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
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 sport of war. 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. Aujke indicated that every committee has a specific budget, that all meetings have an agenda and that proper minutes are kept, whilst the various chairpersons 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 Tshwane) 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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**The Hosting of TWIF**

The third TWIF seminar was held prior to Congress 2003. This year the topic was: ‘Differen
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>European</td>
<td>Assen, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>European</td>
<td>Cento, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>European</td>
<td>Minehead, England</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>World Indoor</td>
<td>Glasgow, Scotland</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>World Indoor</td>
<td>Cork, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>World Indoor</td>
<td>Faenza, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>World Outdoor</td>
<td>Rochester MN, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>World Outdoor</td>
<td>Cork, Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>World Outdoor</td>
<td>Gothenburg, Sweden</td>
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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.
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 Lithunian 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

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 (IFs) 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 (NFs) 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 NFs 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

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