

Arete

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NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC ACADEMY
PARTICIPANTS ASSOCIATION



Special Olympic Edition

Vancouver 2010 Winter Games



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President's Message

By: Hector Arguelles (Spain)



Dear Members,

Welcome to a new edition of Arete. A substantial part of the newsletter is logically dedicated to the Winter Olympic Games recently celebrated in Vancouver. You will read from several members about how they have contributed from different positions to the success of the Games.

During the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, IOAPA organised the traditional Olympic Games reunion. As always, it was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, make new ones and exchange opinions and perspectives about the Olympic Games.

The IOAPA Executive Committee is maintaining its pace of work and we hope that you are all benefiting from the regular news and updates that we distribute to all of you. Please, remember that it is important to keep your data up to date especially your e-mail account so that IOAPA information can reach you timely. You can keep your data up-to-date through the members section of our website www.ioapa.org.

We also would like to encourage you to take an active role in the Association. Write an article in Arete on your latest sport project, share or ask for information on your academic research, announce the conference that you are organizing, etc. All that information is very valuable for your fellow members. In the last IOAPA session it was agreed to eliminate the membership renewal fees. The IOAPA Executive Committee runs the association at very low costs based on volunteer work. However, the engagement of the members is instrumental in the value added by the Association to all you. I would like to call upon you one more time to share with the IOAPA all your relevant activities; it will help your fellow members and the IOAPA to move forward.

As you may know the IOA was inaugurated in June 1961 with the first edition of the International Session for Young Participants. Therefore this year it will take place the 50th edition and next year, 2011, the IOA will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. We will keep you informed well ahead of time of any special events organized for that special date. IOAPA will be celebrating its session in 2011 as well and the IOAPA will definitely play an integral part in IOA's anniversary. Stay tuned. For now, I hope you will enjoy another outstanding edition of Arete.

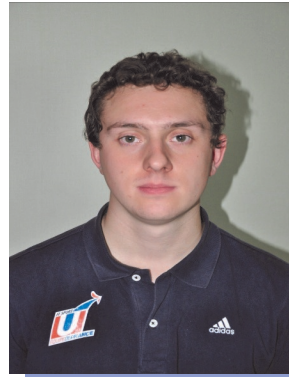
Best wishes,

Hector Arguelles

Torch Lighting Ceremony

Ancient Olympia Oct. 22, 2009

By: Julien Buhajezuk (France)



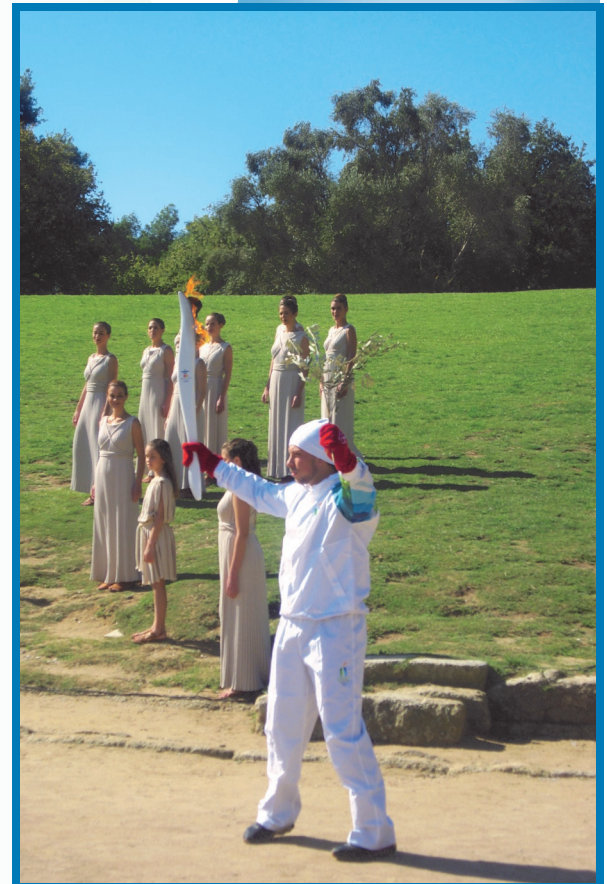
The torch lighting ceremony for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games was held in Ancient Olympia with the presence of several member of the IOC, including Dr. Jacques Rogge, president of the IOC, and some representatives of the Canadian government. The students of the IOA Master program, studying in Olympia, were fortunate to attend as well.

After several speeches from the Canadian organizing committee, the IOC representative, and the Hellenic Olympic movement the ceremony started. It began with raising the Greek, Olympic, and Canadian flags, anthems, and finally the lighting of the Olympic flame.

The ceremony was enacted by the priestesses of Era, whom were selected among famous Greek dancers and actresses. Starting from the Philippeion, the choreography created by Artemis Ignatiou tried to bring the spectators into the context of the ancient Olympic Games by reviving the flame — a symbol of peace. The priestesses walked to the altar of Era where the torch was revived by the sun entering into a bowl. This enabled the sacred fire to burn for the duration of the torch relay and the Games.

A new element was added this year that involved two children. The children symbolized peace and brought an olive tree branch to the first torch bearer, Vassilis Dimitriadis, member of the Greek Alpine skiing team.

After receiving the flame from the high priestess, Maria Nafpliotou, Vassilis Dimitriadis started the Vancouver 2010 torch relay running to the Pierre de Coubertin monument. The relay was the longest torch relay in Olympic History.

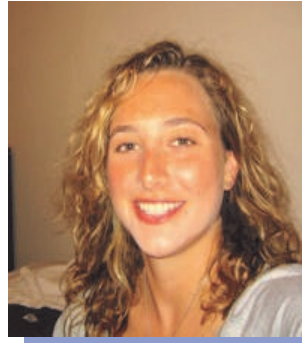


**Kostas Vasiliou
(Greece) runs
with the
Torch!!**



My Vancouver Experience: A Canadian Perspective

By: Anne Warner (Canada)



For as long as I can remember, I have glued myself to the TV during every Olympic Games. It has always been my favourite sporting event. When Vancouver was awarded the 2010 Winter Olympics in 2003, I was thrilled that the Games would be in my home country. In June of 2009, my Dad and I decided that we just couldn't miss experiencing the Olympics in Canada and so we started planning our trip to the Olympics. I really didn't know what to expect when I arrived in Vancouver. I did know that being at the Olympics in person would be a whole different story than seeing it on TV. And I was right.

When my Dad and I arrived in downtown Vancouver we were greeted by a sea of red and white – Canadians en masse walking the closed off downtown streets. There was a zipline set up above Robson Square with people skimming along overhead; street performers entertaining those out and about; and a nearly three block line of people waiting to enter the Olympic Superstore to buy Olympic clothing and souvenirs. The atmosphere was electric. There was a spirit alive in Vancouver that is difficult to describe. It was joy. It was excitement. It was a feeling of total and utter good and happiness.

For ten days Dad and I undertook an ambitious Olympic schedule that included twelve events. At Whistler, we watched with bated breath as the biathletes shot at their targets - each shot either propelling them further to the top or shattering Olympic dreams. With our cowbells (an Olympic necessity) and flag waving we cheered on the Canadian men's curling team who eventually took the gold medal (but who could miss the Norwegian's pants!). We

visited Canada Hockey Place and watched various countries play for a chance at the podium. At BC Place, we were thrilled to attend a Victory Ceremony in which Canadian Kristine Nesbitt was awarded gold for speed skating. Dad and I joined with thousands of other Canadians in singing our national anthem.



In our enthusiasm for the Games, we were not alone. Generally, Canadians are subtle in patriotic displays. I never would have expected the kind of patriotism I saw at the Olympics – I don't think anyone did. Canadians welcomed the Games with open arms filling arenas no matter who was competing. The trains and buses were full of Olympic fans, happily chattering away to strangers about their experiences. Despite this, the foreign press criticized Canadians for being overly patriotic and distracting other countries. (continued on the next page)

As a proud Canadian, I am, of course, inclined to be defensive about these claims. Yes, Canadians were very supportive of Team Canada – and what's wrong with that? When I was in Vancouver, I wit-



nessed fervent support for other countries as well as Canada. I was there when an entire hockey arena of mostly Canadians broke out into an encouraging “LAT-VI-A” chant to motivate the Latvian men’s hockey team who was losing to the Czech Republic. I was there at ski jumping, surrounded by Polish fans, when Dad and I joined our fellow spectators in cheering “Polska! Polska!” And finally, I was there at the Richmond Oval, surrounded by a cloud of devoted Dutch fans dressed in orange cheering on their national heroes. For 17 days, Canada was in the spotlight and Canadians welcomed this and supported it to



the benefit of all countries.

So, what were my favourite moments of the Games? Well, of course, seeing fellow Canadians reach the podium was a thrill. I was lucky enough to be at the women’s gold medal hockey game and the ice dancing event where the Canadians took home gold. I had the opportunity to see Clara Hughes skate as if she had wings in the 5000m long track event that gave her her sixth Olympic medal in her career. Also notable was that for the first time in Olympic history Aboriginal peoples were co-hosts of an Olympic Games. But, above all, it was the feeling of the Games. In a world riddled with tragedy, natural disaster, economic concern, and the like, for 17 days it was about the “good.” During the 10 days of my Olympic experience the world seemed to stop and a light shone on Vancouver. The four corners of the world came together in celebration. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to experience the Olympics in my home country with my Father. It is a memory that I will carry with me always.



The Vancouver 2010 Paralympic Experience

By: Mary Hums (U.S.A.)

In March 2010 I had the great opportunity to work at the 2010 Vancouver Paralympic Winter Games. At the Paralympic Winter Games, athletes with designated physical disabilities compete in Alpine Skiing, Biathlon, Cross-Country Skiing, Ice Sledge Hockey, and Wheelchair Curling. The Games featured 500+ athletes from 44 countries. Russia won the overall medal count, followed by Germany. But beyond the medals and anthems, the spirit of Olympism shone brightly as these gifted athletes gathered to represent their home countries and compete in their sports at the highest level.



Mary and Sumi!



Sledge Hockey Venue

My role was as a volunteer Team Leader with Event Services at the UBC Thunderbird Arena, the venue for Ice Sledge Hockey. In this capacity, each day I supervised a team of 6-12 volunteers working in some aspect of facility operations. Some days I supervised facility ushers and other days I supervised volunteers working in the Mixed Zone, the area where the athletes and press interact after games.

This was the 4th Paralympic Games I have had the good fortune to work (Atlanta, Salt Lake City, Athens, and Vancouver) in addition to working the Olympic Games in Athens in 2004. I was quite struck at how the city welcomed the Paralympic Games, not as an after thought, but as a part of a greater Olympic month. The local newspaper, *The Vancouver Sun*, featured articles and full color photos on the front page each day of the Games. Paralympic signage was visible around the city. The Games featured a colorful mascot named Sumi. At Ice Sledge Hockey, busses of school children brought unbridled enthusiasm to the venue and their spirit was greatly appreciated by the athletes. Many Ice Sledge Hockey games were sold-out, reflecting not only the Canadian fans' love of hockey but also their respect for these elite athletes with disabilities.

The spirit of Olympism was alive at these Paralympic Games, and will be again, as we look forward to the next Paralympic Games in London in 2012!

Route to the IOC Congress - Where did it all Begin and How did this Unfold?

By Philani Sturu Nongogo (South Africa)



My participation in the XIII 2009 Olympic Congress was the culmination of my long-standing interest in the Olympic Movement. This long journey formally (because issues of sports boycott and isolation were an everyday discourse in my country, given our unique apartheid experience, thus, this compelled all of us young and old, male or female, etc., to live, experience and feel this wrath) started in 1995 in my Human Movement Studies class (sport sociology, sport history and sport science sections), during my Bachelor's (of Pedagogics) studies at the University of Fort Hare, in a small town called iDike in IsiXhosa (my language) and or "Alice" by the imperialist.

Come on guys, tell me, who on earth can't find fascination and dare to forget the "ever powerful Greek Gods"; the "60 Meter standing-jump"; the early history of "Sports and Gender" relations (or should I say sexism) in the context of the Olympic Games (and or Pan-Hellenic Games), and all? I have always loved Greek History especially the grey areas, depicting the "fine-line" between Greek History and Greek Mythology! I know these issues are debatable, yet to me they meant a whole lot of fascination and, of course, everlasting inspiration to want to know more, at the time and continued beyond. However, the 2007-08 academic year, proved to be the highlight.

This season I decided to start reading rigorously towards a doctoral degree, which I eventually enrolled for its preparatory programme in the beginning of 2008. This is the year I was recommended to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) by the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), following a meticulous selection process, to represent the country at a month-long 16th International Olympic Academy Postgraduate Seminar in Olympia, Greece.

At the end of this month-long stay in the Ancient Olympia, we were invited and encouraged to join the 21 year-old International Olympic Academy Participants Association

(IOAPA), a structure for all the privileged youth from all over the world, that participated in the IOA. It endeavours to advance the Olympic ideals and youth through research and public engagement and I am presently a committed member.



I was engaged in all these activities during my doctoral studies. In the latter, I am discussing the relationship and the role of South Africa and the Olympic Movement in the context of sport boycotts and social change in the pre- and post-apartheid periods. It was during my reading sessions that I got to know of the IOC's Virtual Olympic Congress.

During this period, I was a frequent visitor to the IOC Website, compared to my earlier occasional visits. I was particularly interested in reading about the IOC Presidents and their legacies. The current President, the Honorable Jacques Rogge, was my focus as well as issues such as Human Rights and Human Rights Abuses in countries that the IOC recognizes, Television rights; Advertising and Ambush Marketing; and most importantly, the Sports For All Programs and Youth!

(continued on next page)

So, at this stage it is clear that when the IOC announced the details of the Congress and the host city, Copenhagen, Denmark, following its session, it was never going to come as a surprise to me. However, what came as a REAL BIG, if not the BIGGEST SURPRISE was the IOC's watershed announcement that the MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC would be invited to take part in the 2009 Copenhagen IOC Congress!!! The manner in which the former were to be chosen was equally fascinating!

Taking from the IOA 16th Post-Graduate Seminar, I have mentioned above, at this stage, I was busy refining the paper entitled: **"South Africa and the Youth Olympic Games: Challenges and Strength in Delivering the IOC's Mandate"**, for the purpose of publishing it in a peer reviewed journal. At the time the IOC was busy with the logistics around the organisation of the Youth Olympic Games, an international multi-sport event that will be inaugurated in Singapore in 2010 for the summer season, on the IOC President, Jacques Rogge's instigation.

This followed the approval on July 06, 2007 by the Executive Board at the 119th IOC session in Guatemala City, to establish the youth version of the Olympic Games. The fact that I was already working on this piece for publication purposes did not only compel me to take it to another level but to test the intensity and credibility of peer reviewed works and of course the IOC processes – and guess what??? My paper was published in mid - June 2009 and my submission - come July 2009, THE REST IS HISTORY! You all know what happened DURING THIS PERIOD in relation to all our submissions! I submitted one piece because it was so damn hectic for me to put in the second article! With



ones modesty – it always kept me on the edge! I was never sure of winning, but if truth be told, I wanted this opportunity so badly, because I was aware of what it meant, not only to me but to my country and the General World Public, and its youth, in particular, my primary constituency.



The King Said Hello: An Eyewitness Report from the IOC Congress in Copenhagen

By: Poul Broberg (Denmark)



Once upon a time is the beginning of most fairytales. And this could also be the starting line of the story about the Danish National Olympic Committee hosting the 121st IOC Session and XII Olympic Congress in Copenhagen.

It was indeed a fairytale for such a relatively small Olympic Committee to be the centre of world attention, when the host city for the 2016 Olympic Games was elected. I was there, and this was a fantastic stop on my Olympic Journey, which I started when I participated in the 44th session at the Olympic Academy back in 2004. Now working as secretary to the management of the National Olympic Committee, I was deeply involved in creating the IOC session and congress — the biggest ever sports related event in Denmark.

Among many of my tasks, I was signed up to take care of the VIPs that the NOC had invited for the opening ceremony in the Royal Opera House. During the opening ceremony a great meeting took place — a meeting which once again shows what Olympism is about.

Just a few weeks before the Opening Ceremony, I was reading an interview with the IOC president, Jacques Rogge. In the interview he said that he personally has two Olympic heroes. One is the Australian runner Herb Elliot, whom Mr. Rogge met during the Sydney Olympic Games and the other is the Danish sailor Paul Elvstrøm, who won four consecutive gold medals from 1948 to 1960.

At the time that I read the interview, I was in close contact with the Elvstrøm family because I was able to borrow his

gold medals and exhibit them at an Olympic Exhibition in the Copenhagen Town Hall. Today, Mr. Elvstrøm is an old man, but hearing that Mr. Rogge was an admirer of his career convinced Mr. Elvstrøm he would show up in public to attend the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Session and Congress.

After the ceremony, I managed to get hold of Dr. Rogge's staff explaining that an Olympic legend wanted to meet him. Mr. Rogge was eager to meet one of his heroes. And there, in the middle of the Opera House, it was suddenly Dr. Rogge's time to take pictures like any other sporting fan who had just met a great athlete.

The Spanish King, Juan Carlos, turned out to be a big Elvstrøm fan as well. I will never forget when the Spanish King shouted after the Real Madrid legend, Raul, telling him to hurry because it was time to honour a former Olympic star. I don't think that either Raul or Mr. Elvstrøm knew who each other was, but when your King is telling you to say hello, you say hello.

The meeting between Rogge and Mr. Elvstrøm was my great memory from the IOC Session and Congress. I also attended the speech of President Obama and was present when Dr. Rogge announced Rio de Janeiro. Hearing that Rio had won was like standing in the middle of the Olympic history. But that is another story in a different fairytale.

Flambeau d'Or Awards

Nov. 14, 2009 Rome

By: Daniele Nati (Italy)



The Panathlon International sports federation's Flambeau d'Or awards are presented in three different categories every four years. The "Flambeau d'Or" Prize aims to contribute to the affirmation of ethical and cultural values in sport through awards. The awards are given out every four years to outstanding candidates in three areas: sport promotion, sport culture, and event organisation. These awards aim to remind the world what path should be followed in order for sport to live and flourish according to the Olympic philosophy of Panathlon International.

Winners in the past include: Jacques Rogge, Sergey Bubka, Juan Antonio Samaranch, Lord Killanin, Joao Havelange, Pelé, and Avery Brundage.

The following winners of the 2009 Flambeau were honoured at the Capitol Hill in Rome:

1) Oscar Pistorius for Sport Promotion

Oscar Pistorius is the double amputee world record holder in the 100, 200 and 400 metre. Although eligible to compete in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing, Pistorius did not qualify for the South African team. At the 2008 Summer Paralympics, he won the gold medals in the 100, 200 and 400 meter. For many sports loving people in the world he is already an icon, even at his young age.

2) Professor Gudrun Doll-Tepper, Head of Inclusive Education, Physical Activity and Sport at Freie Universität Berlin for Sport Culture

This is the first time an award has gone to a German sports scientist and a female representative of organized sport in Germany.

Professor Doll-Tepper was honored for her outstanding service to sport development and her dedication to promoting sports for people with disabilities. She is Vice President for Education and Olympic Education at the Deutscher Olympischer Sportbund (German Olympic Sports Confederation).

3) Hein Verbruggen for Organisation of Great Events

Hein Verbruggen has been a Dutch honorary member of the International Olympic Committee since 2008. Previously, he was a member of the IOC and Chairman of the Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing. He was president of the Union Cycliste Internationale from 1991 to 2005. From 1991 to 2005, Verbruggen was president of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).



Award winners and Daniele (right)

It was an honor to support the organization in Rome during the days of the event. Talking to Oscar Pistorius, Prof. Doll-Tepper and Mr. Verbruggen was a pleasure. You could really feel their Olympic Passion and understand why such personalities were rewarded with the prize.

IOA Master's Program

By: Julien Buhajezuk (France)



The first semester of the first IOA Master's program ended on the 5th December 2010. The students were asked to prepare some papers about each module - history of ancient and modern Olympic Games, philosophy and ethics of sport, international relations, and Olympic History – in order to complete their knowledge and prepare for thesis writing.

During the semester the students enjoyed the IOA facilities and really appreciated the presence of internationally acknowledged professors from several universities including Berkeley, Graz, Western, and Brockport.

The second semester will start on April 17th and will last until the middle of June. The semester will close with the opening ceremony of the IOA's 50th young participant session in Athens. This semester will be followed by a thesis semester.

As the first class of the Master's program in "Olympic studies, Olympic History, management and organization of Olympic events," we want to be available to anyone who would need us and of course we hope to be able to help the future students.

**Olympism
Connectivity**
**By: Eli Wolf
(USA)**

An amazing community

Beauty

Warmth

Joy

How does it work?

Miles and miles apart

Yet so close, so dear

Can it be true?

A shared experience

A shared place

Shared passion

A connectivity

Love

Truth

Friendship

We dream together

We unite together

An amazing community

Beauty

Warmth

Joy

News

Master of Arts - Olympic Studies

The M.A. is a new international part time programme in Olympic Studies. It is a two year programme organized in six modules of six working days each and a thesis. The Information Management Department of the IOC has contributed to the development of the academic project. The programme will implement a high-level, interdisciplinary curriculum in Olympic Studies which will foster the links between the academic and Olympic worlds.

The Main objectives of the study programme are to:

- enhance the individual participant's Olympic knowledge in social sciences and humanities
- promote the individual participant's critical appreciation of the nature and significance of values in the advocacy and practice of Olympism, Olympic Sport and the Olympic Movement
- foster critical reflection on processes of continuity and transformation in the Olympic Movement and on the relationship between Olympism and Olympic practices and wider social contexts
- develop the individual participant's capacity to undertake independent research on relevant areas of the Olympic Movement by using appropriate methodologies.

The programme will be delivered by a core network of universities, including the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the German Sport University Cologne, Loughborough University, the University of Lyon and the University of Mainz.

For more information: www.osc-cologne.com ; osc@dshs-koeln.de (Prof. Dr. Stephan Wassong)



Reunion!

Srimal Wickremasinghe (Sri Lanka) Nicolette Wolf (Austria) at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, Austria—March 2010.

The Law of the Olympic Games

Book by Alexandre Miguel Mestre (Portugal)

This book examines, from a legal perspective, the numerous developments in the rules and institutions of the Olympic Games from antiquity to the modern day. It offers a well informed and insightful explanation of the Lex Olympica, and analyses the legal and institutional aspects that arise in the Olympic Movement (OM), such as its definition, composition and general organisation, its three principal constituents, its three satellite organisations and its organs. Furthermore, it addresses contemporary legal questions and inherent consequences the OM encounters, such as eligibility criteria, legal protection of the Olympic symbol, protection of the environment, advertising and ambush marketing, athletes' freedom of expression and Olympic boycotts.

Analysis of the main legal and institutional aspects of the Olympic Games allows reader to learn about the legal challenges it faces □ Examines the numerous developments which have taken place in the regulation of the Olympic Games, allowing readers to view the Olympic Charter in its historical perspective □ Documentation section contains full basic texts on the Olympic Games, such as the Olympic Charter, allowing readers to study such texts in connection with the analysis

1980 US Volleyball Team in Hawaii

Members of the 1980 USA Women's Olympic Volleyball Team will meet in Kauai, Hawaii for their 30th anniversary reunion. The team was ranked #3 in the world when the U.S. boycotted the Moscow Games of 1980. The women will enjoy all of the beauty of Kauai thanks to hostess and teammate, Laurel Brassey Iversen. They plan to hike to the Jurassic Park Waterfall (Manawaipuna), and the highest swamp in the world (Alakai), snorkel, learn to surf and sail to the famous Na Pali Coastline.

While on Kauai (population 60,000) the women will offer an athletes' clinic for the local girls, and a coaches' clinic led by members of the Beijing Olympic Volleyball Team staff. Between the five women attending they have been on 11 Olympic Teams as athletes or coaches.

Side note: Mahalo (thanks) to those of you who sent messages during the recent tsunami that came to Hawaii from Chile. It turned out to be a non-event, but we got to practice our evacuation plan. Quite exciting!



European Judo Union Training Center

By: Galia Vassileva (Bulgaria)

The European Judo Union (EJU) is working to create several European centers for EJU athletes and coaches so they can train through the whole year for the 2012 Olympics. The two pilot centres in Great Britain and Russia will be open to male judokas only. If these are successful, the EJU will continue developing the program.



In the middle of March, the EJU and the British Judo Association were proud to present information on the first EJU Olympic Training Center which will be held at the Dartford Judo Club in April. According to the IJF World Ranking List, the top three judoka in each weight category are automatically included in the EJU list and the Union will pay 40 EURO per day for these athletes.

In the end of 2009, the International Judo Federation (IJF) and EJU decided to change referee rules. Refereeing Sectors have decided to extend the new rules for the European U23 Championships to be held in Antalya (TUR) in November. This new regulation is, no doubt, a true revolution in the judo world. "We know that judo has a good reputation within the IOC, because judo is an honest sport and we will do everything to keep up this quality" said Juan Barcos IJF Referee Director according to new rules.



Everyone who loves that sport believes that Judo is a philosophy of life. A new slogan has been accepted - **Judo- more than sport.** With this change World judo prepares for the Olympics in London 2012.

Vancouver Reunion

By: Richard Koo (Canada)

The city of Vancouver, Canada was proud to host the XXI Olympic Winter Games in February of 2010. And in what has become tradition, the city was also the host to the bi-annual IOAPA/ Olympic Games alumni reunion.

This year's reunion took place on February 26 at the Aquarius Mews apartment complex, located minutes from BC Place Stadium (home to the Opening and Closing Ceremonies), and overlooking the Vancouver Athletes' Village at False Creek. President Héctor Argüelles represented the IOAPA at this event.

While the Winter Games reunion is traditionally smaller compared to its summer counterpart, this meeting still attracted representation from three different continents. Those that attended were treated to a cozy atmosphere and great conversation as we saw new faces and reconnected with old friends. Adding to the festivities in the room was coverage of the Women's Gold Medal curling match and the Men's Ice Hockey semi-final game on the big-screen TV (the close results having kept many of us on the edge of our seats for much of the night).

The evening continued with drinks in the Yaletown entertainment district of Vancouver. Those who were unable to attend the formal reception joined us here as we continued the celebration of the Games and the friendships that we have made through the Olympic movement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa Wallace from the Canadian Olympic Committee and Katherine Ringrose from 2010 Legacies Now for helping to organize and spread the word about this year's event to the IOAPA alumni.

See you again in
London in 2012!



Discussion Questions

What do you think about Rio being awarded the 2016 Olympic Games? How will this affect Brazil and South America?



Of course it is a great chance for Brazil and SA as a whole. But one must also consider the responsibilities and the risks: within two years Brazil must handle the two biggest sport events on the planet: FIFA World Cup in 2014 and Summer Olympic Games in 2016. Usually even one of those event is a tremendous challenge for a nation in terms of organisation, finance and manpower. Brazil will have to split its best people and resources among those two events.

~Daniele Nati (Italy)

Should Women's ski jumping have been allowed in the Vancouver Games? Why or why not?

My first reaction was 'no.' But, after speaking with a few knowledgeable people last week, I see no reason why women should not be included in this sport. Vancouver would have been a great time for them! In fact (not really sure if this is true) I was told that women tested the hill before the Olympics began in Vancouver! So, why not let them jump?

An additional comment: why not eliminate the sliding sports? Luge and bobsled – and skeleton – are getting more dangerous. I realize many people would be angry (anyone whose sport would be eliminated would be angry) but they might not be missed by many spectators...

~Elizabeth Hanley (USA)



How do you think the inclusion of golf and Rugby Sevens in the 2016 Games will affect each sport?

Personally, I think the Olympic Movement has lost its way in selecting these two sports ahead of some of the others which have been waiting a long time to attain Olympic status. With Rugby 7's in particular, the sport is more of a circus act. I don't know many rugby players that aspire to make their national 7's team - it's only an option if they are not good enough for the full national team. This diminishes the value of an Olympic gold medal, which in other sports is truly the pinnacle of their sport. I'm not convinced that will be the case for rugby OR golf. Squash and bowling are two sports NOT on the Olympic program which I am certain would add more value to the Olympic ideals - because the athletes truly want to be there - but unfortunately that criteria seems less important than any value they might add to the bottom line.

~ Ted Polglaze (Australia)

I think it is good that the IOC tries new sports inside the Olympic Games, around the "backbone" classics such as track and field or swimming. In Vancouver we saw how successful new sport disciplines were (e.g. the Snowboard Specialties). But on the other hand the IOC must be honest if it does not work (not a global sport, only few spectators, only some nations competitive). The latest example was baseball: introduced in Atlanta 1996 it will leave the Olympic Program soon.

~Daniele Nati (Italy)

GOLF: I'm not in favour of Golf being included as it is a sporting code only played by the elite (rich)! While it is included I would suggest that the players should not bring their own caddies. The IOC in collaboration with the International Golf Federation could perhaps consider reaching out to the poor, involving the youth of developing communities to serve as caddies - training them as caddies so that they could also be educated in Olympism and experience an Olympic Games!!!

SEVEN'S RUGBY: This is encouraging and could lead to eventually include conventional Rugby (15-a-side). This is an aggressive hard playing sport with numerous incidents on assault, cheating, foul play, fighting, drugs and swearing. They can learn a lot on Fair play. Respect. Friendship and Peace through the Olympic Movement (Olympism).

~Gert Potgieter (South Africa)



Discussion

What are your thoughts about the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Games? Do you have any special memories or moments you would like to share?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Let us know what you think and we'll publish your comments in the next newsletter. Contact Anne at anne@ioapa.org

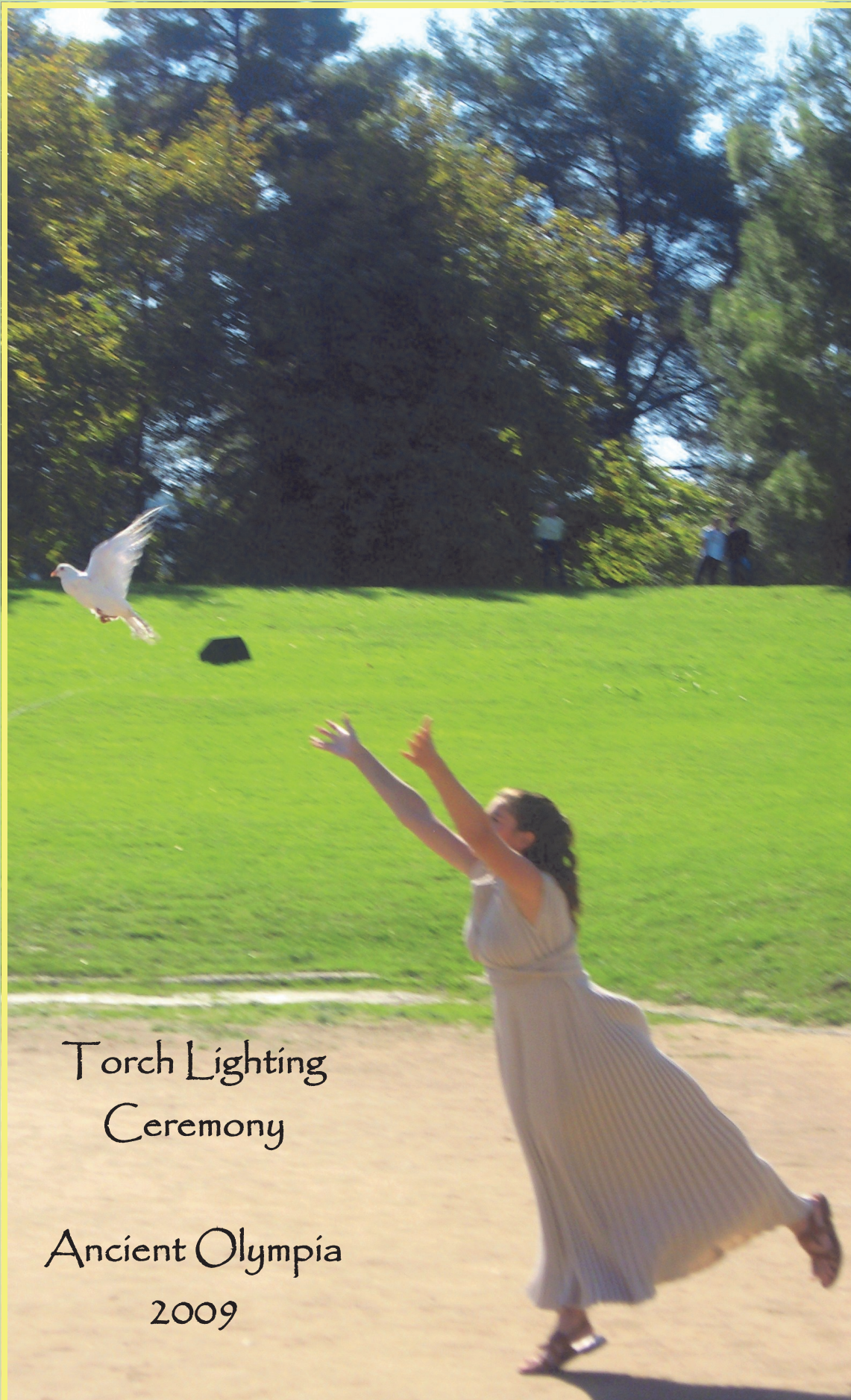
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

Is anything interesting related to sport happening in your country?

Has something exciting happening in your life that you would like to share with your IOAPA friends?

If you are interesting in contributing to the IOAPA newsletter we would love to hear from you!

Please contact the newsletter editor, Anne, at anne@ioapa.org if you're interested.



Torch Lighting
Ceremony

Ancient Olympia
2009