

TWIF

FOCUS ON

A TRIBUTE TO ANTON RABE

MAY 2023

CATHAL McKEEVER
Honorary Life President, TWIF

It has been my pleasure to work closely with Anton since he joined the TWIF Exco as Treasurer in 1996.

I very soon realized that he was a man of principle who had already acquired a good foundation in tug of war as part of a thriving South African Federation. He had an obvious passion for our sport and that is a quality he has never lost in the intervening years.

It soon became obvious that the TWIF Congress had made an excellent choice as Treasurer when Anton was able to display his deep knowledge of financial matters already acquired in the international field of commerce based upon South Africa's large fruit exporting business.

The fact that he was completely at ease in dealing with the developing world of information technology was also hugely beneficial.

During his Presidency Anton was faced by a problem that had never confronted any of his predecessors, namely Covid 19. This presented huge problems to society and threatened the international aspect of our sport in particular. The Exco, with strong leadership from Anton, was able to work with Federations

to host successful championships in spite of the many health related problems.

Outside his sport Anton's life has revolved largely around his family in the beautiful Cape Town area. I have had the pleasure of visiting his home on a number of occasions over many years and always thoroughly enjoyed the company of his charming wife, Murette and their two children. Those memories will always stay with me as will the magnificent food provided by our hosts.

Thank you, Anton, for your immense contribution to our sport over many years. I have enjoyed working with you within TWIF, both as a colleague and friend. You will always be an important part of my tug of war experience.



May God's blessings follow you always as Murette and you enjoy more precious time together in the future.

Above: Cathal McKeever, Tony Martin and Anton enjoy relaxing. Left: Anton, Glen Johnson and Cathal McKeever at work.

A TWIF CORNER STONE

GLEN JOHNSON

Honorary Life Vice President

Anton Rabe, thanks for the many years working for the good of Tug of War.

I remember when Anton came on the scene, during the World Games 1993 in the Hague, Netherlands, introduced as competition manager for the World Games 1997. The next time we met was in Uppsala, Sweden during the TWIF Congress 1994. After being voted in as treasurer in 1996 TWIF Congress, Anton began his tender by making TWIF's financial reports clear and concise. Anton's work with TWIF's finances was never questioned.

As president of TWIF, Anton the person for the times. Expressing many times that the TWIF Executive is working for the members for the good of the sport carrying out the wishes of the membership, and work together for the good of the sport.

He has been a leader making sound decisions and clear policies. He has brought TWIF through difficult times, dealing with the covid and the other difficult issues. Never playing favourites to any one group.



Glen Johnson and Anton at a Championship.



Above: Elected exo in 2017 from left to right, Glen Johnson, Anton, Maaïke Hornstra, Pete Dyer and Dan McCarthy.

Left: Glen Johnson, Tony Martin and Anton.

In thinking back, talking with Cathal prior to his stepping down, Anton was the only man for the job and the obvious choice. As the TWIF leader he has represented TWIF to the outside world with business like professionalism and respect.

I have served with three presidents of TWIF, and it has been my pleasure and honour to serve with Anton Rabe.



“USE YOUR COMMON SENSE”*

* A 'slogan' of Anton's

Current Exco:
Dan, Pete, Jost & Maaïke

Anton started as TWIF representative for South Africa in 1993 but that was not his beginning in Tug of War - he had started pulling at the age of 8. He pulled national and international before he started his judging and officials career.

In 1996 he was elected as treasurer for TWIF and at that



Left, Anton as an active puller and above Anton in the top row second from left.

stage a very young person entering the TWIF Exco. He has done this till 2016, but in the

meantime in 2015 he succeeded Cathal

McKeever as President. He was a TWIF judge as well and evaluated for a few years. The money was in good hands with Anton, but the time was also good, while TWIF had sponsors and advertising.

Since 2016 Anton led the TWIF in a very constructive way - no long meetings due to efficiency, and always as sharp as a knife. He was very good in delegating duties to his fellow Exco members but also trusted us in the duties we did. He was not controlling, but supportive. Anton was always open to changes in the sport and encouraged all nations to bring forward ideas on how to improve Tug of War.

He likes his piece of meat and his glass of wine, but we should not forget about the South African brandy!

Anton has done several courses over the years, like judging. Jost accompanied him on the courses in India and Israel. He led the course in an efficient way, but was always ready for a good joke as well.



Anton and Jost Waser in Parkgate 2023.



The current Exco, Dan McCarthy, Ireland, President; Jost Waser, Switzerland, Vice President; Maaïke Hornstra, Netherlands, Secretary General; Pete Dyer, England, Senior Vice President; Treasurer, vacant.

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Anton briefing the World Indoor Championships 2023.



Anton with a Chinese delegation after signing contract for the World Indoor Champions indoor 2018.



Anton and Denis Dunlea from Ireland signing the contract EC 2019.

Anton changed Exco's strategy of organising accommodation, due to the fact that he once had to share a room with one of the members who snored so hard that he couldn't sleep - so he took the mattress out of the room and laid it on the floor. After that we always had our own rooms. In Southport 2017 Anton did not want to stay in the chalet, so he organized a bed in the Championship's office close to the exit of the park.

During his TWIF career he was not sustainable, as he flew about 150 international flights from Cape Town to various destinations around the world. He always had at least 12 hours flights to come to Europe.

Since the operation on his back he uses a walking stick, not only for his support, but for the convenience of shortcuts at the airports! Certainly uses it to the best of his ability.

As we can recall Anton is prone to accidents! During congress 2017 while driving into the parking garage of the hotel, he had an argument with the roof of the rental van and the garage. The garage won and the van was damaged! We should not forget to mention, that he took us to a beautiful vineyard lodge for a two day development

course on the future of Tug of War. A lovely place but we did not forget to work hard. Anton does not only hit garage roofs - during a family trip he had a close encounter with elephants and their youngsters, on each side of the car. They survived - and after this encounter he served the whole family, from children to adults, a little glass of Jägermeister to stop the shivering.

Anton once mentioned that after retirement of TWIF, he would like to finish his bucketlist, which is not a short one. He has visited almost every national park in South Africa but wants to have more adventures without TWIF duties.



Anton and Bea.

Since his granddaughter Bea was born she seems to be the apple of his eye. We have never seen many pictures of Murette, but he shows us Bea every time we meet.

“HOU DIE BLINK KANT BO”

Words often heard from Anton - a tribute here by

CO KOREN

Honorary Life President

Hi Anton. I think we met for the first time at the World Games 1993 in The Hague, Netherlands. You were there as observer for the Tug of War event at the World Games 1997 in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Unfortunately, Port Elizabeth had to withdraw as Host City and the Games were held in Lahti, Finland. In South Africa you were very active in the national tug of war sport and in 1996 you were elected as TWIF Treasurer. Your structured management and planning of the TWIF finances matched perfectly with the policy planning of the tug of war development, which we introduced in the second TWIF Policy Plan 1996-2000.

When TWIF awarded the Oceanic Championships to South Africa, you organized the Oceanics' 1997 in Hartenbosch, near Mosselbaai. This was my first Tug of War event in South Africa. It was a well-organized event which I very much enjoyed. We, my wife and I, combined the trip to Hartenbosch with a wonderful holiday in Tsitsikamma National Park.



Until my retirement in 2007, we worked eleven years together in the TWIF ExCo. During this period, the organization of TWIF made great progress. A structured development plan was drawn up, focusing on the promotion of the sport through the production of videotapes and DVD's and the introduction of a TWIF website. With your help, we got the support of the University of Pretoria to conduct a medical study on the sport of tug of war.

Although the effort to obtain Olympic Recognition started in the eighties, it was in 1999 that we received provisional recognition followed by a conclusive recognition in 2002. However, the IOC movement is always moving, so the next year we were informed that TWIF required 50 member federations and in 2004 we were told that we had a deadline of 31 December 2007 to reach this goal. I am happy that we were able to reach that target when I retired in April 2007 at the AGM in Stenungsund, Sweden.

After my first visit to South Africa in 1997, I made several more trips to South Africa which I enjoyed tremendously. The hospitality of all persons involved in the tug of war organization in South Africa is extraordinary and we have been able to combine the trips to South Africa with beautiful holidays in places like Arniston and Hermanus. One thing I will always remember from those holidays are the famous "braais", which I liked very much, especially the way of making the fire with Camelthorn wood, while drinking some glasses of good red wine.

Anton, the last time we met was in Wroclaw, Poland at the World Games 2017.

CONTINUED OVERLEAF



Anton at the African Championships.



Above: Anton hands out a participation certificate to an Indian athlete. Below left: Anton hands out the TWIF flag to Maaike in Holten 2022; below right: a farewell party for Glen Johnson in 2019, Dan, Glen, Anton, Maaike and Pete.

This was the last World Games in which I was active as a World Games Official. Since then, I have been taking care of the archives of both IWGA and TWIF. I could not come to your retirement reception, as I am in Switzerland supervising the recent transfer of the IWGA archive to the World Games Office in Lausanne. I certainly hope that TWIF will also be able to transfer their archive, that is currently at my place, to a safe and appropriate place in the not far distance future.

When you joined the Executive Committee, there were 25 member federations, now there are 75 national federations in membership with TWIF. This certainly shows that the Tug of War sport is still growing. I hope your successor will be able to build on these foundations and takes TWIF to the next level.

Anton, I wish you all the best and I am sure you will now be able to share a little more time with your family.





Above, Attendees at the TWIF congress in Cape Town 2017.
Right, Anton and Tony.



FAREWELL TO ANTON

TONY & SUE MARTIN

We are sorry that Anton has decided to vacate his Presidency of TWIF. However, he leaves behind a much improved and modernised Federation. He has earned his retirement from TWIF and can now look back and is allowed to think, *I did a good job* – and we all agree with that! Thank you Anton.

Sue and I have wonderful memories of happy times shared in the company of not only yourself, but also your lovely

wife Murette, and other family members. We have always enjoyed visiting your Country, we have always been amazed at the hospitality and friendship shown by all. People always ready to help and nothing was ever too much trouble.

A good leader will always ensure that the show will go on regardless of a change in personnel. I have no doubt that your departure may well be difficult for your team at first, but they will go on and will carry your legacy forward.

Thank you Anton you will be missed by us and thanks for all the memories.



Anton with a delegation of VIP's during the World Indoor Letterkenny 2020.

HELLO TO EVERYONE

Firstly as the new President of TWIF I wish to say a sincere word of thanks to the organisers of Congress 2023 in Mannheim - it was well organised and your hospitality was much appreciated.

The Seminar on Friday was an open discussion on several matters, but challenges remain in place for all of us. Challenges come in different forms, some already existing like the Continental Federation, WADA, and the latest is Transgender policy which is only beginning, but developing in all Sports and Countries. This needs guidance from IOC and must be handled in a private and sensitive way with each individual.



DAN McCARTHY
TWIF President

Our senior vice president Pete gave a very detailed report on WADA regarding educating athletes on TUEs, in and out of competition testing and the consequences if a person tests positive for their association and team.

Our vice president Jost gave details of weight classes indoor and outdoor where teams don't reach the weight in most classes, we need to look at this going forward. Also we have less teams taking part in the Junior and U23 classes on account of the reduction in age as a lot of them now take part in senior classes and if they're lucky enough to win, they seem to disappear from competition.

As we all know youths are the future of our sport so we must promote and advertise them in a better light going forward, costs of travel are a big issue; this must be addressed if we want to keep our sport in the future. I would like to welcome Azerbaijan to the TWIF family and look forward to see them competing at future championships.

Our Secretary General Maaiké gave a report on the evaluation of the World Games (WG), Holten and Parkgate. The next WG in Chengdu China were spoken about and the IWGA are looking for a broader global representation, they have suggested that only one programme will take place and that's outdoor, which will be another challenge.

Looking forward WE must work together and use our common sense in decision for the good of our sport.

Finally I would like to thank most sincerely the countries who nominated and voted for me at Congress.

YOURS IN SPORT, DAN

On behalf of the TWIF Exco and the wider Tug of War Family I would like to say Thanks to the Outgoing President Anton Rabe for his commitment to the Sport over the years. I'm sure we all wish him Good Health, and hope he enjoys this time with his family.