

ΔΙΕΘΝΗΣ ΣΥΛΛΟΓΟΣ ΑΓΩΝΩΝ ΔΡΟΜΟΥ ΥΠΕΡΑΠΟΣΤΑΣΕΩΝ



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ancientnemeaolympia186klm

Competitive identity/the story of a modern contest.

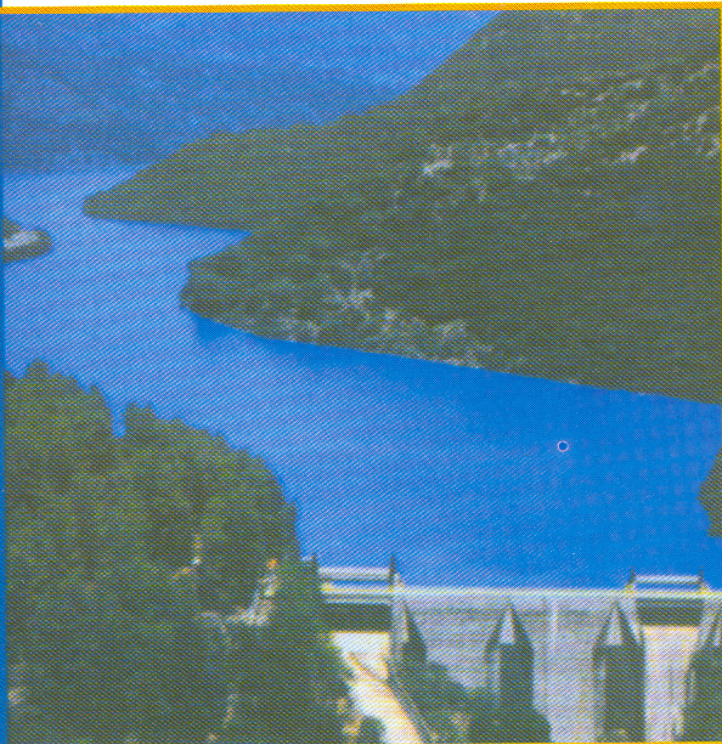
Here in our Hellas, in a unique land of beauty, light and clarity, was born and flourished one of the most significant cultures in the world, sown and nurtured through the creativity and fantasy of its people. Not only with the highest artistic values in the works of antiquity scattered throughout the land but also in the conception of athletic ideas and the consistent training in physical education as an inseparable element for the cultivation and integration of the individual; the achievements of a civilization that placed man at the focal point of its interests. Dedicated to these values, in 2001 we created the non-profit-making

AETHLIOS International Long-distance Running Association with the purpose of organizing **trail** races in Hellas. The name of the Association was chosen purposely to honour the mythical king of Ancient Elis the son of Zeus and Protogenia, who first conceived the idea of Olympic contests.

Trail races are intended for non-professional athletes and presupposes a high level of physical ability, a love of nature and environmental conscience. They are contests of a particular formatte, with specific characteristics:

- ▶ the courses are longer than 100 km that for the greater part along dirt tracks and paths with significant differences of altitude.
- ▶ they cross lowlands, hills and rivers.
- ▶ the limited number of replenishing points and the long distances between them.

Trail races first appeared on the international scene of ultra-distance running at the beginning of the 90's and today, take place in more than 50 countries throughout the world. In 2002 Hellas was included among these countries with the **Olympian Race**, with a distance of 186 km., organized by our Association every two years in the Peloponnese, linking the stadia of Ancient Nemea and Olympia. Our athletes compete within the framework of the Olympic



Olympian Race/the route



spirit with absolute selflessness. Without financial reward, the only prize for the athletes is a wreath of a wild olive branch and the exhilaration of running in the tracks of ancient Hellenic history. The selection of the route was not at all accidental. It emphasises our desire to display the physical and cultural richness of our land, not only Nemea and Olympia, two of the most significant athletic centres of ancient times, but all of the intervening course of 186 km, which we have traced through the sites of incomparable natural beauty, impressing on the participants the signs of a culture that raised the athletic ideals to supreme values. It is this weave of historic and mythological archaeological elements that shapes the singular features and gives the **Olympian Race** its form. Twenty villages and towns, host the same number of the replenishing (control) points. Local residents, authorities and cultural organizations, support, in the finest way, our organizational efforts. They man the posts with willing generosity towards the athletes as they pass through. Without their invaluable help the realization of the race would be impossible.

Olympian Race – the route

- **ANCIENT NEMEA** The departure point of the race is situated in the

Ancient Stadium, where, every 2 years, the second and fourth years of the Olympic Games, from B.C. 573 onwards, were effectuated the «NEMEA», the most significant panhellenian celebrations in honour of the young Opheltis, who died from a snake-bite, including, together with the athletic competitions, those for music and drama. With the initiative of the «Revival of the Nemean Games», on the 1st June, 1996, the NEMEA were revived with all the ancient ceremonial after 2000 years.

- **AIDONIA** This village of viniculturists became well-known in recent times due to the discovery of a treasure of golden jewellery and artefacts of inestimable value, of the 16th – 15th centuries B.C. They were found in 1993 exhibited as illicit excavations, in an American gallery, were fortunately repatriated several years later and can now be admired at the Nemea Archaeological Museum.

- **PLATANI** A settlement with many pre-historic remains (from the Neolithic to the Mycenaean ages) with significant wagon tracks, which provide indisputable evidence of wagon trails that criss-crossed the landscape in ancient times, as well as Roman remains. From this settlement there are also traces of the Hadrian Aqueduct.

- **SKOTINI** A small market town built

Olympian Race/the route

in the shadow of Oligyrtos. At the entrance to the town is a road that leads to the location of ancient Alea, where Alea Athina was worshipped.

- **KANDILA** A significant point on the wagon routes as evidenced by the the wagon wheel tracks which have been found in the village of today and its surrounds.
- **LEVIDI** A market town clinging to the slopes of the Maenalo, a mountain associated with the god Pan. It was the theatre of the deciding confrontation at the beginning of the 1821 revolution.
- **VYTINA** An important village on the northern Maenalo, which, due to its ideal climate, developed a market tourist activity from early times aided by the surrounding fir-clad slopes. Close by, the Maenalo ski-centre can be found.
- **MAGOULIANA** The river Mylaos flows through the area, so-named because of the many mills stretching along its banks, from ancient times. In this village, as in the next, many examples of traditional architecture survive, bearing witness to the skill of the famed craftsmen of Langadia, an important small town nearby.
- **VALTESINIKO** Surrounded by dense fir forests. To the north of the village there are the ruins of ancient city.
- **TROPEA – DOXA – KALLIANI** Here, in ancient times, flourished the city of Thelpoussa. Close by was the

temple of Demetra, known as the Elefsinion, as well as the remains of a temple, probably of Kaoussios Asklipios. Through the area flows the mythical river of ancient times, the Ladonas.

- **OLYMPIA** In a landscape that is bewitching with its peaceful beauty, in the valley of greenery between the Alphios river and its tributary, the Kladeos, lies the most brilliant athletic centre of all time, **Olympia**. There is the Stadium where the Olympic Games took place in antiquity. There is the finishing line of the **Olympian Race**, Ancient Nemea – Olympia.

The first official Olympic Games were recorded in B.C. 776. They were organized by Iphitos, king of Elis, with the first Olympic victor in the only event of the time, the "stadium", (a distance of 192,27 m.) the athlete Koroivos. For 12 centuries, the Olympic Games remained the most eminent, sacred athletic event giving to Olympia magnificence and power. They were abolished in A.D. 393 by order of the Byzantine emperor Theodossios.



Υποστηρικτές & χορηγοί στους οποίους ο Σύλλογος εκφράζει τις θερμές του ευχαριστίες :

- Νομαρχιακή Αυτοδιοίκηση Κορινθίας
- Νομαρχιακή Αυτοδιοίκηση Αργολίδος
- Δήμος Νεμέας
- Σύλλογος για την Αναβίωση των Νέμεων Αγώνων
- Πολιτιστικός Σύλλογος Λεβιδίου
- Δήμος Αρχαίας Ολυμπίας
- ΕΚΑΒ
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- Ξενώνας ARTEMIS, Χρ. Τσιώλη, Λεβίδι
- Δήμος Βυτίνας

Supporters & sponsors to whom the Association offers its grateful thanks :

- Corinth County Authority
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- Levidi Cultural Association
- Municipality of Ancient Olympia
- Emergency Ambulance Service
- NEW TRADE
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- Soufflot Optique – Auguste Lespinas, Paris, France

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- Direction de la préfecture de Corinthe
- Direction de la Préfecture d'Argolide
- Municipalité de Néméa
- Société pour la Renaissance des Jeux Néméens
- Association Culturelle de Lévidi
- Municipalité d' Olympie
- ΕΚΑΒ (SAMU)
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- ▶ Η διοργάνωση του αγώνα θα ήταν αδύνατη χωρίς την αμέριστη υποστήριξη των κατοίκων των περιοχών που διασχίζει ο Ολύμπιος Δρόμος
- ▶ Without the support of the inhabitants of the towns and villages through which the race passes, successful organization would not be possible
- ▶ L'organisation de l'épreuve aurait été impossible sans le soutien et la participation des habitants des villes et des villages traversés.

