



NOVEMBER 2022

Foreword from our President

Having attended the IOC's IF (International Federations) Sustainability Workshop recently, it is clear that sustainability has become much more than just a buzz word.

For me it is clear that globally in all our activities, both individually and collectively - be that work or leisure related - we need to take note of and do our bit to contribute to the sustainability of the planet and its peoples. As TWIF we need to inculcate sustainability matters in all our activities. This has become an important driver in international sports events and development, and the manner in which IF's administers sport. We cannot stay behind.



Lets' start thinking sustainability in its broadest sense and see how we can pro-actively align our decisions, actions and activities in support of this vision for the future. We owe that to future generations in all spheres of life.

I also wish to utilise this opportunity to wish all our administrators, officials and athletes a very Blessed Festive period and 2023.

Until next time. **ANTON RABE** *President of TWIF*

Sustainability is no longer just associated with the environment. It also includes issues relating to economic and social matters. The United Nations have a set of 17 sustainability objectives linked to these three categories. See the list alongside.

TWIF Exco will investigate this further and explore ways to formalise a sustainability policy and code of good practice.

All of us need to become sustainability aware and consider these aspects in all our decision making and actions. As a very basic sport, requiring limited equipment, and having a track record of utilizing existing facilities both indoor and outdoor, running our events by electronic means, having a fairly balanced gender representation, a mixed weight class, and a scientific study on weight loss to determine the impact on the physical and mental health of our athletes, I believe we already have many factors in our favour without having really actively explored these issues yet.

THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD:

- GOAL 1:** No Poverty
- GOAL 2:** Zero Hunger
- GOAL 3:** Good Health & Well-being
- GOAL 4:** Quality Education
- GOAL 5:** Gender Equality
- GOAL 6:** Clean Water & Sanitation
- GOAL 7:** Affordable & Clean Energy
- GOAL 8:** Decent Work & Economic Growth
- GOAL 9:** Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
- GOAL 10:** Reduced Inequality
- GOAL 11:** Sustainable Cities & Communities
- GOAL 12:** Responsible Consumption & Production
- GOAL 13:** Climate Action
- GOAL 14:** Life Below Water
- GOAL 15:** Life on Land
- GOAL 16:** Peace & Justice Strong Institutions
- GOAL 17:** Partnerships to achieve the Goal

TONY AND SUE MARTIN: Freedom of the City of London

ROLAND MARTIN

*Right: Christine Martin,
Kelly Montague, Roland
Martin, Tony Martin,
Sue Martin, Justine Blick,
Lauren Blick.*



Sue with The Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court and the Beadle.

Former Chairman of the England Tug of War Association and Senior Vice President of the Tug of War International Federation, Tony Martin and his wife, Sue, were honoured by The City of London on 23rd August with Freedom of The City for services to the sport and to charitable work in Gloucester.

The ceremony, held in Guildhall in the square mile, had been arranged by Tony's half-brother, Roland Martin, Headmaster of City of London Freeman's School and Sue's daughter, Justine, to celebrate Tony's 80th birthday this year and had been kept a secret until ten minutes before the ceremony was due to begin!

Tony's brother commented, 'I really wanted us to mark Tony's significant birthday in a special way. Both he and Sue have been fantastic servants to the sport over the years but he has also been an amazing brother to me and step father to Justine, too acting as a father to both of us. My Chairman of Governors, Philip Woodhouse, Common Councillor at The Corporation, was enormously helpful in setting things up and it was great that he was there on the day to share this honour with our family!'



Tony with the Beadle.



2nd TAFISA European Sport for all Games Festival - Perugia, Italy 2022

On behalf of TWIF, Jost Waser and Maaïke Hornstra attended the TAFISA (The Association For International Sport for All) European Sport Festival for traditional sports and games in Perugia, Italy from the 24th till the 28th of September 2022.

The event was hosted by FiGest, the umbrella organisation of the Italian Tug of War Federation.

More than 40 sports from at least 20 countries were represented by teams demonstrating their traditional sports and games in Perugia as well as the cities of Acquasparta, Toldi and Gualdo Tadino, offering an international show of cultural diversity.

In the beautiful centre of Perugia, a lot of visitors watched the demonstrations of Tug of War. The demonstration was only on rubber mats (so indoor pulling in an outdoor atmosphere), while due to rainy weather, the outdoor demonstration did not take place. On the afternoon of Monday 26, the official conference of the 2nd TAFISA European Sport for All games and 3rd TAFISA Europe Conference was held in the Aula Magna of Perugia University and hosted speeches and discussions on "Promoting Traditional Sports and Games in Europe: Successes and Strategies".

The Conference concluded with new organizations signing the 'Interact Pledge' and thus committing to promote Sport for All through their work. Maaïke signed this 'Interact Pledge' on behalf of TWIF and in a nutshell we signed for the following:

We live in a fast changing world with a lot of challenges in all kind of ways, climate, terrorism, poverty, inequalities, physical inactivity etc. etc.

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MAAIKE HORNSTRA



Sport Organisations play a crucial role in creating a better world through Sport for All and can contribute to achieve the objectives of international and European policy papers. International and European Sport Organizations are those who may activate people, and help to reduce physical inactivity, to grow social and cultural responsibility, to empower the respect for environment, and to attain sustainable development.

Sport for All is a fundamental right that can be understood as the universal provision of access to, inspiration to join, and opportunities to participate in casual or organized physical activities. Sport for All is open, inclusive and for everyone regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, culture, language, political, religious or other beliefs, geographical location, national or social origin or property. "All" supposes that as many people as possible should be involved, with special focus on the physically inactive, disadvantaged groups and minorities. It is a vision that can be implemented as a process of social change and planned on a large scale - bringing joy, health, social interaction, creativity, capacity of adaptation, integration and sustainable development to communities and citizens around the globe.

The first TAFISA event was held in the summer of 2018 in Friesland, one of the provinces of the Netherlands that was the Cultural Capital of Europe in 2018.

In 2019 Glen Johnson retired as TWIF Secretary General after 32 years of service.

We paid attention to this in Getxo, 2019, during Congress, but during the World Games in Birmingham, Glen Johnson finally received his certificate/diploma for his title:

"TWIF HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENT"

(The title 'Honorary Life Secretary General' does not exist at IOC or other Sports Federations, so that's why Glen got the above title)





The team visits their King. This was taken on the monumental steps of the hall of the Palace of Laeken where they stand together with the king, queen, prime minister and other medal winners.

LUC MERTENS

WORLD GAMES, BIRMINGHAM USA **What the first bronze medal means to the national team in a country like Belgium**

JULY 14, 2022, 17:30 U.S. TIME, 00:30 BELGIAN TIME

The Belgian Pull Bulls win the small final against Team Germany. After this moment, our life became a little different . . .

After the podium ceremony we wanted to share the moment with our friends and relatives. When we opened our social media, there was a waterfall of messages. We felt that the whole of Belgium had experienced this with us. Text messages, videos in which friends went wild, or moved to tears. Everyone was happy, really happy. Sincere messages came from friends, family and acquaintances, parents of friends - you name it. The congratulations came from everywhere.

The Belgian delegation from the other sports who had seen us all came by. This was best of all. How exciting this was - not normal. Such a simple concept, the team that first pulls the other team over the finish line wins. But how you can get so caught up in that. I lost my voice.

We still had a few days before we flew back to Belgium. We made the most of them by cheering on other Belgians. The BOIC had given us red, white, yellow and black T-shirts and we all wore the same colour, making it obvious that we were a team - there were also many people who

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*The Pull Bull Team
in the garden of
the King's Castle
of Laeken, Brussels.*



asked what sport we represented. When we told them we also had a medal, we had to be photographed with them. In 3 days we had to take more selfies and sign autographs than before in our whole lives. Even the police wanted their picture taken with us.

Meanwhile, we got reports that newspapers and TV had picked it up on it as well as Facebook, Instagram - you name it. Sporza fully covered the bronze race, including the podium ceremony, on its website. The national news also showed footage of the game. The father of the national coach was even interviewed on national radio so that he could tell how the successful event was experienced in Belgium.

While still in America we read in the newspaper that we were going to be received by frenzied supporters - unfortunately due to an accident our flight was cancelled, so we missed our follow-up flights as well. Consequently the party did not happen. Divided into 2 groups, we arrived on 2 different days. The welcoming committee was also shattered by this - but how nice that they were there anyway.

In the weeks that followed one would have to talk about the event in the shops and on the street. You still come across something about it, for example in village magazines of some of the players.

Then in August we received an invitation from the BOIC. They wanted us to come and ride a lap of honour on our bikes at the Memorial van Damme, an international athletics meeting in Brussels. All medals that had been won at important competitions that year were allowed to experience it. That was a happy reunion with the other Belgian athletes. The lap of honour was broadcast live on TV.

Then in September we had the World Championships in Holten, where the Belgians did very well. Four medals were won in different classes, both at club and national level. These were reasons enough to throw a 'champions party' together with the medal of the World Games. October 8 was the day when we all got together in

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a hall with a French fries stand, a proper pint and tug-of-war matches projected. The basis was there, the fun came instantaneously. The proper words of thanks were said, and then the thoughts turned to next season.

Along came a letter from the Royal Palace. His Majesty the King asked if we would like to come to his palace for a reception 'for deserving sportsmen'. October 27 was the day. We were expected at 1 pm at the Castle of Laeken. After the necessary checks, we entered the ballroom together with the other medalists of the World Games, and also the other professional athletes. First, Prime Minister Alexander de Croo came to congratulate

us. He had watched some of the games on YouTube beforehand, so he was able to ask interesting questions. Then it was a short wait for the king, but not without some really tasty snacks and drinks. Then he joined us together with Jean-Michel Saive, the top man of the BOIC. We explained to him about weight classes, and that we should weigh around 80 kg. But then he saw our anchor man standing there, who normally weighs 95 kg. Amazed, he asked if he also weighed 80 kg. Someone else showed his hands, whose calluses he had still cut off in the morning. Again, his eyes were worth their weight in gold.

As an apotheosis another group photo was taken on the monumental steps of the hall, together with the king, queen, prime minister and other important people that can be seen on page 5. In the evening, we went out for something to eat together and saw everything on TV, social media and newspapers.

What a wonderful ending to a unique year of tug-of-war!

IN 2023 TTV FAM. JANSSENS RETIE CELEBRATES ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

As with the previous anniversaries we will brighten this event by organising an international tournament in Retie, Belgium (Sportspark 't Vossekot, Geenend 7, 2470 Retie).

Two days of International Tug of War at the highest level during the Ascension Weekend of 19 and 20 May with 6 different weight classes.



THURSDAY 18TH MAY Arrival of the teams Assignment of the rooms	FRIDAY 19TH MAY MORNING Men -600 kg	SATURDAY 20TH MAY MORNING Mix -580 kg Youth - U23	SUNDAY 21ST MAY Departure of the teams
Weighing in the evening	AFTERNOON Ladies -520 kg Men -700 kg	AFTERNOON Men -640 kg	

We hope to welcome you at our event!

CONTACT DETAILS: TouwTrekVereniging Fam. Janssens Retie.

lef Smets | Brasel 137 | Belgium | Tel: 0032 494 47 76 56 | iefsmets@gmail.com

www.famjanssens.be



DID YOU KNOW

that the Chiropractors treated 237 persons at least once during the WC Outdoor in Holten. Below, the team working.

WORLD OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS NATIONAL TEAMS

Weight	Gold	Silver	Bronze
500W	Chinese Taipei	Switzerland	Germany
540W	Chinese Taipei	Netherlands	Sweden
560M	Switzerland	Basque Country	Germany
640M	Switzerland	England	Netherlands
680M	Netherlands	Switzerland	England
720M	Netherlands	Switzerland	Belgium
580MX	Netherlands	Sweden	Switzerland
500WU23	Chinese Taipei	England	Switzerland
600MU23	Switzerland	Germany	South Africa
560MXU23	Switzerland	Sweden	Chinese Taipei
560JM	South Africa	Chinese Taipei	Netherlands
480JW	South Africa	Scotland	England
520MXJ	Chinese Taipei	Switzerland	South Africa



OPEN CLUBS COMPETITION RESULTS

Weight	Gold	Silver	Bronze
500W	Sins (SWI)	Jingmei Tai Shi Da (TPE)	Mosnang (SWI)
540W	Gelderswoude (NED)	Sins (SWI)	Melton Mowbray (ENG)
560M	Gaztedi (BAS)	Sins A (SWI)	Engelberg (SWI)
640M	Engelberg (SWI)	Lincoln (ENG)	Ebersecken (SWI)
680M	Stans Oberdorf (SWI)	Valleitrekkers A (NED)	Mertensmannen (BEL)
720 M	Valleitrekkers (NED)	Fam. Janssens (BEL)	Veenseboys (NED)
580MX	Eibergen (NED)	Taichung Tai Shi (TPE)	Monnickendam (NED)
600MU23	Böllen (GER)	Powerrangers (BEL)	Taiwan Sport Uni (TPE)
500WU23	Jingmei Tai Shi Da (TPE)	Goudini (RSA)	Cheadie YFC (ENG)
560 MXU23	Brunnsberg (SWE)	Ti Da-Tai Shi Da-Jin (TPE)	Valsbaai (RSA)
560JM	Oakdale A (RSA)	Shou Shan (TPE)	Stans Oberdorf (SWI)
480JW	Ayrshire (SCO)	Drostdy (RSA)	Swellendam (RSA)
520 JMX	Swellendam (RSA)	Breerivier Club A (RSA)	Upper Eden (ENG)



DID YOU KNOW that during the WC Outdoor in Holten we did a course for new TWIF judges and TWIF recorders.

The following persons passed the exam:

Judges:

Sumito Yamamoto, Japan
 Maris Runcis, Latvia
 Urko Gastearena, Basque Country
 Norman Cook, Scotland
 PJ Moore, Ireland
 Thomas Kaldenbach, Germany
 Dennis Peng, Chinese Taipei
 Hsu Yu-Ning, Chinese Taipei

Recorders:

Lena Welsch, Germany (pic right)
 Mark Williams, England
 Ravita Tuka, Latvia
 Beryl Rance, South Africa
 Herster Jordaan, South Africa



TWIF EVENTS

2023

7 - 12 MARCH	World Indoor Championships, Parkgate, Northern Ireland
21 & 22 APRIL	TWIF Seminar & Congress, Mannheim, Germany
4 - 6 MAY	African Championships in Kimberley, South Africa.
19 & 20 MAY	TVV Fam. Janssens Retie 30th Anniversary international tournament Two days of Tug of War at the highest level with six different weight classes: -600 kg Men -520 kg Ladies -700 kg Men -580 kg Ladies U23 Youth -640 kg Men
3 JUNE	30th Anniversary tournament of the club 'Velkonis' held in Ventspils The Latvian Tug of War Federation informs that the competition will be held on the following weight classes: 720 kg Men 680 kg Men 580 kg Mixed (4+4)
30 AUG - 4 SEPT	World Outdoor Championships, Sursee, Switzerland

MISSION STATEMENT

As an International Federation our mission is to provide the structure and good governance necessary or 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.