

Winners of the Pierre de Coubertin international fair play trophies

On 27th August 1973 cyclists from Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany met in the final of the world team pursuit championships over 4 km. on the track of the San Sebastian velodrome. The German team could not be beaten until at the last bend, 80 m. from the winning post, they fell and injured themselves, some seriously, through the fault of a track official. According to the regulations Ian Hallam, Willy Moore, Mick Bennett and Rick Evans were awarded the world title which they however turned down, and at their request the FIAC proclaimed their unlucky opponents the world champions.

For this magnificent example of sporting loyalty the International Fair Play Committee awarded the 1973 trophy to the four British cyclists. It also conferred the same distinction upon the famous English footballer Bobby Charlton for his whole career. The winners were awarded their trophies on 7th June in Paris by Mr. René Maheu, Director of UNESCO, at a ceremony attended by Mr. Jean Borotra, founder-president of the International Fair Play Committee, several UNESCO personalities, and the British Ambassador to Paris. The IOC was represented by its Director.

The Pierre de Coubertin International Fair Play Committee was jointly created in 1964 by the International Sportswriters' Association and the International Council for Physical Education and Sport at the instigation of Jean Borotra, the marvellous tennis champion. With UNESCO's unlimited support, the Committee has since pursued its efforts for the defence and promotion of fair play.