



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Rochester, Minnesota USA was the meeting place of the TWIF Annual Congress and is the venue for the World Championships 2004.

The World Championships 1998 hosted in Rochester made tug of war popular with the community.

On the initiative of the Rochester Convention and Visitors Bureau, the USTOWA tendered again two years ago and won the bid for 2004. Apparently more and more cities are interested in hosting a tug of war event as a total of nine tenders for four events were put forward at Congress. The winners of the bids are published in this Magazine.

Amongst the winners is Sweden, who celebrates its 70th anniversary this summer. Sweden can boast two Gold Medals at the Olympic Games in 1900 and 1912 when tug of war was an event of track and field. The men of the Svenka Dragkampförbundet won several European and World Championships, although it is fair to state that the Swedish women have collected far more titles in recent TWIF events. Latvia, one of Sweden's neighbours, is much younger in the sport and celebrates its 10th anniversary. Their first glory in the tug of war sport is a recent World title in the Junior category which is good for their future. Sweden and Latvia have worked hard to promote the tug of war sport in the Baltic region, resulting in Lithuania joining TWIF as its 30th member country.

The spin-off from the interest of cities in TWIF events, which involves hosting around 1500 athletes plus fans, is an upward trend in media attention. The tug of war sport has, for too long had the status of "unknown, unloved". The breakthrough in this vicious circle could well be the involvement of cities in the event organisation. The connections of host cities with regional- and national television proved to be successful in promoting the tug of war sport.

It is rewarding to see that the work of dedicated people is paying off, and whether you are a spectator, an official or an active puller, your pleasure in the tug of war sport is the best promotion.

CO KOREN

President TWIF



Co Koren, President TWIF

NETHERLANDS READY FOR EC 2003

The Netherlands Tug of War Association, the NTB, has hosted a number of successful international events in recent years.

And as one of the first countries affiliated to TWIF, they participated in all European and World Championships since its inception as well as in all the World Games events. The forthcoming European Championships in September 2003 in Assen, are the third to be held in the Netherlands. They have also organised four World Outdoor Championships, as well as one World Indoor event.

The Netherlands is very proud of the fact that they are able to organise the 2003 EC with a staff consisting entirely of volunteers. The organisation committee consists of current and former members of the Association who are prepared to do the job. Many of their volunteers have been involved in the organisation of championships since 1986.

The Dutch volunteers and the organising committee are ready to welcome the European teams to the brand new venue, DeSmelt in Assen. They hope to establish a new tradition in Assen and that DeSmelt will in future become just as well-known as 'Slagharen' and the 'De Bonte Wever', where the previous World and European Championships were held.

All countries and participants are urged to comply with the cut off dates as mentioned on the entry forms and accommodation reservation forms to ensure that an accurate and reliable programme of events can be held.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



PHOTO: Tiny Langeveldt

PROGRAMME: TWIF OUTDOOR CLUB COMPETITIONS

START OF THE COMPETITION 10.00am

THURSDAY 18 SEPT

Men	560
Women	560
Juniors	560
Men	680

FRIDAY 19 SEPT

Men	720
Women	520
Men	640

TWIF EUROPEAN OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY 20 SEPT

Men	560
Women	560
Juniors	560
Men	680

SUNDAY 21 SEPT

Men	720
Women	520
Men	640



FURTHER INFORMATION FOR THE EC 2003 MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CHAMPIONSHIP WEB SITE: www.touwt
THIS SITE WILL PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION ON EC2003 AND ENTRY FORMS ETC CAN ALSO BE DOWNLOADED

THE HOSTING OF TWIF

The third TWIF seminar was held prior to Congress 2003. This year the topic was: 'Differences in the Hosting of Tug of War Events'

The speakers at the seminar were Aujke van Raaij (Netherlands), Anton Rabe (South Africa) and Brenda Riggott (Rochester, USA). All three speakers highlighted various aspects which organisers need to take into account to ensure that international events would be hosted successfully and to a standard which promotes the sport in the modern era.

In his opening remarks, Mr Co Koren, President of TWIF, indicated that he hopes that more countries will feel confident in future to host international events and that this would lead to further growth of the tug of war sport. Tug of war is already well known throughout the world and has been practiced in one form or another since ancient times. Therefore, if the modern edition of the sport, being practiced by top athletes, could be witnessed and experienced globally it would certainly enhance the standing and development of the code.

Ms Aujke van Raaij, outlined the procedure that was adopted by the Netherlands since it hosted its first international event in 1986. Since then they have hosted 4 more major events basically utilising a dedicated body, the SIT, to organise the event in conjunction with the Nederlandse Touwtrek Bond (NTB). The organisation is mainly done via volunteers, who all have an intimate knowledge of the sport. Normally the organisation starts at least 3 years before a championship when the various tasks for the event are outlined and a number of sub-committees are appointed. In total around 80-85 volunteers serve on the various committees.

However, it is not possible to organise everything with volunteers,

as expertise is required for activities such as publicity, medical aid, transportation and accommodation arrangements. Aukje indicated that every committee has a specific budget, that all meetings have an agenda and that proper minutes are kept, whilst the various chairperson's have regular meetings with the coordinating SIT-committee who monitors every stage of the planning. Before the start of the championships (and every day until it closes) a schedule is laid out and each evening a meeting is held to discuss that day. Following the closing of a championship an evaluation meeting is held, to ascertain what was good, what was bad, and where improvements can be made for future events.

Mr Anton Rabe, was an Executive Member of the Organising Committee Outdoor WC 2002, held in South Africa. He mentioned that South Africa started to plan their event 6 years before it was held and had three specific objectives for it, namely:

- Increased public awareness of the tug of war sport;
- To expose the sport in all areas of the country; and
- To generate some funds for development.

They too started with a business plan, budget and a detailed work plan. He stressed that it is vital to approach the event in the correct way with a scheduled programme of all the requirements and when these should be achieved. The organising structure was a partnership between the SA Tug of War Federation, GNTV (a regional association with close contacts with the City Council of Thswane) and the University of Pretoria. The executive committee of 6 persons acted as portfolio managers for 16 sub-committees. The responsibilities and



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NUMBER OF CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDED

All TWIF events until 2008 have been awarded to various countries at the recent congress. Great interest was expressed by a number of countries in the 2009 and 2010 events, both indoor and outdoor, which will be awarded at the 2004 congress to be held in Cento, Italy. A new format for applying for future TWIF events has also been agreed through which tenders will be scrutinized even more thoroughly than in the past. The full list of TWIF events up to 2008, are:

2003	European - Assen, Netherlands	2004	World Indoor - Glasgow, Scotland	2004	World Outdoor - Rochester MN, USA
2005	European - Cento, Italy	2006	World Indoor - Cork, Ireland	2006	World Outdoor - Netherlands
2007	European - Minehead, England	2008	World Indoor - Faenza, Italy	2008	World Outdoor - Gothenburg, Sweden

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F E V E N T S

't Ways to Organise a TWIF Championship'

activities for each was clearly spelt out and formally agreed. Anton also indicated the importance of having decisions of every meeting correctly minuted and that each member receive a copy.

The main committee initially met every 6 months to monitor progress once the procedures, budgets and objectives of each sub-committee was agreed. In the last year before the event they met every ± 6 weeks and just prior to the championships every 2 weeks. He summarised the recipe for hosting a successful event as being:

finding the right partners; planning very carefully; and using the TWIF Organisers Manual!

The final speaker was Ms Brenda Riggot from Rochester CVB (Convention & Visitors Bureau). She indicated that these bureaus are fairly common worldwide but may be known under other names in different countries. A website (www.officialtravelinfo.com) lists all such bureaus internationally. She explained that in Rochester they do things somewhat differently than was indicated by the other two speakers as they involve the community as a whole. The CVB organise many different events, not only tug of war.

The bureau examines every aspect closely to ensure that the event is right for their community and that it makes financial sense. Competition venues are then secured, hotels and caterers are booked, and the media is utilised. The bureau then becomes the liaison between the event and the community with the Rochester Amateur Sports Commission (RASC) which takes care of the organisation of the event itself with detailed budgets and workplans to ensure that it is concluded successfully.

Contributed by: Tony Martin

THE TWIF MEDICAL PROJECT IS PROGRESSING WELL

An update of the progress to date, as well as the time-schedule to completion by September 2003, has been given to delegates at the recent congress. The guidelines and recommendations which will be forthcoming from this report are seen as vitally important for the future development of the sport.

The development of recommendations based on a sound scientific basis, is a vital objective of the sport. Here the scientific team is busy with one of the tests to reach this objective.



PHOTO: Anton Rabe

Association of the IOC
Recognised International
Sport Federations



General Association of
International Sports
Federations (CAISF)



International
World Games
Association



TWIF ENDORSES WADA DOPING RULES

The code, rules and procedures of the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA) was unanimously accepted by the TWIF membership at the recent congress.

The Anti-Doping Code includes models of best practice for International Federations (IF's) with mandatory clauses which must be conformed to by all, but also allows enough flexibility to cater for the character and needs of specific sporting codes.

TWIF is now in the process of adapting the doping rules to suit the needs and character of the sport. These rules shall then apply to all the National Federations (NF's) and participants in the respective member countries. It is the responsibility of each NF to ensure that all national testing complies with the rules. It was agreed at congress that TWIF will play a coordinating role with a secretarial desk to ensure that all administrative aspects could be taken care of. As soon as the rules have been adapted by TWIF, it will be made available to the respective NF's with the view of having it implemented at all levels within the sport.

More detail on WADA and the models of the doping rules may be obtained from:

www.wada-ama.org

The TWIF Executive Committee was re-elected unanimously for a 4-year period until 2007. The executive with their respective portfolio's are:

PRESIDENT

Mr Co Koren, *Netherlands*

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Cathal McKeever, *Northern Ireland*

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Mr Tony Martin, *England*

SECRETARY GENERAL

Mr Glen Johnson, *USA*

TREASURER

Mr Anton Rabe, *South Africa*

Lithuania becomes new member of TWIF

Lithuania, became the latest member of the TWIF family when it was granted full membership status at the 2003 Congress. Their membership application was put forward by the Latvian representative, Ms Lilita Mukina, who was instrumental in the formation of the national federation within Lithuania.

The idea of organising Tug of War in Lithuania started when an article on the sport was printed in the Lithuania Rifleman Organisation Newsletter. There were also lots of photographs of the sport, which was noted by the Latvians. Things happened fairly quickly with a growing interest in the sport in Lithuania. The Lithuanian Tug of War Federation was formally established on 17th of March 2002 and has full recognition from the Ministry of Sport and the NOC.

Tug of War is a very popular sport in Eastern Europe. Latvia was the first country of the former soviet block to join the TWIF ranks in 1991 after a following a friendship programme with their neighbours Sweden. Since 1994, the Latvian Tug of War Federation have worked together with the Swedish Federation in the person of mr Carl-Erik Malm, to organise the sport in Lithuania. As an international judge, he had a lot of experience and knowledge to pass on and this he did with enthusiasm.

It was important to work within the educational process to ensure understanding of the education and sport system. A number of seminars were arranged for participants, judges, coaches and timekeepers to convey knowledge of the sport at all levels in Lithuania.

It is foreseen that Lithuania will be competing in the European Championship later this year.

We wish them well with the growth of the sport in their country and look forward to meet new people, see new ideas and maybe even new styles!

Contributed by: LILITA MUKINA



Helping the tug of war sport to develop

TWIF MAGAZINE

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