

Summary Report

To: Xavier Gonzalez, CEO, IPC

CC: Pál Nádas, former president of the Hungarian Paralympic Committee
Charmaine Hooper, CEO, IWAS
Dr Ian Brittain, Research Fellow, Coventry University

From: Alexander Picolin, Head of Sports IT

Date: 17.02.2016

Re: **Correction of the Hungarian participation and medals at the Toronto 1976 Paralympic Games**

Motion

NPC Hungary requests:

- To record in every relevant document that Hungary took part in the 5th Paralympic Games, held between 3 and 11 August 1976, after the team had to withdraw from the competitions on 6 August 1976 by the order of the Hungarian political leadership.
- To record the names of ten (10) Hungarian competitors.
- To list the names of the both medal winners.
- To register Hungary in the official medal standings of 1976.

With the official recognition of the performances by the IPC, the achievements would then be recognised by the Hungarian authorities, especially with regards to the last of the living medal winners, Mr Zóltan Tauber (born 20 July 1934).

The reason for this request can be found in the fact that Hungary does not appear in the official results book of the *Torontolympiad 1976*. The only information indicates Hungary as 'withdrawn before competition' that is actually incorrect. For any reason, someone at that time removed all results and medals achieved by Hungarian athletes at the first days of competition after the team was forced to travel home.

NPC Hungary and Mr Pál Nádas, former (2001-07) president of NPC Hungary and researcher on the Hungarian participation of 1976, are now seeking for rehabilitation and reinstatement of the Hungarian results and medallists.



Historical Background

- Likewise the Olympic Games in Montreal a couple of days before, the Toronto 1976 Paralympic Games were affected by the sport-political reaction on and behaviours towards South Africa's apartheid policies.
- South Africa was not invited to the 1964 and 1968 Olympic Games. In 1970, the IOC formally expelled the NOC of South Africa. Obviously, IOC regulations did not bind for the international federations in charge of the Paralympic Games at that time, namely the ISMGF (International Stoke Mandeville Games Federation) and the ISOD (International Sports Organisation for the Disabled).
- While several mostly African countries withdrew the Olympics before or after a few days of competition due to New Zealand's participation¹ whose rugby team had toured in South Africa earlier in 1976, the appearance of a South African team at the Paralympics led to direct withdrawals (Kenya, Yugoslavia, Cuba, Jamaica, India) or protests before the opening ceremony (Hungary, Poland) with a warning to withdraw at a later stage.² Poland and Hungary finally withdrew at different stages of the Games.

Request and Research by Hungary

- In October 2014, the NPC of Hungary contacted the IPC to officially recognize the gold medal of Hungarian table tennis player Mr Zóltan Tauber (born 20 July 1934) awarded at the Toronto 1976 Paralympic Games, formerly called the "Torontolympiad", opened on 3 August 1976. The official results book in the IPC archive that populated the IPC Historical Results database for 1976 does show any Hungarian athlete or medal.
- According to the latest researches performed by Pál Nádas, former president of NPC Hungary, as outlined in a letter sent to Mr Charmaine Hooper, CEO of IWAS³, the Hungarians actually participated for two days (4-5 August 1976) before the Hungarian government commanded them to immediately return home on 6 August 1976.
- Officially, the reason behind this command was Hungary's protest of South Africa's participation joining the protest of several countries (see section about the historical background).
- Probably, the truth of this command is more complex than the protest. Deeper research points out that one reason might be found in the defection of one of the Hungarian

¹ <http://library.la84.org/OlympicInformationCenter/OlympicReview/1976/ore109/ore109h.pdf>

² See appendix 5 (The Globe and Mail article from 4 August 1976)

³ See appendix 0 (Letter of Pál Nádas to IWAS, Budapest, 1 July 2015)



athletes, Imre Szelenyi, in the night from Thursday, 5 August, to Friday, 6 August 1976, with the aim to get asylum from the Canadian immigration office.⁴ Mr Nádas explicitly describes the political complexity behind the scene and the difficulties to find relevant documents in the Hungarian archives.

- Whatever the reason might have been, the organizers completely removed all results and medals from the protocols.
- Mr Nádas provided names of twelve (12) athletes, and three (3) delegates.
- Two Hungarian athletes won medals at these Games at the first both days.
 - o **Gold:** Zóltan Tauber, table tennis – proven by the honorary diploma⁵
 - o **Bronze:** József Oláh †, athletics – indicated by medal and shirt in ownership of Mr Oláh's family⁶

Research and Analysis by the IPC

The documents provided by Pál Nádas prove that Hungary had to depart at the third day of competitions, and that at least two medals were won by Hungarian athletes. There are two scenarios why the results disappeared in the results book that was printed on 23 September 1976, about six weeks after end of the Games:

1. The organizing committee of Toronto 1976, ISMGF, and/or ISOD, decided to remove all results from the documents, giving the impression Hungary had never participated. Such a decision was an uncommon practice related to the withdrawals due to protests against South Africa. Four countries left the Olympic Games in Montreal after the third day of competition (Cameroon, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia), but their results achieved by then are still recorded. Athletes from these countries could not win any medals. A simple look at the medal standings of the Paralympic Games in Toronto reveal 53 medals won by Poland that also withdrew 'during the competition', actually just right before the closing of the Games. Their results have not been cancelled although the (official) reason for withdrawal was the same as for Hungary.
2. It was a data processing error. The medal standings table provided by Mr Nádas flags Hungary's withdrawal before the Games, same as for Jamaica and Cuba, while Poland is shown as withdrawal during the Games. This incorrect information for Hungary could have resulted in an automatic removal of the Hungarian participants including their medals plus automatic reallocation of results and medals while printing the results book.

⁴ See appendix 2 (The Globe and Mail article from 7 August 1976)

⁵ See appendix 4, photograph of this diploma – Mr Charmaine Hooper, CEO of IWAS, confirmed that he saw the documents and medal himself in October 2015

⁶ See appendix 3 (medal and shirt of József Oláh)



The following aspects and materials have been collecting and even if it does not seem possible to reconstruct how the results book has been amended after the Games, it clearly shows that the removal of the Hungarian results was a mistake (scenario #2):

- Dr Ian Brittain from the Coventry University has been contacted as valuable researcher. He took a look into the minutes of the ISMGF Executive Board meetings that were held in and just after the Games, and he couldn't find any mention about that medals had to be removed or even reallocated. Hungary and other countries were only noted as withdrawn from the Games.
- Poland also withdrew for the same (official) reason to protest against South Africa's apartheid policy, but their medal were still recorded.
- Actually, there was no redistribution of medals that had to be executed in case of an official disqualification of the entire team. Medals and diploma are still owned by the Hungarian athletes or their families, respectively.
- He even found a final medal standings table as of 12 August 1976 (Torontolympiad Daily News, Volume 1, Number 9), "according to the Olympiad's computer" as stated on top of that table. This table reflects that Hungary was recorded a gold and a bronze medal.
- In comparison to this list, the final medal standings derived from the Torontolympiad results book printed several weeks after show massive discrepancies to the newspaper article. These discrepancies are differences in medal numbers by NPC, by medal and by the various disability categories as well as in the total number of silver (384 vs 378) and bronze medals (369 vs 348). It would require deeper analysis event by event or even the original results data during Games time to find all reasons of these discrepancies. The

FINAL MEDAL STANDINGS												
According to the Olympiad's computer, the standings at 8 pm last night were:												
	GOLD				SILVER				BRONZE			
	A	B	P	TL	A	B	P	TL	A	B	P	TL
Argentina	1	-	2	3	-	-	4	4	-	-	4	4
Australia	2	3	12	17	3	2	13	18	2	2	5	9
Austria	8	2	8	18	9	-	4	13	6	-	8	14
Bahamas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belgium	3	-	4	7	2	-	4	6	2	2	5	9
Brazil	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Burma	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Canada	7	14	5	26	7	12	11	30	6	9	14	29
Columbia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	3	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	3	1	5
Ecuador	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	6	-	-	6	1	-	2	3	2	-	-	2
Ethiopia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiji	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Finland	7	5	-	12	9	6	5	20	8	2	6	16
France	10	-	13	23	6	-	15	21	10	2	7	19
Germany	13	2	21	36	5	-	27	32	10	3	14	27
Great Britain	6	4	19	29	3	8	18	29	3	3	30	36
Greece	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Hungary	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Indonesia	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	3
Ireland	-	-	4	4	-	-	9	9	-	-	7	7
Israel	11	-	28	39	4	1	8	13	6	-	10	16
Italy	2	-	-	2	-	-	4	4	1	-	9	10
Japan	3	1	7	11	4	1	3	8	1	-	1	2
Korea	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	1
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	-	-	14	14	-	-	17	17	-	-	14	14
Netherlands	18	2	25	45	11	1	14	26	1	-	14	15
New Zealand	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Norway	3	4	2	9	1	2	1	4	-	5	2	7
Peru	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Poland	8	9	7	24	4	2	12	18	5	2	6	13
South Africa	-	-	7	7	3	-	7	10	3	-	7	10
Spain	2	-	1	3	1	1	5	7	1	-	1	2
Sweden	4	10	9	23	9	9	11	29	8	4	19	31
Switzerland	3	-	6	9	7	1	6	14	-	1	8	9
U.S.A.	13	4	46	63	4	2	36	42	4	6	38	48
TOTALS	447				384				369			



preface of this results book diplomatically explains the reason for the additional section of adjustments, “which in Games of this size are unavoidable”. Later, explaining the minus-one-rule, it reads: “Due to misunderstanding by officials, and overzealousness on the part of the medal committee, a complete slate of medals were awarded in events where there were three or less competitors.” It seems that this medal committee was confused of the established rules. Well, this minus-one-rule does not affect the Hungarian medallists but it shows that someone has tried to fix all issues weeks later in the Olympiad’s computer. However, it seems that these corrections were not only caused by this rule but also by several additional settings or even errors in the results system like correction allocation of the disability category of an event.

- The list of correction this person performed obviously also included the removal of countries that withdrew from before the Games, like the “Medal Results for All Events” provided by Pál Nádas⁷, where Hungary is incorrectly indicated as ‘withdrawn before competition’. It might be logical that the Olympiad’s computer then automatically reallocated rankings and medals as it had to do during Games time. Further analysis on this issue can be found in the chapter about Zóltan Tauber below.
- Besides the Hungarian and the neutral contributions to this, Sweden has been contacted to ask about the medal of Mr Ake Pettersson who ought to be the opponent of Mr Tauber in the table tennis final and who is indicated as gold medallist in the results book. And indeed, in collaboration of the Paralympic Gold Club Sweden, ParaSport Sweden and NPC Sweden, it is confirmed that Mr Pettersson is not registered as gold, but as silver medallist.

The next both chapters will analyse the situations of the both Hungarian medallists and show some further hints for the following summarized theory what has really happened:

- **Fact:** Hungary competed for two days and in a few events, and won two medals (gold in table tennis and bronze in athletics).
- **Fact:** The defect of a team member (theory) and/or the continued participation of South Africa (official reason) in the Games lead to the withdrawal by NPC Hungary on the third day, ordered by Hungarian’s government.
- **Fact:** The Hungarian medals were counted in the final medal standings.
- **Fact:** Before the results were about to be printed the medal committee’s mismanagement was noted. The minus-one-rule was highlighted as the biggest rule not being considered correctly (or consistently) at Games time leading to incorrect medal standings.

⁷ See appendix 1



- **Fact:** The complete removal of all Hungarian participants (not only the both medallists but also other preliminary results of Hungarians) was performed alongside the general correction.
- **Theory:** The editor removed Hungary from the system as it might have been incorrectly indicated as 'withdrawn before competition' or just 'withdrawn' alongside the other countries like Cuba, India and Jamaica. The system then automatically ranked the athletes accordingly so that, for instance, Mr Pettersson moved to gold position despite actually being the silver medallist.

Zóltan Tauber (Gold Medal)

- A Hungarian report about Mr Tauber has been found that includes a description of the situation in 1976 from his point of view.⁸ According to this text, Mr Tauber got to the table tennis final in his class and won against his opponent Hake Peresson with 31:29; he already faced him some time before in Norrköping (Sweden). Just right after the victory ceremony, the consul congratulated and said: "In South Africa black people are fought, and we are boycotting the Olympics. Let's go home."
- With help of the name of his final opponent for gold and Mr Tauber's impairment, a comparison with the results from *Torontolympiad 1976* revealed the exact event, the table tennis men's individual class E on 5 August. The results, however, only show following situation:

Rank	Athlete	Country	# Victories
1	Pettersson, A.	SWE	3
2	Speedy, B.	GBR	2
3	Supadi, Sigit	INA	1
4	Kasai, Hitoshi	JPN	0

- The name of the Swedish is A. Pettersson. As he is the only Swedish top-ranked male table tennis player in Toronto, the difference in name might have been caused by (not unusual) typos in the results books of that time or inaccurate spelling of his opponent by Mr Tauber.

⁸ <http://ujbudasportjaert.ujbuda.hu/sport/60-mediaruhely-egy-torolt-olimpiai-aranyerem-tortenete>



- According to Mr Nádas, Mr Tauber remembers having competed in a round-robin modus that seems logical considering the low number of participants and the number of victories shared between the four athletes listed in the official results book.
- Mr Tauber further remembers that his last match was against Mr Pettersson that can be considered as gold medal final with each having won three matches before. The winner would actually win the gold medal, the loser the silver medal. On correction of the Hungarian results, the final standings would look like the following:

Rank	Athlete	Country	# Victories
1	Tauber, Zoltan	HUN	4
2	Pettersson, A.	SWE	3
3	Speedy, B.	GBR	2
4	Supadi, Sigit	INA	1
5	Kasai, Hitoshi	JPN	0

- This table seems the right correction because
 - Sweden confirms today that Ake Pettersson won silver.
 - Indonesia then only has three bronze medals according to the medal standings from 12 August rather than the four medals listed in the results book including the (obviously wrongly counted) bronze from Men's Table Tennis Singles class E.

József Oláh (Bronze Medal)

- According to Mr Nádas, Mr Oláh, a visually impaired athlete, came third in a 100 m race and, consequently, won the bronze medal on 4 August, the first day of medal events.
- Mr Nádas provided Mr Oláh's Torontolympiad Medical Identity Card⁹ showing his B-classification (and some further details from classification).
- Athletes with visual impairment competed in Toronto for the first time. For a few event types, a maximum of one class 'B' existed, unlike in later games editions until today with three different classes. This means Mr Oláh competed in the Men's 100 m class B event.
- In this event, 31 athletes are known by name according to the results book. They competed in heats to qualify for the final. The individual composition of the heats is unknown; the results book only provided a summary list of heat results. The following

⁹ See appendix 6, sent on 21 January 2016



table shows the top six athletes across all heats. All lower-ranked athletes have a worse qualification time than #6 of that list.

Rank	Athlete	Country	Time (s)
1	Hanyes, Winford	USA	11.6
2	Lindblad, Mats	SWE	11.8
3	Hansen, Terje	NOR	12.0
4	Faulkner, Robert	AUS	12.1
5	Gianni, P.	AUS	12.1
6	Kenney, D.	CAN	12.1

- Mr Oláh's qualification time is not known to correctly rank him. However, he must have at least a time of 12.1 s.
- The final saw five athletes competing with one athlete withdrew although qualified.

Rank	Athlete	Country	Time (s)
1	Haynes, Winford	USA	11.4
2	Faulkner, Robert	AUS	11.5
3	Gianni, P.	AUS	11.5
4	Hansen, Terje	NOR	11.8
5	Kenney, D.	CAN	12.3
-	Lindblad, Mats	SWE	dns/dnf/dq

- These six athletes are the top six athletes from the heats. Including Mr Oláh as bronze medallist would mean that seven athletes should have competed that is logical. Even if we assume that Mr Oláh's time was better than 12.1 s, then three athletes (Faulkner, Gianni, and Kenney, then ranked 5-7) had the same time so that a break down to six was not possible. 32 athletes in this event mean six heats, so that we are allowed considering it as very unlikely that a photo-finish could have used for the break down. Consequently, seven athletes were allowed to start, with Mats Lindblad from Sweden without valid time.



Rank	Athlete	Country	Time (s)
1	Haynes, Winford	USA	11.4
2	Faulkner, Robert	AUS	11.5
3	Olah, Jozsef	HUN	11.5
4	Gianni, P.	AUS	11.5
5	Hansen, Terje	NOR	11.8
6	Kenney, D.	CAN	12.3
-	Lindblad, Mats	SWE	dns/dnf/dq

- With Faulker and Gianni having the same time, but with Mr Oláh finished the race between them, he must have the same time as well. A photo-finish that already determined the clear order of Faulkner and Gianni seems to have been used to actually identify the order of all three athletes in question to award silver and bronze correctly.

Correction of the IPC Historical Results Database

On approval of correcting the official results book from the Toronto 1976 Paralympic Games, following adjustments can be performed:

1. Mr Zóltan Tauber will be included as gold medallist of the table tennis men's singles class E event with four victories. Consequently, the other athletes will be ranked accordingly.
2. Mr József Oláh will be included as bronze medallist of the athletics men's 100 m class B event with a time of 11.5 s. He will be included in the heat summary on 7th position with No-Time (NT) unless further documents are provided that proves his actual performance.
3. Hungary will be included in the Toronto 1976 medal standings on rank 30 between Peru (rank 29) and Hong Kong (new rank 31) with one gold and one bronze medal. Subsequent countries are ranked accordingly.
4. The other ten athletes listed by Pál Nádas cannot be included in any medal event unless it is clarified in which events they competed or wanted to compete in. Unless such documents are provided, Hungary will appear as having competed in Toronto 1976 with two athletes.