

ARETE NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2013 ISSUE



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EDITORIAL

BY: VAGELIS ALEXANDRAKIS (GRE)

Dear Readers,
Welcome to the Spring Issue of the Arete Newsletter!



In this issue we recall the London Olympics, we look at the major sport events that took place recently, we reflect over key facts that marked the last couple of months, we explore the connection between arts and sport and we bring you some updates about recent developments in disability sports and the role of sport as a social inclusion tool.

Did you miss the London Olympics? Read an article by the Head of Editorial Services of LOCOG and get a real first-hand experience from the life inside LOCOG. On March 8 we celebrated the International Women's Day and on this occasion we reflect over the developments of the female sports movement. Read some reflections over certain major developments that took place recently, like the exclusion of Wrestling from the Olympic schedule and the recent tragedy in the Boston marathon. Also, on the occasion of Margaret Thatcher's death, we look at her sports and "Olympic" policies during her mandate.

As always, Olympic education could not be absent. Find out about what the German Olympic Academy has been up to in 2013, the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Argentinian Olympic Academy and the national session of the Portuguese Olympic Academy. Read also an article about the largest "Olympics" exhibition ever, which is currently in display in the Olympic Museum of Qatar, as well as an article by the last years' IOA Arts Coordinator who presented her work, including her achievements in the IOA, in an international Arts & Sports Conference in Leeds, UK.

As always, in this issue you can find some «Olympic» news, including some info about the Olympic Day in Greece and the revival of the first Modern Olympics in Athens as well as some information about what happened in the IOC Sport for All Conference in Peru. Find out about the latest opportunities in the field of sport, including conferences, the brand-new Olympia Praxis Summer Programme, Olympism academic fellowships, internships and job openings in the field of sports. Most importantly, you can find all the information you need to register for the upcoming IOAPA session: 24 June - 2 July 2013!

Finally, do not forget to remain ACTIVE within Olympism and contribute to the Arete Newsletter! Make your voice heard, let us know about your work, a conference in which you participated, a dissertation you are working on etc. Do not hesitate to contact me - I am happy to discuss any potential article for the next issue of the Arete Newsletter. As the weather is getting better and better, we wish you a wonderful summer and we hope to see as many of you as possible in the upcoming IOAPA session in Olympia!

Enjoy your reading!

Vagelis

Arete Newsletter Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY: HECTOR ARGUELLES (ESP)



The current focus of the IOAPA is on the upcoming session this June in Olympia. As you know the registration is open and we are hoping to see many of you at the IOA. You can find full details in these pages on how to register for the Session.

As always we are very grateful to the IOA for giving us the chance to stay at the IOA facilities and in such favorable conditions. The session is an opportunity for you to come back to Olympia; revive your previous IOA experiences; meet like-minded people and friends; get inspiration and ideas that you can apply back home; gain new insights and knowledge around the Olympics; and rekindle your Olympic Spirit.

The IOAPA session this summer also marks the end of the term for those of us at the Executive Committee. It will be time to evaluate what the association has achieved and what can be improved going forward to serve you better. We will analyze the results of the membership survey that run over the past few months and use it to make the plan for the upcoming term.

The IOAPA will elect its new Executive Committee for a two years term. I would like to encourage you to bring your ideas and dedication to the Association. The IOAPA will ultimately be shaped in a significant way by those of you that take the initiative to lead the organization and bring it to the next level.

Warm Regards,
Hector



IOAPA Session 2009

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IOAPA SESSION 2013 - RE-LIVE THE DREAM IN OLYMPIA! - REGISTER NOW!!

24 JUNE 2013 - 2 JULY 2013

The IOAPA session 2013 is now fast approaching. If you have not registered yet, you are highly encouraged to do so! You can go back to Olympia, meet again your friends and make new ones! Share your past experiences, acquire new ones and live again the Olympia dream!

The session will include presentations by IOAPA Members—experts in Olympic-related issues, fancy events, like a pool party, social evenings, excursion to a beach, dinner at Olympia and many other surprises!!!!



We are looking forward to see many of you in Olympia! Please find at the links below all the relevant information and the registration form.

For any information, please, do not hesitate to contact our Vice-President Carolin at carolin@ioapa.org.

Session Information and FAQ:

www.ioapa.org/images/documents/13th_IOAPA_Session_Memo_And_FAQ.pdf

Draft Program:

www.ioapa.org/images/documents/13th_IOAPA_Session_Draft_Program.pdf

Registration Form:

www.ioapa.org/images/documents/13th_IOAPA_Session_Registration_Form.doc

Yours in Olympism,
IOAPA Executive Committee



IOAPA Session 2009

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LIFE INSIDE LOCOG

BY: ANDREW SHIELDS (UK)

The London 2012 Olympic Games were described as ‘happy and glorious’ by IOC President Jacques Rogge, and the Paralympic Games as ‘the greatest ever’ by IPC President Sir Philip Craven. High praise indeed, and testament to the immense efforts of the 7,000 London 2012 Organising Committee (LOCOG) staff, 70,000 volunteers and 100,000 contractors who made up the Games-time workforce. For those of us who had been part of the seven-year build-up to the Games, such words brought a huge feeling of pride in a job well done.

I joined LOCOG in January 2009. Even though it was a job with a fixed end date, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. My job was to head up the Editorial Services team, which at that time numbered three people. By the time the Games arrived, there were 41 of us, covering content, design, internal communications, film and photography, and public enquiries.

We produced a total of 2,500 publications: around 200 in my first year then, as the Games drew near, around 200 every month! These ranged from technical reports to international brochures, operational manuals to competition forms, and we also supported the licensed publishing department that produced dozens of souvenir books and programmes. We also managed the content for the London 2012 website, created hundreds of e-communications, delivered dozens of films, managed thousands of photographs, maintained several communication channels to keep our growing workforce informed, and ensured every enquiry sent to LOCOG was dealt with. Quite a workload! And while we were doing all this, we were also preparing for our Games-time roles.



The ‘Village Life’ team plan the next issue

Editorial Services was a support department – this meant the bulk of our work was done before the Games, and we could measure our success by the fact that every part of the organisation had the publications they needed, when they needed them. For Games time, we split in two: the majority of the team joined Web & New Media to run the website that helped millions of people around the world feel part of the Games, while a smaller group moved into the Olympic Village to run the Village newspaper. I was lucky enough to be editor-in-chief of this operation.

Much of an OCOG's work is guided by the IOC's Technical Manuals. There is very little guidance about the Village newspaper, however, beyond the fact that it should be informal and fun for its audience – athletes and team officials living in the Village – and produced daily in two languages, English and French. Our ambition was to create a newspaper that everyone wanted to read, and that they would take home with them as a souvenir (this is why the paper is still printed and not digital). We reviewed the papers from previous Games, and the IOC approved our plan for an eight-page, full colour, bilingual tabloid called 'Village life', starting two days before the Opening Ceremony with the last edition two days after the Closing Ceremony – a total of 20 issues. We printed 11,000 copies each day and these were distributed around the Village in specially designed dispensers. For the Paralympic Games, we produced 13 issues of a four-page paper in English only, and printed 5,000 copies.

The paid staff consisted of myself and one other editor, two designers and four translators, while we recruited 12 volunteers ('Games Makers') to be our reporters. These were the people who were out and about in the Village gathering stories and taking photos – a dream volunteer job for the lucky dozen, who really brought their skills and creativity to the project. We operated a shift pattern, because our aim was to go to press as late in the evening as possible (around midnight) then have copies delivered into the Village at 7am the next morning. As the Village settled down, we found most athletes were out relaxing in the evenings and it was the best time to get stories.

The only rule we were asked to follow was not to approach athletes directly. They already had to deal with the world's media and did not want journalists in their 'home from home'. However, we quickly found that a smile and 'hello' was all it took to break down any barriers – and as the athletes became aware of the paper and who we were, they were more than happy to stop and talk. For the 99 per cent who would not leave London with a medal, being featured in 'Village life' was a highlight of their Games.

The focus of each issue was the athletes and team officials themselves – their lives, their hopes and dreams, their countries, their favourite food or music, and so on. We featured many of the small nations competing at the Games, and also encouraged the athletes to get out and explore the wonderful Olympic Park next door and the delights of London just a few stops away on the tube.



Andrew Shields with Venezuelan track cyclist Victor Garrido Marquez

My favourite experience? During the Paralympic Games, I was contacted by Venezuelan road and track cyclist Victor Garrido Marquez. Victor wanted us to write about his experiences because President Chavez had helped him recover from the loss of a leg and set up a cycling training school in Spain. I agreed, and tried to set up an interview. Victor was being ferried around London by a Spanish-speaking driver who did not have Games accreditation – and so we agreed to meet in a pub near to the Olympic Village. Imagine my surprise when Victor arrived, in full race gear, and proceeded to wheel his very expensive bike into the pub!

We featured Victor on our front cover – then, a few days later, he appeared at the door of our newspaper office. He was delighted at the story and wanted to say thank you – he could show the newspaper to influential people to help gain more funding for his cycling school. Victor ended up staying for two hours, talking through an interpreter about his extraordinary life. I only wrote 500 words for 'Village life'; I now had enough material for an entire book!

Working for an OCOG is extremely stressful and very challenging. In the last year, 12-hour days were common and I worked many weekends too. Almost every waking moment was spent thinking about something connected to London 2012, and it was very hard on my family. But I would not have missed the chance. Even now, six months later, I still feel very emotional about what we achieved, and the brilliant people I worked with. LOCOG really was 'Olympism in action'.

In the Village, it was always a thrill to see residents reading the newspaper while eating in the Main Dining Hall, waiting in the Polyclinic, or relaxing around their accommodation block. Lots of athletes and team managers said kind things about the paper, and we feel we have set a 'very high bar' for Sochi and Rio. We wish their teams every success, and hope they have as much fun as we did.

Andrew Shields was the Head of the Editorial Services team of the LOCOG, which produced around 2,500 publications, content for the London 2012 website, e-newsletters and hundreds of other pieces of content. During the Games he was the editor-in-chief of the Olympic and Paralympic newspaper, the daily paper produced for the athletes living in the Village.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND SPORT

BY:LAUREL BRASSEY IVERSEN (USA) & NAGMEH KARIMINEZHAD (IRAN)

As it is recognized widely “International Women’s Day” (IWD) is a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future on March 8 each year. The concept of IWD is interpreted differently through different cultures. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria, International Women’s Day is a national holiday.

The history goes back to August 1910 when the first International Women’s Conference was organized in Copenhagen. Inspired in part by the American and German Socialists proposed the establishment of an annual “International Women’s Day” (singular), although no date was specified at that conference. Delegates (100 women from 17 countries) agreed with the idea as a strategy to promote equal rights, including suffrage, for women. The following year, on 19 March 1911, IWD was marked for the first time, by over a million people in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

United Nations as a one of the first and powerful organizations which has been active in ending violence against women and in empowering women around the world celebrates the special day for women under a various theme every year. In 2011 the 100th anniversary of IWD was celebrated around the world in more than 100 countries. “Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty” was the theme chosen for 2012 by the UN and the world celebrated IWD in the year 2013 as “a promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women”.

Women have been struggling for their rights for a long time. They tried to demand their social, economical and political shares by initiating different ways either individually or in the form of groups. Every culture has its own stories. Even every religion treats women differently. Historical, geographical, social, political, religious, traditional, tribal and so on are among the obstacles through women’s way to their equal rights as men. While in developed countries women are competing to poses higher levels in society, economy and politics those in developing and under developed countries still deprived of their basic rights as a human. However we witness more and more achievements around the world by women even though it requires hard work and strong beliefs in their cause.

One of the effective and by far strongest mean to help women to succeed is education. Literacy acts as a barrier. An empowered person is one who has gained enough knowledge to become familiar with her living environment. An educated person knows her surroundings better, realizes better, decides better and as a result enjoys a higher level of self-esteem and believes in herself. Therefore education brings intellectuality and lightens the path to desired achievements. The United Nations has taken major steps toward educating girls and women worldwide.

Another leading organization in adjudication women’s rights is International Olympic Committee. Sixteen years ago, the IOC formalized its policy on promoting gender equality throughout the Movement by adopting a recommendation to that effect at the 1994 Centennial Olympic Congress. The study commission of the Congress recommended the creation of a Women and Sport Working group, which would be tasked with advising the IOC President and the Executive Board on how this could be achieved. This group, created in 1995, initially worked on the following three areas:

- Encourage women’s participation in the Olympic Games and in sport generally
- Get more women into sports leadership
- Raise awareness and spread information

In recent years, sport and physical activity as a strategy for the empowerment of girls and women has been gaining recognition worldwide. Involvement in sport and physical activity is capable of educating girls and women in a way of building life skills, confidence and body awareness and may create social networks, which result in dramatic positive life changes.

Female involvement and the fight for equality in sport was signaled at the opening ceremony of the Games when, after the industrial revolution sequence, a troop of women dressed as suffragettes filed into the stadium. Things have come a long way since the first Olympics in 1896, when all competitors were men. In 1900 women were allowed to compete for the first time, but were not awarded medals until the following Games. Since the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta, the first Olympic Games to be “affected” by the gender equality policy, the level of female participation has more than doubled. By the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, women made up just over 42 percent of the participants. It took over one hundred years for women to be allowed to compete in all sports. For the first time, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei sent female athletes to the 2012 London Summer Games. Even though this is not what Baron de Coubertin had in mind when he founded the modern Olympic Movement.

Still some of the important elements of the IOC policy have not yet been achieved. The objective is to have at least 20 percent of positions in decision making structures held by women. The IOC is aware that such an objective can be achieved only in successive stages, but is not giving up. This issue is now one of the IOC’s and the Women and Sport Commission’s priorities.

However any person –women and men– involved in sport and the Olympic Movement and who enjoyed the spirit is responsible to assist the Movement in achieving its goals. Especially, marginalized girls and women across the globe should try to benefit more from the advantages of Olympism to overcome inequality and to gain more of their rights within society. We all should celebrate the International Women’s Day every year magnificently with more success.

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MARGARET THATCHER AND HER SPORTS POLICY

BY: VAGELIS ALEXANDRAKIS (GRE)

On 8 April 2013, Margaret Thatcher, British prime-minister during the years 1979–1990 passed away. Having been called by a Soviet Journalist “Iron Lady” and having been characterised by International Press as one of the leading female personalities of the 20th century, as Prime Minister she implemented policies that have come to be known as Thatcherism. Of course, analysing every policy of her goes far beyond the scope of this article, which will be focusing on the policies she implemented in the field of sport.



[Thatcher and Olympic Games](#)

In January 1980, the US president, Jimmy Carter, proposed that the Moscow games should be moved, postponed or cancelled, in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The International Olympic Committee rejected this call, but the US tried to recruit other countries to join a boycott of the games. Margaret Thatcher, as the UK Prime-Minister, wanted to support this initiative of the US and boycott the Games as well. Thatcher's initiative, though, found strong opposition in both the sport world as well as within the British Government and, finally, Great Britain participated in the 1980 Olympics. Athletes like Sebastian Coe and Daley Thompson made it to go to Russia and win a gold medal.

Thatcher, ever keen to reduce public spending, would never fall for the notion of a home Olympics. When Birmingham bid for the 1992 Games, it did so without full government financial backing. Interestingly, the city's official letter of support was signed not by the Prime Minister but merely by Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

[School sport](#)

In 1981 Thatcher's government gave education authorities the right to sell school land that they considered surplus to their requirements. Some 5,000 fields across the country were lost during the 1980s to new building development and, with teachers in dispute over pay and conditions, school sport went into a period of pronounced decline. Whatever the cause, a survey by the Secondary Heads Association showed that the proportion of pupils under 14 spending less than two hours a week in physical education rose from 38% to 71% between 1987 and 1990.

[Hooliganism](#)

On the 29th of May 1985 the Heysel Stadium disaster occurred. On this day 60,000 supporters made their way into the stadium in Brussels for the European Cup final between Juventus and Liverpool. Roughly an hour before kick-off, the opposing fans began taunting each other but quickly things became violent as missiles were thrown and Liverpool supporters began to charge the Juventus section. This led to the wall dividing the supporters to collapse under the pressure which resulted in hundreds of fans being crushed and trampled. Thirty-nine fans were killed and another six-hundred injured, a majority of them Italian and Belgian. The Liverpool fans were largely blamed for the deaths; as a result of this English clubs were banned from European competition for a certain number of years. British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher strongly supported the ban, saying; “We have to get the game cleaned up from this hooliganism at home and then perhaps we shall be able to go overseas again.”

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Considering football hooliganism as a social order issue, in 1989, during her mandate, the Football Spectators Act of 1989 was also introduced, which made ID cards compulsory for fans, a plan that was only abandoned after the deaths of 96 spectators at the Hillsborough disaster later in the same year.

To recapitulate, like all her policies, Thatcher's sport policy had strong supporters and strong enemies. It is not easy to evaluate Thatcher's actions in the field of sport. Besides, assessing policies goes far beyond the aim of this article, which just seeks to cite Thatcher's involvement in the field of sport. However, even though leading personalities, like her successor, John Major and Lord Sebastian Coe, have stated that she did not really care or know much about sport, it seems that her actions reflect her determination to act and bring a lasting change, but also to save money and cut expenses that she probably considered superfluous.

Sources:

- Football's final revenge on Thatcher for holding the sport in contempt (aurosport.com, April 9 2013)
- Margaret Thatcher's sporting legacy (bbc sport.co.uk, April 9 2013)
- Silence of the fans: Why has sport shunned Thatcher? (cnn.com, April 12 2013)
- Thatcher, la Dame de foot, (sofoot.com, April 9 2013)
- Thatcher Had Troubled Relations With UK Sports (abcnews.go.com, April 8 2013)

WHY WRESTLING?

BY: CHARILAOS CHONDRONASIOS (GRE)

The IOC decision to drop wrestling from its schedule for the 2020 Games triggered numerous reactions worldwide. These reactions included coordinated efforts from the 180 national federations of FILA, or spontaneous actions by sport fans all over the world. On many occasions, Heads of states (like in Russia and Iran, where the sport of wrestling is very wide-spread) intervened with regards to this issue, which indicates the huge impact this initiative has had, not only on the field of wrestling but on the global sport and Olympic movement.

Indeed, in Greece the entire society opposed to IOC's initiative to deprive the Games from wrestling, the sport-symbol of the Olympic spirit, synonyme of the term « Agon ». However, how can a sport that does not have a huge number of athletes, proved to have a huge number of supporters ? What did Wrestling mean in the past what is its meaning nowadays ?

Wrestling, as an element of one's every day life, has existed since the very moment human beings emerged on Earth, when they had to deal with horrendous natural phenomena and were confronted with the dilemma : running away or stay and fight ? Every culture has comprised the event of wrestling either as a means of entertainment or as a means of self-defence.

The place though where wrestling first appeared as a real sport was the holy ground of Olympia. Greek mythology is full of examples of heroes-wrestlers, and one of its indicative versions include the Myth related to the wrestling fight between Peleas and Goddess Thetis during which Thetis took the form of monsters in order to beat Peleas, who with a hold in her back beats the Goddess who finally yields in the erotic passion of Peleas. Their union will lead to the birth of Achilles, the bravest of the Trojan war's heroes. The wrestling fight between Peleas and the forms of Thetis in wild animals symbolises the fight between the civilised human being with one's animal instincts. This symbolism of Hold-Wrestling of Peleas with Thetis is portrayed in the Symbol of Maiandros, one of the most popular and used Ancient Greek works of art.



The etymology of the word Maiandros (midwifery and man) constitutes along with the figure of Maiandros an excellent sample of the Ancient Greek mysticism and a codified message for the way men were born. The most ancient scene of wrestling in Greek literature is provided by Homer in Iliad where he describes a wrestling fight between Odysseus and Aias, a very rare case when the game ended up with a draw. In this way Homer highlights the need for balance between body and spirit. What is great about wrestling is that its objective is not the elimination of the opponent but the prevalence over him. This symbolises the ongoing effort of human beings to dominate the nature and the environment without causing any damage to it, and this constitutes a huge pedagogical virtue and one of the eternal aims of sport. The existence of palastras and wrestling as a basic means of education is a fundamental aspect of the Ancient Greek educational system. It is characteristic that the greatest philosopher Plato used to refer to Palestras. Actually he was an athlete of wrestling, which is something that not many people know.

Times are now different though. People of contemporary society are totally different from the ones of that era. Nevertheless, the Olympic Games organisers keep referring to the Ancient Greek culture and the notions of kalokagathia, agon and athlos, seeking to convince the world about the value of sport and fair play. In fact, Modern Olympic Games were always an arena of political competition as well. The Los Angeles Olympic Games marked the beginning of a new era for the Olympic movement. It's the first Olympics, since Athens 1896, who were funded by private sponsors. The IOC, gained a profit of 223 million dollars. Eversince, the IOC fully financially independent, can define the limits of political interventions to the Games. In fact, the selection of the events of the programme constitutes a political act, which can go against a nation or a geographical territory.

The IOC as a non-profit organisation that represents the philosophical and educational movement called Olympism, should not make decisions on the Olympic programme only on financial and PR grounds. In fact, such a decision is not even justified by the interest wrestling generated during the London 2012 Olympics where the 97,5% of the wrestling tickets were sold.

However, why wrestling is at stake again? What are the reasons why wrestling is facing exclusion from the programme when Latin dances are probably joining the programme? Is it probably because the IOC plans to change the idea behind the greatest sport event worldwide and make it an enormous show biz event? However, one should not forget that wrestling is a tradition in every single nation. Wrestling Olympians and their moderate way of life makes them role models for the youth and the symbols of the fight for survival in every poor neighborhood in the planet and every society which tries to keep its national characteristics.

Of course, Russia, Japan or the US are not poor states, but at least 20 of the poorest states worldwide have been represented over the years in the Olympic podium. IOC Members, before taking a final decision on the matter should take into consideration the ideological consequences and the international impact the exclusion of wrestling would have.

For Greece, the sport of wrestling constitutes along with the Ancient Greek language, the sciences, the fights for freedom and democracy one more cultural lasting legacy left to humanity with ongoing value and symbolism. These reasons make us—the contemporary Olympic fans—keep «wrestling» so that this decision can change and so that the Olympic movement does not lose one of its fundamental reasons d'être.

REFLECTIONS ON THE BOSTON MARATHON TRAGEDY

BY: YOAV DUBINSKY (ISRAEL)

Monday evening it was the Israeli Independence Day. As a child it was one of my favorite days of the year, going out with friends, celebrating at the main square in Tel-Aviv, watching the fireworks and listening to free concerts by some of the leading Israeli artists. This year I went out for a pizza and beer with a friend and watched the fireworks from a less crowded area. It was nice seeing Israel celebrating for a change.

But this nice feeling ended the minute I got back home and saw the reports that something happened at the Boston Marathon. Instead of watching some of the Israeli classic movies, I was hooked on CNN, watching the horrifying events. I've seen scenes like this many time on Israeli TV, and it never gets easy.



Yoav in Boston

I've been to Boston about two years ago. It took me a weekend to fall in love with the city and to declare that if I'll ever have a chance to live there, I'll be happy. I loved the market, had dinner and a beer at the famous Cheers pub and of course went to the TD Garden and visited the Massachusetts Hall of Fame. What a great sportive legacy, so many famous sports teams and so many great moments. Although I'm not a Boston Celtics fan, it's impossible not to feel that special vibe when you see the pictures of Larry Bird or parts of the floor of the legendary Boston Garden.

There's such a sportive feeling in this city, and the Boston Marathon is one of the most famous Marathon Runs in the world these days. We all know how important the Marathon race is for the Olympic Games. It commemorates the 42.2 KM run of the Greek soldier Pheidippides from the Battle of Marathon to Athens. And in the modern Olympics it's one of the most famous events, going through the whole city, giving every fan a chance to watch the runners without buying tickers. It's really bringing the Olympics to the people.

Even outside the Olympic Games the Marathon is one of the most popular competitive and amateurish events. It's a celebration of sports, not only for professional athletes, but for everyone. Even someone out of shape like myself finished the 10KM Race at the Ottawa Marathon in 2011 and the 4.2 KM Race at the Tel-Aviv Marathon in 2013, just to be part of the celebration. And the Boston Marathon is considered to be the Crown Jewel.

I was touched to read how much support Bostonians received, especially from their biggest sportive rivals. The Chicago Tribune dedicated a full page under the heading proclaimed: We are Chicago Red Sox, Chicago Celtics, Chicago Bruins, Chicago Patriots and Chicago Revolution – all the sportive teams that represent Boston and New England. In New York, the New York Yankees paled in Yankee Stadium the song "Sweet Caroline", as a tribute to their biggest rivals, the Boston Red Sox, who play this song in every home game.

I'm coming from a country where we're no strangers to terror attacks. For those of you knowing me personally, you know how torn I am between remembering the 11 Israeli athletes, coaches and referees that were killed in the terrorists attack at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games and the Olympic Games as a global celebration. Attacking a sport event, and especially a Marathon, hurts an open nerve. It's an attack on personal freedom.

Boston was and still is one of the most attractive cities in the world for me. It has such a great sportive legacy and a rich culture, but even more important it is one of the most important cities in the development of Modern Democracy. It's where the American Revolution erupted after the Boston Tea Party. Boston is a symbol of freedom. And freedom is worth celebrating.

NOA PORTUGAL ANNUAL SESSION

BY: SANDRO LUCIO (PORTUGAL)

The National Olympic Academy of Portugal has promoted its 24th Annual Session and 5th Members Session, simultaneously, between April 12th and 14th, in the Rio Maior Sports Center. The 32 participants had the opportunity to attend a series of discussion panels, where the exchange of ideas and experiences were consistently one of the main elements.



The Opening Ceremony was attended by the NOA President, Dr. Sílvio Rafael, the representative of the Portuguese Sports and Youth Institute, Carlos Pereira, the Mayor of Rio Maior, Isaura Morais, and the newly elected President of National Olympic Committee, José Manuel Constantino.

(c) NOA Portugal/ Paulo Ferreira

As usual, the sessions consisted of a series of lectures, debates and a round table where Olympic and Paralympic experiences were shared with those present by the renowned athletes Susana Feitor and Nuno Alves. Also group works were conducted, as well as the presentation of activities developed during last year by the participants. Lectures were delivered by Aníbal Justiniano, Bruno Barracosa, Carlos Braz, Carlos Gomes, José Manuel Constantino, Luís Costa and Rita Nunes, regarding the following subjects: Pierre de Coubertin; Ethics in Sport; Paralympics; Ancient Olympics; the future of NOC Portugal; Olympism and Volunteers; and the Modern Olympic Games.

Source: NOA Portugal

ARGENTINIAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY - 1982-2012

BY: CAMILA BOLLINI & FACUNDO CIPARO (ARG)

Last year, our Academy celebrated its 30th birthday, something we are all proud of and that we had the great chance to enjoy. Every year since 1982, the Argentinian Olympic Academy (AOA) has its session, gathering together athletes, coaches, journalists, educators and any kind of person who is interested in sports from all over the country. In a five-day session, more or less 40 participants get together and attend different lectures, doing group work to learn about Olympism and the Olympic Movement. Two of those attendees are selected to be part of the Young Participants Session in the IOA during the following year.

The aim of the AOA is to deepen the Olympism philosophy study, to diffuse its Values and to contribute to the formation of new sport leaders in Argentina.

Last year, for its 30th anniversary celebration, the organizing committee invited all the ex-participants to get together for two days, after the conventional session, in an exceptional reunion. During October 26th and 27th, more than 150 people of all different ages and professions were able to share and exchange experiences and knowledge. Personally, we must confess that it was amazing to get to know what everybody else was doing all around the country.

As regards the conferences, we had the pleasure to listen to Dr. Conrado Duran-terez Corral, President of the Pan-beric Association of Olympic Academies, talking about "Olympic Philosophy" and Prof. Konstantinos Georgiadis, Dean of the IOA, speaking about "50 years of the International Olympic Academy". Moreover, we had the President of the AOA, Lic. Mario Moccia talking about "Olympism Implementation at National level".



But the best part of it was the enriching exchange of ideas among the participants. We all know how important Friendship, Respect and Excellence are in the Olympic world and they were definitely felt during this session. Also, we had time to get together with the APAOA (AOA Participants Association) members and start organizing different projects to expand Olympic Education all over the country. Olympic Education and specially the three main Olympic Values (Respect, Friendship and Excellence, established by the IOC in the 119th Session in Guatemala 2007) are two of the most important issues the NOC is taking care of nowadays during Gerardo Werthein's administration, the current NOC President. That is why every year there is a lecture about National Olympic Education Programs during the AOA session.

Different activities, coordinated by Silvia Dalotto (Director of the Olympic Education Program and participant of the AOA), have been done during the last years to promote this around the country. First, some digital material and an educational magazine have been created. This includes information, videos and different games to train the teachers and students. Also, courses about Olympic Education held by AOA ex-participants together with some NOC members are starting to take place in some provinces of the country. Although this is a quite new idea, it is supposed to be done all around Argentina, especially in the Teacher Training Colleges of Physical Education in the next couple of years. And last but not least, there is a plan to include Olympism as part of the curriculum at schools, something that hopefully will be happening in Entre Rios (Argentina's province) this year, and that is planned to be applied all over the country. APAOA (the ex-participant's association) is a very important volunteering force that collaborates and hardly works on this Olympic Values diffusion.



Another very important recent activity is the biannual realization of the Itinerant Argentinian Olympic Academy, intended to 35-year-or-more people involved in sports. This means that is destined to all people interested in Olympic Movement that, due to its age, cannot be part of the conventional AOA Session. This is a very important tool considering the objective to spread Olympic Values all over the country and through different ages.

In addition, if there is something that can make the AOA feel honored, is that a really big number of sport leaders all over the country have been part of the academy. For example, the Argentinian Olympic Committee General Secretary has been graduated from the AOA, as well as the General Manager. Also the AOA Director and the APAOA President got graduated in the same year. And the main volunteer group of our NOC is completely formed by AOA graduates. Actually, all the lecturers talking about Olympism around the country have been graduated from the academy too.

In general, everyone who finishes the 5-day session every year gets passionately involved with the Olympic Movement. That shows that our NOA is working hard on diffusing Olympic Values. We invite you to know our NOA and our NOC on this website: www.coarg.org.ar.

AFTER THE GAMES IS BEFORE THE GAMES - THE GERMAN OLYMPIC ACADEMY (DOA) IN YEAR 2013

BY: TOBIAS BÜRGER (GER)

Once I was asked an interesting question by a friend: “The Olympics only take place every four years respectively every two years if you consider the Summer and the Winter Games. What is the task of an Olympic Academy in between, is there really enough to work on for an institution like this?”



His question might sound a bit pointed but somehow legitimate. After all, the agenda and lots of projects of a National Olympic Academy are directly linked to the biggest sport event in the world. And certainly the DOA is now looking back on an intensive and likewise successful year. Just to point some core projects out:

- a study trip to the Olympic Games, mainly targeted at multipliers of the Academy like teachers and professors. It celebrated its premiere in London with more than 50 participants,
- the organization of the German Olympic Youth Camp in cooperation with the German Sports Youth in London with 60 talented young sportswomen and sportsmen aged between 16 and 19,
- the publication of teaching material for German-speaking elementary and secondary schools,
- a reunion of nearly 70 former German IOA representatives and participants of education courses for teachers,
- a conference with our colleagues from 25 European Olympic academies held in October in Eltville next to the Rhine River (for further information take a look at the report of Carolin Bischof in the ARETE Newsletter 2/2012, pp. 26–27).

Considering this list one could and should imagine that the year 2013 might be a calm(er) one. But the gap between Summer and Winter Games is always small and so Sochi is already casting its shadows before. The next issue of the traditional teaching brochures – they are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year – is already in progress, the material about the 2014 Games will probably be published on an online platform at the end of this year. After the sensational amount of more than 200.000 registered downloads in context with the London Olympics, the Academy is hoping for a successful continuation.

Similarly the preparations for the German Olympic Youth Camp in Sochi have long begun. Two exciting weeks including the attendance of the Olympic competitions and a cultural and sport programme for 40 young participants require a well-planned preliminary work. During an official visit to Sochi in March representatives of the German Olympic Academy and the German Sports Youth gained an impression of the huge building activities at the Russian Black Sea Coast and already took a breath of ‘Olympic air’.



Beside the Sochi Games it is not only about new projects but also about the continuation of well-tried ones like a close collaboration with the IOA. Like every year three students have been chosen recently to represent Germany at the Session for Young Participants in June. Furthermore the German Olympic Academy will hold a one-week seminar amidst the magical atmosphere of Ancient Olympia in September with approximately a hundred sport students from ten German-speaking universities.

In connection with the NOA workshop in 2012 the DOA intends a deeper co-operation with its partners throughout the Olympic world. At the end of April the exhibition "Five Rings: The Fascination of the Olympic Idea" – presented by the German Olympic Academy in German in 2011 and recently translated into English – will be shipped on behalf of the German Olympic Sports Confederation to all National Olympic Committees worldwide respectively all IOC members.

Last but not least, Willi Daume, one of the most important German sport functionaries and patron of the German Olympic Academy, would have celebrated his 100th birthday in 2013 and will be honored in a ceremonial act in Cologne in May.

So, what did I answer to my friend and his question? I referred to the Founder of the Olympic Movement, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who characterized Olympism as a "state of mind" which means also a continuous spirit between the Olympic Games. To promote this spirit might be a good guideline for the work of a National Olympic Academy.

OLYMPICS - PAST AND PRESENT - EXHIBITION

BY: KONSTANTINOS ANTONOPOULOS (GRE)

On March 27, 2013 the exhibition entitled “Olympics–Past and Present” was inaugurated at the Al Riwaq Exhibition Center in Doha – Qatar. It is the largest exhibition of its kind showing both ancient and modern Olympic Games and narrating the history of the Olympics in ancient Greece and their re-establishment in modern times.

The host and organiser of this important event is the Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum (QOSM) in collaboration with the Hellenic Authorities , and in partnership with ExxonMobil Qatar.



In his greeting speech Mr. Konstantinos Tzavaras, the Greek Minister of Culture, mentioned among others, that “...Olympia, to this day, continues to be the matrix of the historical ideals of sportsmanship, friendship, solidarity and peace...” and he added that “...the ideal of “Agon”, remains a source of inspiration and excitement for humanity..”

At the first part of the exhibition, visitors are able to admire more than 800 ancient artifacts, originating most of them from the Museum of Ancient Olympia. It is important to mention that, for the first time more than 200 exhibits found during the recent excavations in the site of Olympia are presented to the public. Also, other Museums such as the National Archaeological Museum and the Numismatic Museum in Athens, the museums of Dresden, Munich, Berlin, Rome and the Vatican have send to Qatar some of their fine items related to the topic of the exhibition. With these carefully selected ancient treasures (statues, vases, and bronzes depicting athletes and athletic activities as well as models of Olympia), the curators of the exhibition will guide the visitors to the sanctuary of Olympia, and explain its role in ancient Greece. Children, young people and adults who will pass the gates of Al Riwaq Exhibition Center, will find out more about the Greek culture and the festivals held in Olympia and they will discover the program of the ancient Games.

Previously, from August 31st, 2012 until January 7th, 2013, the majority of these ancient works of art were successfully presented in an exhibition by the title “Olympia: Myth, Cult and Games” in Martin Gropius Museum in Berlin.

The second part of the exhibition in Qatar, entitled: “Olympics: Values – Competitions – Mega Events” is dedicated to the contemporary era. Through a comprehensive display of all the torches, posters, mascots, medals, programs and tickets from the last 48 Winter and Summer Olympic Games, this section of the exhibition, “...illustrates the values and rituals of the Olympics, promoting peace and personal achievements, as well as the broader context of this Mega Event and its interrelationship with politics, environment, economics, social issues and doping..” . Dr. Christian Wacker, Director of the Qatar Olympic & Sports Museum, made sure a special section on Qatar’s participation in the world-class event to be included.

The exhibition will be on display until June 30, 2013. During these three months, gallery lectures, a theatre performance, a film festival as well as a family fun day will complement the exhibition.

For more details, visit the Exhibition’s official site: <http://www.qma.com.qa/exhibitions/opp/en/>
Konstantinos Antonopoulos is the Archaeologist of the Ephorate of Antiquities in Olympia

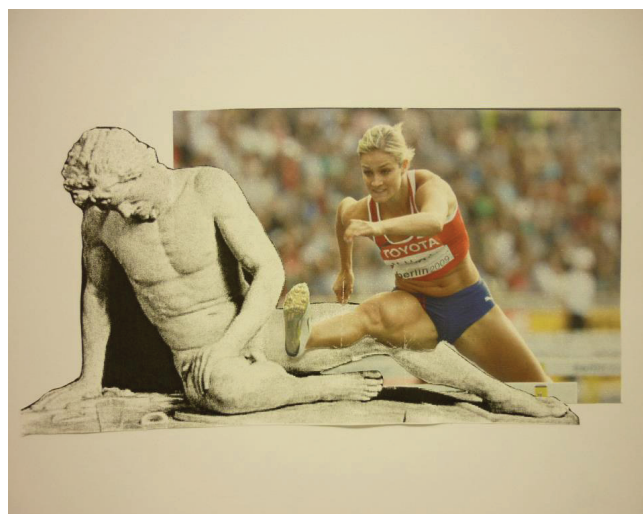
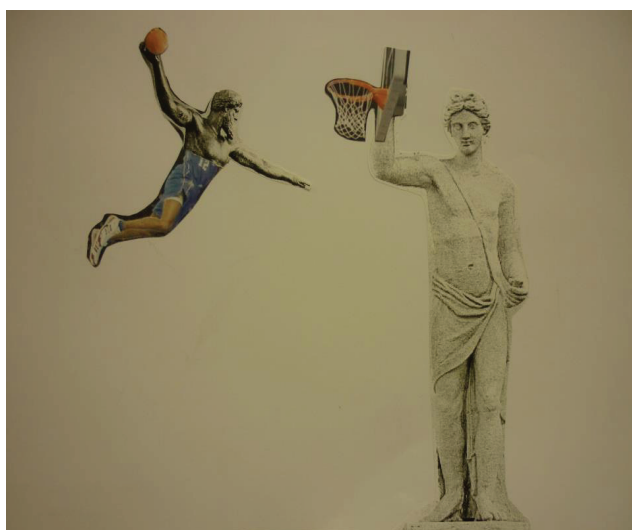
FIELDS OF VISION: ARTS IN SPORTS CONFERENCE | LEEDS, UK

BY: GEORGIA BOUKLA (GREECE/ UK)

Fields of Vision is an international conference, organised for first time in Leeds. It stands for an ideal of bringing the Arts and Sport together. Convened by Leeds Rugby Arts (Leeds Rugby Foundation) the conference was initiated and hosted for first time on the 30th of November 2012 in association with the Research Institute for Sport, Physical Activity and Leisure (Leeds Metropolitan University). The aim is to bring together those interested or engaged in the historical and contemporary relationship between the arts and sport, to encourage wider audience network and facilitate interdisciplinary partnerships in order to open up opportunities for both new knowledge and practices.

The Inaugural Fields of Vision conference saw Selected Academics and Arts Practitioners deliver a variety of relevant paper presentations from different fields. These are some examples of the diversity of issues the conference covered: Mike O'Mahony's (University of Bristol), Keynote paper, *Imaging the Games: looked at The Olympics in Art and Visual Culture*, Dr Lisa Stansbie's (University of Huddersfield) paper, *Extreme Exposures: looked at the practice and narratives of channel swimming as a methodology for the creation of contemporary art*, Carali McCall's (Central Saint Martins, UAL) *A Line is a Brea(d)thless Length: presented an investigation into running as drawing to explore distance, speed and time*. All the participants raised animated discussions and contributed to the exchange of ideas that was complemented I thought by its appropriate setting (Leeds Carnegie Rugby Stadium) and by the supporting multidisciplinary exhibitions presented throughout the venue.

It was through my experience as an associate artist of the International Olympic Academy that initiated the idea of me submitting a proposal for a paper presentation under the topic: *The experience of Olympic Ideals from an artist perspective*. I commenced my presentation with an introduction to my practice as an artist, followed by an overview of the academy as an institute with a focal point on my relation as an artist involved with the academy's arts program for Young Participants. Consequently the presentation concentrated mainly on the work made by participants related to my artist in residence project *Do It*, part of the Fine Art Workshop activities for the 52nd session in June – July 2012.



Being able to present this portfolio of work in a conference setting, dedicated to both the arts and sport (as an artist linked to the IOA and by its support), has opened up new possibilities to develop further my studio practice. Also a personal interest which explore and extends the idea of democratic and inclusive principles of art activities, proposing further ideas for discussion that I hope will initiate for me a new platform that can engage imaginatively the contemporary arts and sports sphere.



I would like to thank Mr Doug Sandle, Chair of the conference who has very kindly agreed to contribute to this text and give a further insight to the program and concept of Fields of Vision.

Doug Sandle | Leeds Rugby Arts and Convener and Chair of Fields of Vision – The Arts in Sport.

Headingley Carnegie Stadium in Leeds is a unique dual purpose stadium containing the famous Headingley international test cricket match ground and an adjacent rugby pitch stadium, which is home to Leeds Rugby and its two teams – the rugby union team Leeds Carnegie and the rugby league team, the Leeds Rhinos, who are the current UK champions. The conference brought together 44 delegates comprising academics, researchers, arts practitioners, cultural producers and policy makers interested in the use of the arts to celebrate, promote and critique sport and to explore the relationships between the creative arts and the aesthetics of sport.

With regard to programmes such as the Olympics the relationship of the arts to sport can sometimes appear to be indirect and problematic, especially when arts and sport are brought together solely within a context of public celebration or to promote a national image. On such occasions it might be argued that there is only a tangential relationship between the arts and sport as such.

However the arts are increasingly being used to more directly explore and express the aesthetic and cultural dynamics of human movement and physicality in sport and also of sport as a spectacle and performance.

The Fields of Vision conference enthused and inspired its participants and was very well received –as one participant commented – ‘it brought together a range of academics and creative practitionersand was truly invigorating and exciting’. There was a strong consensus to develop the impetus further with future networking, making use of a website and social media and for future Fields of Vision symposia and conferences to be held in other venues and locations. In the meantime a book of some of the papers from the conference is to be published by the Leisure Studies Association. In many respects the conference affirmed the vision of De Coubertin in demonstrating that the arts in sport are still relevant and are developing within contemporary creative practice. Accordingly it was fitting that the well received contribution by Georgia Boukla on her work and the International Olympic Academy was featured at the conference.

Georgia Boukla: Artist based in Leeds, UK. Since graduating from the Masters program in Art & Design at Loughborough University in 2006, she has sustained and developed a national and an international artist profile working on initiating and collaborating in various art programs. Invited by the International Olympic Academy Georgia has been coordinating since 2009 the arts program for Young Participants Session in Ancient Olympia, Greece.

THE WORLD WINTER SPECIAL OLYMPIC GAMES

BY: IDA NORDIN (SWEDEN)

The Special Olympics (SO) idea is to do a little extra for persons with intellectual disability, under the motto: "Sport that changes the world." Therefore, we were very proud that for first time we sent a delegation to the Special Olympics World Winter Games, where our athletes with intellectual disabilities had the opportunity to demonstrate their sports skills with the help of a fun and exciting format. And I was extremely happy to be a part of the delegation of the Swedish Sports Organization for the Disabled and The Swedish Paralympic Committee (SHIF/SPK), which since 1969 has been coordinating and developing the involvement of people with disabilities in sport.



The Swedish team consisted of 35 athletes and 15 leaders. Athletes participated in alpine skiing, cross country skiing, floor hockey and floor ball. Sweden participated with a unified team in floor hockey, a sport that in this form is only played within Special Olympics. The form "unified" means that people with intellectual disabilities (athletes) form a team together with people without intellectual disabilities (partners).

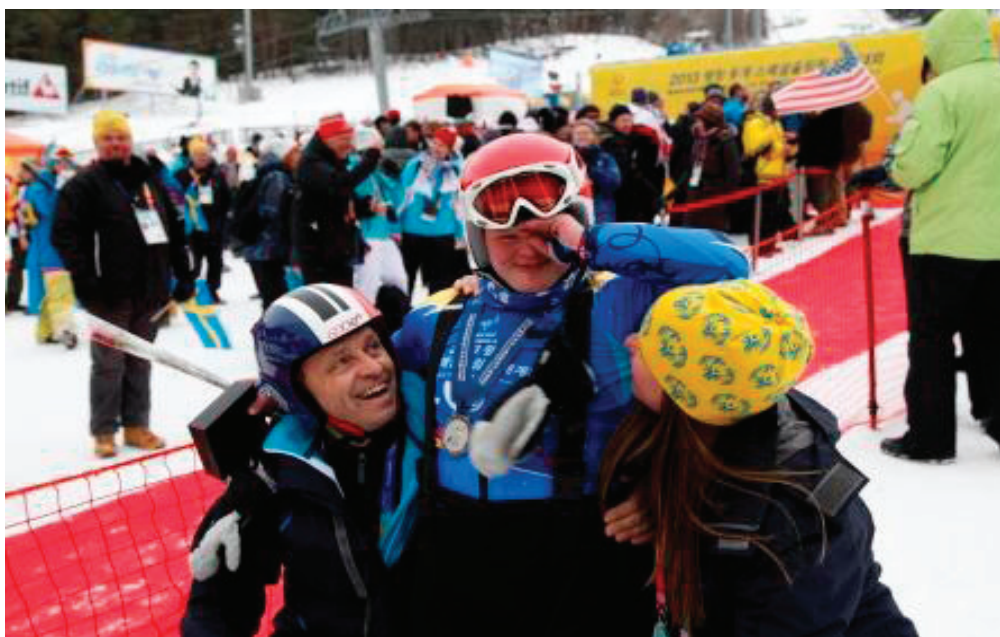
Floor ball is a relatively new sport in Special Olympics and was a demonstration sport during these games. The rules were according to the International Floor ball Federation with the only difference that it was played on smaller fields and with the teams only using four players at the field (including one goalkeeper). The cross-country races took place in classical style and freestyle, as well as the relay. I was a co-leader of the alpine team. The team consisted of six athletes, three girls and three boys. I was also a member of the SHIF/SPK. This committee has the overall responsibility for the alpine disability activities in Sweden. That is, people with both mental and physical disabilities. I'm normally active as leader of Swedish national disabled alpine team. I'm therefore used to serve as a leader to athletes with physical disabilities. Being involved as a leader for athletes with intellectual disabilities was both new and inspiring. It was fun but also challenging to act as a leader 24/7. There are completely different needs that have to be covered in this leadership role, mainly by working as a mental mentor all the time.



Finding my way as a leader in this matter, I must say went very quickly and smoothly. These athletes within the Special Olympics movement are absolutely amazing people. It can be easiest described as removing the “gray zones” in social situations. With this group it’s more black and white in the emotions of the moment you are in. – If I’m glad, I’m very glad. – If I’m angry or sad, I show it to its maximum. Through this, I as a leader quickly read the situation and acted accordingly. There is an openness that I think we have much to learn from in the normal sport and within other aspects of disability sport.

What impressed me was the genuine joy and fellowship the different countries and sports between. The competition was there but in an honest and fair way. During the races and matches you could sense some competition, but in between division and races it was a feeling of joy to be at the same place together. Joy, care and honestly is three key words that come to my mind if I want to point something out. You get a lot back as leader within Special Olympics.

Other than that I want to give praise to South Korea and PyeongChang for the organisation. I experienced it as a well-planned and well organized event. If structure was lacking by some reason in an early stage of the event, it was quickly discovered and rectified. The event itself is the biggest sporting event during 2013 with 3200 delegation members.



Everybody needs joy and fellowship. Everybody is entitled to this. Sport is a really great tool to social inclusion and integration and can lead everyone to this feeling of joy and fellowship. Special Olympics have contributed a lot to the well-being of people and to the acceptance of people with these disabilities and this is why this institution should be further promoted and supported.

ONE FOOT, TWO FOOT, NO FOOT, NO PROBLEM!

A SHORT ARTICLE INTRODUCING THE NEWEST PARALYMPIC PROJECT: ADAPTIVE SLIDING

BY: MIKE KWIATKOWSKI (CANADA)

March 2013 – Locations Calgary Alberta Canada and Park City Utah USA

The high speed world of the sports “Bobsleigh and Skeleton” make the majority of all citizens of the world cringe, while at the same time it makes those same individuals intrigued. These sports capture the imaginations all many people around the world and this has been evident in its popularity at the Olympic Games and at one point a major motion picture. There is no longer the shock of non-traditional winter sports nations participating in the winters sport, it’s now almost expected. With multi culturalism at an all-time high coupled with the realities of globalization and the massive communicational abilities, the world is no longer the same.

The athletes who participate in the sports of Bobsleigh and Skeleton share an ability to tackle these fears and excel, and these are few, so with the advancement and future looking abilities of some sports leaders, those who have been injured, and seek these same feelings, these minds of madness have unified to develop the Adaptive sliding sports association. The athletes that have stepped forward to participate in these programs are the real heroes, plain and simple. The courage, determination, inspiration and equality shown by these athletes represent the true values of a paralympism. The athletes have decided to attempt these sports and we are building on the momentum of the movement with hopes of participation at the 2018 Paralympic Games in Korea.

An opening question during the first meeting in Winsport Canada’s indoor sliding facility from an American athlete named Kurt Yaeger was what we could describe as a typical new athlete question. The question was “How much does this facility cost for us to rent and practice?” Ok. So a typical answer to the question is “the cost is X amount and we already have this facility booked for this school and you will have the opportunity to practice.” Ok says Kurt, but when we come back after the school, shouldn’t we at least get half of the price? Myself: Why (I walked right into the question). Kurt responds: because I have half a leg, he has half a leg, and she has 1 leg, shouldn’t that get us at least half off the price?..

So the initial ice breaking session proved a smashing success and the first ever International Adaptive Skeleton School in Canada was underway.



I hope that the visuals presented can begin to create inspiration and introduction to these sports. I have been plagued with wanting to write about the stories that have taken place during these schools, and the reality is, that is not possible. All I am able to do is share the beginnings of this sport and help contribute to the momentum of the movement. These camps can be seen as the continued breaking down of the walls that surround the thought processes and beliefs to what is possible. For me and many others this was the beginning of new adventures and experiences.



It's hard to forget so many great moments that had an Australian Olympic bobsledder give his bobsleigh uniform to the first Australian adaptive bobsledder, which might not seem like a big deal, but it was. I was touched to witness this, an Olympic athlete standing behind his country man and proudly supporting his pioneering efforts. The stories and first experience seem to be overflowing from these two schools I was able to participate in as a coach, which the humor and camaraderie was beyond inspiring. Seeing the looks on people's faces when for the first time in their lives they are handed a foot from an athlete and told, hey can you hold on though this please, to the realization that you have just participated in a preparing an athlete and sending them down the track, doing something that has never been done in your country.



The countries that participated in these two schools saw Latvia, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, Latvia and during the Latvia and Austria schools, the countries of Greece, Korea, Lithuania, Estonia, and Austria also participated, and forgive me if I missed a nation from those camps, as I was only privileged to participate in the North American legs of these schools.

To conclude this small introduction about this project, I would like to thank first and foremost all the athletes, coaches, volunteers who have dedicated so much to the start of this initiative. I wouldn't feel right to really indulge to deeply into the specifics of this program right away, so I hope a small understanding of what this program can become can plant the seed into the minds and souls of those who believe in the power of sport to produce these opportunities. The uniqueness of the sliding world makes for a small worldly community, one that brings in the most unique characters and personalities with the same common goals. Many new nations have become involved in this program and I will not try to fool anyone, there are many aspects of this project that needs ironing internationally. Much work still stands in the way of these sports becoming fully accredited in the Paralympic program, but this is not the end; this is though the end of the beginning.

NEWS

NEW PUBLICATION: YOAV DUBINSKY: PLACE BRANDING AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

- THEORY AND PRACTICE

Since the revival of the Olympic Movement hosting countries have sought to take advantage of hosting the Olympic Games. Countries and governments used the Games to renovate infrastructure, build new facilities, expose local products and new technologies, leverage tourism, improve the local and international political and social image, promote tourism and show superiority on the sports field that will enable them to take economical, political and social advantage for better image.

This book focuses on the impact that Olympic Games have on the hosting cities and countries. The field of research is often referred to as Nation Branding or Country Image. Researchers analyze country image from two main perspectives: Product-based and Destination-based. The book analyzes the main fields of study in place branding research, the impact of mega sport events on various hosting cities and countries with an in depth analysis of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and an analysis of the complex relations between Israel and the Olympic Movement.

For these researches over 100 interviews were conducted with various stakeholders between 2009 and January 2013 and over 100 national and International sport events were attended, including the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, the 2012 London Olympic Games, the 2011 Special Olympics in Athens and many others. All with the goal to have a better understanding on the different ways Olympic Games can impact the image of the hosting countries and cities.

HOC PRESIDENT NAMED CHAIRMAN OF THE COORDINATION COMMISSION OF EUROPEAN GAMES 2015

A great honour for the President of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, Mr Spyros Capralos, the decision made by the European Olympic Committees who named him Chairman of the Coordination Commission of the European Games, to be held for the first time in Baku, Azerbaijan, in 2015.

These games will take place for the first time in history and the aim is for them to become established in the global sports world. The European Games will be held every four years. They will take place for the first time for all sports in 2015, in the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku, which will welcome about 7.000 athletes from all over Europe. The aim of the European Olympic Committees is to make the European Games the most important international event after the Olympic Games.

LAUREUS SPORT AWARDS 2013

The Laureus World Sports Awards are awarded annually to sportspeople who have been outstanding during the previous year. The 2013 ceremony was held at the Theatro Municipal, Rio de Janeiro on March 11 2013, hosted by Morgan Freeman. Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt and British heptathlete Jessica Ennis claimed the top male and female prizes respectively. Laureus World Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability went to Brazilian swimmer Daniel Dias, who won six gold medals at the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

NEWS: OLYMPIC EDUCATION DAY IN GREECE & REVIVAL OF 1896 OLYMPICS

One of the most spectacular Olympics events of this year took place in Athens earlier this month, a huge celebration of the Olympic movement and sport in general.

On April 12, the Hellenic Olympic Academy celebrated the “Olympic Education Day” on a spectacular event at Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Olympic Games of the modern era took place.

The event, which was under the aegis of the International Olympic Truce Centre, the Greek Ministry of Education, the Prefecture of Athens and the Hellenic Olympic Committee, was attended by more than 35.000 students and their teachers from all over Greece.

Young students had their little faces painted by IOTC volunteers, with the Olympic circles and the dove of peace, so as to carry the message of Olympic and Peace back to their home.

The young students had the opportunity to attend the revival of the 1896 Olympic Games. The performers were dressed in traditional dresses and costumes, carrying everyone to the climate of that distant era with the representation of events, which also included the historic victory of the first Marathon winner Spiros Louis.

A huge number of volunteers facilitated the organisation and all volunteers were awarded by the Hellenic Olympic Academy.

Find more information at the official blog of the IOTC: <http://olympictruce.wordpress.com/2013/04/13/olympic-education-day-in-athens-under-the-aegis-of-the-international-olympic-truce-centre/#more-471>

NEWS: NEW JOURNAL ON SPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The first issue of a new peer-reviewed, open access journal, dedicated entirely to sport for development, has now been published. There were no peer-reviewed journals publishing research exclusively on sport for development and that many practitioners didn't have access to the few subscription-based journals that were publishing relevant content. The journal hopes to help the sector move towards a sound evidence base for sport for development interventions.

For more info, visit the journal website: <http://jsfd.org/>

NEWS: 15TH IOC WORLD CONFERENCE ON SPORT FOR ALL

The 15th IOC World Conference on Sport for All ran from 24 to 27 April in Lima, Peru and brought together over 500 leading experts in the field of Sport for All from almost 90 countries to share their best practices on a wide range of activities.

The themes of the Conference were the social benefits of sports and physical activity, the importance of the availability of sports facilities and public spaces and the cultivation of partnerships. Formatted on a practical approach, the Conference encouraged participants to experience and learn from actual programmes with site visits to Sport for All initiatives throughout the city of Lima. A series of practical sessions which focused on those conditions that are necessary for successful programmes and the challenges surrounding community engagement were also on offer.

The conference came to a conclusion in Lima, Peru, with a call to action to the Olympic Movement and the world of sport to “Get Moving”.

Download here the IOC Sport for All toolkit: http://www.olympic.org/Documents/Olympism_in_action/Sport%20for%20all/spt-tk-en.pdf

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GENERATIONS FOR PEACE!

On 16 April the Jordan-based NGO, Generations for Peace celebrated six years of using sport and education for peace-building and conflict transformation.

Generations For Peace programmes, since its foundation in 2007, have impacted on local issues of conflict and violence in communities around the world. Since their inception, the programmes have trained more than 8,100 volunteers from 46 countries and territories. The delegates have been supported and mentored to implement programmes which have touched the lives of more than 210,000 children, youth and adults.

IOAPA wishes Happy Birthday to Generations for Peace and a lot of success in all their activities.

Visit the website of Generations for Peace for more information on the NGO's work: <http://www.generationsforpeace.org/Userpages/>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

–24–25 May 2013: XIIIth International Scientific Conference “Perspective in physical education and sport”, Constanta, Romania, <http://feff.univ-ovidius.ro/conferinta>

–11–15 September 2013: 21st Conference of EASM 2013: Sport Management for Quality of Life Istanbul, Turkey, <http://www.easm2013.com>

OPPORTUNITIES

EXCITING FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN COVENTRY, UK

A couple of researchers are needed this year to put in applications to the Marie Curie International Incoming or Intra-European Fellowship schemes. These are prestigious fellowships with excellent salaries for successful applicants. To apply you will need to hold a PhD and have an idea for a research project that would last for up to two years. IOAPA Member, Ian Brittain, will act as Scientist in Charge for any successful applicants and so he is particularly interested in hearing from individuals interested in researching various aspects of disability and Paralympic sport or sport for peace and development. The closing date for the Fellowship applications is mid-August this year (2013) and successful applicants would be able to commence anytime from about June 2014 onwards. However, the application process requires a fair amount of time and effort and so the deadline for applications is **15th May 2013 at the latest**.

Successful applicants would receive an excellent salary + living expenses + a monthly amount for research expenses. Level of salary depends on how many years research experience you have (1-4, 4-10, 10+), but the lowest salary (excluding living expenses) is expected to be around 52,000 Euros per year before tax.

You can be from any country in the world except the UK. UK applicants are not eligible

Anyone wishing further information or details please e-mail Ian Brittain at ian.brittain@coventry.ac.uk.

2014 EDITION OF THE IOC OSC PHD STUDENTS RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME

The rules and the application form for the 2014 edition of the IOC OSC PhD Students Research Grant programme have been posted on the IOC website ([http://www.olympic.org/studies – Academic activities and network section](http://www.olympic.org/studies-Academic-activities-and-network-section)).

The deadline for submitting applications is 27 September.

SPORT SUSTAINABILITY E-LEARNING

Jointly developed by AISTS and Positive Impact, with the IOC and SportAccord as principal supporting partners, this course has been launched to support sports events with implementing sustainability. The course consists of four modules and will provide sports organisations with the support and information they need to start, or continue, their journey in making their sports events more sustainable.

Find out more here: <http://www.sportanddev.org/en/newsviews/news/?5496/1/Sport-Sustainability-E-learning-promotes-sustainable-sport-events>

OPPORTUNITIES

OLYMPIA PRAXIS SUMMER PROGRAMME

The International Olympic Academy and Georgetown University join forces to launch a ground-breaking sport for peace and development professional training programme at the birthplace of the Olympic spirit.

When: 23 June – 3 July 2013

Where: Olympia, Greece

Who can apply: Sport for development practitioners, students, athletes, policy officers, and educators. Applications will also be accepted from highly motivated and committed individuals who are interested in entering this emerging field.

Background

Over the last two decades an increasing number of sport, humanitarian, educational and civil society institutions have recognised the power of sport, education and cultural enrichment programmes as tools for resolving a number of social challenges.

The Olympia Praxis Summer Programme is the first step of Olympism4Humanity (O4H), a global initiative that aims to advance human centered alliances, scholarship, educational opportunities and synergies that will facilitate the resolution of existing global challenges. O4H's long-term strategic plan aims to provide ongoing professional training and capacity building for individuals who are interested in gaining the essential skills and competencies for effective Olympism, Peace and Development (OPD) programme initiation and delivery.

This programme is particularly unique for two reasons. It will be the first professional training opportunity solely focusing on Olympic values dissemination as a tool for social change, and it aims to revive these values at the birthplace of the Olympic Spirit: Olympia. There, Olympism, peace-building, democracy, philosophy, arts, science, and civic engagement were originally embraced as vital and essential elements of excellence, and as the components of a holistic educational philosophy of a balanced mind, body and spirit. Participants will participate in a life-changing learning experience by gaining an intense cause-oriented, project-based training at the foundation of the Olympic spirit.

Topics to be covered:

Case Studies: Experiences from the field (unemployment, at-risk youth, conflict resolution, adverse conditions, disability, social integration, etc.)

Applied Olympic Education and Olympism Peace and Development (OPD) Theoretical Foundations

Non-profit organisations, strategic planning, challenges and steps forward

OPD Knowledge Economy (evidence from the field and efforts to bridge gaps in knowledge)

OPD Strategic Planning, Partnerships, Programme Initiation and Delivery

OPD Capacity Building and Sustainability

OPD Monitoring and Evaluation

Programme fees: 1450 Euros

Special discount packages are available for (a) students, (b) Sport for Development and Peace agency staff members, (c) country delegations, (d) National Olympic Academies and Committees' delegations, (e) Olympic Studies Centers' researchers and (f) IOAPA members.

Contact email: olympism4humanity@gmail.com

For more info: <http://olympism4humanity.com/olympia-praxis-summer-program/>

OPPORTUNITIES

EUROPEAN SPORTS DEVELOPMENT NETWORK (ESDN) CONFERENCE

2013 - CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The Department of Sport and Physical Activity at Edge Hill University is proud to be hosting the 2013 European Sports Development Network (ESDN) Conference <http://www.esdn.webs.com/>. This year's two-day event will examine the various opportunities, challenges and possibilities facing policy-makers and practitioners working in sport and related domains in Europe and beyond. Bringing together academics, policy-makers and practitioners working in local, national and international contexts, the conference will take stock of the current policy landscape and consider the ways in which practitioners endeavour to achieve their objectives in increasingly challenging and highly politicized policy contexts to enhance comparative policy learning.

Papers that address the key themes of the conference are welcome on the following topics:

- Youth sport, school sport and physical education
- Sport, physical activity and health promotion
- Safeguarding, welfare and the law
- Sport participation: evidence, trends and future trajectories
- Delivering sport in local communities: partnerships, clubs, volunteers
- Elite sports development: the global sporting arms race
- Sport-for-development: local and global perspectives
- Teaching and learning approaches in sport policy and development
- Open papers

Abstracts or posters should be submitted by 30 May by email at esdn2013@edgehill.ac.uk

SPORT & EU CONFERENCE

The Eighth Annual Conference of Sport&EU will be hosted by the Sports Studies Research Centre at Kadir Has University. The conference will take place on 27-28 June 2013. The timely theme of the conference will be "Sport in Times of Crisis: Challenges and Opportunities".

For more information, to submit an abstract or to register, please visit <http://www.sportandeu.com/events/sporteu-conferences/sporteu-conference-2013/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR DISABILITY SPORTS CLUBS

Fifteen awards of £1,000 are available for sports clubs that encourage participation from people with disabilities.

A prestigious panel – including Sunday Telegraph editor Ian MacGregor, BT's group marketing and brand director Suzi Williams, The Telegraph's Gareth A Davies and Keith Perry, plus British Paralympic gold medallist Hannah Cockcroft – will judge the entries.

Entry details

Entrants may nominate their own sports club only.

Entries must be supported by two referees who are connected to but not necessarily a member of the club.

Written submissions must be in English and be no more than 250 words in length.

Visit the Daily telegraph website to apply: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sponsored/sport/disability-sports-funding/10001712/paralympic-momentum-programme-competition.html>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM ON SPORT & DEVELOPMENT

Project officer opportunity with sportanddev

Click here for further info: <http://www.sportanddev.org/en/newsviews/jobs/?5581/1/sportanddev-seeks-Project-Officer>

sportanddev also seeks a native English speaker intern. See more info here: <http://www.sportanddev.org/en/newsviews/jobs/?5584/1/sportanddev-internship-available>

OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE IOC

The IOC has openings for an Information & Knowledge Management Specialist

Visit the IOC website to find out more: <http://registration.olympic.org/en/jobs>

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY WITH SPORT 4 LIFE

Sport 4 Life is seeking a youth employment and training tutor to join its team in Birmingham, UK.

Find out more here: http://www.sport4life.org.uk/sport4life_news.html

OPPORTUNITIES WITH RIGHT TO PLAY IN CANADA

Right to Play is seeking an Executive Assistant to the CEO and a HR Generalist

Find out more here: <http://www.sportanddev.org/en/newsviews/jobs/?5379/1/Right-to-Play-International-is-looking-for-an-HR-Generalist>

COMMERCIAL LAWYER - TEAM MARKETING AG

Team Marketing AG seeks a Commercial Lawyer to join its team in Lucerne, Switzerland. Find out more here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/employer/949348/team-marketing-ag/?dm_i=1G6Q,1FJK6,7J89Y5,4UZ9,1

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER - FANTASY LEAGUE LTD

Fantasy League Ltd seeks a Business Development manager. Find out more here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/employer/233/fantasy-league-ltd/?dm_i=1G6Q,1FJK6,7J89Y5,4UZ9,1

SPONSORSHIP ACCOUNT MANAGER WITH ERC

ERC has an opening for a Sponsorship Account manager at its offices in Dublin. Find out more here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/employer/949269/erc/?dm_i=1G6Q,1FJK6,7J89Y5,4UZ9,1

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR IN CANADA

Coaching Association of Canada is seeking a Communications Coordinator. Find more information here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/job/949362/communications-coordinator/?utm_source=jbe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2012-11-01&ProcessedTrackID=5344

OPPORTUNITY WITH THE WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CANADA

Wheelchair Basketball Canada (WBC) is seeking an: Event Assistant (full-time/summer student contract position) for the 2014 Women's World Wheelchair Basketball. Find more information here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/job/949386/2014-world-championships-event-assitant/?utm_source=jbe&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2012-11-01&ProcessedTrackID=5344

PROGRAMME OFFICERS WITH SKATEISTAN

Skateistan has 2 openings for programme officers in Afghanistan. Find more information here: <http://www.sportanddev.org/en/newsviews/jobs/?5587/1/Skateistan-is-looking-for-two-programmes-officers>

www.ioapa.org

UK ANTI-DOPING SEEKS A LAWYER

UK Anti-Doping seeks an individual to lead in the prosecution of anti-doping rule violation matters. Find out more here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/employer/948749/uk-anti-doping-ukad-/?dm_i=1G6Q,1GD8L,7J89Y5,4XPV3,1

OPPORTUNITY WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY FEDERATION

The International Hockey Federation looks for a Commercial Partnerships and Business Development Manager to join its team in Lausanne. Read more here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/employer/80/international-hockey-federation-fih-/?dm_i=1G6Q,1GD8L,7J89Y5,4XPV3,1

HEAD OF MARKETING WITH BADMINTON ENGLAND

Badminton England seeks a Head of Marketing to join its team in Milton Keynes, UK. Find out more here: http://www.globalsportsjobs.com/employer/231/badminton-england/?dm_i=1G6Q,1GD8L,7J89Y5,4XPV3,1

EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER WITH LAUREUS UK

Find out more here: <http://www.sportanddev.org/en/newsviews/jobs/?5595/1/Laureus-USA-seeks-an-events-and-communications-manager>

CONTRIBUTE TO THE ARETE NEWSLETTER!

Did you participate in an interesting Conference in the field of sport? Did you attend a sport-related event in your country? Are you working on a sport-related disseration or paper? Would you like to share your thoughts about a certain issue?

Let your Olympic friends know!!! SHARE with us your thoughts and experiences and contribute to the Arete Newsletter!! For any ideas, do not hesitate to contact the Arete Newsletter Editor, Vagelis, at vagelis@ioapa.org