

WORLD GAMES NEWSLETTER

From the President



With about 14 months to go to the opening ceremony of the 5th World Games in Lahti, some formal but nevertheless essential actions have been achieved lately. All participating International Federations agreed in writing with the number of participating athletes and the technicalities for their competitions. As a consequence of this conforming agreement it regrettably became known that Netball and Taekwondo had reasons to cancel their participation leaving the number of sports on the competition programme reduced to 25.

The Lahti Organisers finally signed the contracts with the marketing company IMG/TWI for the sale of the TV rights outside Finland and with the Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE for the full production of the TV coverage and transmission within Finland.

Step by step the groundwork for a really festive edition of the World Games gets under control.

As contribution to the success hoped for I made a presentation at the annual congress of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) in Kuala Lumpur. This gave me the opportunity to highlight the IWGA, the World Games and all the sports involved in front of sports journalists coming from 60 countries all over the world while more than 200 press kits were handed out. The reactions were most promising.

In view of the future beyond the Lahti World Games, I visited, together with IWGA Secretary General Co Koren, the Japanese town of Akita (north west of Tokyo) bidding for the 2001 event. At the meeting of the IWGA Executive, scheduled for 8-9 August in Lahti, all aspects of our experiences and their consequences will be thoroughly discussed. And if the IWGA Members, at the October meeting in Monte Carlo, accept this offer, it could mean the first Asian World Games.

But let's concentrate on the very near future, the start of the centennial Olympic Games next month in Atlanta. I wish all participating athletes, the IOC, the Atlanta Organising Committee with the thousands of volunteers, the International Federations involved and the many spectators at the sites or in front of the TV, glorious competitions with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play. To all: good luck!

Ron Froehlich
President



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From Lahti

Athletes' quota

More than 2.000 (2,063 to be exact) athletes are to compete in the 1997 World Games, accompanied by nearly 600 officials. The exact numbers, as confirmed by all parties involved, are as follows

Competition programme

Sport	Number of Athletes	Sport	Number of Athletes
Aerobics	56	Pétanque	30
Body Building	56	Powerlifting	48
Bowling	48	Roller Skating Artistic	40
Casting	48	Roller Skating Hockey	66
Dance Sport	72	Roller Skating Speed	48
Faustball	54	Sport Acrobatics	78
Field Archery	101	Squash	32
Fin Swimming	54	Trampoline	56
Ju-Jitsu	64	Tug of War Men	132
Karate	96	Tumbling	36
Korfball	96	Water Ski	60
Life Saving	54	Weightlifting Women	54
Parachuting	84		

Demonstration programme

Sport	Number of Athletes
Aikido	50
Boule Lyonnaise	30
Floorball	150
Military Pentathlon	60
Pesapallo	78
Indoor Tug of War Women	132

The above means that about 2.650 people must be accommodated in Lahti at the cost of the Organising Committee, but fortunately for them there is no need for the same number of beds during the full period of the Games as the presence of the athletes is depending on their part of the programme. Supplementary accommodation for additional officials, coaches, trainers etc. at the same locations can be arranged by the Lahti Organising Committee, however the number of extra space is limited.

Meeting Technical Delegates

With 25 of the in total 31 (competition together with demonstration) sports represented, the meeting of Technical Delegates and the Lahti Organising Committee on 21st May was a worthwhile initiative. The Technical Delegates were fully informed about the various aspects of the organisation and from their side more or less advanced presentations were made regarding specific sports competitions.

TV

Early June the agreement was signed between the Finnish broadcasting company YLE and Lahti Happenings, the umbrella organisation for Lahti Organising Committee, for the production of the total 30 hours of TV coverage and the transmission within Finland.

A month earlier an agreement had been signed with International Management Group/Trans World International (IMG/TWI) for the sale of the international TV rights.

Organising Committee

The Secretary General of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) Matti Salmenkylä joined the Organising Committee to oversee the media relations. By June sports journalist Kalle Lepisto started at the Lahti office for this specific purpose.



The signing of the agreement with IMG/TWI by Reijo M^oki-Korvela on behalf of Lahti Happenings (right) and Lars Sternmarker of IMG/TWI.

From the Federations

After 18 years the GAISF headquarters left its first formal office at the Villa Henri and moved to a new location, Villa Le Mas at 4, Boulevard du Jardin Exotique, 98000 Monaco. As of 21st June the country code of Monaco will change from 33 to 377, the correct numbers are to be tel. +377 93507413 and fax +377 93 252873.

Aerobics

Expansion of the international Gymnastic Federation with Trampoline, Tumbling and Sport Acrobatics is one of the main decisions to be taken at the forthcoming annual FIG Congress, scheduled for July. If the idea is accepted in principle, it will take till the year 2000 before the final formal merger happens. The third Sports Aerobics World Championships will be held in Perth (AUS), 30th May - 1st June 1997.

Bowling

As of May 13, the FIQ Headquarters, including President Gerald L. Koenig, was transferred to 1631 Mesa Ave., Suite A, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80906. A satellite office also has been established until after the Olympic Games and it may be contacted by telephone at +1 404 6147477, with the fax number +1 404 614 7500.

Casting

ICF President Edward Frerichs, accompanied by Secretary General Ulf Janson, visited Pretoria (RSA) recently in view of the forthcoming World Championships. The final programme was fixed for 5th - 7th September. Arrangements were also made to have a two-day trip afterwards to the Kruger Park.

Dance Sport

The Barry University in Miami (USA) opened a faculty for Dance Sport. Marguerite Hanlon and John Ford from Boca Raton, Florida, - well known within the world of US Dance - will teach the students.

Life Saving

During the World Life Saving Championships held in Durban (RSA) the IOC Member and Triathlon Secretary General Phil Coles was named "Knight of the Order of Life Saving". Since 1949 Coles has been a member of the North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, from where he started his Olympic career as a canoeist after winning a number of Australian Surf Ski Championships.

Orienteering

From 2nd September Ms Barbro Ronnberg will succeed Lennar Levin as Secretary General. Ms Ronnberg currently functions as the Secretary General of the Finnish Orienteering Federation. Prior to this position, since 1993, she held posts as Information Officer, Head of Communications and Marketing Manager. Due to this change of IOF officers, the IOF Secretariat will move from Sollentuna in Sweden to Helsinki in Finland as per 1st January, 1997. An important issue during the IOF Congress, to be held in Jerusalem (ISR) in July, is the change of the organisation and structure in order to reflect the growth of new disciplines such as Ski Orienteering and Mountain Bike Orienteering. Ski Orienteering is moving a step further forwards with inclusion in the Winter Olympic Games programme as per 2002 in Salt Lake City (USA). A lot depends on the outcome of discussions later this autumn about a second venue for Cross-Country Skiing and Biathlon, which could give a possible opening for Ski Orienteering.

Parachuting

The three Parachuting disciplines on the Lahti World Games programme, Accuracy Landing, Formation Skydiving and Freestyle Skydiving, will also be included in the programme for the first FAI World Air Games in Turkey, 5th - 21st September 1997.

Sport Acrobatics

The new telephone/fax number for the IFSA Head Office is +359 2 9800913.

Squash

In the centre of Maastricht, in the south of the Netherlands and a so-called "symbol of Europe", a glass court will be placed for some days at the Vrijthof square in which demonstration games of Squash will be played. From 3rd - 11th August the first World University Squash Championships will take place elsewhere in the city.

Trampoline

During its next Congress, August in Atlanta, FIT will have to take a decision in principle whether or not to merge with the Gymnastic Federation. In case of positive outcome, from 1998 on FIT will have its own Technical Committee within the FIG organisation and from the year 2000 the inclusion will be completed.

Tug of War

At the 1996 TWIF Congress, held in Slagharen (NED) at which venue this year's World Championships will take place, Anton Rabe from South Africa was elected as Treasurer succeeding the late Tommy Elmore (IRE). Ireland was granted the organisation for the 1999 Indoor World Championships, while England will host the 2000 Outdoor World Championships. The European Outdoor Championships in 1999 will be held in The Netherlands.

Nation-wide representation

Since the previous issue of World Games News - March 1996 - the number of nations most likely to be represented at the 5th World Games in Lahti has increased to 33 (additions in *Italic*). The following list shows the (abbreviated) name and the particular sport(s):

Australia (AUS)	Argentina (ARG)	
Austria (AUT)	Field Archery, Korfball, Squash	Roller Hockey , Squash
Belgium (BEL)	<i>Faustball</i> , Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu</i>	
<i>Brazil (BRA)</i>	Field Archery, Korfball	
Canada (CAN)	<i>Ju-Jitsu, Roller Hockey</i>	
Czech Republic (CZE)	Field Archery, Squash	
Denmark (DEN)	Field Archery	
Egypt (EGY)	Field Archery, Ju-Jitsu	
England (ENG)	Squash	
Finland (FIN)	Squash, Tug of War	
France (FRA)	Field Archery, <i>Life Saving, Roller Hockey</i> ,	
Germany (GER)	Squash	
Great Britain (GBR)	Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu, Life Saving</i> , Squash	
Hong Kong (HKG)	<i>Faustball</i> , Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu</i> , Korfball,	
Hungary (HUN)	Life Saving, Squash, Tug of War	
Ireland (IRE)	Field Archery	
Italy (ITA)	Squash, Tug of War	
Japan (JPN)	<i>Faustball</i> , Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu, Life Saving</i> , Roller Hockey	
Netherlands (NED)	Field Archery,	
New Zealand (NZL)	Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu</i> , Korfball, <i>Life Saving</i> , Tug of War	
Norway (NOR)	Squash	
Pakistan (PAK)	Field Archery	
Portugal (POR)	Squash, Tug of War	
Scotland (SCO)	<i>Faustball</i> , Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu, Life Saving</i> , Roller Hockey	
Slovenia (SLO)	Field Archery,	
South Africa (RSA)	Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu</i> , Korfball, <i>Life Saving</i> , Tug of War	
Spain (ESP)	Squash	
Sweden (SWE)	Korfball, <i>Roller Hockey</i>	
Switzerland (SUI)	Squash	
Taipei (TPE)	Field Archery	
United States (USA)	Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu, Life Saving, Roller Hockey</i> , Tug of War	
Wales (WAL)	Field Archery, <i>Ju-Jitsu, Life Saving</i> , Squash, Tug of War	
	<i>Faustball</i> , Field Archery, Tug of War	
	Korfball	
	Field Archery	
	Squash.	

IWGA meetings

As stated earlier the IWGA Executive is to meet in Lahti during the weekend 9th - 11th August. Prior to the annual IWGA meeting, most likely another meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th October. Provisionally the date for the annual IWGA meeting in Monte Carlo is set for the afternoon hours of Thursday 17th October. As usual the IWGA meetings are held in conjunction with the GAISF Congress, which will be formally opened with a dinner party on Wednesday 16th October; the GAISF Statutory General Assembly has been set for the morning hours of Saturday 19th October. Next year the GAISF Annual Congress, including the IWGA general meeting, will most likely take place in Duisburg (GER). The exact dates in October 1997 are to be announced.

World Games Qualifying Competitions

(in Italic additions since previously)

<i>Pétanque</i>	05-07 Jul	<i>Pori (FIN)</i>	<i>1996 World Women's Championship</i>
Parachuting	16-25 Aug	Leopoldsbuurg (BEL)	1996 World Cup Formation Skydiving
Fin Swimming	18-25 Aug	Dunaujvaros (HUN)	8th World Championships
Trampoline/Tumbling	23-28 Aug	Vancouver (CAN)	19th World Championships
Casting	03-10 Sep	Pretoria (RSA)	28th World Championships
Parachuting	05-15 Sep	Bekescesba (HUN)	23rd World Championships Accuracy Landing
<i>Pétanque</i>	<i>25-29 Sep</i>	<i>Essen (GER)</i>	<i>1996 World Championships</i>
Body Building	04-07 Oct	Lago Maggiore (ITA)	World Women's Championships
Squash	14-19 Oct	Kuala Lumpur (MAS)	11th World Women's Championships
Aerobics	17-20 Oct	The Hague (NED)	2nd World Championships
<i>Dance Sport</i>	<i>09 Nov</i>	<i>Kassel (GER)</i>	<i>World Championship Latin</i>
Body Building	12-16 Nov	Amman (JOR)	World Men's Championships
<i>Dance Sport</i>	<i>16 Nov</i>	<i>Vienna (AUT)</i>	<i>World Championship Standard</i>
<i>Ju-Jitsu</i>	<i>22-24 Nov</i>	<i>Paris (FRA)</i>	<i>World Championships</i>
Artistic Roller-Skating	Nov	(ARG)	World Championships

Any other business

Sport for All



IWGA President Froehlich addressing the AIPS Congress in Kuala Lumpur (photo by Kurt Zimmermann)

In his opening address to the 6th World Sport for All Congress, held in Seoul (KOR) last April, Dr Un Yong Kim suggested the International Federations should launch a "Sports Day" on a global scale like the IOC already annually organises with the participation of sports equipment manufacturers. Dr Kim, first Vice President of the IOC, President of the GAISF, President of the Korean Olympic Committee and Hon. Founder President of the IWGA, stated that the International Federations, through their structures and their world-wide development have all the means available to popularise Sport for All throughout the world. "It is finally in Sport for All that we can find the stars of tomorrow. In fact, it represents an inexhaustible source of new talent which will one day enrich sports competition at all levels".

Most popular sports

Snowboarding and Street Hockey are believed to be the fastest growing sports, according to a study conducted on behalf of the World Federation of the Sporting Goods Industry (WFSGI). Snowboarding has gained fans among converts from Alpine Skiing and Street Hockey gained followers as an outgrowth of rollerblading. The top ten list is still headed by In-line Skating, followed by Soccer, Golf, Walking for exercise, Street Hockey, Mountain Biking, Basketball, Hiking/trekking and Exercise with machines.

IOC Museum shows 100 years of Olympic images

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Olympic Games of the modern era, the Olympic Museum in Lausanne (SUI) is organising an exhibition retracing the history of a century of Games through a century of images from the silent film to computer-synthesised coverage. On 26th June the IOC President HE Juan Antonio Samaranch will be opening the exhibition, which can be visited till 29th September.

Media

The 59th AIPS (International Sports Press Association) Congress urged the IOC and International Federations to have all modern facilities available at major international sporting events to facilitate the work of the media and that organisers no longer require financial contribution to media accreditations.

Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play in Europe

At the European sports conference, to be organised by the European Olympic Committee, the European Non Governmental Sports Organisation and the Council of Europe in Amsterdam (NED) 30th September - 2nd October, an update will be given of actions on the declaration on Sport, Tolerance and Fair Play as adopted by the Council of Europe recently.

Lahti and sports

The city of Lahti increased its name as a real sports-minded city by hosting, just prior to the World Games, the 13th Congress of the International Association of Physical Education and Sport Girls and Women and also the 2001 Nordic World Championships as decided by recently by the Congress of International Ski Union (FIS).

World Games

2001 in Japan ?

The northern Japanese region of Akita offers to host the 6th World Games in 2001.



Together with members of the Akita Bidding Committee, Yutaka Moroshi and Hiroki Miura, President Ron Froehlich visits the sites.

This area comprises 69 municipalities with Akita City as regional centre with a population of approx. 300.000 (total regional population approx. 1.2 million). Although a lot of sports and recreational facilities of various kinds are within the district, the largest - 584 hectare - is located south of Akita City, in Yuwa town and only five minutes from the airport. The Prefectural Central Park contains two football fields, two baseball diamonds, 24 tennis courts, 200 plus hectare of fields, the largest athletic course in Japan (23.4 hectare of areas and 140 check points), 10 kilometres of hiking, jogging and cycling trails, a many track and field stadium with seating for 32.000 people, a multi-purpose field containing two soccer fields and four softball diamonds plus a gymnasium with four basketball courts. However, in Akita City itself there is also a sports complex with different fields and a gymnasium and the same applies to other surrounding towns as for instance Ogata and Iwaki. The IWGA Executive will study the results of the tender procedure for hosting the 2001 World Games, including the Akita bid, at their coming meeting in August.