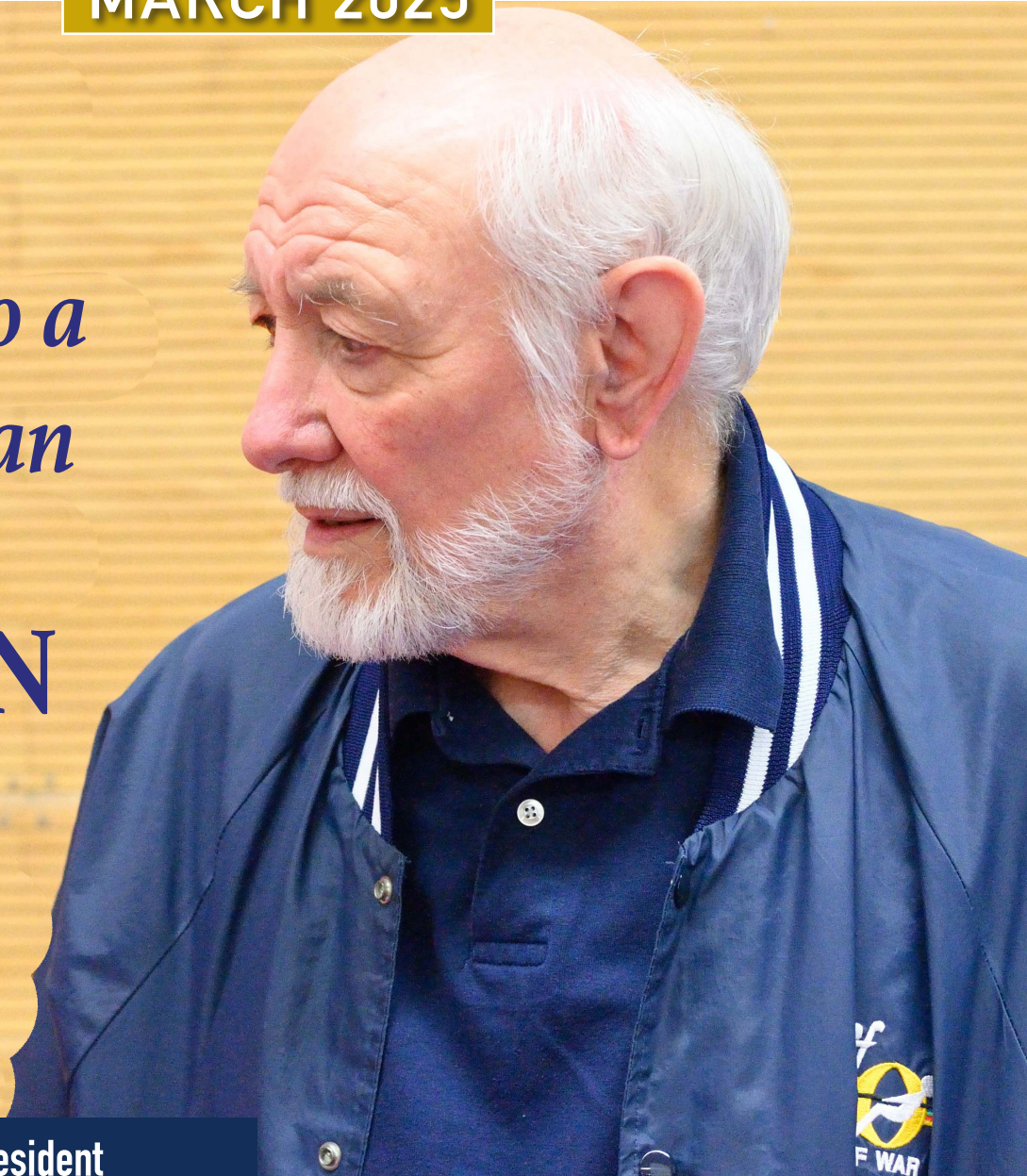


TWIF

MARCH 2025

Farewell to a Special Man **TONY MARTIN** 1942 -2025



TWIF

1999 – 2007 Vice President

2007 – 2015 Senior Vice-President

Tony during the WC Indoor, Volendam in 2016.

I first met Tony in Rimini Italy in 1989. I believe it was the first time that his wife Sue assisted with recording at the championships.

Later, I dealt with Tony when he was the Rep for England, and when he became the first Chief Marshal for TWIF, he was a person that knew how to deal with all sorts of problems and people.

He always had a good sense of humor and a smile. Liked an evening beer and a few jokes after the work was done. When he came on the TWIF ExCo, he was an asset, as he knew the sport and he had the ability to think through things and come up with a sound solution. A man who had the ability to sort out problems without offending anyone. As Vice President of TWIF he also

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chaired the Technical Commission, dealing with technical matters of the Tug of War sport.

Tony and Sue both were special people who would help out when ever and where ever they were needed. No fuss, no mess, just got on with it.

Tony was well respected in the Tug of War world and will be remembered as a gentleman who loved his sport.

I have lost three friends in the past couple years; they all are different from each other but all cared for the sport in

a selfless way.

It is my honour to have known Tony.

Farewell my friend.

GLEN (Glen Johnson, former TWIF Secretary General)



Congress Malmö Sweden 2015 - Tony retired from his duties on TWIF Exco. Cathal McKeever handed a present to Tony.



Above left; When Tony retired in 2015, he received a sword from the Basque Country for his support to their Tug of War Federation. The sword was handed over by Jone Zarraga from the Basque Country.



Tony on the left, Tonnie de Haan centre and right Mervin Bufton during EC outdoor Assen, the Netherlands, in 2013.



Above right: Glen Johnson, Tony and Anton Rabe, enjoying a braai.

A TRIBUTE TO TONY MARTIN

PETE DYER

Senior Vice President of TWIF & Chairman
of the English Tug of War Association



European Outdoor Championships Minehead, England in 2007.
Tony Martin and Princess Anne with Cathal McKeever behind Tony.



Cathal McKeever and Tony during EC Minehead, England in 2007.

I first knew Tony in my younger years when I was puller for Felton Eccles and he was the anchor man for Upton St Leonards. Somehow, I remember, he hadn't learnt the rule about having two hands on the rope!!

Being in Gloucester, Tony was in my 'Area', as was another great man from our sport, Mr Peter Baker. Like Peter, Tony became our Area Rep and then Chairman of the Tug of War Association (TOWA) as well as being a Grade 1 Judge. When he stood down as Chairman, he took on the role of President. He was also Vice President and then Senior Vice President of TWIF. Nevertheless, he never forgot his grass roots and was always on hand to give advice to pullers, coaches and officials alike, and always supported his Area and particularly Felton Eccles.

Tony was a Tug of War man through and through and always had time to talk to anyone during his many, many years in Tug of War. A true gentleman in every way, with a laugh that could light up even the darkest

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When he was Chairman, he launched several initiatives, linked to development of Tug of War, and in particular, the development of youth.

As a Judge, he was hugely respected by pullers and coaches alike, for being firm but fair.

In his TWIF role, he had total respect around the world for his views, judgement and calm analysis of a situation.

His opinion was often sought in challenging situations.

days and a heart that seemed to have endless room for others, he had a way of making everyone feel special.

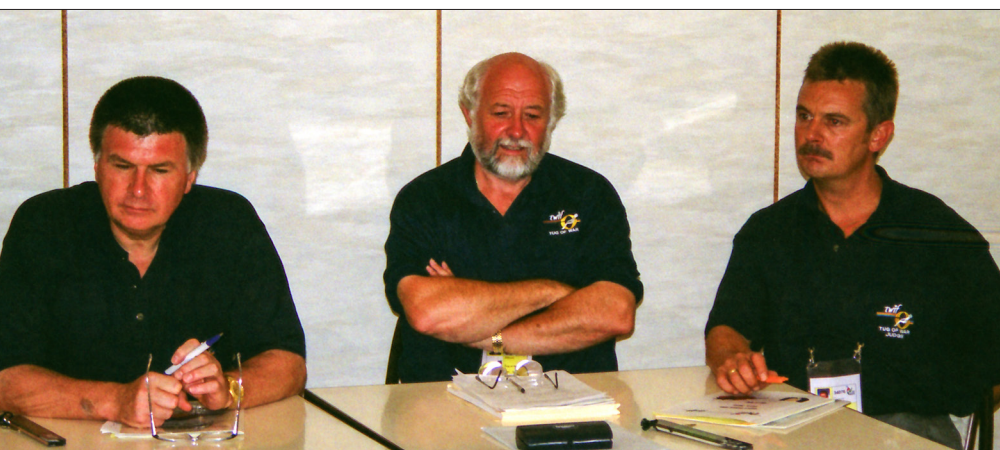
I have some wonderful memories of time spent with Tony and Sue on numerous Tug of War trips, not least to the World Games in Kaohsiung, Taiwan in 2009, where Tony was standing in for the TWIF President and was constantly referred to, and introduced as, 'the most important man in Tug of War'. Of which Sue and myself frequently referred to him as, in our conversations. Nevertheless, for me, he probably was, the most important man in Tug of War.

At this sad and difficult time, we should remember his vision and dedication which have left an indelible mark on our sport. As I reflect on his legacy, I am filled with gratitude for his unwavering commitment, wisdom, and compassion. He led with integrity and inspired us all to strive for excellence and to believe in the power of collective strength.

Tony was more than just a friend; he helped and guided me to positions in the TOWA and within TWIF, I owe him a massive debt of gratitude, I would not have achieved what I have without the unwavering support of Tony.



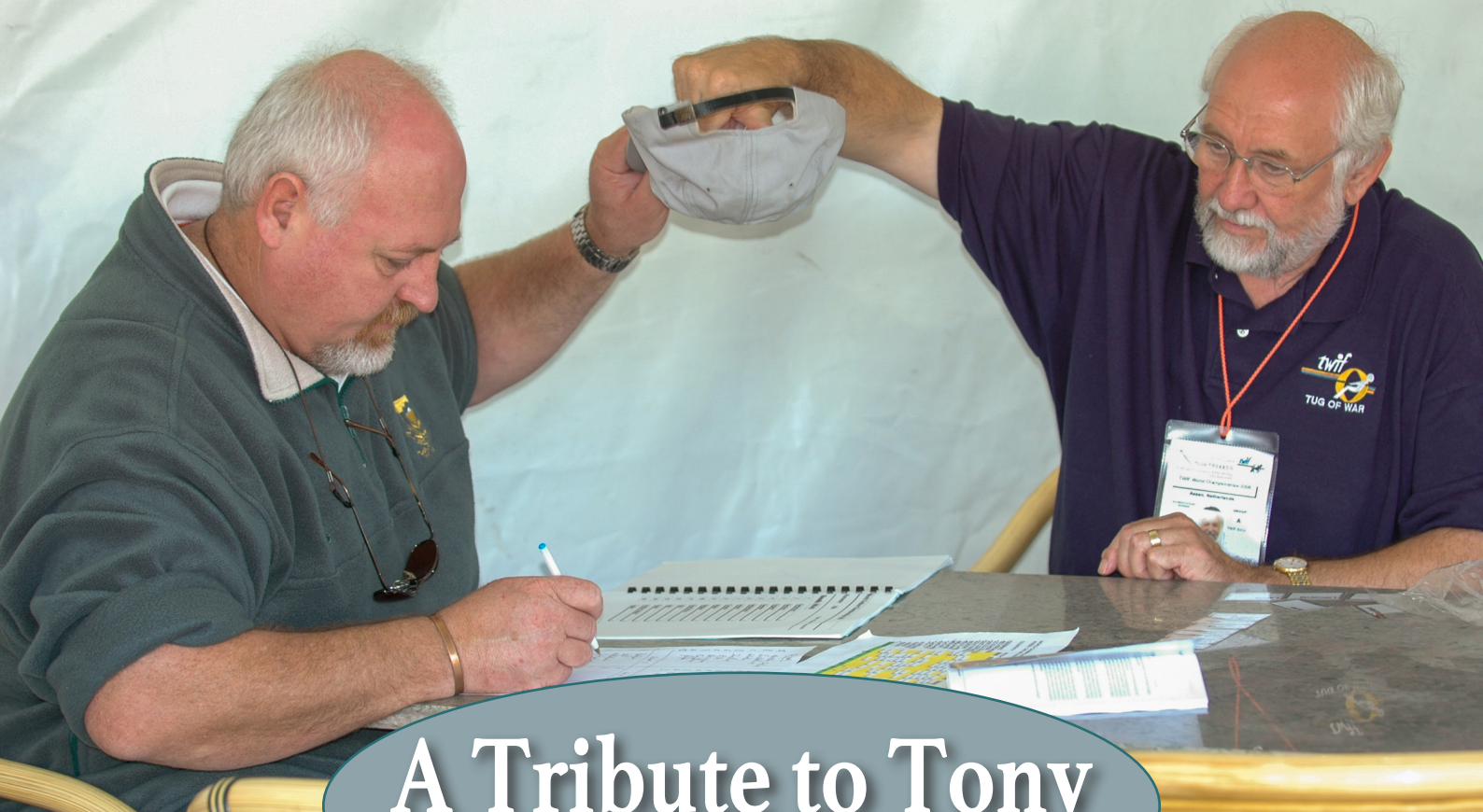
His legacy of warmth, generosity, and laughter will live on in the countless stories and cherished memories we hold dear. Rest in peace, Tony - you were truly one of a kind.



Above: World Games Akita, Japan in 2001. Tony with Carl Mackeprang, left, and right Henk Beukeboom. Right: Tony with Mr. Huh Kwang Pyung, S.G. of KTWF in Macau in 2008.



Tony Martin attending the Asian Tug of War Federation Congress in Korea in 2012.



A Tribute to Tony

ANTON RABE

Former TWIF President

Since I heard of Tony's illness I have often thought about the times we spent on the TWIF Exco. And, although one sort of expected the worst, it still came as a shock when I learnt that he had passed away.

I am quite sure that his passing will leave a huge gap in his family and circle of friends, but most certainly also within the global TWIF family. I remember him as someone that was respected globally not just for being himself and his personality, but also for his ability to facilitate sometimes difficult issues with dignity, resolve and compassion, and also passion. Passion for the sport of Tug of War, whose best interests he always served and underpinned the position and stance he took.

As a true Tug of War person at heart, he always looked for outcomes that were good for the sport and not for any

individual or grouping, and most certainly never in his own interest. Since his retirement from TWIF we had a few sensitive issues to deal with – in some cases individuals that in my view only had self-interest and positions in mind. I would have loved to have him in the room with his quiet and solid reasoning to assist with sorting out the BS and opportunism.

Tony was physically a large man but managed to influence and change opposite views in a kind and dignified way. Always directly from the heart. He had a presence and a wisdom second to none. Many a heated argument was defused with logic and a quiet and sound reasoning and we normally ended up with a compromise and middle ground and a better outcome from what we started off with.

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Sue and family, we pray that you will find peace and comfort in the knowledge that he touched many lives globally.

And that he will be remembered with fondness and respect as a true Tug of War person who will leave a gap in many lives. Certainly in mine.

We also had lots of fun over the years. I remember with fondness the “gay twins” in Italy – this is a long story which I will keep for another day – and the time when he and Cathal McKeever was named “Mr Shovel and Mr Spade” given them testing the expected pulling conditions of competition arenas intended for TWIF championships. I can’t remember which was which though, but I later on presented each of them with a little collapsable folding spade/shovel duly engraved for that esteemed title. Maybe those ‘trophyies’ are still somewhere and are testament to their wisdom and insight of the ethos and spirit of our sport.

Hopefully these gentleman of our sport will share a quiet drink somewhere – one with a beer, and the other with a glass of milk!

And who will ever forget the many a ‘sing alongs’ on a bus to or from somewhere on the many TWIF



Tony and Maaïke Hornstra, Secretary General TWIF, during Congress in Malmö, Sweden in 2015.

events we shared over the years. His “I’m a music man” was hilarious most of the time!

Some of the ‘old guard’ fell thick and fast the past year or so. He certainly was one of those whose wisdom, guidance and council will be sorely missed.

*May you remember him with a smile, a chuckle or a laugh
with every tear at future family events.*

*Sadly he is no more, but he will most certainly not be forgotten.
RIP old friend.*

TONY MARTIN

28 February 1942 - 23 March 2025