

Arete

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Spring 2006

*In the spring, at the
end of the day, you
should smell like dirt.*
Margaret Atwood

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From Volunteer to Official: Being on Both Sides of the Fence Carlo Farrugia (MLT)



After the experience as a volunteer during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, I decided to make yet another first by trying to get a post as a volunteer during the Torino 2006 Winter Games in February this year. Once again, I was lucky enough to be chosen and assigned as protocol officer at the ice-hockey venue in the city of Torino. I was also entrusted additional duties as an interpreter during official press briefings at the end of each game and during the personal interviews given by athletes and coaches at the end of each game.

This was another new experience that enabled me to mix with the athletes and officials coming from so many different countries. My duties also included receiving and helping members of the Olympic family during their frequent visits to the ice hockey venue. As always, the volunteer team was simply fantastic and everybody was very keen to help each other in performing our duties to the best possible level. The uniforms given to us as volunteers were exceptionally nice and kept the cold weather away. The hospitality, venues, food and transport were excellent and very well planned. I was also lucky enough to obtain two additional postings at the figure ice skating since they needed interpreters

on two particular days. I was very happy to help in another venue and at the same time have the opportunity to get to know more people and more volunteers.

Once more, the Olympic movement gave me another opportunity for a unique experience that will remain with me for a long time. On arriving back to Malta I immediately had to pack my bags again to leave with the national basketball team for the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia. This time I was on the other side of the fence: I was with my team at the Commonwealth Village being given VIP treatment. These games are second only to the Summer Olympic games (the number of athletes is superior to the Winter Olympics) even though the number of participating countries is seventy one. I looked at the volunteers with a smile and knew their feelings; they were simply fabulous. The organisation that Melbourne managed to put was awesome and imposing. The Games were simply fantastic, the transport was precise, food was great, accommodation was cosy, and the volunteers in the village went out of their way to be of help to all the athletes and officials. They always had a smile on their face, which reminded

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeremey Cross (GBR)



As I look through this month's Arete newsletter, I am very happy to see how active and alive our IOAPA network continues to be. There are many examples of us continuing or developing friendships as well as sharing ideas and opportunities. Hopefully this shows that we are all capturing the spirit of our mission,

"To foster an international and multicultural Olympic fellowship of IOA past participants, providing tools and resources to facilitate Olympic education and support Olympism world-wide".

Over the past two months I have been fortunate that my own personal experiences have had a strong IOAPA flavour to them too. Similar to Carlo Farrugia, as he writes in his article, I too had the wonderful opportunity to be part of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne in March as the Jersey team sport psychologist. Even though this is not an Olympic event, I bumped into Anita Comella from Canada (Young Participant, 2002), Ester from Nigeria (Postgraduate, 2004), Alistair Cameron from Australia (IOAPA, 2005), and even a participant from the Athens 2004 Olympic Youth Camp.

Also, as Axel writes in his article, I was one of the seventeen IOA past participants from seven countries who participated in the Great Britain National Olympic Academy in April. I am sure that it was our strong and active IOAPA network that enabled so many past participants from so many countries to attend this great yearly event, to share experiences, strengthen friendships and learn more about the organisation of London2012. (By the way, I am sure that Jan Paterson at the British Olympic Association would be more than happy to hear if you are interested in coming next year!)

I believe our mission neatly captures our IOAPA values of friendship, multiculturalism and education. As an Executive Board our focus of attention is always on how we can best provide you, our members, with a forum to continue to communicate across nations, either to simply say hello or to become more involved in participating in a specific event. By sharing information and ideas we can all become more involved in helping develop Olympic education around the world.

I welcome you all this latest edition of Arete. I hope you enjoy the contributions and, on behalf of Cesar and the Executive Board, I encourage you to keep sharing with us what is going on in your part of the Olympic family.

Warmest wishes,

Jeremey Cross

Website News Héctor Argüelles (ESP)



Dear IOAPA members,

A general upgrading of our Internet site is under way, you can already check what is new at www.ioapa.org. In the short term, our plan is to continue increasing the information available at our website. Among others projects, it is foreseen a new section for papers and publications from IOAPA members. For the future, we are planning a complete redesign with added features, to the website. I invite you all to send me at hector@ioapa.org both papers and pieces of information you would like to have published in the website. Also, any suggestion for new sections that you would like to find in it will be appreciated.

Warm regards,

Héctor Argüelles - hector@ioapa.org

Hans Van Haute Scholarship Fund

Remember that the Hans Van Haute Scholarship Fund welcomes donations (money or air miles) to support prospective scholarship recipients to attend IOAPA biannual meetings.

To make a donation contact Elizabeth Hanley at eah3@psu.edu

Thanks!

IOAPA Logo Competition

Axel Bammer (AUT)



First of all I want to thank everybody who participated in the logo competition. It was very interesting and inspiring to receive so many proposals. I am very happy to announce that there were a total of 61 entries for the competition. Ten people from nine different countries (see list below) submitted their proposals. We believe they have made a wonderful contribution to IOAPA. THANK YOU!

The IOAPA logo competition is now closed. All proposals postmarked by April 30 (the deadline announced in the last message to the mailgroup) will be taken into consideration for the competition. Below I explain the selection process and how to find our three winning logos.

Selection process

- 1- Due to the large amount of proposals, we will have to narrow down the list. The marketing committee will make select between eight and ten logos.
- 2- All IOAPA-members will receive a .pdf document via the mailgroup with these logos.
- 3- IOAPA members can then vote on the best three logos! The first ranked logo will receive three points, the second two points, and the third one point. The three logos with the highest number of points will be declared the winner of the competition.
- 4- Please send in your votes to axel@ioapa.org. Every IOAPA-member can vote only once! Therefore, please identify yourself with your full name and country.
- 5- The winner will be announced in the next issue of Arete and informed via e-mail.
- 6- Because of technical reasons it is up to the IOAPA Executive committee to make the final decision on the future IOAPA logo. This logo may not be to be the winner of the competition.

List of participants

Axel Bammer (AUT)
Marc Buchwalder (GER)
Ralf Stratmann (GER)
Dimitra Roidi (GRE)
Katayoon Rostamzad (IRI)

Abdulelah Almouina (KSA)
Igor Kovác (SVK)
Reza Kareem (SRI)
Bulent Bulut (TUR)
Sara Levin (USA)



IOAPA Members at the 2006 Meeting of the British Olympic Foundation

This year's National Olympic Academy conference of the British Olympic Foundation took place in Greenwich, London from April 28-30 2006. It was a great honor to receive an invitation to participate in this event. Since applications have to be sent immediately to get one of the approximately 100 available places, it was a nice surprise that 17 IOAPA members (see picture) got a chance to attend this meeting.



Back row from left to right: Graeme Dell (GBR), Héctor Argüelles (ESP), Peter Freeman (GBR), Alexander Mestre (POR), Jeremy Cross (GBR), Mark Hatton (GBR), James MacAllister (GBR), Lynne Evans (GBR), Axel Bammer (AUT)

Front row from left to right: Iain Moir (GBR), Ya-Ya Yamamoto (JPN), Andy Hibbert (GBR), Iain Bates (GBR), Betz Hanley (USA), Sheila Wigmore (GBR), Ian Brittain (GBR), David Doyle (IRL)

The program of the three-day meeting included lectures, discussion groups, an Academy Dinner, and optional activities. The high standard of the lectures can be shown by the quality of the lecturers: Dr. Don Anthony (1956 Olympian, hammer throw); Giselle Davis (Director of Communication, IOC), Sir Philip Cra-ven (President, International Paralympic Committee), Pamela Vipond (Deputy Director, Olympic Solidarity); and LOCOC representatives Philip Beard (Marketing), Neil Walker (Volunteers) and Kathryn McColl (Education program).

The discussion topic was "LEGACY – How should the London 2012 Organising committee maintain the euphoria of the games after the year 2012"! Although there was just one topic to discuss, time passed by quickly and most of the groups could have spent more time in the discussion rooms, as always when people talk about the Olympic Movement. The best ten suggestions out of the three discussion groups will be given to LOCOG, who will then try to implement them.

Several people attended the 5 km. run in the beautiful Greenwich Park after a Guided Tour of the London 2012 Olympic Site. At the moment, the area is not really under construction, but maybe next year's participants of the British National Olympic Academy meeting will be able to see the development of the Olympic Stadium.

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me of my experience in Torino and how important it was to smile and to help the athletes and officials as much as possible. It was also very nice and relaxing to see familiar faces and meet IOAPA members both in Torino and Melbourne.

In the space of one month I had the opportunity to be an official and volunteer in two different international sport events. I cherish both experiences amongst the best possible experiences in my whole life, second only to the birth of my two daughters who are the best thing that ever happened in my life.

I love sports, I love the Olympic movement. I love being a volunteer at these events and I look forward to being of service once again in future editions of such sporting events. As IOAPA members each and every one of us has a lot to give during these events. We have the experience and above all the necessary knowledge to give a great service to the Olympic Movement. Give it a shot and try to make it at the next games in Beijing or Vancouver. The experience that you will make will remain embedded in your heart for all your life.

Carlo Farrugia

Torino 2006 Reunions

IOAPA members gathered twice during the Winter Games. The reunions were held at the Starhotel Majestic in Corso Vittorio Emanuele in Torino on February 11 and 16. IOAPA was represented by Héctor Argüelles (website officer) and Carlo Farrugia (treasurer) respectively. In those reunions IOAPA members had the opportunity to exchange their experiences in the games and to renew old friendship over drinks.

Some IOAPA members reported problems getting to the reunions due to traffic congestion near the hotel. Notwithstanding that, the gatherings were a success.



What Have They Been Doing? News from IOAPA Members

Late in May **Silvia B. Dalotto** (ARG) will be inducted into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame (IMSHOF) for her achievements and contributions to marathon swimming! Congratulations Silvia!

Jeremy Cross (GBR), **Alistair Cameron** (AUS), and **Carlo Farrugia** (MLT) participated in different capacities at the recent Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia. Good job!



Left: Jeremy Cross and Carlo Farrugia at the Commonwealth Village.

Right: Jeremy Cross and Alistair Cameron at the front of a Melbourne Hotel.



New job? New arrival in the family? Got an award? Participated in an Olympic-related event? Simply e-mail your news and notes to ctorres@ioapa.org and the editor will share your accomplishments in a future issue of Arete.

Did you know?

With two-and-a-half years to go until the start of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad - Beijing 2008, the Olympic programme for these Games has now been finalised. A total of 28 sports will feature on the programme for the Beijing Games. These 28 sports are made up of 302 events, comprising 165 men's events, 127 women's events and 10 mixed events.

The city of Dubai (United Arab Emirates) will host the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m) in 2010, following the vote by the Bureau of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) on 9 April in Shanghai (People's Republic of China) on the occasion of the eighth edition of these Championships.

The IOC's Olympic Studies Centre (OSC) has launched a new edition of its grant program for postgraduate researchers. Applications must be submitted in French or English and must be received by e-mail or post no later than 26 September 2006.

The rules and the candidature form can be downloaded from www.olympics.org (section "documents", Olympic Studies Centre).

The source of the information is the IOC web page: www.olympics.org

Dates of interest

The dates for the IOA sessions this year are as follows:

NOA Directors:	23 - 30 May
Young Participants:	19 June - 3 July
Postgraduate Seminar:	6 July - 6 August
Educationists:	20 - 27 July