UIAA Council 14 May 2005 Agenda item 8.3: Research on mountaineering as an Olympic sport 1896-1948: Note for information.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This paper reports briefly on research which Alan Blackshaw and Roger Payne have carried out at the Olympic Studies Centre in Lausanne on the history of alpinism in the Olympic Movement.
- 1.2 This research has been extended by Marco Scolaris, especially as regards the Paris Games 1900 (see para 2.2 below and the attached programme).
- 1.3 On the initiative of Paola Gigliotti, the University of Perugia have agreed to take this research forward.

2 Mountaineering or alpinism

- 2.1 Alpinism was included in the Olympic Programme when the modern Olympic Games were reintroduced in 1896. Although it was not possible to hold an event, an Olympic Prize for Alpinism was introduced. There was also to be a Prize for Aeronautics.
- 2.2 The Alpinism Prize was advertised at the Paris Games in 1900, but the first Medal was not awarded until 1924, to General Bruce for "outstanding feats on Mount Everest during the 1922 expedition". Medals were provided for the other members of the team, and (subject to checking) for some of the Sherpas. The presentation was made at the first winter Olympic Games at Chamonix in January 1924. During the presentation, Baron de Coubertin suggested that the British should aim to put an Olympic medal on the summit Everest. This suggestion was accepted but has never in fact been carried out, leaving open the question of whether this might be done on some appropriate occasion, e.g. on the occasion of the Beijing Olympics in 2008.
- 2.3 The Olympic Alpine Prize was also awarded in 1932 to the Franz and Tony Schmidt brothers for the first ascent of the North Face of the Matterhorn.
- 2.4 The Prize was also awarded in 1936 to Gunter and Mrs Dyrenfurth for Himalayan exploration.
- 2.5 In September 1946, the IOC agreed to drop the Alpinism Prize. This was said to be at the suggestion of the Executive Committee, but we have not so far identified any documentation regarding this. The Aeronautics Prize also appears to have been dropped at about the same time.
- 2.6 If the Olympic Alpine Prize had continue after 1948, there would have been plenty of opportunities to award it during e.g. the 1950s with the first ascents of major Himalayan Peaks as well as major climbs elsewhere.
- 2.7 It is reasonable to conclude from this that mountaineering was one of the original 1896 Olympic sports, raising the question now of whether the UIAA should seek to get it reestablished in some form, and if so when (para 4.4 below).

3 Ski-mountaineering patrol or race

3.1 Research has also been carried out into the ski border patrol races (called the military patrol) which were included in the winter Olympic Games in 1924 (Chamonix), 1936 (Garmish-Partenkirchen) and 1948 (St Moritz). A number of medals were awarded for these.

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- 3.2 These races were removed from the Olympic programme after 1948.
- 3.3 Subsequently, in 1960, Biathlon was introduced into the Winter Olympics as a Nordic discipline, but there may be scope for claiming that the events in para 3.1 above are nevertheless a precedent also for the present UIAA ski-mountaineering races.

4 Further action

- 4.1 As noted in para 1.3 above, research is now being undertaken in the University of Perugia to validate, and expand on, the comments above.
- 4.2 We hope that this will help to clarify in particular:
 - (a) The background to the decision to include mountaineering as one of the recognised sports when the Olympics were re-launched in 1896 (para 2.1 above).
 - (b) The basis of the awards in the 1930s (paras 2.3-4 above).
 - (c) The reasons for cancelling the Alpinism Prize in 1946 (para 2.5 above).
 - (d) Ditto for the ski-patrol in 1948 (para 3.2 above). And
 - (e) The basis on which Biathlon was introduced subsequently (para 3.3 above).
- 4.3 It would be helpful if UIAA member federations (especially the CAF, the DAV and the SAC) could check their own archives, and those of their respective ski federations and National Olympic Committees, to see whether they can identify any additional material relevant to these events.
- 4.4 It will then be for the UIAA to consider:
 - (a) Whether to seek the reinstatement of the Alpinism Prize, and if so on what hasis
 - (b) Whether a valid case can be made for securing a place for UIAA skimountaineering in the Winter Olympics as an alpine successor to the races in para 3.1 above. And
 - (c) How to take (a) + (b) forward, in particular in relation to the Olympic celebrations in China in 2008.

As noted in para 2.1 above, there was also originally an Aeronautics Prize. This appears to have been dropped at the same time as the Alpinism Prize in 1946. We have had some preliminary discussion with the World Aeronautics Federation (Lausanne) as to whether there may be scope for collaboration on these issues.

4.4 We hope that this work can be completed in time for the Council to consider it in October 2005.

UIAA Bern 19 April 2005

PROGRAMME

JEUX OLYMPIQUES DE 1900

- PARIS -

Comité International des Jeux Olympiques:

. . . M. is Baron PIERRE DE COUBERTIN. . NM. Is Doctor W. GEBRARDT. Is Doctor JIRI GUTH. . . . C. HERBERT La Commandant V D. BIXELAS. . . D. BIXELAS.
La Comis BRUNETTA S'USSEAUX.
La Comis M. se BOUSIES.
La Canaral se BOUTOWSKI
L. CALLOT Pr. KENENY
W. H. BLOANE
Le Beree P. W. as TUYLL
J. B. ZUBIAUR rist Church (N. Zde L. A. CUFF

Comité d'Organisation des Jeux Olympiques de 1900

Président : M. le Vicomte de la ROCHEFOUCAULD.

P. SE BOULONGNE (Yarking).
Geomets BOURDON (Sports athirtipes).

to Doe to BRISSAC.

BRUNEAU to LABORIE (Base).

In Baron M CARAYON LA TOUR.

Secrétaire général : M. Robert FOURNIER-SARLOVEZE.

PPE P'ALSACE WENTER

G. BAUGRAND. to Beron Jak to BELLET (Low-Tomis). to C. A. to BERTIER on SAUVIGNY (Tordford.

E. CAILLAT (Arine).

NM. In Comin CHANDON IN BRIAILLES.
In Marquin de CHARSELOUP-LAUBAT.
M. DUBONNET (Arive).

IL DUPUYTREM, 44 le Comie s'ESTEXNO

le Baron Arrest se FLEURY. Auraes GALLARD.

to Combo A. De GUEBRIANT (Yachting).

Gospow BENNETT.

le Baron LA CAZE.

MM. In Due on LORGE. Fatatas: MALLET.

le Comte P. se MAILLE (Pélocipélie).

F. M NEUPVILLE

ARTHUR O'CONNOR (Come Per la Comte N. POTOCKI (Earn

"In Comts Jacques se POURTALES (G-47).

· Ca. RICHEPEU (Lagar Par

Appet TOUTAIN.

to Comto TUNQUET on LA BOISSERIE. "HERMAN DE VILLENEUVE (Enried).

Programme des Jeux

oris athlétiques. — Courses à pied : 100 m., 400 m., 800 m., 1500 mètres journe pistel, 110 mètres journe à baiet.

Concours : Sauts en longueur et en hauteur transiq log et ligh jusqu'.

Saut à la perche Oris maio.

Lancement du poids (Patting the weight) et du disque.

Pentathle Championni giuirel Cathitime, 4 épreuves : 100 ou 400 m., 800 ou 1500 mètres. — Saut en hauteur, en longueur ou à la perche. — Lancement du poids en du disque.

du poids ou du disque.

(Rigimente de l'Union des Sociétés françaises des Sports athlétiques).

Gymnastique. — Exercices individuels: Corde lisse en traction des bras. — Rétablissements divers à la barre fixe. - Mouvements sux anneaux. -

Barres parallèles profondes. — Sant au cheval. — Travall des poids. Imas. — Assants de fleuret, de sabre et d'épèe. — (Lauben, Professors et alliules).

(Régionnes de la Société d'Encouragement de l'Escrime).

Assauts de boxe anglaise et de boxe française.

Assauts de canne et de baton.

Lutte : suisse et romaine.

Sports nautiques. — Tuckling : Courses & is voile en rivière (Tuckle se-las

S tenness. — Courses à la voile en mer (Indit de 30 tenness).

(Referents de Cercle de la Voile de Paris de l'Union des Yachts français).

Auron : Un rameur : 2000 mètres sans virage millé. Deux rameurs de pointe : 2400 mètres sans virage (betriggers).

Quatre rameurs .

Natation : Courses de vitesse : 100 mètres

fond at vitesse : 500 mètres. fond : 1000 mètres.

Concours de plongeon et de sauvetage.

Water-Polo.

Vélocipédie. - Course de vitesse : 2000 m., sur piste, sans entralneurs.

Course de fond : 100 kilomètres, sur piste, avec entraîneurs. Courses de landems : 2000 mètres, sur piste, sans entraîneurs.

Sport hippique. — Polo (Rigiment du Cinis de Hurlingham et Peris).

Jeux. — Pool-Ball (Ingly et Amelalies).

Colf (Rigiments de Soint-Andrews, madifil selon les atenuités locale Lanca-Tennés (simple et double).

Crequel. Hockey.

Alpiniame. — Un prix olympique sera décerné à l'auteur de l'ascension la plus remarquable accomplie sur un point quelconque du globe depuis la otlébration des Jeux olympiques de 1896.

Tir à l'arc. - (Un réglement de concours est à l'étude.

Patinage. -

P. B. — Conformément sux décisions fendamentales du Congrès International de 1894, les Concours olympiques sont réservée aux acule amaisure répondant une définité
depties par l'Union des Eports athiétiques, l'Ameleur Athiétic Association d'Angletorre et les autres Sociétés d'Ameleurs de monde.

Les conscers sont tres des championests.

Les dates et houx des conscers stant que les dates de chiture des engagements, bien que dijt finia, serent publiés ultérieurement, le Comisé d'organisation es réservant d'inredeire, e'il y a lieu, quelques modifications dans sette partie du programme.

Les prix consisterent en objets d'ort, audostroment.

Toutes les communications relatives aux Jeux olympiques de 1900, doivent être adressées :

47. Rue de Varennes - Paris.

Table -- Int. A. Cutterwess, Res Concept, 16.

AFFICHE D'INTÉRIEUR.

Assez curieux : le « règlement du concours est à l'étude » des compétitions du tir à l'arc et du patinage! Voyez aussi d'autres détails! Voir p. 67.