

**INTERNATIONAL STOKE MANDEVILLE
WHEELCHAIR SPORTS FEDERATION**

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Mr Seyed Amir Hosseini – Islamic Republic of Iran

Sports Officers/Representatives

Mrs Ann Webb, Wheelchair Archery Representative – Great Britain

Mr Jean Minier, Wheelchair Athletics – France

Mr Huang Chung-Jeng, Cue Sports – Chinese Taipei

Mr Alberto Martinez Vassallo, Wheelchair Fencing – Spain

Alf Boyle, Wheelchair Lawn Bowls - Australia

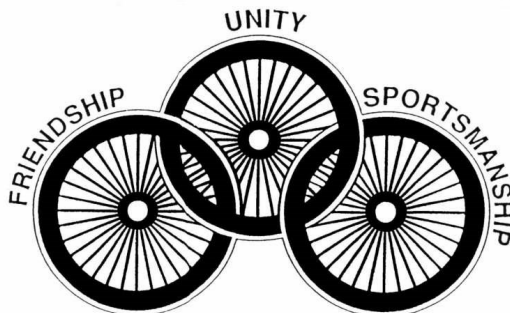
Mr Glyn Hibbert, Powerlifting – Great Britain

Mr Brad Mikkelsen, Wheelchair Rugby – USA

Mr Paul Gockel, Swimming – Australia

Mrs Linda Chen, Wheelchair Table Tennis Representative – Chinese Taipei

International Stoke Mandeville Wheelchair Sports Federation



ISMWSF

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

On behalf of the ISMWSF Executive Committee, I present the Annual Report 2003.

Paul DePace
President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since the last General Assembly in 2002 in Paris, the Executive Committee and the Secretariat have been busy. As President to date, I have represented the ISMWSF at several key meetings including a joint IOSDs leadership meeting held in Edinburgh, Scotland in March, the IPC Executive Committee meetings held in Athens in April and an IOSD Presidents' meeting, July 2003 in Madrid. These meetings have been productive, as the ISMWSF sharpens its focus in the changing background of sports for athletes with a disability.

By the time that we meet in Christchurch, I will have also attended the 6th National Paralympic Games of China in Nanjing and be preparing for my attendance at the Oita International Wheelchair Marathon and the IPC Executive and General Assembly meetings. With regard to the ISMWSF, I have chaired the Executive Committee meeting in December 2002 and the Executive Management Committee meeting in July 2003, as well as participated in the important ISMWSF Amalgamation Working Group meeting in July 2003.

Objectives

I am more than pleased to report that the hard work over the years of former Presidents John Grant, Don Royer, and Bob McCullough, the Secretariat and ISOD President, Juan Palau, has finally resulted in the signing of an agreement between ISMWSF and ISOD to achieve the merger mandated by the nations. The successful outcome of the amalgamation working group meeting held in July at Stoke Mandeville was conveyed to both ISMWSF and ISOD member constituencies through a joint communiqué. A comprehensive amalgamation report with recommendations will accompany this Annual Report for the nations' endorsement at our Joint General Assembly in October. I would personally like to thank the nations for their support in moving the two organisations together and those who worked with such dedication over the years to make this a reality.

Marketing and fundraising remains a top priority, as we have not yet achieved our objective of a dedicated professional function. Our potential to increase funding opportunities is, however, being opened up with the establishment of the new organisation, and the cohesion of IPC and paralympic movement stakeholders in the area of development.

During the period since we last met, the ISMWSF has continued its singular aims to support development on a regional basis with programmes in Europe, South America and the South Pacific. Our ongoing objective is to establish financial and resource levels capable of sustaining programmes to assist all regions on a more regular basis.

ISMWSF sports have fine-tuned their development projections throughout the period and continue to conduct quality competitions. Reports on their activities over the period are included in this publication and we also look forward to receiving their presentations on the future during the General Assembly.

The Executive Committee sees regularly scheduled Games as a development tool and it is our aim to expand frequency and variety of Games events available on a bid basis to increase the opportunities for competition for our athletes. ISMWSF will need the support of the nations, sports and regional bodies to make this a reality. In keeping with this plan, it is our intent to

organise Youth Games at Stoke Mandeville to kick off the new programme 2004. The Executive Committee would encourage your feedback on this concept.

Another important step in the Movement is the agreement of the IOSDs to work together to ensure the most efficient delivery of development programming is planned. Meetings of the IOSD leadership in Edinburgh, hosted by Alan Dickson, Vice President of CP-ISRA and in Madrid, hosted by Enrique Perez, President of IBSA, as well as one planned for Torino before the IPC General Assembly, furnish opportunities for direct communication and promote joint programme planning. These meetings have confirmed the IOSDs support of the results of the IPC Strategic Review identifying the IOSDs as the leaders in development with support from IPC funding. Agreement that IPC focus on the Paralympic Games makes it more necessary than ever for the IOSDs to act as providers of sporting opportunities below the Paralympic level in co-operation with other stakeholders. Further, it was agreed by the Presidents that, beyond the responsibility for helping nations develop elite athletes to fill the pipeline for the Paralympic Games, development would include at least the following:

- Creating and providing opportunities to practice sport to those who cannot compete at the Paralympic level
- Creating and assisting others to create opportunities at national and regional level
- Organising and helping to organise disability-specific championships at all levels to deliver these opportunities
- Identifying athletes and encouraging, empowering and educating them with new emphasis on female and the severely disabled athletes
- Developing programmes for training coaches
- The development and maintenance of the classification systems and training on classification.

The collaboration and support of IPC Strategic Review objectives continued at the IPC Executive Committee meetings where workshops on governance, development, fundraising and sports independence were held. I have high hopes that under Phil Craven's leadership and the collegial cooperation of this new Executive Committee, this important development will consolidate and facilitate effective partnerships and operations within the Paralympic movement as a whole. The IPC Strategic Review opens the pathway for paralympic movement cohesion and creates a platform for further professionalizing its operations.

I have been given the opportunity for active participation in the IPC process from assisting in the selection of McKinsey, the consultant to help guide the process, to contributing by way of meetings, correspondence, and teleconference in the development of the progress reports. In the IPC Strategic Review, the working group was mindful of the motion that was overwhelmingly passed at the General Assembly in Athens 2002, that directed the IPC to establish a Solidarity and Development Foundation under the leadership of the IOSDs. This motion recognised the leadership role of the IOSDs in respect to development and further recognised the need for such leadership to be provided with appropriate representation from the other stakeholders within the movement.

The Strategic Review recognises this direction and proposes to change the IPC structure to create an IOSD Council or Development Board to fulfil the role of the Foundation. The IOSDs agree that now is the opportunity to comply with this requirement and propose to participate in the creation of such a Board. My view of these reports indicates that the proper emphasis is placed on the importance of development, and the IPC's leadership commitment to support it with IOSDs leadership's dedication to its realisation.

ISMWSF World Wheelchair Games and ISOD World Athletics 2003 in Christchurch, provides yet another important event addressing two of our own Federation's goals. This

event reflects ISMWSF strategic objective within the new Games cycle and programming to hold high quality events in pre-paralympic years. As such, it provides a wide range of sports and opportunities for athletes. In addition, with the invitation of the ISMWSF to ISOD to join the Games, it furnishes another stepping stone to the long desired need for the organisations to merge. We look forward to the Christchurch Organising Committee once again presenting a spectacular event.

Future

Looking to the future of our new organisation of a merged ISMWSF-ISOD, we see the necessity of the development of a new Strategic Plan. A presentation of the Strategic Plan, together with Report and Recommendations, including draft operational budget 2004/5, will be made by the Amalgamation Working Group at the Joint General Assembly in Christchurch, New Zealand in October 2003. A clear presentation of the Vision, Mission and Values of the new Organisation will be made and we will look for the member nations' endorsement of the way forward. It is the Amalgamation Working Group's aim to provide the nations with the name of the new organisation following solicitation of suggestions from nations and a professional PR company. An operational account will be established at Stoke Mandeville under the name of the new organisation and transfers will be achieved by ISOD and ISMWSF by January 1 2004, and as outlined in the amalgamation preparation document. For the next two years the combined Secretariat will remain at Stoke Mandeville. The new Executive will prepare and solicit bids for relocating of the Secretariat starting 2005. To support the successful realisation of the new organisation's inaugural Games initiative, World Youth Games at Stoke Mandeville in July 2004, it will be necessary for the new Executive to formulate Youth Games policy, guidelines and format prior to February 2004. A business plan to include event management provision and budget will need to be approved by February 2004.

Conclusion

I would like to express my personal thanks to the Organising Committee of the ISMWSF World Wheelchair Games 2003 and ISOD World Athletics, the ISMWSF Secretariat, ISMWSF Officers and all the sports for their hard work and dedications to the goals of improving opportunities for athletes with a disability. This event will be an exciting and dynamic competition.

We should all be reminded that, although progress has been made, there is still a lot of work in front of us, which can best be achieved through partnership. Our next General Assembly will be in 2005 at which time elections will be held. We trust that there are many individual in the nations who will be thinking about standing for election and serving the new and vibrant organisation dedicated to pursue the conditions for self-determination of athletes with a disability in the paralympic movement. We wish to emphasise the fact that this is an opportunity to seek more involvement of women and former athletes with relevant skills to fill the ranks within our new Executive Committee.

In closing, I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you in Christchurch, both at competition and in celebration of a new era of paralympic sport.

Respectfully submitted

Paul DePace
President ISMWSF

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

Introduction

The Executive Director/Secretary General is responsible for overseeing the management function of the organisation. The management function implements the organisation's Development Plan and delivery of its goals. Until such time as the organisation realises a full complement of staffing/contracted department functions commensurate with the effective and efficient implementation of the Development Plan and delivery of its goals, the management function is realised with the support of elected Officers, Sports, Commissions, Standing and Ad hoc Committees and individual appointments. The Executive Director/Secretary General works alongside the President.

Purpose

To report to the Nations on Secretariat and departmental activities and interface related to the ISMWSF Development Plan and delivery of goals during the period under review, and to put forward ideas and recommendations associated with the organisation's operations for the coming period.

Report

At today's date, it is 15 months since my last report to the Nations made at the General Assembly held in Paris, France in April 2002 on which occasion we duly celebrated the Federation's 50th anniversary through the kind support of our hosts, the Fédération Française Handisport.

As we moved forward from that date, our immediate focus was centred on the induction and cohesion of a new Executive team following the elections for the governance positions outlined in the Federation's Development Plan. Between April and December, I worked with Officers to develop and finalise Job Descriptions and corresponding 4 year Action Plans. Our first meeting of the new Executive took place in Copenhagen in Denmark in December 2002, with the kind and generous support of our hosts, the Danish Federation of Sport for the Disabled (DHIF). As a continuation of our team building exercise this was an outright success and the meeting outlined the activities and priorities for the coming period.

The Development Plan ISMWSF called for a new Executive (Governance) infrastructure and a commensurate development at operations (Management) level. It has proved to be a period of differing fortunes in this respect. Although we attained a full complement in respect to the Executive, we have still to achieve commensurate expansion in staffing and/or departmental function terms to support the total realisation of all of our goals, despite concerted effort to progress Regional Department functions and the realisation of more effective sport specific management functions. We are somewhat in a "chicken and egg" situation – without the income level to support expansion we are not in a position to allocate a dedicated management resource to the generation of incomes.

The ISMWSF Development Plan identifies the staffing element of the Federations management function as 5 persons covering Communications, Event Management, Marketing, Regional/Development, General Administration and Accounts, and Office Management alongside improved sport specific management and regional department functions to be the level at which services forecast in the plan could be realised. Whilst still at a level of 2 full-time persons in the Secretariat, there has to be an innovative and flexible approach to the realisation of the organisation's assigned goals within the Development Plan.

We have not always met the expectations associated with a larger staffed facility, but we are pretty adept at juggling to achieve some level of function in all areas assigned to management. Support for improved sport specific management functions are being realised in increased budget lines and encouragement to achieve sport specific sponsorship.

Communications

With limited resource, we have nevertheless provided a comprehensive communications service. It is a priority to maintain a regular and day to day function in this area as centralised communication remains a fundamental element of a successful operation in all areas of the Federation's work and determines our external profile. As an international body, there is a need for clear, concise and informative communications. Implementation of a communications strategy relies on the utilisation of a variety of communication tools and assignment of staffing and volunteer time to best advantage, and carries the additional benefits of creating and maintaining relationships to underwrite public relations, media and marketing exercises.

I am pleased therefore to report improved communications through the medium of newsletters and web-site and email. We have regenerated the ISMWSF Newsletter and according to the high level of feedback we have received on the 4 issues of the Newsletter we have published since September 2002, these have been warmly appreciated. The ISMWSF web-site is a regular attraction to both member organisations and individual athletes for results and information service. Email communications at a rate of 50 to 80 emails on a daily basis from Nations, Sports, Officers, IPC, IOSDs and general public on a wide range of issues/queries/requests for information consume a high proportion of staff time. Mass mailings to membership have increased over the period, and these include the publication of minutes of ISMWSF meetings, press releases and information sheets.

The Action Plan for the Amalgamation Working Group involved an intense level of communication activity and service to support associated objectives. Nations and partners in the paralympic movement have been kept abreast of progress through press releases and communiqués developed in the Secretariat. I have also spent the past few weeks putting together the report, recommendations and strategic planning document for the nations' endorsement at the forthcoming joint General Assembly.

Other areas which have stimulated debate, interest and strengthened our capacity to capture, centralise and disseminate information have been related to the Games in New Zealand, the WADA Anti-Doping Code, European Union Funding and the IPC strategic review and recommendations to name but a few. It is pleasing to report that our centralised communication system supports effective contribution and support of these key initiatives.

In respect to sports related communications and service – we have made definite progress in establishing and maintaining a communications network to support and contribute effectively to sport specific management objectives. I have particularly enjoyed working with wheelchair rugby and fencing in support of their formulation of sport specific operational policies, procedures and regulations and Action Plans, and am looking forward to reviewing these with Cue Sports and Lawn Bowls after their respective Assemblies.

Having replaced Pawel Zbieranowski as ISMWSF representative to IPC Sports Council, I have devoted time to communication with IPC Sports Department and individual sports on a variety of matters. This particular area of our communications function has focused on the development of reports and recommendations and the sharing of ideas related to technical collaboration, especially, but not exclusively, regarding development and the ISMWSF Games. On an ISMWSF sport specific basis, the centralisation of communications with ISMWSF member nations has supported the coordination of 3 Sports Assemblies already

held during the period under review and, as I write, the preparation and dissemination of documentation for a further 3 Sports Assemblies to be held during the Games in New Zealand are well in hand.

As ISMWSF representative to EPC and on the IOSDs Council during the period under review, I have also devoted time to communications with our partner members on the exploration of ideas, development of reports, recommendations and discussion papers related to the respective endeavours of these bodies.

Budgeted IT projections unfortunately failed to forecast a complete crash of the Federation's computer system, without which our communications and service function would struggle to exist. I therefore had to incorporate urgent action to secure income to reinstate the system. I am very pleased to report success in having found a private donor whose assistance has meant that this key element of our operations has been maintained.

Event Management

The Secretariat and the sports provide Organisers and nations with a wealth of experience and expertise appropriate to event management. In concert therefore we have worked with the Organisers of the ISMWSF World Games and ISOD World Athletics during the period through bidding/sanction process, contract, organisational to our contribution to the running of the event. This involves us in allocating staff and volunteer resource to an Organiser on a no cost basis. This is seen as a membership service to the nations and assists in keeping costs down to the athletes as time proven systems, procedures and regulations developed by the Secretariat can be utilised by Organising Committees without re-inventing the wheel each time. Our relationship with the LOC in New Zealand has developed over time and although it intensifies the workload on the Secretariat and the Sports, the benefits to the nations and their athletes remain our prime objective in this area. The LOC in Christchurch, New Zealand at last report advised an entry level nudging the 1,000 mark and indicates an excellent opportunity for athletes in their chosen sport in pre-paralympic year.

Both staffing and volunteer resource are assigned to sport specific situations coming under the banner of ISMWSF, and detail is given in the Sports Activities Report presented in this Annual Report, covering over 40 sport specific International Events and Championships during the period.

Organisers of each and every event sanctioned and/or awarded by the ISMWSF and sports have access to the systems, knowledge, advice and expertise developed by the Federation both from a general event management perspective and on a sport specific technical level.

The ISMWSF Games programme was heavily underlined as a priority for the Federation to develop and a strategy to realise an increased level of Games events over a 4 year period was identified for the management function to deliver from 2004 onwards. A principle outline of the cycle and level of events to be included in a four-year programme is included in the Sports Activities report within this publication, and it will be noted that the introduction of a Youth Games programme is being relayed to the nations for their feedback to identify the level of interest and numbers potential. A questionnaire will be circulated during the General Assembly to assist us in this exercise.

Integral to the Games Development strategy was the formation and function of the ISMWSF Sports Services Department to identify bidding opportunities to be pursued, the mechanics to develop programme formats with sports from grass roots to elite and the expansion of networks of accredited officials and technical personnel on a regional basis. This new function of the ISMWSF was headed up by Pawel Zbieranowski, who has unfortunately had

to resign and the Executive Committee will be addressing the situation to ensure sustained capacity to deliver against this highly prioritised goal.

IPC Sports Council is a crucial link in support of the ongoing objectives of Games programming, supplying as it does a forum for discussion, negotiation and identification of IPC sport specific (where our athlete constituency participates) development objectives which could be incorporated within a cyclical Games programme, alongside sports coming under the ISMWSF banner. This is vital if we wish to maintain the benefits and opportunity levels in support of our shared objectives for recruitment, and to give depth and strength in participation levels to support development in the paralympic movement.

Marketing

2002

Slow inroads were made into the implementation and delivery of goals under this management function, primarily due to lack of dedicated staffing resource. In this situation, we have taken a realistic management approach based on staffing/volunteer levels and budget available and in 2002 we focused our limited staffing resource in this area in maintaining and servicing the following annual grant applications:

IPC Development
UK Sport Council
Ludwig Guttman Paraplegic Sports Foundation

The resignation of Bob McCullough meant that our activities in relation to our Marketing and Fundraising arm (Wheelchair Sports Worldwide) were severely curtailed, apart from the general administration necessary to comply with the statutory obligations of a Foundation registered in the UK. Volunteer effort through patrons and trustees focused on public relations associated with the 50th year anniversary of the Foundation. Results in this area are reflected in the audited accounts 2002 at £14,000 for incomes received from funding application exercises.

It should be said that all income generation exercise from membership fee through capitation, grants and marketing, sponsorship exercises can only be maintained by establishing a valued appreciation of the level of service and benefits each activity provides. Additionally, materials, resources, products and relationships have to be nurtured, developed and maintained to underwrite activities in this field. This demands a great deal of time, effort, planning and for resource to be sustainable and ultimately fruitful.

From a management perspective, I have to be realistic about our current capacity to effectively implement and deliver goals related to marketing, fundraising and sponsorship service under present circumstances.

Grants/Donations 2003

From the beginning of 2003 to date therefore I have concentrated on improving levels of income associated with our regular grant providers and private donors, as well as developing relationships with volunteers to assist the Federation in this area. Time therefore has been allocated to the creation of proposals and documentation in support of applications.

So far this year, we are more than halfway in respect to our budgeted targets for grant funding and donations (£25K), having already realised income of £15,250. A further £14,750 will be released in due course from the respective agencies against submission of justified expenditure associated with the projects that have been partly/fully funded. This will bring us slightly ahead of target under grants/donations at £30,000.00 for the year.

Sponsorships/Fundraising Events/Merchandising 2003

This area of marketing is very work intensive and relies heavily on the identification of our product(s), professional development of support materials, a good public relations programme, and the time consuming exercises to pursue, maintain and service relationships in the market place.

Currently a case statement is being developed to prepare more effectively for realising sponsorships for the future. Mr Seyed Amir Hosseini, the ISMWSF Marketing Officer has diligently pursued pr opportunities for the Federation and has made introductions to potential sponsors and consultants with ideas on fundraising events that could be followed in the future. He has also undertaken to produce ISMWSF merchandising for sale at the Games in Christchurch.

We are therefore building on our capacity to be successful in this area. However, our success will be measured on our future capacity to service and maintain sponsorships and fundraising events.

We need to look to the future and ensure that under the new organisation we have identifiable products, a marketable name and a dedicated marketing/fundraising function to pursue and deliver our goals in this area.

Regional/Development

As a sports organisation, our goals in the area of development are delivered through the Games, and sport specifically and in this respect our resource is a conjoined volunteer and staff management effort where we complement and support each other.

Sport specific development and regional activities are reported separately under the “Sports Activities Report” in this publication, and it should be noted that the support of the South Pacific Region has been established at this year’s Games to provide workshops and clinics in the area of classification.

The Federation’s aims in this area are to strengthen capacity to deliver development, education and competitive programmes on a global basis, utilising partnership and collaborative endeavour and the formation of regional delivery mechanisms.

Discussion and investigation of needs have highlighted the importance of collaborative endeavour and the realisation of formalised situations to benefit the development activities of the paralympic movement. I have therefore developed a blue print document, outlining the rights and obligations the Federation wishes to establish related to programme building and delivery in the regions, which has been approved by the Executive Committee. This initiative takes into account the need to make provision for a dedicated resource for Regional/Development and encourages the establishment of an outreach departmental situation in each region to be centrally managed from HQ.

Invitations have been extended to the countries of the Asian region to participate in a Forum during the forthcoming Games in New Zealand in order that we can get an acceptable conclusion to the protracted discussion and negotiation on projections for the region. We are also in discussion with the Americas region to reach an effective and formalised regional function on behalf of the countries practising wheelchair and amputee sports.

We are also interested in developing relationships with the African and European regions, particularly in the area of development.

General Administration/Accounts/Office Management

Our regular administrative function covers a wide range of functions, including book-keeping, payroll, Executive and Sport administration service, and office management. In addition we maintain the statutory and historical archives of the Federation and with such a wealth of reference materials providing the history of the paralympic movement and Games, we have started to catalogue these by capturing them in digital photographic form. At the moment it is only a small start, but we hope to be able to progress this over the coming period.

In this area we annually prepare for and process approvals related to audit of the Federations finances, and you will be able to see these in the publication entitled Financial Report and Consolidated Audited Accounts accompanying this Annual Report.

Throughout the year we maintain communication with and file reports to Charities Commission and Companies House. Throughout the period under review and in relation to the preparation of amalgamation with ISOD, there has been the necessary preparation of documents and case statements for discussion with the Charity Commission, who I am pleased to report have given approval and guidance with regard to the amendments to Memorandum & Articles of Association to support this.

Executive and Executive Management Committee meetings ISMWSF, as well as the ISMWSF-ISOD Amalgamation Working Group meeting, have been prepared, serviced and minutes distributed, . Activities associated with administering sport specific budgets and consolidating financial reports have been undertaken.

As also noted elsewhere in this Annual Report and as informed in our last newsletter, at long last the HQ has returned to the situation of working out of a real Office after a period of 12 years in a dormitory facility. The conversion to an office, refurbishment of the area to health and safety standards and reinstatement of electrical and telephonic connections was all realised with the financial support of the UK Sport Council, with the final touches in terms of moving heavy equipment, furniture and archives supplied through volunteer support.

Conclusion

As I look back on 15 months of changing fortune, both on a personal and Federational level, I would like to take the opportunity to express my thanks for the support extended to me, especially during my father's illness and death. It has continued to be a privilege to work in an atmosphere of commitment and dedication and make contribution towards the aims and objectives of the paralympic movement.

I look forward to a new era and the opportunities that are opening up before us as we stand on the threshold of amalgamation with ISOD and the burgeoning collaborative inter-IOSD and regional relationships. The stimulating climate of cooperation and collaboration that surrounds us will no doubt contribute to and facilitate improved implementation of strategy and delivery of goals, particularly in the area of development.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Strange
Secretary General/Executive Director

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' ACTIVITIES REPORT

VICE PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee after the General Assembly in Paris, April 2002:

As you will all know a (new) Executive Committee was elected at the General Assembly in Paris 2002 – and therefore it was natural that special initiatives were necessary to establish good cooperation among the group of board members.

The first real Executive Committee meeting in Copenhagen in December 2002 was planned and held in that spirit – and furthermore the meeting was very productive.

Afterwards it has been very difficult to gather the Executive Committee for meetings and therefore, the management of the ISMWSF has been done through discussions between the President, the Vice President and the Secretary General via telephone calls or email.

Amalgamation ISOD/ISMWSF

ISMWSF (and the Working Group established during the Joint General Assembly – ISOD/ISMWSF in Sydney 2000) has been waiting for ISOD to hold its General Assembly in April 2003.

Immediately after, in July 2003, the Working Group met and through open and fruitful discussions, a joint plan for the amalgamation between the two organisations was made. This was a strong wish from the member nations at the meeting in Sydney.

Many things indicate that the wish, which however has been on the agenda of ISMWSF for more than 10 years, is now realisable.

The joint plan contains the following main elements:

- a joint General Assembly in Christchurch, New Zealand in October 2003
- a (new) joint organisation named: ISMWSF-ISOD
- a new joint (temporary) Executive Committee consisting of four (4) members of which the organisations appoint two members each, and
- at the next General Assembly in 2005, a new Executive Committee for the joint organisation will be elected.

In our opinion, after the coming joint General Assembly, the new joint organisation will stand stronger, both organisationally and economically.

Perhaps in some years, the next step could be for this new organisation to establish a close cooperation with CP-ISRA.

Secretariat

For a very long time our Secretariat in Stoke Mandeville has been operating at very poor facilities in the Olympic Village. However, this situation has been handled brilliantly by our staff. Thank you very much to Maura and Kim for their effort.

Progressively, we have considered the possibilities for another location for the Secretariat – in England or in another country. Please see the draft sent out prior to the General Assembly in Paris 2002.

In connection with the Executive Committee meeting in Copenhagen, we looked at the facilities in The House of Sport in Denmark, where our Danish member nation can offer fine office facilities, accommodation (hotel), restaurant, meeting and conference rooms at a short distance from the airport (20 km).

The offer from our Danish member nation is still open – at least until the end of 2004, and till then we can wait and see how the conditions at the Olympic Village develop.

The WADA Conference in Copenhagen

At a well planned and well held conference in February 2003, an Anti-Doping- charter in the range of IOC was fixed – a charter that the IPC will join so that it comes into force from the coming Paralympic Games in Athens in 2004.

We encourage all our member nations to contribute to the joining of their national Olympic Committees and Governments to accept the Anti-Doping- Charter.

IOSD Cooperation

At the initiative of CP-ISRA and IBSA, several meetings between the five “old” IOSDs – IBSA, INAS-FID, CP-ISRA, ISOD and ISMWSF, have been held within the last year. Primarily, at these meetings we have discussed mutual problems and, if possible, worked for joint solutions.

It is our opinion that this cooperation has come to stay and that it will be developed – also in the light of the expected organisational changes coming up in IPC.

We expect the cooperation to be further formalised, possibly through regular meetings every half year at a Council, with representatives from each organisation and we have great expectations to a joint outcome from such meetings.

Respectfully submitted

Karl Vilhelm Nielsen
Vice President ISMWSF

SPORTS SCIENCE & MEDICAL OFFICER

In my capacity as ISMWSF Medical Officer, it is an honour for me to present this report on the activities of the Sports Science and Medical Committee during first 6 months of 2003, to the members of the ISMWSF Executive Management Committee for their discussion.

This report is centred on the most fundamental aspects developed in the SS&M Committee, since the meeting of the ISMWSF Executive Committee in Copenhagen in December of last year. I want to take advantage of this occasion to congratulate and to thank our Vice President, Mr Karl Vilhelm Nielsen, for the brilliant organization of the meeting, and especially for his hospitality, and I want to extend this gratefulness to all the collaborators and the family of the Danish Federation.

Development of the Actions Points marked for the Sports Science & Medical Committee

The proposed structure, accepted by the Executive Committee, has continued to develop. Especially strengthening the actions related to Anti-Doping Control, and incorporating these activities to Mr. Toni Pascual, who is responsible in turn to the I.P.C. Anti-Doping Control, which favours our federation, to be able to have a direct and quick dialogue with the I.P.C. and WADA, in these times of important change. I am also staying in regular contact with the rest of members of the SS&MC, as well as with the President, Vice-President, Secretary General and

Sports Services Officer of ISMWSF, where there has been discussion on high-priority topics in this period.

Doping Control has been performed, through the MAP system at the following ISMWSF sanctioned events, in direct collaboration with the Secretary General:

- Wheelchair Fencing World Cup, Austin, USA – 10 controls all with negative results
- Wheelchair Rugby European Championships 2003, Belgium, range of results

Also during this period, we have begun work on the establishment of Anti-Doping Control in future competitions sanctioned by ISMWSF, especially for the World Games 2003 in Christchurch, New Zealand and also for the Oceania Wheelchair Rugby Championships 2003 in Japan.

- Research project on the " Boosting " effect.

The first positive contacts on this proposal of investigation have already been carried out in collaboration with the Ramón Llull University of Barcelona, Syracuse University (U.S.A.) Exercise Science Department, directed by Mr. Bo Fernhall, PhD. and the Institut Guttmann Hospital Foundation of Barcelona. We are now looking for new partners to complete the study, especially sponsors so that they can help economically. The proposal and characteristic of this study is in the elaboration phase, especially in the phase of analysis of the investigation system and summary of current bibliography. We hope to begin the control phase from the month of September, when we have complete use of our laboratory in the Ramón Llull University of Barcelona.

- Analysis and elaboration of proposals for the World Anti-Doping Code Draft carried out by WADA. During this period work and revision carried out for WADA has been based on the analysis of the proposed List of Forbidden Substances, that currently is being debated. The analysis of a survey on diverse groups of drugs was distributed to all the involved partners, and the response to this survey was formulated in collaboration with the Executive Management Committee and submitted to WADA. The response to the questionnaire has also been in collaboration with Mr. Toni Pascual of the IPC, with the objective of giving a uniform answer from the Paralympic movement, in such an important topic as the use or prohibition of certain drugs.

Organization of the International Conference on Adapted Sports

In my capacity as Vice-President of the Spanish Federation for Physical Disabled Athletes, I accepted my President's offer, and that of the President of I.S.O.D. Mr. Juan Palau, of organizing an international conference on sports for people with a disability, especially to promote the development of our sport in this special year, the European Year for people with a Disability. I began to work on this new project, and after approaching several contacts, I found a willing partner to sponsor the project, with enough guarantees for its development. The institution that guarantees whole support, is the Andalucía Olympic Foundation, which develops its function like the Foundation of Help for Olympic and Paralympic Sport, and the project also has the support of the government of Spain, through the Spanish Olympic Committee and of the regional government of Andalusia.

This conference, the INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ADAPTED SPORT will take place in the city of Malaga (Costa of the Sun) on the 27 – 30 November, 2003, and I have the honour, in my capacity as ISMWSF Medical Officer, of being the coordinator of the Scientific Committee. I have prepared an extensive document on the programme and this has been disseminated by our Secretariat through the mediums of our newsletter and website.

Other activities.

In closing I wish to confirm the publication of my article entitled "The Future of Competitive Sport for Severely Disabled Wheelchair Athletes, in the magazine of the Scientific Society of Sport Medicine of Singapore and in the December issue of ISMWSF News.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Oriol Martínez
ISMWSF Medical Officer

MARKETING OFFICER

It is my privilege to report to ISMWSF member nations in respect to the Marketing strategy being developed in support of increasing much needed income to the ISMWSF.

To facilitate this endeavour and identify our primary products and mechanisms to support a sustainable marketing, fundraising and sponsorship programme, I am in the process of compiling a case statement on the organisation and engaging in public relations exercises to increase the Federation's profile.

Integral to this work and to move ISMWSF into a position where we can successfully support and service potential sponsors, I have:

- Communicated with individuals and organisations for obtaining their support and cooperation for ISMWSF activities such as Islamic Solidarity Sport Federation (ISSF), LG representative Co. in Iran, Chamber of Commerce Iran and France, MEYRA Co., etc.
- Introduced ISMWSF activities in "Olympic Week" during 22-26 June 2003.
- Cooperated and collaborated in organising the "Great Festival on the Sports for the Disabled" in Tehran on August 9-19 2003.
- Held the first clinical course for officiating, coaching and grading in the field of athletes for the disabled in I.R. Iran National Olympic Academy from 28 December 2002 to 2 January 2003 and introduced ISMWSF activities in this course.
- Prepared and produced ISMWSF merchandising (t-shirts, hats etc) which was profiled at the recent Great Festival of Sport in Tehran and will be available for purchase at the forthcoming ISMWSF World Games and ISOD World Athletics.

Future activities currently in the planning stage concern:

1. PR/Fundraising Event to be held in August next year at the Azadi Sports Complex – An international Football Friendship Cup with demonstration of 1500 metre wheelchair racing to profile ISMWSF and raise funds on their behalf.

Discussion has also been held on the viability of establishing an International Day for Wheelchair Sport.

We are still in a situation where a centralised resource to support marketing and fundraising activities will need to be established to progress our objectives on a global scale. With such an asset, our budget projections for marketing and fundraising would be more readily achievable.

Respectfully submitted

Seyed Amir Hosseini
Marketing Officer ISMWSF

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

During the past year the ISMWSF office has replaced its computer system and currently I am investigating the acquisition of a stand-alone server to be able to share and store more information in house and by way of the internet. I am pursuing having a local advanced computer class take on the majority of the maintenance and design of our web page and links. Initial contact has been made with several computer programme companies (Adobe, Microsoft etc) concerning donating operating systems to ISMWSF.

Countries need to continue updating their national sports organisations email and web page contact information to ISMWSF.

The amalgamation with ISOD will expand the need to utilise electronic communications and all ISOD sports organisations and national organisations need to forward their contact information to ISMWSF so that we can ensure everyone gets pertinent information.

I would like to continue to encourage world championships or ISMWSF sanctioned event organisers to present a summary of their event with pictures, narrative and results or a link to that site. This will allow us to be an information source to everyone.

I welcome suggestions on ways to improve our system of information technology and the ease or difficulties encountered with our system. How can we serve you better? What are your needs?

Thank you for your support of ISMWSF and the sports events throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted

Doug Conyers
ISMWSF Information Technology Officer

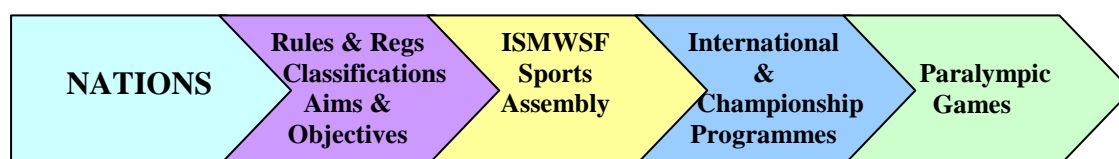
SPORTS ACTIVITIES REPORT

Summary for the Period 2002 to July 2003

The primary role of the ISMWSF programmes in sport is to provide increasing opportunities and universal standards for achievement at all levels, and development of the sport itself to the benefit of athletes with a disability.

WHEELCHAIR ATHLETICS, FENCING AND RUGBY

ISMWSF maintains an autonomous and singular function in respect to governance of international competition and championship programmes from international grass roots to elite Paralympic level in the sports of Wheelchair Athletics, Fencing and Rugby.



WHEELCHAIR ATHLETICS

List of Events Processed:

2002

Summer Down Under Series	Sydney, Australia	Jan 24/31
Leinster Open Athletics Championships	Dublin, Ireland	April 13
Meeting in Rivera	Rivera, Switzerland	May 4
Daniela Jutzeler Meeting	Ibach, Switzerland	May 9/11
Schenkon Wheelchair Marathon	Schenkon, Switzerland	May 11
Irish National Championships	Dublin, Ireland	May 25/26
HAS National Wheelchair Games	Cardiff, Great Britain	June 21/23
29 Swiss Championships	Wil, Switzerland	July 6/7
Czech Open Championships	Nove Mesto, Czech Rep	August 1/4
22 Oita International Wheelchair Marathon	Oita, Japan	October 20
Wheelchair Games Central America	Guatemala City	November 4/9

2003

Summer Down Under Series	Sydney, Australia	Jan 25/31
Leinster Open	Dublin, Ireland	April 5
European Trials	Dublin, Ireland	April 6
Final European Qualifiers	Dublin, Ireland	April 19
Open Wheelchair Meet and Trials for IAAF		
World Athletics Championships 2003	Rivera, Switzerland	April 26
Irish National Championships	Dublin, Ireland	May 24/25
Oensingen Marathon	Oensingen, Switzerland	May 31
Czech Open Championships	Nove Mesto, Czech Rep	August 15/17
9 th IAAF World Championships		
Wheelchair Events (800m F & 1500m M)	Paris, France	August 29
Swiss Open Championships	Langenthal, Switzerland	August 30/31
23 Oita International Wheelchair Marathon	Oita, Japan	Nov 16

The Athletics Section held its Sports Assembly on 27 July 2002 under the Chairmanship of Jean Minier and with the assistance of the new Athletics Coordinator, Jan Bockweg, who took over this position in a voluntary capacity since the resignation of Frank Martin. The Assembly was attended by 30 member countries of ISMWSF.

The ISMWSF Athletics Executive Committee during the period to July 2003 consisted of:

Chairman	Jean Minier	France
Vice Chairman	Sergio Coelho de Oliveira	Brazil
Classification Commission Chair	Mats Laveborn	Sweden
Competition & Calendar Chair	Jan Bockweg	Netherlands
Athlete Commission Chair	Lai Fou-Hwan	Chinese Taipei
Regional Commission Chair	Peter Lauppi	Switzerland
Coaching Commission Chair	VACANT	
Communication Commission Chair	VACANT	

ISMWSF sanctioned events included a very successful track meet in Rivera, Switzerland, an annual event, which in 2003 included the trials for the wheelchair events to be held at the 9th IAAF World Athletics Championships in Paris, France on August 2003. Seventeen female athletes from 9 countries and 28 male athletes from 14 countries took part in the trials. Both the events were of very high calibre, for example in the men's event 8 athletes crossed the line in a time difference of 0.76 seconds!

Under the Coordination of Jan Bockweg, the Athletics Section has re-developed a Wheelchair Athletics specific website, www.wsw.org.uk/athletics a sub domain of the main ISMWSF website. This website is continually updated with the objective of providing users with information on classification, sanction and bid processes, world records, ranking lists, rules and regulations, event results etc etc.

Development

The ISMWSF Athletics Section in conjunction with IPC Americas Region assisted the Asociacion Guatemalteca de Rehabilitacion (AGREL) in coordinating the Central American Wheelchair Games in Guatemala City – November 4/9 2002 .

The competition was a combination of field events for both wheelchair and amputee athletes and was attended by ISMWSF Athletics Coordinator, Jan Bockweg as Technical Delegate. Jan also held technical seminars advising on the ISMWSF Athletics rules and regulations, the points score and pentathlon score systems, which were well attended by a group of eager to learn more.

The project received funding support from ISMWSF Athletics/IPC and the region and it is hoped that further projects of this nature will take place in the near future.

ISMWSF Athletics has concrete plans for the future to include: 4 year programme for Wheelchair Athletics, Development of Classifiers, Development of Technical Officials, Development of Coaching, and the Development of more disabled Wheelchair Classes. Papers and publications that will be produced include: Athletics Executive Committee Terms of Reference/Job Descriptions, Athletics Operational Rules and Regulations, ISMWSF Athletics Technical Rules Book, ISMWSF Athletics Handbook and the ISMWSF PasSport to Sport Card.

Member nations and event organisers are urged to strongly promote the viability and quality of track and field in ISMWSF classifications to ensure that these events remain on the Paralympic and World championship programmes. Nations are urged to reinforce athlete

participation levels, to avoid the increase in potential for events/classifications being deleted from the IPC programme, particularly events for women and the more severely disabled.

ISMWSF Athletics also plays a strong role and contributes time and expertise to IPC Athletics Section activities such as the IPC World 2002 and Regional Championships 2003. ISMWSF, along with the other IOSDs, also plays an active role in supporting IPC Athletics, providing classification system, personnel and training and accreditation programmes, as well as point system, ranking lists, world and regional record ratifications. Athletics, as a multi-IOSD sport, is reliant on these activities to maintain continued and equitable growth of opportunity across all disabilities. As the largest sport on the paralympic programme and given the increasingly stringent requirements from POCs in respect to pre-classified athletes, the issue of consistent and accurate classification performed by the relevant IOSD is of paramount consideration. During the period under review, classification exercises have been performed at all events sanctioned and awarded by ISMWSF, as well as the IPC Championship programme events. We therefore believe that it is in the athletes' best interest that mutual support is given to the objective, with the IOSD systems, rules and regulations adopted by IPC, being correctly adhered to.

We would also encourage IPC Athletics to be cognisant of the requirement for the IOSDs to perform effectively against the expectations of their singular memberships (which feed the IPC with athletes, coaches, trainers, classifiers, technical personnel), and additionally to programme effectively in collaboration with IPC Athletics. The thorny issue of calendar synchronisation needs to be addressed. There is no universal solution, but discussion and collaboration on an IOSD specific basis could lead to mutually acceptable resolutions.

WHEELCHAIR FENCING

List of Events Processed:

2002

World Cup Fencing	Seville, Spain	March 1/3
World Championship	Budapest, Hungary	April 21/28
World Cup Fencing	Lonato, Italy	May 25/26
World Cup Fencing	Warsaw, Poland	July 11/14
FESPIC Fencing Event	Busan, Korea	Oct 26/November 1
ROW Championships	Austin, USA	November 4/6
World cup Fencing	Austin, USA	November 7/10

2003

World Cup Fencing	Seville, Spain	March 6/9
World Cup Fencing	Lonato, Italy	May 23/26
European Championships	Paris, France	June 28/July 7
World Cup Fencing	Warsaw, Poland	July 26/27
World Cup Fencing	Atlanta, USA	September 19/21
World Cup Fencing	Budapest, Hungary	November 28/30

The IWFC Sports Assembly 2003 took place in Warsaw, Poland during the occasion of the World Cup and the Assembly approved a new format of candidature for Official Competitions.

The current IWFC Executive Committee consist of:

Chairman	Alberto Martinez Vassallo	Spain
Secretary	Brian Dickinson	Great Britain
Members	Sasson Aharoni	Israel

	Serge Besseiche	France
	Vicki Bullard	USA
	Vittorio Loi	Italy
	Tawfiq Essa Al Owni	Kuwait
Appointed Member	Nelson Tai	Hong Kong

The World Cup series continues to go from strength to strength, with high participation levels demonstrated at all events with new country participation emerging - China, Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand. The Fencing programme is very extensive and fencers' enthusiasm is clearly demonstrated in high participation levels and keen contest for improvement of standards and IWFC ranking list positions.

The qualification Criteria for Athens 2004 has now been agreed with the additional inclusion of the rule that will allow all the NPCs to have at least one fencer in the International Ranking list that ends on the 15 March 2004, therefore at least one spot is guaranteed. The Qualification Criteria is widely published and available for view on IPC and ISMWSF websites.

Development

The purchase of Fencing Frames used at the Paralympic Games in Sydney 2000 by the ISMWSF, has facilitated the design and implementation of a development programme by IWFC. The programme includes the donation frames for a two year period with the guarantee that the country will utilise them to develop the sport of Fencing. The countries who have benefited from the programme are: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Ukraine and Israel and most of these countries are now regulars at World Cup competitions and already participating in Regional and World Championships.

The World Cup circuit events are those that carry most weight in the International Ranking of Fencers and it determines qualification for the Paralympic Games in Athens 2004, hence the higher participation levels in 2003 as compared to other years.

The IWFC is currently studying a programme to increase the number of female participants in the sport of Fencing, and for those fencers with severe disabilities (Tetraplegics – Category C), the IWFC includes these athletes in its programmes, all World Cup events include Category C fencers. For the number of athletes to increase in Category C they should be included in the Paralympic Games programme, this would awaken the interest in countries to enter athletes with more severe disabilities.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

List of Events Processed:

2002

World Championships	Gothenburg, Sweden	May 24/June 3
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2003

European Championships	Lommel, Belgium	March 24/31
Oceania Championships	Chiba City, Japan	September 19/21

The World Championships, held in Gothenburg, Sweden were superbly organised and there is no doubt that the quality of competition throughout the world, is continually improving.

At the end of competition, the gold went to Canada, the silver to the United States and the bronze to Australia, but the real story of the World championships was the close scores and exciting games.

The Wheelchair Rugby Sports Assembly was also held on May 23 2002 during the occasion of the World Championships. Eight countries were in attendance as well as members of the Executive Committee.

Elections took place during this meeting and the following Officers were elected:

Secretary General/Vice President	Brad Mikkelsen	USA
Treasurer	Cathy Cadieux	Canada
Technical Commissioner	Tony Lapolla	Canada
Classification Commissioner	Denise Anderson	USA
Competitions Commissioner	Eron Main	Canada
Development Commissioner	Coen Vuijk	Netherlands
Marketing/Promotions	VACANT	

The Executive appointed Brad Mikkelsen as Acting President and Judy Zelman of Canada was appointed as Secretary.

Since the elections in 2002, the Sports Executive has appointed Bob O'Shea of Great Britain as Athlete Representative.

The European Championships took place in Lommel, Belgium, March 24/31 2003, and again the organisation was professionally executed - from the superb accommodation facilities to the venue of play. Great Britain took gold with Belgium and Germany taking silver and bronze respectively.

The Euro Zone Sports Assembly took place on 25 March, during the period of the Euro Zone Championships and the meeting was attended by 12 out of the 13 countries that constitute the largest zone in Wheelchair Rugby. The Zone Assembly made recommendations that changes be made to the Euro Zone competition regulations and are very active in developing technical and equipment rules and regulations with the appropriate Commission(s).

The Wheelchair Rugby Qualification Criteria for Athens 2004 has been published in ISMWSF News, issue 4 and is on the ISMWSF and IPC websites.

Development

Development activities internationally have been somewhat hampered by the departure of the IWRP Development Commission. At the same time some progress is being made. Wheelchair Rugby faces major development challenges: bringing new countries into the sport, and maintaining the involvement of active countries at the lower levels. The number of active Wheelchair Rugby players across the 3 Zones (Americas, Europe and Oceania) totals 1667.

Training and Certification Programmes

In September 2002, an introductory international classification workshop, attended by 7 trainees, was held in Belgium.

A Classifiers workshop, attended by 4 trainees, was also held in conjunction with the European Zone Championships in April 2003. All 4 Classifiers were certified to a higher international level.

A Referee clinic, attended by around 20 referees, was held in conjunction with the European Zone Championships in April 2003 and International referee certification will also take place at the 2003 World Wheelchair Games.

Sponsorship and Marketing

Stable funding also remains an issue for the Wheelchair Rugby Executive, although successful negotiation to reinstate its major sponsor through to 2004 has recently been achieved.

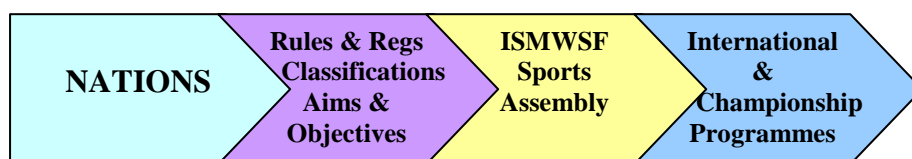
On a more positive note, with the assistance of IPC President, Phil Craven, discussions have begun with the International Rugby Board on possible opportunities for partnerships between the two organisations. These discussions are being led on behalf of the Wheelchair Rugby Executive by Oceania Zone President, Ken Sowden. The IWRF feels that this presents an excellent opportunity for both organisations and looks forward to seeing where discussions lead.

The new Wheelchair Rugby Executive Committee is a cohesive, active and professional group who are committed to achieving appropriate rules, regulations and operating practices to develop and manage the sport. The Executive Committee has achieved a great deal since its election in 2002 and the key to this has been excellent and regular communication. Development and growth activities/programmes will need to be realised to ensure a sustainable depth to the sport for the future. Hence, the Wheelchair Rugby goals for the next 12 months will be to undertake new development initiatives, to create new partnerships with sponsors and other organisations, and to work with ATHOC and the IPC to ensure that the Rugby competition at the Paralympic Games is the best ever.

Wheelchair Rugby achievements on the international stage are due to the tireless efforts of the nations, athletes, coaches, referees, classifiers, administrators, and all volunteers. While the sport recently celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary on a national basis, it is still relatively young internationally and there is still room to improve in a variety of areas. While there are occasional disagreements over courses of action or decisions made, working together secure in the knowledge that the common goal of continually increasing the worldwide scope and competitive level of Wheelchair Rugby is shared.

Wheelchair Rugby will hold a Sports Assembly during the World Wheelchair Games in Christchurch, New Zealand and this forum will be presented with the new Competition Regulations for approval and a presentation of a motion to amend the international rules of the sport. It is also expected that there will be discussion on independency as an International Federation in its own right.

CUE SPORTS AND LAWN BOWLS



CUE SPORTS

List of Events Processed:

2003

Asia Wheelchair Cue Sports Championships Chinese Taipei December 5/7

ISMWSF is pleased to include a World Pool Championship as part of the World Wheelchair Games programme in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Martin Hennin, currently Chair of the ISMWF Cue Sports Section, has indicated a need for the development of a strong Committee to facilitate the working relationships with able bodied counterparts and the formulation of a Development Plan for the sport.

A Sports Assembly is therefore planned for October 27 during the occasion of the World Wheelchair Games, in Christchurch, New Zealand.

The most important matter for the new Committee will be to achieve a good cooperation with Cue Sports Federations in the Nations. Throughout the years it has been proven that this is not easy. In the past a cooperative agreement with the World Pool Association was achieved, and this needs to be re-established along with agreements with the World Snooker Association.

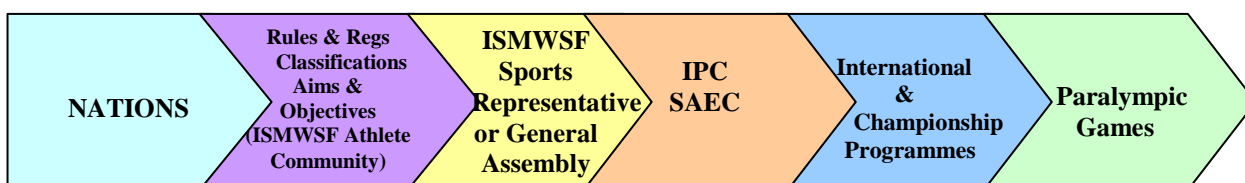
It is hoped that in the future, a new and active Sports Section will achieve its objectives and once more we will see large events in cooperation with ISMWSF being hosted around the world, not only in Pool, but also Snooker.

LAWN BOWLS

ISMWSF is in the process of re-establishing a Lawn Bowls Sport Section. A Steering Group under the leadership of Ian Blackmore in 2001 has struggled to make progress since Ian Blackmore's resignation. However, ISMWSF has planned a Sports Assembly on October 29 during the World Wheelchair Games and it is hoped that the situation will be rectified and a fully functioning and active Sports Section will be established with the full support of the nations.

During the World Wheelchair Games in Christchurch, New Zealand, the Lawn Bowls event will be a World Championship open to wheelchair, amputee and les autres athletes. This new and totally integrated format will set a benchmark for the future of Lawn Bowls for persons with disabilities and provide the basis for an ongoing Strategic Plan and develop programmes for the sport on an international basis.

OTHER SPORTS



ISMWSF expertise and functions are also instrumental to the activities of other sports, termed IPC Championship sports: Archery, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming and Table Tennis. This role is continually presented in the opportunity for these sports to be included in our multi-sport programmes including the World Games.

ARCHERY

Wheelchair Archers' interests continue to be represented on the IPC Archery Executive Committee through Marco Carpignano and Ann Webb who will continue to do so at the IPC Archery Sports Assembly on September 13 2003 in Madrid, Spain during the IPC Archery World Championships.

The Archery event at the World Games in Christchurch, New Zealand will provide opportunity for Archers to better their world rankings and qualify for the Paralympic Games Athens 2004 – Archers will shoot NOR (New Olympic Round).

TABLE TENNIS

ISMWSF is delighted to announce that a Statement of Cooperation between ISMWSF and ITTC has been secured. The finalised document has been signed by ISMWSF President, Paul DePace and the Chairman of ITTC, Mr Christian Lillieroos.

The Statement emphasises the recognition of the roles of both organisations in the development of the sport of wheelchair table tennis worldwide. Both organisations have agreed to outline the roles and responsibilities which include, among others, that table tennis will participate in ISMWSF Games and collaborate over classification system refinement, and an ITTC representative will serve on the ISMWSF Sports Services Commission with full voting rights. Close contact and co-operation shall be maintained at all times between the two parties with the common aim of promoting the sport of table tennis and the conduct of international competitions for athletes with physical disabilities.

One of the main Table Tennis events during the period was the IPC Championships held in Chinese Taipei in August 2002. The ISMWSF Secretary General attended the event at the kind invitation of Dr Lee Chen Lou and Mr Lai Fou Hwan of the Chinese Taipei Paralympic Committee. It is to the credit of the Organising Committee and the ITTC Executive members that the Championships were efficiently run, and the players treated us to a great display of table tennis at elite level. During the period of the event, the IPC Table Tennis Sports Assembly was held on 19 August.

The Sports Assembly gave all stakeholders the opportunity to vote on the key issues of the sport, with classification the main item for deliberation. A new functional system for standing players with logical progression through classes 6 to 11 was welcomed by the Assembly delegates, but whilst the principle for review of sitting classes 1 to 5 was upheld, the amalgamation of classes 4 and 5 was deferred for re-consideration after Athens 2004. ISMWSF recommended the implementation of minimal disability statements applicable to both wheelchair and standing classes in support of ongoing development and review of the classification system

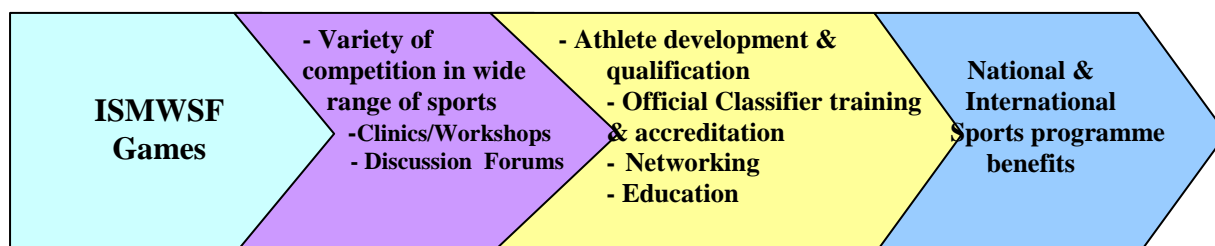
ISMWSF representative, for the sport of Table Tennis, Oivind Eriksen resigned from the position. However, a new representative was recommended by ITTC and ISMWSF welcomes Linda Chen from Chinese Taipei as ISMWSF representative to the sport.

The ISMWSF and the Organising Committee in New Zealand are delighted to announce that the Table Tennis event in the Games has been awarded a **Factor 30** by the ITTC, making this event a truly attractive one to many countries.

CYCLING/HANDCYCLING, POWERLIFTING AND SWIMMING

The sports of Cycling/Handcycling, Powerlifting and Swimming continue to be a part of the ISMWSF programme and competitive opportunity is offered within the World Wheelchair Games. Collaborative working situations continue to be maintained, with a view to expanding interaction for the future at development level.

WORLD WHEELCHAIR GAMES



World Wheelchair Games and ISOD World Athletics, Christchurch, New Zealand 2003

It is extremely exciting to advise that at the time of writing this report there has been an expression of interest received from 37 countries with a total of 930 participants across the range of sports on offer on the programme.

One of the aims of the Games is to provide Paralympic qualification situations in the following sports: Athletics, Archery, Fencing, Powerlifting, Swimming and Table Tennis. Other sports on the programme, will enable athletes to improve and build on their international participation and sporting skills.

Future World Games

Discussions are currently underway with regard to holding a World Youth Games during July/August 2004 at the newly re-furnished facilities at Stoke Mandeville. This event will be open to all youth athletes (minimum age 14) with a physical disability and will be the first event held under the banner and jurisdiction of the new organisation ISMWSF-ISOD

The ISMWSF Executive Management Committee, at its recent meeting in July 2003, proposed that a four (4) year Games cycle – Paralympic year - Youth, Paralympic year +1 – Development, Paralympic year +2 – Intermediate, Paralympic year +3 – elite/qualification be formulated. Events at Stoke Mandeville would be pursued on an annual basis in conjunction with other bid situations to be pursued. The aim is to build a comprehensive Games Programme Worldwide (i.e. multi-Games events on annual basis, to include regional, within cycle format).

Ever present is the need for Organisers, and within its strategy, ISMWSF has created a flexible bidding environment to encourage Organisers. It is felt that this strategy, coupled with a diverse programme of Games events within a 4 year cycle, progressing from development through to elite, will encourage athlete recruitment and growth, particularly for women and the more severely disabled.

ISMWSF encourages nations to consider bidding to host Games in the future under the aegis of the new organisation ISMWSF-ISOD. Games events open for Bid within the new format are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| • World Wheelchair & Amputee Games | Annual |
| • Regional Wheelchair & Amputee Games | Biennially |
| • Junior Wheelchair & Amputee Games | Biennially |

Whilst the Games remain a cornerstone of ISMWSF activity, sport specific events under the ISMWSF banner are also seeking organisers. The events available for bid are as follows:

Athletics

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| • World Championship Half Marathon | Annual |
| • Regional Wheelchair and Amputee Championships | Quadrennially |
| • World Championship Marathon | Biennially |

Wheelchair Fencing

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| • World Championships | Quadrennially |
| • Regional Championships | Biennially |
| • World Cup | Annually |

Wheelchair Rugby

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| • World Championships | Quadrennially |
| • Regional (Zone) Championships | Biennially |

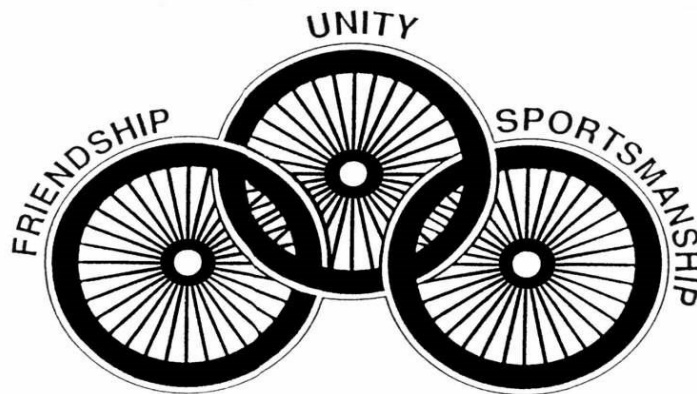
ISMWSF MEMBER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA	GREAT BRITAIN	MOROCCO
ARUBA	GREECE	NEPAL
AUSTRALIA	GUATEMALA	NETHERLANDS
AUSTRIA	GUINEE	NEW ZEALAND
BAHRAIN	GUYANA	NICARAGUA
BANGLADESH	HONDURAS	NORWAY
BARBADOS	HONG KONG, CHINA	OMAN
BELGIUM	HUNGARY	PAKISTAN
BERMUDA	INDIA	POLAND
BRAZIL	IRAN	PORTUGAL
CANADA	IRAQ	PUERTO RICO
CHILE	IRELAND	RUSSIA
CHINA	ISRAEL	SINGAPORE
CONGO	ITALY	SLOVAKIA
COSTA RICA	JAMAICA	SLOVENIA
COTE D'IVOIRE	JAPAN	SOUTH AFRICA
CROATIA	JORDAN	SPAIN
CUBA	KAZAKHSTAN	SWEDEN
CYPRUS	KENYA	SWITZERLAND
CZECH REPUBLIC	KOREA	CHINESE TAIPEI
DENMARK	KUWAIT	THAILAND
DOMINICA	LITHUANIA	TUNISIA
EGYPT	LUXEMBOURG	TURKMENISTAN
EL SALVADOR	MACAU	UAE
FINLAND	MALAYSIA	UGANDA
FRANCE	MAURITIUS	UKRAINE
GERMANY	MEXICO	USA
GHANA	MONGOLIA	VENEZUELA

Countries entered in **blue** = new members for ratification at time of publication

Countries entered in **red** = not paid 2003 membership fee at time publication

Countries entered in **green** = potential members – membership status being pursued



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