

IN MEMORIAM



The president of the Akita Organizing Committee, Zenjiro Hayashi, who was chiefly responsible for making the 7th World Games the best ever, passed away at the age of 74. The newspaper publisher and civic leader had brought The World Games to the Akita prefecture. From their award in 1996, Zenjiro Hayashi presided over the Organizing Committee and ensured that the first Games ever held in Asia would end up a formidable success in every respect.

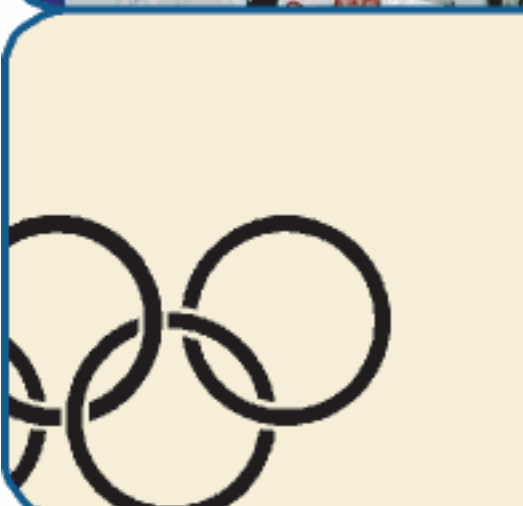
More than 1'000 people gathered at a special memorial service held in Akita on April 29 to pay a final tribute to Hayashi-san.



Vernon Pugh, the chairman of the International Rugby Board, sadly died at the age of 57 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

During his tenure the game underwent some of the most fundamental changes in its history. Many credit Vernon Pugh with singlehandedly propelling rugby kicking and screaming into an era of professionalism. "They say that no person is bigger than the game, but Vernon Pugh came pretty close to bucking the cliché. For the best part of a decade, he truly was lord and master of rugby union," wrote the Observer in an obituary on March 27.

IWGA HEADQUARTERS



The International World Games Association is proud to announce the hiring of Lisa A. Voight as its Chief Executive Officer. Selected among a number of superbly qualified candidates, Voight brings to her new job experience as the CEO of a national sports governing body. She was the CEO of USA Cycling between 1993 and 2002. She currently serves the United States Olympic Committee as a vice-chair of the National Governing Body Council, a member of the USOC Board of Directors, member of the Executive Committee, member of the International Relations Committee and a member of the Ethics and Governance Task Force. She was named one of Street and Smith's Sports Business Journal's "Super 50 Women Sports Executives" in May of 1998.

Voight resides in Colorado Springs, USA, with her husband and their twin daughters.

The IWGA President and the Secretary General attended the formal opening of the new offices in early May. During a reception hosted by the landlord, the foundation chairman Bill Hybl, in honor of the IWGA, Ron Froehlich expressed confidence and gratitude: "We're delighted to open the first permanently staffed headquarters in the Executive Office Building of the El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs. We're confident that our choice of Lisa Voight as the CEO is an excellent one. Above all, we recognize the El Pomar Foundation and the International Olympic Committee for giving us the opportunity to open these offices with a CEO and an assistant."

CONTACTS



The IWGA offices are open for business with immediate effect. CEO Lisa Voight is joined by assistant Angela Scholze in tending to day-to-day operations. Office hours are from 08:00 to 17:00 h U.S. Mountain Time, which corresponds to UTC minus 6 hours for daylight saving time, UTC minus 7 hours otherwise.

International World Games Association

10 Lake Circle
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

USA
TEL: +1 719 471 8096
FAX: +1 719 471 8105
info@worldgames-iwga.org

Lisa Voight's e-mail: lvoight@worldgames-iwga.org
Angela Scholze's e-mail: ascholze@worldgames-iwga.org

OLYMPIC HONORS



The Olympic Orders Council has bestowed the highest honors upon Bob de Die, President of the International Korfball Federation (IKF) and IWGA Senior Vice President, by awarding him the Olympic Order 'for outstanding services to the Olympic Movement'. Bob de Die was informed of the Council's decision by IOC President Jacques Rogge in mid March.

Established in 1974, the Olympic Order is awarded to recognize an individual who has illustrated the Olympic ideal through his/her action, has achieved remarkable merit in the sporting world, or has rendered outstanding services to the Olympic cause, either through his own personal achievement or his contribution to the development of sport.

Bob de Die felt all the more honored to receive such high a distinction, since he is still very active in korfball and in The World Games, and intends to continue contributing towards his sport and towards the program of The World Games 2005 Duisburg.

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International World Games Association, 10 Lake Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, USA - TEL: +1 719 471 8096, FAX: +1 719 471 8105

IWGA Communications and Marketing: Roland Hifker, Support Air Internacional, Apartat de Correus 110, 17487 Empuriabrava, Spain - E-MAIL: sai@intercom.es

INTERNATIONAL WORLD GAMES ASSOCIATION - IWGA
www.worldgames-iwga.org info@worldgames-iwga.org