

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE DOMINICA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APRIL 26th, 2006 AT THE FORT YOUNG HOTEL

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee of the Dominica Olympic Committee (DOC) is pleased to present this annual report for the year ended December 2005 to its members and affiliates.

The year 2004 – the year of the XXVIII Olympiad was the last year of the 2001-2004 Olympic Movement Quadrennial and the year 2005 marked the beginning of a new Olympic cycle (2005-2008), and coincided with the DOC election of officers – which ushered in an almost completely new Executive with six out of nine members elected being newly elected or elected into new positions.

It was a challenging year for the new Executive which had to begin preparations for the annual Olympic Day Run (June 24th) and Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay and Commonwealth Games immediately upon coming into office, while preparing for the PASO General Assembly and Pan Am Expo, and grappling with the new PASO and Olympic Solidarity procedures introduced for the 2005 - 2008 quadrennial.

LEGAL STATUS

The Dominica Olympic Committee was incorporated on July 6, 1999 as a non-profit company under the Companies Act of Dominica. There are presently seventeen (17) National Associations affiliated to the DOC of which thirteen (13) are on the program of the Olympic Games.

EXECUTIVE COMPOSITION

The following members constitute the Executive:-

<u>Members' Names</u>	<u>Position on Executive Board</u>
Ms. Rosanne Pringle	President/Chairperson
Mr. John A. Charles	Vice President
Mr. Rupert Sorhaindo	Secretary General
Mr. Bernard Georges	Treasurer
Ms. Lesley-Ann Green	Assistant General Secretary
Mr. Mickey Joseph	Member
Mr. Carry A. Harris	Member
Dr. Richard Green	Member
Mr. Sharon Philogene	Member

In accordance with Section 14 (a) of the constitution, the DOC conducted its executive board meetings throughout the year 2005. There were ten (10) regular meetings during the year, in addition to numerous other meetings convened to address various issues. Four of the regular statutory meetings were held prior to the election of the current DOC Executive Board on April 28th. The record of attendance at the remaining six statutory meetings May to December is as follows:

Statutory Meetings

	Executive Members	Called	Attended	Absent	Excused
1.	Rosanne Pringle-Pierre	6	4	2	2
2.	John A. Charles	6	5	1	1
3.	Rupert Sorhaindo	6	6	0	0
4.	Bernard Georges	6	3	3	1
5.	Lesley-Ann Green	6	5	1	1
6.	Carry A. Harris	6	3	3	1
7.	Mickey Joseph	6	5	1	1
8.	Dr. Richard Green	6	4	2	2
9.	Sharon Philogene	6	6	0	0

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 11th AGM of the Committee was held on Thursday, 28th April, 2005. That meeting was followed by a Special General Meeting at which elections for a new Executive Committee were conducted.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

From January 20th to 21st, Mr. Rupert Sorhaindo, then Vice President attended the PASO Workshop held in Kingston, Jamaica in his capacity as Coordinator of a Special PASO Program designed to provide assistance to PASO member NOCs least developed in sport with a view towards improving their level of participation in the 2007 Pan Am and 2008 Olympic Games – both in terms of number of athletes qualifying and their level of performance in those Games. The workshop was meant to inform the member NOCs about the nature and scope of the program and to begin the process of implementation.

Rosanne Pringle attended a meeting of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) held in Melbourne, Australia from April 5th to 10th, 2005. At that meeting, preparations for the 2006 Commonwealth Games were discussed and information relating to the responsibilities of the host city was disseminated.

Ms. Rosanne Pringle attended a Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees (CANOC) meeting held in Miami from May 27th to 29th. Among matters discussed were;

- Coaching Certification program
- CAC Games – Cartagena 2006
- Pan Am Games – Rio 2007
- PASO Committee: Special Program for Smaller NOCs
- Olympic Solidarity
- Caribbean Games – 2009 Trinidad & Tobago

Messrs John A. Charles and Rupert Sorhaindo attended the XLIII PASO General Assembly held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 29th to 31st. Mr. Charles stayed on in Rio to attend the 2nd Pan Am Sports Marketing and Business Congress Expo held from September 1st to 2nd.

Among matters on the agenda of the General Assembly were;

- The Pan American/Olympic Solidarity Program (including the program of courses and the Special program to support countries least developed in sports)
- Olympic Solidarity

- Top VII Program
- Pan Am Games – Rio 2007
- Report by the PASO Commission
- Reports by the IOC Athletes and Ethics Commission
- XV ANOC General Assembly in Seoul, S. Korea

Among matters discussed at the Pan Am Expo and Business Seminar were;

- Planning for Large Events and their legacies
- Marketing and Financing of Large Sports Events
- Pan American Games – Rio 2007 : Organization and Planning
- Beijing 2008
- Presentation by Olympikus (Company providing sports wear)
- Rio Marketing Plan

Mr. Bernard Georges, Treasurer attended the Central American & Caribbean Sports Organization (CACSO) General Assembly held in Cartagena, Colombia from August 19th to 20th, in his capacity as designated Chef de Mission for the CAC Games – Catagena 2006.

The main matter on the agenda related to preparations for the 2006 CAC Games. A tour to the proposed Games sports venues and proposed site of the Athletes' Village formed an important part of the exercise.

Mr. Julian Benjamin a member of the Art & Culture sub-committee and member of the Dominica Olympic Academy, attended a Course Conductor Training Workshop held in St. Kitts from June 20th to 27th and conducted under the Commonwealth Sports Development Program (CSDP)

Dr. Jenny Allport-Williams attended a meeting of the Regional Anti-Doping Organization (RADO) Project Team Meeting, held in Barbados from November 9 to 10th. The meeting was hosted by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA). Dr. Allport also attended a workshop conducted by the Association of National Anti-Doping Organization (ANADO) hosted by the Barbados National Anti Doping Organization and the Barbados National Sports Council.

Among topics discussed at those meetings were:

- a. Review of RADO Structure
- b. Development of a Project plan
- c. Athlete's Whereabouts Information
- d. Presentation of a Model for National and Regional Anti Doping Organizations (NADOs).

Dr. Allport has subsequently been appointed as Dominica's representative on the Caribbean RADO Advisory Board.

PASO COURSES & SEMINARS

PASO continued it program of Continental Courses and Seminars geared towards the development of National Olympic Committees of the Americas. DOC participated with eleven (11) coaches in those courses and seminars as follows;

Mr. Godwin Dorsett Athletics Coach attended a Long Distance Track & Field Athletics course in Mexico from April 4 to 12th. He reported that the course was successful and informative.

Messrs Gerald Langlais and Joseph Russel Raymond both active archery coaches participated in an Archery Continental Course held in El Salvador from April 10th to 17th the course was reported to successful and informative.

Mr. Clifford George Celaire participated, a Football coach participated in a Football (Male) Course held in Asuncion, Paraguay from April 3rd to 12th. The course was reported to be successful.

Mr. Andrew Carter, Lawn Tennis coach attended a Continental Course for High Level Tennis course held in Argentina from April 15th to 24th. The course was reported to be successful.

Mr. Nabi Wallace, Athletics coach attended a Continental Course in Athletics Track held in Brazil from May 7th to 16th. The course was reported to be successful.

Mr. Godwin Dorsett Athletics Coach attended an Athletics (Field) Course in Havana, Cuba from June 1st to 5th; course reported a success.

Dr. Jenny Allport-Williams, Chairperson of the Sub-Committee of Sports Medicine Committee & Doping Control Commission attended a Doping Control Seminar held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 1st to 5th; reported to be successful and informative.

Mr. Egbert Charles, Basketball Coach attended a Continental Technical Course held in Puerto Rico from June 17th to 26th, reported that little was learnt due to translation deficiencies.

Mr. Justin Nibbs, Football coach attended a Feminine Football Course held in Guatemala from July 5th to 12th. To date, no report has been submitted in spite of reminders

Mr. Marcus Blondel, a level 2 Volleyball coach attended a Volleyball course held in Cuba from September 20th to 27th. In his report, he expressed the opinion that the level was very basic and did not measure up to his expectations based on the course description appearing in the course announcement.

As a result of late receipts of notices and travel arrangements due to the fault of the course organizers, coaches nominated to attend courses in Boxing and Table Tennis; Job Joseph (Boxing) and Donald Corriette (Table Tennis) were not able to benefit from the program.

Mr. Kondwani Williams, a member of the Sports Medicine and Anti-Doping Committee also had to withdraw from participation in a PASO seminar on Sport and Law, at the eleventh hour, on account of the grave illness of his grand father who subsequently passed away.

DOC OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Olympic Day Run

The 111th Anniversary of the founding of the International Olympic Committee was observed in Dominica with the traditional Olympic Day Run on Saturday June 25th, from 3:30pm to 7:00pm.

This year's Run followed a 5km route from the Bay Front Boulevard to the Deep Water Harbor on the outskirts of the Capital City Roseau and back to the Bay Front.

Over five hundred (500) persons from around the island participated in the event, and trophies were awarded to participants in the following categories.

- Youngest participant Kenza Andrew 2 ½ years old
- Oldest participant Agatha Christmas 75 years old
- First Male finisher Lynford Lynch 16:51.75
- First Female finisher Jennifer Riley 21:36.95
- School with the most participants Paix Bouche Primary School 64 participants

In the absence of a McDonald's franchise in Dominica, the local representative of Coca Cola was approached for sponsorship. The company assisted with limited sponsorship (Banners and soft drinks).

The Dominica Red Cross and Dominica Police Force (Traffic Division) provided assistance for the duration of the event.

Most affiliates (National Sports Associations) were represented and many assisted in planning and coordinating the Day's activities.

Entertainment was provided at the end of the Run by a Youth Steel Pan Band.

T-shirts were provided to all the participants, and a travel subsidy was made available to groups coming from the rural communities so as to encourage island wide participation.

There were some concerns about the escalating cost of staging the ODR for which Olympic Solidarity allocates US \$2500. Consequently, a Committee was established to make recommendations for the 2006 Edition of the ODR. That Committee consists of, Rupert Sorhaindo, John Charles and Sharon Philogene.

Queen's Baton Relay

The Dominica leg of the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay took place on July 21st and 22nd. The two-day program saw the Baton being carried from Melville Hall Airport to the Carib Territory on day one; and from the Cabrits National Park along the West Coast to Roseau and then to the Rain Forest Aerial Tram, with stops at the Indian River and Colihaut. The Baton was presented to His Excellency the President at a Cultural ceremony held on the State House Grounds.

Several agencies and cultural groups cooperated with the DOC in making the event a very successful one. Those included the National Development Corporation, the Carib Council, The Rain Forest Aerial Tram, the Portsmouth Town Council, the media, Cable & Wireless, Josephine Gabriel Distributors Ltd., and Colihaut Band Mauvais

The Art and Culture sub-committee headed by Mrs. Huguette Andrew coordinated the cultural component of the program, and several of the National Sports Associations provided support that contributed to the success of the event.

Some spectacular photos taken during the Relay have been posted on the Melbourne 2006 website, and have served to promote Dominica among an international audience.

Women & Sports sub committee Healthy Lifestyle Project

A Healthy Lifestyle project involving workshops conducted during the weekends of 16th- 17th & 23rd- 24th July was implemented by the Women & Sports Committee. The workshops targeted youths-at-risk in the Grand Bay catchment area, with the objective of influencing their lifestyle choices in a positive manner, and involved presentations and discussions on such topics as leadership, sexuality, HIV Aids, Nutrition, Olympism, Mental Preparedness, Sports Not Drugs, Fair Play, Sports Media among others.

Opportunities were also provided for the participants to be exposed to a number of sports which were demonstrated by members of the respective sports associations: Netball, Football, Basketball, Volleyball, & Table Tennis.

Some sixty-three young persons participated and rated the exercise as being very beneficial. Follow up activities are planned by the Committee during 2006.

Membership of the sub-committees of the DOC was reconstituted in an effort to revitalize those which were largely inactive during the 2001-2004 quadrennial.

SUB COMMITTEES

Women-&Sport

The following persons form the membership:

Names		Position
1.	Regina Walsh	Chairperson
2.	Avonelle Seraphine	Secretary
3.	Cynthia Joseph	Member
4.	Justin Nibbs	Member
5.	Dorothy Didier-Charles	Member
6.	Marie Antoinette Mora	Member

Art & Culture

The following persons form the membership:

Names		Position
1.	Huguette Andrew	Chairperson
2.	Julian Benjamin	Secretary
3.	Daria Sorhaindo	Member
4.	Verna Baron	Member
5.	Natasha Nation	Member
6.	Harry Sealy	Member
7.	Delia Weeks	Member
8.	Charles Corbette	Member
9.	Daryl Bobb	Member

Olympic Academy

The following persons form the membership:

Name		Position
1.	Rupert Sorhaindo	Chairperson
2.	Ardene Nicholas	Member
3.	Julian Benjamin	Member
4.	Julian Pacquette	Member
5.	Oswald Savarin	Member
6.	Woodrow Lawrence	Member
7.	Sharon Philogene	Member
8.	Marcus Blondel	Member

Sports Medicine & Doping Commission

The following persons form the membership:

Names		Position
1.	Dr. Jenny Allport-Williams	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Griffin Benjamin	Member
3.	John A. Charles	Member
4.	Kondwani Williams	Member
5.	Phillip R. White	Member
6.	Joan James	Member
7.	Jacqueline Prevost	Member

Sports & the Environment

Efforts are being made to identify persons who could be invited to serve on that committee.

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAMS

The following Programmes were accessible to NOCs during 2005, and will continue to be available throughout the 2005 - 2008 quadrennial. However, Olympic Solidarity has been encouraging NOCs to do long term planning and expect them to submit quadrennial plans with respect to most of the Programmes:

For Athletes:

- Olympic Scholarships for athletes "Beijing 2008"
- Team Support Grants
- Continental and Regional Games - NOC Preparation
- 2012 - Training Grants for Young Athletes
- Talent Identification

For Coaches:

- Technical Courses for Coaches
- Olympic Scholarships for Coaches
- Development of National Sports Structure

NOC Management

- NOC Administration Development
- National Training Courses for Sport Administrators
- International Executive Training Courses in Sport Management
- NOC Exchange and Regional Forums

Promotion of Olympic Values

- Sports Medicine
- Sport and Environment
- Women and Sport
- Sport for All
- National Olympic Academy
- Culture and Education
- NOC Legacy

Programmes for Athletes:

- i. Olympic Scholarships for Athletes: "Beijing 2008".

Applications have been made to Olympic Solidarity under this sub-programme on behalf of Mervyn Lantan (Boxing) and Chris Lloyd (Athletics), to assist with their training in preparation for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games: Mervyn in the UK, and Chris in the USA. Chris was the only Dominican athlete who satisfied the qualification requirements for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. With more intense and expert training, his time in the 400 meters could improve to place him among the top world athletes in that event. His work schedule has interfered with his training, and a scholarship would place him in a better position to devote more time to his training.

Mervyn, though he has shown promise, he has not had the benefit of expert training and experience in the boxing ring in competition. His short stint in the UK training in preparation for the Commonwealth Boxing Championships (August 2005, in Scotland) and the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games has exposed him to professional coaching as well as to boxers of a higher caliber than he would have been used to encountering in Dominica. Continued training in the UK would undoubtedly lead to an improvement in his boxing skills - assuming that he is prepared to display the correct attitude.

DOC was successful in securing Beijing 2008 scholarships for both athletes in the amount of U.S. \$1000. per month for each athlete. The commencement date for the scholarships is expected to be May 1st, 2006.

- ii. Team Support Grants

An application was made to Olympic Solidarity on behalf of the Dominica Football Association for a team support grant that would provide the national under-20 team with the opportunity to participate in the regional qualifying competition (in Trinidad), for the CAC Games to be held in Cartagena, Colombia in July 2006. This request has been denied by Olympic Solidarity, and a new application is being submitted for the Female Volleyball Team.

- iii. Continental and Regional Games - NOC Preparation

The sum of US\$70,000 is available to the DOC for the preparation of "elite" athletes who have a reasonable chance of qualifying for the 2007 Pan Am Games and 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

DOC's application to Olympic Solidarity for funding has been approved, and affiliates have been requested to submit **names** and **profiles** of the **elite** athletes in their respective sports to be considered for inclusion in the preparation programme.

Affiliates were also expected to submit their lists of the activities which they have planned as part of their athlete preparation programmes. These were to include any or all of the following: competition in Regional competitions/championships; training camps; services of professional coaches and friendly encounters with teams. Regrettably, most of the few submissions made to date have not been thorough.

iv. 2012: Training Grant for Young Athletes

The Programme caters for young athletes who have been recognized by their respective national and International Sports Federations as having exceptional talent and can benefit from specialized training, in preparation for the 2012 Olympic Games. No Dominican athlete has as yet been identified for support under that programme.

v. Talent Identification

This programme provides the opportunity for national sports associations to identify and support talented young athletes, preferably through structured programmes such as training camps, competitions and other such activities for children. Up to US\$20,000 is available annually to support activities under this programme. Those activities must first be approved by Olympic Solidarity before disbursement of the funds.

In 2005, the following national sports associations benefited from the programme in the sums indicated:

Dominica Amateur Athletics Association	\$12,096.90
Dominica Football Association	14,790.00
Dominica Lawn Tennis Association	18,074.00
Dominica Table Tennis Association	<u>20,663.48</u>
E. C.	<u>\$ 65,624.40</u>

Athletics:

(\$12,096.90) was allocated to the DAAA to support its talent identification activities, including a four-day Talent Development Camp and Mini-Meet, held in Portsmouth from December 27 - 30, 2005. Two participants in the camp subsequently qualified for the 2006 Carifta Games - in high jump and Javelin

Football:

(\$14,790.00) was allocated under the programme to cover transportation expenses relating to training activities for a squad of young footballers, at three different venues around the island. The athletes had been identified in earlier talent Identification activities.

Lawn Tennis:

(\$18,074.02) was allocated to support the following activities:

- i. Participation of a team of five young players in the Coca Cola Youth International Tennis Tournament held in St. Lucia, from August 15 - 20, 2005.

- ii. Participation of a team of young players in a youth (under-14) Invitational Tournament held in Trinidad, from November 5 - 12, 2005.

Table Tennis:

(\$20,663.48) was allocated to support the following activities:

- i. A week-long training camp for 30 young players from around the island, conducted from July 24 - 30, 2005;
- ii. Participation of a team comprising some of the most promising young players identified in earlier talent identification activities, in the Caribbean Youth Championships held in Barbados, from August 15 - 20, 2005.

Talent Identification and Development activities are expected to continue in 2006; and all affiliates have been requested to submit programmes for consideration.

Programmes for Coaches

- i. Technical Courses for Coaches:

Olympic Solidarity approved the application submitted by the Dominica Olympic Committee for ten courses for coaches during the 2005 - 2008 quadrennial cycle as follows:

	<u>Sport</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Budget Approved (US\$)</u>
2005	Lawn Tennis	Level 1	6,621.36 (granted in 2006)
2006	Table Tennis	Level 1	7,500.00
	Athletics	Level 1	7,500.00
	Football	Level 2	8,000.00
	Basketball	Level 1	8,000.00
2007	Volleyball	Level 2	8,000.00
	Boxing	Level 1	8,500.00
	Swimming	Level 1	8,500.00
	Rifle (Shooting)	Level 1	8,500.00
2008	Archery	Level 1	8,500.00

The Lawn Tennis (Mini-Tennis) Coaching Course previously scheduled for December 2005 but was rescheduled and conducted from January 12 - 21, 2006. Teachers and coaches from schools and clubs from around the island participated in this course

- ii. Olympic Scholarships for Coaches.

The DOC took advantage of the training opportunity offered annually by Olympic Solidarity, and exceptionally, two scholarships were awarded to Dominica - in Table Tennis and Volleyball, at the Semmelweis University Institute of Sport and Physical Education, in Hungary. Edger Berridge (Table

Tennis) and Julia Douglas (Volleyball) successfully completed the three-month coaching course conducted from September to December 2005.

Advantage will be taken of that training opportunity in 2006.

iii. Development of National Sports Structure

An application made by the Dominica Olympic Committee for support of a Strategic Planning project designed to assist the DOC and affiliated National Sports Associations in enhancing their planning capabilities has been approved. The project will be implemented during the period May to August 2006, and will involve a facilitator from Canada and a local coordinator. Hopefully, it will result in the generation of Strategic Plans by all affiliated National Sports Associations, which should place them on a path to success, as they attempt to move their athletes from “Playground to Podium”.

NOC Management

Small grants and training opportunities are available under this programme. In 2005, advantage was not taken of those opportunities, largely because of the preoccupation of the Committee with other management priorities, including the revision of administrative policies and operational guidelines. It is expected that once that exercise will have been completed, attention will be focused on the identification of suitable personnel for training in Sport Management.

Already, discussions with Olympic Solidarity officials have established the groundwork that would enable the DOC to participate in MEMOS X (the Executive Masters in the Management of Sport) Programme to be offered in 2006. It is hoped that a suitably qualified and committed Sport Administrator will be identified to benefit from that opportunity. Ideally, such an individual, once trained could be a valuable asset to the DOC as a Coordinator and critical link with the National Sports Associations.

Promotion of Olympic Values

i. Sports Medicine

The Olympic values associated with Sport Medicine relate to the recognition that the spirit of sport is the celebration of the human spirit, the body and the mind, and that such practices as the taking of performance enhancing substances and other forms of doping are contrary to the spirit of Olympism, erode public confidence and jeopardize the health and well-being of athletes.

The membership of the Sport Medicine and Anti-Doping Committee of the DOC has been reconstituted, and it is expected to spearhead activities that would create greater awareness among athletes, officials and indeed the general public – including children, of the Olympic values of fairplay and playing true, and of the efforts being made by the IOC and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to eliminate Doping in Sport.

Other important issues relating to Nutrition, Physiology and the prevention and treatment of Sports Injuries are also on the Committee’s agenda for the quadrennial, and an application has already been submitted to Olympic Solidarity to support some of those activities. A series of consultations has been planned for 2006.

ii. Sport and Environment

A Committee has not yet been appointed to address the issues relating to the Environmental dimension of Sport – which is increasingly becoming a major preoccupation of sports architects and events planners within the Olympic Movement.

iii. Women and Sport.

The Woman and Sport Committee of the DOC has been one of its more active Committees, promoting the values of equal opportunity for and greater involvement of women in sport. In 2005, that Committee organized and conducted a Healthy Lifestyle Project for Youth-at-Risk, mention of which was made earlier. That activity was funded through the Olympic Solidarity Promotion of Olympic Values Programme. A series of five consultations with women in various communities around the island has been approved by Olympic Solidarity for 2006.

iv. Sport For All

The 2005 Olympic Day Run was conducted under that Theme; all national associations are expected to promote that Olympic value in their national programmes.

v. National Olympic Academies

The newly constituted Dominica Olympic Academy has planned a number of activities aimed at promoting the Olympic Values and Ideals, including an art competition for schools and the production of a 2007 calendar highlighting Olympism themes. The Academy is also hoping to play an important role in the planning and organizing of the 2006 Olympic Day Run activities. Two young persons (Ms. Rhona Daniel & Mr. Julian Pacquette) will be representing Dominica at the International Olympic Academy's "International Session for Young Participants" to be held in June-July 2006.

vi. Culture and Education

The Art and Culture Committee played a major role in guaranteeing the success of the Melbourne 2006 Queen's Baton Relay, by coordinating the participation of numerous cultural groups in the internationally publicized event. The Committee is planning a number of activities for 2006.

vii. NOC Legacy

The DOC Executive has taken the decision to approach Mr. Reginald St. H. Shillingford for his assistance in collating information with a view to documenting Dominica's involvement in the Olympic Movement. That project will be initiated in 2006, and will be expected to be an ongoing project. With the realization of the DOC's dream of an Olympic House, a permanent Museum will eventually be established; and toward that end, the collection of photos, pins and other Games memorabilia has already begun.

PASO PROGRAMS

PASO, the Pan American Sports Organization is an Association of National Olympic Committees in the Western Hemisphere (North, Central and South America and the Caribbean), with its headquarters in Mexico. Some of the resources of Olympic Solidarity are channeled to those NOCs through PASO, which has also established its own programs to support some of the activities of the NOCs.

The NOC Administrative Grant is channeled through PASO, as is the NOC Assistance Grant for equipment and training programs.

PASO Continental Programs of Courses and Seminars

PASO has established a program of Courses and Seminars to support the training of coaches and administrators, and to promote Olympic Values in the Americas. In 2005 a number of coaches and other personnel benefited from that program, and the list of courses and seminars to be conducted in 2006 has already been forwarded to the respective national sports associations.

Concerns have been expressed to PASO about the structure and delivery of those courses, and efforts are being made to improve them so as to make them more relevant in addressing the needs of the NOCs, as well as to ensure their close articulation with the coaching courses administered by the International sports Federations. These courses are of a high standard and are generally targeted for Senior National Coaches. In this regard, National Associations should ensure that the selected candidates are serious about their personal development as coaches.

PASO Special Program of Assistance to the NOCs Least Developed in Sport.

In 2005, a special program of assistance was established by PASO to assist the smaller NOCs in the region in improving the level of participation of their athletes in the Pan American and Olympic Games, both in terms of numbers and performance.

Under that program, the sum of US\$50,000 was to be made available annually over the 2005 - 2008 quadrennial, to each NOC included in the program. Regrettably, the program has not been made fully operational, largely because of deeply rooted differences of opinion about how it should be structured, and the lack of leadership on the Commission responsible for its design and implementation. US\$100,000 could be available in 2006 to support athlete and coach development training activities - including training camps (local and overseas), securing the services of professional coaches from overseas, participation in competition overseas, among others. However proper planning on the part of the national sports associations that are to benefit from that facility is essential if that resource is to be tapped and utilized effectively.

PASO's NOCs' ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

National Associations utilized funds under the PASO's NOCs' Activities grant for the purchase of equipment as follows:

National Associations	Amounts	
	E.C. \$	U.S. \$
Dominica Archery Association	5,947.70	2,212.52
Dominica Swimming Association	58,898.73	21,910.10
Dominica Athletics Association	27,146.69	10,098.46
Dominica Table Tennis Association	10,253.25	3,814.17
Dominica Boxing Association	19,136.64	7,118.76
Dominica Football Association	5,034.23	1,872.71
Dominica Basketball Association	543.38	202.14
Dominica Lawn Tennis Association	1,248.94	464.60
Dominica Volleyball Association	948.96	353.01
General Development, Course Conductors Training & WADA Program	6,431.19	2,392.38
Total Equipment & Courses	135,589.60	50,438.89

CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES

The DOC is confronted with several challenges, as we attempt to carry out the mandate dictated by our constitution and the Olympic Charter which we are expected to uphold. There are obvious structural weaknesses which must be addressed if the Organization is to be successful in realizing its objectives; and to ensure the effective and efficient use of the increasing resources being placed at its disposal.

The DOC is perceived by many as an institution whose primary purpose is to dispense the "largesse" of the International Olympic Committee. We must shed that image and project the character of a development agency with a clear vision, and equipped with a strategic plan to transform the sterile national sport culture. We have to be proactive in discharging our responsibilities, and we must devise constructive ways of transforming the DOC into a catalyst for the development of sport, nationally.

We need to avoid responding in "knee-jerk" reflex manner to situations; and the allocation of resources must be informed by careful and thorough cost-benefit analyses. We have to promote a culture of resourcefulness rather than one of dependence among affiliates. There is a clear need for a wide-ranging

review of the DOC's policies and operational guidelines – including the establishment of performance, behavioral and ethical standards for members, athletes, coaches and sports administrators.

The DOC Executive and Sub-committees or Commissions need to be vibrant and active in the promotion of the values that they are expected to embrace. The often repeated cliché that “a chain is as strong as its weakest link” is apt when describing the relationship between the DOC and its affiliated national sports associations. And one of the major challenges confronting the DOC has to do with the perceived weaknesses in the management and administration of a number of national sports associations - some of which can be justifiably described as moribund if not completely inactive.

Based on the level and quality of communication between the DOC and affiliated national sports associations, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that many of these organizations are not functioning at a level demanded by their responsibilities – with membership no larger than the executive; outdated, and in several cases with unratified statutes; with limited if any contact with their regional, continental or international bodies; with no middle or long term development plans; with minimal if any records on athlete development; without a credible training and evaluation programme; and without a coaching development programme.

This is a very unhealthy situation which must be addressed by the DOC, since it has implications for the integrity of Dominica Olympic Committee and for the overall development of sport in the country. There is therefore the need for the DOC to monitor the operations of affiliates to ensure their adherence to the provisions of the DOC Constitution and the Olympic Charter; and to assist those that are prepared to cooperate in enhancing their management and planning capabilities, so as to place them in a better position to make a more meaningful contribution to the development of our youth in Dominica and the Olympic movement, and more effective use of the resources available to them; thereby improving their chances of moving their athletes from the “Playground to the Podium”.

In response to that challenge, the DOC, with the support of Olympic Solidarity, will be implementing a Strategic Planning Project over the period May to August, 2006, that will engage stakeholders in examining the current sport environment with a view to enhancing their planning capabilities and generating strategic plans for their organizations.

The unsystematic and fragmented approach to the development of coaches is another challenge confronting the DOC. It is a very worrying situation, that in spite of the opportunities which have been made available to affiliates over the years through the DOC (PASO Continental Courses for Coaches; Olympic Solidarity Courses for Coaches and Olympic Solidarity Scholarships for Coaches) as well as through the programmes of many of the International Sports Federations, there seems to be very few certified coaches who are actively involved in coaching. When one considers how critical the input of coaches is in moving athletes from the “playground to the podium” one can understand the reason for concern. The selection of individuals for training as coaches and their deployment and monitoring following training, are important factors that are frequently not appreciated and neglected by sports administrators, who more often than not make selections on an ad hoc basis, and then leave the “coaches” to their own devices. Appeasing individuals and currying favour with them by “giving them trips” cannot be a recipe for the successful development of coaches, nor a successful strategy for the development of athletes.

The inadequacy of sports facilities for supporting training activities and for hosting competitions at the standards required for the optimal performance is another challenge confronting the DOC and its

affiliates. Consequently, the DOC must be more proactive and forge strategic alliances with key stakeholders in the sport enterprise in order to address that worrying concern. Those stakeholders include Government, Private Sector interests, International Olympic Committee, International Sports Federations and National Sports Associations.

In response to that concern, the DOC has already made approaches to Government and private sector stakeholders in an effort to move its Olympic House project one step closer to reality. On completion of that project, a number of sports associations will have access to facilities to support their management and training activities. The IOC will also be approached to partner in this important initiative; and National Associations will be encouraged to seek support from their respective International Federations.

The need for mechanisms to be put in place for the effective management of existing sports facilities is another important issue to be addressed; and the Ministry with responsibility for Sport (which has ownership of most of the sporting facilities on the island) will have to be engaged in discussions on this important issue, with a view to ensuring that more effective use is made of those facilities.

Other measures will also need to be taken to compensate for the inadequate training facilities; and these would include training camps overseas for elite athletes and more opportunities for a greater number of our “elite” athletes to compete regionally and internationally.

Funds available under the special PASO Programme of assistance to NOCs in the region could be utilized for many of those activities; however, the respective national sports associations must make the effort to develop the appropriate development plans if we in Dominica are to benefit from the programme.

Another challenge which confronts the DOC is to devise strategies that would result in star athletes emerging on the international sport scene. Recognizing that that achievement would represent a quantum leap for Dominican Sport, no effort should be spared in identifying talented athletes of Dominican parentage in the Diaspora, who may already be exposed to professional coaching and the optimal training equipment and facilities.

The Dominica Academy of Arts and Sciences (DAAS) has already been enlisted in the search for athletic talent in the Diaspora, and has pledged to cooperate with the DOC and relevant national sports associations in tracking the development of talented athletes once they will have been identified and adopted by the respective national sport governing body. Names of potential athletes submitted through DAAS contacts have already been forwarded to the relevant associations for follow up action.

The National Sport Ethos or Culture needs to be radically transformed if there is to be a breakthrough in Sport development; and an enlightened National Sports Policy is one of the critical inputs required for that transformation. Such a policy would need to reflect a clear appreciation for the indispensability of Sport for national development – with all its benefits in the spheres of health, economy and social stability; and would need to provide for the firm entrenchment of Sport and Physical Education in the curriculum at all levels of the educational system, and supported by a cadre of trained and committed Sport/PE educators, equipped with the requisite facilities and sports equipment.

Recognizing the role which former Olympic athletes are expected to play within the Olympic Movement and society in general, there is the need for an Athletes Commission to be established. Initiatives taken in the past quadrennial to address this concern will be advanced with the convening of an assembly of all the

athletes who have represented Dominica at the Olympics, at the earliest opportunity. Efforts are underway to locate those Olympians.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Our Fixed Deposits were rolled into deposit and renewed in March 2005 for a further three years at an interest rate of 4.5%. At December 31 2005 the balance stands at \$237,143.

Our fixed asset additions included a filing cabinet and replacements for our printer and fax machine.

It should be noted that the administrative grant received from Olympic Solidarity through PASO has been increased to U.S. \$25,000 from US \$20,000 annually.

The PASO Equipment Grant has also been increased and allows for more flexibility in terms of what this grant can be spent on. There is no longer the restriction of using this grant only for sports equipment.

Consequently, it has been renamed NOC's Activities grant and must be spent on athlete, coach and sport development as well as for electronic/computer program enhancements as the PASO computer grant of U.S. \$6,000 is no longer available.

At the end of the financial year ended December 31 2005, our current account balance was \$56,650 and we reported an increase of 12.6% in our fund balances in the amount of \$37,187

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The DOC would like to place on record its appreciation for the support of the International Olympic Committee through the agencies of Olympic Solidarity and PASO. Those agencies have always demonstrated their willingness to respond to the applications submitted by the DOC for support, on behalf of affiliates, coaches and athletes. They have continued to improve their efficiency in the timely disbursement of funds, and in the delivery of the various development programmes.

Special mention must be made of the President of PASO, who has shown much interest in the welfare of the least developed member NOCs of PASO, including the DOC, with the introduction of the Special Programme of Assistance targeting them, and placing additional resources at their disposal for moving their athletes "from Playground to the Podiums at the Pan American and Olympic Games".

Our colleagues at Olympic Solidarity have been sympathetic to our concerns, and have been generous with their advice. Their timely responses to our requests are very much appreciated; and we pledge to continue working constructively with them.

We also acknowledge the support and cooperation of the many volunteers belonging to our sub-committees and affiliates, who have continued to offer their time, energy, and in many instances financial resources, toward the development of their athletes and Sport in general.

Increasing demands are being placed on our volunteer sports administrators, and we appreciate their contribution as we move forward.

We also recognize the contribution of the many Government and private sector agencies that have provided support for the efforts of the DOC and those of its many affiliates during 2005 - through

sponsorship, facilitating participation of athletes and teams in competitions here and overseas, and in other tangible ways.

The DOC pledges to forge closer strategic partnerships with all these stakeholders during the remaining three years of this quadrennial, as it seeks to intensify its efforts at moving Sport to a Higher Level, in terms of organization and performance.

CONCLUSION

The world of Sport continues to be plagued with scandals, created by the unethical conduct of unscrupulous persons associated with sports organizations, who have no regard for the values and ideals of Olympism enshrined in the Olympic Charter and Code of Ethics, which they are expected to uphold.

The very foundation of the Olympic Movement is threatened, and the respect which the Olympic Movement has earned over the years is being undermined whenever those lofty principles are breached by persons entrusted with their protection. Each one of us must therefore accept our individual responsibilities to safeguard the integrity of the Olympic Movement by conducting the business of our respective organizations with the highest ethical standards of behaviour; and by establishing the policies that reflect the spirit of the Olympic Charter and Code of Ethics.