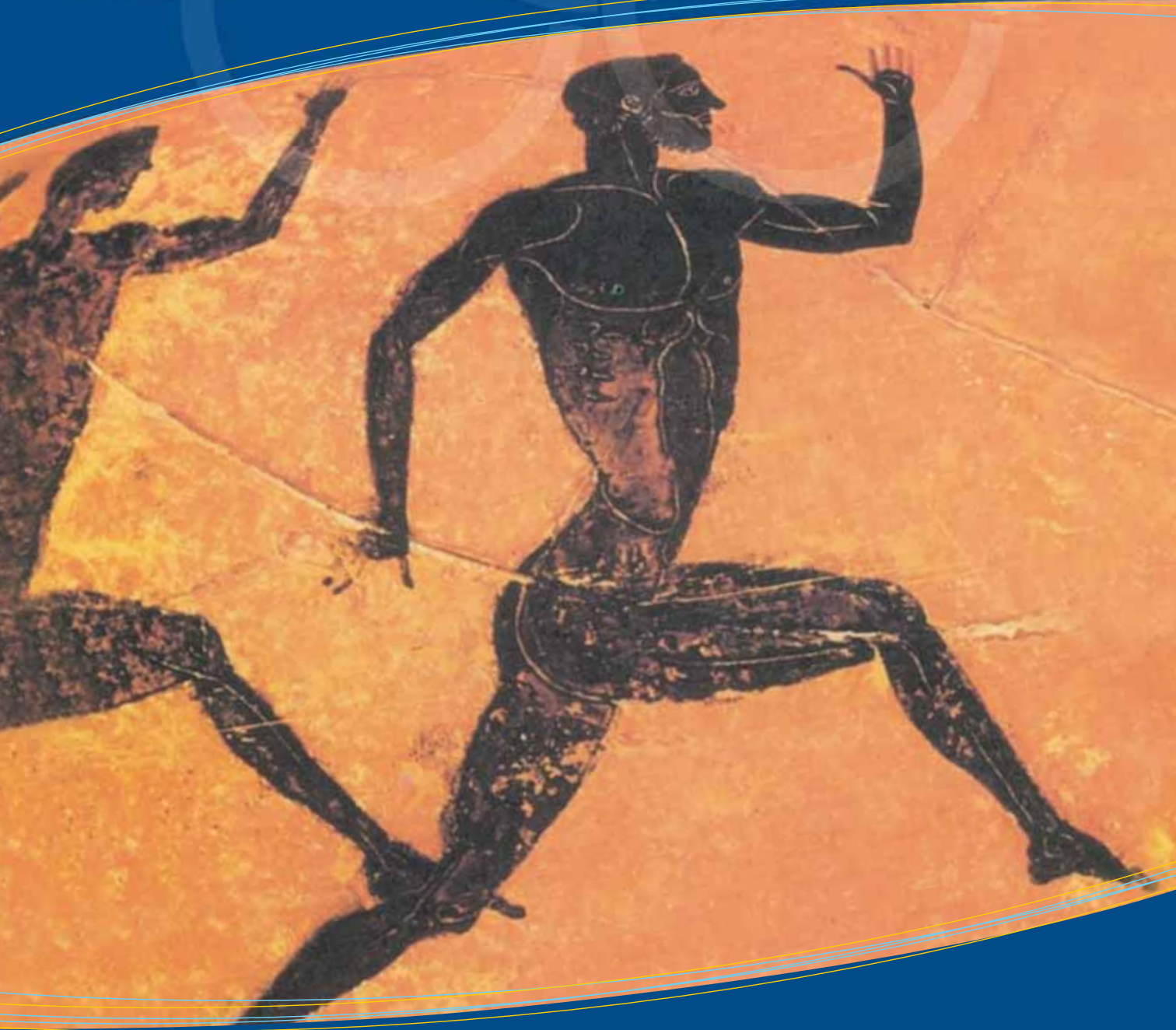


CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



1974



2009

35 *years*

Cyprus Olympic Committee





Publication: Cyprus Olympic Committee

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Photos: Olympic Committee Archive & Pambos Savvides

Art Design: Theopress Ltd

Printing: Theopress Ltd

Cover photo: The runner, who was the inspiration behind the 18-cent stamp, was the symbol that was circulated on 10.4.1989 during the III Games of the Small States of Europe which was organised by the Cyprus Olympic Committee



Address of the President of COC Hon Prof. Ouranios Ioannides



35 years since the establishment of the COC (10/6/74-10/6/2009)

30 years since the admission of the COC into the IOC (10/4/79-10/4/2009)

22 years since the first summit of the National Olympic Academy of Cyprus (NOAC) (22/5/87)

20 years since the organisation of the III games of the Small States of Europe (17-20/5/89)

7 years since the introduction of Olympic education (08/3/2002)

The Cyprus Olympic Committee (COC) was established thirty five years ago, on the 10 June, 1974 and became a full member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) thirty years ago on the 10 April 1979.

Twenty two years ago, and more precisely on the 30 March 1987, the National Olympic Academy of Cyprus was established and organised its first summit between the 22 - 23 May, 1987. Seven years ago on the 7 March, 2002 and with the cooperation of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Olympic Education was introduced into the school curriculum.

Twenty years ago, the COC undertook the organisation in Cyprus for the III Games of the

Small States of Europe which took place between 17 to the 20 May, 1989.

This year, and thirty five years after its establishment, the COC is now gearing up to celebrate the anniversary events in memory of the wonderful, magnificent and true events which took place in the spring of 1974, 1979, 1987, 1989 and 2002.

The anniversary celebrations of the COC - which are set to cover a vast range of Olympic activities such as Olympism-Sports and Education-Olympic Education and Culture – will span exactly two months.

From the 10/4/79, the day it was accepted into the IOC 30 years ago, to the 10/6/09 which marks the anniversary of the COC's establishment 35 years to the day, a final ceremony will take place with the handing out of awards, and other memorabilia, for excellence, valour and honour.

The anniversary activities and events will be centred around the XIII Games of the Small States of Europe which will be held in our nation from the 1 to the 6 June, 2009 - twenty years after the III Games of the Small States of Europe which we organised here on the island back in 1989, thus celebrating the anniversary occasion in the best possible way.

We owe these anniversary events which is why we dedicate them to those who walked and ran the thirty-five year path, and to those who, with their personal sacrifices and struggles, paved the way for the creation of the COC; to those who set up Local Cyprus Committees to the corresponding



sports associations in Greece and to those who, for decades, were organising sports on our island through the various sports clubs in a bid to keep the tradition of sports alive.

We owe these anniversary events and we dedicate them to the four groups of people who were made up sports and laid down the foundations for sports because, as we know, great events such as those we are celebrating today, do not happen by chance but are created and organised by people with belief, targets and vision.

We owe and dedicate these anniversary events first to the athletes who have the leading roles in these performances and to fair play, Then to the sports fans who support the efforts of the athletes, to the sports writers who promote and propagate the efforts and success of the athletes and finally, to the guardians and the sponsors who organise, administer, promote and provide economic, technical, ethical and material support to sports.

It is to those who excelled in these four groups, to the top performers of each category, to those who are worthy to be presented as shining examples that the Cyprus Olympic Committee will present these awards of excellence, valour and honour.

Before ending this address, I would like to present to you what's in store for the upcoming anniversary events:

1. The unveiling and inauguration of the statue "Olympic Spirit" which depicts the Goddess Athena holding an olive branch which carries the Olympic Rings on the one hand and a dove, the symbol of Olympic armistice and peace, on the other.
2. The presentation of the perfume used by the ancient games athletes as they were found in the hieroglyphic writings in Erimi
3. The inauguration of the Sports – Olympic Museum

4. The presentation of today's publication edition entitled '35 years of the COC'
5. The exposition of photographs and souvenirs of Cyprus athletics
6. The dinner and presentation of the sponsors of the COC and the XIII Games of the Small States of Europe
7. The handing out of the ethical award for excellence, valour and honour
8. The Presentation of the postage stamp issue for the XIII Games of the Small States of Europe
9. The anniversary Summit of the National Olympic Academy of Cyprus
10. The Anniversary celebrations for the introduction of Olympic Education into the curriculum of schools in Cyprus
11. The presentation of the collection of watches (25 + 25), to mark the XIII Games of the Small States, which will be handed to bidders.
12. The presentation of the memorabilia for the XIII and III Games of the Small States of Europe
13. The awards of honorary distinctions to our friends from abroad for their support and contribution to sports in Cyprus
14. The presentation of the XIII Games of the Small States of Europe magazine edition
15. An art show and dance performances

Wishing you all many sports greetings,

Hon. Prof. Ouranios Ioannides
President COC

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«As in the daytime there is no star in the sky warmer and brighter than the sun, likewise there is no competition greater than the Olympic Games»

(Pindar, Greek lyric poet, 5th cent. BC)



The Kourion Stadium dates back to the Antonine Emperors (A.D. 138-180). It was destroyed by an earthquake in the second half of the 4th century A.D. Its internal dimensions are 217m. in length and 17m. in width. There were 7 rows of seats and the stadium had a capacity of 6,000 spectators. The ancient city of Kourion was founded by Achaean colonists from Argos in the Peloponnesse (13th and 12th centuries B.C.)



The ancient gymnasium of Salamis.

Introduction

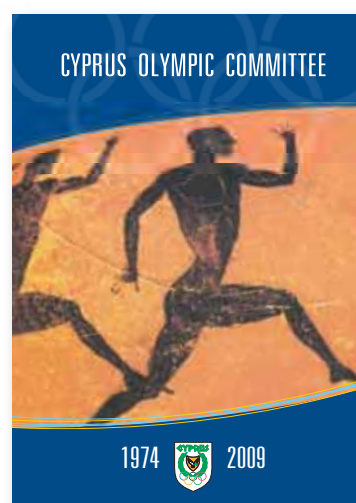
This English Magazine edition aims to enlighten the visiting sports officials, coaches, athletes and sports teams in general who will be coming to Cyprus, on the work of the Cyprus Olympic Committee as well as its 35-year history in sports and the Olympics.

The Cyprus Olympic Committee, which was established on 10 June, 1974 and became a full member of the International Olympic Committee on 10 April, 1979, has some important work ahead.

Not even two months had past since the Cyprus Olympic Committee was established when tragedy hit our homeland. The Turkish invasion of the island ultimately had a negative impact on all sectors of the Cyprus Republic's infrastructure.

Amidst harsh times, the Cyprus Olympic Committee attempted to regroup and it succeeded, resulting in a 35-year effort which has seen positive strides for Cypriot sport. In 1989, they successfully hosted the Games of the Small States of Europe with officials of the International Olympic Committee showering the organisers of the Cyprus Olympic Committee with praise.

This magazine edition aims at presenting its reader with the opportunity to learn some basic things about Cyprus, the work of the Cyprus Olympic



Committee and the history of the island's sports dating back from ancient times to the present day.

Although brief, this edition still emphasises the aim which is to highlight the work and important landmarks of the Cyprus Olympic Committee's 35-year history and sports on the island.



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An old and a modern map of Cyprus



Republic of Cyprus

From 1960 to the present day

Cyprus, according to mythology, is the birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love and beauty. The island is both an ancient land, with an eleven thousand year-old history and civilisation, and a young independent Republic since 1960. Its geographic location at the crossroads of three continents - Europe, Asia and Africa - and at the meeting point of great civilisations, has been a major factor influencing the course of the island's history throughout the centuries.

Situated at the north-eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, Cyprus, with an area of 9.251 km², is its third largest island after Sicily and Sardinia. It has a Mediterranean climate and enjoys more than 300 days of sunshine every year.

The 1960 census showed that Cyprus had a population of 572.707 consisting of 77,1% Greek Cypriots, 18,2% Turkish Cypriots, 1,1% Maronites, Armenians and Latins and 3,6% others.

According to the 1960 Constitution, the Armenian, Maronite and Latin communities opted to be part of the Greek Cypriot community. The population of the island (Dec. 2007) was 877.600 of whom 664.000 (75,7%) belong to the Greek Cypriot community, 88.300 (10,0%) to the Turkish Cypriot community and 125.300 (14,3 %) are foreign nationals residing in Cyprus.

Greek and Turkish are the official languages of the state, while English is widely used.

The island's history is one of the oldest recorded in the world running back to the 9th millennium BC. The settlement in Cyprus of Mycenaean and Achaean Greeks between the 13th and 11th century BC established the predominantly Greek character of the island.

Because of its strategic position and natural wealth, Cyprus became the pawn of various powers that dominated the region at one time or another. Phoenicians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Persians, the Ptolemies, Romans, Arabs, Franks, Venetians, Ottoman Turks and the British all left their mark on the island, making it a veritable outdoor museum.

Nevertheless, Cypriots have managed to assimilate creatively the various influences they were subjected to, without losing their individuality. The beautiful Eastern pots, for example, became Cypriot pottery, while the Gothic arch became an element in local popular architecture.

Cyprus became an independent, sovereign state in August 1960 on the basis of the Zurich and London agreements, following a liberation armed struggle against British colonial rule between 1955 and 1959.

The Republic of Cyprus has a presidential system





of government with a clear division of authority between the executive, legislative and judicial branches. According to the Constitution, executive power is exercised by the President and Vice-President (allocated to a Turkish Cypriot but currently vacant) through the Council of Ministers; legislative power is exercised by the House of Representatives; and judicial power by the Supreme Court, the Criminal Courts and the District Courts.

The Republic of Cyprus has since 1960 been a member of the United Nations and over the years has become a member of practically all of its specialised agencies. It is also a member of the Commonwealth, the Council of Europe, the World Trade Organisation and the Organisation on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

On 1 May 2004 Cyprus formally joined the European Union completing a long journey which began with its application for full membership in 1990.

Cyprus has always been part of the European family of nations.

Accession to the EU was a natural choice for Cyprus, dictated by its culture and civilisation, its history, its European outlook and its traditions as

well as its adherence to the ideals of democracy, freedom and justice.

Although all Cypriots who carry a Republic of Cyprus passport enjoy the status of European Union citizens, the application of the EU laws and regulations (the *acquis communautaire*) is suspended in the Turkish occupied area of the Republic pending a solution of the Cyprus problem and the reunification of the island.

In the absence of a political settlement, the Cyprus government provides essential services to Turkish Cypriots even under the prohibitive conditions of military occupation and forcible division. Many more Turkish Cypriots have been able to benefit from an expanded range of services (such as employment, free medical care, social and educational services) through a series of new policy initiatives and tangible measures undertaken by the government since the partial lifting, in April 2003, of the illegal restrictions imposed by the Turkish side on the movement of people across the ceasefire line since 1974.

These initiatives are in line with the government's policy designed to foster trust and reconciliation between the two communities, as well as promote the reunification of Cyprus and the reintegration of its people and economy.



Turkey's Military invasion and occupation

The people of the newly-established Republic of Cyprus were not able to enjoy the fruits of their struggles and sacrifices for long.

Certain provisions of the Zurich-London Agreements and the Constitution were soon to prove conducive to constitutional deadlock, domestic conflict and foreign interference, rather than peace, harmony and respect for the sovereignty of Cyprus.

Efforts to amend the Constitution were rejected by the Turkish side, with the Turkish Cypriot leadership falling in line with Turkey's long-term policy of segregation and partition. This resulted in the intercommunal clashes of 1963/64, the drawing up of the dividing «green line» running through Nicosia and the constant efforts on the part of Turkish Cypriot extremists to promote Turkey's partitionist and expansionist designs.

The coup on 15 July 1974, perpetrated against the legal government of the Republic of Cyprus by the military junta ruling Greece at the time, gave Turkey a long-awaited pretext to invade the island on 20 July 1974 in violation of the UN Charter, international law and the principles governing the conduct among nations.

As a result, about 36,2% of the island was occupied (the northern part, representing 70% of the economic potential) and still remains under Turkey's military control. About 200.000 Greek Cypriots - a third of the population - were displaced, becoming refugees in their own country, while the Turkish Cypriots were compelled to move to the occupied part of the island in compliance with Turkey's policy of ethnic segregation.

About 1.400 people have been missing as a result of the invasion. It has still not been possible to



ascertain their fate because Turkey refuses to cooperate in this humanitarian matter.

The «Attila line» («Operation Attila» was the code-name Turkey gave to its military invasion of Cyprus) divides Cyprus since 1974. After four centuries of peaceful coexistence in mixed villages, towns and places of work, the two main communities of the island - Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots - were forcibly separated.

There was immense human suffering and great material loss. The danger of economic collapse was imminent. The refugees had to be rehoused and found new work, their basic needs had to be met.

Forty-three thousand Turkish troops, armed with the latest military weapons, continue to occupy the island illegally. Over the years some 160.000 colonists from Turkey were brought to Cyprus and settled in the occupied area, in violation of international law, with the aim of changing the demography of the island. In view of the mass emigration of Turkish Cypriots from the occupied area (due to the conditions created by Turkey's occupation) the total number of Turkey's troops and settlers is now much greater than that of the remaining Turkish Cypriots.



In order to consolidate the de facto situation of division, the Turkish Cypriot leadership unilaterally declared the occupied area an “independent state” in 1983.

This act of secession against the Republic of Cyprus was declared “legally invalid” by the UN Security Council, which also called for its withdrawal. No country in the world but Turkey recognises that illegal regime.

The illegal regime and Turkey have also followed a policy of “turkification” in the occupied areas while at the same time destroying much of the island’s 11.000 year-old cultural heritage: Greek place names have been replaced by Turkish ones; monuments, cemeteries, places of worship and archaeological sites were destroyed, desecrated or vandalised; priceless religious and archaeological treasures - part of the world’s cultural heritage - have been stolen and smuggled abroad.

Despite constant protests by the Cyprus government the illegal excavations and looting of antiquities continue to this day.

Another tragic occurrence is the ongoing eviction of the enclaved Greek Cypriots from their homes in Turkish occupied villages. While in 1974 there were 20.000 people enclaved, less than 500 remain, mostly people over 60 years old.



Economy

Despite many difficulties faced right from its establishment, through the 1974 catastrophe and the continuing foreign occupation of its northern part, the Republic of Cyprus can boast considerable achievements.

In 1960 the Cyprus government took over a colonial economy that was backward and underdeveloped. Its productive base was inadequate and economic activity was dependent on unstable factors.

Agriculture’s contribution to the national income was never more than 18%, despite the fact that it employed 45% of the labour force. Over 50% of the revenue came from the export of minerals. As regards exports, 32% consisted of raw agricultural products and only 19% were industrial products and even these were processed raw material from the agricultural sector.

The situation was similar in other fields. On average only 43% of children between 12 and 17 years old attended secondary schools. In addition, only 28% of houses in the countryside had electricity and only 7% had in-house water supply.

The sound macro-economic policies of successive governments since 1960; the adoption of a market-oriented economic system; the dynamic and flexible entrepreneurial community; a highly educated labour force; close cooperation between the public sector and the social partners; but above all the industriousness and toil of the Cypriot people, all contributed to the rapid development of the economic and social sectors in the new Republic. Equally significant was the consolidation of democratic institutions.

Cyprus has gradually transformed itself from an exporter of agricultural products and minerals in the period 1960 to 1974 and an exporter of processed goods in the second half of the '70s, to a major tourist destination and services centre.

Cyprus has a record of successful economic performance, reflected in rapid growth, full employment conditions and external and internal stability almost throughout the post-independence period.

The weak colonial economy has been transformed into a modern economy offering dynamic services with advanced physical and social infrastructures.

In terms of per capita income, Cyprus is classified by the World Bank among the high-income countries. The average annual rate of growth in the past five years was about 3,7%, while the average inflation rate stood at 2,9% and the average unemployment rate at 4,4% over that period. In addition, Cyprus was ranked 28th in the United Nations 2007/2008 Index of Human Development.

This impressive transformation reflects the skilful exploitation of the comparative advantages of the island, stemming from the population's high level of education and high standard of living, as well as the island's convenient geographical position, a long period of mild weather conditions and the development of the necessary infrastructure with regard to airports, ports and telecommunications.

Of particular importance over the last few years has been the growth of the transit trade sector and the increased use of Cyprus as an offshore base for international business operations.

With a per capita income of EUR 20.921 (28.507.48 US dollars) in 2008 compared to 500 US dollars in 1961, with an unemployment rate of 4,0 % of the economically active population in 2008, and a rate of inflation of 4,4 % in 2008, the Republic of Cyprus is favourably positioned among the EU member-states.

The successful integration of the latest technology into the economy, the constant improvement of the island's infrastructure and the high productivity and quality of the Cypriot labour force, have turned



Cyprus into a centre of transit trade, international merchant shipping and business, contributing significantly to the economic growth of the broader region.

Since its accession to the EU, Cyprus has undergone significant economic and structural reforms that have transformed its economic landscape. Tariffs and quantitative restrictions have been eliminated for all manufactured goods and agricultural products originating in Cyprus and other EU countries. Trade and interest rates have been liberalised, while price controls and investment restrictions have been lifted. Private financing has been introduced for the construction and operation of infrastructure projects and the monopoly in the telecommunications sector has been abolished.





Cyprus is being transformed into a key outpost in the eastern Mediterranean, serving as a bridge between the EU and the increasingly important market of the Middle East.

Furthermore, Cyprus has gained a reputation as the springboard for investment into Central and Eastern Europe.

Firmly committed to sound fiscal policies essential for preserving macroeconomic stability and ensuring the sustainability of the convergence process, the Cypriot authorities adopted concrete measures that strengthened economic performance and met the required eurozone targets by mid-2007.

As a result, on 1 January 2008, the euro became the monetary unit of Cyprus replacing the Cyprus pound. Euro banknotes and coins are circulating and are the legal tender in the Republic of Cyprus. The adoption of the euro was one of the most important achievements for Cyprus, integrating it even further into the European Union. This success was made possible despite the uncertainty surging in the international economic environment.

Today

Today, the Republic of Cyprus is a modern European democracy with a state of the art telecommunications system enjoying direct telephone links with nearly all the countries of the world; one of the largest merchant fleets in the world with 1.876 (Dec. 2008) ships on its registry; and a key business centre serving as a springboard for investments in the eurozone and the Middle East.

The European Union is Cyprus' main trading partner absorbing 51 % of local domestic exports and providing 66% of imports.

Despite the heavy blow brought about by Turkey's military invasion in 1974 resulting in the loss of 65% of hotels as well as the Nicosia International Airport, growth in the tourist sector was rapid. Today, tourism is one of the major sectors of the



Cyprus economy. In 2008 over 2,4 million tourists visited Cyprus generating EUR 1.792,8 million in foreign exchange earnings, compared to 25.700 tourist arrivals in 1960 with C£1,8 million (EUR 3,8 million) in foreign exchange earnings.

Cyprus' healthy climate, natural beauty, archaeological wealth, highly educated population, high standard of services offered, as well as the traditional warm hospitality of its people, make the island an ideal holiday destination.

Significant progress has also been made in the social sphere. In 2007 over 66,2% families owned their own homes. Illiteracy, which in 1961 was about 20%, today is practically non-existent. Cyprus holds a very high position internationally as far as third-level education is concerned. The total number of third-level students at home and abroad during 2007-2008 was 40.466 (22530 abroad and 17.936 in Cyprus). Cyprus has two state universities, the University of Cyprus in Nicosia and the Cyprus University of Technology in Limassol as well as three private universities.

Medical care, both public and private, is of high standard and continuously improving. Infant mortality has dropped from 40 per 1000 live births in 1960 to 3,1 in 2006. The average life expectancy has risen from 65 years in 1950 to 81,9 for women and 78,3 years for men in 2007. The number of persons per doctor has fallen from 1.470 in 1961 to 395 in 2006.

The steadfast commitment to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of



Cyprus, along with the progress achieved in all fields of activity since independence, as well as the determination to always be an active and constructive EU partner, form the foundations of the island's continuing struggle for the restoration of freedom and justice throughout its territory.

The UN has undertaken several initiatives to solve the Cyprus problem and reunite Cyprus with several rounds of intercommunal negotiations held since 1975. These efforts have been undermined by Turkey, which has sought a settlement that would leave Cyprus permanently divided.

On 24 April 2004 the people of Cyprus were asked to approve or reject a settlement, (Annan Plan V), proposed by the UN Secretary-General, through separate, simultaneous referenda. A majority of 75,8% Greek Cypriots rejected the proposed Annan Plan because they felt that the final text, which incorporated arbitrarily many last minute demands by Turkey, was not balanced and did not meet their concerns regarding security, functionality and viability of the solution. The Greek Cypriots have not turned their backs on their Turkish Cypriot compatriots who approved the plan by 64,9%, but have been working towards a solution that will meet the expectations and legitimate concerns of both communities.

The overwhelming defeat rendered the Annan Plan null and void. Nevertheless, the government of Cyprus has remained committed to the Secretary-General's mission of good offices and to a sustained process that will facilitate a comprehensive settlement. It has therefore tried to revive the peace process to find a solution that addresses the concerns of all the people of Cyprus.

Consistent with this outlook, on 8 July 2006, the President of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community signed an agreement on a "Set of Principles" for the solution of the Cyprus Problem. They reaffirmed the commitment of the two communities to reunify Cyprus on the basis of a bi-

zonal, bicomunal federation and agreed on procedures to prepare the ground for comprehensive negotiations towards that end.

Despite the setback caused by the Turkish refusal to honour the 8 July Agreement, President, newly elected of Cyprus sought, immediately after his election in February 2008, to revive the peace process for the reunification of Cyprus.

The President's initiatives led to a series of meetings with the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, between March and July 2008, during which the basis of a settlement were reclarified. As a result, full-fledged direct negotiations between the President of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot Community for a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem which start on 3 September 2008 and is continue.

"The solution of the Cyprus problem will be the top priority of my government.

The aim of our Presidency is to achieve a just, viable and functional solution that will terminate the occupation and colonization of our country:

"A solution that will restore the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and will exclude any rights for military intervention in the internal affairs of our country by foreign powers. A solution which will reunite the territory, the people, the institutions and the economy of our country in the framework of a bizonal, bicomunal federation."

President Demetris Christofias
28 February 2008

The above document is from the Press and Information Office (PIO) publication entitled 'FROM 1960 TO THE PRESENT DAY'. For more information visit their website www.pio.gov.cy



IOC President Jacques Rogge and the late President of the Cyprus Republic Tassos Papadopoulos at the Olympic House opening ceremony.



The Cyprus Olympic Committee

The Cyprus Olympic Committee was founded in 1974 and was officially recognised and became a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1979.

The basic objectives and purposes of the Cyprus Olympic Committee are:

- To encourage interest in the Olympic Games and to foster the aims and ideals of the Olympic Movement's in the Republic of Cyprus.
- To observe and enforce the Rules as laid down in the «Olympic Charter».
- To disseminate, among young people, and interest in sport and a sporting spirit.
- To organise, together with the respective National Federations, the preparation and selection of athletes, thereby ensuring that Cyprus is represented at the Olympic Games as well as at Regional, Continental and Intercontinental Games, which have the patronage of the International Committee.
- To submit proposals to the IOC with regard to the «Olympic Charter», the Olympic Movement in general, as well as for the organisation and conduct of the Olympic Games.



- To work in concept with private or governmental bodies concerning the promotion of a sound sports policy.
- To ensure the development and protection of the Olympic Movement and sport in general.

Since 1980 the Cyprus Olympic Committee ensures that Cyprus is represented with athletes at the Olympic Games, Summer and Winter, as well as at Regional and Continental Games which have the patronage of the IOC.

Besides the participation in the Games, the Cyprus Olympic Committee is very active, participating in the activities organised by the IOC, Association of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) and other NOCs.



The establishment, aims and mission of the Cyprus Olympic Committee

The Cyprus Olympic Committee was established on 10 June, 1974 after much preparation and the final steps of introducing the Cyprus Olympic Committee were conducted at the Cyprus Sports Organisation offices.

During the first meeting to establish the Cyprus Olympic Committee, the fellow representatives of the football, archery, swimming and diving, yachting, biathlon-pentathlon and judo associations were present along with the representative of the Ski Group.

The official recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee was made at the 81st IOC summit in Montevideo on 10 April, 1979 whilst at the previous summit in Athens in May 1978, the committee was preliminarily recognised.

Efforts to establish the COC

To set up an Olympic Committee, sports needs to be developed at a national level and at least five associations of the committee must be recognised by their relevant international associations.

In Cyprus and with the exception of the Cyprus Football Association, the island didn't have any other associations registered with their relevant international associations.

In 1972, it was reported by the General Secretary for Sports in Greece that Turkish-Cypriots had undertaken efforts to join international associations with the aim of establishing an Olympic Committee. They had already managed to register

the associations for wrestling and cycling and had submitted registration for Taekwondo – a sport that was generally new to the island at the time.

After the intervention of the Cyprus Sports Organisation, those associations were later dismissed.

That same year and just a few days before the Olympic Games in Munich, a three-member representation consisting of Kleanthis Georgiades, Alekos Klerides and Andreas Hadjivasileiou, took part in the International Olympic Committee Summit with the aim of submitting a request (dated 10 August, 1972) for the Amateur Athletic Association of Cyprus (AAAC) to join the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF). Mr. Kleanthis Georgiades was President of the AAAC at the time.

The establishment

On Monday 10 June, 1974 and with seven active associations, the Cyprus Olympic Committee was established. Its first steps of operation were done under the leadership of General Director Mr. Alekos Klerides and the CSO Commissioner for Sports and Sports Facilities Mr. Andreas Hadjivasileiou (1972-1974).

During the 80th IOC Summit in Athens in May 1978 at the Caravel Hotel, the Cyprus Olympic Committee was preliminarily recognised.

Recognition

During the 81st IOC Summit in Montevideo in April 1979, the full accession of the Cyprus Olympic Committee was welcomed into the IOC family.



With the representation being headed by Mr. Demetrakis Demetriades, the elected President of the COC, the goal was finally accomplished thanks largely to the contribution of the CSO and its President Mr. Stelios Garani.

From 10 June, 1974 to 3 February, 1976, CSO President Mr. Stelios Garani served as President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. Mr. Garani had resigned as CSO President on 30 September, 1975.

From 3 February 1976, Mr Demetrakis Demetriades served as COC President until 1984 when he was replaced by Mr. Kikis N. Lazarides – a seat he kept until 2 October 2008. Following the elections in 2008, Mr. Ouranios Ioannides was announced as the new COC President.

The establishment and the recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee by the IOC had been rightly hailed as the most important event in Cypriot' sports history. With its recognition, Cyprus became an equal member of the IOC with all the rights and responsibilities stipulated by the Olympic Charter.

Following its official recognition, Cyprus made its debut bow in the 1980 Moscow Olympic Games and has since made its participation in all the Olympic Games, the Mediterranean Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Games of the Small States of Europe and other international sports events. The island's first international participation came in the 1980 Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid which preceded the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Mission and role

The basic mission and role of the COC in accordance with the Olympic Charter and the constitution is:

- To act against any form of discrimination affecting the Olympic Movement and to continuously develop the Olympic Movement
- To implement the regulations of the Olympic Charter which account for the operation of all



The first President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, the late Stelios Garani (1974-1975) who played a leading role in the creation of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. He was also the President of the Cyprus Sports Organisation, which was established in 1969.

international sports associations

- To organise, prepare, select, in cooperation with the relative associations, the athletes and teams that will take part in international IOC events
- To submit suggestions to the IOC with regards to the Olympic Charter, the Olympic Movement and the Olympic Games in general
- To design and put into action a rational sports policy in cooperation with private and state sports sectors
- To protect sports from total policing and to give immediate resistance to any political, religious or economic pressure

Although the Olympic Charter and the constitution of every national Olympic committee clearly states the mission and role of the IOC, there are no strict provisions with regards to implementation procedures and each Olympic Committee maintains its independence and autonomy in the administration of its sport. During the annual meeting of every national Olympic committee, the committee is obliged to select the best possible ways to implement its goals in accordance with the mentality/tradition of their country and, of course, with the committee members up-most energy.



The role of the Olympic Committee in Cyprus

Taking into consideration the pledges and responsibilities towards the Olympic Charter and Cypriot sports, the activities of the COC could be categorised into the following:

- 1) To participate in international sporting events
- 2) To conduct programmes for sports development and training
- 3) To strengthen and maintain the principals and value of the Olympics

- **Participation in international sports events**

According to the Olympic Charter, the Cyprus Olympic Committee is the only sports body to have the responsibility of representing Cyprus at the various IOC games. The most important games are: the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, the Mediterranean Games, the European Youth Games and the Games of the Small States of Europe. The first two events take place every four years whilst the Games of the Small States of Europe take place every two years. Cyprus hosted the third ever Games of the Small States of Europe back in 1989.

In order to ensure that the games are a success, a lengthy programme of planning and preparation was needed. The selection of athletes for the games, the assembling of national teams and the time to properly prepare needs at least two years of preparations prior to the games.

- **Programmes for sports development and training**

Despite having up-to-date preparation programmes for athletes and teams for particular international events, the COC also undertakes and organises a series of seminars of the IOC's

Olympic Solidarity Programme. Cyprus has already organised many seminars for different sports coaches and officials.

With regards to the activities of the various association members, the COC is always on hand to assist any association member achieve its targets. A strong, working relationship exists with the association members and the COC is continuously looking for ways to further strengthen that relationship.

- **Olympic Academy**

The National Olympic Academy of Cyprus began operations back in 1987, after a decision by the COC Executive Council, with the aim, on the one side, to strengthen and maintain the principals and values of the Olympics but to also further educate officials and coaches.

Once a year, the academy organises its Annual Summit which spans two days and hosts around 200 people. All the expenses are covered by the Olympic Committee.

The academy invites foreign specialists, on matters concerning the Olympics, sociology and sports psychology among others, to attend the summit and offer some teaching. Cypriot officials- not from sport circles - are also invited as are Olympic athletes.

Programme for Olympic Youth

One constant aim of the Cyprus Olympic Committee is to spread the values and principals of the Olympics and the Pancyprian Olympic Movement. That is something that the COC tries to achieve through the activities of the National Olympic Academy but also through the programme of Olympic Youth – something that was first introduced shortly after the Olympic House and Park was established back in 2006 and is now frequently followed by pupils of many ages.



Youngsters who visit the Olympic House and Park are given a tour of the premises by Cyprus Olympic Committee Officials and are also given the chance to observe and learn many interesting things about the Olympics and the Cyprus Olympic Committee. Olympic artefacts are on display at the Olympic Museum whilst they also have the opportunity to learn much about the Cyprus Olympic Committee's activities and their efforts to further develop sports on the island. The programme for Olympic Youth is now under the wing of the National Olympic Academy.

• Library – Video Archive

The COC maintains a Library-Video Archive for sports, something that is unique for Cyprus. The Library-Video Archive, which also loans out its stock, is frequently enriched with the latest editions of books and video footages. Many associations frequently use the Library-Video Archive.

The COC has also been donated audio/visual equipment which is used to display the video footage during sports seminars presented by the various associations and the committee.

International projection

The COC has the responsibility to represent Cyprus at international sports seminars that are organised by the IOC in which various matters are discussed and crucial decisions are made concerning sports and international sporting relations.

Being a member of the IOC, the COC is in frequent and close contact with other National Olympic Committees that are fellow members of the IOC.

Therefore the COC's contact and relations on the international stage gives a clear view of just what an important role they play. The COC's active role and participation in international sports meetings

and games also has an important impact for our own sports.

As the IOC's representative in Cyprus, the COC, in essence, supports the entire spectrum of international sports recognition and local sports organisations. For example, a local association cannot succeed international recognition before it is recognised by the Olympic Committee. On the other hand, it is very difficult for a local association to be expelled by the international body without previous consultations with the relevant Olympic Committee.

A clear outline has now been presented on the Cyprus Olympic Committee's role within its local conditions and what the Olympic Charter provisions are for the committee. It goes without saying that the COC would not be able to succeed in such vast ranges of activities without constant and sufficient economic resources.

The sources of income for all National Olympic Committees – that are accepted by the IOC – are:

- Government subsidy
- Percentages from football betting (PRO-PO)
- Sponsorships and donations from the private sector
- Royalties from stamps/coins memorabilia and other similar memorabilia items that are published ahead of the Olympics or other international games

Sport is not just a mere statistic. It is a living organisation and its needs are forever surfacing. That is why the COC, though never straying away from its basic mission and in an attempt to secure a rational policy based on the reality of the current circumstances, adapts its policies according to the needs of our sports. But its sole aim will continue to be preserving the spirit of sports and the Olympic ideals.



CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

1, Stassinos Str., Engomi
P.O.Box 1384, Nicosia
Tel. 43096-7

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE FOR
THE ESTABLISHMENT IN CYPRUS OF AN OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE CYPRUS
SPORTS ORGANISATION ON MONDAY THE 10TH DAY
OF JUNE 1974 AT 6.30 P.M.

Representative Members Present:

Mr. S. Lagoudis	on behalf of the	Cyprus	Football Association
" A. Clerides	" " " "	"	Archery Federation
" N. Marcoulides	on " " "	"	Swimming & Diving Federation
" P. Nicolaides	" " " "	"	Yacht Racing Association
" W. Theodorou	" " " "	"	Ski Club
" D. Pantelides	" " " "	"	Biathlon & Pentathlon
" Ph. Christou	" " " "	"	Judo Federation

Representative Members Absent:

Mr. A. Shener of the Cyprus Wrestling Federation.

The Representative Members present, unanimously resolve and appoint Mr. A. Clerides as Chairman of the meeting.

The Chairman having analysed in general lines the Rules governing the Cyprus Olympic Committee and answered all questions and queries raised by the Members present requested that the Rules, copies of which were given to each Governing Body well in advance, be adopted.

After some discussion the said Rules were adopted subject to minor amendments made during the meeting.

Immediately thereafter Messrs STELIOS G. GARANIS and ALECOS N. CLERIDES were elected Honorary President and Honorary Secretary of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, respectively.

Afterwards the Representative Members unanimously decided to make the following declaration.





CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

DECLARATION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
IN CYPRUS OF AN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

1, Stasinou Str., Engomi
P.O.Box 1384, Nicosia
Tel. 43096-7

We, the Representative Members duly appointed by the Governing Bodies of the Federations and or Associations whose names and signatures appear on the attached schedule, at a meeting duly convened this 10th day of June 1974, and held at the offices of the Cyprus Sports Organisation in Nicosia-Cyprus, do hereby resolve to establish and we hereby establish in Cyprus an Olympic Committee under the name of the "Cyprus Olympic Committee" for the purpose of promoting the objects stated in the "Rules" attached hereto which have been duly read and approved by us.

We also resolve to authorise the Honorary Secretary of the Cyprus Olympic Committee Mr. Alecos N. Clerides and we do hereby authorise him to take all steps required in order to affiliate the Cyprus Olympic Committee to the International Olympic Committee.

We also declare that we shall abide by the "Rules" governing the Cyprus Olympic Committee as well as those of the International Olympic Committee.

Nicosia 10th day of June 1974.





1974

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

The establishment of the COC (Cyprus Olympic Committee)

Following the establishment of the Cyprus Republic on 16 August, 1960, plans for developments in the newly established Cyprus Republic coincided with efforts for enhancing better organisation of sports events. That was finally achieved in 1969, when the government of the Cyprus Republic moved towards setting up the Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO).

Six years later, and more specifically on 22 April 1974, the CSO Board of Directors assigned the then General Director of the organisation (CSO) to lay down the appropriate foundations for establishing the Cyprus Olympic Committee.

That was achieved a few months later on 10 June, 1974 when the Cyprus Olympic Committee was introduced. During its first General Meeting, the first constitution was approved and the first Honourary President and Honourary Secretary were elected.

Mr. Stelios Garanis, who was President of the CSO, was elected first President whilst Alekos Klerides, who was also General Director of the CSO, was named as the first Secretary.

The representatives of the associations at the first meeting of the Cyprus Olympic Committee were:

1. Cyprus Football Association – Savvas Lagoudes
2. Cyprus Archery Federation – Alekos Klerides
3. Cyprus Association for Swimming and Diving – Nikos Markoulides
4. Cyprus Yachting Federation – R. Nikolaidis
5. Cyprus Ski Group – Nearchos Theodorou
6. Biathlon-Pentathlon Federation – D. Pantelides
7. Judo Federation – Fivos Christou

The representative of the Wrestling Federation, Ahmet Shener, did not attend.

The efforts towards establishing the Cyprus Olympic Committee weren't without its problems. Preliminary works began in 1971 with a series of talks but it wasn't until the intervention of the Cyprus Sports Organisation that the negotiations finally came to a positive end. The political climate in the Cyprus Republic at the time was not at its best and the situation escalated for the worse just five weeks later when a coup d'état which overthrew the government was followed by the destructive Turkish invasion of 20 July, 1974.

THE CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
P.O.Box 1384,
Nicosia-Cyprus

<u>NAME OF THE FEDERATION OR ASSOCIATION AFFILIATED</u>	<u>NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER</u>	<u>SIGNATURE OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBER</u>	<u>YEAR OF AFFILIATION TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION</u>
1. THE CYPRUS FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION	S. LAFOUDIS		1948
2. THE CYPRUS ARCHERY FEDERATION	A. CLERIDES		1973
3. THE CYPRUS SWIMMING & DIVING FEDERATION	N. MARCOULIDES		1974
4. THE CYPRUS YACHT RACING ASSOCIATION	P. NIOLAIDES		1973
5. THE CYPRUS WRESTLING FEDERATION	A. SHENER		1972
6. THE CYPRUS SKI CLUB	H. THEODOROU		1963
7. THE CYPRUS BIATHLON AND PENTATHLON	D. PANTELIDES		1970
8. THE CYPRUS JUDO FEDERATION	PH. CHRISTOU		1974

Nicosia 10th June, 1974.



The associations and their representatives who took part in the meeting to establish the COC, on Monday 10 June, 1974.



Many important sports facilities were lost due to the Turkish invasion of 20 July, 1974. The biggest tragedy was the loss of hundreds of lives whilst many others are still missing today.

In this picture you can see the PAEEK Kyrenia basketball team which still has three players missing to this day since the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

1975

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Rebuilding sports in Cyprus

Along with many other sectors of the island, Cypriot sports suffered greatly after the Turkish invasion of July, 1974. Sports facilities, stadiums and even equipment were seized under Turkish control along with 37% of the island. Refugees surpassed 200,000 and hundreds more are still missing even today as a result of the Turkish invasion. It also resulted in total catastrophe to most of the island's economy whilst dozens of sports clubs were left homeless. With sports officials and athletes also listed as missing persons, 1975 saw sports on the island slowly begin to find its feet again.

Despite the hardship, the Cyprus Olympic Committee tried all that it could to help the clubs and association become operational again while efforts continued to submit new associations. Those efforts were also strenuous after the Olympic Committee was also left without a home but also with little funds. It was little wonder that the Cyprus Olympic Committee was deprived of moving forward.

In a letter dated 30 September 1975, the honourable President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, Stelios Garanis – who was also President of the Cyprus Sports Organisation, handed in his resignation due to professional reasons which were keeping him much of the time abroad.

That letter was relayed to the member associations on 19 December, 1975 and shortly afterwards came the resignation of the Honourable Secretary of the COC, Alekos Klerides. 1975 was thus a hard year for the COC amidst a time when employment on the island was also a problem for many and, as a result, many Cypriots had sought work abroad in neighbouring and Arabic countries. Being both industrialists by profession and due to the recent overload of work, both men were unable to continue offering their services to the sport.



The former President of the Republic Glafkos Clerides was always in support of Cypriot sports and the Olympic Movement on the island. The COC honoured him for his great service to sports especially during the difficult years.



1976

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Rebuilding the Cyprus Olympic Committee Board

1 976 also saw the need to rebuild the board of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. Earlier that year following the resignation of Stelios Garanis, the Second General Meeting of the Cyprus Olympic Committee took place on Tuesday 20 January 1976 with the representatives of the seven associations. The sole aim of the General Meeting was to fill the vacant positions of the Honourable President and Honourable General Secretary.

After much consultation and exchanges of opinion, it was decided that a three-member panel would be created to undertake the duties pending against the Honourable Secretary Alekos Klerides. The three-member panel was comprised of Demetrakis Demetriades, Ivikos Vorkas and Nearchos Theodorou.

The panel wanted to include the position of an Honourable Vice President within the framework of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. During the Third General Meeting, which took place on Tuesday 3 February, 1976, an amendment to the regulations was made and the position of a Vice President was created. Also created was the first Technical Committee. Following a series of elections which followed, Demetrakis Demetriades was elected as the Honourable President with Ivikos Vorkas elected as Honourable Vice Chairman. The position of Honourable Secretary went to Alekos Klerides.

The first Technical Committee was comprised of Andreas Hadjivasileiou, Fivos Christou and Nikos Markoulides.

The new team of the Cyprus Olympic Committee as well as the Technical Committee had set out some primary targets which both bodies began to work towards fervently. They were international recognition for the Cyprus Olympic Committee, the membership of the local associations to their respective international bodies and to kick-start certain associations that had become dormant.

Apart from those targets, which were also the pillars behind the Olympics, was also the desire for the development and preservation of the Olympic Movement in Cyprus, the implementation of the Olympic Charter which is the driving mechanism behind all International Sports Associations. Also important was finding the components for organisation, preparation and selection in cooperation with the relative associations, teams and athletes for their participation in international games under the wing of the COC.

Gold medals at the World Gymnasiade

Still reeling from the blow of the Turkish invasion, attempts to keep sports alive kept going.

The Cyprus national team sent out a strong message to the whole world that sports on the island would fight to survive by securing two gold medals at the World Gymnasiade in New Orleans.

Two pupils, Rodosthenous Michalis – who secured a distance of 7.42m in the long jump – and Antonis Giorgallidis – who finished with a time of 21.40 in the 200m track event – took first place in their respective events and the gold medals. Other male and female athletes also had impressive finishes at the same event.



Dimitrakis Demetriades (left), who had a leading role in the Cyprus Olympic Committee from 3 February, 1976 until April, 1984 and contributed greatly to the recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. Mr. Demetriades was also a Board of Directors member of the Cyprus Sports Organisation.



Sports in Cyprus began to find its feet following the negative impact by the Turkish invasion of Cyprus back in 1974. In 1976, Cyprus took part in the World Gymnasiade Championships for students in New Orleans. Cypriot students secured gold medals at those games. Antonis Georgallides on the left.



Sotiris Kaiafas is congratulated by the President of the Republic of Cyprus (Archbishop Makarios III) after finishing top scorer in Europe with his 39 goals in the Cypriot league championship.



Sotiris Kaiafas had a starring role with his two goals in Omonia's sensational 4-0 win over Ajax Amsterdam at the Makarios Stadium on 7.11.1979.

1977

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Main aim, the recognition of the COC

Since its introduction back in 1974, the sole aim of the Cyprus Olympic Committee was its international recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

The unstable political climate that was created in 1974 with the Turkish invasion of the island was something that had dampened efforts for its recognition. Therefore, the years between 1974 and 1976 were somewhat negative times in terms of relations with the IOC.

1974 saw the visit of the Honourable COC Secretary Alekos Klerides in Lausanne (13.10.1974) where he held talks with the Technical Director of the IOC, its President Mr. Henry R. Banks and Lord Killanin.

A series of correspondence followed with the IOC without any fruitful outcome whilst a full report on Cypriot sports was also sent to the IOC.

One crucial meeting that had been held talks abroad with certain officials of the International Olympic Movement was that which took place on 7 June, 1977.

A two-member representation consisting of the Presidents of the CSO and COC, Mr. Lazarides and Mr. Demetriades, arrived in Moscow and Budapest, where they held a series of talks. In Moscow, apart from meeting officials of the Russian Olympic Movement, a meeting was also held with Juan Antonio Samaranch who was the Spanish Ambassador to Moscow.

In Budapest, the representation met with Dr. Alpad Csanadi, General Secretary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and member of the IOC Executive Committee. The representation had given its pledge that the constitution of the COC as well as the recognised Cypriot Sports Organisations would not exclude Turkish-Cypriot athletes.

In 1977, the Executive Council of the IOC did not approve the membership of the COC for full accession and instead requested further information. The main reason behind the IOC's tentativeness and in particular its Executive Council was the current political climate in Cyprus.

Unfazed, the efforts of the CSO and the COC heightened in relentless pursuit of accession whilst the Cyprus Government was continuously informed on the ongoing events and negotiations.

A great achievement

Football in Cyprus has experienced some great and magical moments.

One of those moments was undoubtedly the crowning of an international footballer of Omonia Nicosia as Europe's top scorer.

During the 1975-1976 season, Sotiris Kaiafas's 39 goals in the Cypriot championship went unmatched across the European continent and he was awarded the "Golden Boot". Such was the success of Sotiris Kaiafas, that he was honoured by the then President of the Cyprus Republic, the Honourable Archbishop Makarios.



1978

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

The preliminary recognition of the COC

The continuous efforts for membership and methodic talks with officials of the IOC, the Cyprus Republic's constant publicity on the political problem in Cyprus but also the high-level talks finally resulted in a positive outcome for the COC when they were made a preliminary member of the IOC.

That decision came about during the 80th Summit of the International Olympic Committee which took place in May 1978 in Athens at the Caravel Hotel. Only the final recognition remained and the decision was set to be made at the next Summit which was set to take place in April 1979 in Montevideo.

The satisfaction of the preliminary recognition was also felt in the political circles as it meant that Cyprus had the opportunity to take part in the Olympic Games.

It also meant that our teams and athletes could take part in International Games but also other

major sporting events such as the Commonwealth Games and the Mediterranean Games.

Sports officials and coaches also had the chance to be further educated under the Olympic Solidarity Movement.

The preliminary recognition of the COC also left the Government of the Cyprus Republic – which was fully informed of the ongoing negotiations prior to its preliminary recognition – very satisfied.

Indeed, the then Presidential Minister Dinos Michaelides had even visited the Cyprus Sports Organisation offices and opinions were exchanged on the COC's request for recognition by the IOC. It was little wonder then, that the COC's preliminary recognition had created a climate of hope for many.

In the sports community, the preliminary recognition which coincided with the development programme of the Cyprus Sports Organisation (1978-1982) caught the attention of everyone involved in sports on the island.

The preliminary recognition of the COC and the implementation of the five-year development programme of the CSO, were two important factors that further inspired sports, both on the field and administratively. It should be noted that during the 80th Summit of the International Olympic Committee, which took place in May 1978 in Athens and had the preliminary recognition of the COC on the agenda, there was a positive reception from the IOC and the Greek officials of the Greek Olympic Committee and member of the IOC.

In the Neo Phaliron Games between Greece, Spain and Belgium, Philippos Philippou had an impressive tournament in the competition which took place on 15/7/1978. Philipou resided in the Turkish occupied village of Rizokarpaso. It was a remarkable achievement at the time.





CITIUS - ALTIUS - FORTIUS

Judge D. Gr. Demetriades
President of
Cyprus Olympic Committee
Supreme Court of Cyprus
NICOSIA, Cyprus

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIQUE

CHÂTEAU DE VIDY, 1007 LAUSANNE, SUISSE

☎ 20 32 71/72/73 ☎ 24 024 CIO ☎ CIO LAUSANNE
BANQUE UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES CH. POST. 10-2282

Budapest, March 16, 1979

Dear Mr. President,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 20. I would like to inform you that though recognition of NOCs will be on the agenda in Montevideo, however, at its last meeting the IOC Executive Board had the opinion that the Cyprus question should not be discussed in detail again. Therefore, the provisional recognition will be maintained for the time being, which, however, ensures Olympic participation.

Of course, this information does not mean that it would not be expedient for you to come to Montevideo and establish more extensive contacts there. I will naturally attend the Session - if my health allows it - and will be glad to meet you there. I am going to stay at Hotel Carrasco.

Thanking you for your kind letter, I remain,

Yours very truly

Dr. Árpád Csanádi



COC President Demetrakis Demetriades (left) handing out awards.

1979

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



The Cyprus Olympic Committee becomes a full member of the IOC

The full recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee by the IOC was a great landmark for the island back in 1979. Full recognition was achieved on 10 April, 1979 during the 81st Summit of the IOC which took place in Montevideo.

The official recognition of the COC came in a telegram which was sent to the CSO by the Secretary of the IOC, Monique Berlioux, on 11 April, 1979. The CSO had requested the day before to be informed by telegram if the COC's request had been accepted.

Words of congratulations via telegrams and telephone calls began to pour in from friends of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, such as Dr. Alpad Csanadi, General Secretary of the Hungarian Olympic Committee and member of the IOC Executive Committee.

The recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee was a unique accomplishment that further shielded the status of the Cyprus Republic.

The full recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee also gave the green light for Cypriot representation at major International Games such as the following winter and summer Olympic Games, which were taking place in 1980 in Lake Placid and Moscow respectively. It was the first time that Cyprus was to take part in the Olympic Games with its own athletes and teams. It should be noted that prior to the recognition of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, no personnel was available and all the administrative duties were being conducted by the members of the board.

The COC was based at the Cyprus Sports Organisation offices whilst Mr. Demetris Demetriades, who was Honourary President of the COC, and Alekos Klerides, who was Honourary Secretary of the COC, both belonged to the CSO. Demetriades was a member of the CSO Board of Directors whilst Klerides was General Director of the CSO. Mr. Andreas Hadjivasileiou, who was part of the COC Technical Committee, was also Head of the Sports and Sports Facilities Department of the CSO. Therefore, efforts were then made underway to move the COC to its own separate headquarters



1980

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Cyprus' debut bow at the Olympic Games

In 1980, Cyprus participated at the Olympic Games for the first time as an independent state. Previously, Cypriot male and female athletes had taken part in the Olympic Games under the colours of Greece.

The first official participation of Cypriot athletes at the Olympic Games were at Lake Placid in the United States with Lina Aristodemou and Philips Xenofontos taking their bows for Cyprus. Following the winter games at Lake Placid, came the Olympic Games in Moscow.

During the Olympic Games in Moscow, Cyprus took part with Paris Fylaktou, Linos Petrides, Anabella Drousiotou and Olga Loizou in the swimming event. Costas Papacostas, Panicos Evripidou, Constantinos Constantinou, Neofytos



The historic debut of the Cyprus Olympic team at the Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid (13-24 February 1980) and in the Summer Olympic Games of Moscow in 1980 (19 July-3 August 1980) right.

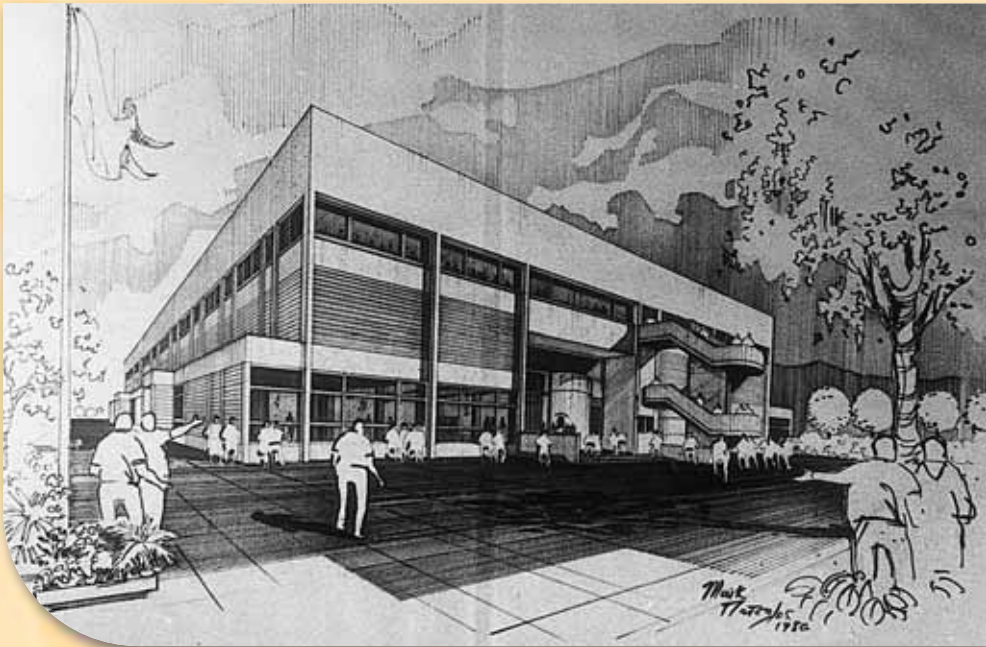
Arestis and Spyros Spyrou took part in the judo event. In the sailing event, Panicos Rimis, Demetris Demetriou, Panagiotis Nikoloau as well as Marios and Georgios Karapatakis took part whilst Lambros Kefalas and Maroulla Lambrou-Teloni took part in the track event with the National Team of Greece.

From 1980 up until the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Cyprus has never failed to make an appearance in both the winter and summer Olympic Games.





The first indoor arena in Nicosia, 'Lefkotheo'.



1981

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Great accomplishment at the Balkan Games

Classical sports was and still what Cyprus continues to find its success. In 1981, Cyprus' Marios Kassianidis secured first place at the Balkan Cross Country Championships in the 12,000m event.

It was an important victory which showed the important work being done for our classical sports at the sports clubs in Cyprus. In the same year, Marios Kassianidis also put on an impressive performance at the International Cross Country event in Madrid.

Apart from the successes of Marios Kassianidis, Cyprus had two track athletes excel in the women's events and more specifically Melina Menelaou at the Spain-Greece International Games where she clinched first place in the 400m track event with a time of 56.00, which was also a Panhellenic record for young female athletes.

Another Cypriot athlete, Efi Mouzourou secured a new Panhellenic record in the same year with a time of 55.23 also in the 400m track event.

Important works

One important landmark in our sports in 1981 was the completion of two vital sports structures.

The first indoor arena in Nicosia called 'Lefkotheo' was built with a seating capacity of 3,000. Also in the same year, the New Larnaca Stadium was also completed.

Both venues played a huge part in helping to move sports forward in Cyprus.



Marios Kassianides was a prominent figure in track and field. In 1981, he won the gold medal at the International Balkan Games in the 12km race.



1982

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

IOC President in Cyprus

In 1982, an important event took place for the Cyprus Olympic Committee with the visit of the then IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch.

The visit was deemed a total success and a message of how Cypriot sports had moved on was sent. The IOC President – who held a press conference at the Hilton Hotel – was also welcomed by the then President of the Cyprus Republic, the Honourable Spyros Kyprianou.

Demetrakis Demetriades, President of the COC, and the General Secretary Iosif Hadjiosif, also accompanied the IOC President to meet the President of the CSO Kikis Lazarides.

A lot of important messages were sent out by the IOC President on many matters concerning the Olympic Movement whilst he also had the opportunity to be informed on the Olympic Movement in Cyprus.



The first official visit by the then newly appointed President of the International Olympic Committee, Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch, was to Cyprus. This picture is from the first news conference that he gave. Left to right, Iosif Hadjiosif, General Secretary of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, Demetrakis Demetriades, President Juan Antonio Samaranch and Mr. Nikolaos Nisiotis, a member of the International Olympic Committee.

Track Federation of Cyprus Republic is made independent

In 1983, another important event occurred in the field of classic sports. The Federation of Classic Sports in Cyprus left the Union of Greek Gymnastic and Athletics Clubs in Greece (SEGAS) in a bid to further enhance our state unity. The request by the Cyprus Amateur Athletic Association (CAAA) to join the IAAF, the International Association of Athletics Federations, was examined during an IAAF meeting which took place the following year in Los Angeles where the Olympic Games were held.

During the COC minutes 10/84 (24 August, 1984) Item 5, the COC President Kikis Lazarides spoke of the important success of the CAAA's membership to the IAAF and also praised the handling of the matter by CAAA President, the Honourable Kleanthis Georgiades.

In order for the CAAA's accession to take place, different people undertook the task to make it happen including the COC President Kikis Lazarides and the COC Secretary Iosif Hadjiosif as well

as the Presidential Minister to the Cyprus Republic Mr. Dinos Michaelides.

The parting of ways between the Cypriot track athletes and Greece in 1983 was an important event that needed to be dealt with properly. The Cypriot track athletes were taken on by Cypriot coaches whilst some athletes preferred to stay on and prepare in Greece ahead of the Los Angeles Olympics because they were still studying at Greek Universities.

The Cyprus Olympic Committee worked very closely with the Federation for track in Cyprus, CAAA, so as not to create a serious problem with the parting of ways for track between Greece and Cyprus.



Gaining its autonomy from Greece in 1983 was a very important landmark for the Cyprus Amateur Athletic Association. The CAAA became a full member of the IAAF.

The late Kleanthis Georgiades (left), President of the Cyprus Amateur Athletic Association (CAAA), played a major role in this development. He was then a member of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Olympic Committee and the Board of the National Olympic Academy.



1984

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Close to an Olympic achievement

1984 saw our Olympic team taking part in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. During those games, shooting athlete Petros Kyritsis had a good run after hitting 192/200 and securing 13th place. Lack of experience cost our athlete the bronze medal but could still look back on an impressive performance. In the same year, he scored 964/1000 securing a new Cypriot record whilst he came tenth at the International Games in Wales with a score of 192/200 and eleventh at the European Championships in Spain with a score of 198/200.



Shooting athlete Petros Kyritsis performed well at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 1984. He finished in 13th place with a score of 192/200.

- In the same year, Maroulla Lambrou Teloni, regarded by many as the greatest female athlete in Cypriot sports, scored 11" 7 in the 100m in July before bettering that time with a finish of 11" 5 in August. She then secured a new record before taking part at the Makarios International Meeting where she scored a time of 11.85 before coming first in the 100m event with a time of 11.80 at the International Games in Patra.

- In chess, Marios Schinis clinched the gold medal at the 26 Chess Olympiad which took place in November in Thessaloniki.

The year of 1984 was a truly an Olympic year for our athletes who excelled themselves with their tireless performances.

Through those efforts came more impressive performances such as that achieved by Christos Christou in swimming where he secured 6 victories (3 in individual and 3 in team events).

Another swimmer, Anna Maria Stefanidou, also made great progress after scoring a time of 1.23.44 in the 100m breaststroke event and 3.04.70 in the 200m event.

1985

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Important times in track and field

The year 1985 saw important moments in track and field. Maroulla Lambrou Teloni broke 5 Cypriot records whilst also clinching important international victories. In the long jump event she secured a leap of 6.80m whilst also finishing with a time of 11.73 in the 100m. In the heptathlon event she scored 5.06.2, in the 200m, she finished with a time of 24.39 and was also part of the 4x100 relay team that secured a Cypriot record at the Games of the Small States of Europe in San Marino with a time of 46.53. At those same games, she won the gold in the 100m event with a time of 12.04 and in the long jump event with a leap of 6.30m. At the Bruno Zauli Cup in Austria, Maroulla won the 100m event.

- At the same competition in the track event, first place was also secured in the triple jump event. 1985 also saw Marios Hadjiandreu secure a new Cypriot record in the triple jump event with a leap of 16.69m, a score he equaled in the three-nation competition which took place in Yugoslavia and also featured Italy and Cyprus.

- Another important moment in 1985 was when the Cyprus National Basketball Team took the gold medal at the Games of the Small States of Europe which took place in San Marino.

- In sailing, the silver medal was won by Georgios Malaktos and Eftychios Eleftheriou in the category 470 event which took place at the International Surfing Games in Alexandria. It was an important

victory which showed that the island was a rising strength in the field of sailing.

- The end of 1985 was marked with the two Cypriot records that were sealed by swimming athlete Anna Maria Stefanidou in the 100m breaststroke event with a time of 1.21.97 and in the 200m breaststroke event with a time of 3.04.25. Swimming also saw two more Cypriot records sealed by Nikolas Michael in the 100m backstroke event with a time of 1.07.61 and 2.32.65 in the 200m backstroke event.

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In 1985, Maroulla Lambrou-Teloni had achieved some remarkable results in the track and field events. The pinnacle was her 6.80m leap in the long jump event.



1986

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Important achievements in 1986

The year 1986 was also a very good year for Cypriot sports. In classic sports, two big records were secured by Andri Avraam in the 800m women's event with her time of 2.06.93 and in the 1500m event with her time of 4.14.45. This great athlete also took records in the 3,000m and 400m hurdles in both the youth and women's competitions.

- In track, we saw Michalis Rososthenous equal the previous record in the long jump event with his leap of 7.86. The record had been previously secured in 1982 by Demetris Araouzos.

- In swimming, a Cypriot record was made by Stavros Michaelides in the 200m freestyle youth event, which was also a men's record, with his time of 2.07.74. In the 400m freestyle event, Stavros Michaelides scored a time of 4.39.76 which was also new Cypriot record.

Cooperation with other nations

- One area which the Cyprus Olympic Committee particularly focused on was cooperation with other nations in the field of sports.

In 1986, the Cyprus Olympic Committee moved towards signing a protocol of cooperation with the National Olympic Committee of France – a nation well advanced in international sports. For the signing of the agreement in June 1986, the President of the National Olympic Committee of France Mr. Nelson Paillou came to Cyprus.

A protocol was also signed between the Cyprus Olympic Committee and Syria as well as with other nations. But it was the protocol with France which was seen as an especially important event.

To this day, the Cyprus Olympic Committee organises educational seminars for coaches but also for officials and association members after the close cooperation that was made with the IOC in the Olympic Solidarite sector.



The ceremony that followed the signing of the first protocol in sports between Cyprus and France .

1987

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Gold medals at the Mediterranean Games

In 1987, Cyprus made some important victories at the Mediterranean Games, which took place in Latakia, with two athletes taking gold medals at the event.

Following a playoff stage between two Italian athletes for the first place finish, shooting athlete Mike Tymvios fired 63/63 – having previously scored 197/200 – for an overall 260/263 total to claim the gold medal in the skeet event. It was a great triumph for our athlete who went up against two great and experienced opponents in the big final.

The other gold was won by Marios Hadjiandreou in the triple-jump event with a leap of 16.48m. That was also an important feat for Cyprus with Hadjiandreou also up against some big opponents. Apart from his success at the Mediterranean Games at Latakia, Hadjiandreou also had other successes.

In May at the Bruno Zauli Games in Athens, he secured the gold in the triple-jump event with a leap of 16.47m.

Swimming

1987 also saw successes in swimming following the impressive progress of female swimmer Anabella Drousiotou and male swimmer Stavros Michaelides.

- During 1987, Anabella Drousiotou secured five Pancyprian records in the 100m backstroke,

200m freestyle, 200m medley, 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke. Anabella Drousiotou won six medals at the Games of the Small States of Europe which were held in Monaco in the single and team events.

- In the same year, Stavros Michaelides also showed good qualities after securing seven Pancyprian youth and men's records in the 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 200m freestyle, 1,500m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 200m medley and 400m freestyle. He also secured a bronze medal in the 4x100 medley at the Games of the Small States of Europe. It was the year which showed just what Stavros Michaelides was capable of in swimming.



Shooting athlete Mike Tymvios secured a gold medal at the Mediterranean Games which took place in Latakia after making 260 successful hits out of 263.



The ceremony which followed the inauguration of the Cyprus National Olympic Academy which took place at the Nicosia Hilton Hotel on the 30 March, 1987.





The late President of the Republic, Spyros Kyprianou, gives a speech during the opening ceremony of the Cyprus National Olympic Academy's inauguration.



IOC member Nikos Filaretos reads out the welcoming speech on behalf of Juan Antonio Samaranch.



The late Spyros Kyprianou officially opens the Olympic exhibits showroom following the inauguration of the National Olympic Academy.





The Olympic Museum Operating Officer Andreas Hadjivasilou, Ouranios Ioannides and the then Nicosia Mayor Lellos Demetriades at the Olympic artefacts exhibition which took place at the Hilton Hotel.



1988

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Cyprus at the Olympic Games in Seoul

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In 1988, Cyprus once again made its appearance at the Olympic Games. A notable achievement at those games was not made but what counted in the end was the island's participation. Maroulla Lambrou Teloni, however, did finish a creditable 21st in the long jump event with her leap of 6.29m. The athlete could have made the top sixth if one of her jumps was not ruled out by the judges. What counted was the fact that our athletes gave the best of themselves in the events for track, sailing, shooting and judo.



Mike Tymvios as flag bearer.

The President of the Republic at the COC offices

1988 also saw, for the first time since the COC's establishment, the visit of the President of the Cyprus Republic to the offices of the Cyprus Olympic Committee.

The visit by the then President of the Republic, Georgios Vasiliou, was made on Friday 13 May. The President of the Republic was accompanied by the then Education Minister Mr. Andreas Philipou and the President of the CSO, Mr. Ouranios Ioannides.

The visit was an especially important one due to the fact that the President of the Organising Committee for the Small States of Europe Games, Kikis Lazarides, informed President Georgios Vasiliou on the ongoing developments ahead of the games.

The involvement of the Cyprus Republic, via the Cyprus Sports Organisation, in the organisation of the Small States of Europe Games was the main support behind the Organising Committee for the games.

The Cyprus Sports Organisation's creation and upgrading of sports facilities went a long way in helping the Olympic Committee and the Organising Committee for the games.

The Board of Directors of the CSO, which under the then presidency of Mr. Ouranios Ioannides, swiftly moved towards the implementing of necessary sports facilities.

The cooperation between the CSO and the COC was an instant success and the hosting of the Games for the Small States of Europe was sealed the following year, something which raised the image of the Cyprus Olympic Committee.



The former President of the Republic George Vasiliou and the former COC President Kikis Lazarides admire the games' mascot. Also with them are Education Minister Andreas Philippou and the President of the Cyprus Sports Organisation, Ouranios Ioannides.



1989

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

The COC successfully hosts the Games of the Small States of Europe

Cyprus successfully hosted the III Games of the Small States of Europe in May. The Games of the Small States of Europe are a good indicator of progress for all the participating nations and their athletes. According to the visiting teams, the games were a great success but work was needed ahead of the games with the Cyprus Sports Organisation – which was headed by then President Ouranios Ioannides – bound with creating certain sports facilities and upgrading.



The former President of the Republic of Cyprus Georgios Vasiliou was particularly interested as the island geared up to host the Games of the Small States of Europe in 1989.

The investments which went towards creating the necessary facilities and upgrading paid off in the end as the organisers looked back on a successful event. A prime example of this accomplishment was the creation of the Cyprus Olympic Range in Nicosia which also went a long way towards improving the standards of Cyprus shooting – with some shooting athletes at the top of the world rankings.

That was epitomised none more so than Cyprus's shooting athletes who finished 4th, 5th and 7th at last summer's Olympics in Beijing.

The great gains from hosting the Games of the Small States of Europe were not just from the creation of better sports facilities and the upgrading of others.

A huge experience was learnt from organising the event. A lot of people were involved in making the Games of the Small States of Europe a success including sports officials and volunteers.

The experience gained from hosting the Games of the Small States of Europe also went a long way towards hosting other major events such as the World Gymnasiade and other competitions such shooting, tennis, cycling and basketball to name a few.

Another positive taken from hosting the event was that Cyprus secured some important and excellent relations with other nations taking part in the games.

It is therefore no coincidence that many of the event organisers are now members of international boards for sports.





The lighting of the torch at the Makarios Stadium.



It was a capacity crowd at the Makarios Stadium during the opening ceremony.



The opening ceremony of the III Games of the Small States of Europe.



The entrance of the national teams at the Makarios Stadium.





The National Team of Cyprus with Maroulla Lambrou-Teloni as flag bearer.





The Cyprus National Volleyball Team.



Cyprus celebrates its success at the games.

rec. 23/5/8

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ATTENTION MR. KIKIS LAZARIDES, PRESIDENT
RE: IIIIRD GAMES OF THE SMALL STATES OF EUROPE

--
HAVING RECEIVED GLOWING REPORTS FROM MR. RAYMOND GAFNER AND MISS ANNE
BEDDOW ON THE EXCELLENT STAGING OF THE IIIIRD GAMES OF THE SMALL
STATES OF EUROPE, I SHOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE AND THE CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE ON THE
OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF THIS EVENT. NOT ONLY HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO
THE PROMOTION OF THESE GAMES, BUT YOU HAVE ALSO ENCOURAGED THE GROWTH
OF SPORT AND OLYMPISM IN CYPRUS, AN ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH YOU CAN ALL
BE JUSTLY PROUD. SINCERELY,
JUAN ANTONIO SAMARANCH
IOC PRESIDENT

*
5300 OLYMPIC CY
454024Z CIO CH
23-05-89 09:33



Angelos Kotsonis, Kikis Lazarides, Loukis Terezopoulos and Andreas Stavrou at the closing ceremony.



The writing on the banner being held by the visiting athletes says it all...



1990

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

History is made in Auckland

The Cypriot flag hung high and proud at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand.

Marios Hadjiandreou's triple-jump leap of 16.96 was not only impressive, but also secured him a vital victory and first place against big opponents including Jonathon Edwards who would later go on to secure gold at the Olympics.

The gold medal clinched at the games in Auckland is still to this day considered to be one of the greatest triumphs by a Cypriot athlete.

The largely important victory of Hadjiandreou at the Commonwealth Games was followed by his equally impressive performance at the Athens Grand Prix games where he took second position and the silver medal in the triple-jump with a leap of 16.9m. The year of 1991 was one of the best in career of Marios Hadjiandreou.

The Commonwealth Games in Auckland also saw another dominant performance by a Cypriot athlete as Georgios Sakellis took the silver medal in the shooting event (187/200).



Marios Handjandreou clinched the gold medal for Cyprus in the triple jump event with a leap of 16.95m, in his debut participation at the Commonwealth Games.

The silver medal triumph by Georgios Sakellis at the Commonwealth Games in Auckland was the highlight of his career.

At the same games, runner Andri Avraam also put in a tremendous effort in the marathon event finishing with a time of 2.39'18' to seal sixth place and that was followed by other similar successes by Andri Avraam in 1990.

A year filled with some of the best triumphs

The year of 1991 proved to be one of the finest years in the history of sports in Cyprus. The words of the then President of the Cyprus Sports Organisation and now President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, Ouranios Ioannides, in his address to the athletes, summed up that success:

"The athletes who outdid themselves will be forever remembered for the great service they gave to Cypriot sports since it began and have, in effect, given great incentives for their fellow athletes to strive forward and bring us more success.

- Marios Hadjiandreou – with his giant leap of 17.13 in the triple-jump at the Mediterranean Games in Athens – secured the gold and a new Mediterranean Games record. It was the greatest moment in his career.
- The second place finish and the silver medal won at the Mediterranean Games by Stavros Michaelides in the 50m freestyle swimming event was also considered a towering success.



Track athlete Georgios Loukaides won a gold medal at the European Youth Championships, which took place in Thessalonica, in the 3000m steeplechase event with a time of 8'.45".04

Michaelides also secured two gold medals at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Andorra in which he took first place in the 50m freestyle and 100m butterfly event as well as a bronze medal in the 100m freestyle event.

- At the European Youth Championships which took place in Thessalonica, Georgios Loukaides took the gold in the 3000m steeplechase event with 8'.45".04. The same athlete, also in 1991, also secured several Pancyprian records in the 1500m, 10,000m as well as in the 2000m and 3000m steeplechase.



1992

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Another year of success

Cyprus had yet another year of success in sports with several notable achievements made by Cypriot athletes on the international stage. Stavros Michaelides had a particularly good year in swimming. He managed to topple five Cypriot records – in the 50m freestyle event (three times) and the 100m freestyle event (twice).

They were important achievements which marked



Yiannis Zisimides achieved a time of 10.41' in the 100m race, at the Four Nations Games that took place in Athens.

the status of Stavros Michaelides and showed what a great talent he was.

- Another great athlete having a great year was track runner Yiannis Zisimides.

At the four nation games which took place in Athens, he won the 100m event with a time of 10.41 whilst in the meeting in Israel he won the 100m and 200m event.

- Another track athlete making waves was Elli Evangelidou who broke the Cypriot shot put record in the indoor field event with her throw of 15.70m and the outdoor field event with a throw of 15.58m.

Elli also managed to qualify for the Olympic Games in Barcelona without, however, managing to achieve her target.

- Another athlete making headlines in 1992 was swimmer Vaso Lakkotrypi. After securing 11 records in total, the swimmer made people take note of her talent. Vaso broke records in the 50m freestyle event, 100m freestyle, 100m butterfly and 200m butterfly events.

- Swimming success was also marked by the remarkable progress that was made in 1992 by youngster Polly Ioannou who, at the age of 14, broke no less than 12 Cypriot records in the 200m and 400m medley events.

- Shooting athlete Georgios Sakellis, who apart from his achievements at the Pancyprian Championships where he was crowned champion, also managed to some notable success at international games.

He won the bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games in Ireland in the skeet event whilst at the European Championships in Turkey, he sealed fourth place.

Achievements at many levels

It could be said that 1993 was a very good year for Cypriot sports in the individual and team events.

- In the team event, Cypriot basketball team Pezoporikos Larnaca managed to reach the third round of the Korac Cup after beating Israeli heavyweights Hapoel Eilat 86-80. It was the first time that a Cypriot team had gone so far in a European competition.

- Antonis Soteriou had another good year in shooting after clinching the gold medal at the Games of the Small States of Europe (Malta) before then going on to win the bronze in the skeet event at the European Grand Prix and the gold medal at the European Youth Championships in the Czech Republic. He followed up that success with the silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in England. He also enjoyed success with the national teams.

- Four gold medals were won at the Games of the Small States of Europe which took place in Malta by Dora Kyriakou (200m, 400m, 4x100 and 4x400m) who once again showing her strength in track.

- At the 1993 FILA Wrestling World Championships in Toronto, Canada, in the men's freestyle competition, Arout Parsekian finished eighth in the 62kilo event.

- Poly Ioannou continued with her impressive performances after securing seven Cypriot records in the youth competition and another seven in the women's competition. She won two gold medals at the Games of the Small States of

Europe (200m breaststroke and 200m medley), one silver (400m medley) and one bronze (100m breaststroke).

- Elias Louka secured the silver medal with a time of 18.41 at the European Championships in Spain.

- Swimmer Stavros Michaelides secured the bronze medal in the 50m freestyle event with a time of 23.21 at the Mediterranean Games in France whilst he also won a gold medal at the Games of the Small States of Europe in the 50m freestyle event and the bronze medal in the 100m butterfly event.

- Another swimmer riding high was Marina Zorpa who also took part in the Games of the Small States of Europe and in the eight events she took part in, won two golds, four silvers and two bronze medals. It was a terrific show from Marina Zorpa.



Swimming athlete Marina Zorpa took part in eight swimming events at the Games of the Small States of Europe winning two gold, four silver and two bronze medals.



1994

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

A great year for shooting

1994 was a fabulous year for shooting with the sport rightly described as the one which tops all achievements for Cyprus at major international competitions.

Two male shooters and one female shooter secured tremendous achievements at major games.

Antonis Andreou Soteriou won the gold medal at the European Youth Championships in Portugal in the skeet event and also helped the national team in the youth competition for skeet at the Games of the Small States of Europe in San Marino where the Cyprus team won the gold medal and Soteriou went on to also win the gold medal in the individual skeet event. Another major coup for Antonis Andreou Soteriou was when he won the silver medal at the World Youth Championships which took place in Italy.

At the same games, Cyprus won the gold in the youth event with the skeet team made up of Antonis Andreou, Christos Kourtellas and Kyriakos Christoforou.

- Another great athlete in shooting, Christos Kourtellas, also enjoyed a year filled with success in 1994.

He was part of the youth team (Antonis Andreou, Christos Kourtellas, D. Moisis) which won the gold medal in skeet at the European Youth Championships in Portugal and a gold medal in the skeet event at the World Youth Championships in Italy. He also won the gold medal with the skeet team at the Commonwealth Games in Canada.

In the individual event, he won a gold medal at the Panhellenic Games which was also dubbed "The



At the European Youth Championships in Portugal, Antonis Andreou Soteriou won the gold medal in Shooting, at individual and team level. He also won a silver medal at the International Games that took place in Italy.

Crete Battle Cup". He went on to win the silver medal at the European Youth Championships in Portugal and the silver medal at the Games of the Small States of Europe in San Marino. A silver medal was also claimed at the Commonwealth Games in Canada whilst in the team event for skeet he won a bronze medal at the World Youth Championships in Italy.

Female shooting athlete Fani Theofanous also took herself to gold at the Commonwealth Games, which took place in Victoria, Canada, with her score of 387/400. It was another great success for the shooting athlete.

In track, we saw an encouraging performance by high jumper Fotis Stefani who secured a leap of 5.30m at the Commonwealth Games in Canada to finish fourth whilst in the Bruno Zauli Cup in Turkey, he won the silver medal.

Shooting, track/field and swimming

The year of 1995 could also be described as the year for shooting, track and wrestling after a string of successful results.

- The now internationally acclaimed skeet shooter Antonis Andreou, following his successful performances in previous events such as the gold medal he won in the team event at the World Youth Championships in Italy and the silver medal in the same individual event, was riding high again in shooting after winning the gold medal at the European Championships in Finland with a score of 124/125 – an achievement which also equaled the world record at the time.

- In track, Dora Kyriakou continued her impressive run in 1995.

At the Bruno Zauli Cup games which took place in Slovenia, she managed to secure wins in the 200m (24.25) and the 400m with a time of 53.53.

In the same year, Dora Kyriakou managed to twice secure a new record in the 200m (23.81 and 23.52) whilst in the 400m event she also secured three new Cypriot records with times of 52.50, 52.46 and 52.05. Two more records were also achieved at the Indoor Games with a time of 24.08 in the 200m event and a time of 53.14m in the 400m event.

- Another important victory was recorded in 1995 through shooting athlete Fani Theofanous who won the bronze medal with a score of 387/400 at the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi. At the Games of the Small States of Europe in

Luxembourg, Fani Theofanous won the gold medal with a score of 387/400.

Youth swimmer Nikoletta Michaelidou was making her presence known after securing 11 Cypriot records in the youth competition and another 10 in the women's competition.

The gold medal was also won in the 200m freestyle event (2.10.80) at the Games of the Small States of Europe. At the same games, she also won silver medals in the 400m freestyle (4.36.06), 100m freestyle (1.07.70) and 4x200 freestyle (9.02.63). The bronze was won in the 800m freestyle (9.41.57) and in the 4x100 medley (4.41.80).

That was topped up with a bronze medal at the Belgian Games after finishing with a time of 2.13.03 in the 200m freestyle event.



Dora Kyriakou won the 200m and 400m in the Bruno Zauli Cup in Slovenia.



1996

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

The fastest Caucasian in Atlanta

1996 saw the participation of Cypriot sprint athlete Anninos Markoullides at the Olympic Games in Atlanta in which he reached the quarterfinals of the 100m event. His final finish of 15th that year – when taking into account all the results – meant that he was the fastest Caucasian with a time of 10.23. In 1996 at the Bruno Zauli Games in

Belgium, Anninos Markoullides secured the silver medal in the 200m event with a time of 20.46. During those same games, Cyprus also took the gold in the 4x100 relay event with a time of 39.81.

10th place in wrestling

For an athlete to finish in the top ten of the Olympic Games is something very important

Wrestler Arout Parsekian was one such athlete after finishing 10th. Parsekian could have even taken the bronze medal in his final game had he had that extra bit experience.

Yiannis Zisimidis

1996 also saw more success in the track event with Yiannis Zisimidis securing the best ever time by a Cypriot athlete when he clocked 10.11 in the 100m event of the Vardinoyannia International Track and Field Meeting in Rethimno, Crete. With that record time, Yiannis Zisimidis was ranked 31st in the world.

Andri Agathocleous

- One athlete who has had a distinguished career in the field of gymnastics was also on top in 1996 when she took the gold medal in the individual event at the European Youth Games. During those games, which saw 16 European nations take part, Andri Agathocleous finished second best athlete at the games.

Meanwhile at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Luxembourg, she also took the gold in the team event with Cyprus, in the individual event, vault, uneven bars, balance beam and in the floor event. Andri Agathocleous truly wrote herself into Cypriot gymnastics folklore.



Anninos Markoullides, who secured 15th place at the Olympic Games in Atlanta, finished as the fastest Caucasian sprinter of that year.

1997

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Gold at the 100m hurdles at the European Youth Championships

Cypriot sport made its mark again at the European youth games which this time took place in Lisbon, Portugal.

Marilia Grigoriou, then just 18 and part of the Olympia Gymnasia Club, secured the gold medal in the 100m hurdles event. In the semifinals, Marilia Grigoriou secured a record time for the games with a time of 13.51. It was a tremendous victory for Marilia Grigoriou who went on to enjoy further success in 1997.

At the Games of the Small States of Europe, which took place in Reykjavik in Iceland, she took second place in the same event.

Big success

Anninos Markoullides also enjoyed success at the World University Games, which took place in Sicily and involved 175 nations (6,500 athletes), after taking the bronze medal in the 200m. At the Mediterranean Games which took place in Bari, Italy he took the silver medal in the 100m and the bronze in the 4x100.

He also took two golds in the 100m and 200m during the Bruno Zauli Cup that took place in Denmark.

Dora Kyriakou

1997 also saw the silver medal won in the 400m with a time of 52.02 by Dora Kyriakou at the Bari Mediterranean Games whilst at the Bruno Zauli Cup in the same year she won the gold in the 400m and the bronze in the 200m.



Marilia Grigoriou, won the gold medal in the 100m hurdle event, at the European Youth Championships in Lisbon, Portugal.

Great consistency

Antonis Andreou showed what a steady athlete he was with his performances in 1997.

During the European Championships in Finland, he took the gold medal in the skeet event and the gold medal in the Games of the Small States of Europe. He followed that up with another gold medal at the European Shooting Championships in Athens.

At the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, he sealed fifth place in the individual skeet event. Whilst in the Cyprus skeet team, he took the silver medal at the European Championships in Finland and at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia but also the bronze medal at the World Shooting Championships that were hosted in Cyprus.



1998

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

A year of important success

1998 was another important year for Cypriot sports with triumphs around the globe. In the track event, Anninos Markoullides and Dora Kyriakou were in top form.

- Anninos Markoullides took the silver medal in the 200m event during the Indoor European Championships that were held in Valencia, Spain. It was the first time that Cyprus had secured a medal at those games. At the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia he came fourth in the 200m event whilst in the Bruno Zauli Cup in Belgrade, he took three gold medals in the 100m, 200m and 4x100.



Rhythmic Gymnast Demetra Sergiou clinched the gold medal in the rope event at the World Gymnasiade in China.

- Dora Kyriakou, another great track athlete, won the gold medal in the 200m of the Bruno Zauli Cup, bronze in the 400m whilst at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia she finished 15th in the 400m.

In the same year, Antonis Nikolaides, with the Cyprus Shooting Team for Skeet, won the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia.

He also won the silver medal in the skeet event during the World Shooting Championships that took place in Brunei.

Such were his successes that the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) included him in the top 12 skeet shooters that took part in the World Championships.

- Georgios Achilleos, another great skeet shooting athlete, took the gold medal at the youth champions, at the international 'Famous Grouse Cyprus Grand Prix' event. He also sealed gold at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Andorra whilst at the European Games which took place in Cyprus, he took the silver medal in the silver medal.

- In rhythmic gymnastics, Demetra Sergiou made her presence felt with her gold medal victory in the rope event at the World Gymnasiade in China whilst at the same games in the individual event she took fifth place. During those great games, Demetra Sergiou managed to qualify to the all finals and make the following finishes: Ball (4th), Hoop (5th), Ribbon (8th)

Demetra Sergiou, an athlete of the AMATHUS Club in Limassol, took the gold medal at an international tournament in Russia in the individual event whilst she also took the silver medal in the ribbon event.

Great success in swimming

In 1999, all cameras from Cypriot sports were pointed towards young swimmer Natalia Roubina who, despite being only 15-years-old (19 July, 1984), won six medals (two gold, two silver and two bronze) at the Games of the Small States of Europe which took place in Liechtenstein in 1999.

At the European Youth Championships, she finished 8th in the 200m butterfly event whilst at the World Cup she finished tenth. 1999 was without doubt baptised with the arrival of our talented young swimmer.

The successes of Georgios Achilleos

1999 also saw Paphos Shooting Club athlete Georgios Achilleos have an impressive season. At the age of 20 and having completed his national service, he managed to take the gold medal for skeet in the youth event World Games which took place in Finland. He also took the gold in the team event for skeet.

He then turned on the charm again to take first place in the skeet event at the Italian Games ahead of the World Championships.

It was the year of Georgios Achilleos after emerging as one of the finest shooting athletes for skeet and making his presence felt on the international stage.

Bronze for Kourtellas

One of the best athletes to emerge from shooting was Christos Kourtellas of the Nicosia Shooting Club.

In 1999, Christos Kourtellas was a valuable part of the Cyprus Skeet Team that took part at the World Shooting Championships in Lima, Peru.

The Cyprus men's team took the bronze at the World Championships in what was a remarkable achievement for the island. At the same games, Christos Kourtellas also secured a personal accolade by taking second place in the overall standings.

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) selected him in their 12 best skeet shooters who took part in the games in which he finished fifth overall – the highest ever finish at the time by a Cypriot shooter. Shooting athlete Michalis Katzianis at the European Youth Championships in France where he won the gold medal in the skeet event with a score of 122/125.



Natalia Roubina had an impressive performance at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Liechtenstein, where she won six medals in various swimming events (two gold, two silver and two bronze ones.)



2000

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Olympic Achievement for Antonis Andreou in Sydney

The shooting athlete of the occupied Famagusta Shooting Club, Antonis Andreou, had a good year and his success was plentiful. The greatest moment of his career until then was finishing eighth at the skeet event with a finish of 122/125 at the Olympic Games in Sydney. That same finish was also taken by Lakis Psimolofitis during the 1972 Olympics in Munich but he was part of the National Team of Greece.

The success of Antonis Andreou was a great one for our little Cyprus. But he didn't stop there and in 2000, the remarkable Andreou continued with his run.

He later won the gold medal in the team event for skeet at the World Cup in New Delhi and the silver medal in the team at the European Games in Montecatini among others.

Sofia Miaouli

At the Olympic Games in Sydney, we recorded another important and historical moment for Cypriot sports.

For the first time, a Cypriot athlete finished ninth following the finish of shooting athlete Sofia Miaouli. Sofia had finished joint seventh but finally finished ninth overall.

Sofia continued her success in 2000 after winning the silver medal at the International Grand Prix Games which took place in New Delhi.

Miaouli had been selected by the Cyprus Shooting Sport Federation as one of the best 12 Cypriot shooters and she took part in the Pancyprian Cup finals where she finished sixth amongst the male shooters.



Sofia Miaouli finished in ninth place in the skeet event at the Olympic Games in Sydney.

Track/field and swimming

2001 was a great year for Anninos Markoullides. At the Mediterranean Games in Tunisia, he managed to win two medals for Cyprus with a remarkable time of 20.60 to take the gold whilst in the 100m event he won the bronze medal with a time of 10.21. In the same year, Anninos Markoullides took the silver medal at the Bruno Zauli Cup games.

His success in 2001 didn't stop there.

At the Games for the Small States of Europe, which took place in San Marino, he took first place in the 100m and 200m events whilst he was also part of the Cyprus team in the 4x100 relay event which saw them seal the gold medal.

- At the Games for the Small States of Europe in San Marino, the great class of swimmer Maria Papadopoulou also shone after winning five medals (three gold and two silver).

Maria also took part in the Mediterranean Games in Tunisia where she took the bronze medal in the 100m butterfly event.

It was without doubt the year that Maria Papadopoulou showed her talent and class.

The success in track and swimming was one of the crowning achievements for sports in 2001 whilst more triumphs were made by Cypriot athletes in individual and team events.



Maria Papadopoulou.



2002

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Year of Olympiad Gymnastics

The tough training, continuous efforts and faith in his own abilities helped Herodotos Georgallas secure a great victory after getting first place and the gold medal in the rings event for Olympiad Gymnastics during the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. It was a great success for Herodotos who continued to work towards Olympic glory and continued securing important successes for Cyprus with his consistent form.

Important victory for Alissa Kallinikou

Alissa Kallinikou was one of the track athletes who showed what she was capable of. During 2002, Alissa secured the gold medal at the World Gymnasiade which took place in the French town of Cannes. With a time of 54.43 she came first in the 400m in what was yet another impressive result for women's sports in Cyprus.

She also had a good run in the Bruno Zauli Cup where she finished fourth in the 400m.

Silver for Christodoulides

One of the most consistent athletes in the sport of Judo was Christodoulos Christodoulides after he took the silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. In the same year, he also took fifth place at the World Gymnasiade

Christodoulou had also won four gold medals at the Games of the Small States of Europe (1995,

1997, 1999 and 2001) in the four consecutive times he took part in the games. But his silver medal at the Commonwealth Games was the pinnacle of his career.

National Men and Youth Skeet Teams

In 2002, both the mens and the youth teams once again excelled in shooting.

In the Mens Event, Antonis Nikolaidis got the bronze medal in the skeet event during the Commonwealth Games in Manchester. Nikolaidis and Christos Kourtellas in the Skeet Team went on to win the gold medal in what was an tremendous victory for the island.

The youth team, which took part in the European Youth Championships in Italy, also took gold. The team consisted of Makis Georgiou, Adamos Louka and Marios Petrides.

At the 48th European Games in Finland, the youth team consisting of Makis Georgiou, Adamos Louka and Konstantinos Kitsios, took the bronze medal.

- At the World Gymnasiade, Eleni Artymata won the bronze medal after finishing with a time of 24.63 in the 200m.



The Mayor of Larnaca Mr. Moiseos welcomes Kikis Lazarides (right) at Larnaca Airport after being elected an IOC member in February 2002. Left, the former CSO President Andreas Papacharalambous.

Andri Sialou made an impressive return to track and field events and at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Malta after winning the gold medal (52.66). She also took the gold medal at the Bruno Zauli cup in the same event.



The remarkable return of Andri Sialou

It just goes to show how the love of sport can never fade when an athlete - who put her career on hold to raise her family, makes a return to the sport. That happened in 2003 when 400m hurdle track athlete Andri Sialou made a fantastic return. A year later, Andri managed to qualify for the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. Andri Sialou was then selected by the IAAF to take part in the Golden League which took place in Oslo. It was the first time that a Cypriot athlete was taking part in such a big event and she even managed to finish seventh.

She then won the 400m hurdles during the Games of the Small States of Europe in Malta with a time of 52.66 before then winning the gold at the Bruno Zauli Cup.

Andri wasn't finished there as she took first place at the International Meeting of Athletics "Papaflessia" with a time of 52.30 – the same time she finished with at the Bruno Zauli Cup. In 2003, Andri Sialou was ranked 23 in the world.

18 year record broken

During the 2003 Games of the Small States of Europe in Malta, Marilia Grigoriou broke the record that was previously held by Maroula Lambrou Teloni who had finished with a time of 11.73 back in 1985. Marilia's finished on 11.67 and just two weeks later at the International Meeting of Athletics "Papaflessia" in Greece, she beat her own record with another superb finish of 11.48.

At the Games of the Small States of Europe, Marilia Grigoriou took three gold medals. In the 100m (11.67), 200m (23.56) and 4x100 (47.71). It was one of the crowning moments of our champion.

Tremendous run of Maria Papadopoulou

2003 also saw the awesome form of Maria Papadopoulou who is still regarded as one of the biggest names in Cypriot swimming for women. In 2003, Papadopoulou managed to qualify in the 100m butterfly event with a time of 1.01.76 for the 2004 Athens Olympic Games.

At the Games of the Small States of Europe, Maria Papadopoulou took four medals whilst she also secured her qualification into the semi-finals of the European Championships.



2004

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Greatest moments at the Paralympics for our athletes

Cyprus also has a reason to be proud for its Paralympic athletes after succeeded in giving us some special and memorable moments.

Cyprus' first participation at the Paralympic Games began back in 1988 when the island took part in the Paralympics in Korea and that was followed by participations in Barcelona in 1992, Atlanta in 1996 and Sidney in 2000.

But it was the Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008 which saw our athletes achieve their crowning moments.

In September 2004 in Athens, Karolina Pelendritou secured the gold medal in the 100m breaststroke. It was the first time that the flag of Cyprus was hung so high at such a major event.

Karolina Pelendritou followed up that success with another gold in the 100m breaststroke in Beijing. She also won the bronze medal in the 200m individual medley and finished fifth in the 50m freestyle.

Karolina Pelendritou's triumphs were many and important and that was capped off with the Elite Athletes Award for 2007 which she received in June 2008.

That award is handed to athletes in the Commonwealth who have excelled and Karolina finished ahead of 72 nations to take the first prize. The award ceremony took place in the Museum of Arts in Glasgow.



Antonis Arestis

Antonis Arestis was one of the athletes taking part at the Paralympic Games in Beijing who won two silver medals. The first silver medal was won in the 200m, T46 event with the second arriving in the 400m, T46 category event. Those victories were down to the hard work that he had put into. Previously in August 2006 at the World Athletic Championships in Holland, Antonis Arestis won the bronze in the 400m, T46 event. In August 2007 at the Czech Republic Games, he won two gold medals in the 200m and 400m event whilst he also took the silver medal after finishing second in the 100m event.

Andreas Potamitis

One of the most worthy Paralympic athletes is undoubtedly Andreas Potamitis.

During the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008, he secured 10th place in the 50m, freestyle event in category 56. His first place finish in 2008 also in the 50m, freestyle event in category 56 at the British International Swimming Championships was also a triumphant achievement for him.

Evrripides Georgiou

The effort of shooting athlete Evripides Georgiou was also admired in the 2008 Beijing Olympics after finishing 13th in the P1-10m Air Pistol - SH1 event.



Karolina Pelendritou



Savvas Arestis



Eleni Artymata

Gold in the discus for Arestis

Gold for Savvas Arestis

One of the biggest moments in track and field, was the gold medal win at the European Youth Games in Italy by Savvas Arestis with his throw of 56.83.

2005 was also an important year for athlete Anna Fitidou who picked up the silver medal at the Mediterranean Games in Almeria, Spain for her throw of 4.25 in the pole vault event. It was yet another important moment for women's sports in Cyprus which continued to show signs of steady progress and the depth of Cypriot classical sports.

Not forgetting Eleni Artymata

Another great talent in track and field is Eleni Artymata after putting on a series of good performances.

At the Games of the Small States of Europe, she picked up three golds in the 100m with a time of 11.87, in the 200m with a time of 23.98 and in the 4x100 with a time of 45.40.

She also took the bronze medal with a time of 11.74 in the 100m at the European Youth Championships in Lithuania whilst in the Bruno Zauli Cup she took first place in the 100m with a time of 11.67 and second place with a time of 23.71 in the 200m. Artymata has now set her sights on major international games.

Anna Stylianou

The dynamic return of talented swimmer Anna Stylianou was another symbolic moment for Cypriot sports. In 2005, Anna Stylianou won two gold medals in the 100m freestyle (58.04) and in the 200m freestyle (2.05.81) at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Andorra in May.

She also won two silver medals, 50m freestyle (26.80) and in the 4x100 team relay event and a bronze medal in the 4x100 freestyle relay event. It was a great performance for Anna Stylianou who is regarded as one of the island's brightest swimming talents.

National Basketball Team

In 2005, the Cyprus National Basketball Team also put on some impressive performances.

The team secured the gold medal at the Games of the Small States of Europe in Andorra. Cyprus secured first place undefeated after wins over Luxembourg 91-83, San Marino 70-65, Iceland 80-56 and Andorra 86-75.

During the qualification campaign for 2007, Cyprus managed two important wins against Belarus 87-77 and Albania 96-75.



2006

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Marcos Baghdatis reaches eighth in the world

There are few who can argue that Marcos Baghdatis was one of the great stories of world tennis after managing to shoot himself high in the rankings of the sport and simultaneously expand the image of Cypriot sports. From his 55th position in the ATP rankings, he bolted himself to eighth.

At the 2006 Australian Open, Baghdatis was the lips of everyone in the tennis world. A remarkable performance at the Grand Slam saw him finally lose out in the final to Roger Federer 1-3. But he claimed some big scalps along the way including Andy Roddick (3-1), Ivan Ljubicic (3-2) and David Nalbandian (3-2)

That unprecedented feat shot him to eighth in the ATP rankings and he continued his terrific run with victories at Wimbledon against Andy Murray (3-0) and former world number 1 Lleyton Hewitt (3-1) before finally losing in the semifinals to Rafael Nadal (0-3).

Marcos Baghdatis continued his impressive work and went on to win his first professional title at the China Open beating Mario Ancic in the final 2-0.

He went on to finish 2006 12th in the ATP rankings. It was an incredible achievement for Marcos who, in 2003, was ranked 851 in the ATP rankings.

Ethnikos Achnas

Refugee club Ethnikos managed to raise eyebrows with their giant-killing performances in the UEFA Intertoto Cup. In the summer of 2006, Ethnikos Achnas entered the Intertoto Cup competition and went on to become a beacon of light for the clubs on the island. They began with the elimination of Albanian side Partizani (4-2, 1-2) before knocking out Croatian side Osijek on away goals (2-2, 0-0) and then finally beating Maccabi Petach-Tikva (2-0, 2-3)

With those victories, Ethnikos qualified for the second qualifying round of the UEFA Cup and in the process became the first Cypriot club to do so. Their dazzling run continued with elimination of Belgian outfits Roeselare (1-2, 5-0) before being finally eliminated by French side Lens (0-0, 1-3). It was a great achievement by the modest refugee club on Europe's big stage.





Georgios Achilleos goes top of the world.

2007

The Cyprus Olympic Committee



Georgios Achilleos goes top of the world

Such achievements achieved by Georgios Achilleos are few and far between after the shooting athlete shot himself to the top of the International Shooting Sport Federation rankings. It was an amazing accomplishment which he kept for months and Georgios Achilleos cemented his status in the history of Cypriot sports.

Achilleos won the gold medal (in the team and individuals event) at the World Championships in Nicosia, a feat he matched at the European Championships in Granada before winning the gold at the World Cup in Santo Domingo, the silver medal at the Lonato World Cup and gold medal winner at the Belgrade Skeet Finals amongst 12 of the best skeet shooters of 2007. Those accolades were nothing short of amazing for Georgios Achilleos.

A leap to the skies...

Another great athlete in the history of Cypriot sports is Kyriakos Ioannou of the GSO Sports Club.

The high jumper has rewritten the history books for Cypriot sports. He is the only Cypriot athlete to win a medal at the World Athletics Championships. Kyriakos Ioannou took part in the high jump final twice beating the previous Pancyprian record in the 2.33m and 2.35m. His jump of 2.35m gave him the bronze medal at the World Championships which were being staged in Osaka, Japan on 29 August, 2007.



Kyriakos Ioannou's jump was only matched by two other athletes that year. In the same year, Kyriakos Ioannou took the silver medal at the University Games in Thailand with a jump of 2.26m.

First in Canada

There was another athlete who took the world by storm in 2007. Young sailing athlete Pavlos Kontides was triumphant at the Youth Sailing ISAF World Championship in the Laser series. In the nine events he took part in, he won three of them and also came second to finally finish first and take the gold medal.



2008

The Cyprus Olympic Committee

Antonis Nikolaides finishes fourth in Beijing

In 2008, Cypriot shooting athlete (skeet) Antonis Nikolaides secured one of the highlights of his shining career after ending fourth at the Olympic Games in Beijing. Nikolaides just missed out on a medal after missing one disc against Anthony Terras - the French shooting athlete who he played-off against for the Bronze

Both athletes hit 120 of the 125 discs and in the final both hit 24/25 to both finish on 144 successful attempts out of 150.

In the same final, Georgios Achilleos – who was favourite to win the event with his first place world ranking – got off to a bad start which nobody expected and not only fell behind but was in danger of being eliminated from the final altogether.

But Georgios finally hit back and with 119/125 finished fifth out of the six shooters. In the big final, Georgios Achilleos, with 24/25 and with a total of 143/150, finished in fifth place.

Also in Beijing, female shooting athlete Andri Eleftheriou, with 67/75, finished seventh – a good finish which left high hopes for the future.

Shooting had given one of the best joys and success to Cypriot sports. It is a successful sport for the island with many athletes in the world's elite and with the island hosting many important games.

Following his fourth place finish at the Beijing Olympics, Antonis Nikolaides made the decision to retire from a career which once saw him achieve a memorable 125/125 at the Slovenian World Cup, just before the Athens Olympics of 2004. His 100% shooting result was also a world record.

- Another important event of 2008 was the bronze medal won by high jumper Kyriakos Ioannou at the World Indoor Championships in Valencia with his leap of 2.32m.



Antonis Nikolaidis finished fourth at the Olympic Games.



Andri Eleftheriou finished seventh at the Olympic Games.



The President of the Republic Demetris Christofias is escorted to the Olympic Village



The Minister of Education and Culture Andreas Demetriou, the President of the Cyprus Republic Demetris Christofias and the then President of the COC Kikis Lazarides with the Cyprus flag.



A memorable picture of the President of the Republic Demetris Christofias with the Cyprus Olympic Team at the Olympic Village in Beijing.



Our National Olympic Team parades the Olympic Stadium in Beijing with Georgios Achilleos as flag bearer.

Anorthosis achieves unique qualification into the Champions League group stages

Anorthosis made Cypriot sports history in 2008 when the refugee club managed to qualify and then hold their own in the group stages of the Champions League.

A team of refugee status and with a minimal budget, Anorthosis managed to have an impressive run against sides such as Panathinaikos, Olympiacos and Inter among others. Anorthosis' run in Europe's biggest club football competition

also caught the attention of the international media with L'Equipe – in its article of 3 October 2008 entitled 'Imitons Famaguste' – calling on others to mimic Famagusta. Anorthosis was proud representative of Cyprus abroad.

Anorthosis' results: Anorthosis eliminated Pyunik (Armenia), Rapid Wien (Austria) and Olympiacos (Greece) and almost qualified for the last 16 of the competition during their bout in the group stages.

Werder – Anorthosis 0-0, Anorthosis – Panathinaikos 3-1, Inter – Anorthosis 1-0, Anorthosis – Inter 3-3, Anorthosis – Werder 2-2, Panathinaikos – Anorthosis 1-0.





Kyriakos Ioannou.

Silver medal for Kyriakos Ioannou in Torino

Another great moment in the history of classic sports in Cyprus was of course the silver medal won by Kyriakos Ioannou at the European Indoor Championships which took place in Torino.

With a jump of 2.29m, Kyriakos Ioannou took second place in an event which put him amongst the world's elite high jumpers.

- 2009 was also the year that weightlifter Demetris Minasides secured the silver medal and two bronze medals at the European Weightlifting Championships which took place in Bucharest between 4 and 12 April, 2009. In the 127 kilo snatch event, he won the silver medal and the bronze in the 157 kilo clean and jerk event before getting another bronze after lifting a total of 284 kilos. Minasides competed in the class of 62kg.

- Herodotos Georgallas clinched the silver medal in the rings event at the Gymnastics World Cup (11.4.2009) which took place in Maribor, Slovenia.

- Another remarkable and unprecedented achievement was accomplished by the Cyprus Schoolboys Football Team after they beat South Africa 4-1 in the final of the World Schools Championship which took place in Turkey in April 2009.



Kyriakos Ioannou.



The ancient entrance of the Olympia stadium.

Sports in Cyprus





Sports in Cyprus

Introduction

The Cypriots' love of sports dates back throughout history. It was a love and passion that never relinquished and sporting events were played whenever possible even in times when Cyprus was not even an independent state.

- During the years of Ottoman Occupation (1571 – 1878), the Cypriots' love of sports was expressed during religious celebrations and sports games were held outside of churches. Competitions such as stone lifting (ditzimin), who can run the fastest, who can jump the furthest and who can win at tug-of-war were frequently played...

- Even under British Rule (1878-1960), the Cypriots' spirit for sports never dampened. Sports clubs began being assembled in various towns and villages whilst the Gymnastics Club was also established. Cypriot sports got better organised after the independence of the Cyprus Republic back in 1960 and sports clubs and associations began to grow resulting in the formation of the Cyprus Sports Organisation (CSO) in 1969.

The Cyprus Sports Organisation then attempted to put into a action a five-year development programme (1969-1974) in which the correct foundations would be laid for sports. But those plans were cut short after the Turkish invasion and conflict of 1974.

This national tragedy for our homeland, led to the rapid decline of government subsidy towards the Cyprus Sports Organisation. Cypriot sports was also in mourning after some of its athletes lost their lives during the conflict.



Some important sports facilities were also seized in the Turkish occupied areas. But even that tragedy wasn't enough to relinquish Cyprus' love for sports and the hard-times were beaten. Despite its geographical location and small population, the island continued to strive towards future success.

An example of this success was the impressive performances of its athletes at last summer's Olympic Games in which Cyprus finished fourth and fifth in the men's skeet event and seventh in the women's skeet event.

Another tremendous testament to the island's sports was the participation of a Cypriot athlete in



the final of the Men's Australian Open Grand Slam Tennis Tournament. It is important to have athletes competing in great games against big opponents. The string of success for Cypriot athletes at major international tournaments is a shining example of the island's long, rich history of love for its sports.

These accomplishments epitomise the high level of reconstruction which Cypriot sports underwent

In this chapter, we take a brief look at the overall landmarks of Cypriot sports at different periods in time. It is a journey that begins many years ago and finishes today:

- A look at the participation of Cypriot athletes at the ancient Olympic games
- A brief look at the history of our involvement in the Olympic games starting from the beginning, though the resurgent period of 1986 up until the Olympic Games in Beijing.
- As of 1980, Cyprus has taken part in all of the Olympic Games as well as other major competitions such as the Commonwealth Games, the Mediterranean Games and the Games of the Small States of Europe.

The period 1896-1960

Between 1896, the year Athens hosted the first ever modern Olympic Games, up until 1960, when Cyprus was declared an independent state, Cypriot athletes were still competing in major events but were part of the Greek National Team. It was a great time for our sports following a string of accomplishments by Cypriot athletes which also helped Greece in its own success.

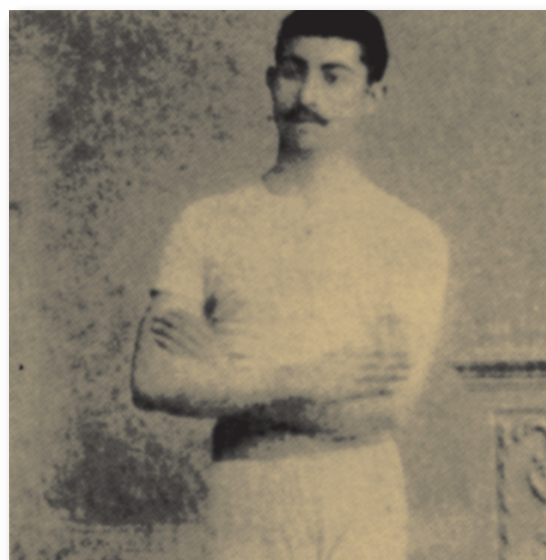
- The first victory and the gold in the modern Olympics of 1896 was achieved by Ioannis Frangoudes in the shooting event (pistol shooting from 25m) whilst he took second place in the same event but from 300m.

- One of the biggest names of classical sports in Cyprus was Stelios Kyriakides who, in the Boston Marathon (20.4.1946), finished with a time of 2.29.27 to take first place. It was at the time, the fastest time in the world.

When noting other great accomplishments by Cypriot athletes during the period between 1896 – 1960, it would be unjust not to mention the sixth victory of Stavros Tsiortzis in the 400m hurdle event at the Olympic Games in Munich. In the same competition, Cypriot shooting athlete Lakis Psimolofitis, who was also representing Greece, took eighth place in the skeet shooting event.

The period 1960-1980

We now take a look at a 20-year period, between 1960 and 1980, in which although Cyprus was an independent state, the Cyprus Olympic Committee, which was established in 1974, was not recognised until 1979. Therefore, Cyprus was compelled to take part in international games with Greece until 1980.



Anastasios Andreou took part in the 1986 Olympics in the 110m hurdle event.



Athletics in Cyprus

Cyprus' involvement in the Olympic Games from ancient times up today

Despite being a small island with a equally small population, Cyprus has had many roles to play in the history of sports. They were important roles which added to the colourful history of sports on our island. Dating back to ancient times, Cyprus has had important participations in the biggest sports event in the world – the Olympic Games. The identity and the level of excellence in sports in every nation, is reflected at the Olympic Games, which is watched millions of people throughout the globe.

The participation of Cyprus

The Press and Information Office of the Cyprus Republic houses a unique article, that was published in 'Cyprus Today' and was written by Andreas Hadjivasileiou, which reports on the participation of Cypriot athletes dating back from ancient times up until 1980.

The athletic history of Cyprus dates back many years as is evidenced in the uncovering of ancient exercise grounds (gymnasia) and the multitude of descriptions of such that have been found in all parts of the island, in one form or another. The contests that were then held be they either for religious, social, political or cultural purposes, nevertheless constituted the highest form of achievement in ancient Greece - of which Cyprus was a part.

The ties between Cyprus and Athens were particularly strong during the time when Evagoras

was king of Salamis. Later, following Alexander the Great's victory at Tyre in 331 BC (in which Cypriot forces took part) the Greek ruler organised games at Phoenicia which were sponsored by the Cypriot monarchy - and this is indeed referred to in the writings of Plutarch. During the times of Ptolemy, when Cyprus came under Ptolemaic rule for some 200 years, it was natural that the ties with Athens became even stronger. This is confirmed in written descriptions relating to the athletic contests in which youths from Cyprus are mentioned as participants and as winners in the Panhellenic contests in Athens and elsewhere in Greece. The inscriptions on marble bear undeniable witness to these facts. These inscriptions, dated back to the 2nd century B.C. refer to a list of Cypriot athletes who won horseracing and other contests. The athletes named were from the Karpasia Peninsula of Cyprus and would appear to be members of the same family. We are told that **Aristos Karpaseotis** won the race on a Young horse while **Ariston Nikaros Karpaseotis** came second on an older horse.

In another description of the same century that was unearthed in excellent condition at Delos, there is a list of youths, chiselled in marble, who took part in the Apollonian games during 119-118 B.C. This list illustrates the cosmopolitan character of the contests. Youths, not only from Cyprus but from all the various centres of Hellenism, gathered together on the island of Apollo to compete for the victor's crown. The listings acknowledge the participation of numerous contestants from as far



off as Syria, Alexandria, Minor Asia. Cyprus and elsewhere, in contrast to only a few in number from Athens. At the Apollonian Games Cyprus was represented by two young men **Karpaseotis Neon and Salaminios Artemidoros**. The inscription refers to the time when Hermes Aristonos was in charge of the games and when the ruler was Hipparchos. facts which specify precisely the years 119/8 B.C. - the time when Cyprus was ruled by Ptolemy Epiphanes. Another inscription found at the base of a statue at Kitium is dedicated to the honour of a certain athlete who won the Pentathlon, running in full armour and chariot racing.

It would also seem from inscriptions that apart from Cypriot athletes winning the Panhellenic races, certain Cypriots also sponsored games. An inscription on a small, white, marble column at Delos mentions the name of a Cypriot immigrant who sponsored the Dionysian children's contest at the Apollonian Games. This monument is dated to the time of King Ptolemy II, the Philadelphos.

To the ancient Greeks there were two principle areas of education - the games/athletic contests on the one hand and intellectual, musical and dramatic activities on the other. The Greeks of the South were in no way lacking in these respects and so it is that **Stratocles** from Salamis is mentioned as winner of the Sotiria games at Delphi in approximately 260 B.C.

When Cyprus came under the Roman Empire there was no semantic change as regards athletics other than the construction of new theatres and stadiums (at Salamis and Curium) and the institution of new games such as the Aktia, Kommadia, Adriaia, the winners being accorded with honours and rankings. That which did change during the Roman Era was the spirit of athleticism. The refined competitive spirit that had been so characteristic of the Panhellenic games was lost. Indeed the games themselves ceased even to be Panhellenic. At Delos, Delphi and Olympia athletes from all the Roman districts would

attend as professionals, touring the various centres in pursuit of victories and honours. At Delphi an inscription was found which refers to a Cypriot professional athlete named **Poplius Aelius Aelianos**. His town of origin is not known. From this we learn that he played hymns on the flute in praise of Apollo of Pythios, and came first in four Panhellenic games - the Pythia, the Olympia, the Nemea and the Isthmia. Over and above these aforementioned successes he won the Andriaia at Athens three times. His home town honoured him with titles as did Athens and Antiochea, the latter both giving him honorary citizenship. An inscription from Kilikia talks of a many times winner by the name of **Dimitrios** from Salamis. The writing is dated to the period of Septimius Severus (211-193 B.C.) and itemises Dimitrios' wins and the honours he was accorded by the emperors in acknowledgement of his abilities.

Considerable contributions were made by Cyprus in the spheres of athletics and drama contests during the Greek and Roman times. The Greek metropolis served as a model and Cyprus's participation in all forms of events was very big.

It is only from inscriptions that we obtain information relating to Cypriot participation in the ancient world of sport and games. The writings of Julius Africanus refer to two Olympic contestants from Salamis, **Heracildis** and **Onisicritos**. And in the chronicles of Eusevius there is also mention of these two. Onisicritos was a winner in the 150th Olympics in 180 B.C. while Heraclides found victory at the 144th games in approximately 204 B.C. both won the track races in the stadium.

Athletics as a national tradition remained in tact despite the passage of time and of so many trying circumstances for our nation. Examples of this heritage can be seen in the number of stadiums that were used as focal points by so many Cypriots who spend every ounce of energy in the perpetuation of this tradition. There were 'gymnasiums' in Paphos, Kitium, Curium, Salamis,



Domnitsa Lanitou Kavounidou became the first Greek woman to participate in Olympic Games (1936 in Berlin in the events for 80m hurdles, 100m track and high jump).

Lapithos, Soloi, Karpasia, Marion, Amathus et alii. These gymnasiums were kept in fact up until the Byzantine period and were directed by trainers/managers known as 'Gymnasiarchs' Many of these are named e.g. Aristagoras, Demophon Pnytochratou, Themias Aristagorou, Stasicrates Stasicratus, Diagoras Tefkrou - all at Salamis; Aristion Antinoros, Onisicratis Onisicratus - both at Amathus; Artemidos Aristonos, Diocles Zinonos, Dionysos Didymou, and Navarchos at Kitium; Kalippos Kalippou, Potamios Egyptou at Paphos; Stasigorou at Marion.

During the Middle Ages athleticism constituted one of the most satisfying and enjoyable pastimes in Cyprus. Athletic prowess and bravado were the essence of the epic poem about Dighenis Akritas. This Cypriot bravado is praised by Kornaros in 'Herotocritos' The finals of the jousting contest took place between three famous athletes, the Cypriot **Kypridemos**, the Cretan Haridemos and Herotocritos.

In the days of Frankish rule the athletic spirit was

preserved through the sport of hunting pursued by the knights and nobility of that epoch.

During the period of Turkish rule the Greeks of Cyprus did not abandon their brilliant tradition of competitiveness that had been passed down to them by their ancestors. This was closely tied in with religion and every so often they held competitions of jumping and weight lifting known as "didjimin" (lifting of a stone of unknown weight or even of the capital of a pillar from an ancient shrine). There was never a fair without wrestling, running, jumping or horse-racing contests.

Matters began to change when Cyprus fell under British rule. Due to the somewhat political colour of the games the British abolished the holding of athletic contests at fairs on the grounds that these were the cause of theft of animals. And so the sanctity of the fairs was destroyed as they turned into nothing more than mass gatherings where goods were bought and sold.

In 1838 the Letrinians, who Inhabited Pyrgos in the Peloponnesus, took up the Idea of reviving the ancient Olympic Games. Following this, in 1858, a rich landowner by name of Evangelos Zappas of Hepiros proposed to sponsor, at his own expense, the revitalisation of the Olympic Games.

In August 1858 the first ever such Games took place, the 2nd in November 1870 and the 3rd in May 1889. One of the founders of the Pancyprrian Society of Nicosia, **Theophanis Theodotou**, was winner of the parallel bars event at the 1889 Games. The following year the Games were declared to be annual; Theophanis Theodotou repeated his achievement of the previous year. At this time **Baron Pierre de Coubertain** was sowing the seeds of internationalising the Olympics. It was this man who envisioned the Games not as a national contest but as a world-wide competition for sport enthusiasts. His intention was to relieve the French educational system of its suffocating scholastic emphasis and



to offer the youth of France training and experience in more diverse fields, as would befit education in a truly democratic country.

The spirit which prevailed at the time of the revival of the Cyprus had considerable impact on the athletic principles of Greece. Those responsible for laying the foundations of organised athletics in Cyprus were also subject to this influence. Nicolas Lanitis together with Christodoulos Sozos and Andreas Themistocleous founded the "OLYMPIA" society in Limassol in 1892, while in 1894 Theophanis and Antonis Theodotou founded the "PANCYPRIAN" society of Nicosia. In 1896 there followed the "ZINON" society of Larnaca (founders: Philios Zannetos and Evangelos Hadjioannou) and the "KORIVOS" society of Paphos (founder: Telemachos Kallonas). There were two basic reasons for creating the gymnastic societies of Cyprus. The first, as aforementioned, was due to the British abolition of games that had hitherto taken place at religious fetes. The second was that it was in response to the general movement favouring the Olympics and the instructions sent by the Greek Council for the Olympics that Cyprus should hold trials to select athletes for the 1896 Games (prior to Cyprus gaining her independence the island did not have her own athletic federation but was considered as part of the Greek one). From these trials, which were the first of a Pancyprian nature, two athletes were chosen to participate in the preliminary Panhellenic contests, namely **Anastasis Andreou** of Limassol and **Charalambos Nicolaidis** of Nicosia. Andreou was selected for the 110m. hurdles event and Nicolaidis for the polevault. Andreou proceeded to victory at the Panhellenic primaries and took part in the first of the series of the modern day Olympics.

The greatest honour for Cyprus, and for Hellenism in general, was the achievement of **Ioannis Francoudis** who came 1st in the 25m. pistols event with 30 shots (5x6). He accumulated 344

points with 23 successes thus winning the gold medal at the Athens Olympics. He also won the silver medal for rifle shooting at 300m. These shooting contests took place at Kallithea, at a stadium specifically constructed for the Olympics. In recognition of his sporting achievements Francoudis was honoured with the position of "escort" to the King George.

At the Olympics which took place in 1906, again in Athens, Cyprus participated with **Michael Rossides** and **Georgios Zenon** from Limassol, and **Georgios Skoutarides** from Nicosia. The former two took part in the 100m. event, and the other two in the 110m. hurdles. Rossides had already won in his event in the Panhellenic games of 1901 whilst Skoutarides won the 110m. hurdles in 1904, and again in 1906 together with the logn jump. Both he and Rossides set new Panhellenic records. Skoutarides, who later became the trainer of the Nicosia Athletic Club for over 10 years, also took part in the London Olympics of 1908. He came in second in his heat, runner up to Cronings of England who achieved a new record time of 16. "4 Skoutariddes broke the Greek record with a time of 16."6.

It was not until 1924 that Cypriots again participated in the Olympics, this time in Paris. In the Panhellenic games in 1924 the 110m sprint and the 400m hurdles were won by **Ioannis Talianos**, while the 100m sprint and the long jump were won by **Costas Pantelides**. These two athletes were consequently chosen to attend the 7th Olympics. The team chosen by a special committee, also included **Andreas Tsouris** and **Frixos Mikellides**, winners of the 800m (2'.09."4) and triple jump (13.58m) event. Worthy of mention is that these four athletes from the Nicosia club won in the overall points ranking contest of the 16th Panhellenic Games. At the Paris Olympics Talianos came third in his heat in the 400m. hurdles with a time of 61."6 and set a new Panhellenic record, and third in the 110m. hurdles (3rd heat) with a time of



17."0. Pantelides came in fourth (10th heat) in the qualifying round of the 200m. with a time of 23."0. In the 3rd heat of the semi-finals he came sixth. Both athletes took part in the 4x100m relay and set a Panhellenic record of 45."4. taking fourth place in the preliminaries and again fourth in the 1st semi-final (the other two runners being. **A. Karayiannis** and **A. Papafingos**).

Following the Pancyprian Games of 1928 that took place in Lamaca, **Costas Petrides** (a jumper from the Nicosia club) and **Renos Francoudes** (a sprinter from the Limassol club) were sent to Athens and were selected to attend the Amsterdam Olympics. Petrides ran in the 100m and competed in the 3rd heat, coming in fifth with 11."3/5. He also jumped 13.83m in the triple jump and in the long jump cleared 6.63m. Francoudes, in the 9th heat took fourth place with 11."1/5 equalling the Panhellenic record. Both ran in the 4x100m relay in which they set a new record for Greece of 44."1/5. In the next Olympics at Los Angeles Renos Francoudes ran in the 100m and 200m events, and the 4x100 relay together with **Angelos Lambrou**, **E. Myropoulos** and **Christos Mantikas**.

These were the golden years of Francoudes athletic career. He was trained by Greece's top professional trainer. Otto Simitsek, who led him to set a new Panhellenic record in the 100m and 200m., and to the attainment of 17 first places at the Balkan Games (11 as an individual, 6 as a team).

At Berlin 3 Cypriot athletes competed in the 1936 Olympics: **Domnitsa Lanitou**, **Renos Francoudes**, and **Stelios Kyriakides**. It was the first time that a Greek female participated in the Games. Domnitsa Lanitou broke some 30 Panhellenic records over various events. She ran in the 100m in the 3rd heat of the preliminaries in which she came third in 12."3, and in the 80m hurdles where she came third in the 1st heat in 12."6. Francoudes ran in the 11th heat of the 100m and came third in 10."8 and second in the 5th heat

of the 200m with 22."1. In the Olympics marathon we were represented by **Stelios Kyriakides** (winner of 6 first places at the Balkan Games and holder of the Panhellenic record for long distance running). He finished eleventh in a time of 2hrs 43.'20."8 (fifth in the preliminaries). One of the most notable Greek successes was Kyriakides's victory at the International Marathon of Boston (20/4/46) in 2 hrs 29.'27".0

From 1948-1964 Cypriots yet again did not participate in the Olympics. Nevertheless in 1952 **Antonis Papadopoulos** and **Andreas Hadjivasiliou** were contestants in the pre-Olympic team. Not until 1967 was Cyprus represented again, at Mexico, by **Harry Aivaliotis** who set a new Panhellenic record for the 100m. Aivaliotis was an exceptionally brilliant athlete - a phenomenon with true sporting spirit who would undoubtedly have achieved great heights had he had the opportunity to compete in the Olympics.

At Mexico in 1968 we took 9th place in shooting in the skeet event with **M. Michaelides** who won 192 points with 200 rounds (the first three winners won 198 points each (24+23+24-23+23+24+25+25+24).

We had the greatest number of Cypriot participants at the Monaco Olympics of 1972 - they were **namely Stavros Tzortzis, Kyriacos Onisiforou, Loucas Louca, and Lakis Georgiou-Psimolophitis**. Stavros Tzortzis completed in the 400m hurdles coming second in the preliminaries in 50."54, and fourth in the semi-final in 50."56. In the finals, which proved exceptionally exciting, he ran in sixth with a time of 49."66. It was the reward of his unlimited efforts, patience and determination. Kyriacos Onisiforou came third in his preliminaries in 46."49 and fifth in the semi-finals (47."22).

In the shotput event Loucas Louca, not up to his usual standard scored 17.48m and ranked 24th. The present chairman of the Shooting Federation

of Cyprus, Lakis Georgiou-Psimolophitis took part in the Skeet and took eighth place with 192 points (23+25+22+26+25+25+24+25) as against the 195 points of the German who came first. At the 1976 Montreal Olympics we were represented by **Stavros Tzortzis, Maroulla Lambrou** and **Panayiotis Hadjistathis**.

In 1980, for the first time Cyprus entered its own Olympic team of Moscow, having become a member of the International Olympics Committee. Our swimmers were **Larry Phylactou, Linos Petrides, Annabella Droushiotou**, and **Olga Loizou**; in Judo we had **Costa Papacostas, Panikos Evripides, Constantine Constantinou, Neophytos Arestis** and **Spyros Spyrou**; in sailing we had **Panikos Rimy, Dimitris Dimitriou, Panayiotis Nicolaou** and **Marios** and **George Karapatakis**. In the track events **Maroulla Lambrou** and **Lambros Kephala** participated as members of the Greek team.

We also took part for the first time in the Winter Olympics of 1980 at Lake Placid, USA, with two athletes, **Lina Aristodemou** and **Philippos Xenophontos**. These same also went to the Sarajevo Games of 1984 together with **Alexis Fotiades, Lambros Lambrou, Lina Aristodemou** and **Yiannis Pipes**. In 1983, after high level discussions between Cyprus and Greece, Cyprus established her independence in athletics and became a member of the International Amateur Athletics Federation, participating with her own national Olympic team in the 1984 Games. Track events were entered by **Philippos Philippou, Marios Kasianides, Dimitris Araouzos**; judo events by **Costas Papacostas**; cycling by **Spyros Agrotis** and shooting by **Petros Kyritsis** (who took 13th place in the Skeet), **Tasos Lordos** and **Dimitris Papachrysostomou**.

Cyprus was represented in the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary, Canada, and in the Summer Games at Seoul, Korea by the following athletes:-

Winter Olympics: **Alexis Fotiades, Socrates Aristodemou, Carolina Fotiadou**.

Summer Olympics: **Marios Hadjiandreou** (track), **Spyros Spyrou** (track), **Andri Avraam**(track), **Maria Lambrou-Teloni** (track), **Andreas Karapatakis** (sailing), **Christos Christoforou** (sailing), **Mike Timvios** (shooting), **Loukis Sourmellis** (shooting), **Michalis Skouroumounis** (Judo), **Elias Ioannou** (Judo).



Stavros Tzortzis, who took sixth place at 1972 Munich Olympic Games in the 400m hurdle event.



The period following Cyprus' historic participation at the Olympic Games in 1980

Since Cyprus' historic participation at the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 as well as the Winter Olympics in the same year in Lake Placid, the island's Olympic Team has been present at the Olympic Games.

Let us take a look back at the most memorable events and success of our athletes from the Olympic Games in Moscow up until the Olympic Games in Beijing:

Moscow 1980

At the Olympic Games in Moscow, Cyprus participated in the swimming, judo and sailing events without any success. The flag bearer for our Olympic team was Kostas Papakostas.

Los Angeles 1984

During the Olympic Games of Los Angeles (18 July – 12 August) we took part in the shooting, track and field, judo and cycling events.

The best performance was by Petros Kyritsis in the skeet shooting event where he finished 13th. The flag bearer for our Olympic team was Marios Kassianidis.

Seoul 1988

At the Olympic Games in Seoul (17 September – 2 October), we took part in the track and field, sailing, shooting and judo event.

Mike Tymvios secured 20 position in the skeet shooting event whilst Spyrou qualified for the semifinals 1,500m event. The flag bearer for our Olympic team was Mike Tymvios.



Andri Avraam took part in the Olympics Games in Seoul, 1988 and Barcelona in 1992.

Barcelona 1992

At the Olympic Games in Barcelona (25 July – 9 August) we took part in the track and field, shooting, swimming, wrestling, judo, rhythmic gymnastics, sailing and archery.

During the games, Yiannis Zisimidis qualified for the 100m event, Stavros Michaelides came 20 in the 50m freestyle event in swimming whilst Christodoulos Katsinioides secured two victories in the judo event. The flag bearer for our Olympic team was Marios Hadjiandreou.

Atlanta 1996

At the Olympics Games in Atlanta (19 July – 4 August) we took part in the track and field, wrestling, sailing, shooting and swimming events.

In shooting, Antonis Andreou secured nine place in the skeet event whilst wrestler Aroust Parsekian secured two victories. Both track athletes Yiannis Zisimides and Dora Kyriakou made it through to the second rounds in the 100m and 400m events respectively.

Anninos Markoullides finishes in the best top 16 sprinters and fastest Caucasian in the 100m track event. The flag bearer for our Olympic team was Antonis Andreou.

Sidney 2000

At the 27th Olympic Games in Sydney (15 September – 1 October), we took part in the track and field, shooting, sailing and swimming events.

Shooting athlete Antonis Andreou, who was also the flag bearer of our team, took eighth place in the skeet event.

Athens 2004

At the Olympic Games in Athens (13 – 29 August), Cyprus took part in the track and field, judo, swimming, sailing, tennis, shooting and cycling events.

Shooting athlete Georgios Achilleos had the best performance for Cyprus after finishing ninth in the skeet event with a scorer of 121/125. The flag bearer for our Olympic team was George Achilleos.

Beijing 2008

At the Olympic Games in Beijing (8 – 24 August), where Georgios Achilleos was our flag bearer, we had our best run in the history of Cypriot participation at the Olympics.

Three athletes, two men and a woman, managed to qualify to the final round of the skeet shooting event. Antonis Nikolaides went on to finish fourth whilst Georgios Achilleos ended up in fifth. Andri Eleftheriou also did well coming in seventh.



Beijing 2008

It was the island's finest participation at the Olympics. Our swimmer, Anna Stylianou, also had a fine tournament in the swimming event.

At the games, Cyprus took part in the track and field, sailing, swimming, shooting, archery and weightlifting events.

At the Winter Olympics

As soon as the Cyprus Olympic Committee became an equal member of the International Olympics Committee back in April 1979, Cyprus took part for the first time with its Olympic Team at the Olympic Games at Lake Placid in 1980.

At the time, our participation was with two athletes, Lina Aristodemou and Philipos Xenofontos.

- The 1984 Winter Olympics in Sarajevo followed with Alexis Fotiades, Lambros Lambrou, Lina Aristodemou and Yiannis Pipis taking part for Cyprus.
- During the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, Canada, Alexis Fotiades, Socrates Aristodemou and Karolina Fotiadou took part for Cyprus.

In the Winter Olympics Games that followed, Cyprus took part without securing a notable accomplishment.



Commonwealth Games

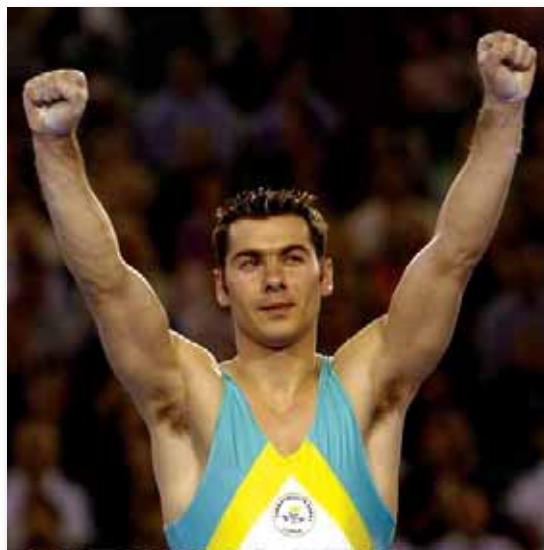
Auckland 1990

During the Commonwealth Games, we have managed to achieve some notable success.

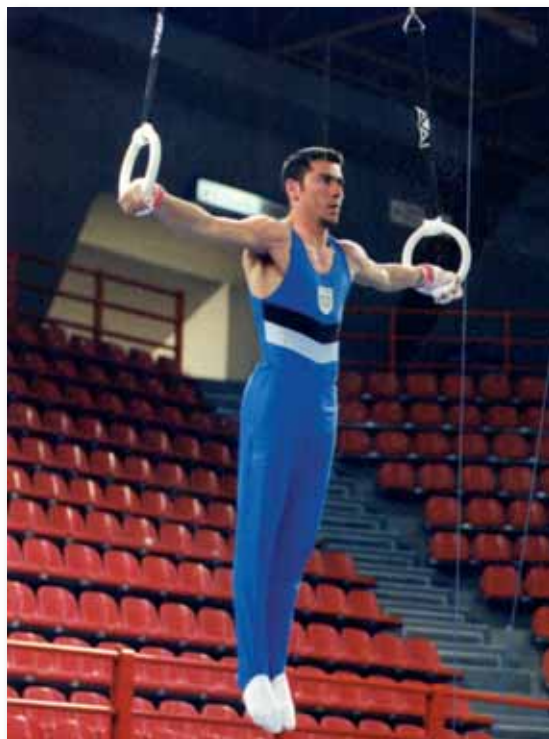
- Our first participation came at the Commonwealth Games came in Auckland, New Zealand.

During those games, Marios Hadjiandreou took the gold medal after leaping a distance of 16.95m in the triple-jump event. It was a remarkable achievement when taking into account that one of his opponents was the popular Jonathon Edwards.

During those same games, we secured the silver medal through a shooting athlete Georgios Sakellis with a score of 187.



Herodotos Giorgallas.



Herodotos Giorgallas.

Victoria 1994

At the Commonwealth Games which took place in Victoria, Canada in 1994, we also had a good performance.

- Fani Theofanous, the women's air rifle event, secured the gold medal with 488,7 successful tries.
- The gold medal was also secured by the men's skeet team, comprising of Antonis Andreou and Christos Kourtellas, with 189 hits.
- Christos Kourtellas wins the silver medal in the skeet event with 143 successful hits.
- Andreas Angelou wins the bronze medal with 137 successful hits in the men's trap event.
- Finally in wrestling, Arout Parsekian wins the bronze medal in the 62k category event.



Michalis Louka, Shot Put 19.70m. Silver Medalist in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1998.

Kuala Lumpur 1998

At the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Cyprus secured a gold medal in the team skeet after shooting athlete Antonis Nikolaides and Kostas Stratis hit 188 successful shots.

Michalis Louka clinched the silver medal with his throw of 19.52m in the shot put event.

- A bronze medal was also won by boxing athlete Rudik Kazandjian in the 48k event.

Manchester 2002

At the Commonwealth Games in Manchester, England, Herodotos Giorgallas won the gold medal in the rings event.

- The skeet team also won the gold medal with Antonis Nikolaides and Christos Kourtellas striking 194 successful hits.
- In judo, Christodoulos Christodoulides won the silver medal in the 73k category event.
- Finally, Antonis Nikolaides won the bronze medal in the individual skeet event with 144 successful hits.

Melbourne 2006

At the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne, Australia, we also had a good performance.

- In the individual skeet event, shooting athlete Georgios Achilleos won the gold medal. The same athlete, along with Antonis Nikolaides, also won the gold medal in the skeet event for teams.
- There was another gold medal in the skeet event with Andri Eleftheriou coming top in the women's category.
- Andri Eleftheriou, along with Louiza Theofanous, also won the silver medal in the team event in skeet.
- Despite carrying an injury, Kyriakos Ioannou won the bronze medal in the high jump event with a leap of 2.23m.
- In the rings event, Herodotos Giorgallas also secured the bronze medal.

Youth Commonwealth Games, Pune 2008

- Cyprus took part for the first time in Youth Commonwealth Games which took place at Pune (India) from 12 to 18 October 2008. Our athlete George Kazakos won the silver medal in the skeet event.



Christodoulos Christodoulides, silver medal in judo.



The participation of Cyprus at the Mediterranean Games

Cyprus has been taking part in the Mediterranean Games since 1987 and has had some successful tournaments. Here we look at some of the very finest moments in the competition:

Latakia, Syria 11-25 September 1987

At the Mediterranean Games in Latakia, Cyprus secured two medals in the shooting and track events.

In the shooting event, skeet athlete Mike Tymvios clinched first place with a scorer of 260/263 whilst Marios Hadjandreou also won first place with a leap of 16.49 in the triple jump event.



Marios Hadjandreou also won first place with a leap of 16.49 in the triple jump event.

Athens, Greece 28 June – 12 July 1991

At the Mediterranean Games in Athens, Greece Cyprus had another impressive performance in the competition.

Marios Hadjandreou again won the gold medal for Cyprus after finishing with a score of 17.13m in the triple jump event.

Yiannis Zisimides finished with a silver medal in the 100m track event with a time of 10.41. A silver medal was also won in the swimming event by Stavros Michaelides with a time of 23.64 in the 50m freestyle event.

A bronze medal was won by Cyprus in the shooting event with skeet athlete Antonis Nikolaides scoring 216/225.

Agde-Roussillon, France, 16-27 June 1993

At the Mediterranean Games in Agde-Roussillon, France, Cyprus secured two bronze medals.

In swimming, Stavros Michaelides clinched third place in the 50m freestyle event.

The same finish was also made by Antonis Nikolaides in the shooting (skeet) event with 141 successful hits.

Bari, Italy, 13 – 25 June 1997

At the Mediterranean Games, which took place in Bari, Italy between 13 – 25 June 1997, Cyprus won three silver and four bronze medals.

Wrestling athlete Aroust Parsekian came second in the 63 category whilst Anninos Markoullides, with a time of 10.23 in the 100m track event, also came second. Dora Kyriakou finished second as well in the 400m women's event with a time of 52.02.



Stavros Michaelides who took part in three consecutive Olympiads. In 1992 in Barcelona, he won the 20th place for the 50m free stroke. At the Atlanta Olympics he was 31st for the 50m, and at the Sydney Olympics where he finished 27th. Michaelides has had much international success.

Stavros Michaelides claimed third place in swimming as did boxing athlete Rudik Kazandjian in the 48-51k category event.

In the 4x100 relay event, Cyprus (Zisimides, Katsantonis, Markoullides, Skenter) came third with a time of 39.12.

In the 200m track event, Prodromos Katsantonis also came third with a time of 20.55.

Tunisia, 2-14 September 2001

At the Mediterranean Games in Tunisia, Anninos Markoullides finished with the gold medal in the 200m event with a time of 20.60m whilst in the 100m event, he also too the bronze medal with a time of 10.21.

During the same games, swimming athlete Maria Papadopoulou secured third place in the 100m butterfly event, with a time of 1,01.67 whilst Chrysanthos Papachrysostomou won the silver medal in the 50m freestyle event with a time of 23.06. Rudik Kazandjian won the bronze in the 48-51k event in boxing.

Almeria, Spain, 24 June – 3 July 2005

- At the Mediterranean Games, which took place in Almeria, Spain 24 June – 3 July 2005, we had six positive turnouts:

- Kyriakos Ioannou wins the gold medal in the high jump event with a leap of 2.24m

- A silver medal was clinched in the same event by Ioannis Konstantinou with his leap of 2.21m.

- Anna Fitidou also got the silver medal in the women's pole vault event with her throw of 4.25m.

- In the featherweight 54–57k category, boxing athlete Ovidiu Bobirnat also won the silver medal.

- Herodotos Giorgallas won the silver medal in the rings event with a score of 9.56.3.

- In weightlifting, Nayden Rusev won the bronze medal in the 56k event.

- Shooting athlete, Georgios Achilleos also won the bronze medal in the skeet event with 143 successful hits.



Games of the Small States of Europe

At the Games of the Small States of Europe, Cyprus has had a very impressive run of performances.

The Games of the Small States of Europe began back in 1985 and was first hosted by San Marino. The following nations have since hosted the games up until 2009:

1985 – San Marino

1987 – Monaco

1989 – Cyprus

1991 – Andorra

1993 – Malta

1995 – Luxembourg

1997 – Iceland

1999 – Liechtenstein

2001 – San Marino

2003 – Malta

2005 – Andorra

2007 – Monaco

2009 – Cyprus

In the last 12 participations of the Games of the Small States of Europe (not including 2009), Cyprus has managed to come first four times.





SAN MARINO 1985

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	21	7	4	32
CYPRUS	15	8	9	32
LUXEMBOURG	11	23	18	52
SAN MARINO	2	11	11	24
ANDORRA			4	4
LIECHTENSTEIN			4	4
MONACO			2	2
MALTA			1	1
	49	49	53	151



MONACO 1987

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	27	14	7	48
LUXEMBOURG	12	24	14	50
ANDORRA	11	13	4	28
MONACO	6	3	11	20
CYPRUS	5	7	23	35
LIECHTENSTEIN	3	1	6	10
SAN MARINO	1	3	3	7
MALTA	1	1	4	6
	66	66	72	204



CYPRUS 1989

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
CYPRUS	26	25	28	79
ICELAND	21	19	10	50
LUXEMBOURG	12	16	18	46
MONACO	5	7	9	21
LIECHTENSTEIN	5	2	7	14
ANDORRA	3	1	4	8
SAN MARINO	2	4	2	8
MALTA	1	1	3	5
	75	75	81	231



ANDORRA 1991

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	27	19	18	64
LUXEMBOURG	23	22	15	60
CYPRUS	22	16	23	61
MONACO	8	13	14	35
SAN MARINO	1	2	5	8
MALTA	1	2	4	7
ANDORRA		5	9	14
LIECHTENSTEIN		3	3	6
	82	82	91	255



MALTA 1993

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	36	17	15	68
CYPRUS	26	23	22	71
LUXEMBOURG	8	14	10	32
MONACO	7	13	10	30
MALTA	4	7	21	32
LIECHTENSTEIN	4	2	7	13
SAN MARINO	2	6	5	13
ANDORRA		5	10	15
	87	87	100	274



LUXEMBOURG 1995

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	33	17	27	77
CYPRUS	22	25	22	69
LUXEMBOURG	20	26	12	58
LIECHTENSTEIN	5	2	1	8
MONACO	3	4	17	24
ANDORRA	2	5	8	15
SAN MARINO	2	5	2	9
MALTA	1	4	7	12
	88	88	96	272



ICELAND 1997

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	33	32	32	97
CYPRUS	30	24	15	69
LUXEMBOURG	24	22	19	65
MONACO	7	6	14	27
MALTA	5	10	12	27
ANDORRA	3	5	10	18
SAN MARINO	3	4	10	17
LIECHTENSTEIN	2	3	3	8
	107	106	115	328



LIECHTENSTEIN 1999

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	29	20	24	73
LUXEMBOURG	20	16	19	55
CYPRUS	14	13	15	42
SAN MARINO	6	5	7	18
ANDORRA	5	12	11	28
MONACO	5	9	6	20
MALTA	4	8	8	20
LIECHTENSTEIN	3	3	2	8
	86	86	92	264



SAN MARINO 2001

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	31	18	16	65
CYPRUS	27	21	17	65
LUXEMBOURG	12	24	16	52
SAN MARINO	12	8	16	36
MALTA	7	12	16	35
MONACO	5	8	14	27
ANDORRA	5	6	7	18
LIECHTENSTEIN	2	2	2	6
	101	99	104	304



MALTA 2003

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
CYPRUS	34	20	27	81
LUXEMBOURG	21	17	15	53
ICELAND	20	24	23	67
MALTA	11	18	15	44
MONACO	7	7	10	24
SAN MARINO	6	10	9	25
ANDORRA	4	6	8	18
LIECHTENSTEIN	2	1	2	5
	105	103	109	317



ANDORRA 2005

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
CYPRUS	39	28	24	91
ICELAND	26	23	27	76
LUXEMBOURG	18	21	23	62
MONACO	11	8	18	37
ANDORRA	8	14	9	31
MALTA	7	13	18	38
SAN MARINO	6	9	7	22
LIECHTENSTEIN	5	5	3	13
	120	121	129	370



MONACO 2007

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
CYPRUS	36	33	24	93
ICELAND	31	23	24	78
LUXEMBOURG	20	25	36	81
MONACO	19	16	17	52
MALTA	4	9	17	30
ANDORRA	4	6	7	17
SAN MARINO	4	6	6	16
LIECHTENSTEIN	3	5	5	13
	121	123	136	380



TOTAL 1985-2005

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	304	210	203	717
CYPRUS	268	220	218	706
LUXEMBOURG	184	226	187	597
MONACO	64	78	125	267
SAN MARINO	52	79	89	220
MALTA	39	62	90	191
LIECHTENSTEIN	27	34	65	126
ANDORRA	28	53	65	146
	966	962	1042	2970

TOTAL 1985-2007

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
ICELAND	335	233	227	795
CYPRUS	304	253	242	799
LUXEMBOURG	204	251	223	678
MONACO	83	94	142	319
SAN MARINO	56	85	95	236
MALTA	43	71	107	221
LIECHTENSTEIN	30	39	70	139
ANDORRA	32	59	72	163
	1087	1085	1178	3350



Participation of Cyprus at the European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF)

The most important accomplishments of our athletes at the European Youth Olympic festival were the following:

Summer Edition

- [1991](#) -  [Belgium, Brussels](#) Date: 18 - 20 July 1991.

19.95	2 nd place	Athletics – shot put	ELIAS LOUCA
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- [1993](#) -  [Netherlands, Valkenswaard](#) Date: 3 - 9 July 1993

48.61	1	Athletics 400 m	NICOS CHRISTOFI
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- [1995](#) -  [United Kingdom, Bath](#) Date: 9 - 14 July 1995

11.01	2	Athletics 100m	GEORGIOS SKENDER
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- [1997](#) -  [Portugal, Lisbon](#) Date: 18 - 24 July 1997.

13.51	1	Athletics 100 m hurdles	MARILIA GREGORIOU
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- [1999](#) -  [Denmark, Esbjerg](#) Date: 10 - 16 July 1999.

14.05	3	Athletics 110m hurdles	STEPHANOS IOANNOU
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- [2001](#) -  [Spain, Murcia](#) Date: 22 - 26 July 2001.



- [2003](#) -  [France, Paris](#) Date: 27 July – 2 August 2003.



2.07	3	Athletics – High Jump	EMILIOS XENOPHONTOS
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- [2005](#) -  [Italy](#), [Lignano Sabbiadoro](#) Date: 2 – 9 July 2005.

56,83	1	Athletics Discus throw	SAVVAS ARESTIS
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- [2007](#) -  [Serbia](#), [Belgrade](#) Date: 21 - 28 July 2007.

Winter Edition



- [1997](#) -  [Sweden](#), [Sundsvall](#) 8-12 FEBRUARY 1997



- [1999](#) -  [Slovakia](#), [Poprad-Tatry](#) 7-12TH MARCH 1999



- [2001](#) -  [Finland](#), [Vuokatti](#) 10-16 March 2001



- [2003](#) -  [Slovenia](#), [Bled](#) 22 - 27 JULY 2007




- [2005](#) -  [Switzerland](#), [Monthey](#) 23 - 29 January 2005



- [2007](#) -  [Spain](#), [Jaca](#) 18th to 23rd February 2007



- [2009](#) -  [Poland](#), [Slask](#) – Beskidy 14 – 21 February 2009



The team accomplishments

The accomplishments of our teams on the international stage have been remarkable when our limited resources our taken into account.

In basketball, Cyprus has had some special moments in European competitions through its teams, Keravnos, AEL, APOEL and Apollon.



KERAVNOS



AEL



APOEL

The start of our European success began with Keravnos which managed to make it through to the last eight of the Saporta Cup back in 2000. This success was followed by AEL's accomplishments in Europe and then by other sides.

The National Team of Cyprus

Cypriot football As is the case in most countries, football is Cyprus's most loved sport out of all the team games. The Cyprus Football Association (CFA), which was founded in 1934, is responsible for all the local league games which take place every year as well as for the national teams. The best moments in Cypriot football are Anorthosis Famagusta's entry into the group stages of the Champions League in the 2008-2009 season and the results

that followed in the competition as well as the men's national team's remarkable victory (3-2) over Spain on 5.9.1998 in a Euro2000 qualifying match.

This year was topped by the Cyprus Schoolboys Football Team which managed to win the 2009 World Schools Championship back in April. Cyprus crowned off a perfect tournament by beating South Africa 4-1 in the final.





The World Gymnasiade

The vast experience that was gained from hosting the Games of the Small States of Europe went a long way in helping the Cyprus Olympic Committee organise the 10th ISF World Gymnasiade, which saw 31 nations take part. The President of the Organising Committee for the World Gymnasiade games, which took place in May 2004, was Dr. Andreas Fylaktou who was also a member of the Cyprus National Olympic Academy and, later, the academy's president. All officials of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, with the then Director of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, Mr. Dinos Michaelides, at the helm, played their part in ensuring that the games were a success. It was a major sporting event due to the fact that the World Gymnasiade saw 1,107 athletes take part and with the number of delegates also hosted, that total reached 1,133 people. More specifically, the games saw 543 track athletes, 255 swimmers, 181 gymnasts and 128 rhythmic gymnasts take part.

Around 1,000 volunteers helped in the organising of the games which took place between 14 and 21 May, 1994. Cypriot football became an official body in 1934 following the establishment of the Cyprus Football Association. From the start, the sport of football was embraced as was the case in most countries around the world. On a team level, we have sides that can look back on important moments. The most impressive accomplishment was that of Anorthosis who managed to qualify for the group stages of the 2008-2009 Champions League.

On a national level, the greatest achievement came in Cyprus' 3-2 victory over Spain at the Antonis Papadopoulos Stadium.



Dr. Andreas Fylaktou was President of the World Gymnasiade Organising Committee

The 23rd Seminar for Secretaries General and Chefs de Mission of the European Olympic Committees

The Cyprus Olympic Committee organised and successfully hosted the 23rd Seminar for Secretaries General and Chefs de Mission which was held in Limassol on 26 and 27 April and welcomed 13 IOC members including the Italian Minister for Sports Mario Pescante, Sergey Bubka and other famous personalities. The Cyprus Olympic Committee was congratulated for its organisation of the seminar.

Sport and peace

Also important was the international IOC event "Sport and Peace" which was organised by the Cyprus Olympic Committee at the Forum Hotel on 6 and 7 April, 2004. A total of 12 Olympic Committees took part in the event from nations who have in the past experienced various conflicts.



Great hope for Cypriot sports

Cypriot sports boasts some great talents that have already shown just what they are capable of. They are:

- Pavlos Kontides (picture 1) who secured the gold medal at the World Youth Championships which took place in 2007. He followed up that success with another gold medal at the World Youth Championships which took place in Denmark the following year.
- Tasos Chapeshis (picture 2) who has already secured a gold medal after coming first at the World Championships Games, in the youth event, which took place at the Olympic Shooting Range in Nicosia on 8 September, 2007.
- Weight lifter Demetris Minasides (picture 3) who has already made his mark after a successful run at the 2009 World Championships in Bucharest.
- Sergis Kyratzis, (picture 4) who is following in the footsteps of Marcos Baghdatis after his important victories in Bulgaria. His achievements prompted the tennis federation to call him up for the national team.



Pavlos Kontides



Tasos Chapeshis



Demetris Minasides with the President of Cyprus Weightlifting Federation and COC Treasurer Damianos Hadjidamianou.



Sergis Kyratzis.



History of the Cyprus Rally

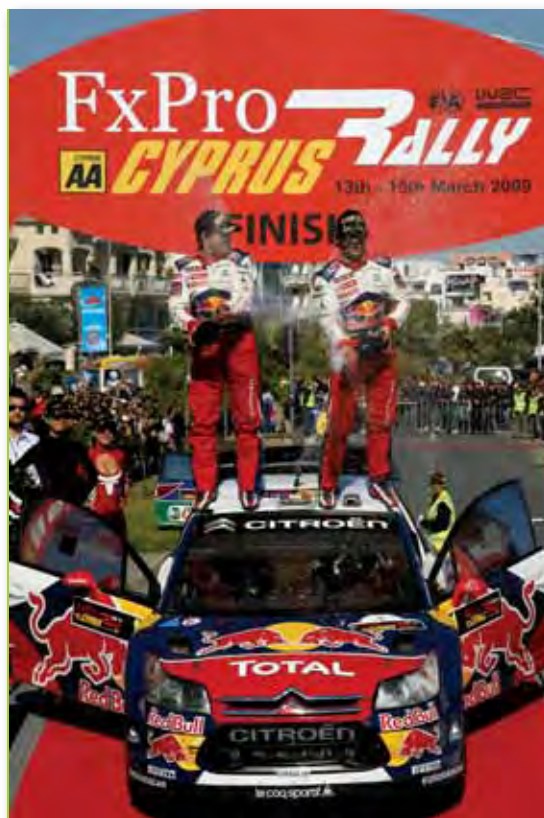
The Cyprus Rally has a long and prestigious history as one of the world's most challenging and best-loved motorsports events.

The first rallies in Cyprus were nothing like we see today. They were a cross between a race and a reliability trial, where the overriding problem was whether the cars would be capable of getting to the finish! However, as the expertise of the drivers - and the reliability of the cars - improved, it became evident that something more professional was needed.

Therefore, in 1970 the Cyprus Automobile Association joined Rothmans of Pall Mall to run an annual international rally. While it was tough, the Cyprus Rally also earned itself a reputation for a blend of superb organisation and warm hospitality – features that enticed drivers, journalists and fans back year after year.

While the Cyprus Rally has always been a showcase for home-grown talent, the event has also attracted many of the biggest names in world rallying including, amongst others, Roger Clark, Ari Vatanen, Jimmy McRae, Armin Schwarz and the most successful WRC driver of all time, Sebastien Loeb.

With word of the Cyprus Rally spreading fast and the likes of Stig Blomqvist taking victory here, the event grew increasingly successful during the 1970s and was awarded coefficient 3 in the European Championship in 1978. Success continued into the 1980s and the event achieved coefficient 4 in 1982.



Highlights of the 1980s included John Buffum of the USA bringing the Audi Quattro to Cyprus in 1984 (he led from start to finish), and the Toyota Team Europe bringing a powerful team to the 1988 event - now at coefficient 20 - to test the new Celica GT-Four prior to its World Championship debut. Bjorn Waldegaard won that event, giving the Toyota its first major victory.

The early 1990s saw young Italian Alessandro Fiorio dominate the event – scoring a hat-trick of

wins. A number of European Championship battles took place throughout the 1990s.

The Cyprus organisers were thrown in at the deep end in 2000 when the Cyprus Rally was named as a last-minute replacement for the China Rally in the World Rally Championship. The organizers had just four months in which to put everything together, but worked their magic to produce an unforgettable event. A crushing all-the-way win gave Carlos Sainz his first victory in the Ford Focus and his 23rd in the WRC. The WRC years saw the top names in the business competing and taking victory, including Colin McRae, Marcus Gronholm, Petter Solberg and, of course, Sébastien Loeb.

For the 2007 and 2008 seasons, the Cyprus Rally moved to the FIA Middle East Championship (MERC). In 2007, Charalambos Timotheou became the first Cypriot driver to win the island's leading international sports event since. The 2007

Cyprus Rally was also an official round of the 2007 FIA Historic Rally Championship.

The 2008 event was run under the watchful eye of the FIA, as the Cyprus Rally was bidding as a candidate event for the 2009 WRC calendar. Young Cypriot driver Nicos Thomas took the event by storm and, at 20 years of age, became the youngest driver ever to win the Cyprus Rally and the youngest driver to ever win a Middle East Rally Championship event.

The Cyprus Rally made a successful return to the WRC in 2009 and broke new ground as a mixed surface (both tarmac and gravel) event. Along with a major Ceremonial Start event which included an exclusive concert by Greek singing star Sakis Rouvas, the 2009 FxPro Cyprus Rally proved a huge success. The event also proved a WRC landmark, with Sebastien Loeb securing a record 50th WRC win in his Citroen.



11th Cyprus Rally - J.Clark - M.Fraser.

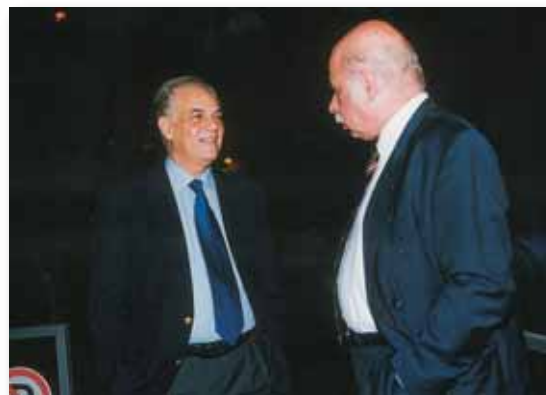


Unique service to the Olympic Movement in Cyprus

Within the large family of the Olympic Movement in Cyprus and within sports in general, certain people have given a unique service.

They are the four men who have filled the seat of President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, namely, the beloved Stelios Garanis (1974-1975), Demetrakis Demetriades (1976-1984), Kikis Lazarides (1984-1975) and Ouranios Ioannides (2008-). Each person gave his own special service to sports.

- **Stelios Garanis**, from his post of CSO President, undertook the major role of establishing the Cyprus Olympic Committee.
- **Demetrakis Demetriades** acted as President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee between 1976-1984 in what was a difficult time for all due to repercussions of the Turkish invasion. He also played a big role in getting recognition for the Cyprus Olympic Committee.
- **Kikis Lazarides** was the man who moved towards the complete upgrading and facelift of the Cyprus Olympic Committee, the creating of an international network of cooperation with other nations whilst he was also behind the move of the Cyprus Olympic Committee to the current Olympic House.
- His crowning moment was when he became a member of the IOC in 2002.



The former COC President Kikis Lazarides with the current COC President Ouranios Ioannides – who took over his new duties on 2 October, 2008.

- **Ouranios Ioannides** took over the duties of president in October 2008 with his top credential being his vast experience in the field of sports.

Below are the portfolios of the four presidents

Garanis Stelios

Civil Engineer, Businessman, Company Advisor to 'Garanis & Petrides Ltd.' **Born** in Athens on 13.5.1926, was married to Katie and has two children. **Education:** Pancyprian Gymnasium, University of Beirut, University of Oklahoma (U.S.). **Titles:** B.Sc and member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (A.S.C.E.). **Foreign Languages:** English. **Career:** After finishing his studies (1951), he worked for a short space of time in Africa. He returned to Cyprus in 1953. He was President and Managing Advisor of the company 'Garanis &



Petrides Ltd.'. He acted as member of the Advisory Committee for Labour at the Ministry of Labour, President and member of the CFA, of the CSO (1969-75), of the CTO and of the Cyprus-American Science Society. He was the first President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee (1974-1975).

Demetrakis Demetriades

He was born in Nicosia on 13/7/1929. Is married with three children.

Studied law at Middle Temple in London and worked as a barrister from 1952 until February 1961 when he was appointed District Court Judge. Was a member of the Pancyprian Bar Association until 1960, District Court Judge from 1961 and then Higher District Court Judge and President of the District Court until 1978 when he was appointed Supreme Court Judge. He held the position of Supreme Court Judge between 1978 until 1997 – one of the longest serving judges in Cyprus Supreme Court history.

As of 1954, he was a member of the Cyprus SEGAS local committee, President of the Pancyprian Federation for Youth Sports, board member of the Cyprus Automobile Association, board member of the GSP and board member and later Vice Chairman of the GS Praxandros. He was the first President of the Cyprus Basketball Federation and a board member of the CSO when it was first established in 1969. He was also President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee from 1976 to 1984.

Kikis N. Lazarides

Born: 1935, Larnaca, Cyprus

Married 1955, 1 son, 1 daughter

Education: Southampton University B. Sc. Economics

Career History:

- Cyprus Government Treasury 1958-1963
- Central Bank of Cyprus – Manager Economic Research Department, 1963-1969

- Alternate Governor of International Monetary Fund, 1964-1969
- General Secretary, Apoel Football Club, 1969
- President, Apoel Football Club, 1974
- Chairman, Cyprus Sports Organization, 1975-1983 (A Government Corporation responsible for sport policy and sports infrastructure)
- President, Commonwealth Games Association
- President, Cyprus Olympic Committee, 1984-2008
- Member of the Executive Committee of the Association of the European National Olympic Committees
- Treasurer of the International Committee of The Mediterranean Games, 1993-
- Chairman, Association of Cyprus Commercial Banks, 1989-1990
- Chairman, Cyprus Airways, 1989-1993 (National Flag Carrier)
- Chairman, Laiki Bank (Hellas) S.A., Athens 1992-2006
- Chairman, Cyprus Heart Foundation, 1994-1996
- Honorary Consul of the Principality of Monaco, 1995-
- Group Chief Executive, Cyprus Popular Bank Group, 1970-1992
- Chairman & CEO, Cyprus Popular Bank Group, 1992-1998
- Chairman, Laiki Group, 1999-2006
- Honorary Doctor of Science in the Social Sciences (University of Southampton), 1998
- Honorary Doctor of Science (City University), 2000
- Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) 2002-2006
- Chairman University of Cyprus, 2004-2007
- Chairman, Cyprus Cultural Foundation, 2005-
- Executive Chairman Cyprus Airways, 2007-

Languages spoken: Greek and English

Leisure interests: Sports (tennis)



Ouranios M. Ioannides ***CBiol, CChem, CSc.***

- Honorary Professor of Donetsk National University (since 2002)
- President of the Cyprus Olympic Committee (2008-2012)
- President of the Interim Governing Board (2005-2007) and Chairman of the Council of the Frederick University (2008-2012)
- President of the Permanent Assembly of the Private Universities of Cyprus (since 2008)
- Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus (1999-2003)
- A' Vice President of the Democratic Rally Party (1997-1999)
- Member of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus (1996-1999)
- President of the Cyprus Sports Organization (1988 - 1994)

Personal Details

Born: December 22, 1944

Marital status: Married, two sons

Languages spoken: Greek and English

Education

Pancyprrian Gymnasium, Department of Sciences (Cyprus)

Aristotelion University of Thessaloniki, School of Physics and Mathematics, Department of Natural Sciences (Greece)

Wales University, University College Cardiff (U.K.)

Academic and Professional Titles

BSc in Natural Sciences

Graduate Diploma in Educational Management, Educational Psychology, Educational Technology and Research Skills.

Master in Education.

Doctorates, of La Salle University and Honoris Causa Middlesex University, Mariupol State University of Humanities and World Universities Association Plato.

Professor and Academic advisor at La Salle University.

International Visiting Professor of the world Academy Plato.

Honorary Professor of Donetsk National University. Chartered Chemist, Chartered Biologist, Chartered Scientist

Awards, citations

- The First Prize (Highest Award) of the Cyprus Sports - writers Union (The Supreme Sports Prize of Cyprus) from H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus Mr Glafcos Klerides, in 1995.
- The Cross of the 75th anniversary of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain, Exarchate of Western Europe, Ireland and Malta, from His Reverence Archbishop Gregorios, in 2000.
- The Cross of the Consecration of the Cathedral Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary, North London, from His Reverence Bishop of Tropaeou Athanasios, in 2002.
- The Decoration of National Cedar, rank of Higher Officer of the Republic of Lebanon from H.E. the President of the Republic of Lebanon Mr Emil Lahoud, in 2002.
- The Degree of Honorary Doctor of the Mariupol State University of Humanities (Ukraine) by resolution of the Senate, in 2002.
- The Degree of Honorary Professor (ON No 008) of Donetsk National University by the resolution of the Senate in 2002.
- The distinction mark of honour of "The Personality of the Year" for 2002 from National Armenian Committee of Cyprus.



- The Metal of Honour of the Institute of International Relations of the Kyin National Taras Shevchenko University in 2002.
- The Metal of Honour of the Mariupol Institute of Humanities of the National University of Donetsk (Ukraine) in 2002.
- The Declaration of Gratitude and the Metal of Honour of La Trobe University of Melbourne Australia, in 2003.
- The Degree of Honoris Causa Doctor of the Middlesex University (U.K.) 2004.
- Elected as Individual member of the World University Association (The Association includes 460 universities from 48 countries) and member of the International Scientific Senate of the Association (2004).
- Elected full member (academitean) of the Academy "Plato" (2004)
- The Degree Doctoris Honoris Causa and the Diploma Celebre of the World University Association Plato, in 2005.
- The title of International Visiting Professor of the World Academy Plato, in 2005.
- The Metal and the Diploma of Honour of the Republic of Cyprus for his participation in the struggle for liberty of EOKA 1955-59, in 2006.

He was honoured by proclamation as Honorary President, Vice - President or Member from many organizations and clubs.

He was honoured with many mark of Honour by hundreds of Schools, Tertiary Education Foundations, Communities, Organization Clubs and others in Cyprus and abroad.

Professional and Academic Career

Science schoolmaster from 1971 to 1986.

Lecturer in Biological sciences and Science at the Pedagogical Academy of Cyprus from 1986 to

1992. Introduced and delivered the subject of Science, Technology and Social Improvement.

Assistant Headmaster for Secondary Education Schools, seconded for special duties (Education of Educators) at the Pedagogical Institute of Cyprus from 1992 to 1995. Lectured on Research, on construction examination papers and on evaluation.

Senior Education Officer at the Ministry of Education and Culture (Department of Higher and Tertiary Education) of the Republic of Cyprus from 1995 to 1996.

Professor/Academic Advisor at La Salle University from 1997 to 1999.

He conducted research in Science and Education.

He published a great number of books (70) and articles, manuals and other written material in the fields of science, sports, education, culture and politics.

Introducer and advisor to the establishment of the Open University of Cyprus and Chairman of it's preparatory committee, introducer to the establishment of the Technological University of Cyprus and editor of the bill of law providing for its establishment and of all relevant papers to it's establishment, and introducer to the establishment and operation for Private Universities of Cyprus and editor of their relevant bill of law.

Preparation of feasibility studies for the establishment and operation Universities amongst which those of Great Moravia at Slovakia and that of Future at Albania.

Since 1/6/2003 he was working as a consultant - advisor expert in the field of his scientific knowledge and experience.

President of the Interim Governing Board, (2005 - 2007) and Chairman of the Council (2008-2012) of Frederick University

Chairman of the permanent Assembly of the Private Universities of Cyprus (since 2008).



Political career

Vice-President (1964) and President (1964-67 and 1967-69) of the National Union of Cypriot Students of Thessaloniki - Greece.

Vice-President (1965-67) of the Federation of the National Unions of Cypriot Students internationally.

Vice-President of the 5th (1965) and President of the 6th (1966) and 7th (1967) of all over the world Greek Cypriot Students Congresses.

President of the Cyprus Sports Organisation, *the supreme public authority for Sports in the Republic of Cyprus*, from 1988 to 1994, position to which he was appointed by the President of the Republic of Cyprus.

Member of the Democratic Rally Party of Cyprus.

Member of the House of Representatives (Parliament), position to which he was elected in 1996 and Deputy Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for Education.

A¹ Vice President of the Democratic Rally Party of Cyprus, position to which he was elected in 1997.

Minister of Education and Culture from 1999 to 2003.

President of the Institute for the Eurodemocracy, 2003 - 2004.

Commissioner (shadow Minister) of Education and Culture of the Democratic Rally Party, 2004-2006.

On 2002, on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus, he secured the privilege to organize the "2003 Conference of the European Ministers of Education". This was the first and the only European Ministers Conference which run in Cyprus.

LEADERSHIP ROLES

President

Pancyprian Naturalists Association (1980-1991)

Olympias Sports Club (1972-1987)

Nicosia Football Clubs Federation (1971-1988)

Confederation of Sports Federations of Cyprus (1977 -1988)

Cyprus Fencing Federation (1986-1988) Cyprus Archery Federation (1987-1988) Cyprus Table Tennis Federation (1986-1988) Cyprus Refugees Football Clubs (1975-1988) Union of the Friends of Old and Classic Cars (1994-1997)

Young Men's Christian Association (1992-1997)

APOEL S.C. (1996-1999)

Honorary President

Olympias Sports Club (since 1987)

APOEL S.C. (since 1999)

Nicosia Football Clubs Federation (since 1988)

Confederation of Sports Federations of Cyprus (since 1988).

Cyprus Fencing Federation (since 1988) Cyprus Archery Federation (since 1988)

Vice President

Biological Association of Cyprus (1982-1989)

Cyprus Table Tennis Association (1975-1986)

Cyprus Wrestling Federation (1983-1988)

Honorary Vice President International Union for Sports Law (1992-1993)

Secretary General

Cyprus Volley Ball Federation (1978-1988)

Member of the board

Pancyprian Federation of Higher and Tertiary, Educators (1987-1989)

Supreme Councilil for Army Sports of Cyprus (1990-1994)

Cyprus Automobile Association (1994-1997)

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS

Fellowship

Research Council of Emerson College (Ca)

Membership

Scientist Council (UK), Institute of Biology (U.K.), Royal Society of Chemistry (U.K.), National Geographic Society (USA)

International College of Leadership in sport, ICLS
(Foundation Member)

International union for Pure and Applied Chemistry
Association for Science Education (U.K.)

European Association for Sports Management

International Association for Sports Law

Union for Educational Management (CY) Archbishop
Macarios III Foundation.

Military Service

- Volunteer in the Cyprus Army from December 1963 to September 1964 (Training for two months in Greece (Redina) in the Commandos School
- Military service in the Cyprus Army (Field Artillery) from July 1970 to July 1971
- Service in the Cyprus Army for the 1974 war because of the Turkish troop's invasion from July 20, 1974 to September 2, 1974.
- Special military service in the Cyprus Army (two days per month) from March 18, 1978 to May 18, 1980.
- Militia - man (volunteer) from 1994 - 1997.

Sports

He was a football player of the Olympias (1959-60), of PAEK of Kyrenia (1961), of APOEL (1961-63), of Hercules of Thessaloniki (1963), of the University of Thessaloniki football team (1963-68) and of the Olympias F.C. (1975-1987).

He was also a long jump and high jump athlete.

Member of the youth section (ANE) of the National Organization of the Cypriots Fighters (EOKA) at the period of the struggle for freedom (1955-59).



Left to right, Stavros Tzortzis with the then Minister of Education Ouranios Ioannides, and Sotiris Kaiafas.

The top Cypriot athletes of the last century

In 2000, a special ceremony took place to mark the 100 years in Cypriot sports. Stavros Tzortzis and Sotiris Kaiafas were elected as the top athletes of the last century (1900-2000).

- Stavros Tzortzis was honoured for his tremendous and continuous international achievements in track events; The greatest moment in his career came at the Munich Olympic Games where he ran with the Greek National Team and secured sixth place. He is righteously considered as the greatest figure amongst Cypriot athletes.

- Sotiris Kaiafas is considered to be the greatest Cypriot football striker of all times. In the 1975-76 season, he won the UEFA Golden Boot after his astonishing haul of 39 goals in the Cypriot first division.

Both men were honoured by the Cyprus Sports Organisation



Qatar, Cyprus to exchange visits of players, coaches

The Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC) and the Cyprus Olympic Committee (COC) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) recently for greater bilateral cooperation in the field of sports. COC Secretary-General Charalambos Lottas, who was in Doha as part of the delegation of Cypriot President Demetris Christofias, talked to **Qatar Tribune's Jai Narain Pandey** about the areas of cooperation and future plans of the COC. Excerpts:

What was the highlight of your talks with QOC officials?

We have made a very good beginning. We signed a MoU for cooperation in the field of sports.

What are the main features of the MoU?

We agreed to exchange visits of players and coaches, besides holding seminars regarding sports.

Which are the main sport disciplines in which Qatar can support Cyprus?

Qatar is very good in football and it has a quality team in handball. In addition to these two disciplines, I hope we can cooperate with each other in volleyball, basketball, athletics and high jump.

Which are the sports in which Cyprus is good at?

We are proud to have Marcos Baghdatis, a tennis player. He was the runner-up in 2006 Australian Open. We have many talented tennis players. Our shooters are also very good. In Beijing Olympics, we finished in the top 10. We have an equally good high jump and swimming athletes.

How good is the infrastructure in Cyprus?

Infrastructure in my country is excellent and that is the reason why we have good shooters, high jumpers and swimmers. We have modern stadiums equipped with latest technology.

Qatar has hired good coaches to promote its sports. Do you have any such plan?

We have also hired foreign coaches but I do not agree with this trend. This is not good for sports. Most of the countries are hiring foreign players for their national teams.

Do you like this idea?

I am personally against this. We should promote our own players and groom them to become national and international heroes.



Has any country tried to poach any Cypriot player?

Yes, many. Greece has weaned away many of our football players. Our boys are also playing for Germany and France.

Besides Marcos Baghdatis, are there any tennis players who have the potential to make it to the top?

We have very good players at the junior level who have the talent to make it big in tennis.

What is the expectation of Cyprus from the next Olympics?

At least one medal in any discipline.

What is your government's plan to promote sports and develop infrastructure?

We have about 40 sport federations. The government gives money to all of them.

How much is the budgetary allocation for sports in Cyprus?

Not much. We don't get more than 5 percent.

Cyprus has beautiful beaches. What about water and sea sports?

We have beach volleyball and handball teams. We have started water polo and deep sea diving, besides scuba diving.

Any plan to host international events in the near future?

In June, we will host the XIIIth Games of Small States of Europe in which countries like Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco and San Marino, besides Cyprus, will be participating. In future, we are keen to organise Commonwealth Games and European Games.

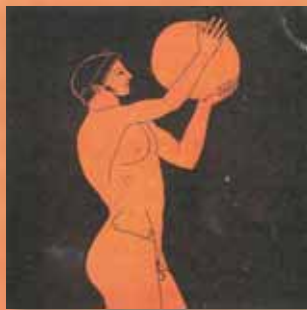


The greatest moment in our sports was the arrival of the Olympic Torch in Cyprus on 9 June, 2004 ahead of the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens



35 *years*
Cyprus Olympic Committee





CYPRUS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE