

INTERNATIONAL TUG OF WAR SPORT NEWS

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FOREWORD BY ANTON RABE

TWIF PRESIDENT

As we move towards the end of yet another year that has flown past, we can reflect on 2017 and look forward to 2018.

We experienced a very successful European and World U23 and Youth Championship during September in Southport, England. The England Tug of War Association once again proved to be great and competent hosts with good (and ample) food and drink, with excellent pulling ground which once again provided an excellent platform for our athletes to showcase their skills and perform at a very high international standard.

We also look forward with great excitement to the first ever TWIF championship to be held in Asia. The TWIF World Indoor Open and Closed Championship will be held from 7 to 11 March 2018 in the city of Xuzhou in the People's Republic of China. This will be a great step forward in the ongoing effort of TWIF to grow the global footprint of tug of war sport. Continued engagement between the TWIF Executive and the Chinese officials responsible for the organisation of the event is being maintained in the run-up to the event.

I wish to encourage the TWIF membership to start their planning and reservations for travel and accommodation timeously and to ensure that visa and other travel requirements to China is taken care of well in advance of the event.

Finally – the host cities of the 2024 and 2028 Olympics have recently been announced by the IOC recent as being Paris and Los Angeles respectively. This creates yet another opportunity for TWIF and the national tug of war organisations in these countries to engage at various levels with organised structures in our endeavours to unlock opportunities for our sport to be included on the respective programmes. In order to achieve this, we will continue our efforts to grow and develop the sport globally.

In the mean time I wish 'tuggers' at all levels within the TWIF family a wonderful and blessed festive season and the New Year that lies ahead.

Best Regards

ANTON RABE



Anton Rabe.

Photo: Eddie van Raamsdonk.

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IS A MEMBER OF



MISSION STATEMENT

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.



RECORDERS AT THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

SEPTEMBER 2017 - SOUTHPORT, ENGLAND

WANDA JONCK
South Africa

The European and Junior World Championships took place in Southport, England. Due to unforeseen circumstances the venue had to be changed at short notice.

The Recorders 'reported for duty' on 20th of September and assisted the Weigh Master and Judges with the weigh in of all the athletes. A bunch of ladies that will properly never get the deserved recognition they deserve, they are the 'faceless' Angels working behind the screens ensuring that the Championships are a success and that the Athletes enjoy the event.

Under the cheerful and professional guidance of Chief Recorder, Wendy Dyer, the ladies faced the gloomy circumstances with a

positive attitude and smiles all around. True to England it was a windy and wet four days. For these ladies no task was too small or big and they all chipped in whenever there was a 'crisis' on hand.

Geared with their 'tools of the trade' and some blankets to keep most of the cold away, the ladies faced the four days of the respective Championships.

At times the rain was getting into the tents they were working under and other times the wind wanted to blow all their paper work away, but there were no complaints from these brave souls.

Whenever angry Trainers / Coaches approached them, they dealt with them in a friendly manner, solving the enquiry quickly, proving once again: Recorders are never wrong.

They even had an 'attack' of an army of small spiders, where one of our beloved Recorders (Kirsten Rosa) got her a new nickname 'Spidy'. This was due to the amount of baby spiders making themselves at home in her hair.

A warm thanks to the following Ladies who did an excellent job under cold and trying circumstances: Wendy Dyer, Wanda Jonck. Claudia Monterubbiano, Carolina Hägerdal, Karen Hickey, Maureen Geary, Aukje van Raaij and Kirsten (Spidy) Rosa.

On behalf of all the Recorders, our sincere appreciation to Marga't Lam and Maaike Hornstra who didn't hesitate to render a helping hand when needed.

Then also to the Glen Johnson, Bruce Schuman, Dirk 't Lam David Evans and Pete Dyer who assisted the ladies throughout the Championships. Last but certainly not least: all the Judges who worked hand in hand with the Recorders to make these Championships a success and had a great sense of humour all the way.

It just proves that in union there is strength!

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RESULTS EC & WC SOUTHPORT 2017 OUTDOOR CLUB TEAMS/OPEN

M 680 kg:

1. Ebersecken Switzerland
2. ttv Heure Netherlands
3. ttv Valleitrekkers Netherlands

M 600 kg U23:

1. Stans-Oberdorf Switzerland
2. ttv Veenseboys Netherlands
3. Simonswald Germany

W 500 kg U23:

1. Tai Shih-Da Jing Mei Chinese Taipei
2. Sins Switzerland
3. Pfahlbronnen Germany

M 560 kg:

1. Engelberg Switzerland
2. Bancran Northern Ireland
3. SZC Mosnang Switzerland

W 520 kg:

1. Ayrshire Scotland
2. Kilroe Ladies England
3. ttv Gelderswoude Netherlands

M 720 kg:

1. ttv Valleitrekkers Netherlands
2. G&B Tug of War Ireland
3. ttv Koapman Netherlands

JM 560 kg:

1. Oakdale A South Africa
2. Stans-Oberdorf Switzerland
3. Nantou & Sou-Shan Chinese Taipei

JW 480 kg:

1. Drostdy South Africa
2. Dreigiau Cymreig Wales
3. Taichung CXFS Chinese Taipei

Mix 600 kg:

1. Kilroe Ladies England
2. Löftadalen DK Sweden
3. ttv Eibergen Netherlands

M 640 kg:

1. Ebersecken Switzerland
2. ttv Veenseboys Netherlands
3. Engelberg Switzerland

W 560 kg:

1. Tai Shih-Da Jing Mei Chinese Taipei
2. Haldon England
3. Waltenschwil-Kallern Switzerland

RESULTS EC & WC SOUTHPORT 2017 NATIONAL TEAMS/ CLOSED

M 680 kg:

1. Netherlands
2. Switzerland
3. Ireland

M 600 kg U23 :

1. Switzerland
2. Germany
3. South Africa

W 500 kg U23:

1. Switzerland
2. Chinese Taipei
3. Sweden

M 560 kg:

1. Switzerland
2. Basque Country
3. Northern Ireland

W 520 kg:

1. Sweden
2. Scotland
3. Switzerland

M 720 kg:

1. Netherlands
2. Ireland
3. England

JM 560 kg:

1. Switzerland
2. South Africa
3. Chinese Taipei

JW 480 kg:

1. South Africa
2. Wales
3. Chinese Taipei

Mix 600 kg:

1. England
2. Sweden
3. Switzerland

M 640 kg:

1. Switzerland
2. Netherlands
3. Sweden

W 560 kg:

1. Switzerland
2. Sweden
3. Netherlands

MEDAL TABLE EC & WC SOUTHPORT 2017 OPEN CLUBS

NO	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1	Switzerland	4	2	3
2	Chinese Taipei	2		2
3	South Africa	2		
4	Netherlands	1	3	4
5	England	1	2	
6	Scotland	1		
7	Ireland		1	
8	Wales		1	
9	Sweden		1	
10	Northern Ireland		1	
11	Germany			2

MEDAL TABLE EC & WC SOUTHPORT 2017 NATIONAL TEAMS/CLOSED

NO	COUNTRY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1	Switzerland	6	1	2
2	Netherlands	2	1	1
3	Sweden	1	2	2
4	South Africa	1	1	1
5	England	1		1
6	Chinese Taipei		1	2
7	Ireland		1	1
8	Germany		1	
9	Wales		1	
10	Basque Country		1	
11	Scotland		1	
12	Northern Ireland			1



Quit while you are ahead

"It's also time to say goodbye" were the words from TWIF President Anton Rabe at the TWIF Briefing Friday Night in Southport England. A lot of People from different Nations asked me afterwards:

"Is it true, you have resigned?"

Sunday evening, Bronze Medal match 640 kg between Basque Country and Sweden and the career of TWIF Judge Marcel Eggerschwiler was over!

1994, after 11 years national Judging in Switzerland, I did the course for International Judges in Uppsala Sweden, where I passed. In 1995 I had my first experience as a TWIF Judge in Getxo, Basque Country. Followed were 9 European Championships, 11 World Outdoor Championships, 9 World Indoor Championships, 3 World Games and numerous International Tournaments in Germany, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Latvia and England.

23 years as International Judge, including Assistant Chief-Judge and Chief-Judge, it was simply a great time!

Together with my friends from Switzerland Ueli Bösch and Heinz Wildhaber (the legendary member of TWIF, Rosmary Smith called us 'the three Amigos') we took the opportunity, whenever possible to combine Championships with travel - Sweden, USA, South Africa, Botswana, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya.

Travelling was sometimes a wierd thing. On the way home

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1997 European Championships in Jersey with Johann Birrer and Ueli Bösch.



1999 European Championships, Slagharen NED.

2002 World Championship South Africa and below 'The three Amigos' with Hans Imbaumgarten.



2014 World Championships USA Swedish and Swiss Friends: Tommy Eklund, Goran Johannson, Marcel Eggerschwiler, Herbert Peter, Kuno Frey and Mathias Barmettler.



2017 European Championship England 'The Final Match'.

from the Indoor WC in Cork Ireland 2002, a member of the bomb squad at London Heathrow opened my backpack and found the souvenir which we received at the Championships, a Crystal wrapped in antistatic paper.

During a stopover in Madrid, on the way to the World Games in Cali COL, a gang stole my backpack with all my money, credit cards, passport and camera. After visiting the police and the embassy I flew back to Switzerland. The next morning, after a phone call from the Madrid city police, I flew back to Madrid, grabbed my passport and the leftover stuff and tried to organise a flight to Cali. I can still hear the words from the Iberia air lady at the desk: "have a wonderful trip to Columbia, but please don't come back to me!" Via Costa Rica and Bogota I finally arrived in Cali and was judging on Sunday morning at the Indoor competition.

But the best experience at all of the competitions was to meet and work together with athletes, functionaries and fans of Tug of War, especially the Judges, and to find friends from all over the world.

I am not completely away, you can't leave this amazing sport! I have just changed the side of the fence!

"I'll be back as a spectator."

MARCEL EGGERSCHWILER

Former TWIF Judge

Above left: Anton Rabe gives Marcel a gift to thank him for his years of duties to TWIF.

Left: James Ward from Ireland, turns 65 this year so will have to retire. He also received a present from Anton.

PHOTOS LEFT BY RAY FRAY SMITH.





International youth Tug of War tournament GENSB

The GENSB tournament was founded in 1998 by Germany, England, Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium. The spirit behind the tournament is to bring young athletes, between ages 12 and 19, from different countries together to compete at an international level. At the same time international friendships are formed and tug of war gets introduced to the youth.

Every year, another country gets the opportunity to organise the GENSB tournament on the last Saturday of August. A variety of countries from all over the world comes to this tournament to pull against other passionate boys and girls. Therefore official tug of war rules are used. This tournament is a low budget event, where each participant pays a low fee for food and accommodation. Therefore the number of participants grows every year.



A very nice Tug of War event for young people

To visit the GENSB tournament involves many hours travelling for our part. We know that several other countries like Ireland, England and Switzerland also have quite long trips to connect with GENSB every year. We always start our trip on Thursday before the competition, in this case we left on Thursday evening, the bus in Jönköping starts at 19:00. By then our northernmost club Brunnsberg had already travelled for approx. 4 hours by car or minibus to connect to this first bus stop.

The journey continued south and stopped a couple of times to pick up more young people from other Tug of War clubs along the way down to Helsingborg where the first ferry ride is. By then we had about 30 people on this trip to Belgium.

The trip continued down Europe and after 3 hours in Denmark was the next ferry, this time between Rødby and Puttgarden in Germany. Then it was about 01:00. The journey went through Germany during the night and in the morning we drove across the border to Belgium to be in Retie before lunch on Friday.

The youngsters were a little tired when arriving at the competition arena early am. We had not managed to find a good breakfast place on the trip, so after a little negotiation with the organizer we bought breakfast at the accommodation right next to the competition arena.

Check-in occurred in the afternoon and then we returned to the competition area for test weighing and a little training to get the bodies restarted after the long journey.

Dinner in the dining room (see left). Good food and no problem with the amount. We had a weigh-in to perform the next

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GENSB

Tournament 2017
Retie, Belgium
24-27 August.



Right: After the competition.

Below: On the way to the opening ceremony.

Below right: Team Löftadalen in a pull.



morning. The youth were quite subdued in the evening. It was not hard to get them quiet. They fell asleep very fast.

Next morning. Competition day! Jippie! Up very early for weigh-in, some nervous, some still tired, but very happy because it was a race day. The weigh-in went well. No overweight. Back to the accommodation for breakfast and upload.

On the way to the competition, more nervousness is noticeable. Only good, then they are loaded. Everyone gets their stuff and we stuck in

our team area, well arranged by the organizer with these team areas. We are now ready for in march at the opening ceremony with a very nice presentation of all teams. In my opinion, a nice opening under the direction of GENSB Chairlady Tiny Langeveld from the Netherlands. Off from the opening ceremony and then time for warm up. The mood is tricked up further. For many of our youngsters the biggest they have been in on a competition.

The competition starts and for us in Löftadalen DK, it's a good start, after four matches we lead the group and the youngsters begin to get a little excited. Unfortunately, we have not met the best teams yet. We lose the next game and they start to get a bit uncertain. Tiredness also begins to sneak up. This year we do not reach all the way, but are several experiences richer. For most of our youngsters the revanch lust is incredibly big. Next year in Germany, we will move on after the group draws was everyone's opinion. Everyone was happy about the medals and the attention we received. The young people will live on this for a long time.

Time for a shower and for our part who have long travel home also packing. Dinner for everyone in the big dining room. Great food and everyone filled up. We also want to congratulate the organizers for a well-organized event. The food is important, plentiful and tasty.

The youngsters are offered to go to the party before we get on the bus for the home trip. The youth thinks it's better to get away because its school day on Monday.

I do not need to describe how the home trip went, because it was just the opposite of our trip down to Belgium. Think of the youngsters from our northest club, Brunnsberg. They were home after midnight on Monday and everyone was back in school on Monday morning.

ANDERS ANDERSSON

Coach and trainer, Löftadalen DK



Top 3 of this year's tournament where there was a total of 36 teams:

1. Waldkirch

Switzerland

2. Stans-Oberdorf

Switzerland

3. Ttv Powerrangers

Belgium

WADA publishes 2018 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods

At the end of September 2017, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) published the 2018 List of Prohibited Substances and Methods (List); along with the 2018 Summary of Major Modifications and Explanatory Notes. The List, which was approved by WADA's Executive Committee on 24 September 2017, comes into force on 1 January 2018.

The List, which is one of five International Standards that are mandatory for all Signatories of the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), designates what substances and methods are prohibited both in- and out-of-competition; and, which substances are banned in particular sports.

"WADA is pleased to publish the 2018 Prohibited List," said WADA President, Sir Craig Reedie. "Updated annually, the List is released three months ahead of taking effect so that all stakeholders - in particular athletes and their entourage - have sufficient time to familiarize themselves with the document and its modifications," Reedie continued. "It is vital that all athletes and entourage take the necessary time to consult the List; and that they contact their respective anti-doping organizations (ADOs) if they have any doubts as to the status of a substance or method."

"Annually, the Prohibited List review involves a very extensive stakeholder consultation process over the course of nine months," said Director General, Olivier Niggli. "In reviewing the List, experts examine such sources as: scientific and medical research; trends; and, intelligence gathered from law enforcement and pharmaceutical companies in order to stay ahead of those that endeavor to cheat the system," Niggli continued.

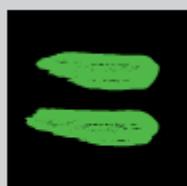
The List's annual revision process is led by WADA, beginning with an initial meeting in January and concluding with the publication of the List by 1 October.

This is an extensive nine-month consultation process that includes WADA's List Expert Group gathering information; circulating a draft List amongst stakeholders; taking their submissions into consideration and revising the draft; followed by, review by the Agency's Health, Medical and Research (HMR) Committee. The HMR Committee then makes its recommendation to WADA's Executive Committee that approves the List during its September meeting. For a substance or method to be added to the List, it must be determined that it meets two of the following three criteria: 1. it has the potential to enhance or enhances sport performance; 2. it represents an actual or potential health risk to the athletes; or, 3. it violates the spirit of sport.

It should be noted that for athletes who have a legitimate medical reason for using a prohibited substance or method that is on the List, they may be accommodated if they meet the criteria outlined in the International Standard for Therapeutic Use Exemptions (ISTUE). The TUE process has overwhelming acceptance from athletes, physicians and anti-doping stakeholders worldwide.

To view the changes made in the 2018 Prohibited List as compared to the 2017 version, please see the 2018 Summary of Major Modifications and Explanatory Notes.

Languages and Formats The 2018 Prohibited List, the Summary of Modifications, and the 2018 Monitoring Program are available for download on WADA's website in English, French and Spanish. The List's mobile-friendly digital edition will go live 1 January 2018.



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