

# TWIF

AUGUST 2022  
FOCUS ON

## The World Games 2022 BIRMINGHAM USA

**W**e were indeed privileged to be part of a well organised WG event in Birmingham, USA. The participating nations did us proud and dished up some excellent pulling with a high level of performance on the field.

The mixed event was especially competitive and attracted a lot of spectators despite the very hot conditions and high humidity. We got some excellent comments from VIP's and IWGA officials who attended some of the competitions. My thanks to all the countries who honoured their commitment to ensure competitive and well prepared teams in an environment of continued travelling constraints and a global economy that is struggling with high inflation and high interest rates.

As an amateur sport with limited financial support, also from the respective NOC's, I realise it is not easy. But, we have raised this at an IOC level and we have the commitment from the IOC President, Mr Thomas Bach, that the IOC is the house for all sports, not just those on the Olympic programme. The ongoing close working relationship between the IOC and the IWGA, including the continued financial assistance to IWGA affiliated sports by the IOC through the annual development funding, is therefore highly welcome and appreciated.

In conclusion, I wish to thank our judges, recorders and other supporting officials, who again worked very hard on and off the field to ensure a well run competition, also for their role in showcasing our sport at the highest level during the WG. My sincere appreciation to you all.

Until next time, keep safe and keep on adhering to sound risk mitigating Covid practices and protocols.

We hope to welcome many of you in Holten, the Netherlands for WOC '22.

As we approach and start to look forward to the TWIF World Outdoor Championships in Holten in September 2022, we can look back on the highly successful World Games 2022.



**ANTON RABE**  
*President*



# The World Games

## 2022 BIRMINGHAM USA



*The World Games 2022 Birmingham, USA are over.  
Here are some figures from the 11th edition of the multi-sport  
event that was held 7–17 July 2022 in Alabama:*

- We saw **3,459 athletes** from **99 nations** compete;
- We witnessed outstanding performances in **34 sports**, **58 disciplines** and **223 medal events**;
- We enjoyed the thrilling atmosphere at **23 venues**;

- **375,000 spectators** created a 'Sweet Home in Alabama' special atmosphere;
- **32 National Olympic Committees** or **National Sports Organizations** were present in Birmingham to support the athletes from their countries;
- To make sure that everyone knew what the score was, what time was run or not run, or what points were awarded by the judges, the **Result Module** from **Swiss Timing** provided prompt service. It can be accessed through our website: <https://twg2022.com/results/>
- We experienced the tireless efforts of **3,000 volunteers** who made the athletes feel that Southern Hospitality comes from the heart and shows up with a smile;
- We rejoiced with **73 countries** that won medals at The World Games; a new record number - several who won their first medal ever: Brunei, Panama, India, Tunisia and Virgin Islands, USA;
- Birmingham's Mayor **Randall Woodfin** officially opened the Games on 7 July (pic left) and IWGA President **José Perurena** ceremoniously closed them on 17 July;
- The President of the USA, **Joe Biden**, sent a letter to the athletes and organisers with words of encouragement and appreciation;
- Chengdu, People's Republic of China invited us to celebrate the 12th edition of The World Games in 2025.

**Thank You, Birmingham!**  
**We had an amazing time in Alabama.**





Above: **James Kehoe** (back row, right) was one of the flag bearers during the opening ceremony of the World Games. He was a VIP guest during the whole World Games due to his excellent ranking in the Greatest Athlete of All Times Election of the World Games. Above James with other flag bearers. Right: James Kehoe during an interview at the World Games Press release.

Above: **The Officials** (Anton Rabe was not present for this pic).  
Right: A sand sculpture of Tug of War made by **John Gowdy**, an international sand sculpting champion who holds titles from every corner of the globe.





WE HAD 3 WEIGHT CLASSES  
AT THE WORLD GAMES WITH  
6 COUNTRIES IN  
EACH WEIGHT CLASS  
The results per weight class were:

**MEN 640 kg**

Switzerland | Great Britain  
Belgium | Germany  
Italy | Netherlands

**WOMEN 540 kg**

Chinese Taipei | Sweden  
Switzerland | Great Britain  
Netherlands | Germany

**MIXED 580 kg**

Great Britain | Germany  
Netherlands | Switzerland  
Sweden | Italy

**DID  
YOU  
KNOW**

That USATOWA (US Amateur Tug of War  
Association) sponsored the ropes  
for the World Games?  
Bill Gallagher and Josh Larson  
brought the ropes to the  
training areas and to the venues!



Above: President **Anton Rabe** giving an interview at the venue. Below: Every day at the World Games, they chose a male and female athlete of the day. The Men's 640 kg Swiss team was chosen as male athlete(s) of the Day. At the World Games Plaza **Ueli Christen** (athlete of the team) and **Pirmin Steinmann** (Swiss TWIF representative) received a diploma and a present.







# Chinese Taipei's women's Tug of War team sweeps World Games to bag Gold

*Chinese Taipei's women tug of war team swept the outdoor 540 kg division to bag the gold and stayed undefeated in the round robin match between six national teams at the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, Alabama - its fifth consecutive gold medal at the international multi-sport event.*

**PREVIOUS WORLD GAMES WINS:** 2017 Wrocław, Poland - W540 kg (Indoor)

2013 Cali, Colombia - W540 kg (Indoor) | 2009 Kaohsiung, TPE - W520 kg (Indoor) | 2005 Duisburg, Germany - W520 kg (Indoor)

"Five consecutive championships in 21 years is really not easy," the Chinese Taipei Tug of War Association said in a social media post, following the latest triumph.

After qualifying for the World Games last year, the Chinese Taipei team continued to train and overcome the difficulties brought upon by the COVID-19 pandemic, showing the best examples of sportsmanship and the spirit of never giving up.

The win did not come easy as some of our athletes were still high school students who were not as experienced as

older members on the squad. Luckily, the collective focus and unity given by our nine-athlete squad was able to produce strong results.

Back at the gold medal final, the Chinese Taipei team won its first and second pulls in 26 and 18 seconds, respectively, to win the best-of-three-pull match.

During the competition, the athletes showed the results of their long-term training, and performed uniformly and with a sense of rhythm.

The final standings of the women's outdoor 540 kg also saw Switzerland clinch bronze, and Great Britain, the Netherlands, and Germany finish fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively.



*"We are very grateful to the Executive Committee of the Tug of War International Federation for successfully handling this competition. We really enjoyed this grand event."*

**CHRISTINE YANG**

*Deputy Secretary General, Chinese Taipei Tug of War Association*

# Gold Medals for Great Britain

CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS

*Back in 2016 at the English Nationals, Bedford Ladies and Lincoln once again joined forces to enter the mixed 4x4. This was to be the first time Ian and I would pull together.*

*Fast forward 6 years and we have a house, 2 children and now 2 World Games Gold medals.*

I first started pulling in 2005 but didn't join Lincoln until 2014, and in 2015 won his first international gold medal; the team have continued to be placed at every European or World championship since.

I have pulled with Bedford Ladies since 2008 making my international debut in 2009 at the Europeans in Assen, Holland. Unfortunately, we were placed 4th and this has been a position that has plagued us until the 2019 European championships, where we won bronze in the closed 520 kg, as well as bronze in the 520 kg and 560 kg opens.

With both of us competing, training can be extremely difficult often resulting in one of us getting up early to get out for a run then the other goes at a normal time in the evening (I'd like to say we take this in turn, but I often seem to get the early shift) or weight training at home whilst the other goes to the gym. We also rely heavily on family to look after the children on training nights as we both train with our teams on the same nights during the week. At competitions, our teammates help out with the children if we are both pulling to keep an eye on them allowing us to concentrate on the job at hand which we massively appreciate.

We were both lucky enough to get the opportunity to represent at the world games with our teams in the men's 640 kg and the women's 540 kg.

The men did a superb job of taking 2nd place against an untouchable Swiss team. Unfortunately, in the women's weight, we were to miss

out on a place on the podium to another strong Swiss side ending our world games campaign in 4th.

Over the years Ian and I have pulled at the national championships and the British and Irish Championships together in the mixed 4x4 and on a number of occasions we have won gold.

We have not however been lucky enough to represent at a European or Worlds championships together. To be selected for the World Games 4x4 team has been an amazing opportunity for us both and to do it together was just unbelievable.

Going into the competition we knew the level of opposition was going to be high so we would have to work hard to get to the crossovers. With a few adjustments to the line-up after the first few ends and getting a feel for the rope and oppositions we made our way to the crossovers

to meet our Achilles heel the Swiss; finally, luck and smart pulling were on our side and we won the third end of a very crowd-pleasing pull. On to the final against Germany; who were impressive throughout and finished top of the group. The momentum from our semi-final carried straight through to the final where we took two straight ends to claim the first 4x4 mixed gold at the world games.

To represent Great Britain at the world games together was amazing let alone to win a gold medal is just unbelievable. Without the rest of our teams and support at home, we would never have been able to achieve this.







**WOMEN'S TEAMS AT THE  
WORLD GAMES**







## MIXED TEAMS AT THE WORLD GAMES







MENS TEAMS AT THE  
WORLD GAMES



Thanks to Axel Herre,  
Dan McCarthy and  
Jelle van der Velde for  
supplying the photographs  
for these spreads.