



CISS e-News

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's E-Message



John M. Lovett, President

As I write this message, the Winter Olympic Games at Salt Lake City has just concluded. Unfortunately, I missed the telecast of the Opening Ceremony, but I was told how impressive it was and that the new IOC President Dr. Jacques Rogge spoke highly of the athletes' value to the Olympic Movement.

I want to echo Dr. Rogge's comments, emphasising that the CISS and its major events would not have survived without commitment and perseverance of deaf athletes who have given up many hours of their leisure time and spent a lot of their personal money to play sports and to represent their countries at major sporting events. Many times, they do get little or no support from their clubs or their national government compared to the support their hearing counterparts

receive.

It is important that we recognise that and acknowledge our gratitude to these athletes!

When you read this e-News, the CISS Executive Committee has just returned from its meeting in Sundsvall, Sweden. They also looked at facilities for the 15th Winter Deaflympic Games which will take place next year. My colleagues and I have every confidence in the Sundsvall Winter Deaflympic Organising Committee in putting up a wonderful event next year.

One of major discussion items for the Executive Committee would be the venue of the following Winter Deaflympic Games in 2007! Unfortunately, to date we have not received formal offers from national organisations to host the 2007 Winter Deaflympic Games! Hopefully, within the next few weeks we will receive positive responses from some countries we have written to, inviting them to consider hosting the 2007 Winter Games.

In the next issue of our e-News, we will update you with all news of our meeting in Sundsvall!

NEWS FLASH

CISS Executive Committee meets in Sundsvall

The Sundsvall Organizing Committee invites the CISS Executive Committee to hold its biannual meeting in Sundsvall 24-27 February 2002. The CISS winter sports technical directors will also convene for an informational seminar as well as site inspection of the facilities from 22 to 24 February.

Items to be deliberated at CISS EC: (in partial)

- Incorporation and Tax Exempt for CISS in USA/UK
- Revised Regulations for Deaflympics and World Championships
- Strategic Plans for Sponsorship
- New Procedures for Audiograms
- Draft Guidelines on Anti-Doping

- Training Seminars in Various Regions
- IOC's restrictions on the use of DEAFLYMPICS
- Official Competition Results of the 19th Summer Deaflympics
- Appointment of Winter and Summer Technical Directors
- Progress of the 2003 Winter Deaflympics- Sundsvall
- Progress of the 2005 Summer Deaflympics- Melbourne
- Open Candidature for 2007 Winter Deaflympics
- CISS Archives- Transfer Procedures
- Strategic Publications Plans

The CISS EC meeting will be highlighted in the April issue of CISS E-News.

NEWS FLASH

PRESS RELEASE:

Court Throws out Case Against CISS

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Attorney-at-Law
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Laurel, MD

As expected, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland dismissed litigation against Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS) leaders.

The Court ruled that plaintiff Rafael Pinchas' complaint was vague, "immaterial" and had "conclusory accusations" full of a "mass of verbiage." The Court stated that despite an interpretation to allow the rules to be bent in favor of the plaintiff, the complaint still failed to present a clear statement of his claims. As a result, the Court further ruled that the Plaintiff violated basic rules and procedures warranting the dismissal of his claims.

While remaining confident, the CISS and its defendants are pleased with the Court's decision. They have previously asserted that the lawsuit was baseless and completely unsupported by facts.

"We will not allow the plaintiff's actions to divert CISS from its obligation and commitment to serve all its members fairly and ethically while promoting the ideals behind the CISS Motto--Per Ludos Aequalitas -- Equal Through Sports. The CISS will continue to develop and to promote sport training and competition in the deaf international sporting community and promote international relations on the playing field," commented President John Lovett.

The Court has allowed the plaintiff twenty (20) days to re-file in order to clarify his intentions. If the re-filing occurs, the CISS expects that it will still be dismissed once again. Kelby Brick, an attorney representing the defendants, stated that that "we will not allow the plaintiff to use personal attacks and blackmail tactics to weaken the CISS and its Constitution. This is not negotiable. The law and the court are on our side. If Mr. Pinchas wants to drop his personal vendetta, we will listen to any offer he wishes to make."

The Comité International des Sports des Sourds (CISS) is the oldest of international sports organizations on sport for disabled people. Founded in 1924 and given full recognition by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the CISS is the body which controls the Deaflympics. The CISS is composed of national deaf sports organizations and is managed by an executive committee of nine persons, all of whom are deaf.

For further information about the lawsuit, contact Kelby N. Brick, Esq. at Kelby@bricklawoffice.com.

For further information about CISS, visit www.ciss.org.

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NEWS FLASH

Parkin Shatters World Records in Swimming

Terence Parkin swam 1:01.40 for 8th place in the 100 meter breaststroke, also breaking the Deaf World Record, at the FINA Swimming World Cup in Melbourne, Australia which took place this recent December 7-9, 2001.

Parkin goes on to break more swimming records in less than two months at the FINA Swimming Word Cup in Stockholm, Sweden during January 22-23, 2002. In Stockholm, with a 25 meter Short Course, Parkin won the 400m Medley in 4:10.51. He also swam 1:58.64 in the Men's 200m Medley for 3rd place, still breaking the World Record in this event. That apparently was not enough for Parkin, as he went on and broke another World Record with 2:09.50 in the Men's 200m Breaststroke in which he finished 4th.

Parkin is a ranked swimmer under FINA standings. Based on performances in a 50m pool from January to October 29, 2001, he is 13th in the world in the 200m Breaststroke. Based on performances in a 25m pool from 1 June 2001 through January 24, 2002, Parkin is ranked 10th in the world in the 200m Breaststroke, 13th in the 200m Individual Medley and 8th in the 400m Individual Medley. If you would like to view complete results of the recent events in which Parkin participated, visit www.fina.org and click under results of Melbourne, AUS Dec 7-9, 2001 and results of Stockholm, SWE Jan 22-23, 2002. For complete listing of FINA world rankings, please visit Swimnews Online.

Election of the new Governing body of the Cyprus Deaf Athletic Federation

The 5th General Assembly of the Cyprus Deaf Athletic Federation took place on the 19.1.2002 with the participation of all of the representatives of its four Member Organisations.

During the above Assembly, the new Governing Body of the Federation was elected. Please find here below the names of the members and their posts:

President	VARNAVAS PAPANICOLAOU
Vice President	IOANNIS PAPADOPOULOS
Secretary	CHRISTAKIS ANTONIOU
Treasurer	CHRISTODOULOS KATSIKIDES
Member	PANTELIS ANTONIOU
Member	YIANNAKIS CHRISTODOULOU
Member	PANIKOS KYRIAKOU

Board of the Moldova Sports Federation of the Deaf

The board of the Moldova Sports Federation of the Deaf is as follows:

President	EUGENIU TELEVKO
Vice-president	ION MADAN
Secretary	LIUDMILA SIRBU
Treasurer	ANATOLI PINZARY
Member	ALEXEI GOLOVKO
Member	RUSLAN LOPATIUK
Member	NIKOLAI GEICEAN
Member	BORIS SKVORTOV
Member	IRINA DERKACIEVA
Member	ANNA DUDUN
Member	ALEXEI TURCIENKO

CISS IN THE NEWS

CISS Secretary General Visits Bahamas and Puerto Rico

Since 1924, CISS's membership has grown from 6 to 84 nations. Oddly, there is only one nation from the Caribbean and Central America region that is affiliated with CISS. Therefore, one of the CISS goals for the new quadrennium (2001-2005) is to expand membership base in the Caribbean and Central America. Personal contacts and leadership seminars would do this. The CISS Executive Committee assigned this responsibility to Dr. Donald Ammons, CISS Secretary General.

Prior to making personal contacts with the deaf in the Caribbean and Central America, Dr. Ammons consulted with Maria de Bendequz, the zone 2 representative of Pan American Deaf Sports Confederation (PANAMDES) for her guidance. For the Caribbean, Ms. Bendequz was able to provide Dr. Ammons with contact information for only five islands out of 20 islands. She strongly suggested that better and positive results would come from making personal appearances first before setting up a seminar.

On that account, Dr. Ammons made the initial contacts in early November with deaf organizations and National Olympic Committees in those five Caribbean islands. The only reply she received was from Ms. Elizabeth Rios, Secretary of Sordos de Puerto Rico Inc. After exhaustive demographic survey of the deaf population in the Caribbean, Dr. Ammons decided to select the Bahamas and Puerto Rico as the first two Caribbean islands to work with.

BAHAMAS: Meeting with Mrs. Burnett at the Red Cross Centre for Deaf Children, where a total of fifty-four young deaf children attend for primary education, turned out very productive, as she introduced Dr. Ammons to Marvin Finlayson, a fine young deaf teacher at the center and also a well-respected leader in the deaf community.

In the evening of 9 January, a group of 7 deaf Bahamians and Mr. Finalyson appeared at the lobby of Marriott Hotel for a meeting. Dr. Ammons explained how they could set up an organization with focus on

sports for the deaf and the necessary procedures before applying for membership. Requirements and obligations of an affiliated member of CISS were outlined. They explained to Dr. Ammons that the deaf have been playing basketball in a hearing league in Nassau and have not competed against other deaf teams ever. They are very much looking forward to becoming a part of the CISS family in the near future.



PUERTO RICO: 10 January- Dr. Ammons contacted Ms. Elizabeth Rios, a deaf Telephone Relay Service account manager for Sprint Company and Secretary of Sordos de Puerto Rico, to set up a time and place for an informational meeting. Ms. Rios is a well-known leader and advocate of the Deaf community in Puerto Rico.



Next day, 11 January, Ms. Rios and Dr. Yolanda Rodriguez, a recent doctoral graduate of Lamar University in Houston, Texas and President of Sordos de P.R. Inc. met with Dr. Ammons for nearly five hours.

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ARTICLE

Controversy won't slow Olympics

Games have kept growing, thriving despite past scandals

Ron Borges

NBCSPORTS.COM CONTRIBUTOR

www.olympics.com

Feb. 25 - The Winter Olympics are over, but is the Olympic Movement finished too? That seemed a legitimate question to ponder as the Olympic Flag was being taken down Sunday night at the Closing Ceremony of the 19th Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City. Certainly that flag will go up again in two years to open the Summer Games in Athens, Greece, and in four years in Turin, Italy, but will the Games ever recover from the SLOC bribery scandal, biased judging and refereeing, doping test foul-ups and walkout threats by Russia and South Korea?

THE ANSWER IS "yes" for a simple reason: What else is new?

This is not the first time countries have threatened to boycott the Games. In fact, the United States did it in 1980 and the Russians and Cubans did it in 1984. The Games not only survived but became bigger and bigger business.

Certainly the Salt Lake Games were riddled with charges of rampant nationalism and even hemispheric nationalism, if such a thing can be said to exist. The Russians, embarrassed by their poorest medal performance ever at the Winter Games, accused NHL referee Bill McCreary of setting up a Canada-United States hockey final because of a desire to make the gold-medal game an all-North America event. Funny, the Russians didn't have any complaints about his refereeing four years ago when he worked the Russia-Czech gold-medal game, but when he waved off an apparent tying goal in the third period of the U.S.-Russia semifinal last week, McCreary was suddenly declared biased.

"It's a human reaction that they won't call penalties in crucial situations," Russian coach Slava Fetisov said after the USA had beaten Russia 3-2 to reach the gold-

medal round. "It was designed to be a U.S.-Canada final and now they have it."

That statement so irritated the head of the International Ice Hockey Federation, who said he was "angry and disappointed" with the Russian accusations. Of course, if that guy had to face making license plates in Siberia for losing to the U.S., he might be popping off too.

The Russians were angry when the IOC set a precedent that will surely come back to haunt them, awarding gold medals to both the Russian and Canadian pairs figure skating teams after a French judge said she was pressured into voting for the Russians as part of a deal the French federation made to garner votes for the French ice dancing team.

She later recanted and began blaming everyone she could think of outside herself, including the Canadian federation, after she was suspended and the two teams both received golds. Reviews will go on into the spring, but the IOC forced the figure skating union to make a quick decision and award double gold, a move that irked the Russians and appeared to open a Pandora's box of countries disputing judging, rulings, calls and doping tests.

That's not a first, either. Remember when the 1972 U.S. Olympic basketball team was badly hosed by a referee's call at the end of a game with the Russians that cost the U.S. the gold medal? The Americans refused to accept the silver and left the podium empty during the awards ceremony. Life, and the Olympics, went on, bad sportsmanship be damned.

The same will be true this time. The Russians won none of their arguments over judging and failed drug tests that cost several of their medal winners in cross-country skiing. Spain also lost a gold medal on a blood doping charge when a test of Johann Muehlepp showed he was using a drug so new it was not yet on the banned list to increase the production of red blood cells

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The new face of the Olympics... Mr Clean

By JACQUELIN MAGNAY
The Age- www.theage.com.au
Tuesday 29 January 2002

Jacques Rogge has been head of the International Olympic Committee - the most senior sports job in the world - for just six months, yet he has already established a vastly different style of presidency to that of Juan Antonio Samaranch, who reigned for 21 years.

Where Samaranch was a Machievellian autocrat with a Fascist background, Belgian surgeon Rogge is straightforward, consensus-driven and politically moderate. Samaranch, a resident of the chandaliered Lausanne Palace Hotel, immersed himself in luxurious surroundings. Rogge is more restrained.

"Just call me Jack," says the new president. It is a casual approach that Samaranch, the former Spanish diplomat who used to insist on his Olympic mandarins addressing him as "Your Excellency", would abhor.

Since the June 2001 IOC vote, Rogge has moved from his farmhouse near Ghent in Belgium to an apartment in Lausanne, not far from IOC headquarters on the shore of Lake Geneva.

His wife Anne has given up a prosperous medical career to support his ambitions, adjusting to the new life by learning new languages and assisting at the local university.

He is the president the International Olympic Committee had to have. The 59-year-old Rogge came to power because he was known throughout the world as the clean face of the Olympics. Mr Smooth, Mr Charming, Mr Uncorruptible.

But when he attends his first Olympic Games as its president next month, it will be in the Utah ski fields of Salt Lake City, a place that has been tarred forever by the bribery, secret deals and underhand tactics that were used to secure the Games.

There won't be much of the red-carpet treatment that Rogge detests at these Olympics, which open on February 8, and which, given the current security tension, could be the first big test of Rogge's stature and control.

Australian IOC member Kevan Gosper, who will become the most senior vice-president during the Salt Lake Games, has been impressed by how Rogge, with only 10 years of IOC membership, has proven to be an effective leader.

"After a long period of unorthodox presidency (under Samaranch), he has brought the orthodoxy of being very much in control," Gosper said.

"He is not a bureaucrat, he is a trained professional surgeon and the skills he had in the surgery he has brought to the job. "He is happy to consult everyone and he canvasses opinions very well. He has lots of energy, but once he has done the research he is not afraid to make his decisions and he is quite independent in doing that, much like the control he would have had while doing a knee operation."

Rogge reckons he is a "sober man with sober tastes" and that the heart of the IOC is more humble than its public facade indicates.

He insists, for instance, that he will bunk down with the at-times rowdy athletes in their village in Salt Lake City rather than enjoy five-star comfort at a hotel.

"I will be working all day, but I will go to the village in the evening and sleep there and eat there at night," he said.

There has been little time for internal criticism of Rogge, who has engaged on a round-the-world series of trips to visit heads of state and the world's sports powerbrokers, including a White House appointment with President Bush to shore up security at the Winter

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CISS Secretary General Visits Bahamas and Puerto Rico

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Dr. Rodriguez asked a real good question relating to eligibility. Since the island is a territory of the United States, all Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens. Would CISS recognize Puerto Rico as a separate entity from the United States and would allow Puerto Rican athletes to compete? Dr. Ammons made a quick research and found out that the International Olympic Committee does recognize all territories independently and separately. Therefore, Puerto Rico should be recognized as a self-autonomous country.

Dr. Ammons encouraged both women to start communicating with the P.R. National Olympic Committee while they work on the constitution and by-laws. All pertinent information on the affiliation proce-

dures was given to both Dr. Rodriguez and Ms. Rios.

Dr. Ammons also provided information on the upcoming seminar for deaf representatives from the Caribbean Islands and Central America in Venezuela this coming August, which is funded by the International Olympic Committee. Both Bahamas and Puerto Rico promise to send two representatives! There also would be a Deaf Youth Athletics Meet for all interested deaf runners from the Pan America region in Venezuela shortly after the seminar. They are determined to bring some young deaf runners to compete in that meet.

CISS is looking forward to welcoming new members from the Caribbean and Central America in the very near future.

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Olympics.

Indeed, it appears that everything is going swimmingly for the new Olympic head, other than minor rumblyings about a Eurocentric focus in his early appointments where his close ally Denis Oswald of Switzerland took charge of the 2004 Athens Olympics and his Belgian compatriot Hein Verbruggen the 2008 Games in Beijing. It is a claim that Rogge quickly denies, pointing out that some anticipated he would root out those who did not vote for him. "That is not my style," he said.

All three of his opponents for the IOC presidency have been given key positions although his outspoken and bitter rival, Canadian lawyer Dick Pound, lost the battle to retain the prestigious role of head of marketing. Instead, he heads up the World Anti-doping Agency.

Rogge's term will expire in 2009, but he can ask for a further four years just after the Beijing Olympics, an event already shrouded in controversial human rights issues and sure to provide further challenges for him.

There are the obvious security fears for the immediate future in Salt Lake City. "We are well prepared for everything," Rogge said. "Whether we can stop it is another issue."

He wants the security to be reassuring but unobtrusive and certainly less confronting than at the Montreal Olympics of 1976, which had thousands of un-wielding security officers.

The Montreal Games followed the tragic Munich Games, at which terrorists killed 11 Israeli team members and a German policeman. Since that time security is the top priority for Games organisers.

But this time, the threat of terrorism has kept the debacle of Salt Lake City in the background.

Only three years have passed since the elderly Swiss IOC member Marc Hodler waved his cane for emphasis, thundered about "money, snow and disgrace", and blew the whistle on the \$10 million bribery scandal that enveloped not just the Mormon city, but for a short

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Controversy won't slow Olympics

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that carry oxygen to the muscles.

Such scandal is nothing new to the Olympics (anybody seen Ben Johnson lately?) and for all the threatening words in Salt Lake City, it will not mean an end to the Games, which have become a high-stakes gamble for countries and television networks every four years.

There is simply too much national pride and too much money involved for anyone to pull out anymore, especially at a time when the Cold War is over and war against terrorism seems to be floundering.

Certainly, the United States started the problems by introducing politics into the Games at the Opening Ceremony when we paraded in the tattered American flag that flew over the World Trade Center, which was destroyed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in New York. President Bush made it worse by deviating slightly from the traditional opening statement by the leader of the host country to add a brief but emotionally charged reference to the United States that irritated some of the 77 other nations in attendance and probably opened the door to leaders of other host countries turning that traditional ceremony into a filibuster for their government and way of life.

This was quickly followed by the pairs skating controversy that the Russians felt - quite rightly - was fueled by the power of the American media's ability to keep the questionable scoring in the news until the pressure became so great it threatened to overshadow the Games themselves.

As the Russians accurately pointed out, this was far from the first time a controversy took place in the sordid world of figure skating. It was just one of the few times an effort was made to correct it and that may have so shocked them they began to see conspiracies in every decision.

When their athletes continued to underperform and some of their best alpine skiers were the victim of failed drug tests, accusations began to fly. When a

South Korean speedskater, Kim Dong-Sung, was disqualified for cutting off American skating sensation Apolo Ohno after apparently winning a gold medal, they too claimed favoritism and threatened to walk out of the Games.

Those were significant threats but in the end neither delegation left and they'll both be back at the Summer Games in two years and the Winter Games in four. With no more Olympic competition in the United States for at least a decade, many of the concerns raised in Salt Lake City will disappear but others - some surely from angry U.S. athletes and coaches - will resurface in Athens and Turin because that is the nature of international competition.

It is a venue that occasionally breeds mistrust and a jaundiced eye toward what has actually just happened. But what is significant is not that controversy arose in Salt Lake City.

What is significant is that, in the end, no one left early. As one USOC official commented, "I've never seen an Olympics with so many angry people but I don't think anybody would be mad if we hadn't won 30 (actually a U.S. record 34) medals."

Newly installed IOC president Jacques Rogge downplayed the controversies as well, insisting they were small when compared to the days of the Cold War when boycotts by both Russia and the United States were not enough to grind the Olympic movement to a halt. If the most powerful sporting countries in the world refusing to compete couldn't douse the Olympic flame, a few complaints from one of them certainly won't.

As Anton Sikharulidze, one of the athletes central to the biggest controversy of these Games, glibly put it, "If everything were to go quietly, nobody would watch The Games."

"There would not be enough interest with the general

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time threatened the very future of the Olympic Games.

At the time, Rogge was the IOC's designated man to oversee the Sydney Olympics, and Australia had problems of its own. Rogge was on the edge of an incident when it became known that Australian Olympic Committee president John Coates gave two African countries \$50,000 each just before they voted to choose the host city for the 2000 Games.

Internationally, the IOC's reputation was reduced to the sleaziness of its most greedy member, Jean Claude Ganga, the Congolese father of 10 who milked Salt Lake City almost dry helping himself to carpets, plastic surgery, tapware and furnishings, holidays and a substantial property deal as Utah tried to win the right to host the 2002 Winter Games.

In the end, 10 IOC members departed in the wake of the scandal, but no one outside the Olympic movement was convinced that the elitist culture that had bred such corruption was truly rooted out. That is, until Rogge came to power.

Rogge, the suave peacemaker, knows that an athlete focus has to be stamped on the image of these Winter Games, if only to keep up the momentum from the wildly successful Sydney Olympics and bury the more murky dealings of Ganga and his cohorts. It is a role that he has taken seriously.

Controversy won't slow Olympics

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public," added the male half of Russia's shared gold medal pairs figure skating team after returning to Moscow. "It's cool the way it is."

Occasionally, it's also hot but by 2004 everything will have cooled down again. At least until the first winner gets DQ'd in Athens.

Yet the former champion yachtsman and rugby international says his greatest enemy is not anticipated challenges, but finding time to fit everything in. His greatest strength as an IOC member was his personal skills; ironically, he has no time to utilise them any more. Meetings are brief, words kept to a minimum.

"Time is the thing," he says. "So many people to see or they want to see me and I only have 15 to 20 minutes for them and we have to go to the core of the business immediately. It doesn't allow for chatting or getting to know someone. I've got to get to the heart of the issue."

Rogge works from 8am to 8pm, and has had only a handful of days off since he took over the presidency. He says: "I don't feel pressure; I am relatively stress immune."

Do you have an announcement to make? Upcoming competition information? Competition results? News about an athlete's success? News and information about Deaf people in the sports world?

Contact Us!

Contact Us!

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