

ROBERT DOVER, Dr WILLIAM BROOKES AND ALL THE OLYMPIC GAMES

INTRODUCTION

Sport contains common elements of now ritualised behaviour which can be explained best in terms of the hunter-gatherer cultures existing up to 10,000 years ago. In this respect all sport can claim pagan roots, but it has really been a continual process of adapting old actions to new situations, and it is dangerous to imply any continuity in the ideas. Despite the modern developments, sport is not necessarily competitive. Lewis Carroll's "Dodo's Caucus Race" where everybody won and all had prizes was intended to shock Victorians into a wider realisation. The older meaning included fun, entertainment and games, and embraced the Morris when it appeared. The Olympic ideal of the classical era had brought the local Greek cultures together, as expressed in a number of annual festivals, and they grew to encompass many athletic, equestrian and artistic events. The rediscovery of the classical world from the late Renaissance onwards led to the recurring interest in them in modern times. There have been three great contributors to the movement, Robert Dover in the Cotswolds, Dr William Brookes at Much Wenlock and Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the inspiration of the Modern Olympiads, whose achievements over a three hundred year span are linked, and who are in danger of being forgotten.

DOVER'S LIFE

Robert Dover was born in 1582, seventeen years after Shakespeare, the son of John Dover of Great Ellingham, in a family of Norfolk minor gentry, a number of whom moved to the area between Chipping Campden and Evesham. He studied at Gray's Inn during 1604-5. In Elizabethan times the Inns of Court had emerged as combined finishing schools and law academies for the sons of gentry and wealthy yeomen. By 1610 he had become the second husband of Sibella Sanford of Stow-on-the-Wold, the daughter of Rev. William Cole (d.1600), a Dean of Lincoln, and the widow of a Bristol merchant. At first they lived at Saintsbury, over the Cotswold edge from Chipping Campden, where Dover, a barrister, practiced as an attorney. It was reputed that Saintsbury then had a cherry fair and that also the local plums were made into a drink called "Plum Jerkin". In 1613 they were in Chipping Campden, and then at Childwickham, just west of Saintsbury, where, amongst other things, from 1623 he was Steward of the Manor of Wickhamford, a little to the north near Evesham. They had two daughters and two sons, one of whom died after four months. He was probably created a Royalist Army Captain during the Civil War, despite his age. Robert was buried on 24th July 1652 at Barton-on-the-Heath where his son John lived, just east of Moreton-in-the-Marsh, and his wife was buried in June 1653.

A grandson, Dr Thomas Dover (1660-1742) was born in Warwickshire, who invented "Dover's Powders", a mixture of opium, ipecacuanha and sulphate of potash, a sedative still in use in the nineteenth century. However his published works contained little else of value. He had an exaggerated estimation of the value of mercury as a remedy. Unexpectedly he went as second in command on a privateering voyage around the world, starting in August 1708, which rescued shipwrecked Alexander Selkirk from Juan Fernandez on 2nd February 1709,

where he had been for four years and four months and who then lived on at home for another thirteen years, becoming the model for Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe". Defoe met him at the home of the daughter of Nathaniel Wade, who had gained a pardon after being an officer in the Monmouth Rebellion by writing the narrative of that event from the inside for James II.

THE BEGINNING OF THE COTSWOLD GAMES

Dover and his friends of the Inns of Court and of the stage in Jacobean London, in so far as they had any aim beyond that of just enjoying themselves, sought to keep the imagined lingering spirit of rural medieval England alive by both reviving and modernising its country sports and pastimes. This meant for them at that period relating these to classical mythology and the Renaissance culture, whilst also linking them with the English throne and the King's Protestant Church. Dover's interpretation of the "Olympick Games" probably opened about 1612. The games were in effect a counter against the growing influence of Puritanism. Dover probably took over games which had been celebrated for some years as a joint Whitsun Ale and jollification for the parishes of Weston-sub-Edge and Chipping Campden. Their boundaries met along the ancient path, now the Cotswold Way, passing near the Kiftsgate stone, once the meeting point for the neighbourhood's Saxon Hundred Moot and at which the Kings of England were proclaimed locally. By attempting to combine the then ideas of the Olympic events of ancient Greece with the activities of the Cotswold Whitsun Ales and by enlarging and organising the games, Dover created a unique festival which made Chipping Campden famous throughout the Shires and even at Court.

The general policy of King James I was confirmed in his *Book of Sports* of 1618 and reaffirmed in 1633 by Charles I,

And as for our good people's recreation; our pleasure likewise is that after the end of Divine Service, Our Good People be not disturbed or letted or discouraged from any lawful recreation, such as Dancing, Archery, Leaping, Vaulting, or any other harmless recreations; nor from having May games, Whitsun Ales, and Morris dances; and the setting up of Maypoles and other sports therewith used, so as the same shall be had in due and convenient time, without impediment or neglect of Divine Service.

Dover's friends included Ben Johnson and his sometimes employer Endymion Porter, born at Mickleton in 1587. After living in Spain between 1606 and 1612 he was able to purchase the old family estate at Aston-sub-Edge but he seldom stayed there. Porter was a poet and a groom of the bed chamber to the future king and as a great patron of the Arts played an important part later in forming Charles I's great collection of pictures. Through his position at Court in the service of the half brother of George Villiers, the King's favourite, later created Duke of Buckingham, Porter was able to obtain not only James' leave for the Games with the help of Sir Baptist Hicks, but was given a hat and feather and ruff and other clothes cast off by the King, and in these Dover used to dress when he rode on the hill officiating at the games.

They were supposedly attended by nobility and gentry from as far away as sixty miles. It is believed that Prince Rupert of the Rhine, Charles I's to be famous

nephew, attended the Cotswold Games in 1636, when aged eighteen, attended by Endymion Porter. Sir Baptist Hicks was a financier to whom James I and his court were nearly all deeply in debt. His mother is said to have invested in Drake's Round-the-World voyage. Hicks came to Campden in 1610 soon after it had received its new royal charter, buying the manor, and as owner of Weston Park on the edge above Saintsbury he provided Campden with major new buildings, such as the manor house, the market hall and the almshouses. Finally he was created Viscount Campden of Campden and Baron Hicks of Ilmington in 1628 the year before he died aged 78 at the Old Jewry in London, which is by the Guildhall, and, surprisingly, not at his London home of Campden House in Kensington.

THE "ANNALIA"

There was a steady literary interest in the games partly because of the possible connection with Shakespeare but also because of the book *Annalia Dubrensis* containing thirty three poems which was written over a number of years, with contributions from poets, friends, relatives and admirers of Dover of which the first edition was published in 1636. It was reprinted by his grandson Thomas Dover in 1736, but then not again until 1877 by Dr A B Grosart and then in 1878 by E R Vyvyan. However except for the following there is very little mention of dance or of any form of the Morris.

William Durham (1611-1684), third son of John Durham of Willersey, two miles from Dover's Hill, and who married the daughter of the Royalist vicar of Campden in 1633.

"In honour of the place they leape on high,
and friske and dance for joy they are so nigh!"

"And maydens measured galliards on the greene"

"Which from the woods did walke into the plaine,
There dance a jig, and so return againe."

Thomas Randolph (1605-1635), poet and playwright.

"From this same beech to yonder mulberry,
A second leapt, his supple nerves to try,
A third was practising his melody,
This a new jig was footing."

"These teach that dancing is a Jezebel
and Barley Brake the ready way to hell,
The Morrice, idols; Whitsun-ales can be
but profane relics of a Jubilee!"

"The country lass, although her dance be good,
Stirs not another's galliard in the blood."

THE COTSWOLD GAMES UNDER DOVER

The Games were began on the Thursday of Whit week and lasted two days. Dover usually opened them by riding up on his white horse to a portable pivoted castle built of boards that he had had erected on the hill and then firing off a salvo from the castle's mimic battery of small cannons. Prizes of value were given, such as a silver "salt" for the racing in the form of a model of the castle. Yellow silken ribbons known as "Dover's Favours" were sold and worn as a compliment. Anthony a Wood in *Athenae Oxonienses* in 1691 said that five hundred of the gentry wore such favours the year after one celebration. At this time the whole of the top of Dover's Hill, known as Kingcombe Plain until the nineteenth century, was unenclosed land, a great flat open plateau of five hundred acres within the parish of Weston-sub-Edge but extending south towards Broadway. It was ideal for the steeple chasing that was becoming fashionable and which throughout the Games' history remained the major attraction. Shakespeare's much quoted words from the *Merry Wives of Windsor*,

... How does your fallow greyhound, sir? I heard say he was outrun
on Cotsall ...

might well refer to Dover's Games as they appeared in the first folio edition of 1623, but had not been in the quarto of 1602. The games could have continued no later than 1643, as they were halted, possibly at the instigation of Campden's puritan minister, William Bartholomew. The early Civil War battle at Edgehill in October 1642 was less than twenty miles away. The antiquary and diarist Richard Symonds (1617-1692) writing during the King's Army's retreat from Evesham to Oxford on 17th June 1644 said, in an account published by the Campden Society in 1859,

... Over the Cotswold Downes, where Dover's Games were ...

The last open battle of the Civil War was fought up the slopes of Dover's Hill at Saintsbury as the start of what became known later as the battle of Stow, on the 21st March 1646.

Robert Dover's surviving son John, was born in 1614, married in 1639, moved to Barton-on-the-Heath 1604-1, and died in 1696, having been a captain of horse under Prince Rupert during the civil war and a captain of the local militia for a period after the Restoration.

THE REVIVAL OF THE COTSWOLD GAMES

The Rev. William Thomas recorded about 1730 that in Ilmington there was also still kept an annual feast on 21st September, incidentally known as St Matthew's day, set up by the "mobbish" people for wrestling and other masculine exercises from about the year 1650.

The Campden Games were revived again after the Restoration of 29th May 1660, although the actual year is unknown, and they continued with varying degrees of popularity and success for nearly two hundred years until 1852, when, largely by the influence of Canon Bourne the rector of Weston-sub-Edge, they were finally stopped.

In the Gloucester Journal of May 1725 there is an advertisement for the Games mentioning wrestling, back-sword, and men and women dancing jigs for prizes of shoes.

In 1736 the parson of Stow-on-the-Wold complained in *A Serious Dissuasive Against Whitsun Ales*,

These sports are attended usually with ridiculous gestures and acts of folly and buffoonery, but children's play, and what therefore grown-up persons should be ashamed of ... What I have now been desiring you to consider as touching the evil and pernicious consequences of Whitsun Ales among us doth also obtain against Dover's Meetings and other noted places of publick resort of this nature in the country.

William Somerville (1675-1742), a highly cultured gentleman published in 1740 his poem, *Hobbinol, or the Rural Games*. Its main interest is the vivid description it gives of the atmosphere of Dover's Games.

In 1773, the Rev. Richard Graves "the younger" (1715-1804) poet and novelist of Mickleton, aged 57, published *The Spiritual Quixote* (reprinted by OUP in 1967) a satire on the Methodists of his day drafted about 1758 . Graves imagines his hero Wildgoose and his rural friend and assistant Tugwell, setting out to convert the world and very early in his mission going to Dover's Games. The account of the scene gives an idea of the taste and flavour of an eighteenth century country gathering, being no better or no worse than any other.

They now approached the place of the rendezvous, where the revel was held; which was a large plain on the Cotswold-hills. Their ears were saluted with a confused noise of drums, trumpets, and whistle-pipes; not those martial sounds, however, which are heard in the field of battle; but such as those harmless instruments emit, with which children amuse themselves in a country fair. There was a great number of swains in their holiday-cloaths, with their belts and silk handkerchiefs; and nymphs in straw hats and tawdry ribbands, flaunting, ogling, and coquetting (in their rustic way) with as much alacrity, as any of the gay flutterers in the Mall.

A ring was formed about the wrestlers and cudgel-players, by the substantial farmers on their long-tailed steeds, and two or three forlorn coaches [were] sauntering about with their vapourish possessors: who crept out from their neighbouring seats - to contemplate the humours of these aukward rustics, and waste an hour of their tedious month in the *country*; where (as a great modern observes) *small matters serve for amusement*.

... they were refreshing themselves ... when the company began to divide; and proclamation was made, that a holland shift, which was adorned with ribbands, and displayed on a pole, was going to be run for; and six young women began to exhibit themselves before the whole assembly, in a dress hardly reconcilable to the rules of decency.

... a shrewd young carter (with a silk handkerchief about his neck) ... thinking that this harangue would spoil the diversion, which they were now intent upon, he threw the rind of an orange at the orator's head. Another levelled a piece of horse-dung (with an unlucky dexterity) exactly into Tugwell's mouth ... Their example was followed by a great part of the company; who began to bombard then furiously with clods of dirt and horse-dung ... One of them titling up the form on which Tugwell was exalted, laid him sprawling in the moisture, occasioned by the staling of horses, or spilling of the liquor; where he lay wallowing for some time, being saluted with several bumps and jostles in contrary directions; which prevented his emerging from the slippery soil.

They met Morris dancers when near Gloucester as they retreated from the games.

Those who are acquainted with this sort of morrice-dance must know that they are usually attended with one character called the Tom Fool: who like the clown in the pantomime, seems to burlesque upon all the rest. His fool's cap has a fox's tail depending like a ramillie whig; and instead of the small bells which others wear on their legs, he had a great sheep-bell hung to his back-side. Whilst the company therefore were all attentive to the preacher, this buffoon contrived to slip the fool's cap upon Tugwell's head, and to fix the sheep-bell to his rump. Which [he] no sooner perceived, than his choler arose, and spitting in his hands, and clenching his fists, he gave the Tom-fool a swinging blow in the face. The Fool, having more wit than courage, endeavoured to escape amongst the crowd. Tugwell pursued him in great rage, with the sheep-bell at his tail; the ridiculous sound of which, forming a sort of contrast to the wrath in [his] countenance, caused a great deal of loud mirth amongst the company.

THE SLOW DECLINE OF THE COTSWOLD GAMES

Towards the end of the eighteenth century the games seem to have declined. Samuel Rudder, topographer, (d.1801) in *A New History of Gloucestershire*, of 1779, merely stated,

... there is still a meeting of young people upon Dover's Hill, about a mile from Chipping Campden, every Thursday in Whit week.

A similar sentiment is in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1797.

Dover's Games were no doubt still pretty rough and disorderly, but they were part of the eighteenth century way of life, and an important and essential part, as also were events such as the urban public executions at which large crowds of people of all classes gathered, without the control of constables, and before the police existed. The sports were drawn from, according to later advertisements, in alphabetical order, bull-baiting, card games and chess in the tents, cock-fighting, coursing the hare with greyhounds, basket handled cudgel, back-sword and single-stick bouts, dancing by women, football and handball, handling the pike, hunting the hare with hounds, leapfrog, leaping, music, pitching or throwing the bar or hammer, quintain, quoits, racing on foot and running in sacks, shin kicking, shovel-board, skittles, walking on hands and wrestling.

According to Miss Edith Brill, for shin-kicking the two contestants had iron plates on the toes of their boots and, holding each other by the shoulders with outstretched arms, kicked at each other's shins until one was obliged to give in. Contestants hardened their shins with malt vinegar and a blacksmith's hammer. The back-sword fighting was equally brutal, in a celebrated fight between Spyles of Mickleton and Nezy Plested of Campden, one man lost an eye and the other died from his injuries.

Although all this emphasises the sporting aspect, Sir William Denny (d.1676, a contemporary at Gray's Inn, suggested in his *Annalia* contribution that Dover had provided a "Homeric" harpist to give the Games an Olympic character and to attract the gentry.

In Campden the early nineteenth century continued as in the past with the slow revolving year and the annual event of Dover's Games, with its crowds, junketings and confusions. A poster exists from 1806 showing that they were chiefly conducted on the initiative of the Campden Innkeepers, notably William Drury of the Swan Inn, who appeared to be responsible for bookings, entries, stalls etc.

In 1818 the poster proclaimed,

The high estimation in which this truly laudable Festival is held (being so famed for the celebrated Olympic Games) is fully evinced by its having been the Admiration of every true and undesigning Briton for more than two Centuries, and is now patronised by the Noble Heroes of the present age, and by every well wisher for the prosperity of the British Empire.

That year's event included a back-sword match for twelve guineas, wrestling for a silver cup, a pony race for a handsome prize and horse racing for a sweepstake of five guineas each with thirty pounds added. The new world of piety, self-improvement and progress was yet to come!

Hunting, coursing and shooting and the annual Dover's Games were the recreation of the gentry and some of the larger farmers, although the district around Campden seems to have lost the fashionable repute that it had in the eighteenth century for sport and social interactions. Of the meeting held in 1826, *The Mirror* (No.197 of 27th May 1826) referred to the Games and a reply (No.199 of 10th June) wrote that,

... although it is not countenanced by persons of rank and consequence as it was some half century ago.

It is still a great holiday for all the lads and lasses within ten to fifteen miles of the place, and is attended by numbers of gentry and people of respectability in the neighbourhood.

The same writer described the Cotswold Morris dancers as,

... spruce lads sprigged up in their Sunday clothes, with ribbons round their hats and arms, and bells on their legs, and they were attended by a jester called Tom Fool, who carried a long stick with a bladder tied to

it, with which he buffeted about to make room for the dancers, while one of the best looking of the men was selected to carry a large plum cake, a long sword run through the middle of it, the cake resting on the hilt. On the point of the sword is a large bunch of ribbons with streamers, and a large knife stuck in the cake, and when the young man sees a favourite lass he gives her a slice.

THE COMING OF THE RAILWAYS TO THE SOUTH MIDLANDS

The coming of the railways was an event which it was claimed caused much local disturbance. Such intrusion of large numbers of "navigators" brought a fresh element of disorder and lawlessness into the district. Shops, public houses and bookmakers benefited, but Dover's Games supposedly became more and more rowdy as they were attended by larger and larger crowds. A railway station was opened on the Midland Railway's Bristol to Birmingham line at Ashchurch in 1845 about twelve to thirteen miles away. The Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton Railway obtained its Act on 4th August 1845. Although it became part of the West Midland Railway on 1st July 1860 and of the Great Western Railway on 1st August 1863, it remained known locally as the "Old Worse and Worse" because of the quality of its service. Dr A B Grosart in the introduction to his edition of the *Annalia* of 1877 said that during the five years 1846-52 that the Mickleton Tunnel was in progress, a body of navvies converted the gathering into a riotous and dangerous assembly. Such stories are not supported by local police records. In 1851 a dispute between the tunnel contractor Marchant and the line's engineer Brunel led to a "battle" at the tunnel involving a few thousand men, magistrates, several readings of the Riot Act, and finally the intervention of troops from Coventry. With the opening of the railway from Oxford to Wolverhampton and Birmingham on the 4th June 1853, it was claimed that the Games became more the resort of the toughs and undesirables from as far away as the Black Country. From the beginning of the railways, excursions were run, even if there was still a long walk by today's standards at the end of it.

Another relevant line in the area was the Evesham and Redditch, whose bill was gained in 1863 and which opened in September 1866, but the later Evesham, Redditch and Stratford-on-Avon Junction from Broom Junction and running through Bidford did not open until June 1879, well after the games had stopped.

THE NEVER ENDING STORY and THE COTSWOLD MORRIS

E R Vyvyan in his 1878 edition of the *Annalia* said that the Games became the trysting place of all the lowest scum of the population which lived in the districts lying between Birmingham and Oxford. Sometime before 1851, the Rev. G D Bourne, later a Canon, who was a magistrate and the wealthy and powerful Rector of Weston-sub-Edge from 1846 until 1901, claimed to have seen over 30,000 at one of the gatherings and was much concerned at the drunkenness and the general licence that prevailed. To stop it, an enclosure act for the Weston-sub-Edge parish was obtained in 1853-4, progressed from 1849 with the help of the Earl of Harrowby who owned the common land and open fields. Chipping Campden had already been enclosed in 1799. The hill was divided into fields and ploughed, leaving no space big enough for the crowds or the steeplechases and athletic events. So the last official meeting was probably in the summer of 1852.

The advertisement for 1852 mentioned dancing for ribbons, but this is unlikely to have been a Morris competition. However the Cotswold Morris was present in the 1850's. There appeared to have been meetings at Stow-on-the-Wold beforehand for sides to compete for the right to dance on Dover's Hill at which the winning side would be allowed to sell the yellow Dover's favours. At one of the last celebrations the team from Guiting Power competed with four other sides, Sherborne among them, as to who should have the right to stay on the hill for the day and won the contest, so claimed Charles Danley. The MS history of Chipping Campden written by Mr John Horne in 1898, said that the last year the meeting was held the Morris dancers came from Longborough together with one or two old Campden dancers. Competitions at Stow were so popular that they continued for some years after their primary purpose had ceased. They were described apparently by the Young Bledington dancers present at the feast during the Stow-on-the-Wold Ring Meeting in 1938, according to interviews with attendees, although surprisingly and uncharacteristically no written record of what was said appears to have survived.

The stopping after 200 years at about the same time of the septennial Woodstock Ale in 1851, the Dover's Games in 1852, the Kirtlington Lamb Ale in 1860, and the Whit Hunt near Witney following the Wychwood Forest enclosure, removed some of the motivation for the continuance of the Cotswold Morris, which was now going into serious decline.

The Games had not only occupied Dover's Hill, in Campden there were cock fights, plays and balls and a wake on the Saturday with booths, stalls and roundabouts. These continued and by 1887 this side had expanded to be known as Scuttlebrook Wake, after the Cattle or Scuttle Brook which then ran down the middle of Leysbourne into a large pool at the junction of Church St and High St. But the older custom on the hill had died hard, for late in the nineteenth century there were still gatherings of young people for sports and games, either on what there was of open space or on the Mile Drive, which was probably part of the old race course.

Dover's Hill was threatened with development as a hotel site in the 1920's and its was saved by the artist F L Griggs, who had settled in Campden in 1904 and did much to preserve the local scene. He bid against speculators at the auction and gained it for £4000. Over the next two years richer friends, among them the historian Dr G M Trevelyan, bought it from him and handed it over to the National Trust in 1929. There is now a commemorative plaque on the hill. For the Festival of Britain in 1951 there was a special celebration on the hill and by 1966 they were regular occasions on the Friday evening before the Wake with races, bands, fireworks, culminating in a torch lit procession to the town led by a horse riding "Robert Dover" in seventeenth century dress and ending with general dancing in the square. The Scuttlebrook Fair continues today on the Saturday after the Spring Bank Holiday with a carnival procession, a May Queen and the local Morris dancers.

OVER TO MUCH WENLOCK

The tiny medieval market town of Wenlock, beneath the wooded Wenlock Edge, was the first non-county borough to be granted borough status in 1468, sending

members to parliament until 1885. Its prosperity over the centuries depended on various trades from copper and coal, to malting, tanning and clay pipe making and then to lime and limestone quarrying. There was a time when there were more than thirty inns, public and ale houses for under two thousand people. Dancing had been a popular relaxation, for many hours at a time with considerable gusto according to local newspapers, and there are references to gypsy fiddlers providing lively music.

Dr William Penny Brookes, a local surgeon and from 1841 a magistrate and commissioner for roads and taxes at Much Wenlock, had considerable impact on Wenlock throughout the last century. Born in Wilmore Street, Much Wenlock, where now is Lloyds Bank, during 1809 to a local GP, he trained at both Guys and St Thomas's hospitals in London, Paris and Padua, and after working in Stourport, joined his father's practice in 1831 and eventually took it over. He could ride up to 70 miles a day seeing patients.

He was involved with the restoration of the Council Chamber in 1849, and the building of the Corn Exchange by public subscription in 1852, as well as in the provision of other amenities, such as the local introduction of town and domestic lighting by the Wenlock Gas Company in 1856 being a founding director, the arrival of the railway as the secretary from 1861 of the Much Wenlock and Severn Junction Railway, and the installation of public sewerage and water systems.

By the mid nineteenth century it was considered that the amount of drinking and roistering in the town was excessive and projects for the poor were started, including a library and reading room opened in 1841, of which Brookes was the first president, and the encouragement of athletics.

... the inhabitants of this neighbourhood ... will be provided with a good library of well selected useful and improving works, which will furnish abundant rational recreation to the general reader, contain an ample store of scientific information ... and prove of practical value to the Agriculturist, the Mechanic and Artificer ...

Dr Brookes appears to have been an archetypal country squire, dedicated to suppressing the perceived vice in his neighbourhood by creating a festival to substitute for the older and supposedly less uplifting expressions of village gaiety. He was an admirer of the better aspects of the Cotswold Games concept, which combined classic Greek prowess and the sporting heritage of rural England, and he started a local event on these lines in October 1850. It grew from an Olympic Class as a subsidiary organisation or "class" of the Wenlock Agricultural Reading Society. Only later did it become a separate organisation, the Wenlock Olympian Society. In 1850 the committee book expressed its aims as,

... the promotion of the moral, physical and intellectual improvement of the inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood of Wenlock, and especially the working classes, by the encouragement of outdoor recreation and by the award of prizes annually, at public meetings, for skill in athletic exercises and proficiency in intellectual and industrial attainments.

At the very beginning the sports were strong on the rustic side, including fourteen a side football and cricket, quoits, blindfold wheelbarrow pushing,

chasing a pig around the town, a jingling match, a game of prison base, and old women running for a pound of tea. Most of these were dropped by 1860, but the popular tilting on horseback was introduced in 1858. This involved spearing a small ring, suspended from a bar over the course, of only about one and half inches diameter. There were running races even for under sevens.

In the period 1860-1870 the crowds were perhaps up to 10,000 strong. Some events were open to all comers. By 1870 the programme had developed to be more like a modern athletics meeting with recognised track and field events and top flight national athletes were being attracted. Fairness was often achieved by handicapping. In 1868 the pentathlon was added. Mentioned as pentathlon tasks were the long and high jump, putting a 32 lb stone shot with each hand and climbing a seventy foot rope. In 1878 there was a one mile hurdle race. Through the 1870's and 1880's the prestige events were competed for and often won by outsiders, not surprisingly predominately members of the Birmingham Athletic Club.

Naturally dancing did not feature highly in the sports being encouraged, but arrangements were made for it as a relaxation during the Games. In 1876 the admission charge for the dancing area enclosure was 6d.

THE DAY AT THE EARLY WENLOCK OLYMPIC GAMES

The early Games started with a speech by Dr Brookes and then a procession from the town centre by the Gaskell Arms to the racecourse to the south east, named the Olympian Fields for the day, remembered now only by Racecourse Lane. Streets were decked in greenery and tributes to officers of the Society. Until its centenary in 1950 it was always a one day event. In 1890,

The morning rendezvous was at one of the two inns, the Raven or the Gaskell Arms. There the procession was formed. The Herald came first on horseback, wearing a richly embroidered shoulder belt and a red velvet cap with white feathers, and carrying the banner of the association. Behind him were the committee and the officers and the Wenlock band playing a march. Then the school children singing hymns and casting flowers from their baskets and last the yeoman and the tilters riding their horses and bearing on their uniforms the association badge. Through the streets gaily decorated with flags and flower wreaths the procession would make its way toward the "Olympian field" where another kind of ceremony was entered upon.

The playing ground was beautiful for its setting, its grass tracks for foot races and equestrian sports, its cricket and lawn tennis grounds, its large and comfortable stands, its open-air swimming tank and its dancing lawn.

But what makes it charming and unlike any other athletic field is the row of rare and beautiful trees that surrounds it. These have been solemnly dedicated to distinguished guests or to persons of high rank on some noteworthy occasion. The dedication of a tree was the ordinary prologue of the celebration: short speeches were delivered, a hymn was sung, and the champagne was poured on the tree out of a

large silver drinking cup that used to go round afterwards from lip to lip of the officers of the day. Then the cortege was resumed and marched toward the grand stand in front of which the sports were to take place.

These were a motley lot, including tilting at the ring, for which all the plucky young farmers of the neighbourhood are always ready to enter their names, and tent pegging, an exercise popular in India, besides racing, cricket and lawn tennis. Brookes he noted was not without admiration for the Athenians, save for one thing, they lacked *galanterie*, allowing no woman into the stadium. This injury to the beauty and charm of the fair sex the old gentleman resented deeply. Not feeling satisfied with giving the ladies the best seats at the Wenlock festival, he had forced upon his countrymen the queer custom of having the champion tilter crowned with laurels by a lady. After the title of champion for the coming year had been solemnly proclaimed by the herald, the winner was ordered to kneel down before the lady who had accepted the duty of crowning him and to kiss her hand.

The scene was indeed strange because of its derivation from three very different forms of civilisation. The dress and the speeches were modern; the use of laurels and the quotations from Greek authors inscribed on the flags and banderoles were antique; the latter part of the ceremony was a homage paid to medieval ideas and theories.

Victory odes were read and the winners were presented with olive crowns and elaborate medals. After the competitions there was a procession back to the town, again led by a band, followed by a formal dinner. The Herald's costume, supposedly modelled on one of Henry VIII's time, appeared in 1867, obtained from a London theatre, and now the original is on display in the local museum. He rode a white horse. The shops shut for the day and the streets were decorated with flags and greenery.

THE OUTSIDE CONTACTS OF BROOKES AND THE SOCIETY

Brookes tried and failed to export this idea. He wrote to the Mayors of all the boroughs in England in 1860 enclosing a copy of the Wenlock Games programme "with a view of promoting the formation of similar societies throughout the kingdom". Olympian festivals under the same regulations took place in Birmingham, Shrewsbury (1861) and Wellington but no regular movement had started and they did not catch on. However it was brought to the attention of the Greek Government and Royalty through the Greek Charge de Affaires in London, J Gennadius, by 1880.

... as a Greek I can but feel indebted to you that you combine with this idea the project of a revival of the Olympic Games ... I believe that you will find a very sympathetic response in Greece.

The Greek newspaper *Clio* in June 1881 reported,

Dr Brookes, this enthusiastic Philhellene is endeavouring to organise an International Olympian Festival, to be held in Athens ...

Brookes sent a silver decoration, as awarded to victors at Wenlock, and a silver belt clasp to Queen Amilia, or Amalie on the eve of her husband King Otho's dethronement in 1862 whilst on holiday. Medals featured the figure of Nike, the goddess of victory. King Otho, an unpopular German prince, was the son of Louis I of Bavaria and was selected in 1832 by an International Congress to rule the Greeks.

Active in athletic and physical education organisations throughout his life, he remained in contact with the Olympic pioneers in Greece and was a leading member of the National Olympian Association founded in 1865, together with John Hulley of Liverpool and E Ravenstein of the German Gymnastic Society of London. It was intended that it should be "a centre of union for the many gymnastic, athletic, olympian and similar clubs rapidly springing up all over the country". The first meeting was at the Crystal Palace in 1866 and it was a success, attracting 10,000 spectators. In 1877, the successor King of the Hellenes, George I, sent a large silver cup or urn to Brookes as a trophy for the pentathlon at the Shrewsbury meeting of the NOA Games. King George was the son of Christian IX of Denmark, a brother of Queen Alexandra of England, and had married a Russian princess Olga. The British Government presented Greece with seven Ionian islands which had been long taken from the Turks.

Five more meetings were held but they faded from the national stage after the last at Hadley in 1883. The Association was obscured by the success of the more influential Amateur Athletics Club, later in 1880 to become the AAA, the creation of powerful London establishment figures and Oxford and Cambridge athletes, set up in reaction to the NOA and stealing its thunder by organising its own championships ahead of the NOA's.

Dr Brookes died in 1895 when aged 86. There is a memorial stone up on the front of the restored Corn Exchange, now the public library. Throughout his life he campaigned for the inclusion of physical education in school curricula and demonstrated its value with the children at the Much Wenlock National School. The Wenlock Society petitioned Parliament on three occasions, while Brookes wrote to Gladstone and other notables numerous times. Just before his death came the news that the Board of Education was to give grants to incorporate physical exercises, drill and gymnastics into school curricula, something he had advocated for nearly half a century. This step was exploited later by Cecil Sharp to introduce Morris and folk dance into schools before WW I.

THE WENLOCK GAMES AND THE REMINDERS TODAY

Brooke's pioneer agricultural lending library was in the Corn Exchange in the centre of the town where the county library branch is now situated. The local museum, originally the Market Hall and then the War Memorial Hall, has a current exhibition recording some of the early history of the games and showing examples of medals and cups awarded in the past. Dr Brookes kept documents and made scrapbooks and formed a photographic collection. The current Wenlock Olympic Society now holds very extensive records.

The Much Wenlock Games continued annually until the First World War, the 63rd WOG were on May 13th 1913, and then at intervals until the 1960's, being

restarted after WWII in 1950 to celebrate their centenary. Their last revival was in 1977, largely due to the efforts of the current secretary Mr Norman Wood of Homer, born in 1922, assisted more recently by his daughter Jan of The Bakery Shop in the High Street. It has developed to include a carnival procession with floats and a carnival queen. The 1994 event attracted around 2000 athletes to the William Brookes Secondary School and Sports Hall and the adjacent Linden Playing Fields to the north of the town. Survival of the event depends on volunteers and local business sponsorships and its income is largely from entry fees and the sale of refreshments from the cricket club pavilion. Today everyone is given a commemorative medal for taking part and winners receive a modest voucher which can be exchanged for sports equipment. Races for the disabled have been included since 1981.

The three day event in 1990, the centenary of Coubertin's visit, was filmed by a local man Malcolm Brown. There were about 2000 competitors, with races for under nines, minors, under elevens, intermediates and seniors.

The sports are now usually a full weekend in early July, in 1995 they were on the 8/9th, with the cricket match two weeks later. There are associated events, such as a best Dressed Shop Window competition, a Live Arts festival in March and an Annual show of Art, Handicrafts, Produce, Cookery and Photography in the Priory Hall during the Saturday before the Games weekend.

THE GREEK LINK

The first recorded Olympic Game victory was in Mycenaean times in 776 BC and the last in 385 AD, with possibly the final and 293rd Olympiad in 393 AD, stopped by the Roman Emperor Theodosius I, the first Christian Emperor of Rome, thinking to crush paganism by abolishing pagan rites. But they might have continued until 426 AD when the Temple of Zeus was burnt down at the edict of Theodosius II. There was a widely supported circuit of national Panhellenic Games in or opposite the Peloponnese. The first named winner was Coroibos of Elis, a cook, and the first king of Elis, Aethlius, gave us the modern word athlete.

<i>Games</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Dedication</i>	<i>Wreath/Garland</i>
Olympic	Olympia	Midsummer	Zeus	Wild Olive
Pythian	Delphi	Midsummer	Apollo	Laurel
Nemean	North-East	Summer	Zeus	Fig-Wort
Isthmian	Isthmus of Corinth	Spring	Poseidon	Fir

The prizes were insignificant compared to the fame and glory. Interestingly winners had wool ribbons tied around their head, arms and legs as a mark of victory, and there was a public banquet.

Olympia was a sacred place near the western coast, not near Mt. Olympus which was far away in Thessaly. The games were timed so that the central day coincided with the second or third full moon after the summer solstice, in mid-August or mid-September.

The original Olympia Stadium was plundered in the fourth century and suffered two major earthquakes in the sixth which toppled temple columns and diverted the river Kladeos to destroy half the gymnasium, and in the late Middle Ages the river Alpheios washed away all of the hippodrome and covering the rest with 4 meters of silt, so that its exact location became a mystery to all but the local inhabitants. Its "rediscovery" at the start of the nineteenth century could not be exploited because of the general turmoil caused by the Greek wars of independence. Yet again the site was plundered, as was customary for that time, by the French in 1829. But the Germans began serious archaeology on the site and publishing on the historic games in the period from 1875 to 1881, and again from 1936.

The events were, in order of introduction, the short foot-race (776 BC), double length foot-race (724 BC), long distance foot-race (720 BC), pentathlon and wrestling (708 BC), boxing (688 BC), four-horse chariot-race (680 BC), all-in wrestling and horse-race (648 BC), foot-race and wrestling for boys (632 BC), boxing for boys (616 BC), race in armour (520 BC), mule-cart race (500-444 BC), two-horse chariot-race (408 BC), a **competition for the heralds and trumpeters** (396 BC), chariot-races for teams of four colts (384 BC), chariot-racing for teams of two colts (268 BC), races for colts (256 BC), all-in wrestling for boys (200 BC).

The sprint over 600 Olympic feet (192.28 m) was both the oldest and most prestigious event and the following four years in the Olympic cycle were usually named after the winner. At first it was run on a level stretch of ground with a line drawn in the sand to start, giving our term "starting from scratch". Then the stadium was built about 350 BC. The pentathlon events were a 4 kg discus, jumping, javelin hurling, running and wrestling, all in one afternoon. The discus throwers went for style and grace but without foot travel, only body rotation, the javelin throwers were assisted by a leather thong wound round the middle of the shaft that spun and stabilised it, and the long jump was a standing leap made with the assistance of hand held weights. At first these were shaped like our recent telephone receivers.

Married women and slaves were not allowed to compete or witness the Games. There were separate games in honour of Hera with only a foot-race, 500 Olympic feet (160.23) m long, for girls in three separate age bands. The men competed nude from 720 BC.

The full Greek games were actually wanton and bloody affairs, but this was conveniently ignored in the nineteenth century arguments for a revival. The new inspiration became more than just a literary mention in the eighteenth century and several serious suggestions were made for some such modern celebration. One was by Major Evangelhos Zappas, a grain dealer who had made his fortune in what is now Romania, who in 1858 offered King Otho of Greece a large endowment for the restoration of the Games. These Games were held in Place Louis, a square on Athen's outskirts, one Sunday in November 1859, and included such oddities as wrestling on the ground, discus throw for height, rope climbing, throwing a javelin at a steer's head, and a tug-of-war. He bequeathed his fortune to give the so called Zappeion to Athens. The Wenlock Society sent £10 prize money for the 1859 games, the winner of which was made an honorary member of the Wenlock Olympian Society. This WENLOCK PRIZE went to the winner of the "Long or Sevenfold Race". There were further such games in 1870, 1875, 1888 and 1889, but at various other sites.

BARON de COUBERTIN AND THE MODERN OLYMPIADS

Baron Pierre de Coubertin was born in Paris at the family hotel on New Year's Day 1863. His grandfather had been made a Baron by the Bourbon Louis XVIII in 1821. His father died in 1908. Pierre was unusually small and took an un-French attitude to games and fitness, even practising boxing. Coubertin first visited England in 1883 to study English Public Schools and their sports, as an admirer of Dr Arnold, and then made a similar but more official visit to the USA in 1889. Many sports were standardised only from the 1850's, and purely athletic meetings only started late in the nineteenth century. The Olympic Club of Montreal was founded in 1842. America presented Coubertin with the first evidence of the mass popularity of spectator sports, whilst the 1889 Paris Universal Exposition alerted him to the attraction and symbolic power of international public spectacles. The first truly international exhibition was at the 1851 London Crystal Palace. Our Prince Albert's role in that was similar to Coubertin's for the later Olympics. But the Paris Exposition of 1878 was the first that Coubertin attended. The next was that in 1889 for which the Eiffel Tower was built. It had ethnic displays and the first European appearance of Buffalo Bill's "Wild West Show".

While setting up the Congress of Physical Training at the 1889 Paris Exposition, Dr Brookes responded to a newspaper notice, and Coubertin was invited by him to visit Much Wenlock, which he did in October 1890 and his published description is quoted above. During his visit he planted a tree at the Linden Fields, whose original commemorative plaque is now in the local museum. It was in 1892 that he made the first public suggestions in his campaign for the acceptance of the concept of the Modern Olympics. His lecture at the Sorbonne on 25 November 1892 was received with an ovation. There were many inspirations, Coubertin did not so much dream up the idea as make it a reality. Though throughout he rarely had contact with athletes.

He was utterly bemused and delighted by what he saw at Much Wenlock. Coubertin was not usually taken by such an amalgam, but the ceremonial and *bonheur*, indeed what we might call the theatricality of the Wenlock Games quite distracted him. For all its strangeness, Coubertin found such syncretism tasteful and charming. The processional opening likely added to the impressions he had already received from the opening solemnities of the Paris Exposition and contributed with them to the later opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games.

In his 1897 article on the history of modern sports and gymnastics he remarked,

... such meetings are of essentially modern character; the games are modern; modern are the rules, the dress and the prizes. In Wenlock only something of the past has survived; it is safe to say that the Wenlock people alone have preserved and followed the true Olympian traditions.

This seems to have been occasioned by the inclusion of prizes for literary compositions and artistic works, the Greek banners, slogans, and songs and above all, "such displaying of etiquette and stateliness" as "no modern athletes" had ever known.

In his periodical "*La Revue Athletique*" of December 1890,

... and of the Olympic Games which modern Greece has not yet revived, it is not a Greek to whom one is indebted, but rather to Dr William Penny Brookes ... now aged 82 ... still active, vigorous, organising and animating them ... Athletics does not count many partisans as convinced as W P Brookes.

Only rarely have women crowned champions in the modern Olympic Games, but since the 1920's it has become a regular custom to have the prizes borne forward by young maidens from the host nation. This practice, and the idea of victory ceremonies themselves, were planted in Coubertin's imagination at Much Wenlock.

His second visit to the USA was in 1893 representing France at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. He formed the first International Olympic Committee in 1894 in Paris at an eight day long meeting now remembered as "The Congress of the Sorbonne" held from 17th to 24th June. On Thursday, 24th May a meeting of the Wenlock Olympic Society read the programme for this International Athletic Congress to be called about "Amaterism and Professionalism in Athletics". They wanted them to be only amateur. Dr Brookes sent his best wishes but was unable to attend because of failing health, but he was listed as an honorary member of the Congress. However the Olympic committee did not become a working one until after 1908.

THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPICS BEGIN

The Games in Athens were from Easter Monday April 6th 1896 until April 13th. The Stadium had been restored according to the ancient plans in marble by a gift of one million drachma from Georgios Averoff and the sale of souvenir stamps and medals. They were the first meeting to have a unity and integrity of rule, purpose and form. Much of the organisation was owed to the efforts of Crown Prince Constantine and his brother Prince George. On the first and fifth days the crowds, perhaps 60 to 80 thousand or more, were for then the largest ever gathered for a peaceful celebration in the modern world. One unrepeatable event occurred, Robert Garrett of the USA Princeton team, took up a discus, never having seen let alone picked one up before, and threw it further than the Greeks for whom it was the classic exercise! All the associated ritual symbols of the games, solemn music, processions, flights of birds, sacred plants, flags, mythic and divine images, invocations, crownings, wreath laying, statue dedications which populated the opening, victory and awards ceremonies, followed by banquets, group photograph sessions and ceremonial leave taking, were more novel than the actual Olympic Games but have lasted. Another innovation was the raising of the national flag of the event winners. The Olympic Hymn was written in 1896 by two Greeks and, despite various attempts to modernise it, it still remains in use. There were artistic events in Athens associated with the Games, concerts, performance of ancient drama, a torch race, many receptions and extensive flood lighting. It amounted to a charming carnival of Boy Scoutish idealism and with a minimum of the pompous military and religious ritual of later games.

Subsequent games in Paris (July through October 1900 in the Bois de Boulogne) and St Louis (1904 at the Washington University) were relative disasters, with epidemics of bad temper and high level confusion, and that at London (1908 at the Shepherd's Bush Stadium), replacing Rome because of financial difficulties, was transitional, because they were all amalgamated with world fairs, and only those in Stockholm (1912) and Paris (1924) were independent triumphs for the Olympic Movement. At Paris in 1900 many athletes learned that they had participated in the second Olympics of the modern era only when they noticed the inscriptions to that effect on the medals and certificates. The 1904 games had been intended for Chicago but were transferred to join the 100th anniversary celebration of the Louisiana Purchase.

1908 was the first time that entries were by countries rather than on a personal basis. The London Games were a contribution to international acrimony rather than harmony, but about a quarter of a million people watched the marathon. The marathon distance was supposed to have been about 25 miles, but when the start in 1908 was moved to Windsor it became 26 miles. Then Princess Mary asked for the start to be moved to below the royal nursery, making it 26 miles and 385 yards! The IOC flag of five interlaced rings on a white ground, based on an emblem found at Delphi in 1913 by Coubertin himself, was first unfurled at Antwerp in 1920. They are to represent the five continents of Europe, Asia, Oceania, Africa and the Americas. The Olympic Flame was introduced at Amsterdam in 1928, the torch relay in 1936 and mascots for each games in 1968.

The Greek athletes always lead the opening procession, then nations follow in alphabetical order but with the hosts last.

These early Games also included such athletic events as standing long and high jumps but also free style javelin throwing, as well as discus, shot and javelin where the winner was the one who threw the best aggregate distance with their left and right hands separately. There was a 200 m swimming obstacle race in 1900, as well as underwater swimming and live pigeon shooting! Croquet and Cricket also occurred in 1900. England hold the only cricket gold medal when the Devon Wanderers CC beat a French team of largely British expatriots living in France. The London City Police beat the Liverpool Police in the tug o'war in 1908, an event from 1900 until 1920.

Coubertin intended from the beginning that the Modern Olympics would include cultural events as in the ancient festivals. He tried in vain to interest the organisers, London was sympathetic but too pressed for time. Stockholm made a valiant first effort with all the fine arts entries to have an appropriate affinity to the Olympic sports. The modern art competitions introduced were architecture, painting, graphic arts, sculpture or plastic arts, applied arts, literature and music. The competition lasted from 1912 until 1948. Amsterdam had a final exhibition of 1150 works of art, 450 architectural, 40 literature entries and 22 musical. There were 1100 exhibits in Los Angeles (1932), at which a German won a prize for poetry. However there never were classes for the other performing arts, other than the Ice Dancing since WW II, and certainly no chance for folk dance, except perhaps in the opening non-competitive displays. There has been a parallel art exposition at Atlanta.

Coubertin was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1936 but was not selected. He died from a stroke on 2nd February 1937, aged 74.

The British Empire, now Commonwealth, Games started in Canada in 1930 and the World Championships began in Helsinki from 7-14 August 1983.

REMEMBRANCES INVOLVING WENLOCK

In 1980 a special Festival was held to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Amateur Athletic Association in 1880. In 1986 the Society celebrated its own 100th Games with distinguished visitors from the British Olympic Association, and the International Olympic Committee, with the grand-nephew of Baron de Coubertin, Geoffrey de Navacelle as the Guest of Honour.

As part of the Manchester bid for the 1996 Olympics, the preparing team visited Much Wenlock in July 1990 to gain some historical support.

As 1990 was the centenary of Coubertin's visit, the Guest of Honour was HRH The Princess Royal, as a Member of the International Olympic Committee and the President of the British Olympic Association. She led representatives from the BOA including the chairman Sir Arthur Gold and Dr Don Anthony, who had done so much to forge the link between the Wenlock Society and the BOA. She also planted a tree.

The president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the Marques de Samaranch, visited Wenlock for two hours on Wednesday 13th July 1994, to plant an oak tree near that planted by Coubertin in 1890, which now towers over the playing fields, to acknowledge its part in the rebirth of the Olympic movement. This event followed the 108th Wenlock Olympic Games.

Although the Morris has not been associated with any Olympics since the end of Dover's Games in the middle of the nineteenth century, there is expectation that it could be shown as part of a future opening ceremony. Dances were performed by the Auckland Morris at the start of the Commonwealth Games in Auckland, New Zealand in 1990.

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V 2.6 © R L Dommett, 1995

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Helen Cromarty, a member of the Wenlock Olympic Society, is preparing a booklet to be a biography of Dr Brookes and the Wenlock Olympic Games.

ANNEX

THE MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES

No.	Year	Venue	Date	Nations	Men	Women	Total
I	1896	Athens	06 - 15 April	13	311	-	311
II	1900	Paris	14 May - 28 Oct	22	1308	11	1319
III	1904	St Louis	29 Aug - 07 Sept (01 July - 23 Nov)	12	617	-	617 ^t
IV	1908	London	13 - 25 July (27 April - 31 Oct)	22	2023	36	2059
V	1912	Stockholm	06 - 15 July (05 May - 22 July)	28	2484	57	2541 ⁺
VI	1916	Berlin	cancelled				
VII	1920	Antwerp	14 - 29 August (20 April - 12 Sept)	29	2543	64	2607
VIII	1924	Paris	05 - 27 July (04 May - 27 July)	44	2956	136	3092
IX	1928	Amsterdam	28 July - 12 Aug (17 May - 12 Aug)	46	2725	290	3015
X	1932	Los Angeles	30 July - 14 Aug	34	1281	127	1408 ^t
XI	1936	Berlin	01 - 16 August	50	3741	328	4069
XII	1940	Toyko, then Helsinki, finally cancelled					
XIII	1944	London	cancelled				
XIV	1948	London	29 July - 14 Aug	59	4304	385	4689
XV	1952	Helsinki	19 July - 03 Aug	69	4407	518	4925
XVI	1956	Melbourne	22 Nov - 08 Dec	67 ^a	2959	384	3342 ^t
XVII	1960	Rome	25 Aug - 11 Sept	84	4738	610	5348
XVIII	1964	Tokyo	10 - 24 October	94	4826	732	5558
XIX	1968	Mexico	12 - 27 October	112	5215	844	6059
XX	1972	Munich	29 Aug - 11 Sept	122	6086	1070	7156
XXI	1976	Montreal	17 July - 1 Aug	92 ^b	4834	1251	6085
XXII	1980	Moscow	19 July - 1 Aug	81 ^c	4238	1088	5326
XXIII	1984	Los Angeles	28 July - 12 Aug	140 ^d	5458	1620	7078
XXIV	1988	Seoul	17 Sept - 2 Oct	159 ^e	6219	2186	8405
XXV	1992	Barcelona	25 July - 9 Aug	?	?	?	?
XXVI	1996	Atlanta	20 July - 4 Aug	197			

Bracketed dates are the full extent, first are the period of core athletic events.

t = numbers limited because of travel difficulties

+ = plus 1854 gymnasts in demonstrations

Numbers of participants for any of the games vary between the sources depending upon which events are included in the total. The above are usually the maximum estimates in the literature.

a,b,c,d,e = politically motivated boycott by the following number of countries
(6),(21),(45-50),(19),(7)

file : dover.wri (4)

WORK IN PROGRESS

More checks needed in DNB and Grove etc.

The Cotswold Games

Read plaque on Dover's Hill.

Battle of Stow from Stow museum?

Add more on Porter.

Check Railway collection at Winchester.

Check railway records for excursions etc.

A fuller statement of the recent and current celebrations at Chipping Campden.

Are there programmes and recent newspaper accounts?

Contact the Chipping Campden library. Ask which 19th & 20th century newspapers were relevant.

Ask Keith Chandler on the detail of his search.

Much Wenlock Games

More material from the Shrewsbury libraries about the Dr Brookes and the Much Wenlock Olympic Games to be incorporated

Obtain new booklet when issued.

Follow up more of what happened in 1995 and will in 1996.

Include letter from organiser.

What newspapers?

Examine programmes etc for the special years 1950, 1980, 1986, 1990, 1994.

What displays might have been put on?

How long did the special visitors stay?

Has Manchester Library got a copy of their city's Olympics bid?

Modern Olympiads

Ask NZ Sphere what Auckland danced in 1990.

What about Barcelona details.

General

Are there specialist sports libraries?

Check with local Reference Library for books giving lists.