



John Boland was an Oxford student who enjoyed the study of Greek mythology. When learned about the Olympics revival, Boland traveled to Athens to watch the Olympic Games as a spectator. However, his friend, Thrasyvoalos Manaos, Secretary of the Athens 1896 Organising Committee, entered Boland into the tennis competition. Despite competing with leather-soled shoes with heels, Boland won the competition and became an Olympic champion. He later became a Member of Parliament and an ardent proponent of Irish independence and the Irish language.

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IDENTITY CARD

Other names: BOLAND, John Pius
Born :
 16 September 1870
Deceased:
 17 March 1958
Birthplace:
 N/A
Nationality:
 Great Britain
Sport:
 Tennis

ATTENDANCE AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES

[Athens 1896](#)

AWARDS

Olympic medals:
Gold: 2
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