

# TWIF

MAY 2024

## greetings TUG OF WAR FAMILY

*The 12th & 13th April 2024 Congress took place in Nottingham, England at the same venue that will be used for the 2025 European outdoor Championships.*

would like to say a sincere word of thanks to the English Association for hosting the Congress. It was well attended from countries around the world both in person and online. During our visit we were taken to inspect the venue and the various types of accommodation that will be available for athletes, officials and spectators.

During the Seminar on Friday 12th several presentations were given on different subjects. **Jost Waser** gave a presentation on dehydration and also on weight classes after the 2025 World Games.

**Pete Dyer** gave a presentation on WADA and the need for education in this area. Pete also gave an update on the 2025 World Games in Chengdu China.

**Maaïke Hornstra** gave a presentation on safeguarding policies, and also an evaluation of the Outdoor Championships in Sursee and the Indoor Championships in Helsingborg.

Presentations were also given for upcoming Championships in Mannheim, Nottingham and South Africa. And a presentation was given by Italy who tendered to host the 2028 World Indoor Championships.

On Saturday 13th April the Congress started promptly on time with the opening address, followed by the roll call of countries in good standing who were eligible to vote on the various matters. One of the items was an application from Mexico to become a full member of TWIF. Their application was accepted so therefore we

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have another new country on board. Several other proposals were voted on through the rest of the day for the good of the Sport.

Italy's presentation regarding their tender to host the 2028 World Indoor Championships was unanimously approved. Part of the overall structure within TWIF is made up of various Commissions, the Appeals Commission, Technical and Athletes, Press and Publicity & Development. People who serve on these Commissions do so on a voluntary basis for an elected term of four years but can be re-elected again if they wish. This year there were a few changes with some people stepping down and new people elected. To those who served and have now stepped down we are very grateful for your support over the years. To the new members we would like to welcome you and wish you luck.

Later this year during the first week of September the **World Outdoor Championships** takes place in Mann-

heim Germany. This is a very important competition as it will determine qualification in three weights for the 2025 World Games in Chengdu, China. Read more about this on page 7.

Earlier this year I was invited to attend a Function in Northern Ireland, the purpose of which was to recognise two members for their contribution to the Association over the years. They were honoured in the Hall of Fame: **Cathal McKeever**, a former President of TWIF and **Hugh McFetridge** a former TWIF Judge, course leader and evaluator. Read more about this on page 4.

On the 11th May I attended the **International Tournament in Eibergen, Netherlands** (See page 13). During the tournament two lifetime members of the NTB, **Aukje van Raaij** and **Rieki van Raaij**, were awarded a Royal Decoration for their voluntary work for Tug of War in the Dutch Association. 🍀

Yours in Sport, **DAN McCARTHY** *President Twif*



## The Holland TOWC invites you to the INTERNATIONAL 4X4 COMPETITION!



**to celebrate over 50 years of their club!**

*It has been 20 years since Holland TOWC hosted the 1st International Competition and this time it will be in memory of Karen Gardner and will be hosted in*

**Barton-Under-Needwood, Staffordshire.**

**Saturday 25th May**

Junior 4x4, GENSB 560 kg, U23 Ladies 500 kg,  
U23 Men 600 kg and U23 4x4 560 kg.

**Sunday 26th May**

Senior 4x4 620 kg, Senior 4x4 Catchweight,  
Senior 4x4 580 kg, Ladies 520 kg & 560 kg  
and the Mens 600 kg and 680 kg.

For more information or to confirm your attendance please email:

[hollandtowc@gmail.com](mailto:hollandtowc@gmail.com)







*The 2024 IWGA (International World Games Association) AGM took place in Esslingen am Neckar in Germany on Wednesday 1st May. TWIF were represented by Secretary General, Maaïke Hornstra and President, Dan McCarthy (above).*

**O**n Tuesday evening 30 April 2024 all the IF representatives were invited to a dinner at the local Town hall and were welcomed by the Lord Mayor.

The AGM started at 8.30am with a welcome speech from president **Jose Perurena**. He thanked the IF delegates, the Lord Mayor and the city for hosting the AGM. During the Annual Report **Joachim Gossow** (CEO of the IWGA) paid tribute to the late **Co Koren** (former TWIF President) for his contribution and dedication during his time in the IWGA executive. A delegation from Chengdu, China, the host city to the World Games 2025, also attended.

Members from 28 forums were in attendance and 5 attended remotely. A quorum of 19 were needed for a decision and 26 for any constitution changes. IOC President **Thomas Bach** attended with a video message and thanked the long standing partnership with IWGA and sent hopes for a bright future.

Several topics were discussed and voted on from the minutes of the previous AGM, as well as subjects such as the Financial Reports from a Swiss Auditing firm; Executive Committee Work; Athletes Committee; Constitution Modifications; Amendments to By-Laws; the New

World Games; WG Rules; the 2029 WG Host City as well as IWGA Members' Applications.

Two new sports have been added to the WG - American Football and Cheer Union. Karlsruhe, Germany is the Host City for the 2029 WG. Their Lord Mayor was in attendance and he thanked everyone who had supported the project. They are looking forward to the return of the Games in their city as it was forty years ago - in 1989 - when they had previously hosted.

Gender equality was discussed - its a far off equity as IF work must be done first. November 2024 will see an online programme on this topic. **Volker Bernardo** (IWGA member) gave a presentation regarding Medical and Anti-doping Issues.

The delegation from Chengdu headed by **Wang Guangliang** gave a presentation on the 2025 WG. He explained the workload, the amount of volunteers, the venues, accommodation for athletes and officials and hopefully it will be the best ever WG.

Date and venue for next AGM to be announced in the near future. The AGM of the IWGA used to be held during the Sport Accord meetings in spring but since two years, this is not longer the case. ☘ **DAN MCCARTHY**



*Back row, David Telford (NI Secretary), Noel Hara (NI Chairperson), Dan McCarthy (TWIF President), Roy Glenny (NI Vice Chairperson), Nelson Hanna (NI Treasurer). Middle row: Mrs McFetridge, Alan Walker. Front row; Mrs McKeever, Cathal McKeever and Hugh McFetridge.*

## NORTHERN IRELAND TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION welcomes two new Hall of Fame Inductees

*The Northern Ireland Tug of War Association (NITOWA) celebrated a significant moment in its history on the 15th of March as it welcomed two distinguished individuals into its prestigious Hall of Fame. An awards ceremony and dinner held at the Dunadry Hotel honoured the remarkable contributions of **Hugh McFetridge** and **Cathal McKeever**, recognising their outstanding achievements and dedication to the sport over several decades.*

### HUGH McFETRIDGE

#### **A Lifetime of Commitment to Tug of War**

Hugh McFetridge, a stalwart of the tug of war community, was the first to be honored on this memorable evening. His journey in the sport began in 1965 at the youthful age of 16, pulling for a junior Aghadowey team under the guidance of coach Joe Barr. McFetridge's talent and determination saw him progress through various teams, including the Three Oaks and Garvagh, where he notably secured a silver medal at the European 640 kg Championships in Fermoy in 1969.

McFetridge's participation extended to international arenas, with appearances in South Africa and Jersey in 1977, demonstrating his prowess on a global stage. Following his illustrious pulling career, McFetridge transitioned into officiating, becoming a TWIF (Tug of War International

Federation) judge in 1992. His judging roles took him across the world, overseeing championships in countries such as the United States, England, Netherlands, and Spain. Beyond judging, McFetridge held significant positions within TWIF, serving as Vice Chairman and later Chairman of NITOWA, TWIF representative, and Judge Instructor at TWIF level. His tireless dedication and leadership were acknowledged as he was welcomed into the Hall of Fame with great admiration and respect.

### CATHAL McKEEVER

#### **A Pioneer and Leader in Tug of War**

The spotlight then turned to Cathal McKeever, whose remarkable journey in tug of war spanned several decades. McKeever's association with the sport began in the 1940s, accompanying his father and uncle, CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



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who pulled for Kilmore. His active involvement commenced in the mid-1950s with the Ballyhegan team, where he quickly established himself as a formidable competitor.

McKeever's commitment to tug of war saw him participate in numerous international championships, from Fermoy to Crystal Palace, Japan and China, demonstrating his skill and dedication to the sport all around the world. However, McKeever's contributions extended far beyond the pulling arena. He played pivotal roles in various capacities within NITOWA and TWIF, including Vice Chairman, Chairman, and TWIF Chairman of the Technical Commission and President of TWIF.

McKeever's leadership was further evidenced by his involvement in organising events, promoting tug of war in schools, and representing the sport on the global stage. His enduring legacy was celebrated as he was honoured with induction into the Hall of Fame, a testament to his invaluable contributions to tug of war both locally and internationally. ✂



*Dan McCarthy President of TWIF with Cathal Mc Keever and Hugh McFetridge.*



*Hugh McFetridge receiving his award from Marlene Gray, niece of the late Hughie Heron.*



*Cathal McKeever receiving his award from Dan McCarthy, President of TWIF.*

*As the ceremony concluded, attendees reflected on the extraordinary journeys of Hugh McFetridge and Cathal McKeever, acknowledging their profound impact on the sport of tug of war. Their legacies will continue to inspire generations of tug of war enthusiasts for years to come.*



## Learning the basics - a Technical Course in CARACAS VENEZUELA

*The course was held in Caracas, Venezuela from 19 - 22 March '24.*

*The aim was to teach a basic knowledge of this sport.*

The foundations for the course were laid via many email discussions over the past two years. The indefatigable **Marianela Astudillo** has been the driving force behind the project to popularise tug of war in South America and make it socially acceptable.

And so with tireless efforts and few resources, tug of war is being introduced and promoted in universities, police forces and the army - be it on grassland, indoor floors, sand or even in water.

The first day was opened at the Olympic House in Caracas by the President of the Olympic Committee of Venezuela, **Maria Soto**. Being the first time, it was a special experience for us to receive such an appreciation from Venezuela.

The course was held in two stages. The first day introduced the theory with all the important basics for referees and the rules. The technical part was held on the second day.

The referee's commands for the start of a pull were demonstrated and practised. The outdoor and indoor techniques were demonstrated to the participants in teams and individual exercises.

The interest of the participants during the two days was great motivation and we will pass on as much informa-

tion as possible. From our side, the foundations were laid as a start for the future. It will certainly be a long and rocky road to establish this interesting sport of tug of war in South America. But it is good to know that there are driving forces who want to achieve this goal and promote the sport throughout the region.

We wish Marianela Astudillo, her family and team all the best and every success. As we said, if you have any questions we are here to help. Thank you for your hospitality and tireless work.

With sporting greetings, **JUST WASSER**



*Certificates were handed out to the participants in a ceremony.*





# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP TUG OF WAR 2024

SEPTEMBER 5- 8, 2024

*The time has finally come . . . the TWIF World Outdoor Tug of War Championship will take place in Germany for the first time.*

In Mannheim, new stories will be written, records will be broken and you can be there. Experience the competitions and the emotions live in Mannheim (Stadion am Alsenweg). With the World Outdoor Tug of War Championship in Mannheim, we want to set new standards in the organization and presentation of our sport and live up to our role model function in sport.

**Emotions. Respect. Passion.**

**Our sport is not just about competing, it also brings people together.**

*You can find more detailed information about the World Championships on our official website:*

[www.tow2024.de](http://www.tow2024.de)

**The World Championships are the qualifying tournament for the World Games 2025 in China and are therefore of great importance for international competitive sport.**

Register your team for the competitions today or secure one of the limited tickets in our grandstand as soon as possible! Bookings for the accommodation can also be made immediately.

You want to experience the event as more than just a spectator? As a volunteer, you will not only be part of an epic sporting event, but you also can make new friends and experience the world of Tug of War up close both in front of and behind the scenes.

Let's make the World Championships an unforgettable event together - full of emotion, respect and passion.

**WC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**



# OAKDALE SA Sport Award winners

*Oakdale High School, one out of three finalists, won number one place at the SA Sport Awards on Saturday 4 May.*

Out of the 70 federations in South Africa come district winners. These winners take part provincially - three winners are then invited to the SA Sport Awards.

This was the first time tug of war has won this outstanding award, even though Piet (the Oakdale coach) and Oakdale had been nominated many times before. Ten years ago, tug of war won the award for Development School



*Piet Lourens (Coach of Oakdale's 560kg team), Mama Joy, and Thys Lourens (Captain of the 560 kg team).*

team of the year. This award was achieved by Oudtshoorn Vaardigheidskool (School of Skills). Well done to Oakdale! Great job! Make sure to keep an eye out for them in September at the World Championships. They are absolutely a force to be acknowledged. ☘

## 2024 African Championships in Victoria Falls

*The 2024 African Championships will take place in Victoria Falls from 19th - 22nd June.*

Weigh-in for the games will also take place on the 19th of June, so athletes will need to make sure they get the proper nutrients and electrolytes after weigh-in. This will be the 10th African Championships, and we hope for many more!

During the games there will be an opens and a closed. The opens will take place on the Friday in which the club teams will participate and on Saturday the closed will take place where international teams will be pulling against each other.

*"The atmosphere was electrifying at the competition, everyone was out to do their best and the people were amazing. Seeing the style of the Zimbabwean teams was awesome and made us think of new strategies. It was just a once-in-a-lifetime experience.*

*Looking forward to the competition in 2024, to reach new heights and learn new things. I have never been scared of a battle and this will surely be an epic one again. I can't wait."*





# TWIF Congress 2024

## NOTTINGHAM, ENGLAND

**MAAIKE HORNSTRA**

*On the weekend of 12 & 13 April 2024 the **TWIF Seminar & Congress** was hosted by the English Tug of War Association at the University of Nottingham in the city of Robin Hood.*

**O**n Friday we had presentations on Deusto Research and Future Planning, Weight Class Workshops, World Games 2025, Anti-doping and Safeguard Policies.

There were also evaluations of the World Championships that took place in Sursee in 2023 and Helsingborg in 2024. Italy gave a presentation on their tender for the World Indoor Championships 2028 in Morbegno.

In the afternoon we visited the University and saw the accommodation that has been proposed for the European Championships that will be organized for 2025.

These will all take place at the University of Nottingham and everything is in walking distance - so there will be no transport needed during the Championships.

The Congress on Saturday took place with 23 countries attending either in person or online. The new policy plan for the period of 2025-2029 was presented and voted on. Mexico was accepted as a new TWIF member country with a positive vote. Italy will host the World Indoor Championships 2028 in Morbegno, also by a positive vote.

The following proposals were brought forward and the result of the vote is shown after the proposal:

**PROPOSAL 1** When a proposal/new rule is passed at Congress it must be referred back to Congress the following year to confirm that decision (ratify).

If that proposal has not been used during that year it must be deferred until the following Congress for confirmation (ratification).

If on the second occasion the proposal/rule has not been used, the proposal/rule is removed.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✓

**PROPOSAL 2** England and Germany both had a proposal for new weight classes to start in England 2025 at the European Championships. With an amendment the following weight classes will be held from 2025 on: Men 560, 600, 640 and 680, Women 500 and 540. Junior and U23 weight classes no change.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✓

**PROPOSAL 3** Introduction of weigh-in times for the open and closed competition on separate days, Wednesday and Friday.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✗

**PROPOSAL 4** Qualification for the World Games 2025: due to requirements of the IWGA to have three continents all over at the World Games 2025, TWIF Exco had made a proposal to cover this requirement.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✓

**PROPOSAL 5** Addition to the Constitution to have 3 elected members outside TWIF Exco to check the TWIF finances.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✗

**PROPOSAL 6** A direct caution to anchors who use their hand on the ground for more grip/position instead of a warning first.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✗

**PROPOSAL 7** No longer record the competitions during a TWIF event.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✗

**PROPOSAL 8** Belts: number 1-7 only allow to wear an elastic belt under the shirt and no belt over the shirt. Only allow the anchor to wear a belt.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✗

**PROPOSAL 9** Power of the Technical & Athletes Commission (TAC).

AMENDMENT: The commission is authorized to be an advisory and independent body that discusses, adapts and implements new regulations for the good of Tug of War.

ANY CHANGES MUST BE IMPLEMENTED AT LEAST 60 DAYS PRIOR TO THE NEXT TWIF CHAMPIONSHIP.

The controlling body is the TWIF executive with veto rights.

**VOTE RESULT:** ✓

We had the (re)election for the Appeal Commission, TAC, PR commission and Development Commission. New members and current members will be active for the various commissions for the next 4 years. **Marga 't Lam** retired as Secretary of the TAC and **Caroline Kenny** from England is the new Secretary.

The above is a short summary of all items that were discussed during the Seminar



and Congress and the proposals are shown as a short version of the original text. The complete coverage of the two days is in the minutes that were sent out to all representatives of TWIF and they will be posted on the TWIF website.

The congress was closed with a lovely dinner on Saturday evening that included an interesting history story told by Robin Hood. ☘





## 2ND NATIONAL TUG OF WAR COMPETITION

On 1st and 2nd March, 2024 the competition was held at Mahendra Morang Aadarsha Multiple Campus, Biratnagar, Morang, Nepal. It was organised by the **Nepal Tug of War Association** and co-ordinated and managed by the Koshi Province Tug of War Association.

**A**s per the norms of the Nepal Government, participating teams consisted of both Provincial Level teams and Departmental Teams.

Out of seven provinces, five teams Koshi Province, Bagmati Province, Madhesh Province, Lumbini Province and Karnali Province participated and all three departmental teams Nepal Police, Nepal Army, Armed Police Force of Nepal participated. All participating teams and technical teams were given free accommodation for 2 days.

This competition is the first of the competition organized in League-cum-Knockout format. For the qualifying round, the teams were divided into two groups, by a lucky draw process.





## DRAW TABLE

GROUP 1		GROUP 2	
Team A	Nepal Army	Team E	Armed Police Force
Team B	Nepal Police	Team F	Madhesh Province
Team C	Koshi Province	Team G	Lumbini Province
Team D	Karnali Province	Team H	Bagmati Province

## SEMI-FINAL

GAME	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	RESULT
Semi Final 1	Koshi Province	VS	Madhesh Province	2 : 0
Semi-Final 2	Armed Police Force	VS	Nepal Police	2 : 0

## FINAL

GAME	TEAM 1		TEAM 2	RESULT
Final	Koshi Province	VS	Armed Police Force	2 : 0



### WINNER PRIZE:

Trophy, Medal and Certificate

### RUNNER-UP PRIZE:

Trophy, Medal and Certificate

### JURY:

Surya Bahadur Bhattarai, Er. Yubraj Chaudhary

### CENTRAL JUDGE:

Santosh Tamang, Rabi Kumar Karki, Ashok Kumar Chaudhary, Prabhu Narayan Siwakoti

### SIDE JUDGE:

Mahesh Chaudhary, Nikhilesh Kumar Mishra, Bal Bahadur Khatri, Joseph Ghimire, Prajwal Adhikari

### WEIGH MASTER:

Samin Thakuri

### MARSHAL:

Sujan Bhurtel, Samin Thakuri

Thanks to TWIF for technical instructions, thanks to technical committee of NTWA for organizing the competition in TWIF format, thanks to sponsors, thanks to Volunteers from MMAMC, and thanks to Koshi Province Tug of Association for managing the competition.



### AUTHOR:

ER. YUBRAJ CHAUDHARY





## Countus International Tug of War Tournament

*In 2021 we had our 50th anniversary. A beautiful moment for an international tournament.*

*Due to the pandemic we postponed the tournament to 2024.*

*With 2 years of preparation the real building of the tournament started on the 4th of May.*

*It was a big job, but with all our members and volunteers we made it work.*

The sun hung long in the sky, casting a warm glow over the field of T.T.V. Eibergen. It was the 10th of May, and after all the preparations everyone was buzzing with excitement. There were competitors from Ireland, England, Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium and of course Netherlands that were all ready for some great battles.

All the conditions were perfect. The weather, the track and a lot of teams. 157 teams in total to be exact. 721 people weighed-in. 55 different clubs participated.

All the pullers were ready for a real hard battle. At the opening we had a minute of silence for the people we lost

at our club since our last international tournament. It was breathtaking that everyone was so respectful.

The competition on both days was really tough for everyone. The big groups, powerful ground and the warm weather made it a tough competition for everyone on both days. To top it off, we had a great party at the field with a lot of the pullers with dancing, drinking and talking about Tug of War with everyone.

**Thank you all for coming and competing in Eibergen.**

We are grateful to have had you here. A very special thank you to all the volunteers that made the tournament such a success. Kind regards, **MARK WILDERINK T.T.V. Eibergen**

To see the results of this competition:  
<https://www.ttveibergen.nl/>





# The Mexican Tug of War Federation

*A few months ago, a group of enthusiastic people came together and formed a group for the development and formal promotion of the sport of tug of war in Mexico.*

In that sense, the Tug of War Mexican Federation (**Federación Mexicana de Sogatira**) was created, which established communication with TWIF - and after completing the corresponding procedures, received the news that at the TWIF Congress in Nottingham, England, on April 13, 2024, we were officially accepted as a full member in TWIF. Now that this is done, what follows is to work hard to formally promote the sport of tug of war in the 32 states that make up the country of Mexico with great potential as we have 127.5 million inhabitants.

To achieve this we have developed strategic planning that focuses on promoting two important aspects, which are **Tug of War for All** and **Competitive Tug of War**.

In Tug of War for All we will focus on developing recreational, educational and health aspects around tug of war, so that all people have access to its practice, while in Competitive Tug of War we will work to consolidate high performance that allows us to create national teams that can participate in the international events organized by TWIF.


At the same time, according to our national sports law we have the objective of creating

32 state tug of war sports associations (one for each State that makes up Mexico) and with this being able to consolidate, with state institutions, the practice of tug of war throughout the country.

The Mexican tug of war system will seek at all times to be economically self-sustaining, which is why we are about to complete a project that will allow us to generate interest in the national business environment to obtain sponsorships.

In terms of dissemination and events, we have currently had contact with schools and universities, and in the coming months we will begin to have practice and exhibition spaces. Little by little, with patience and organization, we will meet the objectives set and make possible the consolidation of the national tug of war to contribute

elements to the global development of such a noble sport.

Finally, we can comment that in Mexico we are very grateful to the international community for its acceptance. Our motto is Tug of War, "Union – We are All One" and we will make it possible at the national and international level.  **DAVID HERNANDEZ GONZALEZ**

*Left: Federation President, Fernando Granados*



*The Federation staff: Perla Ivonne Pérez Sánchez, Operations Manager; Michel Martínez Torres, Administrative manager; Daniel Reséndiz Yáñez, Technical Director and Mauricio Espinosa de los Monteros, Communication and Public Relations Manager.*