

FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's E-Message



John M. Lovett, President

It has been a few weeks since we all returned home from the very well organised Winter Deaflympics in Sundsvall!

On this note, I would like to apologise for not being able to be with you at the Workshop and the 38th Congress of the CISS. It was just that my body decided to take "time out" and that forced me to seek medical advice and I was then hospitalised with a suspected minor heart attack.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to many of you, my colleagues within and outside the CISS, who have sent me many messages of "get well" and best wishes, etc. Thank you all!

Secondly, while I lie in my hospital bed, I was confident that Dr. Donald Ammons, the CISS Secretary-General, would manage the Workshop and the Congress efficiently in my absence. My confidence in Donald was correct! And I was very pleased to receive favorable comments about Donald when I returned to the Games after my hospitalisation. Well done Donald!

I also know that Donald received wonderful support from the CISS Executive Committee, which enabled her to do her job well! Thank you, too!

Finally, I have read draft of the Congress and I noted with interest the decisions of the Congress.

There is one subject that I want to clarify with all members of the CISS. It related to unanimous decision to change the title of the CISS to "International

Deaflympic Committee".

I recognised that this motion was fully supported with 76 votes to nil!

However, we cannot implement this decision immediately! We would like to discuss this matter further with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). We wish to receive blessing from the IOC first before we can announce to the world that we wish to be called International Deaflympic Committee!

So, I ask all CISS members to wait for an official notification from CISS before changing names of their National Associations or to publicise the "new" International Deaflympic Committee, etc.

After reading the draft Congress report, I would like to thank all the delegates for their diligent attention to the issues and their full support for the CISS Executive's work in the past two years.

Finally, I am working very hard to improve my health in order that I will be strong and healthy to chair the next Congress here in Melbourne in 2005!

John M. Lovett, A.M.

Taipei Wins Bid to Host 2009 Summer Deaflympic Games

Read further details on the Congress vote on bids from Taipei and Athens in a 28 February article at www.deaflympics.com.

Upcoming Events

To view further upcoming events, check out Calenderlive at CISS' Events page at <http://www.ciss.org/events.html>

NEWS FLASH

Youth Perspective on 15th Winter Deaflympic Games

By Derrick Williams

I went to the 15th Winter Deaflympics in Sundsvall, Sweden as a member of the CISS/Deaflympics media team with 12 other adults. I was a content coordinator and a sports writer. I covered all four Winter Deaflympics sporting events (Ice Hockey, Nordic skiing, Alpine Skiing, and Snowboarding), I interviewed people for the Question of the Day, I did feature stories, and I coordinated the schedules and tasks for the other members of the media team. Check out www.deaflympics.com!

It was a really great experience since I am only 16 years old, but no obstacles faced my way because of

my age. Except one new challenge I faced was communicating with people from another country using International Sign Language, which I learned on the spot. I participated in the Youth Pan-Am games in Mexico three years ago and it was a great experience, but now in comparison to the Winter Deaflympics, it was really an enriching experience.

After witnessing a Deaflympic event, someday I hope to be an athlete participating the Deaflympics. I strongly encourage you, youth athletes, to experience the rich exposure of the Deaflympics and hope someday you will be participating in the Games either as an athlete, media staff, or even as a fan!

Who is Marsha Wetzel?

By Kelley King
Sports Illustrated
17 Feb 2003, page 24

Why we're hearing about her

Last summer Wetzel, 40 became the first deaf female referee in Division 1 history. After 13 years of working in lower divisions and high school, then turning in an eye-catching performance at a referee tryout camp, Wetzel, a former guard for primarily-deaf Gallaudet University, was hired by the Patriot and Atlantic 10 conferences to referee women's games. She's following a trail blazed by Guy Kirk, who despite being deaf has refereed men's games in the Southern Conference for 17 years.

She calls'em like she sees'em

Wetzel, who was born deaf to deaf parents, hires an interpreter to help at pregame meetings and depends on



THIS REF IS DEF

Coaches say Wetzel's lack of hearing doesn't hurt her officiating.

fellow officials to use clear hand signals to communicate calls. Mostly, though, she relies on what she calls "my radar eyes- I'm more aware than anyone during games because I double my attention level." Recently Wetzel was able to make a key foul call a split second before halftime because she was aware of the clock and wasn't swayed by the buzzer. "My only fear," she says, "is blowing the whistle too loud." The silence of the stands neither booing from the crowd nor screaming from the sidelines rattles Wetzel. "When I sense emotion and anger," she says, "I don't let it get to me." Says Bucknell coach Kathy Fedorjaka, "You don't notice that she is deaf until you start yelling at her and realize it's not going to do a thing."

NEWS FLASH

GAISF Newsletter

1st April 2003 - Number 102

FROM THE IF OFFICIALS...

José Damiani, President of the World Bridge Federation (WBF):

"The WBF is fulfilling its role when it tries hard to promote Bridge throughout the world. The recognition obtained from the international organisations, be they the IOC, UNESCO, GAISF, or even ARISF, as well as our events – the Grand Prix in Lausanne or Salt Lake City, the Generali Masters and our championships – have contributed to the reputation and standing of Bridge and to its integration as a sport in more than half our member countries."

Els van Breda Vriesman, President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)

Concerning the rise of Women's Hockey in China and its TV coverage: "This is more than good news for Hockey and demonstration that our new strategies to get hockey on the world's TV screens are bringing results. Obviously China is a particularly important territory in advance of the 2008 Beijing Olympics. China's continuing form in hockey's top six nations and its television coverage of the FIH's major events will prove crucial to Hockey's future status there."

Mustapha Larfaoui, President of the International Swimming Federation (FINA)

Concerning the evolution of the FINA World Swimming Cup: "Since its creation in 1979, the FINA Swimming World Cup is aimed to allow the international elite athletes to perform in a high-quality 25m FINA competition during a period usually not privileged, the winter season in the north hemisphere. From this experience, we now know that the swimmers have the potential and capacity to remain at the top level the majority of the year and, on the other hand, that this competition completes in a suitable way the long and hard training periods. The results are clear: by judging the performances of the past years, the victories in December or January do not prevent those of April, July or September."

Francesco Ricci Bitti, President of the International Tennis Federation (ITF):

"I have decided to stand for re-election in order to continue the important work that we have begun over the last four years as well as to provide continuity and stability during these challenging times. I am particularly proud that we have been able to maintain a high level of service to the game and to our member nations with fewer resources than have been available in the past. Our flagship event, the Davis Cup by BNP Paribas is more important than ever and the close relationship that we have formed with the Olympic Movement and the World Anti-Doping Agency gives our sport as a whole a better positioning."

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News From Around the World

Australia: Deaf Basketball Players Join Elite Playing Level

*Submitted by Michelle Francis
VDBA President*

Victoria Deaf Basketball Association (VDBA) is proud to report that two of its members, Sam Quinn & Thomas Andrews, currently representing the Victorian Deaf Mens Basketball Team have been successful in making it into the Victorian Basketball League (VBL) basketball level playing with and amongst elite national and international basketballers. To read the article posted on the VBL website, go to <http://www.vbl.net.au/news.html?oid=586677> to view the February 27, 2003 article "Bulleen Set to Boom".

Congratulations to these boys for making the first step into elite professional basketball competitions.

I hope all you players out there aspiring to achieve the same can follow their footsteps.

CISS IN THE NEWS

CISS Secretary General Travels to Egypt

After the conclusion of the successful Winter Deaflympics in Sundsvall, CISS Secretary General Donalda Ammons went on a private ten-day journey in Egypt. The day after her arrival in Cairo during a severe sandstorm, Dr. Ammons arranged a meeting with Ms. Hanan Mohsen, Deaf president of Egyptian Deaf Sports Association, and Dr. Nabil Salem, president of Egyptian Paralympic Committee at a local Egyptian restaurant. After an evening of exchanging viewpoints on shared governance between the deaf and disabled in Egypt, it was then agreed that the deaf sports association would seek CISS membership shortly. The next evening, Dr. Ammons and Ms. Mohsen met again to brainstorm on how the deaf in Arab countries could arrange competitions among each other in the near future. CISS now looks forward to inviting

Egypt and other Arab countries to join CISS before the next CISS Congress in Melbourne.



Donalda with Hanan Mohsen in Cairo, Egypt

ARTICLE

Stress Management for Athletes

by Dr. Richard Stratton

From www.youth-sports.com

Almost every athlete at every level of competition worries about something when they practice or compete in sports. Those who may claim not to be worried about anything are probably just putting up a front. The only person they are fooling are themselves. Worse yet, they may be doing more harm than good to themselves. The mere fact that you are worried about something does not mean you will not play well. What worries the typical athlete the most? Although it differs depending on the sport and level of competition, not playing well and making a mistake are the two most common concerns. There are two things you can do to reduce the worry about these two concerns: 1. Attend all practices and work hard on your skills, and 2. Compare your current performance with your own past performances. Your number one goal should always be self-improvement. Avoid comparing yourself to others

on your team or to kids on other teams. Let's face it, there always seems to be someone who is better than we are and, we are always better than someone, and that will never change. So why worry about it? You must also have realistic expectations for yourself. Top athletes did not get that way overnight; they had to start somewhere and work their way to the top. Only a very small percentage of all athletes ever make it to the elite levels. There is nothing wrong with trying to reach that level eventually, just remember to keep your current goals at realistic levels. Talk with your coach and your parents about your goals and expectations. They can be much more helpful to you if everyone understands what you hope to accomplish.

This article provided by Dr. Richard Stratton, Health and Physical Education Program, Virginia Tech

Source: <http://www.youth-sports.com/topics/081498-4.html>

ARTICLE

Working with Deaf People in Developing Countries

*Written by Liza Clews and Colin Allen,
Programme Advisors, Finnish Association of the Deaf
and Maryknoll Cambodia*

After our successful series of articles about the projects in Albania and Cambodia, this article is to give you an update of our work, which has now expanded to include Kosovo.

With our projects, it is especially necessary to have support from a National Association of the Deaf in this case, the Finnish Association of the Deaf (FAD) to advocate for the rights of Deaf people in developing countries. FAD is one of the country members of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD).

We need to stress how important it is for many deaf people living in developing countries to receive support from country members of the WFD.

WFD is an international non-government organisation advocating for the rights of Deaf Communities around the world and is supported by the country members National Associations of the Deaf which totals to 123 members. A large number of deaf communities are from developing countries and are not able to establish their national association of the deaf. Many Deaf people are fortunate to have their own national association of the Deaf in their country to represent the Deaf Community to government or other bodies advocating for the rights of Deaf people in areas such as access to social services, education, interpreting and others. .

Many deaf groups in developing countries are looking for an organisation to act as a partner to provide various training programmes from National Associations of the Deaf in developed countries. There are a number of international non-government organisations such as World Vision, International Rescue Committee or CARE; which provide a limited service to deaf communities in developing countries and most of these organisations are not very familiar

with the issues for Deaf people and their experiences.

WFD encourages their country members – National Associations of the Deaf to commit their support to deaf communities in the Developing Countries. FAD is a country member of WFD and is adhering to the responsibilities of country members of the WFD. The WFD has developed a policy on deaf people living in Developing Countries ‘Work Done by Member Organisations in Developing Countries’ and ‘WFD Work in Developing Countries’.

FAD has been involved with projects within developing countries for Deaf communities for more than 16 years and has a dedicated team, the International Development Co-operation Team, which is responsible for providing financial support to projects in the following countries:

- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Organisational Training Project: Botswana, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zimbabwe
- Mozambique – Organisational Support, Sign Language and Deaf Education Development Projects
- Albania – Organisational Support, Sign Language and Advocacy Projects
- Kosovo – Organisational Support and Sign Language Projects
- Zambia Fund-Raising Project
- Cambodia Deaf Development Programme
- Namibia Organisational Project
- Tanzania Employment and Poverty Reduction Project
- Central Asia Deaf Development Training Project
- Ethiopia Sign Language Dictionary Project
- Colombia Sign Language Movie Project
- St. Petersburg and Leningrad Area Drug Abuse Training Project
- Co-operation with other Near Region deaf associations in Estonia, Carelia, and Murmansk.

FAD submits funding applications annually to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland to financially

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support the Projects within Developing Countries. The Ministry provides 90% of the funding required and FAD provides 10% of funding required for each Project.

We are currently employees of FAD – International Development Co-operation Team as Programme Advisors for:

- Albanian National Association of the Deaf
- Deaf Development Programme in Cambodia
- Kosovo Deaf Working Group

Albanian National Association of the Deaf, Tirane, Albania

The Albanian National Association of the Deaf (ANAD) was founded in 1993 and was recognised as an ordinary member of WFD in 1996. ANAD is a national non-government organisation which is based in Tirane, Albania. The purpose of ANAD is to provide support and advocate for Deaf People's Rights. ANAD represents the Deaf Community with its contact with Albanian Government and non-government organisations.

FAD signed a co-operation agreement with ANAD in 2000 for an Organisational Development Project initially for two years however extension is pending on funding decisions.

We were recruited in November 2000 to provide Administration and Financial Training, Basic Sign Language Interpreter Training, Project Directions and Board Management and organising the very first Conference and General Assembly for the members of the ANAD which was held in April 2001 and was a very succesful event for the Albanian Deaf Community. Today, ANAD employes one Deaf Manager (Trainee), one Sign Language Interpreter (Trainee) and a hearing Advocacy Research Officer. We will continue to provide on-going training in the above areas.

Moreover, a 3-year Sign Language Research Project has just been launched by a FAD sign language linguist, Ms. Karin Hoyer. She will start the systematic analysis of the local sign language and train and employ 3 Deaf Research Assistants in February 2003. The goal of the project is to produce teaching materials and provide information of/about the Albanian Sign Language, both for the Interpreter Training program and Advocacy Project.



Mr. Ilirijan Xhuli, Mr. Gazemend Mema and Mr. Eduard Ajas, ANAD Manager.

Deaf Development Programme, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Deaf Development Programme (DDP) was established in 1996 as a meeting place for the Cambodian deaf community to start researching and developing their language – Khmer Sign Language.

FAD signed a co-operation agreement with the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation in 1999 after a survey was conducted on the situation within the Cambodian deaf Community. We were recruited in November 2001 and our main responsibility during the first two months was to conduct a Mid Term Review of the Project. We completed a report with recommendations for both partner organisations – FAD

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and the Cambodian Disabled People's Organisation – for consideration. After both organisations adopted the recommendations, our responsibility until today is to implement our outlined recommendations. The major recommendation was to restructure DDP to ensure it had clear policies, job descriptions and contracts for all employees and a clear objective.

As of August 2002, DDP is now a project under a new international organisation, Maryknoll, who has been based in Cambodia for ten years. Maryknoll is financially supporting our expenses here in Cambodia and FAD is financially supporting the ongoing activities of the Deaf Development Programme. We were successful in gaining further funding from the Canada International Development Agency to support our Programme in the Provinces.

DDP provides a non-formal education to disadvantaged deaf children and adults living Cambodia through offering a Khmer Sign Language and Literacy Teaching Programme. DDP operates in five provinces within the Kingdom of Cambodia. DDP is responsible for developing and researching Khmer Sign Language to disseminate within the Cambodian deaf Community. DDP currently employs 21 deaf and hearing staff members to operate the activities within the Programme. We are responsible for providing training programmes to all employees of DDP.



DDP Staff Members

Kosovo Deaf Working Group, Pristhine, Kosovo

The training program of Kosovo Deaf Working Group is a new project that will hopefully commence receiving funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland next year. In Kosovo, there are 11 Deaf clubs that are functioning throughout Kosovo and there is one association of the deaf that is not fully recognised and accepted by all members of the Kosovo Deaf Community. The objective of the Working Group is to receive training on administration, financial and processes needed to establish a national association of the deaf. A Sign Language Interpreter Training Programme will also be implemented. The Kosovo Deaf Working Group is currently working on the development of a national sign language for the Kosovo Deaf Community.

This is a new project for us and will be implemented in March 2003 depending on the funding decision from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland. There will be 3 projects in Kosovo – Organisational Support, Sign Language Work and Interpreter Training Programmes.



Kosovo Deaf Working Group

Our roles

Our roles are Advisors to all projects in Cambodia, Albania and Kosovo. We provide training programmes to all local staff members of each project depending on

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IOC Approves Logo for 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing

Official International Olympic Committee press release

www.olympic.org

31 March 2003

"Young, dynamic - bringing together the historical and cultural heritage, as well as the future of China", these are the words used by IOC President Jacques Rogge on Friday to describe the logo of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008. The logo was officially approved by the IOC following a presentation made by a BOCOG delegation led by Mr Jiang Xiaoyu, BOCOG Vice-President, in the presence of Mr Hein Verbruggen, Chairman of the Coordination Commission for the 2008 Games.

"I would like to thank and congratulate BOCOG for this very impressive presentation of its new logo", said Rogge. "This is an outstanding and poetic emblem that conjures up the historical and cultural heritage of China, while at the same time conveying the young and

dynamic spirit of its great country's future. It is a perfect Olympic emblem", he added. "This is an extremely strong logo for the 2008 Games", said Hein Verbruggen. "It achieves the objectives laid out by BOCOG and is a further confirmation of the quality and standard of the work we have come to expect from the Organising Committee".

The official unveiling of the emblem will take place in Beijing on 25 May. Details of the event will follow shortly.

The competition for the logo was launched last July in Beijing at the Olympic Design Conference. Some 2,000 entries were registered. The choice of the logo was made by a jury composed of Chinese and international design experts. For further information, please visit the 2008 Olympic Games website: www.beijing-2008.org.

The IOC Names its Olympic Games Executive Director

Official International Olympic Committee press release

www.olympic.org

20 February 2003

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) today appointed Mr Gilbert Felli to the newly created post of Olympic Games Executive Director.

The appointment of an Executive Director was decided upon by the IOC following the recommendations of audits conducted within the organisation last year, which highlighted the increasing importance of all the IOC's Olympic Games-related tasks and missions. In taking up this new role, Mr Felli will be responsible for the running, coordination and follow-up of all Olympic Games activities, from the candidature phase to the actual holding of the Olympic Games.

Born in 1947, Mr Felli took over as director of the

sports centre and ski school in the Swiss resort of Leysin in 1976, before becoming head of the sports department for the City of Lausanne in 1983.

Mr Felli joined the IOC in 1990, and is currently Director of Sports, Olympic Games Coordination and Relations with the International Federations. In this role, he is also responsible for the IOC's Olympic Games coordination commissions (he has coordinated seven editions of the Games), as well as the Evaluation, Olympic Programme, Sport for All, Athletes' and Olympic Games Study Commissions.

Mr Felli has also taken part in a large number of skiing and ice hockey competitions as a competitor, coach and club leader, and has chaired the technical and organising committees of numerous world and continental competitions.

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IOC President Visits Italy for an Update on Preparations for 2006 Olympic Winter Games

Official International Olympic Committee press release

www.olympic.org

28 February 2003

The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Jacques Rogge, concluded yesterday a visit to Italy where he travelled to Rome and Turin for meetings regarding preparations for the XX Olympic Winter Games that will be held in the Piedmont capital in 2006.

Accompanied by the Chairman of the Games Coordination Commission, Jean-Claude Killy, and IOC Executive Director for the Olympic Games Gilbert Felli, Rogge first visited Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in Rome to discuss the government's input in Games organisation. Most specifically, Rogge asked for governmental support in five key areas to help accelerate construction; to improve the synergy between the Turin Organising Committee (TOROC) and the Agenzia Torino 2006 (the public agency in charge of constructions); to bring in the support of state companies for TOROC; to help promote the Olympic Games throughout Italy; and to maximise support for the Italian Olympic team.

Flying into Turin yesterday morning, the President had constructive discussions with the Board of TOROC and met with representatives of the parties involved in the organisation of the Games including the city and province of Turin, the region of Piedmont, the cities that will host Olympic events and Agenzia Torino 2006. Before going on a tour of some of the sports venues, the President took the opportunity to address the staff of TOROC and praise the quality of the work undertaken so far by the 250-member team.

Commenting on his visit at a post-event press conference, the President said: "This visit has been extremely fruitful. I had an excellent meeting yesterday in Rome with Prime Minister Berlusconi and asked for his support in some key aspects linked with preparations for the Turin 2006 Games, including

helping to boost the success of Italian athletes in winter sport. The Prime Minister is a sports lover and he has pledged us his support. I have found a great deal of goodwill with all the partners working on Games preparations and we have high confidence in TOROC. But a sense of urgency needs to be found. Once it is found, then there is no question that the Games in Turin in 2006, with all the passion that Italians can bring to what they do, will be superb Games."

Highlights of the Week

World-wide weekly highlights of the Olympic Movement

www.olympic.org

Week of 07 April 2003

IOC ACTIVITIES

On Monday, the IOC President attended the meeting of the Olympic Museum Executive Committee in Lausanne (Switzerland).

During the week, he met:

- IOC Honorary President for Life, Juan Antonio Samaranch;
- IOC members Prince Albert of Monaco, Francisco Elizalde and Un Yong Kim
- International Pierre de Coubertin Committee President Nibert Müller;
- President and CEO of Ronald McDonald House Charities Ken Barun.

The IOC President also visited the European Association Football Union (UEFA) in Nyon (Switzerland), where he met its Director General, Gerhard Aigner.

On Thursday, the IOC President presented the Olympic Order to Jean Durry in recognition of his

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Highlights of the Week

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contribution to the promotion of the Olympic ideal.

Jean Durry, founder and Honorary Director of the French National Sport Museum and sports writer for "France Culture", has recently finished his book entitled "Coubertin, original manuscript - 1889 to 1915" in which he has selected 150 of some 3,000 original texts, letters and manuscripts written by Pierre de Coubertin. The ceremony was held at the Olympic Museum.

The IOC President has confirmed the composition of the 24 IOC commissions and working groups. Amongst the major changes from last year are the appointment of Arne Ljungqvist as Medical Commission Chairman, replacing Prince Alexandre de Mérode who died last year. The Nominations Commission Chairman is yet to be appointed.

The detailed list of commissions can be found at www.olympic.org/news. The Coordination Commission for the Games of the XXVIII Olympiad in Athens in 2004, chaired by IOC member Denis Oswald, made its 10th visit to Greece from 8 to 10 April.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS ISSUES

GAISF Newsletter

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Timothy P. Shriver, President of Special Olympics (SOI): "To bring our message of sports skill and joy to all corners of the world, all of us in Special Olympics are going to have to work harder and smarter in the months ahead. We are facing tough economic times and many of our volunteers and Programme leaders are struggling. But these tough times are in no way diminishing our resolve. We will not shrink from our goals, we will not reduce our commitment to our athletes and families. We will continue with persistence, determination and passion to welcome 1 million more new athletes to follow our leader athletes and to change the world."

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) announced that the first sports organisations had formally adopted the World Anti-Doping Code.

Three International Federations: the International Triathlon Union (ITU), the International Association of Amateur Boxing (AIBA) and the International Chess Federation (FIDE); two national anti-doping agencies: the United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) and the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES); and the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC), have sent WADA the signed document which formalises their commitment. The AOC has gone one step further by adapting its own rules to the World Anti-Doping Code.

Meeting in Athens last week, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Executive Committee announced that during the Athens Paralympic Games in 2004, a limited number of demonstration events will be organised for athletes with an intellectual disability.

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the required needs; however if we are not able to provide the training, we seek specific experts to provide the training programme. We are currently involved in projects focussing on Deaf Education, Advocacy, Organisational Development, Sign Language Work and Sign Language Interpreting.

If you would like to know more about the FAD, check out their website at: www.kl-deaf.fi

We can be contacted at the following email addresses regarding further information on the:

Albania and Kosovo Projects:
balkanprojects@hotmail.com

Cambodia Project:
DDPAdvisors@bigpond.com.kh

Highlights of the Week

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The IPC reiterated its decision taken in January 2003 to not organise official events for athletes with an intellectual disability as no eligibility verification system has yet been perfected.

The IPC and the International Sports Federation for Persons with Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) have decided to create a committee for verifying athletes' eligibility. This committee's mission will be to develop a system that meets the IPC's requirements.

In France, the Ministries of Sport and Defence have signed an agreement in which 90 positions will be allocated to high-level athletes within the armed forces or the Ministry of Defence. These positions will allow high-level athletes from army or national police force disciplines (skiing, horse-riding, triathlon, sailing, shooting and aerial sports) to practise their discipline in the best conditions. Sports Minister Jean-François Lamour emphasised that, thanks to these new positions, the Ministry of Defence would become the first partner of the Ministry of Sport concerning professional integration of high-level athletes. The agreement also includes the creation of a panel devoted to the redeployment of military athletes.

INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS

The International Association Football Federation (FIFA) has announced the closure of its 1999-2002 financial quadrennium with a revenue surplus of SFr 115 million. For the 2003-2006 financial quadrennium FIFA foresees a surplus of SFr 170 million. The success of the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan has provided an excellent financial result for FIFA.

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) has announced that its Individual World Championships, will indeed take place in Paris from 19 to 25 May, despite some delegations' refusal to enter French territory because of the SARS epidemic.

106 countries and 670 players are involved in these Championships.

Following the fatal fall of Kazakh cyclist André Kivilev during the Paris-Nice race in March 2003, the International Cycling Union (UCI) has confirmed its wish to extend compulsory helmet wearing to professional riders.

The statutory aspects of this initiative are currently being studied.

Indeed, the UCI considers that this preventative measure is extremely important in the context of modern cycling, and wants to introduce it as soon as possible.

NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES

The new President of the Lithuanian Republic, Rolandas Paksas, has appointed Lithuanian Olympic Committee President Arturas Poviliunas to the position of Sports Advisor.

ATHENS 2004

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) visited Athens last week. At the end of the visit, FIH President Els Van Breda Vriesman said she was confident, underlining that the meetings organised with managers from the Organising Committee (ATHOC) had allowed them to find solutions to several pending issues.

The test event will take place in the Olympic hockey stadium from 4 to 8 February 2004.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF), whose Council met in Dakar (Senegal) from 5 to 7 April, announced that the start of the men's and the women's marathon will take place at 6 p.m. local time, and not in the morning as was planned. The IAAF is thus accepting ATHOC's proposal. The event is taking the classic route, by following the route taken by the legendary Philippides, who announced victory for the Greeks over the Persians in 490 BC, to arrive at the capital's Marble Stadium.

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EVENTS

Results:

First CISS World Deaf Bowling Championships, Taipei 2003

Under the tension of the Gulf War and the fear of SARS, Taipei managed to make the first World Deaf Bowling Championships a successful one and will indeed be a memorable one for every participating team.

Congratulations to Taipei!

Men's All-Events Results

NO	Name	Country	Singles	Doubles	Trio	Team	Total	Ranking
34	Chang Li Hsiao	Chinese Taipei	1307	1223	1253	1157	4940	1
33	Chiu Ching Ling	Chinese Taipei	1318	1086	1120	1173	4697	2
8	Kazumi Mitsuru	Japan	1155	1154	1060	1063	4432	3
15	M.G.F. Visser	Netherland	1028	1029	1113	1224	4394	4
11	J.P.Deboer	Netherland	1091	1173	1036	1049	4349	5
20	George Brian Halas	Canada	1076	1019	1056	1195	4346	6
30	Weng Chung Ming	Chinese Taipei	1011	1071	1110	1119	4311	7
29	Lin Chung Hung	Chinese Taipei	1132	1091	1083	988	4294	8
31	Wang Wei Chien	Chinese Taipei	1026	1087	1034	1146	4293	9
23	Kim Jae Sam	Korea	1015	995	1134	1109	4253	10
12	J.T.N Duivenvoorden	Netherland	990	1122	1064	1053	4229	11
9	Suzuki Hiromi	Japan	1054	1005	1081	1043	4183	12
32	Huang Wen Jui	Chinese Taipei	1074	1069	998	1025	4166	13
22	Roderick Ross Dale	Canada	1138	1016	1009	990	4153	14
16	M.A. Westerink	Netherland	1024	1050	1048	994	4116	15
28	Ha Jung Wan	Korea	986	995	1041	1053	4075	16
21	Paul Nicholas Halas	Canada	1007	1033	970	1009	4019	17
7	Kubo Haruo	Japan	990	1009	1059	892	3950	18
26	Woo Seung Jae	Korea	997	882	1049	1021	3949	19
2	Oralf Mohammed	KSA	965	950	1014	1007	3936	20
10	Sasaki Mitsuaki	Japan	979	901	995	996	3871	21
24	Oh Chang Myeong	Korea	861	1006	985	996	3848	22
25	Kim Sung Hwan	Korea	986	898	1001	947	3832	23
19	Tangniyom Rungchai	Thailand	966	920	944	944	3774	24
13	P.F.A. Pont	Netherland	888	939	920	997	3744	25
14	G.L.M Priems	Netherland	912	837	1002	943	3694	26
17	Yoocharoen Taveesak	Thailand	904	953	920	904	3681	27
27	Jung Seung Hwan	Korea	972	932	873	901	3678	28
1	AL-Romaih Fahad	KSA	943	884	830	850	3507	29
5	Hariri Nawaf	KSA	811	911	831	793	3346	30
3	AL-Barqi Ahmad	KSA	823	830	831	765	3249	31
18	Jerdpongpisai Paonesak	Thailand	822	858	747	815	3242	32
4	AL-Ahmadi Abdul Rahman	KSA	765	849	866	751	3231	33
6	AL-malki Abdulilah	KSA	775	726	721	715	2937	34

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EVENTS

First CISS World Deaf Bowling Championships

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Women's Master Results

Code	Name	Country	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	Total	Ranking
D	Huang Shu Min	Chinese Taipei	184	166	196	194	226	167	183	191	1507	1
G	Yabuki Chieko	Japan	135	225	224	192	224	189	161	148	1498	2
H	Hwang Pik Yee	Chinese Taipei	183	158	157	183	193	211	136	149	1370	3
A	Patricia Gail Zimmer	Canada	172	161	177	224	115	149	186	178	1362	4
F	Chang Yao Chien	Chinese Taipei	171	177	202	173	161	140	149	186	1359	5
E	Chen Wen Ni	Chinese Taipei	137	140	151	171	199	157	137	186	1278	6
B	Kazumi Junko	Japan	131	205	163	159	145	146	174	144	1267	7
C	Wang Yu Chin	Chinese Taipei	170	148	156	158	123	191	157	161	1264	8

Highlights of the Week

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

BEIJING 2008

The Organising Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad in Beijing in 2008 (BOCOG) has launched a five-year project to select a theme song for the 2008 Games. From 2003 to 2007, 10 songs will be selected each year. In 2008, the Games' theme song will be chosen from among these 50 pieces. The entries should reflect Chinese culture and the Olympic spirit.

NOTE

Owing to the Easter weekend, the next edition of the Olympic Highlights will appear on 25 April.

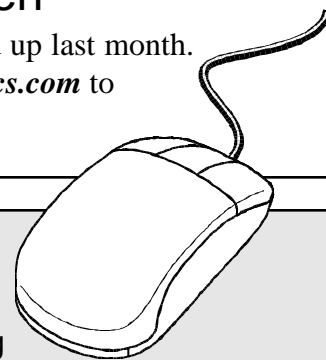
Olympic Games Executive Director

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"Mr Felli was the ideal candidate for this post. His experience, professionalism and passion for sport will enable him to accomplish the mission we are entrusting to him, that of coordinating the IOC's activities linked to the Olympic Games and, with his team, to provide the necessary support and know-how to the organising committees," said IOC President Jacques Rogge.

15th Winter Deaflympic Games, Sundsvall, Sweden

This exciting event wrapped up last month. Please visit www.deaflympics.com to view the results!



Do you have an announcement to make? Upcoming competition information? Competition results? News about an athlete's success? News and information about Deaf people in the sports world?

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