

ANNUAL TWIF CONGRESS MINUTES

April 2015

Malmö, Sweden

1. **Address by the President:** President McKeever opened the meeting by asking for a few moments of silence for those who have passed on in the past year. President McKeever welcomed all of the delegates to Malmö Sweden. Mr. McKeever said our thoughts go out to Nepal to those dealing with the recent devastating earthquakes.

The president asked each delegate to introduce themselves. President McKeever welcomed the new representatives to the congress.

2. **Roll call of the members. By the Secretary** The Secretary called the roll and the following 20 member countries were present:

The Basque Country	China	Chinese Taipei	England
Germany	India	Ireland	Italy
Japan	Latvia	Netherlands	Northern Ireland
Poland	Sierra Leon	South Africa	Sweden
Switzerland	Thailand	United States	Wales

2.1 Confirmation of a quorum. The secretary confirmed that there was a quorum.

3. **Confirmation of the members present in good standing. By the Treasurer:** The treasurer reported that 19 of the 20 countries present were in good standing. The treasurer reported that the affiliation fee from Sierra Leon had not showed up in the latest bank statement.

4. **Appointment of scrutineers:** Anders Andersson from Sweden and Marga t' Lam from the Netherlands were appointed to serve as scrutineers.

5. **Confirmation of the minutes of Congress 2014:** The Netherlands proposed to accept the minutes and this was seconded by the United States. **The minutes were unanimously accepted.**

6. **Matters Arising:** No matters arising

7. **Report covering the period since the last Congress:**

7.1 Sport Accord, ARISF/ World Games-Report by the President
(See written report attachment D).

Mr. Takahashi, the representative from Japan revealed details of discussions he already had with the TWIF President regarding the possibility of Tug of War as an additional sport on the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo Japan. Mr. Takahashi and his Association have been preparing the ground-work for such an approach but the formal application will need to come from TWIF as the relevant International Federation. Mr. Takahashi suggested that the best option would be to put forward the indoor mixed class as a possibility.

President McKeever introduced the TWIF mission statement that is now on the TWIF website.

As an International Federation our mission is to provide the structure and good governance necessary for the well-being and development of the sport of tug of war throughout the world.

Our Primary Objective is to attain a sufficiently high level of excellence and universality to expedite our acceptance by the International Olympic Committee as a sport within the programme of the Olympic Games, a status held by our sport in the early years of the 20th century.

8. **Finance. By the Treasurer**

8.1 Submission and vote on the balance sheets and accounts. The treasurer Mr. Rabe explained the TWIF balance sheets and accounts that had been circulated by power point presentation. **The balance sheets were unanimously accepted.**

8.2 Approval of the budget. Mr. Rabe the Treasurer discussed the budget from November 2015 through October 2016. **On a vote was unanimously accepted**

9. **Policy Plan Update:** President McKeever discussed the items in the policy plan. A new policy plan will be developed for ratification during congress 2016.

- Sponsorship/ Ongoing
- IT ongoing/ ABC South Africa
- Anti-Doping/Ongoing, 2015 rules updated and posted
- ExCo Responsibilities/Updated after 2015 Congress
- Encourage Female participation/Ongoing
- IOC Inclusion/ Ongoing
- Schools and Youth/ 6 Countries responded to the Vice Presidents inquire about schools and youth. This is an ongoing project
- Ensure proper dress codes for athletes and officials/Ongoing
- Communication during events with the spectators/Ongoing
- Social Media/Euro News, ongoing

- Expand membership/ Ongoing
- Fellowship program/Ongoing
- Training & Development Courses/ Ongoing

10. **Affiliation of new members.** Vice President Hornstra reported:

- Georgia has been asked to provide more information to TWIF.
- Hatti has asked for assistance we hope that they can work with the Dominican Republic.
- We need to keep in contact with Panama & the United Arab Emirates as they have shown interest.
- We also have been contacted by Azerbaijan

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/ See Attachment (C)

Tony Martin gave his farewell to the congress as he retired as Senior Vice President of TWIF and Chairman of the Technical commission and Anti-Doping Commission

12.2 PR Commission: Maaïke Hornstra: We are working on a new website and also submitting item for euro news.:

12.3 Anti Doping. Birute/ Tony Martin/See Attachment (D)

On a vote the congress unanimously ratified the 2015 Anti- doping regulations as distributed by WADA.

12.4 Medical Panel: Nothing new to report.

12.5 Athletes Commission: Maaïke Hornstra: Ms. Hornstra reported that there is now a new member from South Africa, Kittie Terblanche

13. **Championships. Past Present and Future**

13.1 World Outdoor Madison WI USA 2014: The secretary gave the results of the evaluation sent following the championships. (**See evaluation results and participation results G**).

13.2 Future

- Regional EC 2015 Northern Ireland/Report during Seminar
- World Indoor Championship 2016 Netherlands/Report during Seminar
- World Outdoor Championship 2016 –Sweden /Report during Seminar
- World Games 2017 / Report by Dariusz gave power point presentation. (see attachment F)
- Regional EC 2017-England/Report during the Seminar

- World Outdoor Championship 2018/ South Africa/Report during seminar .

14. **Tenders for future championships**

14.1 Tender for 2018/ Indoor/Basque country, China

On a vote the congress awarded China the 2018 Indoor world Championships

14. 2 Tender for 2019 EC Outdoor/ Latvia, Ireland, Italy.

On a vote the congress awarded Ireland the 2019 European Championships

14.3. Tender 2020/Outdoor/ Switzerland, Netherlands, Basque country, Ireland

On a vote the 2020 World Outdoor Championships was awarded to the Basque Country by the congress.

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

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

16.1 Tiny Langeveld suggested with the new program that TWIF have an app that can be downloaded from the website instead of printing out a lot of papers. This will be looked into by Mr. Rabe.

16.2 Mr. Rawipas from Thailand questioned the make up of the TWIF ExCo. Mr. Mc Keever responded by stating the position regarding the nominations and elections to the Executive, whereby it is open for any member country in good standing to nominate a person for Executive post but that post is filled by votes cast by members at Congress and is not done on the basis of regional distinction.

17. **Future meetings.** Congress 2016. The president said that the venue for congress will be announced following the verification of the venue for the 2017 European Championships.

18 **Closing by the president.**

President McKeever stated that Tony martin has been a great asset to the TWIF Executive over the past 16 years. Tony and Sue Martin have been good friends. Tony has been one who you could depend on for good advice. The president said that Tony has stated that he would be available in the future if there was a need.

A presentation was given to Tony and Sue on behalf of the Basque country.

Rosemary Smith Secretary of the Technical Commission made a presentation to Tony

Martin.

Cathal McKeever President of TWIF, presented Crystal to Tony for his work in TWIF. Mr McKeever also presented Sue Martin a crystal clock as a token of thanks for her work on the anti-doping commission and tug of war in general.

Tony thanked everyone and said he hopes to see everyone in the future.

President McKeever closed the meeting by thanking the delegates for their participation and cooperation.

Attachment (A)

Proposals and Questions

1. **Proposed by the Netherlands** **Seconded by Sweden**

Weight classes World and European outdoor Championship. The 4 European men weights also active on the programme of the world championship outdoor.

Reason: a better proportion between men and women weight classes
This will go into effect in 2018

On a vote Passed **11 in favor** **8 against**

2. **Proposed by Sweden** **Seconded by Wales**

That it in the future Championships would be possible to book
3 – 4 – 5 or 6 days packages for accommodation.
Weigh in will be at Wednesday and Friday.
(after at the moment contracted championships)

Reason:
We believe that it will be more teams participating in the Open Club competitions, and hopefully also more teams in the Closed competition.

It is over all an financial question.
If we ever will be able to see teams from our "new member countries" it must be cheaper to participate. If teams themselves can decide if they will go to the Open

competition and book a 3-days package they can do so, instead of the ordinary 5-days package. It will also be possible for a National team to arrive at Thursday or Friday and book a 3- or 4-days package instead of 5-days.

As it is today the cost is approximate 1 000 SEK (110 EURO) / day. Two days less you save 2 000 SEK (220 EURO) / person.

If more teams (both in open and closed) afford to go to the Championships they will go, and it is then up to the participants themselves to decide if they will stay for 3 – 4 – 5 or 6 days, all depending on their own financial situation. For 15-20 years ago it was 200-250 teams participating in the Open Club competition .Nowadays we are happy if we reach 150 teams, why.....costs.????

On Vote passed 9 in favor 6 against 4 abstained

3. Proposed by Germany

Seconded by Netherlands

That Additional Weigh control before Competition for members of the national teams.

Explanation:

The Weigh in procedure like used in the last championships is a great success. But in relation to other sports where competitions hold in weigh classes the time period between weigh in and competition is to long, up to 4 days. There should be a weigh control take place before the competition.

A period up to 4 days is irritating to the rules of the International Olympic Committee.

And Tug of War as part of the World Games family has to face this problem.

Because of this following proposal of Germany:

Members of national teams take part in the official weigh in.

Before each national competition two members of each team chosen by draw have to be weight. Each weight should not differ more or less than 5 % of their original weight. (For example athletes original weight is 80 kg, the athlete has to be between maximum 84,0 kg and minimum 76,0 kg) If they exceed this limit they have to be replaced by other athlete under same conditions.

On a Vote failed 4 in favor 14 against 1 abstained

4. Proposed by Scotland

Seconded by

That the mixed weight be reduced from 600kg down to 560kg in all TWIF Championship Events.

In the absence of the proposer this proposal was not discussed.

5. Proposed by Scotland

Seconded by

That TWIF Judges should be allowed to continue beyond the age of 65 years if they are still able and wish to continue to Judge.

In the absence of the proposer this proposal was not discussed

6. Proposed by Ireland

Seconded by Wales

*The TWIF Rules Manual rule regarding Indoor Shoes(8.4.2) should be amended to: Indoor Shoes: **The shoes to be used for indoor tug-of-war should be as originally produced by the sports shoe manufacturer. No modification to the shoes is permitted.***

The rationale:

The cost to clubs has risen due to the current "modified-shoe" rule, reinstatement of an unmodified shoe rule would do away with this; the level-playing-field is gone, as now the club who come up with the best rubber & not the best team can win the day; the current rule which allows for modification(and thus encourages it) means that men are breathing in rubber fumes during the modification of the soles, which is very damaging to their health.

On a Vote Failed 3 in favor 14 against 2 abstained

7. Proposed by Belgium

Seconded by

Every year there are some troubles with press on the field. There is no straight rule that the organization needs to follow and that leads to randomness. We want to propose a clear regulation:

- a. For open clubs competition we propose that the organization gives 3 press vests to every attending country. Each country hands out the vest to their local photographers. No photographer without vest is allowed on the competition field. The team attendant always can take pictures from his position next to the judge (he doesn't need a vest).
- b. For Closed competition we have the same proposal, but to keep a minimum of person on the field the maximum of vests for each country is limited to two.
- c. For both Open and Closed competition all external (TV, Paper,...) press people who are going on the competition field should be accompanied by a liaison of the organization. They could give the press some extra information and say where they can and can't go to take film or pictures without interrupting the team, coach, judge, timekeeper.

8. Proposed by Belgium **Proposal Not accepted as this was dealt with within the last 2 years**

We propose that the rule about the sidestepping for outdoor competition is cancelled in the TWIF rulebook. (and only be used in indoor competition as it was before last championship). We have several reasons for this proposal:

- a. This rule adaption was not voted at congress?
- b. There are for outdoor competition no straight rules to mark the pulling lanes. The judge has to decide for itself what is in the lane and what's not. This will lead to randomness and frustration for as well teams and judges. (For indoor this is much easier because of the rubber mats.)

Before the sidestepping rule for outdoor competition can be used there should be a proper proposal which include a decent regulation for what exact is the range of the pulling lane.

9. Proposed by the Basque Country **Seconded by Wales**

Better organization for the row or line for the 1st weigh.

Explanation:

When the official weigh in opens first time the pullers are willing to weigh in ASAP. They are also quite nerves because of the weigh loosing. When the doors of the weighing room open the athletes go mad, sometimes even pushing one to others. As the lines or rows normally are not delimited, For example in Madison, at last WC, athletes that arrived first were taken out of their positions and there was also some moments of tension. We think these unnecessary stress situations should be avoided.

Solution:

We think that it's not difficult to give a good solution to these. The entry to the weigh in room could be delimited with ribbons like in the airports for example. Or put a machine to give numbers to the athletes and control the entry in order of those numbers.

No vote was taken, as it was agreed to include this advice into the organizers manual.

10. Proposed by South Africa **Seconded by Wales**

That the following pulling order be used for future TWIF Championships

Day 1 – Morning

700kg Men
600kg U23 Men

Day 2- Morning

600kg Mix
560 Men Junior

500kg U/23 Women

Day 1 Afternoon

580kg Men

500kg Women

480 kg Women Junior

Day 2 Afternoon

640kg Men

540Kg Women

European Championships

Day 1 Morning

680kg Men

600kg Men U/23

500kg Women U/23

Day 2 Morning

720kg Men

600kg Mixed

560kg Men Junior

480kg Women Junior

Day 1 Afternoon

560kg Men

520kg Women

Day 2 Afternoon

640kg Men

560kg Women

Motivation: The 600kg Mix division normally comprises of heavier men and lighter women. The above pulling order should ensure that more athletes participate in the Mix division, as the athletes have already participated in their respective gender divisions (which are generally the "focus" divisions). In addition to this, the "primary" divisions (the World Games divisions), are at the end of the Championships, which should create the necessary hype and attention. There are also sufficient gap between the two Mens World Games divisions, with the 700kg Men starting on Day 1, and the 640kg Men ending on Day 2. With the U/23 weights moving to Day 1, the good young athletes can again be utilised on Day 2 in the 640kg Men or the 600kg Mix/540kg Women divisions. In short, the SA Tug-of-War Federation truly believes that the above pulling order will present the maximum pulling opportunities for deserving athletes.

It needs to be emphasized that the above sequence have been "tested" in South Africa over the past two years, with good effect and maximum participation.

On a Vote Passed

15 in favor

3 against

1 abstained

11. Proposed by the TWIF ExCo

Seconded by Thailand

To integrate the Technical Commission with the Athletes Commission under the new title "Technical and Athletes Commission".

Reason: To bring athletes representatives and technical officials together in order to create a better and wider understanding of the issues involved regarding rules and procedures, including the concerns of athletes. The Commission would be composed of a maximum of ten persons four of whom would represent athletes and the other six would largely represent judges, administrators and International Representatives. A

wide geographical spread would be highly desirable. The Commission would be advisory to the TWIF Executive and would be chaired by an ExCo member.

On Vote Passed

15 in favor

2 against

2 abstained

Questions:

The Netherlands:

1. How does TWIF ExCo see the cooperation between all 5 continents, special Asia in the near future? ***The TWIF ExCo hope that in the near future a world championship can be held in Asian as this would help to encourage the Asian countries to take part in TWIF Championships.***

2. What is the real dream/goal of TWIF ExCo? ***President McKeever stated that the ExCo has been working very hard to help countries develop by running course in various parts of the world. The ExCo has develop a mission statement which is on the TWIF website.***

3. 70 + countries are member of TWIF, around 20 are active. They show up at congress or World Championships. How are we as TWIF family going to follow up/help these countries to be an active member in the future of TWIF? ***TWIF is running a fellowship program and development courses about the world. We think the biggest problem is finances. TWIF is doing courses in India and South Africa***

4. What is the value of a world championship if only 14 countries show up? Tug of war is a powerful sport to learn from. Pulling together is what we do in every part of our lives. Only when we work together, pulling together our sport will grow! How can we bring to world together. ***Cost and development is the biggest reason why countries do not take part. Mr. Rabe said that just to have 25 countries no matter what the quality of the teams is may not be the answer. May be we should have a B division so less developed countries will feel they have a chance at a medal.***

5. What is your reason to join the 2016 18 -21 February World indoor tug of war championships in Volendam Netherlands?
It is going to be the best event ever !! Don't miss it!

Do you have positive ideas, how we can work together? Please let us know!
TWIF certainly hope to help make this a great event by encouraging all

members to take part.

6. The IOC agenda 2020; changes. What's in for tug of war ?

TWIF in cooperation with the Japan Federation is submitted the paper work for the inclusion of additional sport to the 2020 Olympic games.

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

President:
Cathal McKeever **Country**
Northern Ireland **Unanimously re-elected**

Seinor Vice President:

Dariusz Bajkowski Poland
Pete Dyer England
Daniel McCarthy Rep of Ireland
Anton Rabe Rep of South Africa

After 2 rounds of voting Dariusz Bajkowski from Poland was elected as Senior vice President

Vice President: Maaïke Hornstra Netherlands Unanimously re-elected

Secretary General:

Glen Johnson United States Unamously re-elected

Treasurer:

Pete Dyer England
Anton Rabe Rep of South Africa

Anton Rabe from South Africa was re-elected as Treasurer of TWIF

Attachment C Technical Commission Report

TECHNICAL COMMISSION REPORT TO CONGRESS 2015 MALMO SWEDEN.

In 2014 the Technical Commission (TC) held two meetings, one in Ireland where the World Indoor Championships were held, the other being held in Madison, USA where the World Outdoor Championships were held. Some of the items discussed were, plus many more:

- The position of the Anchor's belt.
- Possible use of liquid dry chalk for future indoor Championships
 - (this is currently being trialed)
- Accreditations
- Powers of the TC
- Dress code at Weigh-ins

Those items that needed action were passed through to the Executive Committee for their responses. The TWIF ExCo on the recommendations of the TC put before Congress 2014 proposals referring to the position of the anchor's belt and side stepping – both proposals were passed.

In Madison, in conjunction with the World Outdoors, both a Judges and Timekeeper Recorder courses were held. Six new candidates taking the Judges course, with five passes, many congratulations to them. Sadly one failure, with the theory test letting them down, we sincerely hope that this person will retake this at the next opportunity, in Malmo 2016. A refresher Judges course was also conducted; with all of the TWIF panel Judges passing successfully. Sadly only one candidate was put forward to take the Timekeeper Recorder Course; I'm very pleased to report that she passed successfully.

Currently we have 43 Judges on the TWIF Panel list and 23 Timekeeper Recorders. The next opportunity for suitably qualified personnel to participate in the courses, will be in Malmo Sweden, 2016. We urgently require suitable candidates for both courses, with a special need for more Timekeeper Recorders. Without sufficient Officials, championships cannot function to the best potential.

Well Ladies and Gentlemen that concludes my report, the last one! I would like to take this opportunity to thank people who have helped me during my time as Chairman of the Technical Commission. Especial thanks go to Rosemary Smith, and her Shadow Marga t'Lam, for all their efforts and hard work. Ensuring all details of all Officials are kept up to date, arranging candidates for both Judges' and Timekeeper Recorders' courses; administration and presentation of the Timekeeper Recorders courses. As well as keeping both the ExCo and our membership, up to date with the current status of the TWIF Officials. Thank you Ladies so much.

Also to all of my colleagues past and present who have served on this Commission; I thank them all for their valued input and support to the TWIF ExCo. It has been my pleasure to work with all of you. I believe we can take pride in the steps we have taken to try and push our sport forward; by offering the ExCo suggestions, to help make changes happen for the good of our much loved sport. Lastly, thanks to the TWIF ExCo for their support, and for listening to all the TC suggestions/proposals.

At lastly, I wish everyone involved with our great sport of tug of war, the very best in the future. Please continue to

support the Executive who work tirelessly, carrying out so much unseen work for the improvement and progression of tug of war.

I hope to see you all at some stage in the not too distant future. I wish you all good health and good sport. Thank you.

Tony Martin

Chairman of the Technical Commission.

Attachment D **Anti Doping Commission Report**

DOPING REPORT TO CONGRESS in MALMO, 2nd May 2015.

During 2014 TWIF have authorised 12 OOC and all were negative.

1. Whereabouts Information.

Sadly, yet again the Whereabouts information for of our athletes was incorrect. Therefore when the WADA Doping Officer arrived at the location, indicated in the ADAMS system, the athlete was not present. As I have pointed every year since the commencement of our Out of Competition Testing Programme, this is causing TWIF unwarranted costs. All athletes who are members of the TWIF Registered Testing Pool (RTP) are aware that they must keep their whereabouts diary updated.

2. TUE's.

TUE's are another most important document. Athletes who need to take prescribed medication must have an up to date TUE. Any athlete, whether a member of the RTP or not, must have a current TUE. We had an incident in 2014, where an athlete was tested in competition in their own country. The puller was selected for testing failed, giving a positive result. This should have been covered very easily by a current TUE. Had this been in place, the athlete would not have received a ban from his own International Federation including TWIF Competitions.

3. 2015 New WADA Rules.

As you should be aware the new WADA Anti-Doping Rules came into force on January 1st 2015. These will have to be ratified at this Congress to continue tug of war's compliance with WADA.

4. Annual Reporting Forms.

At the time of compiling this report only 12 member countries, had completed their reports.

Their reports show that in total 23 in competition tests and 7 out of competition tests were carried out. May I at this point, say a thank you to the following countries who have replied:

BASQUE, CANADA, ENGLAND, INDIA, IRELAND, JAPAN, LATVIA, NORTHERN IRELAND, POLAND, SCOTLAND and USA.

A very poor show when considering the amount of TWIF Members currently registered. As has been said many times; such a small task to be undertaken once a year; but so many International Reps., fail to comply. The information within these reports is required by both the IOC and WADA. The continued apathetic attitude puts our sport in a very bad light, whilst many members want to know when tug of war might be included into the Olympic Programme, little things such as this does not help our cause.

*PLEASE WILL INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
COMPLETE THE ANNUAL REPORT FORMS*

That concludes my report, the last one! On closing I would like to thank the following people who have assisted over all the years I've been Chairman of the Anti Doping Commission:

Including our present Anti Doping Administrator Birute Zachariene, and I wish her continued success, to Aukje van Raaij, and lastly Sue Martin.

Not forgetting all the athletes who have embraced the Anti-Doping Tests in the most part with good humour, but all with the understanding – that this was the way forward for our sport.

A big thank you to the TWIF ExCo, who have made my task much easier.

Tony Martin

Chairman of TWIF Doping Commission

Additional Doping Report – Congress Malmo Sweden 2015

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to Lars and Anders, I omitted to include the name of Sweden as one of the countries who had sent in their Annual Reporting Form. I must say that Sweden is amongst the first, if not the first returning their annual report. However, the figures supplied by them were included in the total figure, but their name was missed from the written list.

We have also received some late returns and the following have now submitted their reports: Germany, Sierra Leone and Wales.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I have remarked repeatedly, the number of returned annual report forms is simply not good enough. Every Member Country that has failed to do so please make an extra effort to do this simple task next year – it takes minutes, really!

Please take a look at the figures gained from returns received.
There have been:

In competition tests	36	Out of competition tests	26
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For the athletes in the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) the way in which they are tested will probably change following the New Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis (TDSSA) issued by WADA, which is mandatory. They are testing for additional items of stimulating agents ESA's and human growth hormone (GH) and growth hormone releasing factors (GHRFs). Birute is up to speed with the details of this following her attendance at the WADA Symposium in Switzerland. TWIF is committed to still carry out the minimum of 12 OOC in 2015.

Birute has requested for Members to notify her of the details of their own country's Anti Doping Control Officers, sadly there has been very little response. Please reply as soon as possible as this is important information that is requested to enable contact between TWIF and the elected representative for this duty.

Unfortunately the 2015 Anti Doping Manual handed to some of you in the USA should be discarded please. Due to a printing problem there are errors, I offer my sincere apologies for this, which was completely unintentional. The up to date version is on the TWIF website, they are the official rules that we must comply with. Also, on the website is the 2015 Prohibited List.

Attachment E

The Presidents Report

REPORT FOR CONGRESS, MALMO, 2015, BY THE PRESIDENT.

The TWIF Executive met twice during the past year, which does not include our meeting here in Malmo earlier this week. The following are some of the more important matters discussed at Madison last August and in London in January 2015.

GENSB.

The possibility of combining the World Junior Championships with the GENSBB competition has been discussed for some time and hopes were high at various stages that agreement could be reached. Unfortunately the GENSBB countries could not come to an agreement regarding what was acceptable to them and their Chairman informed me at the end of 2014 that agreement could not be reached within the group. As a result the TWIF Executive has extended the arrangement for the World Juniors to be part of TWIF championships for the foreseeable future, as has been the case recently.

COMPUTER PROGRAM.

The Championship Program is now hosted by the ABC Company in South Africa and worked well during its first trial in Madison.

WORLD URBAN GAMES.

We are one of 20 sports listed to participate in this event which is provisionally scheduled for late 2016. No venue has yet been disclosed. At this stage it seems each sport would have an entitlement of 110 athletes and officials.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES.

I have applied for inclusion in the 2022 Games which are likely to be held in Durban. More information is likely to be known after a Commonwealth Games Federation meeting in Auckland in September of this year. If successful it is hoped that our colleagues in South Africa would be in a good position to assist.

SPORTACCORD CONVENTION, SOCHI, RUSSIA.

I was able to attend this event last week and found it to be most interesting and useful. Some of the meetings I attended were as follows;

ASSOCIATION OF IOC RECOGNISED INTERNATIONAL SPORTING FEDERATIONS (ARISF) AGM.

ARISF continues to work closely through its Chairman, **Mr Chiulli**, with the IOC and received some extra funding from the latter. The election of a new member, Anna Arzhanova, to the ARISF Council took no less than 1.5 hours with seven slow laborious counts.

The AGM was addressed by the new IOC Sports Director, **MR. Kit Mc Connell**. The latter is from New Zealand and succeeded Christophe Dubi who was promoted within

the organisation. Mr Mc Connell spoke about the work of his Department.

Thomas Bach, IOC President, also addressed the meeting and pledged further co-operation with the Recognised Sports. He referred specifically to the proposed **Olympic TV channel** which is due to become active next year. It is costing about 400 million dollars, over seven years, to establish and will be available for all sports both Olympic and non Olympic. He mentioned a suggested number of those and **tug of war** was actually included as a possibility. Some of you will have seen news articles where our sport was highlighted with a good action photograph.

The AGM was also addressed by **Mr. Frederic Donze** who is the European Director of WADA. He revealed that most IF's are now code compliant but some still have a distance to go. He emphasized WADA's support role but also concentrated on the monitoring aspect. A new compliance review committee is being set up to ensure continuing adherence to the new code.

SPORTACCORD GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

The opening address by their President, **Mr Marius Vizer**, has been widely reported and has caused much controversy. He attacked the IOC generally and President Bach by implication for conducting activities without prior consultation with Vizer and trying to frustrate the activities of Sportaccord. It became obvious that he hadn't even told his own Board in advance of what he intended to say. **President Bach** was the next speaker and although surprised by the "warm" welcome he responded very strongly with his own points. Within minutes the major sport of athletics and also shooting stood up and made a speech withdrawing from the Sportaccord organisation. Several more followed that example soon afterwards. It was the main topic of conversation all week and will rumble on for some time yet.

World Combat Games have been awarded to Lima in Peru and will take place in either 2017 or 2018.

World Beech games will be held in Sochi in 2019.

World Urban Games are deemed to be very prestigious and it is still hoped to put them on in late 2016 or thereabouts. Negotiations are still ongoing regarding date and venue.

GUARD scheme to be established. This is an online programme whereby a wide range of medication can be input and the programme will indicate whether the component parts are legal or otherwise.

INTERNATIONAL WORLD GAMES ASSOCIATION - AGM.

IWGA has move its HQ from Colorado Springs to **Lausanne** with effect from January, 2015, the costs of which were paid for by the IOC. I had a short conversation with the new General Manager, **Ms Chantal Boehi** who is based in Switzerland. I also spoke with **Patsy Dew** who will soon finish with the organisation but there is a possibility that she might be offered a post with the Birmingham, Alabama Games.

IOC Sports Director Kit Mc Connell spoke to say that they will be strongly represented at the Wroclaw games to observe the various sports, some of which might feature on

the new Olympic TV channel at that stage.

Some IWGA members have indicated their intention to **withdraw from Sportaccord** following Mr. Vizer's speech earlier in the week. Since there is a rule that IWGA members must also be Sportacord members that would present a problem and MAY necessitate an **Extraordinary General Meeting** later in the year, depending how this evolving situation develops.

I spoke to the **Sports Director of the 2017 Games** in Poland after he had made a short speech. They appear to be quite happy with our sport and I informed him we would be meeting the Competition Manager next week in Sweden.

I also spoke to **Joachim Gossow** who has no problems with tug of war in 2017.

The Games have been confirmed for 20th to 30th July, 2017.

WORLD GAMES BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, 2021.

Birmingham was ratified by the meeting and a **contract** was signed by both parties.

I had a good meeting with Steve Mistrot and three of his colleagues from Alabama where we covered some of the preliminary details such as venues, equipment, accommodation and contacts. They have already had contact with Shelby Richardson of the USA association and are exceptionally enthusiastic. At some stage we will need to appoint a **Competition Manager** for Alabama.

WORLD ANTI DOPING AGENCY (WADA).

DOPE FREE SPORTS UNIT. (DFSU).

I MET **Mr. Frederic Donze**, European Director of WADA and in charge of IF relations. We discussed our Registered Testing Pool (RTP) and the number of athletes which should be contained therein. There had been a suggestion that this should be reduced considerably with each athlete being tested three times per year, as now required for some IF's, but Mr. Donze stated that should not be the case as far as we are concerned. Mr. Donze then spoke to DFSU and confirmed the details of our discussion. I later met Ms Francoise Daugoret, head of the DFSU unit, and then her colleague, Matteo Vallini, with whom I had a quite long and detailed discussion regarding our out of competition testing schedule. We have a contract with them to conduct our annual OOC programme.

A decision had been taken by WADA to include testing for **ESA (substances such as EPO) and HGH (Human Growth Hormone)** as a percentage of tests being conducted for various IF's. This percentage would be inclusive of both "In Competition" and "Out of Competition" tests. In our case the percentage is 5% for ESA and 10% for HGH. It is worthy of note that if we ever reach a figure of 15% it MAY trigger blood testing which would complicate matters considerably as well as being more expensive.

.We should make greater use of the range of education materials available from both WADA and DFSU. There will soon be an amended "**Athletes Guide to the Code**" available from WADA which would be appropriate.

ANTI DOPING TRAINING SESSION.

This was a half day course hosted jointly by **ARISF and WADA**. It consisted of contributions by a range of speakers from IF Anti Doping officers, WADA officers and DFSU.

Some new aspects of the 2015 Code were highlighted such as increased penalties, the **Statute of Limitations** (increased from 8 to 10 years), and SMART testing (**Technical Document for Sport Specific Analysis, TDSSA**). This applies to us in the context of ESA and HGH.

The **ADAMS** system will be modified and enhanced in 2016.

Two IF's gave examples of how they attempt to increase anti doping awareness among their members.

Flying Disk Federation insist that every participant in their championships **MUST** complete and pass a one hour on-line quiz. If that has not been done prior to arrival they must then do so at the venue before competing!!

Karate have a booth at their competitions where athletes are encouraged to complete a "play true" quiz. They also conduct a two hour course for coaches on the day prior to the event as well as requiring a signed "**Statement of Responsibility**" from the coach.

WADA will initiate a **Risk Assessment Programme** in order to determine where testing should be concentrated. Our history of positive tests seems too small to provide much useful information in this context.

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

I MET WITH **Mr. Christian Wassmer** who is in charge of IF relations and whom I met two years ago in Saint Petersburg.

We discussed our application for inclusion within the **2020 Tokyo Olympics** and the part played by the Japan Organising Committee (JOC). I have liaised closely with Mr. Takahashi of the Japan Federation which has been working hard on our behalf. The latter decided on 7th march 2015 to apply to the Japan OC for inclusion of tug of war under the umbrella of **Agenda 2020**. The IOC Executive Board will decide a set of criteria in June. Japan 2020 will submit its proposal to the IOC in September of this year. This will be studied by the IOC Programme Commission who will then make a recommendation to the IOC Executive Board regarding which, if any, sports should be included. A final decision is expected in 2016, probably around the time of the Rio Games.

If we are successful, and it's a very big "IF" it will require a lot of work. In Sochi it was very apparent that so many larger sports have the same idea as we have.

Our **Development Programme** was also dealt with and I again raised the possibility of using the **IOC logo** on some of our publications. It appears that revised information will soon be issued.

They were also pleased to learn that the **Basque situation** had been resolved.

Mr. Wassmer also disclosed that the IOC hopes to attend a **major event** hosted by International Federations, either an AGM or Championship.

INTEGRITY IN SPORT.

I attended a seminar on the above topic which concerned betting, match fixing etc. Some of the large sports have problems along those lines but I don't think we have "progressed" to that stage yet.

MEETING OF OLYMPIC SUMMER SPORTS.

I attended the above as an observer. There was a lot of talk about the controversy following Mr. Vizer's attack on the IOC and Thomas Bach during the Sportaccord General Assembly. It continues to cause a storm and some International Federations are still withdrawing from membership of Sportaccord. (I note that later in the week Mr. Vizer expressed **regret** for the manner of his criticism but not the actual content.)

I listened to a very interesting debate on the **allocation of funds** to the various Olympic Summer sports (28) and how the appropriate amount for each IF was arrived at. Some are not very happy and said so quite clearly. There are now 3 Tier A sports which receive the largest funding, namely athletics, swimming and gymnastics. This is based upon the popularity of the sports in London 2012. The IOC does a constant review of such matters and London brought forward 40% more revenue than Beijing, 2008.

INSIDE THE GAMES.

Early in the week I had a meeting with a representative from this publication which appears almost on a daily basis and deals predominately with the Olympic sports. I had met this lady at Saint Petersburg in 2013 and expressed disappointment that an article I had sent did not appear to have been published. She expressed surprise and promised to look into the matter. I do not know whether it was coincidence or not that they then highlighted Mr. Bach's earlier reference in his Olympic Channel speech to tug of war and displayed it prominently in one of their issues later in the week accompanied by a good quality coloured photograph of one of our teams at a championships with a large crowd in the background. I think it could have been Appenzell in 2012?

OTHER CONTACTS.

I had also several informal meetings over coffee or lunch etc with representatives from a range of sports or organisations. Among those were;

Brian Nook, from the Chiropractor organisation who is fully committed to continuing our working arrangement at championships.

Anna Arzhanova, newly elected Director of ARISF, a good contact.

Francois Carrard, Legal representative for the IOC who has had a lot of experience in dealing with difficult cases concerning CASS, etc.

Mr. Masahiro Tamaru, Japan Sports Council who might be a useful contact for Masaji Takahashi.

Jason Ferguson, World Snooker Federation, who undertook to mention our sport to his partner Mr. Barry Hearn who is a major promoter of large sporting events and has multiple television contacts. It might come to nothing but -----?

Beijian Liu, International Wushu Federation, China. This lady works in the Chinese sporting body and is fully aware of tug of war's position.

Mr. Kit Mc Connell, IOC Sport Director.

In conclusion, this was a **very fruitful Convention** for us and the information acquired and contacts established are not only of interest but possibly great benefit to tug of war in the widest context. It was attended by approximately 3,000 delegates made up of 109 Federations from 95 countries.

Cathal McKeever. TWIF President.

May 2nd, 2015

Attachment F
World Games report
REPORT



The World Games in 2017 will be held in Wrocław, Poland
1st Competition Managers Meeting took place in
Wrocław, November 20th – 22nd, 2014

General information

The World Games in 2017 will take place in Poland, town Wrocław, on the days: 20th – 30th July.

The First TWG 2017 Competition Managers meeting was held in Wrocław, November 20th – 22nd, 2014.

During two days of the conference there were many lectures and consultation meetings in smaller groups, as well as visiting the venues.

There were present representatives from IWGA, TWG OC Wrocław, Polish Sport & Tourism Ministry, local authorities and all TWG sports.

Among the others we could meet there

Jose Perurena, International World Games Association President

Piotr Przygoński, The World Games 2017 Organizing Committee President

Andrzej Banasiak, TWG Consultant from Polish Sport & Tourism Ministry

Hagen Bossdorf - IWGA TV & Media Coordinator

Joachim Gossow, IWGA Chief Executive Officer

Brian C. Nook, FICS International Commission Chairman

Lectures

The lecture about general TWG information was given by Grzegorz Pyzałka, TWG 2017 Sports Manager.

He spoke about the taken steps:

- Bidding process TWG 2017 – beginning January 2011
- Nomination – January 12th 2012
- Agreement signing – May 21st 2012
- Flag Hanging Over at the Closing Ceremony of TWG 2013 Cali
- July 20th – 30th 2017 TWG Wrocław

He gave also many interesting information, for example about the jetlag handling.

Mr. Joachim Gossow gave the lecture on:

- General Information TWG
- IF-Passport
- Sport Program
- Communication.

Mr. Hagen Bossdorf gave the lecture on:

- TWG Channel
- Broadcast and Production
- Production Requirements.

The lecture about Sport Chiropractic at the World Games 2017 was given by Associate Professor Brian C. Nook, FICS International Commission Chairman.

The lecture about flights & airport Wroclaw was given by Dariusz Kuś, President of the Board of Wroclaw Airport. They offer special service for the sport groups and the transportation to the down town.

They provided and will provide:

- 2012 European Football Championships UEFA Euro 2012
- 2014 World Volleyball Championships
- 2016 European Men's Handball Championships
- 2017 The World Games.

The lecture about Games Services & Programs was given by coordinator, Beata Pierre.

The lecture about New Media was given by coordinator, Piotr Łój.

He spoke about new ways of advertising the events on Internet, social media, etc.

The OC has made the special Facebook page TWG 2017 – Wrocław.

From time to time they announce “the week of a sport”. They already announced the tug of war week twice. One had been held during our TWIF Congress in Malmo.

The lecture about the venues was given by the venue coordinator, Adam Staszkiwicz, he spoke about:

- situation of the venues
- conditions
- locations.

In the tour took after the conference we could get on the venues and see the proposed conditions.

Here is the main stadium for the opening ceremony:

Venues

TWG venues are spread into five clusters:

- Northern
- Central
- Western
- Eastern
- Southern

Some of the venues are located outside of town Wroclaw, what is not really good in my opinion from the attractive point of view. It is absolutely sure that most of media attention will be put at the sports played inside the town.

Fortunately for TOW, our venues will be located in a very good place.

After my personal meeting with the OC representative we agreed the area of Wroclaw Physical Education Academy will be good place for our sport.
It is a part of the Eastern cluster called Marsowe Fields.

Locations of TOW venues:

Next meetings

My personal meeting with TWG 2017 OC is going to be between 15th and 30th June this year.

Dariusz Bajkowski

Attachment G

Evaluations 2014 World Championships Madison USA

		Accreditations Outdoor			
		Numbers	total/Clubs	total/teams	
2014	Madison	960	61	101	WC
2013	Assen	1231	75	136	EC
2012	Appenzell	1443	102	188	WC
2011	Minehead	1476	102	182	EC
2010	Pretoria	1092	62	118	WC
2009	Assen	1565	97	199	EC
2008	Sweden	1683	100	175	WC

Evaluations

England	2007	total points 119.15	Average 3.40
Sweden	2008	total points 121.4	Average 3.54
South Africa	2010	total points 110	Average 3.23
Netherlands	2009	total points 129.2	Average 3.80
England	2011	total points 118.8	Average 3.49
Switzerland	2012	total points 123.85	Average 3.64
Netherlands	2013	total points 107.27	Average 3.35
United States	2014	total points 162.08	Average 3.11

Please note that the total points from 2014 USA is more because the number of categories has increased...

National Teams		Entries	Number of countries	
2014	United States	76	14	
2013	Netherlands	75	64	14/ 2 from outside Europe
2012	Switzerland/WC	75	17	
2011	England/ EC	72	16/ 2 from outside Europe	
2010	South Africa/WC	71	15	
2009	Netherlands/EC	63	14/1 from outside of Europe	
2008	Sweden/WC	82	21	
2007	England	69	17/ 2 from outside Europe	

Accreditations Indoor

Indoor/ Clubs 2008		No. Participants	Clubs	Total Teams	WC
	Faenza	855	54	102	
2010	Cesenatico	779	44		81
2012	Perth	820	49		98
2014	Castlebar	740	49		95

World Championship Evaluation Madison WI USA

1. Organization

TC EXCO Athletes Average

1.1 Communication with the organizers prior to the event	3.6	3.75	3.62	3.65
1.2 Administration arrangements before the event	3	3.33	3.5	3.27
1.3 Communication with the organizer during the event	3.2	3.25	3.62	3.35
1.4 Administration arrangements during the event	2	2.66	3.25	2.63
1.5 Communication with the organizer after the event	3.25	2.66	3.42	3.11
2. Registration/Accreditation				
2.1 Arrangement for registration and accreditation	2,6	3.25	3.62	3.15
2.2 Quality of the waiting area whilst waiting to register	2.5	3	3.25	2.91
3. Administration/ Championship Office				
3.1 Quality of the area required for the secretariat	2	2.75	3	2.58
3.2 Equipment ect. Required for office	1.8	2.5	2.8	2.36
4. Accommodation & Food				
4.1 Quality of the housing in relation to the price	3.4	3.33	3.5	3.41
4.2 Quality of the food.	2.33	2.5	2.25	2.36
4.3 Quantity of the food	3	3	3	3

4.4 Ability to serve food at a timely rate	3	3	3.25	3.08
4.5 Arrangements for transport between housing and competition area		3	4	3.5
5. Competition area				
5.1 Quality of the pulling area	3.2	3.25	3.55	3.33
5.2 Dimensions of the competition area	3.16	3	3.88	3.34
5.3 Indication of rope number	3	3	3.44	3,14
5.4 Marking of the center line	2.66	3	3.44	3.03
5.5 Control of unauthorized persons in competition area	2.66	2.5	3.12	2.76
6. Competition Area				
6.1 Quality of the ropes	3.6	3	3.71	3.43
6.2 Quality of mats (Indoor)	-	-	-	-
6.3 Number of ropes / or mats	3.2	2,66	3.8	3,22
6.4 Scoreboard for competition results	4.16	3.75	4	3.97
6.5 Scoreboard size and position	4	3.75	4.1	3.95
7. Facilities				
7.1 Arrangements for weigh-in of competitors	3	3.25	2.75	3
7.2 Quality and area of weigh-in room	3.33	3.25	3.57	3.38
7.3 Quality of the scales	3.33	3.5	3.87	3.56
7.4 Quantity of the scales	3.66	3.5	3.71	3.62
7.5 Quality & area allocated for competitors to change in readiness for weighing, marshalling and necessary checks e.g. passports ect.	2.83	3	2.52	2.78
7.6 Quality of the first aid	3.25	2,25	2.66	2.72

7.7 Quality of washing and shower facilities	2.25	2	2	2.08
7.8 Arrangements for the briefings	3	3.25	3.25	3.16
7.9 Quality of the public address system	3	3.66	3.75	3.47
7.10 Quality of announcements/ commentary	3.66	4	3.85	3.83
7.11 Arrangements for refreshments/lunch during competition	3.33	3	3.37	3.23
7.12 Size and quality of the marshalling area	2.8	3	2.83	2.87
7.13 Quality, quantity and cleanliness of toilets	2.5	2.5	2.57	2.53
7.14 Quality and quantity of team tents for championships	1.8	2	2.42	2.07
7.15 Suitable area/facilities for competing teams between pulls during open competition	2.4	2.5	2.16	2.35
8. Medals And Awards				
8.1 Quality and quantity of medals for club competition	3.5	3.25	3.24	3.33
8.2 Quality and quantity of medals for TWIF Championships	3.5	3.25	3.5	3.41
8.3 Quality of awards for club competition	2.83	3.25	3.28	3.12
8.4 Quality of awards for TWIF Championships	2.83	3.25	3.28	3.12
8.5 Arrangements for presentation of medals and awards	2.83	2.75	2.85	2.81
8.6 Quality and Quantity of competitors medals	3.61	3.25	3.33	3.39
9. Facilities for Officials and Spectators				
9.1 Quality of stand for spectators	3.33	3,25	3.42	3.33
9.2 Arrangements for refreshments, beverages and lunches for spectators	3	3.25	3.12	3.12
9.3 Quality of the championships program	3.33	3.25	3.25	3.27
9.4 Arrangements for the press	2	3	3.16	2.72

9.5 Quality of the press center	1.66	3	3	2.55
9.6 Quality of the result book/CD	3		3	3
9.7 Overall atmosphere	3.83	4	3.62	3.81
9.8 Availability of DVD pulling				
9.9 Availability and quality of web streaming of competition	3.6	3.75	3	3.45
9.10 Network, internet function and speed				
9.11 How well overall was the sport promoted	3.16	3.33	3.16	3.27
Total	152.47	161.38	169.61	162.08
Average	2.98	3.10	3.26	3.11

7 - Countries sent in evaluations/ 4 -ExCo members/ 6- TC members