

TWIF EXECUTIVE MEETING AGENDA
Minehead England
19/20th September, 2011

Executive Members Present:

Cathal McKeever	President
Tony Martin	Senior Vice President
Maaike Hornstra	Vice President
Glen Johnson	Secretary General
Anton Rabe	Treasurer

1. **Opening:** President McKeever opened the meeting by welcoming the ExCo members to Minehead. The President went on to say that for the first time in 50 years TWIF has now a female member of the ExCo. Mr. McKeever stated that Maaike Hornstra is a welcome addition to the TWIF Executive Committee.
2. **Minutes from the last meeting:** Proposed by Tony Martin and seconded by Glen Johnson to accept the minutes as a true record of the minutes from the last ExCo meeting. Motion accepted unanimously.
3. **Matters Arising:**
 - 3.1 Court Case from Ireland 2006: President McKeever announced that the court case against TWIF, Cathal McKeever and former president Co Koren has been declared by the High Court in Dublin to be “an abuse of process”. Recovery of the cost to TWIF is being sought against the plaintiff through TWIF’s legal advisors. Cost of Legal Advisors with regard to the court case: (is estimated in excess of 25,000.00 Euros)
 - 3.2 Computer Program: The computer program has been updated so the bar code reader can be used for substitution during competitions.
 - 3.3 Rule manual updates/Org Manual:
 - The Rules manual has been updated by the secretary and Vice president Martin has printed sufficient number to distribute to the members. The rules manual is also available on the TWIF Website.
 - TWIF Organizers Manual: The Secretary is in the process of updating the organizers manual. The updated manual will be posted on the TWIF website and a sufficient number will be printed for use by those countries hosting championships.
4. **Finance:** Mr. Rabe discussed the finances of TWIF. Interest rates have gone down so TWIF gets little interest on its money. 2012 is the last year of the TWIF

policy plan. TWIF will have added expense with the junior world Championships going to GENSB in 2013. TWIF will have to cut back on services to the members with the recent proposal that was passed during the 2011 congress, reducing the permit fee for championships.

The Anti Doping budget will be increased from 8 out of competition tests to 10 out of competition tests with effect from 2012.

4.1 Affiliation fees/ Sweden – page 3

The ExCo discussed a letter from Sweden with regard to the affiliation fees of the members. Mr. Rabe will discuss with the Swedish representative the fine points of the proposal.

5. Commissions

5.1 Tech Com. The Technical Commission will meet during the European Championships. The secretary will send a letter to the members asking for nominations to the Technical Commission.

5.2 Anti Doping:

- 2 Males scheduled for testing needed to be retested because they were not where they stated they would be.
- 2 Females from the Netherlands scheduled for testing needed to be retested because they were not where they stated they would be.
- 2 Males from Great Britain scheduled for testing, 1 was tested the other had to be a retested, failure to be where he was stated to be at the time of the test.
- 2 Males Great Britain scheduled for testing were tested.
- All who were tested, the tests came back negative for violations.
- **Note :** When athletes are not present for tests TWIF has to pay double. Discussion by the ExCo that if members had athletes that had to be retested because of the where about of the athlete it may be necessary for TWIF to levy the costs on to the ,member country. No action was taken in this regard, TWIF will have to budget more funds for out of competition testing.

5.3 Medical Advisory: Nothing new to report

5.4 Athletes Commission :Vice President Maaïke Hornstra is the new chairperson of the Athletes Commission. The ExCo reviewed the terms of reference with Maaïke.

5.5 PR Commission.

- The next magazine will be issued following the European Championships. The ExCo will appoint new members to the commission.

- The TWIF Brochure is completed and the treasurer will circulate in English.
- TWIF Website. The website is being continually updated as needed.

6. **Sport Accord/IOC WADA/ARISF / IWGA**: meetings will take place in the spring in Quebec Canada.

6.1 World Games 2013. There is concern with regard to the development course that is due to take place in Cali Colombia in November or December 2011. The organizing committee in Cali is moving very slow with regard to purchasing the proper matting for the course and World Games. The secretary will write to the contact in Cali to see what progress has been made.

7. **Policy Plan**. The ExCo discussed and amended the rough draft of the next policy plan developed by the president. The final draft will be completed during the February ExCo meeting.

8. **Championships**

8.1 Weigh in Procedure: Mr. Martin said that the weigh in times should be made permanent for future championships, this way the athletes would know ahead of time so they could book travel accordingly.

8.2 European Outdoor Championships Minehead: The weight classes were discussed and the general opinion was that 9 weight classes were too many. ExCo would recommend that the weight classes should all be the same as the World Championship weight classes.

Having said that the Junior category in 2013 would be with GENSB.

8.3 Possible Tenders for future Championships

- 2015 Regional “European” 2015, Possible tenders from Northern Ireland Italy and Lithuania.
- 2016 Indoor. Possible tenders from China, Chinese Taipei, and the Netherlands
- Outdoor, no indications

8.4 Future Regional Asian Championships. The next Asian Championships will take place in Brunei in 2012. TWIF hopes to strengthen the relationship with the Asian member countries.

8.5 Commonwealth Games. The president has tendered an application on behalf of the Common Wealth members of TWIF.

8.6 GENSB. The president and Mr. Rabe to meet with the Chairman of GENSB and finalize an agreement between GENSB members and TWIF

9. Membership

9.1 Future Regional Seminars

- Colombia: The secretary is scheduled to run a training and development course for Colombia and Brazil in November or early December. The organizing committee in Cali has yet to purchase an indoor matt which is essential for a training course. The secretary will write to the contact person for Cali to see what progress has been made.
- Africa: South African Tug of War Federation will make arrangements for a development and training course to take place in 2012. There are 10 potential participating countries from the African continent. As soon as a date can be set the secretary will write a letter to those potential participants with the needed information.
- Eastern Europe: Latvia has agreed to host a training and development course for the eastern European countries. The secretary will inform those countries as well as all other European members of TWIF on or before the 25th of December. The course will take place in Ventspils Latvia on the 19th and 20th of May 2012. The Eastern European countries include: Latvia, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Estonia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Serbia, Turkey, Poland and Romania.

9.2 New Members: TWIF has had correspondence from the following countries some of which are on hold due to the lack of information: Malaysia, Togo, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and the United Arab Emirates. New applications from the following countries: Brazil, Democratic Republic of Ghana, Thailand, and Hungary. TWIF has also had recent correspondence from the Iranian Olympic committee indicating a change of leadership in that country, and that Mr. Akbari is no longer involved.

9.3 Spain: President McKeever reported that he had correspondence from the Basque with regard to their participation in future TWIF events. The president has arranged for a meeting with the federation officials later in October 2011. Mr. Martin will accompany the President to this meeting which will take place in Belfast.

10. Other Business For the Good of Tug of War.

10.1 The ExCo will amend the tasks of the various ExCo duties.

10.2 Officials for the World Indoor Championships 2012 Perth Scotland

**TWIF OFFICIALS
WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012
PERTH, SCOTLAND**

CONTROLLER/EXCO	GLEN JOHNSON	UNITED STATES
CHIEF JUDGE	DAN MCCARTHY	IRELAND
ASSISTANT CHIEF JUDGE	DR. JERRY LEE	CHINESE TAIPEI
CHIEF MARSHAL	DIREK'T LAM	NETHERLANDS
ASSISTANT CHIEF MARSHAL	LARRY HEINDEL	UNITED STATES
WEIGH MASTER	KURT ROSA	GERMANY
REFEREE/EVALUATOR	MERVIN BUFTON	WALES
CHIEF RECORDER	TANYA DOBBE	NETHERLANDS
LIAISON OFFICER	ANTON BOTHA	SOUTH AFRICA
ICT ADVISOR	BRUCE SCHUMAN	UNITED STATES
ICT ASSISTANT	MICHAEL SODERMAN	SWEDEN
EVALUATOR	TONY DE HAAN	NETHERLANDS
EVALUATOR/EXCO	TONY MARTIN	ENGLAND
ANTI DOPING	BIRUTE	LITHUANIA
ATHLETES COM./EXCO	MAAIKE HORNSTRA	NETHERLANDS
TECHNICAL COMMISSION	ROSEMARY SMITH	WALES
EXCO TREASURER	ANTON RABE	SOUTH AFRICA
EXCO PRESIDENT	CATHAL MCKEEVER	NORTHERN IRELAND

Recorders: 4 TWIF recorders will be required.

11. Future Meetings:

Scotland, ExCo meeting 2012	Arrive Monday February 20 th	Meet on February 21 st
Netherlands ExCo Meeting, Congress 2012	Arrive April 11th	Meet on April 12th Seminar April 13th Congress April 14th

12. Closing by the President. President McKeever thanked the ExCo members for their contributions and cooperation.

Dear members of TWIF ExCo.

During our visit in Switzerland and the Congress Anders Andersson and I discussed the problem with countries who don't pay their affiliation fee. I mentioned shortly our ideas to Tony Martin and Cathal McKeever at the last day in Appenzell. Now with some more details we would like to present our ideas.

As we understand those countries see themselves as not strong enough, as a tug of war team, to compete in Regional or World Championships, or maybe it is a financial problem. In this situation they see the fee very expensive and don't pay at all.

So our idea is, why not split the fee in two different levels.

1. Affiliation fee (for example 150 Pound Sterling) to be a member in TWIF.
2. "International competition license" (200 Pound Sterling) for the possibility to participate in International competitions.

For those countries who pays full fee today, there will not be any changes, they all already compete in international competitions (and pays for it) The rest of the countries just have to pay a lower fee and stay as an ("inactive") member in TWIF. When they, some day in the future, would like to participate in the Championships or an International competition they just have to pay the full fee (150+200 Pounds).

To participate at the Congress, as a member, and have the right to vote and put forward proposals, the countries have to pay full fee

If this proposal will be accepted by TWIF ExCo ,TWIF-members, and among those 30 countries who don't pay their fee today, it will result in an income of 4 500 Pound Sterling to TWIF instead of nothing.

Money is always a big deal.

Kind regards

Anders and Lars

