



**AICO Membership Open Meeting**  
**Sunday, 25 June 2023**  
**Charlety Stadium, 11:00 to 12:30**

**Attendees:** Christophe Aït-Braham (AICO Executive Board & AFCOS), Branislav Delej (EB & SSOSC), Massimiliano Bruno (EB & UICOS), Mark Maestroni (EB & SPI/Olympin Club), Rufin Schullian (EB & IMOS), Thomas Lippert (IMOS), Pasquale Polo (UICOS), Klaus Fink (Prolympo), Rimantas Dziautas (LOKA).

**1. Opening Statement (Christophe)**

- Welcome to the delegates from the various member associations.
- Review of projects undertaken by AICO, emphasizing the many ways that it is helping individual clubs through small allocations of money to help defray printing/postage costs, and to lending the AICO brand to specific projects undertaken by clubs. He further noted how impressed IOC President Bach and the other members of the IOC are with AICO's projects.
- Christophe also noted that dialogue with the IOC is often difficult because of their size, but that they recognize us as an important organization.

- 2. Website.** Mark explained the various upgrades to the website, highlighting that the French translation of the complete website is now complete and that an Italian translation will follow.

**3. Membership**

- It was stressed that AICO, through its various member associations, must continue to publicize Olympic collecting to the public.
- One point that frequently arises is that AICO membership is only for associations, not for individuals. This is often a cause of confusion as Mark noted that he receives many email requests to join from individual Olympic collectors.
- Individual collectors from India frequently request membership, or misunderstand that not any sports organization may join AICO as they must be a collecting group. Mark added that it is important for AICO to identify Indian collector organizations that could qualify for membership.
- Mark noted that he would be sending out requests for membership numbers to member associations very soon, to be followed by invoices for dues for 2023.

4. **Exhibiting.** There was a lot of discussion about the importance of AICO continuing to host exhibitions, both virtual and in person.
  - Pasquale suggested that there be two in-person philatelic exhibitions, one for open class (called “display class” in the USA) and one for thematic exhibits. These could be non-competitive which would mitigate the problem and expense of empaneling a jury. Massimiliano suggested that we organize another AIWOS event because the first one, held in 2022, was so successful.
  - Christophe noted that some sort of collector participation at Paris 2024 had been discussed. There will be an Olympic House. There might be a possibility of having a special display of Olympic collectibles that is limited in size, for example just two collections allowed per member association: one philatelic and one memorabilia.
  - Branislav noted that there will be a fair organized in Hungary in September. Perhaps AICO might help MOSFIT to become involved in some fashion.
5. **AOPC Project.** Branislav updated the associations on the status of the AOPC pin collecting catalog project.
6. **Modification to Statutes.** AICO presented to the associations its proposed amendment which would create a third class of membership – Associate Membership – which would allow smaller clubs to still participate in AICO activities while not paying an annual fee. These clubs would not be able to vote in elections, nor nominate candidates. The general consensus among the attendees was favorable to such a change.
7. **Future World Olympic Collectors’ Fairs.** The members were informed that there would be no WOCF in 2024 because of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Therefore the next available WOCF would be awarded in 2025. An email letter would be sent in August to all member associations inviting them to submit a candidate for a future WOCF. The deadline for an Expression of Interest, the first step in the candidate process, would be mid-October.