

PETER ORZOL

A NAME TO REMEMBER!

Peter Orzol is an official for the city of Duisburg. Since July 2001 he has been assigned to the Organizing Committee for The World Games 2005 and tasked with setting up the offices and overseeing general operations. In July 2003 Peter took over from Reinhold Spaniel – an elected departmental head in Duisburg's administration – as Chief Executive Officer of World Games 2005 Ltd. The company was established earlier by the four host cities and an association of different municipalities to manage preparations and deliver The World Games in 2005.

FORUM talked to Peter about his new assignment.

FORUM: What was Peter Orzol's job prior to 2001?

Peter: I was a personal advisor to Reinhold Spaniel, the head of Duisburg's Department for Social Welfare and Housing, Youth Welfare and Sport. If I had to describe the range of issues I dealt with: everything that concerned my departmental head. Whoever needed to get into Mr. Spaniel's office – for any reason and with only a few exceptions – had to go through mine first. I hold degrees in public administration and in economy. Becoming a city official seemed quite appropriate.

FORUM: After you became involved in organizing The World Games, back in 2001, your work and your work patterns must have changed somewhat?

Peter: True! While my previous assignment was challenging, it had me work on a regular schedule. Not necessarily 9 to 5 – decidedly more than that – but evenings and weekends were generally free. Now I frequently attend meetings until late night and sport events on Saturdays or Sundays. Before I worked primarily from my office, now I seem to be permanently on the move. But I don't mind. Sometimes I even take my family – my wife Kerstin and our sons Alexander and Philipp – along on weekends.

FORUM: The smiles in the photo taken of your predecessor, Reinhold

Spaniel, passing the baton as CEO to you would do justice to a toothpaste ad. The grin of relief versus ...?

Peter: With all his other responsibilities within the city's administration, it simply was not viable for Mr. Spaniel to dedicate more time to The World Games. I, on the other hand, had worked exclusively on the project – ever since July 2001. When Mr. Spaniel asked me to take over – early this summer



– I agreed and looked forward to tackling the challenges. If I had to interpret my grin in the photo: 'mixed emotions' comes close.

FORUM: Suddenly you are dealing with sports as the raw material to your daily work. How about sports as passion?

Peter: I once sympathized with Winston Churchill's recipe for longevity: "First of all, no sports!" But over the years, and partly due to my work, I acquired a certain taste for them. Jogging is probably my favorite. I have also tried a few sports of The World Games: bowling, squash, tug of war and, most recently, skydiving. I will have to try them all, eventually. And on a very noncommittal basis! Kerstin does not warm up to the idea of me leaping out of an aircraft too often.

FORUM: You lived your first World Games experience as an observer in Akita. What were your thoughts at the time?

Peter: I am one of the few city officials who were not involved in organizing the Universiade 1989 and I had dealt only peripherally with Duisburg's bid for The World Games 2005. From the time we were awarded the event, my personal outlook on us hosting it changed gradually. But it was not until I



got to Japan and witnessed what impact the games had on Akita and the entire province that I fully grasped the magnitude of our undertaking. The 6th World Games are a hard act to follow: well organized and graciously hosted, 2001 Akita set the benchmark very high. We are now challenged to equal that, to put on our games in a similarly convincing manner. And if we should succeed, it will be Akita's merit as well. As observers we were afforded the important look behind the scenes by the Akita Organizing Committee (AOC). We were considered the heirs to its legacy of World Games know-how and spirit. I made good friends among the AOC staff and I am still in contact with them.

FORUM: Corresponding in Japanese?

Peter: That is a hobby of mine. Even before I became involved in The World Games and traveled to Akita I had started taking Japanese classes on two evenings per week. I enjoy learning languages and – through them – discovering different cultures and making new friends. I have done the same with Spanish earlier.

FORUM: Organizing successful World Games in 2005 is more than simply emulating the formula of 2001. What are the Organizing Committee's priorities in developing its own formula for success in Duisburg?

Peter: If one deficit in the current World Games strategy requires corrective action, it is the lack of awareness among the world at large. The public is not sufficiently informed about the sports and the concept of The World Games. Particular emphasis in our preparatory work is put on public relations and on promotions. Only if we succeed to further up the event's profile,



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if we inform more people about the games and their appeal, can we expect to become sufficiently attractive to commercial partners as well as spectators. At this juncture, our second priority is the script for the opening ceremony. Not that we would want to play down the importance of the competitions and the perfect technical conduct of every single event, but launching The World Games 2005 with a 'big bang' is crucial to setting the pace for a successful event. Third point on my agenda is the recruiting, motivating and training of our volunteers. We have established the need for 3,500 to support us in key areas which will ultimately decide over how our games are perceived by participants and spectators alike. However, I am optimistic that Duisburg's established tradition in hosting major sports events and the fact that one fifth of our citizenry is a member of a sports club will allow us to count on the help of competent and highly motivated volunteers.

FORUM: What will Peter Orzol's job be from 2006?

Peter: I could certainly go back to being a city official or ... (smiles!) make a career in organizing other multi-sport events in the future. Smiles!



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Four ingredients to sporting achievements are the themes for a series of posters designed by the agency contracted to create the look for The World Games 2005: KRANKIKOM, Duisburg.