

**REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE DOMINICA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE TO THE
14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON APRIL 29, 2008 AT THE GARRAWAY HOTEL**

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Committee of the Dominica Olympic Committee (DOC) is pleased to present this annual report for the year ended December 31st 2007, to its members and affiliates.

The highlight for the Dominica Olympic Committee this year was the bronze medal win by Chris Lloyd at the Pan Am Games in Rio de Janeiro in the 400m race in a time of 45.40 seconds, .55 seconds behind the gold medal winner.

The Summer Youth Camp Project organized by the Youth Development Division through the Dominica Olympic Academy was a tremendous success in sharing information on Olympism and Olympic Values to school children of all ages - Primary School to College. Our thanks and gratitude goes out to the Management of the Youth Development Division and the Youth Officers for the success of this Olympic education project.

The Dominica Olympic Academy also launched a 2007 calendar featuring artistic drawing on various Olympic Topics done by school children from Grade 3 to College. Twelve drawings were selected from a large number of drawings submitted. All 75 drawings submitted were placed on exhibition at the launching ceremony.

With the financial assistance for Games Preparation received late last year from Olympic Solidarity both directly and through PASO, Boxing and Athletics were able to participate in a number of Pan Am Games and Olympic Games qualifying events overseas. The boxers made us proud by capturing the OECS Boxing Championships for the first time. Dillion Simon won the silver medal in the Under 17 Discus Throw at the Carifta Games in Turks & Caicos.

In the area of Administration, we have made some progress by finalizing the Draft Constitution, and DOC's Policies & Procedures Manual. Also National Associations are following procedures and are providing more details in their budgets on the athletes selected for Games Preparation and participation in Qualifier Games overseas.

However, too few associations are taking advantage of funds available for Games Preparation and developing athletes for participation in Regional and International Games.

Consistent and committed leadership in the sporting associations are still a major setback in using Sports to develop youth in Dominica.

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 sixteen (16) National Associations affiliated to the DOC of which eleven (11) 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 (Resigned August 2007)
Mrs. Lesley-Ann Green	Secretary General (Previously Assistant Secretary/Treasurer)
VACANT	Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Hubert "Mickey" Joseph	Treasurer
Mr. Cary A. Harris	Member
Dr. Richard Green	Member
Miss Sharon Philogene	Member
Mr. Anthony Commodore	Member

In accordance with Section 14 (a) of the constitution, the DOC conducted its executive board meetings throughout the year 2007. There were eight (8) regular meetings and one (1) special meeting during the year, in addition to numerous other meetings convened to address various issues.

Statutory Meetings

	Executive Members	Called	Attended	Absent	Excused
1.	Rosanne Pringle	9	9	0	0
2.	John A. Charles	9	5	4	3
3.	Rupert Sorhaindo	9	6	N/A	N/A
4.	Lesley-Ann Green	9	9	0	0
5.	Cary A. Harris	9	3	6	2
6.	Hubert "Mickey" Joseph	9	8	1	1
7.	Dr. Richard Green	9	3	6	3
8.	Sharon Philogene	9	8	1	1
9.	Anthony Commodore	6	3	3	1

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 13th AGM of the Committee was held on Wednesday, 25th April 2007 at the Fort Young Hotel.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & MEETINGS ATTENDED

PASO Boxing Course

Messrs Job Joseph and Lequan Carlisle participated in this course which was held in Cuba from April 1st to 15th, 2007. This course required the participation of one boxing coach and one boxer, in order to provide them with technical, methodological and scientific basis for their professional development and the preparation of boxers. This program dealt with a scientific focus of methodology, as well as the control and evaluation of the development of physical strength, technical and tactic abilities of boxers. Supporting information on Pedagogy, Psychology, Biological Basis, Theory and Methodology of Sports Training, Medical Control, Massage and Competition Rules were provided to the coaches as the necessary tools to carry out their work.

Seminar for Sport Journalists

Mr. Brian Francis represented Dominica at the Seminar for Sport Journalists held in Athens, Greece from May 7th to 12th hosted by the International Olympic Academy.

Main topic discussed was Olympism while the special topic took participants through the Ethical Code in Sports Press.

International Olympic Academy (IOA) Session for Directors of National Olympic Academies (NOAs)

Mr. Rupert Sorhaindo, then Secretary General, and Chairperson of the Dominica Olympic Academy, attended the above captioned meeting which was held in Athens, Greece from May 31st, to June 10th. Main theme of this meeting was “Olympism” with “Olympic Pedagogy” being the special topic. Sub topics included:

- Olympic Pedagogy as a Theory of Development of Ethical and Humanistic Values and Education
- Learning Multiculturalism as part of the School Curriculum Through Olympic Pedagogy
- Social Volunteerism as part of the School Curriculum Within Olympic Pedagogy
- Aims, Objectives and Content of Olympic Pedagogy
- The Educational Needs of School Children Today in Relation to Physical Education & Sport

Seminar on Community Policing

Superintendent of Police Mr. Nicholas George, who has special responsibility for security at the Windsor Park Stadium, was selected to attend the captioned seminar which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 13th to 15th.

The seminar was hosted by the Organizing Committee for the Pan Am Games – Rio 2007 so as to share the Brazil methods and experience in preparing to host a major multi sport event with the other members of the PASO Olympic family. This forum provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to exchange ideas and to share experiences with each other on community policing and citizen safety during major sporting events.

Topics included:

- Security Action Plan for the Pan American Games
- Millennium Development Goals and the Contribution of the Citizenship Security
- Communitarian Police evaluation: Latin American experiences
- Communitarian Police in Brazil, experiences and realities

IOA 47th International Session for Young Participants

Ms. Marese Bannis and Mr. Nabi Wallace were Dominica’s representatives at the IOA’s 47th session for Young participants held in Athens, Greece from June 18th to July 5th, 2007.

The main topic was “Olympism” while special focus was on the topic “From Athens to Beijing”

Sub topics included:

- Perception of the Chinese Culture through the Organization of Beijing Olympic Games in 2008
- Origin of the Modern Olympic Games
- Pierre de Coubertin: Sports and Humanism
- Historiography as Mother of Olympic Education
- The symbolism of Olympia and the Olympic Games of Athens in 1896 and 2004
- The importance of security at the Olympic Games: Its effects on Athens 2004 and Beijing 2008

Commonwealth Games 2014 Bid City Visit

Mr. John Charles travelled to Glasgow, Scotland to evaluate Scotland's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games. The visit started on July 31st and ended on August 5th. Attendees were taken on a tour to view the various sites and facilities where the games will be held. Mr. Charles reported that Glasgow presented a strong bid to host the games in terms of facilities available and currently under construction. In addition, he indicated that he was most impressed with the strong management team already in place and the fact that both Government and Scotland City Counsel fully support the bid.

Continental Forum of the Americas Beijing 2008

Mr. Mickey Joseph as the appointed Chef de Mission for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games attended the International Forum of the Americas Beijing 2008 held in Mexico from September 17th - 20th, 2007. The meeting was held specifically for the purpose of updating participants on different aspects of the games preparation for the athletes. Participants had the opportunity to discuss and exchange their own experiences and to address any concerns they had with members of the Beijing Organizing Committee on preparations and requirements for the athletes.

CACSO and CANOC General Assemblies

Ms. Rosanne Pringle attended the Central American and Caribbean Sports Organization (CACSO) General Assembly held in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico from October 11th to 12th, 2007. The Assembly recognized the Association's 50th Anniversary. Elections were also held for a new CACSO Executive Board. Mr. Hector Cardona was reelected as President; Mr. Edward "Ned" Pitts from Belize was made an Honorary Life Member for his long service to the association and as a member of the Executive Board. Ms. Pringle was nominated and voted in as a member of the board. There was much media coverage and commentary surrounding Ms. Pringle's election to the Board, as she is first woman to be elected on the CACSO Executive Board. The delegates were taken on a tour of the facilities currently available and those being built to host the 2010 Central American and Caribbean Games to be held in Mayaguez scheduled for 2 weeks in July.

The Executive Board of CANOC took the opportunity to hold its 5th General Assembly in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico on October 13th, 2007 the day after the CACSO General Assembly meeting. Elections for a new CANOC Management Committee were held and Steve Stoute from Barbados was reelected President. Details of the preparations made to date for the 2009 Caribbean Games to be hosted by Trinidad & Tobago from July were presented to the Assembly. The sports scheduled for the Caribbean Games are Athletics, Boxing, Netball, Beach and Indoor Volleyball and Tennis

CGF General Assembly

The CGF General Assembly was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from November 7th - 10th and was attended by Ms. Rosanne Pringle. The Executive Board was reelected with Michael Fennel as President. There were a couple changes on the Executive due to retirements. Mrs. Fortuna Belrose of St. Lucia was elected to the Board as Vice President - Caribbean region. Mr. Chet Greene of Antigua was elected as the Caribbean Representative on the Sports Committee.

The city of Glasgow, Scotland won the bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games over the city of Abuja, Nigeria.

DOC OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Olympic Day Run

The 113th Anniversary of the Founding of the International Olympic Committee was observed by the Dominica Olympic Committee with the staging of the traditional Olympic Day Run, along an eight (8) kilometer course, in the scenic town of Portsmouth in the North of the island. For the younger participants, a shorter route of about 4 Km was used.

The event attracted over six hundred (600) participants from all over the island, with several hundred onlookers along the route. This has been the most successful Olympic Day Run to date with the most participants.



Among the participants were secondary school students who served as volunteers in a Summer Youth Camp conducted jointly by the Dominica Olympic Academy and the Youth Division of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Sports and Youth Affairs, under the Theme: "Combating Youth Violence Through Olympic Values".

At the start of the Run, President of the Dominica Olympic Committee addressed the participants on aspects of the Olympic Movement, and read the message prepared for the occasion by International Olympic Committee President, Jacques Rogge.



Also addressing the participants was a representative of the telecommunications company Cable & Wireless, which partnered with the DOC, providing a quantity of T-shirts and assisting with promoting the event in the Media.

The Run culminated with runners gathering at a large sports ground, Benjamin Park, where participants had the opportunity to view football, volleyball and cricket matches which were in progress.

Josephine Gabriel (Distributors) Ltd., a long time partner with the DOC in Olympic Day Run events, provided banners and a quantity of soft drinks for the participants.

The Police and Red Cross provided escort and emergency services along the route, and for the duration of the Day's activities; while other minor sponsors contributed in various ways to ensure the success of the event.



Trophies were awarded to Cleve Lafond and Susanne Desiree, the First Male and First Female finishers respectively.



Youth Officers from the Ministry with responsibility for Education, Sports and Youth Affairs were instrumental in mobilizing support for the event in the schools around the island, and assisted in the coordination of transportation to and from the event venue.

A number of national sports associations affiliated with the Dominica Olympic Committee also assisted in mobilizing support among their membership.



Summer Day Camp

Under the theme “Olympic Values & Culture: An Alternative to Youth Violence” the DOC in collaboration with the Youth Development Division taught the rich culture of Olympism to the young people of Dominica, through a network country-wide Olympic Education Program.

This program helped young people practice Healthy Lifestyles through Sports and Culture. The project explored issues pertaining to Fair Play and highlighted the many positive effects that Olympism can have on our Youth. Violence is now prevalent among our young people and the culture of lawless behavior

seems increasing. This project engaged young people in lecture and sports activities that will help to reverse these trends.



Summer Day Camp 2007 stressed on – Being Drug Free (Anti-Doping), Fair Play versus winning at any cost. Respect for Rules and Regulations, Ethical & Social Values of Olympism (Sports & Ethics) and its benefit for our developing Nation. Summer Day Camp 2007 also looked at Sports & Poverty, Gender & Sports (i.e. identity & equality) and about the Olympic Movement.

A number of activities took place to make Summer Day Camp 2007 the success that it was, and the main objectives of these activities included the Selection of Tutors; The Directors & Assistant Directors Training Camp; 8 District Tutors Training Workshops; 29 Community Day Camps; 8 District Evaluation Meetings/Sessions; National Volunteers Appreciation Day and YDD Staff Post Mortem of the Summer Day Camp program for 2007.

One thousand fifty one (1051) children (ages 7 – 12) and 271 High School Students (16 – 20 years) participated in the Summer Day Camp Program. The Camp took place in 29 Communities. A total of 51 young people attended the Directors & Assistant Directors Camp, and 226 attended the Tutors Training Workshops.

The Volunteer Appreciation Day was excellent and included songs, skits and poems that illustrated the benefits of the Olympic Values, the importance of Sports and Healthy Lifestyle living.

NOC Management Initiative

An Administrative Policies & Procedures Manual detailing management and administrative policies, including team selection, responsibilities of athletes, officials and National Associations; and procedures for requesting DOC's grant funding is being formulated and documented. This process was started with the assistance of Mrs. Juliette Lewis. Olympic Solidarity has approved funding for the project under its NOC Management Initiatives Programme and work is underway and expected to be completed in 2008.

Handing over of Medical Kits

DOC received a gift of two medical kits from the Canadian Ambassador when he visited Dominica early in 2007. This gift was given as an assistance package to all Caribbean NOCs during the occasion of the West Indies hosting the Cricket World Cup Event by the Canadian Government.

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

The following persons form the membership:

Names	Positions	
1	Rosanne Pringle	Chairperson
2	Abraham Browne	Member
3	Willie Ferrier	Member
4	Daniel Lugay	Member
5	Arlington James	Member
6	Adeneur Douglas	Member
7	Albert Bellot	Member
8	Ronald Charles	Member

SUB COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

National Sports Medicine Course

The National Sports Medicine Course was held over a two day period May 26 - 27, 2007. The course covered the following topics: Food & Nutrition, Psychology and Mental Preparation, Treating Sport Injuries, the Effects of Exercise on the Heart Rate, Anti- Doping and a list of Banned Substances. The course was very well received by all participants, who felt it would be beneficial to do more sports medicine courses to cover the topics presented in more detail. The facilitators were very well qualified and experienced in their field and were recommended by Dr. Adrian Lorde of the Regional Anti Doping Organization for the Caribbean. Dr. Lorde addressed the participants at the opening ceremony and also delivered a lecture on the WADA Code.

Sports & the Environment

The Sports & Environment Sub-Committee met for the first time in 2007 to determine and formulate their action plan. The main goal and objective is to work within the various communities and to get members of the communities involved in improving and maintaining the playing fields in their communities. Educational programs on good environmental practices would also be delivered to youth in

the communities. Murals with local sports heroes and positive environmental protection slogans would be used to enhance the surroundings of the playing fields.

Members of the Sports & Environment Sub-Committee joined with the Environmental Coordinating Unit to mark the occasion of World Environmental Day on June 5, 2007 and organized a Biking Extravaganza on the Dame Eugenia Charles Boulevard.

We are also working with the Ministry of Tourism and formulating plans to establish the Nature Island Games as an Annual Event.

National Olympic Academy

The project was conceived by the Dominica Olympic Academy, as a means of exposing young Dominicans to the values and ideals of Olympism, and to encourage them to express their understanding of those values and ideals using Art as a medium.

The Art & Culture Sub-Committee of the Dominica Olympic Committee assisted in the initial planning and implementation of the 2007 calendar project.

The project involved a competition which was open to all the Primary and Secondary schools on the island, as well as the State College. It consisted of two distinct, but linked components: an Art Contest requiring **students** to submit drawings or paintings reflecting Olympic themes; and an Olympic Information Competition, requiring **Schools** to submit lists of significant events and corresponding dates relating to the Olympic Movement.

A 2007 Calendar was produced from the artwork submitted by the students, and the historical information received from the schools.

The competition was launched in May 2006, with announcements sent out to the principals of every primary (students of 5 - 11 years) and secondary school (12 - 18 years), as well as the State College (18+ years).

A total of seventy-five (75) drawings/paintings were submitted by students from seven (7) schools: three (3) primary, three (3) secondary, and one (1) the State College, illustrating the following Olympic Themes: Women & Sport; Sport & Environment; Drug-Free Sport; Fair Play in Sport; Peace Through Sport; Unity Through Sport and Sport, Art & Culture.

A panel of well-known Dominican artists reviewed the entries and selected the twelve that would eventually feature in the Calendar.



The Calendar was launched on February 2nd, 2007, at the Fort Young Hotel, with all the participating students and schools in attendance, along with school principals and teachers of Art.

Officials of the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Sport & Youth Affairs, Ministry of Culture and Media representatives were also invited to participate in the event. A special guest at the function was the Director of Dominica Special Olympics.

Addresses were given by the Director of the Dominica Olympic Academy (who is also the Secretary General of the Dominica Olympic Committee); the President of the Dominica Olympic Committee; and the Chief Cultural Officer in the Ministry of Culture (a former Chairperson of the Dominica Olympic Committee's Art & Culture Sub-Committee).



Prizes and Awards were distributed to the winning students and schools; while all schools which participated in the competition received a quantity of art supplies to support their school's Art programmes.



A special Award was given to the Art teacher of the school which submitted the most drawings/paintings.

The Director of Dominica Special Olympics was presented with a large quantity of the Calendars. The organization expects to sell those calendars so as to raise funds to support its sport programme. Calendars were also distributed to all students, teachers, school principals and invited guests.

The Director of the Dominica Olympic Academy announced a Competition for the design of a DOA logo. That competition will also be targeted at the students of primary and secondary schools.

The ceremony ended with the viewing of the drawings/paintings, which were all exhibited in the conference hall, and with the serving of refreshments and snacks.

XV Pan American Games

The Pan American Games were held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from July 13 to 26th, 2007. According to report submitted by Chef de Mission, Mr. Mickey Joseph, the games were an overall success, especially since Dominican athlete Mr. Chris Lloyd was able to secure a bronze medal in the men's 400m with a time of 45.40 seconds. Also performing creditably was Mr. Brendan Williams doing a personal best in the high jump.

A team of three (3) athletes represented Dominica at those games in the sport of Athletics. These athletes were Messrs Chris Lloyd, Brendan Williams and Tyron Benjamin. The team was coached by former Dominica Athlete and World bronze medal holder, Mr. Jerome Romain.

Dominica official delegation included the following persons:

DOC President – Rosanne Pringle

DOC Secretary General – Rupert Sorhaindo

Chef de Mission – Hubert “Mickey” Joseph

Coach – Jerome Romain

Press Person – Morris Cyrille

OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY PROGRAMS

The following Programmes continued to be accessible to the DOC during 2008:

For Athletes:

2012 – Training Grants for Young Athletes

Talent Identification

For Coaches:

Technical Courses for Coaches

Olympic Scholarships for Coaches

NOC Management

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:

Olympic Scholarships for Athletes: “Beijing 2008”.

Olympic Scholarship for Chris Lloyd & Mervin Lantan

Mr. Chris Lloyd, beneficiary of Beijing 2008 Olympic Scholarship to assist with training and preparation for the Beijing Games continues to receive monthly support in the sum of U.S. \$1500 from Olympic Solidarity.

A request was made to Olympic Solidarity for consideration of an increase in scholarship payments to Chris. An approval by Olympic Solidarity made it possible for Chris to receive an increase of U.S. \$500 up from U.S. \$1000 monthly. Total disbursements to Chris Lloyd under this program in 2007 amounted to EC\$50,048.

Lloyd’s performance continues to improve, placing him at a ranking of #15 in the world. His performance at the 2007 Pan American Games held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil resulted in him winning the bronze medal in the 400m. Chris has also had great success on the European circuit and currently holds the National Record for the 200m.

Mr. Mervin Lantan’s scholarship was discontinued during 2007, as Mr. Lantan decided to migrate to London.

Programmes for Coaches:

Technical Courses for Coaches:

Technical courses were approved for the 2005 - 2008 quadrennial are listed below:

	Sport	Level	Budget Approved (USD)
2005	Lawn Tennis	Level 1	6,621. (granted in 2006)
2006	Table Tennis	Level 1	7,500.00
2006	Athletic	Level 1	7,500.00
2006	Football	Level 2	8,000.00
2006	Basketball	Level 1	8,000.00
2007	Volleyball	Level 2	8,000.00
2007	Boxing	Level 1	8,500.00
2007	Swimming	Level 1	8,500.00
2008	Rifle (Shooting)	Level 1	8,500.00
2008	Archery	Level 1	8,500.00

The following courses were successfully conducted in 2007 and reports submitted to Olympic Solidarity.

The Boxing Coaching Course was held from March 27th - April 5th, 2007 for a total cost of EC\$22,770.

The Volleyball Coaching Course was held from August 20th - 30th, 2007 for a total cost of EC\$19,824.

The course in Swimming was not held.

PASO's NOCs' ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

A grant of US\$50,000 is made available annually, in two payments of US\$25,000 to each NOC, to support activities of the National Olympic Committee. The funds are released by PASO only after receipt of the relevant financial statements justifying the expenditure of the first 50% payment amount, with the relevant bona fide receipts.

In 2007, National Associations utilized those funds for the purchase of equipment and for other purposes, such as participation in overseas seminars & meetings and for other NOC development activities as follows:

	<u>AMOUNTS</u>	
	<u>E.C. \$</u>	<u>U.S. \$</u>
<u>National Associations</u>		
Dominica Athletics Association	25,871.03	9,623.92
Total Athletics	25,871.03	9,623.92
Dominica Volleyball Association	17,570.66	6,536.22
Total Volleyball	17,570.66	6,536.22
Dominica Table Tennis Association	31,354.95	11,663.92
Total Table Tennis	31,354.95	11,663.92
Boxing	3,976.50	1,479.24
Total Boxing	3,976.50	1,479.24
Dominica Basketball Association	17,242.81	6,414.26
Total Basketball	17,242.81	6,414.26
Dominica Lawn Tennis Association	11,916.00	4,432.71
Total Lawn Tennis	11,916.00	4,432.71
Int'l Meetings, Seminar & Admin Expenses	21,829.44	8,120.46
CANOC Membership fees	5,434.00	2,021.43
Total NOC Activities	135,195.39	50,292.16

GAMES PREPARATION PROGRAMME

Assistance for Games preparation came from 3 sources during this quadrennial – Olympic Solidarity's Pan Am Games Preparation Grant US\$70,000; PASO Games Preparation Grant US\$100,000; and the Delhi 2010 Organizing Committee's Commonwealth Games Preparation Grant US\$100,000.

The following National Associations received total funding of EC\$227,220 in 2007 from these three sources as follows:

Olympic Solidarity:

Dominica Amateur Athletes Association	<u>EC\$27,189</u>
Sub - totals	<u>EC\$27,189</u>

PASO:

Dominica Amateur Athletics Association	EC\$105,365
Dominica Boxing Association	<u>EC\$ 47,885</u>
Sub - totals	<u>EC\$153,250</u>

Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games:

Dominica Boxing Association	EC\$ 31,701
Dominica Netball Association	EC\$ 11,505
Dominica Lawn Tennis Association	<u>EC\$ 3,575</u>
Sub - totals	<u>EC\$ 46,781</u>

The funding was used primarily to travel overseas to participate in tournaments and to attend local training camps and sessions to prepare local and foreign based athletes for participation in overseas tournaments.

WAY FORWARD

Our biggest challenge today in order to develop sports in Dominica is to attract sufficient volunteers who are prepared to work for the development of our youth through sports. Sports volunteerism is hard work and must be motivated by the love of the sport and a genuine desire to develop youth through sports.

The volunteers must also be prepared to learn good management skills and must be open to trading new techniques and procedures with fellow volunteers for the good of all involved in sports. With this leadership example, we teach our youth athletes how to effectively manage and administer their own sports clubs and teams, and hence we prepare them for taking over the management of the National Sports Associations when they retire as athletes.

Of course the lack of indoor and outdoor facilities for our many National Sports Associations is an ongoing major challenge and concern. Consequently, the need for the Government of Dominica to form a partnership with National Sport Associations in making land available is very essential. With such assistance from Government, the NAs are in a better position to raise and seek financial assistance to build and maintain facilities from local sponsors, overseas sponsors and International Sport Federations.

With the level of financing now available we must be diligent in our use of grant funding to ensure that development of the sport and athletes is measurable and apparent. Value for money is the order of the day for the sponsors and the National Sports Federations. One feeds off the other to keep the sports business machinery working. Better trained athletes provide better sports entertainment and better sports entertainment attract more spectators who attract more sponsors and finance. Consequently, using the current grant financing available and not delivering improved and developed athlete performances is equivalent to “shooting in our own goal” and “biting the hand that feeds you”. Sport is big business and big business does not survive by making bad investment decisions. Grant funding from sport organizations is an investment decision that must yield an acceptable rate of return for the investor primarily. The investee is secondary and replaceable.

As Sport Administrators, we need to keep these facts in mind as we chart our way forward and endeavour to use sport as tool for the development of our youth physically, mentally and spiritually.

FINANCIAL POSITION

As at December 31, 2007, the Dominica Olympic Committee had cash in the bank in fixed deposits amounting to EC\$237,143 earning interest at a rate of 4.5% per annum to paid at maturity in March 2008; Savings Account balance of \$156,034 earning interest at 4% per annum paid monthly and a balance of \$3,318 in the current account.

The accumulated fund balance stood at \$443,259 represented by Fixed Assets at a Net Book Value of \$6,610 and Current Assets less Current Liabilities at a net total of \$436,649 of which cash represents \$396,595.

The Fixed Deposit funds are still being held for investment in a Dominica Olympic House which will serve as a multi-purpose facility for office space, seminar/meeting space, library/museum and indoor sport facility.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Dominica Olympic Committee Executive Board and affiliate members take this opportunity to place on record their gratitude and sincere thanks for the immense support given to us annually by the International Olympic Committee through their support organizations - Olympic Solidarity and PASO. Special thanks and appreciation must be directed to the President of ANOC and PASO, Mr. Mario Vasquez Rana for his visionary leadership, which makes it possible for so many of us small countries with no other sources of financing to increase our level of participation and performance standards.

We also thank the Government of Dominica for their support to us and our affiliate member National Associations and their athletes and coaches for granting time off for training and providing concessions and financing when possible.

Our thanks goes out to our many local sponsors who consistently assistance in getting our "Olympic Value" messages across during our education and activity projects, in particular, Cable & Wireless and Josephine Gabriel & Co Ltd.

Our heartfelt thanks must also be conveyed to our many volunteers who assist in the managing of the National Associations, training and transporting the athletes and preparing playing facilities and equipment for training sessions and tournaments.

CONCLUSION

Sports Management is becoming a very daunting task with the growing interest by our youth to get involved in sports. It is even more difficult to keep them interested in sports up to their college years and beyond. However, we must keep up with this challenge and use sports, as the effective tool that it can be, to enhance and improve the health and attitude of our limited human resources in Dominica.