

TWIF

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

DECEMBER



**As 2022 moves to an end, it is
a good time to look back on the year.**

**This TWIF Newsletter focusses on a lot of highlights and experiences
that have been enjoyed by participants, athletes and officials
during the last year.**

Beside the highlights, we also had some sad times this year. We had to say goodbye to active pullers, some still very young. We had to say goodbye to some former officials from different countries and we had to say goodbye to our active TWIF PR and TAC member Shelby Richardson. We had to cancel the World Indoor Championships 2022 in Doetinchem, Netherlands, due to Covid-19 and the fact that teams were not able to travel to the Netherlands. Let's hope this will be the last event we have to cancel due to this invisible virus that has ruined lots of lives, events and jobs.

The highlight of this year was for sure the World Games (WG) in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, where we had three days of very good outdoor competition in the Men's 640 kg, Women's 540 kg and Mixed 580 kg weight classes. All the administration before the World Games was not my favourite work, as there was a lot of mailing, registrations, entering athletes and officials in the WG system - and arranging beds for everyone. I could not have done this without the help of Glen Johnson

(competition manager during the WG) and Bruce Schuman (IT official for TWIF). Once all teams and officials had arrived safely I could relax and enjoy the event to the max and realized that all the work behind the screens is worth it so that the teams can then compete at the highest level of competition. As former World Games puller I know how special the World Games are!

Let's hope that the Swiss Men's 640 kg team, who won gold in Birmingham and in Holten during the WC outdoor, and who are forwarded by TWIF for the International World Games 2022

Team of the Year election, will get as many votes as possible from all of you to get a high ranking in this election. The voting will start in the beginning of January 2023.

For those of you that celebrate Christmas, I wish you all a very good period with family and (Tug of War) friends and for 2023 I wish you all a very healthy, happy and sportive year! Meet you on the mat or field again - promote our beautiful sport where ever you can!



Maaïke Hornstra
TWIF Secretary General





York Tug of War

2022 - The best season to date for York Tug of War Club from England

For the first time in a long time we had a decent squad of pullers, instead of just trying to get 8 pullers to a competition. Even though we had 5 new pullers including some young men that could pull for the under 23s in our senior teams we went out and competed hard all season.

This resulted in our best results at the English Tug of War Association national championships, taking home bronze in the 640 kg and 680 kg, and a silver in the 720 kg. We then went on to represent England at the British & Irish championships in the men's 680 kg. We competed very well, narrowly missing out on a bronze medal in scorching heat and very dusty ground.

Next up was the opportunity to represent England in the men's 720 kg at the World Championships in Holten, the Netherlands.

This was an amazing experience for the squad that

went - even our experienced pullers watched and learnt from the very best in the world. We were helped out massively by members of Bosley and Felton Eccles Tug Of War clubs with them stepping in to coach us when needed.

What made this season even more special for us were our members - Neil Hudson and his son Jacob and stepson Oliver (see their story on page 3), and we have Tim Spakouskas and his son, Henry, also joined by Tim's nephew Ben Throup. Also Stephen Plumstead who has been involved with Tim, Neil and Oliver at the club now for over 10 years. It was a proud moment for us all to represent our country together.

We would like to wish everyone involved in tug of war a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. All the best for 2023 and we hope to see you all again soon.



Fred from Felton Eccles is a winner again



Fred Worle (father), Henry Worle (son), George Worle (son) win senior men's 680 Bronze medal pulling together at positions 1,2,3 on the rope. (see pic above). This is the first world medal that George and Henry have won. These pullers represent Felton Eccles where Fred

has been a key member for the past decade and beyond, winning many World and European Gold medals along the way.

However this will perhaps be his most memorable - getting a medal on the world stage with his sons!

George Worle



The 2022 Tug Of War season has been amazing for YORK TOW Club - winning 2 bronze and a silver at the national championships, and narrowly missing a medal at the UK's and competing at the world championships in the

York Club makes UK proud

Netherlands. What a great experience for us all! Not only that; it feels even better doing this with my brother Oliver Hudson and my dad Neil Hudson - all pulling together at 6, 7 and 8 on the rope every time (see pic left)!

Nothing beats the feeling of winning a medal together.

A massive *well done* to all clubs and teams from England this year - both male and female - lots of medals have been won and we have done our country very proud!

Looking forward to the next season already, but in the meanwhile a very Merry Christmas to all clubs around the world and a happy new year!

Jacob Hudson





Melton Mowbray Ladies TOW

**We are Melton Mowbray Ladies Tug of War Team from Leicestershire England.
We want to share what an awesome experience we had at this year's
World Championships in Holten.**

Our club has only been together for five years and in the English Tug of War Association for two of those. Last year in 2021 we won two silver medals at the English Tug of War Nationals in 500 kg and 560 kg. We went to the UK champs in Northern Ireland as England B 560 kg. We won both the 560 kg closed and open. This year 2022 we won 2 golds 560 kg and 540 kg and a silver 500 kg at the National Championships qualifying for the UKs in Wales as England A 560 kg and for the World Championships in Holten as England 540 kg. Again we won the 560 kg closed and open at the UKs along with a silver in the 540 kg open and a gold in the 4 x 4 open with Felton Eccles.

Going to the World Championships was so exciting for the girls. The competition was so well organised and the opposition the best there is. The girls

fought hard to win a Bronze medal in the 540 kg open competition a brilliant achievement in their first ever Worlds. The 540 kg closed was another level and finishing 6th out of ten teams was a great result for us. Onward and upwards lets see what 2023 brings.

Tony *Team Trainer*





Essex Wins

My name is Freya Russell and this season was my first season competing 'properly' on the circuit. Prior to this I had only competed with the England National Federation of Young Farmers, as a part of North Walsham Young Farmers.

However, when it came to the English Nationals, my local club (Essex Tug of War) were in need of another female puller to complete their brand new ladies team, to which I jumped at the chance - having pulled with them once before the Covid-19 lockdowns.

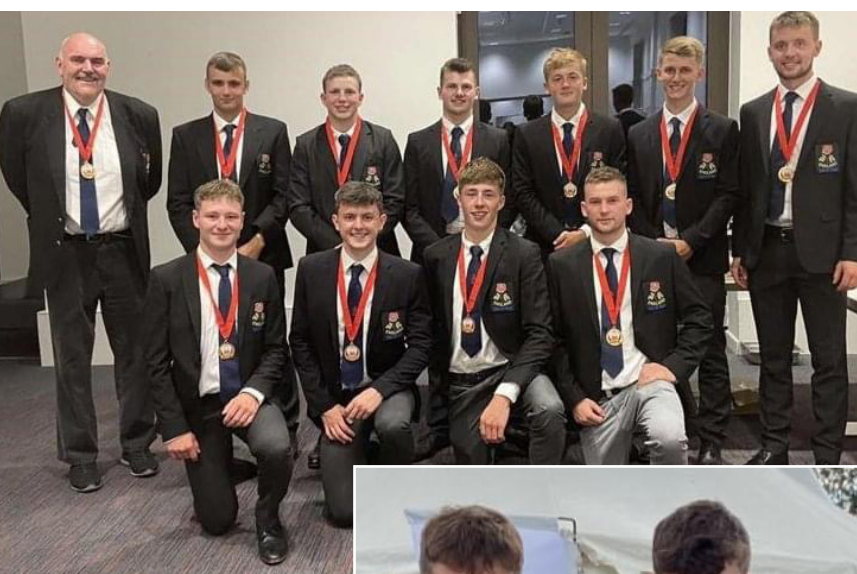
Although this competition didn't result in success for the team, David Kitchener asked me to come along to the U23's training day to try out for the England U23 Ladies team. I did this and to my utter disbelief, gained a place on the ladies and 4 x 4 squad for England. This was an incredible honour as I'd only been pulling for two months with my good friend Marshall Drew, encouraging me all the way. To gain an England Rep *and* place 2nd in the closed at Holten was an outstanding honour and I couldn't be prouder of my girls, who received a third in the day prior in the open competition.

I have made memories and friends for life and am so grateful to have one more year left to pull with my U23 ladies before I become a senior.

Additionally, I'm extremely excited to bring some new talent into the sport in hopes to inspire the next generation of pullers and connect with all my amazing international friends. Thank you.

Freya Russell U23 England ESSEX TOW





Right: George Large, Joe Hulme and Jedd Hall.

Far right: Ellie Platt and Zoe Brocklehurst in Holten.



Bosley

2022 has been a good year for Bosley Tug of War Club - it saw us field a ladies team - it was about time! The girls put in a solid performance at the English National Championships and achieved fourth place in the 520 kg competition which was a great result. It was a pleasure to see two of our ladies - Ellie Platt and Zoe Brocklehurst - travel to Holten to compete at the World Championships with the England under 23 ladies team where they won a bronze in the open competition and a silver in the international competition which was a fantastic achievement!

As a club, we also had a number of juniors and under 23s competing with us this year for the first time in a long time, and in total we had 7 under 23 men, 2 under 23 ladies and 3 junior men representing England in Holten which was amazing to see!

We hope to build on this in 2023 by encouraging more younger pullers and we hope to see lots of other clubs doing the same too. We would like to wish everyone in the Tug of War family a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2023!

Brothers Harry, Greg & George of Bosley TOW

Hi everyone, I'm **Harry Large**, I'm 20 and I am a proud member of Bosley Tug of War Club. This year has been my greatest sporting year to date! I have achieved many things, and more importantly, I have done so alongside people that mean so much to me. To begin with, I began competing in tug of war competitions by myself as my friends and family were not familiar with the Association Tug of War. However, after the realisation of how great the sport was, my two brothers, one older, Greg (21) and one younger, George (16), joined me in training and competing with Bosley Tug of War Club. This led to many memorable moments unfolding. In August, me and my older brother Greg were selected to represent England in their U23's team at the British and Irish championships in Swansea, where we came away with a gold medal in the Under 23 competition!

Our competitive streak led to us pushing each other to train harder and achieve more which had its rewards. The next month, we flew out to Holland to compete in the Tug of War World Championships where it was a honour pull alongside my older brother in England's U23 squad once again on the world stage! I carried on my Tug of War into the indoor season, where I aimed to defend my 560 kg National title. Thankfully, after hard training I was able to achieve this and for my younger brother George to be in the team alongside me was a very special occasion as this was his first National medal. Me and my brothers have had an amazing year thanks to Tug of War and made life lasting memories. I'd just like to wish everyone a happy rest of 2022 and the best wishes for 2023!



George, Greg and Harry Large have had an excellent Tug of War year!

Hi, I'm **Greg Large** (21) and I am a member of Bosley Tug of War Club. The past year has been a significant one for myself achieving something that many have not, which is being able to represent my country and to make it even the more special to be able to do this with my two brothers and close friends!

My journey started at YFC (Young Farmers competition) level, competing at junior level for Cheadle YFC and then moving on to compete for them at adult level, again this was alongside my brothers and George and close friends. To help improve at YFC level, we joined Bosley just over a year ago. With Bosley we trained hard and travelled up and down the country to compete most weekends and quickly gained much needed experience from competing and from the old dogs at Bosley whose words of wisdom along the way have helped all us young ones.

A big thank you here must also go to the Tim Lee and the Lincoln lads that welcomed me and my other team mate Zoe to train with

CONTINUED ON PG 8

them while we were at university as without them I wouldn't have been able to train during term time. Nationals came about where I competed with my brother Harry in the 560 kg, and I also competed in the 600 kg and 680 kg where I gained a huge amount of experience.

Then it was time for the British & Irish Championships where I was lucky enough to be selected for the England U23s again alongside my brother Harry and many close friends. My littlest brother George was selected for the England Juniors. At the British and Irish Championships, we picked up a Gold medal for our efforts which furthered our desire to kick on in training and continue our progression.

Then the World Championships were upon us where I again represented my country alongside my brother Harry in both the Mens U23s and Mixed U23s which was a proud moment for us both! This was accompanied with being able to watch our little brother George who managed to get himself a bronze medal in the junior open competition, which he doesn't go on about much at all!

A proud year for us all with many great memories shared with close friends made the achievements for our first year of 'proper' TOW all the more special and we shall continue pushing next year for some more medals and memories!

Here's to 2023 and I wish you all the very best for the upcoming year!

Hi, I'm **George Large** (16) and in the past year I have achieved many things but it all started in October 2021 where I joined up with the association team Bosley.

I instantly fell in love with the sport and that was with only doing outdoor. I decided I would try indoor for the first time as the team began to prepare themselves for the indoor nationals where I saw my brother Harry Large win gold in the Men's 560 kg. Outdoor soon approached after that and we trained hard pouring with sweat. Unfortunately

I was only a sub for the outdoor nationals but it made me determined and focused on the England junior team which I was hoping to be a part of. After travelling up to Carlisle and Barton-under-Needwood, I was delighted to hear the news that junior manager Joe Birch would like me to be a part of the British and Irish Championship side.

So off we went to Swansea and I went to pick up two golds on the Saturday representing England and then two silvers on the Sunday in the open club competition. My two brothers also won gold in the under 23s representing England, Greg Large (22) and Harry Large (20).

The quality of training did not differ though as I had to be prepared for if Joe Birch wanted me for the Worlds championship team. I had just finished training and went up to the neighbouring farm to work when I had a call asking me to be part of the England junior squad and represent in Holland which I only had one answer for! In my second day of competing I was chosen to be in the Upper Eden A junior mixed side. After fighting hard we got ourselves into the bronze medal match. The pull went to a third end as we had both won an end each. Both teams had 2 cautions but Upper Eden managed to get it over the line.

The feeling was sensational with both brothers watching me from the crowd and mum and dad watching online back at home, it just showed all hard work paid off. After a short break of 2 weeks I began to train hard for the indoor season where I was just training alongside my brother Harry and the Bosley club. Nationals approached after many nights of training and Sundays competing. I found myself in the mens 560 kg team alongside Harry and we were hoping we wouldn't fall short of a medal, and that's what we made sure of as we took the gold beating Sheen Farmers in the final.

Overall the year has been busy - at times tiring, but very rewarding. I am glad I was a part of every minute of it and will hopefully be sticking around for many years to come!

All the best to everyone for 2023!





Scotland and Ayrshires biggest achievement this year



In Holland it was the first time that the Squad of Junior Ladies and Junior Mixed teams had all competed at that level and to say they did an amazing job would be an understatement.

They came away from the World's with a gold in the Junior Ladies clubs and a silver in the closed Junior Ladies.

The Mixed also did really well coming away with a 4th in both the closed and the clubs Junior weights. Great achievements for the first Junior squad to come out of Scotland!

Mairi Fisher

Scottish Tug of War Press officer





We wish the Tug of War family a Merry Christmas!
Our wish for 2023 is a spoonful of happiness and a pinch of luck - with peace and togetherness as the main ingredient to make right the world divided.

Marga and Dirk 't Lam
Secretary of the TAC and official for TWIF



False Bay under 23's, 560 kg mixed team received a bronze medal in the "Opens" at Holten. Priceless!!

Appie Burger
False Bay, South Africa



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

Mohammad Jamil Rana
Secretary General Pakistan Tug of War Federation.



During the World Championship's Tug of War, Dutch News Channel 'Hart van Nederland' visited Holten. I was interviewed and some parts showed on Dutch television. What a privilege it was to share my passion for this sport that I have enjoyed for 18 years.

Jeroen van den Berg
TTV Streefkerk, The Netherlands



We wish you all, and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful 2023.

Lars-Åke Lindh The Swedish Tug of War Federation



The Sports Elite Awards

Chinese Taipei's women's tug of war team were named the *best team* at the Sports Elite Awards on 9th December 2022.

The award for *best outstanding sports team* went to the ladies who won the tug-of-war gold medal in the 540 kilogram division at the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama, and the tug-of-war team was re-elected since 2009.

The pullers were very excited to win the award and said: *"We are grateful to the Chinese Taipei Tug of War Association for supporting and allowing us to train and compete without worries, and to our coach*

Mr Kuo Sheng for supporting us during training".

"Congratulations to the pullers for winning the team award, which is an affirmation of their hard work and the best Christmas gift for them this year".

"We will continue to support and encourage the pullers, and hope that all pullers and coaches will perform brilliantly on the field," the Chinese Taipei Tug of War Association representative said."

Christine Yang





Pulling for a purpose

In 2022 United States Tug of War Association pulled together to unite and support cancer victims.

Through the misery of what is called cancer comes the light of support. Tug of War is a unique sport that creates a special bond between team mates, and is a sport that requires true mental and physical strength. We have chosen to continue that bond from Team to Association to help support those undergoing cancer treatments.

We created a slogan called *pulling for a purpose* to encourage those fighting the battle right now. We distributed several shirts at Worlds to spread our support to not just our country but to yours.

Please wear your shirt proudly and please show us your support by using:

#pullingforapurpose





MONNICKENDAM A Reward after the Hard Work

I think that I not only speak for myself if I say that Tug of War takes a lot of your time and energy.

But all that hard work does pay off. Our final in the World Championship Holten for the bronze medal in the open Mix class was my best memory last year. We won the bronze medal and it felt like we had won gold!

All the time we spent training paid off and it was all worth it. I am so happy for all our members - they are the best!

Wishing everybody a Happy Christmas and a wonderful new year.

See you in 2023!

Lars Schouten

TTV Monnickendam



I successfully passed the International Judging Course

It is a great honour to have had the opportunity to represent Chinese Taipei by participating at the international Tug of War judge exam held by TWIF in 2022.

I successfully passed the international judge qualification.

During the Holten World Cup Tug of War Championship in the Netherlands I met many judges from different countries and also received guidance and assistance from many judges. It made my trip fruitful, and I am very happy to have joined the big family of TWIF. Once again, thank you all so much for everything.

Dennis Peng



I was chief-judge-assistant for the first time in Holten

It's a very interesting job where you can see behind the screens of a world championship. I had good contacts with many people, gave help again and again and I felt very comfortable.

On Wednesday in Holten, I was asked by the TWIF if I would be the chief judge at the WC in Sursee in 2023. By Friday evening, I had seen enough and so happily agreed!

I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a great new year and see you soon, somewhere on a tournament ground.

Otto Koch



SWISS STORIES

For me, the bronze medal at the World Games was a big highlight in 2022. It was not only on the podium but was also the trip to Birmingham. Getting to know many faces from all over the world was so interesting. It was a very nice experience and I look back fondly on the great time.



Michaela Koch, Tanja Knechtle and Stefanie Ott at the World Games.

I wish you a peaceful Christmas season and many wonderful experiences in 2023.

Stefanie Ott

The World Games 2022 Birmingham was the first time I had participated and for us to win the World Games medal was a great achievement for Swiss women.

What an experience! Arnold Schwarzenegger's quote helped me to achieve this:

"Life always means being hungry. The meaning of life is not just to exist and survive, but to go forward, to rise, to achieve something, to conquer".

After all the setbacks, the struggle, participating in and winning a medal at the world games was a confirmation of my mental strength and the path I have taken.

This is a confirmation for the team to never give up and to fight for each other - it's a next step to get close to my father's sporting successes.

Michaela Koch



In 2022, after winning the Swiss Champion and the GENSB title, I was allowed to represent the Swiss national team for the first time.

I started in the U19 men's category and we were able to achieve 3rd place in the Open and 4th place at the World Championships, for which I'm very proud.

That feeling when you can finally prove what you're made of - after long, hard preparation is simply indescribable. I had a great time with my colleagues.

My goal is to get back to that level in a few years and eventually be on the top of the podium. **Christian Marti**



Can we stick together and all pull in the same direction?



In a world where everyone only looks after themselves, and where the problems of the neighbour no longer matters, we want to show the beauty of teamwork. Togetherness makes strength and together we can achieve something better.

This mural, featuring the boys and girls of the Sokatira de Abadiño team, represents the teamwork, effort and sacrifice required to achieve our goals.

Can we work together and all pull in the same direction?





NITOWA
THE WORLD INDOOR
CHAMPIONSHIPS
2023



*Left: Giant's
Causeway in
Northern Ireland.*

*Below:
Ballyhegan Tug
of War Club from
Northern Ireland.*

TUG OF WAR WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

*Northern Ireland
Invites The World!*



NITOWA

is very pleased to announce that we are hosting the
**THE WORLD INDOOR TUG OF WAR
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023**

These Championships are to be held in the
**Jim Baker Stadium, Templepatrick, from Wednesday the
8th until Saturday the 11th of March.**

The World Indoor Championship brings the magic of tug of war to Northern Ireland! It promises to be a great battle, showcasing some of the best talent in the world.

Tug of war teams from all over the world will be taking part in the event, which will see teams competing for the gold, silver and bronze medals in men's and ladies weight categories.

**4* HOTEL ACCOMODATION PACKAGE
AVAILABLE NOW!**



Contact us to book your team's place as soon as possible! www.nitowa.co.uk