18, Sandycove Avenue East,
Sandycove,
Co. Dublin - Ireland.
7th June 2003.

Dear Mr. Somerset,

Many thanks for your information documents dated 25 March and 20th May 2003. It is nice to remembered and to be kept up to date. I was particularly interested in your May '03 document re Election 2003 in St. Gallen before specifically commenting and respond to it I take this opportunity to make the following points

1. I am absolutely delighted with the adoption of the new title "World Skill the commonly used title "Skills Olympi was one that I was totally opposed t
2. I feel that the Honorary Members, of which I am one, should be kept fully to date on IVTO affairs and each should be presented with a new identification pin/badge when such becomes available (a special one for Honorary Members).
3. I feel that the contribution made by Honorary Members during their tenure as full members should be acknowledged in the following way.
   (1) Two (2) Honorary Members should be invited to attend each International Competition for a period of one we this week to cover the competition action and presentation ceremony.

This invitation to include all accommodat meals and local travel costs to be borne by IVTO central fund.

(ii) The two Honorary Members to be decided by lottery and the successful members to be barred from further lotteries for five competitions (@ 10 year

(iii) Successful members to be responsible for all travel costs thus ensuring th everyone benefits to the same degree i.e. one week as a guest of the IVT

(iv) Whereas the overall costs to the IVT would be quite small and acceptance levels may be quite low it would be a gesture of appreciation for the contribution made by those who were elected as Honorary Members.

Now for a response to your 25 May's document re Election 2003 in St. Gallen

1. Role of Secretary General.

I fully agree with your comment on this issue and taking into account the operation and organisation of the IVTO it is quite clear that th Secretary General must have Executive Authority in relation to the areas listed by you and perhaps some more added to your list.

2. Re: World Skills as an Unique Product I concur with all the points made by you.

3. I am very pleased that "National Ranking" based on average team score has been abolished. Not only were the National Rankings not representative they acted as a disincentive in relation to team size, selection and representation. A small team of eight excellent contestants was very likely to achieve a higher ranking position than a large team selected on an open basis being used by a country in order to gauge its own training standards across a wide range of training activities and methods.

4. I would recommend that the IUTO give due consideration to the conditions governing the award of the misnamed "Diploma of Excellence". The current method of selection awards a Diploma to contestants who achieve 500+ points. The overall results in Competition Action is arrived at by a process of standard division which expresses all results between the limits of 410 to 590 with 500 being the arithmetical mean/average. A very small number of low scores (poor standards) depresses the mean average score thereby making it easier to achieve the magical score of 500 without one iota of improvement in quality of product; how can such be deemed excellence? It is also possible to control the numbers of Diplomas

awarded by lowering the score of the poor performers (usually first time entrants) The ranking order is not changed while the number of Diplomas awarded is increased. The huge number of experts in each area minimises the incidence of such occurring, nevertheless the possibility still remains. My preference would be for three to five Experts in each area, however, finding five just Experts who would be accepted would be difficult. I am of the opinion that there should be six premier awards in each area: i.e 3 medals, gold, silver and bronze together with three diplomas for 4th, 5th, 6th positions. with the abolition of the so-called Diplomas of Excellence.

5. The issue of daily results is new to me. Such results to be valid pre-supposes that all competitors undertake the various tasks in the same order and at the same rate. I agree with the Experts disapproval.

6. I would not be a supporter of competitors have the test projects prior to competitions for training purposes. I believe that the competitive elements would be de-valued should such an approach be adopted.

7. Your 25th March letter details your intention of standing for election as President of IOTO. You are ideally suited for this post and the right person to lead the IOTO into the future. I do hope that the voting members accepts you as the best person for the post and as an expression of gratitude and as an acknowledgement of your long, dedicated and excellent service together with your professionalism and your vision formally elect/select you to the position of President unopposed. Please convey my best wishes to Rudi van den Hurk as the new Secretary General to the IOTO.

Please accept this letter in the spirit in which it is written and I wish you and your fellow country folk every success in hosting the 37th World Skills Competitions under the auspices of the IOTO in St. Gallen, Switzerland.

Sincerest Regards

Sean P. O'Brien

Hon. Member - IOTO

Ireland.