienna. On 19 June 1935 the Austrian General Association

ciation for Physical Sports was officially renamed the Austrian Olympic Committee and although Schmidt continued as President, this new found independence for Austrian Olympic interests was to be short-lived.

As President of the new NOC, Schmidt's enthusiasm for Olympism continued and he was one of the 219 Austrian sportsmen who carried the Olympic torch on its way to Berlin in 1936. While Schmidt was attending the IOC Session in Cairo in March 1938, German troops marched into Austria. Schmidt immediately returned home but, as a Jew, he quickly recognised the future dangers and after a few days took a train to Rome where he remained until 1940. He managed to make his way to the USA where he lectured at the University of Chicago and worked as a Journalist. While in America he made contact with Brundage but was coolly received. Schmidt then spent some time in the Dominican Republic where he served as the Austrian Consul before finally returning to Austria in 1955.

The circumstances of his departure from the IOC are far from straightforward. The annexation of Austria into the German Reich was completed on 13 March 1938 and as Austria ceased to exist as a separate country from that date, Schmidt was, in theory, no longer eligible to be a member of the IOC. However, it should be noted that exceptions had been made in similar cases in the past and Prince Ouroussoff remained the member for Russia until his death in 1933 even though Russia had ceased to exist as a separate entity in 1917.

The first indication that any positive action had been taken on Schmidt's status came in issue No. 1 of *Olympische Rundschau* published in April 1938. The name of Schmidt is missing from the list of IOC members published in the journal and this was almost certainly an arbitrary decision taken by the German editors without any consultation with Baillet-Latour or the IOC.



## No. 145 | Lord Bernard Cyril **FREYBERG** | New Zealand

**IOC member:** No. 145

**Born:** 21 March 1889, London, England

**Co-pted:** 27 July 1928

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Joseph Firth

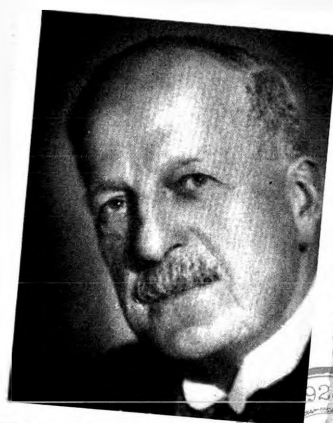
**Died:** 4 July 1963, Windsor, England

**Resigned:** 23 May 1930

**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 1

Born in England, he went to New Zealand for schooling at Wellington College and went on to serve as Governor-General of New Zealand (1946-1952). He is, however, best remembered as New Zealand's most distinguished soldier. In August 1914, he was in California when World War I broke out but he immediately went to England to enlist in the armed forces. During the war he won the highest of all gallantry decorations, the Victoria Cross (VC), and was twice awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO), another notable decoration for valour. In World War I he was wounded three times and in World War II, as Commander in Chief of the New Zealand Forces, he was wounded three more times and was awarded his third DSO in 1945. He was knighted in 1942 and raised to the peerage in 1946.

As long distance swimmer he made a number of attempts to conquer English Channel and nearly succeeded in August 1925 when he came within 500 yards of Dover before the tide turned against him. On his return to England in 1952, Freyberg was appointed Deputy Constable and Lieutenant Governor of Windsor Castle.



## No. 146 | Sir George **McLAREN BROWN** | Canada

**IOC member:** No. 146

**Born:** 29 January 1865, Hamilton/Ontario

**Co-pted:** 27 July 1928

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Gómez de Paranda

**Died:** 28 June 1939, Hamilton/Ontario

**Resigned:** 28 June 1939

**Present:** 3 **Absent:** 9

Educated at Hamilton Grammar School and Upper Canada College, Toronto, he began his business career with the Northern & North West Railway before joining the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in 1887. His advancement within CPR was only interrupted by World War I and he was the European General Manager of the company from 1910 to 1936.

During the war he served, with the rank of Colonel, as Assistant Director-General of Movements and Railways and in 1919 he was knighted by the British Government for his wartime services. His London-based appointment with CPR left him well placed to serve Canada's Olympic interests although his European domicile precluded him from ever holding high Office within the Canadian Olympic Association.

## No. 147 | Ignacy MATUSZEWSKI | Poland

**IOC member:** No. 147

**Born:** 10 September 1891, Warsaw/Poland

**Co-opted:** 22 July 1928

**Attendance at Session**

New 2<sup>nd</sup> seat

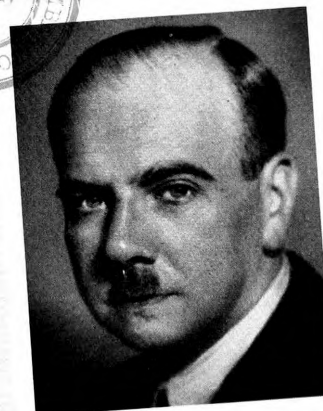
**Died:** 13 August 1946, New York/USA

**Resigned:** 13 August 1946

**Present:** 8 **Absent:** 4

After studying at the Faculty of Philosophy at the Jagiellonian University he served in the Russian Army from 1914-1917 after which he held a number of high positions in the Polish Ministry of Military Affairs. In 1924 he was appointed military attache in Rome and after two years he returned home to become a Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs (1916-1928). This led to an appointment as the Polish Minister in Budapest and from 1929-1931 he was State Treasurer (Minister of Finance). Because of his wide experience, he was given the responsibility for the evacuation of Polish Bank gold when Germany declared war in September 1939.

From 1931 he was the publisher and editor of *Gazeta Polska* and after being taken prisoner by the Soviets in World War II, he managed to escape and lived in France, Spain and Portugal before settling in the USA where he subsequently died. In 1928 he married Halina Konopacka who won the gold medal in the discus at the Amsterdam Games that year.



## No. 148 | Don Alfredo EWING y Açuna | Chile

**IOC member:** No. 148

**Born:** 22 November 1876, Santiago/Chile

**Co-opted:** 8 April 1929

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Matte Gormaz

**Died:** 11 January 1934, Santiago/Chile

**Resigned:** 7 June 1933

**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 3

He entered Military school in 1890 and after a distinguished military career he retired with the rank of General in 1925. In 1908 he was sent to Germany to further his military studies and after his return he was an instructor in tactics at the Military Academy. He later became director of the Academy and was highly praised for his work. In 1915 he began a three-year posting as military attache at the Chilean Embassy in Washington where he wrote many interesting articles on the participation of the USA in World War I. After Washington, he was appointed military attaché in London and in 1924 he took up a similar post in Spain.

Although not politically minded, he headed a social improvement project (1922-23) which helped 20,000 homeless resist Communist ideal which had started to spread through the country. He was co-opted onto the IOC following the resignation of Matte Gormaz but when Ewing was declared demissionaire in 1933, Gormaz returned to the IOC. (see previous entry).



## No. 149 | Karl Ferdinand RITTER von HALT | Germany

**IOC member:** No. 149

**Born:** 2 June 1891, Munich/Germany

**Co-opted:** 8 April 1929

**Represented Germany:** 1929 - 1949

**Attendance at Session**

**Executive Board member:**

**Elected member (Germany):**

**Re-elected member:**

**Second term | elected member FRG:**

**Attendance at Meeting**

Replacing Oskar Ruperti, Doyen of the IOC

**Died:** 5 August 1964, Munich/Germany

**Resigned:** 5 August 1964

**Represented then FRG:** 1949 - 1964

**Present:** 27 **Absent:** 8

No. 11

8. June 1937

6 June 1939 - 6 September 1946

14 May 1958 - 19 October 1963

**Present:** 13 **Absent:** 1

A brilliant all-round athlete he competed in the decathlon and pentathlon at the 1912 Games and was five times German champion in the decathlon and three times in the shot put setting German records in 1911 and 1913. He was also the Austrian pentathlon and decathlon champion in 1913 and in 1914 he won the decathlon at the Baltic Games in Malmö. From 1925 to 1931 he was a selector for the German athletics team and from 1931 to 1945 he was President of the National Athletics Federation.

A convinced and dedicated National Socialist, he was elected to the IOC in 1929 and served on the Executive Board from 1937 to 1946 and again from 1958 to 1963. Similarly he had two terms as President of the NOC (1944-1945 & 1950-1961). His many other influential posts included



the Presidencies of the Organising Committee for the 1936 and 1940 Winter Games, the World Handball Federation (1931-1938) and the European Commission of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (1942-1945) although, because of the war, his duties in the latter post were minimal.

The son of a locksmith, he graduated in business economy and obtained a Doctorate in Political Sciences from the University of Munich in 1921. He then Chose a career in banking and became the Personnel Director of the Deutsche Bank.

During World War II, he rendered a great service to the IOC by arranging the release of a number of members who were being held as prisoners of war. He also made great efforts to improve the lot of those members who the authorities insisted remained in captivity. His wartime activities were not, however, without blemish and in 1952 the Norwegians refused to grant him a visa to attend the Winter Games in Oslo.

Despite the pressures of war, he found time to attend the 50th Anniversary of the IOC in Lausanne in 1944. Stefan Tchaprachikov of Bulgaria was the only other IOC member to attend the ceremony. At the end of the war von Halt became a prisoner himself Having fought with the Volkssturm (Territorial Army) he was interned in Buchenwald by the Soviets and this led to the premature announcement of his death at the 1947 IOC Session in Stockholm. He did, however, survive the privations of the notorious camp and was released early in 1950 and it is generally thought that his release was due to the fact that the Russians were lobbying for IOC recognition at the time and to hold an IOC member as a political prisoner would certainly have hindered their ambitions.

At the Vienna Session in 1951 there were strong objections to von Halt and the Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin resuming their seats on the IOC [see previous entry for Mecklenburg-Schwerin].



## No. 150 | Lord Clarence Napier Bruce **ABERDARE** | Great Britain

**IOC member:** No. 150

**Born:** 2 August 1885, Pimlico, London

**Co-pted:** (postal vote): October 1929

**Attendance at Session**

**Executive Board member:**

**Elected member:**

**Re-elected member:**

**Re-elected member:**

**Re-elected member:**

**Attendance at Meeting**

Replacing Earl Cadogan

**Died:** 4 October 1957, Moring, Yugoslavia

**Resigned:** 4 October 1957

**Present:** 18 **Absent:** 8

No. 9

25 April 1931

1 March 1935

6 June 1939

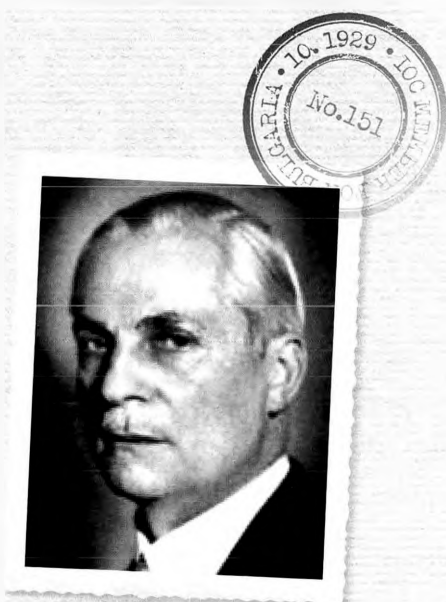
6 September 1946 - 7 May 1951

**Present:** 15 **Absent:** 8

One of the world's leading rackets players and even after he had become a member of the IOC he continued to win major titles in Britain, Canada and the USA. He was a fine all-round sportsman and after schooling at Winchester he went up to Oxford where he represented the University at cricket, rackets and real tennis.

His father, a wealthy Welsh landowner, was an Honorary Member of the first Olympic Congress in 1894 and Lord Aberdare became a member of the BOA in 1926. He was Hon. Treasurer of the appeal fund for the 1928 Games and was subsequently Chairman of many bodies devoted to the development of sport. With J. Sigfrid Edström and Avery Brundage he was one of only three members of the Executive Board to attend a meeting in London in August 1945 to discuss the revival of the Olympic Games after the war.

Lord Aberdare and his wife died from drowning in just one metre of water when their car went into a river as he was driving home from the 1957 IOC Session in Sofia.



## No. 151 | Stefan Gueorguiev **TCHAPRACHIKOV** | Bulgaria

**IOC member:** No. 151

**Born:** 15 April 1874, Goma Djumaya, Macedonia

**Co-pted:** (postal vote) October 1929

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Dimitri Stanciov

**Died:** 14 October 1944, Kirdzhali, Bulgaria

**Resigned:** 14 October 1944

**Present:** 8 **Absent:** 3

In the tradition of early Bulgarian IOC members he was a member of the Diplomatic Corps and held posts in Belgrade, Bucharest, Paris, Constantinople and Berlin. In 1930, he set up business as a

tobacco exporter in Berlin where he was sympathetic to the National Socialist cause and with Karl von Halt (Germany) he was one of the two current IOC members to attend the 50th Anniversary of the Committee in Lausanne in June 1944. Three months later Soviet troops occupied Bulgaria and Tchaprachikov, realising that his days were numbered because of his fascist past, committed suicide.

He was Honorary President of the NOC from 1929 and President of the Bulgarian Skiing Union from 1931 and he held both Offices until he took his own life at his home in southern Bulgaria in 1944.

## No. 152 | Augusto TURATI | Italy

**IOC member:** No. 152

**Born:** 25 August 1888, Parma, Italy

**Co-opted:** 23 May 1930

**Attendance at Session**

No Session were held during his mandate

Replacing Marquess Guglielmi

**Died:** 26 August 1955, Rome, Italy

**Resigned:** 23 April 1931

**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 0



From a politically minded family, his father fought as a volunteer with Garibaldi, and after he completed his law studies he became a journalist with the liberal daily newspaper La Provincia de Brescia in 1913. He served as a captain in the army in the war and was a candidate for the Democratic Party in the 1921 elections. Soon afterwards he began his meteoric rise within the PNF (Fascist National Party). He led the Venetians in the march on Rome in the 1922 Revolution, in 1924 he was appointed Minister of Public Works and after serving as Secretary of the Fascist Party in Brescia he became the national Secretary General in April 1926. As such, he was second only to Mussolini in the party hierarchy and had any of the attempts on Mussolini's life succeeded, Turati would have taken over as Leader of the party.

He was a superb Organizer and was highly praised for his work as Secretary General and he did much to raise the profile of the PNF among the Italian people. His predecessor, Roberto Farinaccio, had been removed from his post after he had allowed his followers to burn down the houses of Freemasons in Florence. Turati corrected political and economic scandals, negotiated a satisfactory working relationship between the employers and the trade unions and, perhaps most importantly, he made it possible for Catholics to join the party. This latter move was warmly applauded by Pope Pius XI and his initiative in granting the status of a separate City State to the Vatican also received enthusiastic papal approval.

Turati was also responsible for less momentous Legislation such as making it compulsory to raise one's hat to fascist Hags and Symbols and outlawing the handshake as a form of greeting, replacing it with the fascist Salute. Despite these laws, he never accepted the ultimate superiority of the State and frequently clashed with Mussolini.

In 1929, Mussolini refused to accept his resignation from the post of Secretary General of the party but it was accepted in September 1930 and Mussolini then appointed him to the Grand Council of the Party which was the supreme body of the State.

Turati then spent two years (1930-1932) as editor of the Turin La Staropa where he launched a campaign against profiteering by other fascists and in particular against the family of Costanzo Ciano, the Minister of Communications. His stance made him many enemies among the fascist hierarchy who, in turn, made accusations against Turati ranging from sado-masochism, incest, and pederasty to drug addiction and insanity. This marked the end of his political career and he was banished to the Island of Rhodes for four years where he established an agricultural business. In 1937 he returned to Rome where he became involved in the film industry but the financial rewards were minimal and he lived in extreme poverty. After the liberation he joined the Roman resistance but was condemned for his fascist activities although he was eventually granted an amnesty. Following his death from a heart attack he was buried in a communal pauper's grave and his final resting place is not marked with a stone or a Cross. A man of moderate political views, he said shortly before his death 'I fought for a principle but I lost'.

As an active sportsman, he was a fencing Champion and because of his political position he was appointed to many senior administrative posts. He served as President of National Federations for lawn tennis, athletics, luge, weightlifting and hiking. He was also Commissioner of the Italian Olympic Committee (1928-1930) but was an IOC member for less than one year.

## No. 153 | Nikolaos Socrate **POLITIS** | Greece



**IOC member:** No. 153  
**Born:** 1872, Corfu/Greece  
**Co-pted:** 23 May 1930  
**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Georges Averoff  
**Died:** 5 March 1942, Cannes/France  
**Resigned:** 7 June 1933  
**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 2

An internationally respected Jurist and scholar, he served as Permanent Secretary-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1914-1916) and as Minister of Foreign Affairs (1916-1920), he represented Greece at the Versailles Peace Conference. He was a delegate to the League of Nations for many years, serving as President of the General Assembly in 1932.

Dedicated to the cause of peace, in 1924 he was one of the chief architects of the Geneva Protocols and in 1929 he presided for a time over the commission that prepared for the World Conference for Limitation of Armaments. A highly respected international arbitrator, the Italian-Ethiopian War engaged his attention as a conciliator and he sought a just settlement of Sino-Japanese conflict in Manchuria.

In parallel to these commitments he pursued an academic career in France and in 1899, at the age of 27, he became Professor of International Law at Aix-le-Provence University. Appointments at the Universities of Poitiers and Paris followed and after serving as Greek Minister to France (1937-1940) he retired and spent his final years in the South of France.

## No. 154 | General Kemalettin **SAMI PACHA** | Turkey



**IOC member:** No. 154  
**Born:** 1885, Sinop, Turkey  
**Co-pted:** 23 May 1930  
**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Replacing Selim Tarcan  
**Died:** 15 April 1934, Berlin, Germany  
**Resigned:** 15 April 1934  
**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 2

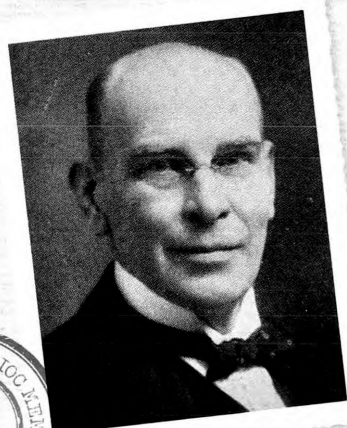
After studying at the Turkish Military Academy he served in the Balkan Wars and then in World War I where he saw action in the Dardanelles, Arabia and the Caucasus. During the occupation of Constantinople by the Allies he was in hiding for four months until, disguised as a coaltrimmer, he was able to escape to Asia Minor on board an Italian steamer.

Promoted to the rank of General, he defeated the Greek Army decisively near Smyrna in August 1922 by which time he had been wounded seventeen times in battle. One of the wounds rendered his right arm useless and he then went to Germany, which he had already visited as a companion to Royalty, to convalesce.

In August 1924 he was appointed Ambassador to Germany but after only seven months he was called home to assist in the repression of the Kurdish rebellion. He returned to Berlin to resume his diplomatic duties but in 1930 he was again recalled to take Charge of renewed operations against the Kurds. After a successful mission he took up the post of Ambassador to Germany for a third time and died in Berlin after an Operation on at the early age of 49.

Earlier he had found time to serve as Member of Parliament for his hometown of Sinop and in such an eventful life it is not surprising that he found little time for his Olympic duties. He was unable to attend either of the Sessions held during his mandate and although IOC records show him as President of the Turkish Olympic Committee from 1930-1933 this appointment is not confirmed by the NOC.

## No. 155 | Cecil James **WRAY** | New Zealand



**IOC member:** No. 154  
**Born:** 13 March 1867, Patea/New Zealand  
**Co-pted:** 25 April 1931  
**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Lord Freyberg  
**Died:** 6 Nov. 1955, Bournemouth/England  
**Resigned:** 17 May 1933  
**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 2

Cecil Wray spent half his life in New Zealand and half in England. An outstanding all-round sportsman at Wanganui Collegiate School he initially became a bank officer on leaving school, but later studied law and was in practice in Wanganui until he took up permanent residence in England in 1913. His relocated law practice flourished in England and he was a generous host to thousands of New Zealand servicemen during World War I and to visiting New Zealand sporting teams after

the war. For 25 years he was the New Zealand representative on the English Rugby Union and during his two years membership of the IOC he was living in England.

## No. 156 | Count Fernando Suarez de VALLELANO | Spain

**IOC member:** No. 156

**Born:** 3 August 1886, Madrid/Spain

**Co-pted:** 25 April 1931

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Marquis de Pons

**Died:** 6 September 1964, Madrid/Spain

**Resigned:** 27 July 1952

**Present:** 1 **Absent:** 17

Having missed four consecutive IOC Sessions, Count de Nahellano was declared demissionaire at the 1952 Session in Helsinki under Article 11 of the Olympic Charter. In fact, he had missed 17 consecutive Sessions since 1934 His continuing absence was no doubt due, in part, to his heavy work load at home where he served as Permanent Under-Secretary of Education (1920-1932), Mayor of Madrid (1924-1928), State Councillor (1945-1947) and held mang other civic appointments. His main sporting interests were fencing, riding, shooting and alpinism.

The Spanish Olympic Committee indicate (Olympic Review - Sept.-Oct.1976) that he resigned from the IOC due to pressure of work following his appointment as Minister of Public Works in 1952 but the true reason for his leaving the Committee was his reluctance to attend Sessions.



## No. 157 | General Stanislaus ROUPPERT | Poland

**IOC member:** No. 157

**Born:** 15 April 1887, Warsaw/Poland

**Co-pted:** 25 April 1931

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Prince Kazimierz Lubomirski

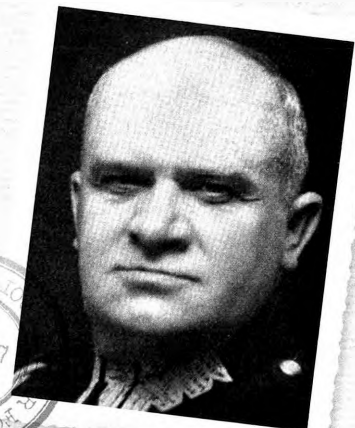
**Died:** 13 August 1945, Edinburgh/Scotland

**Resigned:** 13 August 1945

**Present:** 5 **Absent:** 4

A medical graduate of the Jagiellonian University, he became an Army doctor and rose to the rank of General. He was an official with a wide variety of sporting organizations and was one of the founders of the Society of Sports Doctors. From 1925-1929 and again from 1931-1939 he was a member of the Managerial Board of the NOC.

After Poland was over-run by Germany in September 1939 he made his way to France and was then evacuated to England. Although he was not offered a military assignment with the Free Polish Forces, he obtained an appointment at a hospital in Lennoxtown, a Small town near Glasgow in Scotland, and he died in Edinburgh three months alter the war ended.



## No. 158 | Axel Christian Georg Prince of Denmark | Denmark

**IOC member:** No. 158

**Born:** 12 August 1888, Copenhagen/Denmark

**Co-pted:** (postal vote) March 1932

**Attendance at Session**

**Executive Board member:**

**Elected member:**

**Attendance at Meeting**

Replacing Ivar Nyholm

**Died:** 14 July 1964, Copenhagen/Denmark

**Resigned:** 16 May 1958

**Present:** 19 **Absent:** 6

No. 16

16 July 1952 - 20 November 1956

**Present:** 9 **Absent:** 0

The Cousin of King Frederick he successfully combined naval and business careers. He joined the Danish Navy in 1909 and in 1921, two years alter marrying Princess Margaretha of Sweden, he joined the East Asiatic Company. He was eminently successful in both Fields being appointed Chairman of the Board of Denmark's largest trading house in 1938 and an Admiral in 1958. He had a life-long interest in flying and was one of the First Danes to hold a private pilots licence and he was a director of SAS airlines (1946-1958). He was also a pioneer of motor sport in Denmark.

During World War II Prince Axel led a delegation to Berlin to try and persuade the Germans not to sink Nordic merchant shipping. A popular figure at home, he lent his full support to the Danish underground movement and in 1940 the possibility was explored of him becoming Prime Minister.

At the 1958 Tokyo Session he proposed that the Samaras musical work should be officially adopted. The proposal was carried unanimously and the anthem remains the official IOC hymn to this





day. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the NOC (1932-1958) and was President of the Danish Royal Automobile Club (1920-1938). In 1963 he was awarded the Olympic Diploma of Merit.

### No. 159 | Guru Dutt **SONDHI** | India

**IOC member:** No. 159

**Born:** 10 Dec. 1890, Dharmsala, Punjab/India

**Co-pted:** (postal vote) March 1932

**Doyen of the IOC:**

**Attendance at Session**

**Executive Board member:**

**Elected member:**

**Attendance at meetings**

Replacing Sir Dorabji Tata

**Died:** 19 November 1966, Subatha/India

**Resigned:** 19 November 1966

1964 - 1966

**Present:** 12 **Absent:** 23

No. 25

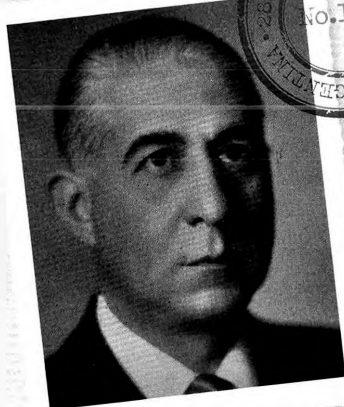
21 June 1961 - 8 October 1965

**Present:** 6 **Absent:** 5

A first class athlete in his youth, he was the 880 yards and Cross-country Champion of Punjab University in 1911. After graduating he attended Cambridge University (England) before qualifying as a lawyer in London and in 1939 he became the first Indian to be appointed Principal of the Government College in Lahore.

An IOC member for 34 years he gave outstanding Service to Indian sport. The various Offices he held included Hon. Secretary of the Indian Olympic Association (1928-1952), Chairman of the Punjab Olympic Association (1927-1938), President of the Amateur Athletics Federation of India (1938-1945) and Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation in 1946. He initiated and organized the first Western Asiatic Games in 1934 and was one of the founders of the Asian Games Federation in 1948. He was also manager of the Indian Olympic team in 1928 and 1932.

He was a firm believer in the independence of international sport from political considerations and was a central figure in upholding the rights of Israel and Taiwan to participate in the controversial 1962 Asian Games in Djakarta. The stand taken by Professor Sondhi provoked the most violent reactions. The Indian Embassy was ransacked by hostile mobs and the 71-year-old Sondhi barely escaped with his life.



### No. 160 | Horacio **BUSTOS MORON** | Argentina

**IOC member:** No. 158

**Born:** 10 September 1885, Buenos Aires/ARG

**Co-pted:** 28 July 1932

**Attendance at Session**

Replacing Marcelo de Alvear

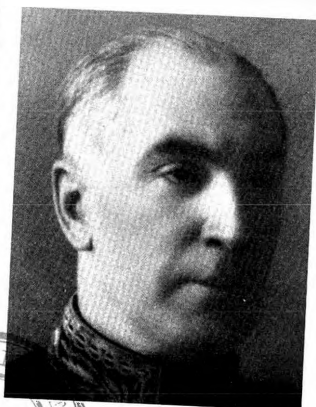
**Died:** 19 March 1952, San Pedro, Buenos Aires

**Resigned:** 19 March 1952

**Present:** 2 **Absent:** 14

A director of several industrial and financial corporations he was a leading figure in lawn tennis in the Argentine. He served as President, then Honorary President, of the Argentine Lawn Tennis Association and was Chief Umpire at the National Tennis Championships from 1933.

He was President of the Argentine Olympic Committee (1929-1933) and headed the Argentine delegation at the 1936 Games in Berlin. He died on his farm near Buenos Aires.



### No. 161 | Count Paolo **THAON di REVEL** | Italy

**IOC member:** No. 161

**Born:** 2 May 1888, Toulon/France

**Co-pted:** 28 July 1932

**Attendance at Session**

**Executive Board member:**

**Elected member:**

**Mandate extended:**

**Attendance at meetings**

Replacing Augusto Turati

**Died:** 31 May 1973, Turin/Italy

**Resigned:** 8 October 1964

**Present:** 0 **Absent:** 4

No. 19

11 May 1954 - 27 May 1959

27 May 1959 - 23 August 1960

**Present:** 9 **Absent:** 3

He started training for fencing at the age of six and went on to win the Italian Universities and the National championships with the duelling sword. With the more orthodox epee weapon he won a gold medal in team event at the 1920 Olympic Games. A graduate in economic and

social sciences, he followed a political career becoming Minister of Finance and Mayor of Turin (1929-1935) where he supported the construction of a large municipal stadium and many other sporting facilities.

His mandate as a member of the Executive Board was extended by one year to include the 1960 Games in Rome.

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## No. 162 | David George Lord BURGHLEY | Great Britain

**IOC member:** No. 162

Replacing ?

**Born:** 9 February 1905, Stamford/Great Britain

**Died:** 22 October 1981, Stamford/Great Britain

**Co-opted:** 7 June 1933

**Resigned:** 2 October 1981

**Attendance at Session**

**Present: ? Absent: ?**

A three-time Olympian (1924-1928-1932) he was the Olympic Champion at 400 metres hurdles in 1928 and he became a member of the IOC in 1933 at the early age of 28.

He headed the Organizing Committee for the 1948 Games in London although King George VI's intense dislike of Burghley created at least one problem. Initially, because of the Burghley connection, King George VI refused to open the Games and was only persuaded to do so after the intervention of the Prime minister, Clement Attlee. The King's dislike was occasioned by the fact that his younger brother, the Duke of Gloucester, was on the point of announcing his engagement to Lady Mary Montagu-Douglas-Scott when Burghley appeared on the scene and in the course of a weekend swept Lady Mary off her feet and married her in 1929. The King's displeasure was compounded when in 1946 the marriage was dissolved and Burghley married the widow, Mrs. Diana Forbes.

Educated at Eton and Le Rosey, Switzerland before going up to Magdalene College, Cambridge he was one of the most popular sportsmen of his generation. On the death of his father in 1956 he inherited the title of Marquess of Exeter and the 240-room Burghley House, with its 27,000 acres, which he turned into a major equestrian centre and in 1966 the World Three-Day Event Championship was held in the grounds.

Lord Burghley became President of the BOA in 1976 and served as President of the AAA (1936 - 1976) and of the IAAF (1946-1976). In 1931, two years before becoming an IOC member, he was elected a Member of Parliament and held his seat in the House until 1943 when he resigned to take up the post as Governor of Bermuda.

At the Session at Helsinki in 1952 he was proposed by Prince Axel of Denmark as the successor to Sigfrid Edström as President of the IOC but the ballot went in favour of Avery Brundage (USA) by 30 votes to 17 with two abstentions. At the same Session, Lord Burghley was also narrowly defeated for the vacant Vice-Presidency. Armand Massard (France) was elected by just two votes (25-23) although Burghley became a Vice-President three years later. In 1964 he again unsuccessfully challenged Avery Brundage for the IOC Presidency.

At the Baden-Baden Congress in October 1981, he was awarded the Olympic Order in gold and was appointed an Honorary Vice-President. He is the only IOC member to have been honoured in this fashion but sadly he died just 19 days after his immense contribution to the Olympic Movement had been formally recognised.

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