

ANNUAL TWIF CONGRESS Minutes  
May 2011  
Appenzell Switzerland

**1. Address by the President.** President McKeever opened the meeting by greeting all of the delegates to the congress.

The president requested a moment of silence in memory of those persons who have died in the past year and had made a major contribution to the sport of Tug of War.

- Harry Harbord from Wales who was the president of Wales Tug of War for many year and a Life Vice President of TWIF.
- Rikus Feijin from the Netherlands who was Chairman of the organizing committee for many championships in the Netherlands.

President McKeever also said that our thoughts are with the people of Japan who suffered a great disaster with the earthquake and tsunami that took place. We hope that the people of Japan will recovery and prosper in the future.

**2. Roll call of the members. By the Secretary**

The Secretary reported that 20 member countries were present plus Romania..

|            |             |           |                |
|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| Belgium    | Canada      | China     | Chinese Taipie |
| England    | Germany     | Ireland   | Italy          |
| Japan      | Latvia      | Lithuania | Netherlands    |
| N. Ireland | Poland      | Scotland  | South Africa   |
| Sweden     | Switzerland | Wales     | United States  |

President McKeever welcomed to the congress for the first time representatives of the following countries: Poland, Romania.

**2.1 Confirmation of a quorum.** Twenty Countries present which constitutes a quorum.

3. **Confirmation of the members present in good standing.** By the Treasurer: Mr. Rabe stated that there are 23 paid up members of which 20 are present.
4. **Appointment of scrutineers.** Mr. Rolf Glauser from Switzerland and Mr. Peter Dyer from England were appointed scrutineers.
5. **Confirmation of the minutes of Congress 2010**  
Proposed by the Netherlands and seconded by England to accept the minutes as a true record of congress 2010. On a vote passed unanimously.
6. **Matters Arising** The president stated that during the last congress reference Bangladesh was granted provisional membership to TWIF. The provisional membership was given until TWIF has received a letter of recognition by the governing body for sport. The secretary wrote to Bangladesh requesting this information and has had no response so far.
7. **Report covering the period since the last Congress.**

## **REPORT FOR CONGRESS APPENZELL, SWITZERLAND, 2011 BY THE PRESIDENT.**

The TWIF executive met on three occasions since last Congress, at the World Outdoors in Pretoria, at London in January and here in Appenzell earlier this week. The following are some of the issues we have dealt with during the past year;

### **DEVELOPMENT.**

With assistance from Netherlands and Northern Ireland I conducted a training course in Ankara last summer for the **Federation of Turkey**. We were very well received with large numbers in attendance and I am very hopeful that Turkey will eventually play a significant role in TWIF. In December, 2010, Anton Rabe, with help from South Africa and Chinese Taipei, conducted a development course for the **Indian sub-continent in Delhi**. Once again this was well supported and all reports are favourable.

In January, 2011, Tony Martin, as a keynote speaker, gave a presentation on the subject of “Young people in our sport” at an international seminar in **Chinese Taipei**.

In March, 2011, Glen Johnson with the assistance of John Webb from England delivered a training course **in Beijing**. This was attended by over 150 people from a number of countries, mostly, but not exclusively, from Asia.

At present we are at an advanced planning stage in respect of a **development course in Cali, Colombia** during July / August of this year. Colombia would be our first member country in South America and we hope to spread the tug of war message more widely throughout that continent with the help of our new member. As you know the next World Games will take place in Cali in 2013 and it is vitally important that we make every effort to establish our sport prior to that event.

We are also hoping, with the assistance of South Africa, to deliver a course and competition for **our African members in Cape Town during August of this year**. Currently we have seven members on the African continent but for a number of reasons they are not yet in a position to attend major international events.

Under active consideration at present is the plan to conduct a **course in Eastern Europe** in the foreseeable future. At present the Czech Republic, Poland, Serbia, Turkey, Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine and Estonia are all on our books. Poland sent three representatives to the recent course in China, is currently working with Rumania and intends to contact Belarus at a suitable opportunity.

There are several reasons why I place such importance upon this development work. Primarily we need to raise the level of both administration and competition in many countries and if they can't come to us then we will have to go to them. As well as that I hope this programme will lead to greater participation in our championships which is something we all desire. I am not suggesting for a moment that everything is straight-forward and that we will obtain favourable results very quickly. It is often a struggle to bring plans to fruition and we are embarking on a mid to long term strategy. Nevertheless I am convinced we are on the right path and with the goodwill and co-operation of our members we can make TWIF a really vibrant organisation.

It would be remiss of me not to thank all of those who have been involved in the delivery of these courses and the host countries whose hospitality has been excellent.

### **INDIVIDUAL WEIGHING.**

As most of you are aware this took place for the first time at last September's World Outdoors in Pretoria. It seems to have been well received by the vast majority of countries and pullers, but the final decision regarding its continuation will be taken by you at this Congress.

### **50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS.**

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at the World Indoors in Italy and at Pretoria in September. Both were memorable occasions and a big thank you goes to both Italy and South Africa for their co-operation and warm hospitality. Thanks and congratulations also to Co Koren who put so much time and effort into compiling the Anniversary Magazine which has been widely acclaimed and to Anton Rabe for his work with the printer to bring the finished article to fruition.

### **SPORTACCORD/IOC/WADA/ARISF/WORLD GAMES.**

I attended the annual Sportaccord Conference in London in April, 2011. This was attended by over 1700 delegates from a wide range of sporting organisations throughout the world and coming in the year immediately prior to the London Olympics of next year there was a special relevance. I had a number of previously arranged face to face meetings with the following organisations;  
**World Games.** I met the delegates from Colombia accompanied by Joachim Gossow of IWGA. We discussed issues arising from Glen's Technical Delegate visit of last August and the proposed training course scheduled for this summer at Cali. The next Technical Delegate meeting will take place in Cali during the latter part of 2012.

**Chiropractors.** I had a meeting with Prof. Brian Nook of FICS and agreed a continuation of the input his organisation has made to our championships in recent years. The work they have done for our athletes has been well received and the only cost to us is in respect of accommodation, their services being delivered free of charge.

**World Anti-Doping Agency.** You will hear much more about this topic from Tony Martin and Birute Miseckaite over this weekend and I would like to congratulate both of them for the work they have put into this very important topic. In London we discussed our future testing programme, both in and out of competition, how we disseminate information / education and our compliance with the WADA Code. I am pleased to say that since that meeting WADA has confirmed that we are now regarded as being fully compliant. That is most important for our continued membership of various International organisations. For example, it was made clear in London that future participation in World Games depends on WADA compliance. The deadline is November of this year. Although we may not currently have a doping problem it is crucial that we maintain and intensify our efforts to stay "clean".

**Association of Recognised international Sports Federations.** ARISF has carried out a survey of National Olympic Committees which do not recognise non Olympic sports. There are currently

seven or eight of these. ARISF will make further contact with these NOC's making the case for acceptance. It remains to be seen what success they will have. ARISF wishes to hold its own Convention over a week-end towards the latter part of 2012.

**International Olympic Committee.** I had quite a long meeting with Mr. Jean Laurent Bourquin and Mr. Christian Wassmer during which we covered a wide range of issues.

**Coaches qualifications** were raised in the context of their Entourage Commission. The latter is a body set up to look after the relationship between athletes, coaches, managers and all other stakeholders that support athletes. The IOC will issue guidelines later this year.

**Our on-going development programme** was covered in detail and they were very impressed by our efforts to raise the level of performance and increase the number of members taking part in championships. They accept that this will take time to bear fruit.

They are very aware of our **Olympic aspirations** and the whole Olympic scenario was discussed in considerable detail. Very soon we will receive a Questionnaire which must be completed within a short time. The information collected from the various International Federations will be collated and evaluated, with a short list of candidates for 2020 being compiled during 2012. These short listed candidates will be required to make a presentation to the IOC in May of 2013 and the Executive Board will make a recommendation to the IOC session later that year.

**It was stressed that whereas the number of National Associations is important it is no more-so than such things as the profile held by the sport and the value it would add to the Olympic Games.**

It is expected that in September 2013 a decision will be taken whereby the number of core Olympic sports will decrease from 26 to 25 for 2020. There is no clue yet which sport is currently under threat. This means, however, that only one new sport will be admitted. The latter will come from within ARISF but nothing else is clear at this stage.

We are up against several sports whose world profile and numbers are much greater than ours. We have a lot of catching up to do in those areas. Later this year we will receive guidance on how we, as a recognised sport, may be allowed to use the **Olympic symbol** for non-commercial purposes. I think that would be a very positive thing for us.

### **COMMONWEALTH GAMES.**

We have made preliminary approaches to the Commonwealth Games Federation regarding membership as a considerable number of our members would fall within that jurisdiction.

## **GENSB**

We have recently received correspondence from GENSB proposing a five year trial to incorporate our Junior World Championships within the GENSB framework but separate from their competition. They propose that this trial begins in 2013. We hope to arrange a meeting with the Chairman of GENSB during the European Championships at Minehead to further discuss this matter.

## **COURT CASE.**

Our legal advisers are attempting to have this case struck out in the Irish Court but the hearing is still pending. The total outlay for us is still not known but we have already paid out 3,500 pounds sterling in legal fees. The ExCo unanimously feels that the outlay of money in this case is a completely fruitless expense.

Cathal McKeever.

President, Tug of War International Federation.

May, 2011.

## **8. Finance. By the Treasurer**

### **8.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts.**

Mr. Rabe treasurer of TWIF gave a power-point presentation on the previously circulated balance sheets and audited statement.

Proposed by Ireland and seconded by the Netherlands

On a vote the balance sheets and accounts were unanimously accepted.

**8.2 Approval of the budget.** Mr. Rabe gave a full account on the future of the TWIF finances. The budget having been circulated previously to the members, Mr. Rabe stated that TWIF should not take any risks with its money while at the same time optimizing the interest. Mr. Rabe explained the budget with a power point presentation. Mr. Rabe stated that he did not feel that the championships fees should be reduced.

Proposed by the United States and seconded by Switzerland.  
On a vote the budget was unanimously accepted.

## **9. Policy Plan Update.**

President McKeever stated that the policy plan runs for one more year. Mr. McKeever went through the policy plan and discussed those issues that have been completed. Nearly all items in the policy plan have been completed and a new plan will be introduced by the ExCo during next years congress.

## **10. Affiliation of new members.**

The president announced that there are 2 applications for membership of TWIF.

- Application from Romania The president introduced the representative from Romania.

Ireland proposed to accept Romania as member of TWIF, seconded by England.

**On a vote Romania was unanimously accepted.**

- Application from Colombia for affiliation to TWIF

Proposed by the Netherland and seconded by Germany to accept Colombia as a member of TWIF

**On a vote Colombia was unanimously accepted as a member of TWIF**

## **11. Proposals and question submitted by the members and all other matters which the Executive Committee wish to propose.** See Attachment (A)

## **12. Reports from commission.**

12.1 Technical Commission. Tony Martin

### **CONGRESS 2011 – TECHNICAL COMMISSION REPORT**

During 2010 we held 2 commission meetings, one in Italy in February; which I reported on at last year's Congress; the other meeting was held in South Africa. Unfortunately, due to

ill health 3 of the commission members were unable to attend, we wish them all a speedy recovery. There is a further meeting planned during this Congress.

At our meetings so far, we have discussed various topics:

- Anchor's lock
- Anchor persons stepping outside number 7 puller
- Headgear
- Individual weigh in

These are some of the items we have discussed at length and our findings have been reported back to the Executive. Also there are some items for you to decide on here when deliberations take place on the proposals.

Two members of the commission were tasked with putting together the first draft procedure for the Individual Weigh In, and we thank them for their efforts.

Each member of the commission now completes an Evaluation form on each championship, the Secretary of the commission sends back the marks and information to the Executive.

A Judges Course and a Refresher Course took place in South Africa. The judge's course saw 3 candidates from Germany, South Africa and Wales all of whom have passed. So many congratulations to them and we welcome them to the TWIF Judges panel. Two TWIF judges' took the Refresher Course and both have passed.

Three TWIF Judges' have retired from the panel:

Tonnie de Haan, Albert Trieber and Ueli Bosch

Our thanks must go to all three gentlemen for their long standing commitment to TWIF, and all the hard work and dedication they have shown in their many years in the sport. Also, it was sad news to hear that Colin Gibson from Australia has retired from the TWIF Judges Panel due to ill health, we wish Colin continued and improving good health in the future.

In conclusion to this report I would like to thank our Secretary and all members of the commission for their continuing hard work and their commitment to improvements, where necessary, to our sport.

12.2 PR Commission. Anton Rabe provided feedback via a powerpoint presentation. The salient points included:

- TWIF Magazine – In future electronic distribution via the web-site will be utilised. Try to do 2-3 editions per year – next one due after congress. Obtaining adequate and regular content for the Magazine remains a struggle. Members once again encouraged to assist in this regard. Rosemary Smith is the contact point for such material.
- 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition were produced - hard copies is still available, whilst an electronic version can be downloaded via the web-site.
- Jubilee Function/Medallions were given to judges, recorder and other officials in Pretoria & Faenza
- Web-site: Bruce Schuman is the web-master. Interesting statistics included hits/Visits:
  - Last month – 2,400/2:31 ave time (-9% from prev month)
  - Last year – 39,117/2:41 ave time (-10% from prev year)
  - Differ due to championships, web-casting of events, etc
- Promo Brochure – the English version is finished. Translation of the user guide (7 other languages) needs to be done. Countries will be contacted individually.
- Web-Casting/Purchase of web-cam for future events (U-streaming link from web-site during all future events)
- Sponsorship package/Various options & guidelines sponsorship amounts
- Corporate Identity Manual available.

12.3 Anti Doping. Birute/ Tony Martin  
**CONGRESS 2011 - ANTI DOPING REPORT**

Over the past year we had anti doping tests carried out at the World Indoor and Outdoor Championships.

At the indoors in Italy 12 tests were carried during the Closed Championships, and we thank Italian Federation for their strong commitment to the TWIF anti doping challenge.

During the World Outdoors in South Africa, just the minimum allowed, of 5 tests were carried out. Unfortunately these tests were carried out during the Open Championships, which is not the accepted or normal procedure. Due to extenuating circumstances the South African Association had great difficulty to arrange testing that weekend, entirely due to a WADA conference being held in another part of the country. Two 2 testers managed to attend our championships and then fly up to their conference, which is why we could only test during the open competition days. I am very happy to report that all tests from both venues were negative.

The TWIF Executive is well aware that to get anti doping tests carried out at championships is very expensive, which is why we set a minimum number of just 5 tests to be completed. However, if only the minimum number of tests are to take place at Championships, these tests must be carried out during the Closed competition. In an ideal world testing would take place on every day of both the Open and Closed competitions, but as an amateur sport cost of testing is prohibitive.

Out of competition testing took place in the UK, Sweden, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

In total 8 tests were taken; from these 3 were not completed due to the failure of the athletes to be where they had stated they would be on their Whereabouts documents sent to TWIF.

I must stress that these missed tests have cost the TWIF membership in 2010 approximately 1403 euro. This money has been wasted, and should have been used to get tests completed to enable compliance with WADA and the IOC.

In 2009 TWIF was notified that we were WADA compliant, however, we have since been informed that we now have to make minor adjustments to complete our WADA compliance. Birute has now completed this.

My thanks to Birute for all her hard work, at the Championships and during the year, by ensuring that the athlete information in the Whereabouts Programme is complete and up to date. Again I must stress, the onus is on the athlete to supply the correct data and update any changes made during the current quarter.

Another statistic that is required annually by WADA is the amount of anti doping tests completed by each of our member countries; this information is easily supplied by members. We retrieve these figures from the details supplied on your annual report forms.

EVEN NIL RETURNS MUST BE GIVEN. This has, and continues to be, a bone of contention; we are continually reminded that the information we supply is insufficient. Only ¼ of our membership complete their end of year report, this is simply not good enough. This figure has got to improve dramatically, if you as members of TWIF wish to continue to be part of the IOC.

Our President Cathal McKeever, has recently spoken with WADA Representatives at the Sport-Accord meeting in London; following that meeting it was confirmed in writing that TWIF is fully WADA compliant.

Just to reiterate 12 tests in Italy, 5 tests in South Africa and 8 out of competition tests, 3 of which were incomplete due to athlete incorrect information or failure to notify of any change made to information already supplied, and let's not forget the wasted 1403 euro.

On a very positive note I can report that all our test results have so far been negative, which is fantastic!! Please continue to support our efforts to maintain our sport as drug free and a clean and honest sport.

12.4 Medical Panel/ Dr. Van Heerden completed a questionnaire on medical issues on athletes.

12.5 Athletes Commission/ The main points from the athletes commission meeting that took place in Pretoria South Africa:

- Individual Weigh in, which they were all happy with.
- Japan had an issue with the early weigh-in and weight gain of pullers, it was explained that it was fair and the same for all athletes.
- Some of the members thought that there were too many weight classes on the program
- Some of the members were not happy with the mixed class on the program
- Questions from athletes to the commission: nylon ropes at championships because in their own country they compete with manila or sissel rope and when they go to championships the rope may be nylon.
- Substitute rule: to increase the weight of a puller over his or her actual weight so the substitute coming on can weigh more than the puller coming off.
- Some of the members felt that the 720 class should not have been replaced with the mixed class, and that the mixed was not at high standard.

### **13. Championships. Past present and future**

13.1 World Outdoor Pretoria South Africa 2010. Congratulations to South Africa for World championships 2010. The secretary read the evaluations of the championships sent in by the participants. Only 6 countries returned the evaluation forms. Overall evaluation of the 2010 World Championships were slightly above average.

#### 13.2 Future

- Regional EC 2011 – England/ Report during Seminar
- World Indoor Championship 2012 - Scotland/ Report during Seminar
- World Outdoor Championship 2012 – Switzerland: Switzerland organizing committee gave accommodation prices and a tour of the venue for 2012 as well as accommodation to be used during the 2012 World Championships.

President McKeever stated that following the seminar many members felt that the cost of accommodation was too costly and that many countries and clubs would not be able to take part due to that fact.

President McKeever asked the organizing committee to come to congress and address this issue. The president offered congress the opportunity to express their concerns with the costs of accommodation.

Mr. McCarthy spoke on behalf of the members and stated due to the high costs and quality of accommodation he felt that no teams from his country could take part in the championships.

Mr. Dyer from England stated that due to the high costs and the quality of accommodation no one from his country could afford to come to the championships.

Scotland, South Africa, Northern Ireland and the United States also supported what has been stated by Ireland and England.

Mr. McCarthy polled the congress and the majority of the members present agreed that the accommodation prices were far too high.

The president asked the chairman of the organizing committee Mr. Charles Fassler to respond to the statements made by some of the TWIF members. Mr. Fassler explained the position of the organizing committee and said that part of the reason for the high cost was that the exchange rate for the Swiss franc against other currencies is very high. This is why they tried to have a low cost of accommodation on the lowest standard. He said that they were trying to get more sponsors to try and lower the cost of accommodation. Mr. Fassler stated that they could lower the accommodation cost by 5% to demonstrate their commitment to the championships. He also stated that the team entry would be reduced from 150 Swiss francs to 100 Swiss francs. Mr. Fassler also said that they would work with the housing authority to see if the accommodation could be reduced even more.

Mr. McCarthy Mr. Dyer and Mrs. Langeveld stated that this price is still too high. The representative from Poland said that we must find a solution to make sure that the championships will take place. Mr. McCarthy stated that the prices must be reduced by 30%.

President McKeever stated that there is no doubt that the organizing committee has worked very hard but the bottom line is that when the delegates go home the price to be charged and the price to be asked will create a very serious problem for the athletes to come to Switzerland.

Mr. Glauser, the delegate from Switzerland stated that if the accommodation price were reduced by 30% there will be no championship in Switzerland.

Mr. Fassler stated that these prices are only for the accommodation and there are no costs included for other activities. Mr. Fassler said that they could not reduce costs by 30%.

President McKeever stated that TWIF would have to come to a decision very soon. We have to take in to consideration all of the options, if not in Switzerland where? We have to decide if there is going to be a plan B if the championships are not held in Switzerland.

Mr. Rabe stated that there are 2 options in which we need a little bit of time in order to see which one is the best

1. Take the issue home to your athletes and decide if the accommodation here is acceptable. If not, investigate the option of staying somewhere else and only pay for the accreditation.
2. Having the championships in Switzerland as a sort of watered-down affair, only a few clubs and a few national teams attending. Mr. Rabe stated that this is not an option in which any of us would be happy.
3. Moving the championships to another country.

In any case every one should go home and take the time to think about what is the best for tug of war. The president agreed with Mr. Rabe's scenario. The president asked the countries to get back to the secretary of TWIF by the end of June with their opinion with regard to the options for the world Championships 2012. A decision needs to be made before the European Championships in

Minehead.

- World Games Cali Columbia - 2013/ Report by Glen Johnson  
The secretary reported that he had visited the venue in Cali Colombia during the first meeting of the technical delegates. The outdoor venue was a soccer pitch and the indoor facility was directly across the street. The indoor facility needed some update and repair which are due to begin in 2011.
- Regional European Championships 2013-Netherlands/Report during the Seminar
- World Indoor Championships – 2014 – Ireland/ nothing new to report.
- World Outdoor Championship 2014 – USA/Nothing new to report.

#### **14. Tenders for future championships**

14.1 Tender for 2015 Continental (none)

14.2 Tender for 2016 Indoor/Outdoor World (none)

- The president stated that it is the desire of TWIF to stage a World Indoor Championship in the Asian region and the ExCo have talked with members from that region and efforts are being made by those countries towards accomplishing that goal.

#### **15. Election of the TWIF Executive (Attachment B)**

President McKeever announced that Patrick Van den Heuvel stepped down in January. Mr. McKeever said that the ExCo is very sorry that he had to do so and we wish him well. President McKeever presented a momento to the Belgium Representative to give to Patrick on behalf of TWIF.

#### **16. Other Business for the good of tug of war.**

16.1 Denis Dunlea stated that the Irish Association has received a letter from the Basque country enquiring about the participation of the Basque country in future TWIF Championships.

President McKeever stated that the ExCo would be very happy to have the athletes taking part in championships. However at the present time the only way forward is for their athletes to compete as Spain. At present they can compete in the open class. The Basque country is not recognized by the IOC and TWIF does not want to jeopardize our future by recognizing the Basque country. If they want to take part under the circumstances prior to Akita 2001 we welcome them back immediately. The ball at the moment is in their court.

16.2 Mr Rabe announced that last year in Pretoria there was television coverage that was broadcast not only in South Africa but throughout the African continent.

16.3 The representative from Poland asked if Russia is considered as one country with one vote or more than one country. The President said Russia is considered in TWIF as one country.

16.4 Mr. Takahashi from Japan thanked the TWIF members for their sympathy during the Earthquake and tsunami in Japan. They have not had a full assessment of the damage in Japan. They have had to postpone some of their championships because of the tragedy but will continue with tug of war. Mr. McKeever thanked Mr. Takahashi and stated that all of TWIF was happy to see Japan represented at the congress after the disasters that took place in Japan.

## **17. Future meetings.**

17.1 ExCo meeting in Minehead September/ ExCo meeting Perth Scotland February 2012

17.2 Congress 2012/ Netherlands

## **18. Closing by the president.**

President McKeever stated that we have had a lot of discussion and some difficulty on the 2012 World Outdoor Championships and we need to take a decision very soon.

The president also referred to the fact that for the first time in 50 years, TWIF has elected







**On a vote passed 13 in favor 3 against 1 abstained**

6.           **Proposed by Switzerland**                      Seconded by the Netherlands

That TWIF should introduce a „black list“ of athletes who are banished of participating in a TWIF championship for a period of time.

This „black list“ consists of athletes who used doping or athletes with misbehavior. The duration of banishment is depending of the individual case and must be fixed by the TWIF. In case of misbehavior any national federation can make a request to the TWIF.

Explanation:

As a national federation we have no control of athletes who participate in the open club competitions as they can travel individually.

If there would exist this „black list“ we can inform the clubs that athletes who figure on this list are not allowed to take part.

**On a vote failed 4 in favor 8 against 8 abstained**

7.           **Proposed by Sweden**                                      Seconded by

**Substitution;    Withdrawn**

When a team have to make a substitution before the competition starts, because of injury or illness, we suggest that it would be possible to use the weight up to max weight for the weight class.

The competition have not started and it is some kind of a new team, and with other circumstances for substitution during the competition, All pullers have made the individual weighing in a few days earlier, so there is no chance to manipulate the weights of the pullers.

The replaced puller may not participate in any other team during that day.

8.           **Proposed by Sweden**                                      Seconded by Belgium

### **Headgear (8.1.3) New wording**

The coach, team attendant and each puller in a team are free to wear, as headgear, either cap, bandanna or visor as long as the headgears are similar in colour. The colour of the headgear shall also be confirmed to the colour(s) of the sportdress. Exemption: as before.

Some pullers do not like to wear cap and prefers bandanna to prevent sweat coming into their eyes. Other pullers who are balded or have thin hair have to protect their head from the sun. Both kind of pullers are pulling in the same team, and as it is at the moment one part have to resign to wear headgear at all.

### **On a vote passed 19 in favor 0 against 1 abstained**

#### **9. Proposed by Sweden**

Seconded by Wales

#### **Marketing-Advertising.**

That TWIF must ensure that the organizer of a Championship makes a good marketing and advertising of the event.

During the years there are just a few times where you have seen any bills, posters or sign posts for the Championship. If the spectators and local media would be able to find us we have to tell them where we are.

Even the possibility to have the competitions broadcasted by the web is important.

### **On a vote failed 5 in favor 7 against 8 abstained**

#### **10. Proposed by Sweden**

Seconded by Germany

#### **Traveling expenses.**

We suggests to ensure that there will be enough numbers of TWIF judges, timekeepers/recorders and other officials at every Championship, that TWIF at least pays some part of the travel expenses for the officials.

It cant be the individual person or a Federations financial standing which shall determine if you can participate at a Championship or not. Some other International Federations/organizers pays all expenses for their officials at World and Regional Championships.



## **Proposal was lost for the lack of a second**

### **Questions**

#### **1. Belgium**

BTB ask the ExCo to examine the possibility to standardize the composition of ropes (Sisal, Manila? Nylon?)

*The ExCo has no problem to examine the possibility of standardizing the ropes. The president asked the memberships opinion. England stated that the ropes used in Sweden and south Africa were not Nylon and were very good. The ropes were polypropaline. It was agreed that nylon is very hard on the hands.*

#### **2. Latvia**

Which weight categories TWIF planning includes in elimination competition for World games?

*World Games weight for 2013 are men 640kgs and 700kgs and for ladies indoor the 540kgs. The qualifier for the ladies will be the 2012 World Indoor on Perth Scotland and the men's qualifier will be the World Outdoor Championship 2012.*

#### **3. Latvia**

According TWIF congress resolution was changed weight classes in TWIF World Championships.

Now we have situation that every second year World and regional Championships held in different weight classes. Two popular weight classes 720 kg and 680kg were cancelled and established 700 kg.

In this case suffer a loss part of sportsman, who's had team members on 680 and 720 kg's - one year they could be team members another they can't be team members.

Some good sportsman, who's participated can't be involved into 700 kg teams, because change total teams weight. Part of Sportsman should modify them weight or turn down them weight. It is related to sportsman health problems for long term.

After establishing new 700 kg class team account did not increase in total (if we compare last years 680 and 720kg team account in Championships). In the new system in competition planning us can't see visible changes, but we think country with organizing Championships losing participants and teams and main we losing sportsman whose love tug of war sport. What is TWIF position on this point?

*The president stated that a couple of years ago the congress agreed to change the weight classes at World Championships, so we now have 2 sets of weights, one for European and a different set of weights for World Championships.*

#### **4. England**

TWIF to contact a shoe manufacturer to produce a cheap and readily available indoor tug o war shoe made with a soft natural rubber sole to be available to all teams from all countries who participate at indoor tug o war.

*The president said that if a person or a country has a manufacturer in mind he would be interested and be willing to negotiate production of such a shoe. The current rule provides for athletes to modify their own shoes. If TWIF has a manufacturer the individual can still modify the sole so how and for what purpose should we negotiate with a manufacture to produce an indoor shoe.*

#### **5. Scotland**

The Scottish Tug of War Association believes Countries should be named and shamed when they do not complete the TWIF Annual Report or a Championships Evaluation, if a Country attends a Championship they should be required to complete the evaluation and return it to TWIF. This is the job of the International Representative and it should be completed to maintain the standards within TWIF.

*The ExCo completely agrees with what has been said by Scotland. It only takes a*

*few minutes to complete these forms and they are very important to TWIF. They are needed to complete the WADA forms and the information is needed to complete the IOC and ARISF documentation.*

**6. Germany**

How many doping tests taken place during the World Championship in Pretoria 2010?

*Five in competition tests*

**7. Germany**

The DRTV has recognized, that on the last Outdoor Championships app. 20 member countries of the TWIF participated.

Do the TWIF has any glue about, why not more member countries take part? In other words: Why do 30 nations not participate?

*The president said that some of the membership do not feel they are up to a standard to take part in an event with the best teams in the World and that is why the development courses that TWIF have been carrying out are very important.*

*There are also in some cases where visa's have been a very big problem.*

*The third reason is finance, some countries just don't have the finances to send teams to championships.*

*TWIF would be very happy to have 30 or more countries involved in championships, that is why we must continue to help countries develop.*

**8. Germany**

The DRTV appreciate the work of the TWIF to support new TWIF member countries, which is mentioned in the EXCO MoMs. However due to the number of new member countries and especially the longer distances (e.g. South America) we kindly ask the TWIF to install a process to support new member countries, to

reduce the work of the older member countries

**The question was unclear and the representative was unable to explain the question**

**9. Germany**

In which way the TWIF want to improve their public relations, to give the tug of war sport more awareness?

*The president said that this is a point that TWIF is very aware of and is difficult to deal with. One of the easy ways is to network with people that are very high profile in the world of sport. Locally each individual association has to establish contacts with local media, they won't come to us we have to go to them. We are aware it is a big problem and we don't cure it overnight.*

**Attachment (B)  
Nominations for the Election of the TWIF ExCo**

**President**

Cathal McKeever

**Country**

Northern Ireland

Nominated by Northern Ireland, Sweden, England, South Africa, Belgium, & Wales  
**President McKeever was unanimously re-elected by acclamation**

**Senior Vice President**

Tony Martin England

Nominated by Northern Ireland, Sweden, England, South Africa, Belgium, & Wales

**Senior Vice President Tony Martin was unanimously re-elected by acclamation**

**Vice President**

Patrick van den Heuvel Belgium

Nominated by Northern Ireland, Belgium Withdrawn

**Maaïke Hornstra from the Netherlands was elected Vice President**

**12 votes**

Nominated by South Africa

Daniel McCarthy Rep of Ireland

**4 votes**

Nominated by Rep of Ireland

Lars Lindh Sweden

**4 votes**

Nominated by Sweden & Wales

**Secretary General**

Glen Johnson USA

Nominated by England, Sweden, Wales, South Africa, Belgium, & Northern Ireland  
**Secretary General Glen Johnson was unanimously re-elected by acclamation**

**Treasurer**

Anton Rabe

Rep of South Africa

Nominated by: South Africa, England, Belgium, Wales, Sweden, & Northern Ireland

**The Treasure Anton Rabe was unanimously re-elected by acclamation**