The agenda and supporting documents and reports were recently distributed to the TWIF membership in the lead up to the 2019 congress and AGM end of April in Getxo, Basque Country.

It is especially heartening to see tenders from a number of countries that have not previously hosted TWIF championships, for the various international events from 2022 onwards. In a certain sense this means that our membership is starting to mature on a broader basis and that their ability and confidence to successfully host big events is increasing. Clearly the TWIF development programmes initiated by my predecessors, are starting to get traction on a wider front. I look forward to the various presentations and to voting on the allocation of TWIF events that are open for tender.

One person that played a pivotal role in this development over more than three decades, is Glen Johnson, TWIF Secretary General, who will retire from TWIF at the coming congress. So in a certain sense the 2019 congress will in one way be the start of a truly global era for TWIF. On the other hand it will also be the stage for the end of an era when Glen retires. He has served the Federation tirelessly for 32 years from 1987 to 2019. Given the ever changing environment in which sporting codes are now administered, and the increased requirements for compliance and governance issues, I believe this is an unique record that will not easily be surpassed by anybody.

During this period of 32 years TWIF grew from 22 member countries to the current 72 members. The extent and nature of communication has drastically changed over this period. Glen was an integral part of TWIF’s development and his knowledge, experience and institutional memory, will no doubt be seriously missed in the years to come.

Yes, the development level of these 72 members differs vastly and we have continued challenges to ensure further growth in our membership especially in Asia, Africa and South America. This, including support with coaching and development of officials in many of our existing membership, will continue to be a key pillar in future policy plans, but we have come a long way during this period. Hopefully Glen sees his way open to still participate in this process albeit not as a member of the Exco as he indeed will do as the designated Technical Delegate for World Games 2021 in Birmingham, USA.
In 2020 TWIF will celebrate its 60th anniversary. For one person to have been in the engine room for more than half of that time, is truly remarkable. We therefore salute Glen for the legacy he leaves; for the warmth, genuine friendship, leadership, wisdom and his loyal and humble service to TWIF.

Our thanks also go to his wife Gerry, and daughter Olivia (recently also a granddaughter was welcomed to the family) for sharing Glen with us and for allowing him to spend so many days and weeks away from home over so many years.

Truly an end of an era and to a legend in our sport. Glen we salute you and will forever be grateful for the legacy you leave. We have big shoes to fill. Anton Rabe President

Anton Rabe.
**SPORTFREUNDE GOLDSCHEUER**

the oldest Tug of War club in Germany

Tug of War started in the 1920’s in Goldscheuer. The first titles had already been won in the 1930’s, but as with many other sports Tug of War couldn’t be practiced during the Second World War after which the club ‘Sportfreunde Goldscheuer’ was founded in 1949. From 1955 the Tug of War competitions started again. Today, Tug of War is one of the four departments in our club.

Up till now the pullers from Goldscheuer have won 46 national titles as well as many medals at international events. Each year athletes from Goldscheuer are chosen for the German National Team where they have already won many medals and important titles like the ‘World and European Championship.’ Their latest success was winning two Gold medals at the World Championships in South Africa last year - the first one was for the Club Open with Goldscheuer and the second one was for the 560 kg competition with the German National Team.

In 2019 the club will celebrate its 70th birthday. For this occasion, they will host an International Tug of War Tournament on the 15th and 16th June 2019. This tournament will be the third event of this nature in Goldscheuer since 1989 and 1999.

Despite its long history and the many titles of the club, most people in the region of Goldscheuer don’t know about our great sport, so with this tournament we hope to make it more popular.

We expect a lot of spectators to visit our event to get a better knowledge and understanding of this interesting, pulsating and fascinating sport.

We also hope that many clubs will visit - and that it will be an unforgettable event.

For more information
www.tauziehen-goldscheuer.de
The development of Tug of War in Colombia

In Cali we have promoted Tug of War since the World Games in 2013. This has not been an easy task because in Colombia there are many other sports and a lot of people don’t want a new league or a new sports federation.

Although we have not yet received the programme of the 2013 World Games, we have worked with what we have achieved so far and have managed to create six sports clubs. I want to share with you the great news for our sport. As you all know Colombia signed a peace agreement with the oldest guerrilla group that existed on the continent; one with more than 50 years experience, and one that over time has caused much damage. As a result of the peace agreements several projects have been developed in the country that from an academic point of view, want to generate peace, post-conflict and sports.

Currently I participate as an academic researcher in a line of research called ‘peace, post conflict and society’. I have managed to link the Tug of War sport to a project that contributes to peace in the country. The idea is to demonstrate how Tug of War helps develop soft skills such as cooperation, leadership, communication, etc. in excombatants and victims of the conflict. Through experimental research techniques we can also evaluate changes of behaviour that ex-combatants and victims of the conflict experience when exposed to the practice of Tug of War.

For this purpose, a project called ‘Evaluation of two components of the SENA model of integral intervention for the human and socio-economic development of the people in process of reincorporation and/or victims of the armed conflict located in the valley of Cauca 2018’ is currently being executed and the three-year macro project is being managed, called the ‘SENA model of integral attention to ex-combatants and victims of the Colombian armed conflict’. These two projects have a component called ‘Deporpaz’ (SportPeace) where, through the practice of the Tug of War, soft skills are developed in ex-combatants and victims.

The Colombian Tug of War team with their coaches and technicians are developing this sports component and are generating an academic document to support it. This is very innovative internationally and would be communicated to the public and fans of our sport. For the macro project we require the support of the International Federation, given that with the development of the ‘deporpaz’, the victims will travel abroad and have the opportunity to compete in different events with foreign teams.

They will also have a cultural schedule where they can look at the world from a different perspective and learn that there are many other ways of life in the world.

In order to develop this pilot project we have hired some

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Tug of War will not be part of the Olympic Games in Paris in 2024

Paris, February 21, 2019

Dear Mr President,

Since the process and the timeline for the Paris 2024 additional sports proposal was announced in October 2018, the Paris 2024 Sports Department has conducted thorough discussions and analysis.

After careful consideration, the Paris 2024 Executive team has reached a final decision and we regret to inform you that, on this occasion, your sport has not been selected to be put forward to the IOC to become part of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 sports programme.

We wish you a successful continuation with the ongoing growth and development of your sport in France and across the world and remain available should you wish to explore further engagement and legacy opportunities around your sport at the Olympic Games Paris 2024, and across the French territory.

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Philippe Gatien
Paris2024 Sports Director

Organising Committee for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games
96 boulevard Haussmann 75008 Paris - France
Tug of War is one of the simplest of sports, dating back to ownership disputes over food and clothing - its history a legend of the Sun and Moon wrestling over light and darkness. Most cultures have references to competitions of strength that involve pulling in opposite directions - these can be found on stone carvings, in ancient texts and legends. Vikings used animal skins stretched across a fire pit. When tall ships were common on the seas a ‘tug ‘o’ war’ was a common way for sailors to show their prowess with heavy rigging.

Although dropped from the Olympic Games in 1920, Tug of War still remains a worldwide sport and many nations have their own governing bodies. Aside from formal competitions ‘pulls’ feature at many fairs and festivals. Spectators are encouraged to cheer for their favourite side. Join in Tug of War Day by organizing your own event, or by getting involved in another!

Tug of War is a competitive sport that takes place around the world and has a long and ancient history. Two teams hold an end of a long rope and attempt to pull the other towards them in order to win. Contests often take place over bodies of water or muddy areas so that the losing team suffers the indignity of falling in, which is like the Viking version where teams competed over a fire pit.

The number of people taking part can vary from just a few to a large crowd, with the world record for a single Tug of War standing at 1,574 participants. It is not surprising that such a popular event has its own annual day; Tug of War Day. Cries of ‘heave’ are heard around the world on this day when numerous matches take place - allowing one to take part or to cheer on this timeless team game.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
International Tug of War Day celebrates Tug of War - a game where two teams compete to pull a rope so that the centre marker comes to their team’s side. Sometimes a puddle of mud or pool of water is put in the middle, so that the losing team will be pulled into it. Usually each team has eight members although other numbers are possible. At times it has even been a two person sport whereas in Taiwan in 1997 there were 1,600 participants in one game.

Tug of War was practised in ancient Egypt, Greece, China and India. It originated in ancient ceremonies and then was used to train warriors, to entertain kings, and to settle disputes. At times it was used to train for other sports. In some circumstances a wooden stake was used instead of a rope.

Over fifty countries have formal national Tug of War organisations; there are Tug of War clubs, and outdoor and indoor competitions. Tug of War was an Olympic sport from 1900 - 1920, when a decision was made to have fewer participants in the Games and the sport was cancelled. The Tug of War International Federation was created in 1960 out of a need for international competition, and shortly thereafter a competition was held in Sweden. In 1965 the first European Championships were held in England - this continued until 1975 when countries outside of Europe joined to create the first World Championships, held in the Netherlands. Today World Championships are held every other year, with European Championships taking place in the intervening years. In 1999 the Tug of War International Federation received provisional recognition from the International Olympic Committee and in 2002 they received formal recognition. As of late there has been a push to bring Tug of War back into the summer Olympics.