

# Lausanne and the 1960 Olympic Games

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## LAUSANNE AND THE 1960 OLYMPIC GAMES.

Between June 12th and 14th next, at the Interallied Club in Paris, the International Olympic Committee consisting of some sixty members will be deciding on the allocation of the 1960 Games. Lausanne has applied for the award of the Summer Games, while St. Moritz is trying once more for the Winter Games.

Lausanne's rivals in Europe are Rome, Budapest and Brussels, and outside Europe, Detroit, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, Tokio, Mexico, Toronto and Karachi. In principle, the 1960 Games should be held in Europe (and those of 1964 overseas). Lausanne's only serious rivals therefore are Budapest, Brussels and Rome.

Lausanne's candidature. The Swiss Olympic Committee was formed in Lausanne just after the 1912 Games. In 1913, this city had the honour of being chosen for the meeting of the International Committee which organized here the first International Congress of Sports Education and Psychology. On this occasion, the authorities of Lausanne applied for the first time for the award of future Games. Baron de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, decided in 1914 to move the headquarters of the I.O.C. to Lausanne, where they were later joined in their premises at Mon Repos by the Olympic Museum and Library. In 1925, when Amsterdam was meeting with some difficulty in its organisation of the Games of the IX Olympiad, Lausanne placed itself at the disposal of the I.O.C., but the Games were fortunately able to be held in Amsterdam after all. Since then, Lausanne has contributed with enthusiasm to the Olympic idea by holding various commemorative ceremonies and celebration. In 1944, the town of Lausanne worthily commemorated the Jubilee of the revival of the Olympic Games, thus expressing its admiration for the splendid work of de Coubertin, and its faith in the future of the new Olympism. Baron de Coubertin, who died in 1937 and is buried at Lausanne, was sure that this town was quite capable of organising the Games of an Olympiad without any difficulty whatsoever. Lausanne has all the necessary facilities. For more than 20 years, Lausanne has continued with the development and modernisation of its sports facilities, so that now it possesses a remarkable series of grounds and installations which have the advantage of all being concentrated within

a very small area. Here are some of the main features:

At the sports centre of Pontaise (about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles from the centre of the town):— An Olympic Stadium (a modern construction, opened in 1954) whose present capacity of 60,000 seats could be raised to 100,000 by 1960. All types of athletics may be held there. Within the grounds of the stadium, there are also two training fields, a hockey field, a basketball pitch and ten tennis courts. Two grounds for football, handball and field hockey. One of these can seat 10,000 spectators. A third ground nearby has been specially set out for athletics.

A cycle track with seating for 15,000 spectators.

A modern shooting range (less than 2 miles from the Olympic Stadium) for military shooting at 300 metres and sporting events at all intermediate distances.

The buildings of the Lausanne Fair, situated little more than a quarter of a mile from the Stadium, are ideal for the holding of all indoor sports (gymnastics, boxing, fencing, wrestling, weightlifting, basketball, etc.). The sports hall alone can hold 15,000 spectators. Several other separate halls can hold from 3,000 to 5,000 people. Also in the same building are a restaurant, the most modern theatre in Switzerland with seats for 2,000, a cinema, and other premises.

At the sports centre of Vidy (less than two miles from the centre of the town, on the shores of the lake):

Six playing fields, one of them specially equipped for all athletic and football championships (stands for

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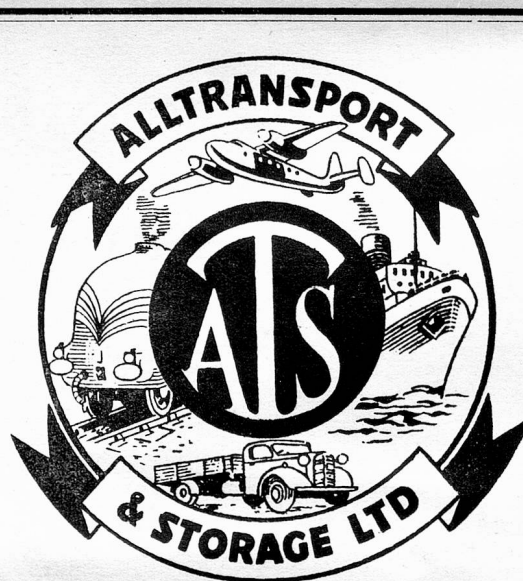
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8,000 spectators), are situated in this district, where there are also ten tennis courts (one of them a centre court). The whole of this area along the natural beaches of the lake is also ideal for equestrian sports as it has a riding track passing through its entire length. A paddock and camping site complete the facilities.

Several yards away is the Municipal Beach, the biggest lakeside beach in Europe, with its own Olympic swimming pool and diving board, basket-ball pitches, facilities for gymnastics, etc.

On the lake itself, quite near this beach, an Olympic rowing course will soon be constructed.

In addition to these two areas, and nearer the centre of the town :

The Montchoisi swimming pool is also an Olympic pool possessing stands for 12,000 to 15,000 spectators.

A covered pool will shortly be built, meeting all championship requirements. It is planned to build the Olympic Village at Chalet à Gobet, on the edge of the forests of the Jorat, some 3½ miles from the centre of the town (altitude 2,820 feet) in a district offering both quiet and wonderful possibilities for training. It will be entirely in the style of typical Swiss chalets. There will be one village for men and another for the women. They will be only 2½ miles from the Olympic Stadium by a direct route avoiding the town.

Lausanne possesses an ideal climate for the practice of sports. Lausanne's exceptionally mild climate is due to the sheltered position of the town, protected from the north, as well as to the proximity of the

Lake of Geneva which cools it pleasantly in summer. The air is dry, invigorating and pure. It has as many as 2,000 hours of sunshine a year, 290 of them in the month of July alone. From the shores of the lake (altitude 1,106 feet), the town rises gradually in tiers to 1,736 feet at the centre of the town, and 2,123 feet at the Signal de Sauvabelin. The Olympic Stadium is 2,034 feet high. Thus Lausanne enjoys an ideal climate, without unbearably hot periods which are detrimental to great sporting feats. Statistics show that out of the 16 days planned for the Games, on an average 13 days should be free from rain. Moreover, Lausanne is in the centre of a world famous tourist district, extending from Geneva to Montreux, admirably equipped from all points of view and possessing a large number of hotels; at the present moment it has 24,500 beds available for visitors.

The programme suggested by Lausanne for the 1960 Games includes :

1. Dates  
 Opening Ceremony : Saturday, July 23rd, 1960.  
 Closing Ceremony : Sunday, August 7th, 1960.
2. Events :
  - a) compulsory sports : athletics, rowing, yachting, equestrian sports, cycling, shooting, pentathlon, swimming, boxing, fencing, gymnastics, weightlifting and wrestling ;
  - b) optional sports : football (association and rugby), polo, water-polo, field hockey, handball, basketball, canoeing, sailing. (If desired by the I.O.C., some of these sports can be eliminated and others added.)



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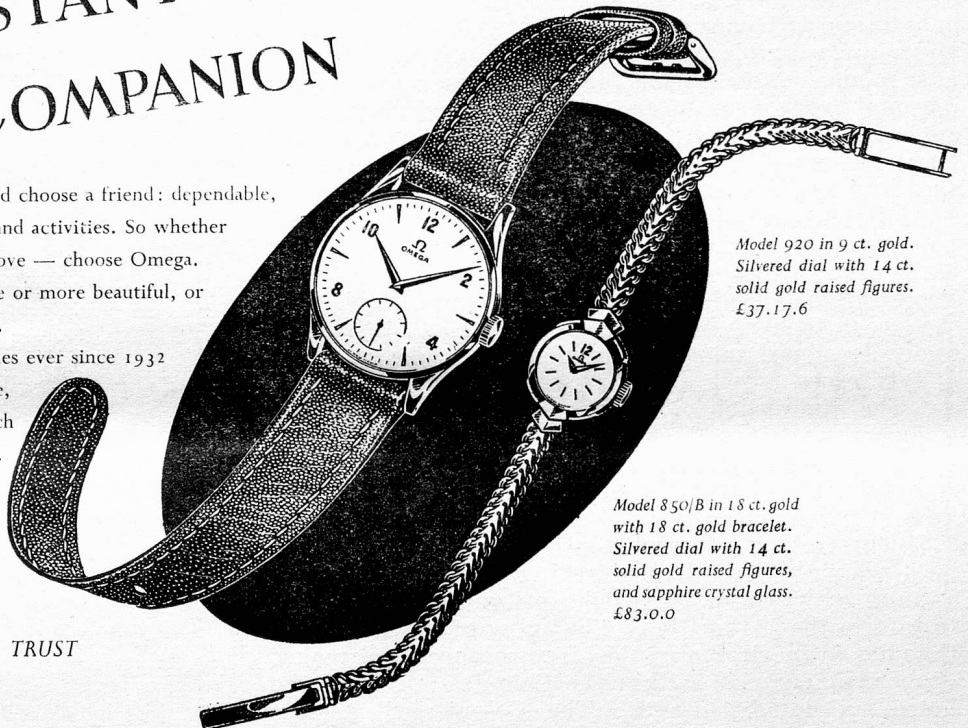
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