



APRIL 2022

The World Games 2022

As we progress towards our 1st physical TWIF Congress in 3 years in Switzerland (8 & 9 April 2022), we globally continue to be challenged by Covid-19 with a severe impact on trading regimes and the flow of products. The impact on many people's lives and livelihoods has been severe.

The recent invasion of Russia into the Ukraine, which apart from the humanitarian impact and international constitutional rights and legal consequences thereof, could not have come at a worse time and will further exacerbate economic hardships a prolonged and severe economic melt-down globally.



*Anton Rabe,
President of TWIF*

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This will have a direct impact on sport as we have already witnessed with the banning of Russian and Belarusian athletes from international events. TWIF followed the guidance from the IOC and the IWGA and followed suit with a strong stance on not allowing officials and athletes from Russia - Belarusia is not a member of TWIF - to participate at any TWIF event. This stance was clearly and un-ambiguously been communicated to the TWIF community. We are hopeful that the conflict will end soon.

We are equally eagerly looking forward to the 2022 World Games in Birmingham, USA in July. Our Secretary General, Maaïke Hornstra, and Technical Delegate, Glen Johnson, are working tirelessly to ensure that all the admin and related paperwork for the seamless registration of athletes and officials for this event are in place.

The World Games remain our apex event and I trust that all the qualified countries in the three events are hard at work in training preparations to ensure a very high level of performance in Birmingham. Tug of War have participated in the event since its inception in 1981 and only through continued excellence of our athletes and officials can we expect to remain on the programme for future events.

So, a huge responsibility rests on the shoulders of all those that are going to participate and officiate in Birmingham.

Until next time, please stay safe and healthy. **ANTON**

MISSION STATEMENT

As an International Federation our mission is to provide the structure and good governance necessary for the well-being and development of the sport of Tug of War throughout the world. Our Primary Objective is to attain a sufficiently high level of excellence and universality to expedite our acceptance by the International Olympic Committee as a sport within the programme of the Olympic Games, a status held by our sport in the early years of the 20th century.





In Lithuania the LTU Armed forces held an indoor competition and our team won 1st place - a great moment!

IT WAS A HAPPY TUG OF WAR DAY 19th February 2022 for many Tug of War members around the world



We celebrated Tug of War day in Karachi, Pakistan. More than 40 colleges participated in the event and the basic message of unity and discipline was shown by the young players as well as peace, love and unity. Medals were distributed among the winning team players. Rana Liaquat Ali Khan from the Govt. College of Home Economics was the winner.

JAVARIA AHMED
Pakistan Women's Tug of War Captain



JAMES KEHOE, from Tug of War club Boley, Ireland, who participated in 9 World Games and became the runner up in the Greatest Athlete of All times Election for World Games in 2021, has been invited to the World Games in Birmingham, July 2022, to become one of the flag bearers during the opening ceremony?
James has accepted the invitation.



Every 5 years TTV Familie Janssens organises an International Tournament that is held in Retie, Belgium. The next tournament will be in May 2023.

The Ayelet International Games

Feb 2022 - 24th-26th - Eilat City



This year the 17th Ayelet Games was held in the city of Eilat. It is the biggest sport event in Israel for Non-Olympic sports - 14 different sports take part in the 3 day event. Tug of War is one of the sports in the games and include others like Softball, KickBox, Jiu Jitsu and Roller Sports. More than 1,300 athletes from Israel and 100 athletes from abroad took part in the Games organized by the Ayelet Federation (the Federation for Non-Olympic sports in Israel).

YOEL GOLDING

PHOTOS: YANIV COHEN



Israel NT hosted the Czech national team - Men, Women & Mixed for a 2 day training and competition camp during the Ayelet International Games in the city of Eilat.

MORE PHOTOS OF THE AYELET GAMES ON PAGE 4



More pics from the
THE AYELET
International Games





WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS TUG OF WAR 2022 IN HOLTEN

WILLEKE COSTER-AALTINK

Organisation of this Tug of War 2022 was assigned to the Tug of War Club OKIA (Onze Kracht Is Achteruit - our strength is in reverse) in Holten, Netherlands by the international governing body TWIF. The year of the world championship, 2021, was a jubilee year for OKIA as it celebrated its 50th anniversary on 28th December 2021.

In the 50 years, they have had many successes, among which were promotions and championships in the Eastern region. In 1992 OKIA first became Dutch champion in the 640 class and in 2019 the men became Dutch champions in the 600 class. The highlight achievement in the past 50 years was the European title for the club and country team in Bütschwil, Switzerland in 2001.

Now OKIA has the honour of organising the World Championships. This WC will take place from 15th - 18th September 2022 in Holten, Netherlands. On 15th and 16th September the club competitions will take place, after which the country teams competitions will be held on 17th and 18th September.

The organising committee consists of a group of OKIA members and connections that have the preparations in full swing - making sure that everything will be perfect. The organisation offers a total package for the competitors: as well as accreditations, accommodation and catering will also be fully taken care of. Overnight stays are available in the nearby holiday park (see pic above) and a special team of caterers has been appointed to provide delicious meals for everyone on location.

In the neighbourhood of the competition grounds there is an open air pool, supermarkets and an opportunity to walk, cycle and mountain bike in the woods of the Holterberg.

**All information on the
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
IN HOLTEN**

can be found on our website:

<https://tugofwarholten.nl>

and on Facebook and Instagram (@tugofwarholten).

**We hope to welcome many sporters
and supporters in beautiful Holten in
September 2022.**

2021 South African Sports Awards awarded to **ROBERTO OOSTHUIZEN**



Both the Steve Tshwete Lifetime Achiever Award and the Minister's Excellence Award was received by Roberto Oosthuizen on Saturday 12th March 2022.

Roberto started his Tug of War career in 1977 at the tender age of 13 years. Currently at the age of 57 years he is still a fierce competitor on National and International levels. Roberto had a vision for his beloved sport and in 1987 he recruited two persons from previously disadvantaged communities to participate with him at his local Tug of War Club. Jim Thulare and Abraham Langa become Springboks in 1989; and a big part of their achievement belongs to Roberto Oosthuizen who went the extra mile to ensure that these two gentlemen managed to get to practice. He would then take them back to their homes in Tembisa after practicing in Pretoria at 10 o'clock in the evenings.

He obtained the highest recognition for an athlete in the sport in the form of SA National Colours 31 times and has been actively part of Tug of War for the last 45 years. He is just as dedicated today as when he started with the sport.

At Senior level he proudly represented various Clubs as well as his Country during his prestigious career on National and International Levels at the following events:

OCEANIC'S OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

1995	Australia
1997	South Africa
1999	Namibia

TEST SERIES: OUTDOOR TUG OF WAR:

1991	South Africa and Switzerland
1990	South Africa and Switzerland
1989	South Africa and Switzerland /England
1988	South Africa and Switzerland
1987	South Africa and England
1986	South Africa and England

EUROPEAN TUG OF WAR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

2007	England
2009	Netherlands
2011	England
2013	Netherlands
2015	Ireland
2017	England (Presidents - Team Manager)
2019	Ireland

WORLD OUTDOOR TUG OF WAR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

(Represented SA as Springbok/Protea)

2018	South Africa
2016	Sweden
2014	United States of America
2012	Switzerland
2010	South Africa
2006	Netherlands
2004	United States of America
2002	South Africa
2000	England
1998	United States of America
1996	Netherlands
1994	Sweden
1992	Ireland
1985	Switzerland

WORLD GAMES:

2005	Germany
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WORLD INDOOR TUG OF WAR CHAMPIONSHIPS:

(Team Manager & Coach of National Ladies Team)

2008	Italy
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Even though he clearly made a huge success as an athlete over his distinguished Tug of War career, Roberto has also excelled at a managerial level in the Sport.



16th National Tug of War Championship in Sri Lanka

The National Tug of War Federation of Sri Lanka organized the 16th National Tug of War Championship in Colombo, Sri Lanka in collaboration with its Ministry of Sports.

There were 42 teams participating - only registered clubs.

They were active in the following categories:

640 kg senior men

560 kg senior woman

Under 23 - 600 kg boys

Under 23 - 500 kg girls

Catch Weight open

JANAKA RANASINGHE

President of the Tug of War Federation of Sri Lanka



Shelby Jean Richardson

SEPTEMBER 28, 1956 - MARCH 12, 2022



Shelby started pulling with the Oregon Tug of War club in 1978 in what was then called the Blackhawk Tug of War league. USATOWA was formed in the same year, and they transitioned over to this style of pulling where they won many national championships over the years. She first represented USATOWA in international competition in Slagharen, Netherlands in 1990 winning a bronze medal. She also won bronze medals at the World Games in 1993 and 2001 as well as the outdoor World Championships in 2002. After her pulling career was over, she began coaching the Oregon club and continued in that role right up until the time of her passing.

Shelby held many positions on the USATOWA executive board starting in the 1980's including being elected President in 2002. She held that position unopposed until her death. Tug of War was so important to her that she presided over her last board meeting 2 weeks before her passing.

Two of her most satisfying accomplishments were bringing the World Championships to Rochester in 2004 and especially to her hometown Madison, WI in 2014. She worked

diligently to make these a success not only for USATOWA, but for everyone that participated. She was always concerned about the pullers because as she always said, "that is what this sport is all about."

I am sure Shelby would tell you her favorite part of Tug of War was all the people she met and the many friends she made all over the world. From her time competing, to hosting teams in her home, to her work on TWIF committees, she always put her friendships first. Everywhere she went, no matter if it was a small local pull, or a World Championship in a foreign country she would have friends that she had met over the years.

These friendships and the many contributions she made to the sport over the years are the legacy she hoped to leave behind, and for which she will always be remembered.

BILL GALLAGHER *TWIF Representative USA*

Since 2010 Shelby was a very active member of both the TWIF PR committee and the Technical & Athletes Committee.

Without being pushy she was always positive and gave good and constructive advice to both committees.

The knowledge gained after her long Tug of War career assisted with technical issues as well as helping promote our sport worldwide and on social media - she had broad minded views. I had the privilege to work with her on both committees, and I was also one of her Tug of War friends that was invited to stay at her home - of course it started with the battles we had on the field. Shelby, on behalf of the TWIF Exco and TWIF committees thank you for all the work you have done for our sport. Your smile will be missed on and around the Tug of War fields.

MAAIKE HORNSTRA
TWIF Secretary General

