

**Brigadier General R.J. Kentish:
Member of the IOC for Great Britain and supporter of early IOC politics
to promote sport for all**

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In 1983 the International Olympic Committee set up a working group to promote the idea of sport for all. Since then, numerous projects have been launched, including the annual Olympic Day Run, the World Sport for All Congress in Rome in 2004 and the 'World Forum on Education through Sport' in Wiesbaden in 2002. It is not the aim of this presentation to critically analyse these initiatives of the IOC or of its respective commissions. The focus of the research is on how the IOC was already pursuing the goal of promoting 'sport for all' in the 1920 and 1930s. It is largely assumed that the IOC did not deal much with this issue in the first decades of the 20th Century. Evidence for this could be seen in Pierre de Coubertin's resignation as president of the IOC in 1925. Coubertin explained his decision in terms of his disappointment concerning the IOC's ineffective dealing with educational aspects of sport.

Of course, at the time the mainstream of the politics of the IOC was not concerned with promoting Coubertin's vision to develop useful and widely available urban sport facilities for the mass of city dwellers. Historical research has largely neglected the role that the IOC played in launching the Playing Fields Sub-Commission in 1925 with the goal of developing guidelines for the provision of urban playing fields. The idea of setting up such a commission was first and foremost developed by Brigadier General R.J. Kentish. In the presentation, biographical data on Kentish will be presented followed by a critical analyse of the success of the IOC's Playing Fields Sub-Commission.

Key words: Pierre de Coubertin, Henri de Baillet-Latour, Brigadier General R.J. Kentish, Olympic pyramid, IOC's Playing Fields Sub-Commission, Olympic Congress in Berlin in 1930, Olympic Review, IOC's world survey on playing fields