

TWIF

JULY 2024

GREETINGS

As I write the following it's hard to believe that within a few weeks, we will once again meet at the World Championships in Mannheim Germany.

This Championship is very important because it's the Qualification for the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. As in previous years the top (6) six countries in (3) three weight categories will go forward and will represent (3) continents overall. There's a big entry from all over the world which is very encouraging for the future of the sport. I hope you have a good time and may the best teams and countries win.

Maaïke Hornstra, Secretary General and myself have just returned from the Olympic Games in Paris. As you know in the year 1900 Tug of War was one of the sports included in Paris, but unfortunately since 1920 we are NO longer part of the programme (see page 6).

Over two days on 7th & 8th August 2024 the French association were part of promoting and demonstrating Tug of War. This was a great success and it featured on a French TV Channel. A newspaper reporter from the Netherlands wrote a report which took up a full page on a Dutch (regional) paper.

Another promotion that also

took place was in "Ville De Vincennes". This was a festival of European Sports with twenty different sports featured, Tug of War was one of the sports which was supported by Anders Anderson who kindly supplied the ropes.

Over the days I met with several people from IOC and made the best possible impression that I could regarding the inclusion of Tug of War in future Olympics. It is most important that we continue to grow, increasing our numbers globally.

Another important aspect is that every country needs to make contact with their IOC representative and emphasise that TWIF is a full member of the IOC. In 1999 TWIF received provisional IOC recognition, which was confirmed in 2002. Some IOC officials from other countries didn't realise that we are members, so start knocking on the doors and let them know. It's up to everyone to make this happen, there's strength in numbers.

Yours in Sport,

DAN MC CARTHY *President TWIF*



"Citius, Altius, Fortius" is the motto of the Olympic Games; an event that symbolizes unity and exuberance of the human spirit. These three Latin words mean "Swifter, Higher, Stronger."



TUG OF WAR (almost) at the Olympics !



On 7 and 8 August 2024, the “Fédération Nationale du Sport en Milieu Rural” and TWIF were present at Club France, as part of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, to promote Tug of War.

Throughout the duration of the Olympic Games, from 26 July to 10 August 2024, several fan zones brought the city of Paris to life, attracting hundreds of thousands of people in a festive and friendly atmosphere.

This was the case at Club France in the Parc de la Villette in North East Paris.

For over 2 weeks, Club France was one of the main venues for the Olympics Games. It was here that the French Olympic medalists came to share their joy with

the public, in a very festive atmosphere.

The French sports Federations were invited by the Organising Committee to take it in turns to liven up this area.

On 7 and 8 August, the “Fédération Nationale du Sport en Milieu Rural” (FNSMR) and TWIF were on hand to promote Tug of War.

A French selection gave demonstrations of high-level Tug of War in front of spectators who were surprised to learn that the discipline was included in the Olympic Games between 1900 and 1920.

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DID YOU KNOW
BRIGITTE LINDER,
 President of the FNSMR,
 has lobbied 6 years to get
 Tug of War on the programme
 in Club France during
 the Olympic Games 2024.

The general public was also invited to take part. More than 1,600 people were able to try their hand at Tug of War. The FNSMR entertainment area was one of the busiest and most dynamic on the site.

A real success.

Brigitte Linder, President of the FNSMR, was present, as were **Daniel McCarthy** and **Maaïke Hornstra**, respectively President and General Secretary of the TWIF. We even had a visit from **Christine Yang**, TWIF representative of the Chinese Taipei Federation.

As well as being a popular success, our presence at Club France as part of the festivities and events for the Paris 2024 Olympics is a strong symbol of TWIF's desire to reaffirm its ambition to bring Tug of War back to the Olympics. The FNSMR is fully behind this ambition and we are particularly proud and happy to have been able to

contribute to working towards this goal.

We're planning to take the Olympic fervour all the way to Mannheim!

See you in Germany! **GUILLAUME PASQUIER** FNSMR





Festival of sport at Château de Vincennes

During the Olympics in Paris during the period of the 31th of July to the 9th of August ten countries within the European union attended Festival of Sport.

The European Sports Festival aims to seize the unique opportunity offered by the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games to promote the cultural richness, fundamental values and advantages of the European Union to a wide audience through the prism of sport.

To achieve this goal, ten European Union countries have joined forces to create a festival designed to raise public awareness of the importance of sport as a vehicle for health and equality, while highlighting the diverse sporting cultures of the European Union's partner member states.

The project was also made possible thanks to UFOLEP, the operational partner, and the support of the City of Vincennes.

Each country arranged two to three ac-

tivities on 2 occasions in the courtyard of the beautiful castle of Vincennes. The participants in the project from each country work with sport at a high central level in their country. They were linked to a national sports confederation and/or a national sports facility or a university. The Swedish group works at the Swedish Sports Confederation's Elite department and at Bosön, which is the Swedish Sports Confederation's development centre.

Sweden showed CONTINUED ON PAGE 5





off the sports of floorball, varpa and Tug of War. Three sports that have a strong connection to Sweden. Floorball is one of Sweden's biggest sports and with great international success over the years. Varpa is a traditional sport from the island of Gotland and Tug of War in Sweden has a strong history with success in the first Olympic Games. During the spring, the activities were planned and Festival of Sports were able to purchase two Tug of War ropes from Anders Andersson of the Swedish Tug of War federation.

The activities at the castle were open to the public and people of all ages came. In Tug of War, there could be matches with several children on one side and a couple of adults on the other side. When the match was underway, more people could appear who wanted to help the side that was weaker and that way the matches swung. There was always a smile on the faces of the children after each game and they wanted to pull again and again. Many also learned that Tug of War is a tough and a demanding sport and one can only imagine how hands and bodies feel after long tough matches. They also got to understand the importance of the team's ability to work together to achieve success.

After the festival the ropes were picked up by a happy Guillaume Pasquier from the French Tug of War federation. These ropes will be used extensively by the French Tug of War practitioners.

Best regards,

TOBIAS ELGH *Elite sport developer at the Swedish Sports Confederation*



Tug of War at the Olympic Games

1900 - 1920



Tug of War was a sport at the Olympic Games more than 100 years ago.

Paris 1900 was the first OG with Tug of War on the programme and teams consisted of 6 men. The Gold medal went to a combination team with Sweden/Denmark, which is not possible anymore nowadays. France took the Silver medal that year.



Rome was the planned city for the OG in 1908, but due to the eruption of Vesuvius in 1906, it was moved to **London, Great Britain**. The winners were all Police teams from Great Britain.

Stockholm, Sweden 1912 There were teams from Austria, Bohemia and Luxembourg, but the strongest teams were Sweden and Great Britain. Sweden won the Gold medal - Great Britain was disqualified in the second pull for sitting - exhausted after having already won the first pull.

In 1916 there were no Olympic Games because of World War I.



St. Louis 1904 was the second OG with Tug of War on its programme. Gold, Silver and Bronze went to USA. Then the teams consisted of 5 men.

In 1906 there was an 'inbetween' OG, as sport officials and athletes were not happy with how St. Louis had been organised. Although Athens OG 1906 was not considered official, it was seen as the hope for the Modern Games. Gold went to Germany, Silver to Greece and Bronze to Sweden. Each team pulled with 8 men.



Antwerp, Belgium 1920 These were the first Games where the five Olympic rings were used in the logo and flag. The Gold medal went to Great Britain, Silver to Netherlands and the Bronze to Belgium.

Antwerp was the last OG with Tug of War on the programme. The IOC took the decision to remove

Tug of War from the programme 'in order to bring about the reduction in the number of sports on the Olympic Programme.'

MAAIKE HORNSTRA Secretary General TWIF

1913 The logo of the Olympic Games was designed by Pierre de Coubertin - the five rings symbolizing countries and passion, trust, victory, ethics and sportsmanship - every flag of a country has at least of the six colours (white included) in its flag.

