

# Best Wishes from our President

**A**s we approach the end of another year, we have a lot to be thankful for. Not only as individuals and collectively as communities and nations, but also as a global tug of war family. Over the year we may have sometimes glibly referred to our TWIF Family, but I do believe that this has now started to mean something very real and important not only in our sporting lives, but also in our daily lives.

For me it is clear, namely that we all look forward to some normality given the ongoing disruption of our lives. Many of our family have lost loved ones, their jobs and income and face some very tough and uncertain times ahead. I know very few people who have not had some very material losses and sad experiences during the past  $\pm 2$  years. Many of us – and I thankfully can include myself in that group – have not been affected too badly and managed to continue with our economic activities albeit disrupted from time to time, sometime inconveniently and with Covid mitigation protocols that did not make much sense, but still operative and operational.

Thankfully we managed to have a successful World Championship, mainly due to hard and diligent work from the Getxo Organising Committee, dedicated support from TWIF officials and countries/clubs that decided to travel to Spain despite risky and uncertain travel regimes. For this I am very grateful and proud to be part of this unique family of ours.

We now have a similar challenge with the World Indoors in Doetinchem, Netherlands, at the beginning of March 2022. Again, we will have to make some tough decisions and judgement calls amidst an environment where the Omicron mutation has thrown us a few very unwelcome curve balls with renewed travel restrictions and lock downs. The response from various parts of the world is so different that it really complicates things unnecessarily.

That call will be made in the first week of January and we can only hope that some sanity and common sense would have returned by then. We realise this leaves very little time for national and club teams to enter and get their travel and accommodation arrangements finalised, but we are working closely with the Doetinchem Organising Committee to reduce financial risks for everybody as far as possible.

For now, I want to wish our global TWIF family a very blessed Festive period and everything of the very best for 2022.

As they say: May the high points of 2021, be the low points of 2022. Indeed!

God Bless and stay safe. Until next time.

**ANTON RABE**



The logo for TWIF (International Tug of War) is displayed in a large, bold, blue, italicized font. A red Christmas ball with a gold string is hanging from the top of the 'f'.

Merry Christmas!



There is no better time for friends and family to come together such as Christmas. May the true meaning of this season fill our hearts, and that is, to appreciate the love given to us by not taking it for granted.

Zane  
TW OZOLI

"We wish you all a healthy 2022 and definitely an end to the pandemic."

SWEDISH TUG OF WAR  
FEDERATION

"Happy Christmas to all members."

NEPAL TUG OF  
WAR FEDERATION

"Happy 2022 to everyone.  
My wish is that we have health  
and we can see each other  
every year. Best regards"

JOSE MARI  
MARKAIDA  
TWIF Judge

"I hope to lead my team to  
qualify for the 2022 World  
Championships and to be a  
national team coach."

World Games 2009 Champion  
CHEN LI HUI  
Coach of Chinese Taipei

"We wish that everyone  
will be able to pull,  
compete and celebrate  
together again soon again."

BRUNO BISCHOF  
President of the Swiss  
Tug of War Association

"Wir wünschen uns, möglich  
bald wieder unbeschwert  
miteinander ziehen, kämpfen  
und feiern zu können."

"We wish  
that we can soon return  
to normality within  
championships, continue to  
grow and thrive as a sport  
and welcome some much  
needed new faces."

SCOTLAND

"We wish you all a Merry Christmas! The check-in  
of flight 2022 has been announced. Your stopovers are:  
happiness, health, WC indoor Doetinchem, World Games  
Birmingham Alabama and WC outdoor Holten  
en Friendship. The flight lasts 12 months. After landing  
please make your way to gate 31 at midnight.

Have a nice trip, Happy New Year!"

Dirk T'LAM Twif Official & MARGA T LAM  
Secretary of the Technical and  
Athletes Commission

"I would like to wish  
everyone a happy and healthy  
festive period, and I wish to see  
everyone out on the ropes enjoying  
their tug of war and meeting up  
with tug of war friends old  
and new in 2022!"

ALAN KNOTT  
PR Committee  
Member

"I hope that I can do  
more marketing for Tug  
of War & TWIF and can get  
more countries and people  
involved in Tug of War."

CHRISTINE YANG  
PR Committee  
Member

twif

"I hope my email box will explode in 2022 with entries for the World indoor and outdoor Championships in Doetinchem and Holten - that would mean we can go back to normal Championships."

MAAIKE HORNSTRA Twif Secretary General





THE UNITED STATES  
AMATEUR  
TUG OF WAR ASSOCIATION  
wishes all of our friends  
around the World the very  
merriest Christmas and a  
most successful  
New Year!



Merry Christmas and  
a Happy and Healthy New Year  
to our Tug of War family around  
the world. One of our main wishes  
for 2022 is to be able to meet you all  
in the field again doing what makes  
us happy! Pick up the rope!  
Take the strain! Steady!  
Ready & pull!  
BASQUE COUNTRY

I wave 2021 goodbye with  
tears for Jan, who sadly passed away.  
In 2022 I will look for what is positive  
and beautiful. Because the most beautiful  
thing in this life is to give something to  
someone else. So, when the sun disappears,  
I'm going to shine so that all the clouds  
disappear again. May I wish you for next  
year that every new day may bring  
you happiness and love.  
See you in September.

ANJA POORTERMAN  
TWIF Recorder



Dear fellows. Stay  
healthy in this pandemic world.  
Work together to make this  
world peaceful and healthy.  
Moreover spend your Christmas  
vacation with much fun.

JAVARIA AHMED  
Pakistan Tug of War  
Federation

Happy New Year, dear  
athletes! In the New Year we wish  
you to keep the course only for  
success, only for victory. Let the efforts  
lead you to the desired results. Let the  
New Year be successful and fruitful  
for you. We wish you good health,  
a fighting spirit, optimistic mood  
and a love of dear people!

KYRGYZSTAN

My Christmas tree  
wish is that all our  
tug of war friends throughout  
the world would say a  
prayer for my good  
friend Shelby Richardson,  
President of USATOWA,  
who has been fighting cancer  
for this past year and more  
and hopefully help with her recovery.

PATRICK KERNAN  
Northern Ireland



# twif

DECEMBER ON-LINE NEWS



# THE WORLD GAMES 2022 BEST EVER

**Expectations couldn't be higher:  
"The World Games 2022 in Birmingham,  
Alabama will be the best ever."**

This was said by IWGA (International World Games Association) President José Perurena during the meetings on 29 and 30 November 2021 with the Competition Managers as well as those with the representatives of the National Olympic Committees (NOC) and the National Sports Organisations (NSO).

Glen Johnson, former TWIF Secretary General, who attended the meeting on behalf of TWIF, as he is our Competition Manager for the 2022 World Games.

Each of the two-day meetings took place in the host city of the 11th edition of The World Games. The motto of Birmingham with regard to the Games is: "The World is coming." Indeed, from 7- 17 July 2022 there will be 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries coming to the state's largest city. 34 sports and a total of 223 medal events are on the schedule for the ten competition days (from the IWGA Press release).

As you all know, Tug of War (ToW) has been on the World Games program since the first one in 1981, in Santa Clara, also in the USA. In 2022 we will only have outdoor ToW on the program; this was not TWIF's idea but a requirement of the Organizing Committee in Birmingham.



The dates of the ToW competition will be 14, 15 and 16 July. We start the competition on **Thursday 14 July 2022** with the Men's 640 kg with the following qualified countries: Switzerland, Netherlands, England, Germany, Belgium and Italy.

**On Friday 15 July 2022** the Women's 540 kg will have their competition. The six qualified countries are: Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Chinese Taipei, Germany and England.

**On Saturday 16 July 2022**, we will have our last competition day with the Mixed 580 kg teams, with the following countries: Sweden, Switzerland, England, Germany, Netherlands and Italy.

The officials have been appointed for the World Games and we will work with a team of 10 judges, 2 recorders, 1 IT official and 1 marshall, besides the competition manager and the TWIF Exco.

IWGA CEO Joachim Gossow once again defined the different roles: the Competition Managers for each sport are responsible for running their respective competitions at the highest level. It is up to the representatives of the NOC or NSO to look after the athletes of their country in the best possible way. It is also their responsibility to ensure that participants receive the attention back home that they deserve for their successes at the Games (from the IWGA Press Release).

As TWIF Exco, we hope that all teams get the recognition of their participation in Birmingham and will be honoured for their successes as it is our highest level of competition. Good luck on the training and good luck with the preparation of building up your teams.

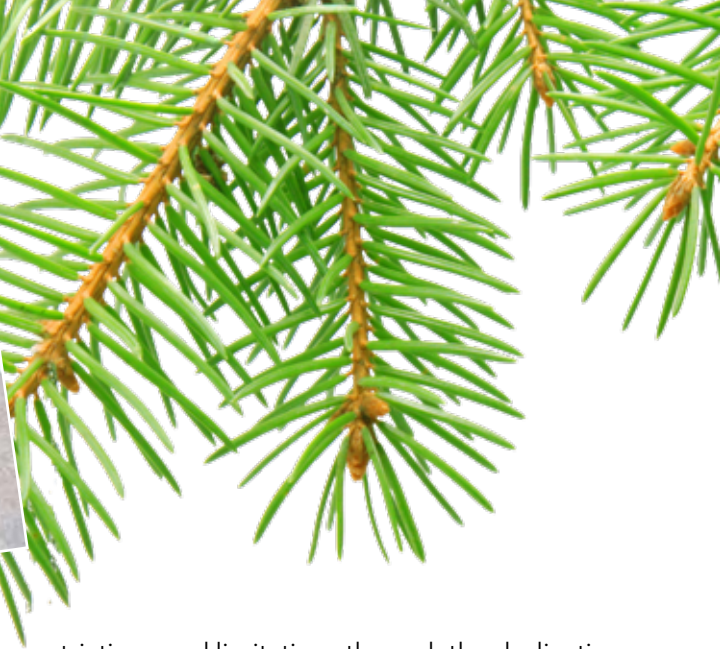
Mr Anton Rabe, President of TWIF, said that they are very excited to participate in the World Games in Birmingham. "Our lives have been totally disrupted

CONTINUED ...



**twif**

**DECEMBER ON-LINE NEWS**



these past ±2 years and it would be very good to experience some normality by returning to high level sport such as we experience on the WG platform. We had some challenges to deal with in ensuring a fair way for national teams to qualify for the event. This we managed despite

many restrictions and limitations through the dedication and commitment of the organisers of the 2021 World Outdoor Championships in Getxo, Spain, the loyalty and expertise from our international pool of judges and recorders, and the range of national and club teams that participated in the event in September 2021."

## The 2020 Donegal Sports Star Award

**The 2020 Donegal Sports Star Award winners were presented with their awards on Monday evening 1st November 2021.**

**T**he 2020 award winners had been announced at a virtual ceremony in January but due to Covid-19 restrictions, the handover of the 12 awards was delayed. The winners gathered for a swift ceremony to toast the 45th Donegal Sports Star Award winners at the Mount Errigal Hotel.

Clonmany B Tug Of War were big winners with three awards heading their way. In early 2020, they won gold and silver medals at the World Indoor Tug Of War Championships, which were held at the Aura Centre in Letterkenny. Clonmany B manager Kevin McLaughlin won the coach/manager award and a memorable night for the club was completed as Clonmany Tug Of War stalwart Danny McGonigle was given the appreciation award having been instrumental in bringing the World Indoor Tug Of War Championships to Donegal.



*Danny McGonigle (Clonmany Tug of War) receiving the Donegal Sports Star 'Appreciation' Award from County Council Chief Executive John McLaughlin in recognition of his lifetime of service to the sport.*

*Photo: Declan Kerr (Donegal Sports Star Awards Media Officer).*

### 2020 Donegal Sports Star Awards:

**Danny McGonigle** Clonmany Tug of War Club  
(Appreciation Award)

**Clonmany B Tug of War team** (Team Award)

**Kevin McLaughlin** Clonmany B Tug of War team  
(Coach/Manager Award)



**twif**



# Felton Eccles 75th Anniversary International Championships

DAMIEN RICHARDS

*Vice Chair*

**For those who know Tug of War (ToW) or who haven't followed ToW for a while whether it was 5 years ago or 40 years ago, the name "Felton Eccles" means something. It either makes you think ToW gladiators, or it sends shivers through you that you aren't likely to go any further in the competition.**

**F**elton Eccles is proud to be celebrating its 75th Anniversary by hosting an international Championship. Now you'll have to forgive me as I have only been a member of this great club for a mere 7 years of its successful existence, so with that in mind let's look back to 1947 and how Felton Eccles formed. The first Tug of War club in the village of Felton, was Felton Dragons, based at the local pub, the George and Dragon and hence the name. However a second club came into being called Eccles Caravans (see below) who trained at the smallholding of one of the members, Jack Young, at Potters Hill on the edge of the village.



*Felton Eccles Team with their cups and the landlady of the George and Dragon Pub, their HQ and where the bar was named 'The Trophy Bar'. (Pic taken late 60's)*



*Eccles Caravans - 1950*

In the very early 50's Felton Dragons were struggling for men and so a merger of the Dragons and Eccles Caravans occurred. Around 1952 a local man called Harold Pearce used to train Eccles Caravans so when they merged, he started to train a team of young men

that would make the podium as England. Harold Pearce used to run a small village garage and at that garage he used to sell Eccles Caravans from Birmingham, Felton Eccles ToW club was born. Felton Eccles started to make a real name for themselves in the late 50's early 60's and joined the England Tug of War Association (ETOWA) shortly after its formation in 1958. After the creation of the ETOWA the sport and competitions became more formalised and formal, National Championships took place from 1958. Felton Eccles won their first National Championships in 1963 at 88stone (560kg). They won many more National Championships in the 60's and early 70's.

CONTINUED ...

**Felton Eccles 75th Anniversary International Championships are taking place 29 April - 01 May 2022.**

**For more information, please contact us via our website: [feltoneccles.co.uk](http://feltoneccles.co.uk)**

**We have some great accommodation deals which we have managed to secure for teams who wish to come, so book early! There will be BBQ, hot food, refreshments, evening entertainment and a bar.**



*Felton Eccles representing England at 100st (640 kg) in the 1968 European Championships.*

Felton Eccles were invited to represent their country, England, in 1968 to which I was kindly passed a photo of the invite. They went on to win the 100st (640 kg) European Championships. (See pic above)

In the early 70's the men of Felton Eccles sadly started to leave the team after their moment of fame and it struggled for many years - a lot of the old team said it would never be possible to get back to where it once was. There used to be competitions locally on a Saturday and then on a Sunday, competitions that were further afield around the country where the team started to pull regularly against the like of Bosley Wood treatment, Leek, Sheen, OBG, Oxney. The young men of Felton back in the 70's and 80's used to like a Friday and Saturday night out, and one of our long serving members, Peter Dyer, used to go around the puller's houses early in the mornings to turf them out of bed! Many of these members were decedents of, or related to, the original members of Felton Eccles. The coach that believed in these young men was Norman (Nimpy) Harrison the number 1 who was in the England team back in 1968 along with some of the pullers who can be seen in the photo above.

It wasn't until the late 80's or 90's when Nimpy was in his hospital bed, that the young men finally did it and won their first national medal. Nimpy was so proud of them and he knew that he was right all those years ago. This was the start of the team that held the blue-ribbon event in English Tug of War of 640 kg for an amazing 12 years beating what was thought never to be beaten - which was the record held by Oxney Vines Cross of 10 years.

In 1998 Felton Eccles did it again winning the 640 kg World Championship in the USA coached by Kirk Scott (see pic below). For years to come Felton have nearly always been placed in a medal position in World and European Championships around the continent. Felton have also represented Great Britain at the World Games on many occasions throughout this time up to 2013 where they went to Cali, Columbia and represented in 720 kg discipline.



*Felton Eccles winning the 1998 640 kg World Championships in Rochester, USA.*

As the new young men of Felton start to pull alongside the experienced men of the club, we continue to win National, British and Irish placings, European and World Championships medals and we can promise that we will always respect you for who and what you are and we will always deliver a pull that you won't forget. On the day Felton Eccles is 99% of the time like a tuned engine not missing a beat and we don't give up or go away easily!

Over the years, every puller, coach and supporter of Felton Eccles has pulled against, lost and won, world class teams who additionally have history to be proud of. We have made and continue to make some fantastic friends all around the world.

**We wish the World ToW community a Happy Christmas and a prosperous new year until we meet again on the field where the battle for dominance takes place.**





# THE HISTORY OF THE **Tug of War Club Sins**

**The Tug of War Club Sins will celebrate its 50th birthday next year and to celebrate this, we are organizing an International Tournament, which will take place on the 27th and 28th May 2022. In the following article we will take you through our Club history and the highlights of the last 50 years.**

**T**he beginnings of the Tug of War Club Sins were in 1971. At the OLMA, a large Swiss trade fair, a tug of war tournament was held among rural youth groups. A few motivated men from Sins took part in this event. The enthusiasm for tug of war was so huge that the young men from Sins founded their own club in 1972 under the name "Reussbrothers".

Already in the first year of the club's existence, the "Reussbrothers" took part in the closed European Championships. Their aim was to learn from other leading tug of war nations in order to be part of the international scene as soon as possible. They achieved this in 1974 with their first European Championship medal in Engelberg. The next highlights were already in 1976 and 1977, when the Team from Sins won the Swiss championship title for the first time in the 560 kg and 640 kg categories. Since 1979, no individual clubs have been able to participate in title competitions. Since then,



*In 2020 this new training facility was built with a lot of own work by the members.*

Sins athletes have been part of the Swiss national team several times and have also travelled to many European and World Championships, usually returning home with considerable success.

CONTINUED ...



*Sins pullers in 1985 in front of the training facility in Sins.*



**twif**





*These rope pullers from Sins represented Sins at the World Championships in the Basque Country.*

Since its foundation, athletes from Sins were able to participate in most international tournaments as well as European and World Championships. A highlight was certainly the 1985 World Championships in Stans, when Sins won two gold medals and one silver. Six years later, again at the European Championships in Stans, the Sins 640 kg team won the Open title. In 2001 and 2003 the Sins athletes returned with the club world championship title in the men's 680 kg category. At the home World Championships 2012 in Appenzell, the men's U23 won the Open gold medal for the first time. With three GENSB victories in the last ten years, the youth team has also been very successful. After many years of trying the Sins men finally won the 560 kg category in Castlebar. This year, Sins was also represented at the World Championships in the Basque Country. Under special conditions, the women's 500 kg team won the bronze medal and the men's 560 kg team the silver medal.

We currently have over 80 club members, of which more than 50 are active athletes. In addition to the 30 men, 20 women belong to our pullers. In 2013, the Tug of War Club Sins fielded the first women's team in the club's history. Since then, the women compete nationally and internationally with their ladies and mixed team. In 2020, a new, large training facility was built with enough space for all athletes to train. About 15 club members successfully represented the various national teams this year.

Preparations for the International Tournament on the 27th and 28th May 2022 in Sins are in full swing. The tournament field was recently reseeded so that the tournament can be held under top conditions. This is already the sixth international tournament organized in Sins and we therefore hope for a broad field of participants with many top teams from all over the world. In addition to the international tournaments, we will also hold an amateur tournament and a tournament for schoolchildren. The social and entertainment aspect of the event will definitely not be neglected, as we'll provide a beer garden and a bar. We are already looking forward to seeing you in Sins, be it as pullers or as spectators. **Further information about the tournament can be found at: [www.tugofwar-sins.ch](http://www.tugofwar-sins.ch).**

## International Tournament



**27 / 28 May 2022**

[www.tugofwar-sins.ch](http://www.tugofwar-sins.ch)

