



COMMONWEALTH WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

Latest News

April , 2011



MYRDDIN JOHN RETIRES AFTER A BRILLIANT CAREER

Myrddin John MBE, has retired from administration of weightlifting at the age of 77 after having spent a lifetime in the sport. This International renowned personality who competed at the 1958 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, was to later become a coach, and the General Secretary of the Wales Weightlifting Federation from 1966 to now. In his career he attended eleven Commonwealth Games and eleven Olympic Games in various capacities.

He held the post of Vice President of the International Weightlifting Federation for many years and he was also a Vice President of the Commonwealth Games Federation. Myrddin was also on the Welsh Commonwealth Games Council from 1982 to 2005.

He organised the very first Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships. And of course he served as General Secretary of the CWF for over 30 years. Myrddin received an MBE for his services to sport. And last year at the CWF Congress which was held in Delhi during the Commonwealth Games, he was awarded Life Membership of the CWF.

Even though Myrddin may no longer be an administrator in the sport, I am sure that we will all see him for many more years as a referee at different international events.

Myrddin, we thank you for all which you have done for the sport and in particular what you have done for the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation.

NAURU VISIT



Hon. Vinson Detenamo



Trent Dabwido

The General Secretary of the CWF, Paul Coffa, on February 13th returned to Nauru after a spell of 10 years. Weightlifting is still a leading sport on the island, with an enormous number of kids training at the gym. Whilst he was there he attended the Tyoni Batsiua Memorial Cup with 31 lifters taking part. A coaching seminar was held during his visit.

The Nauru Weightlifting Federation held its AGM, with a new President and General Secretary being elected. The new President is the Hon. Dogabe Jeremiah, whilst the General Secretary is Dominic Cain, who is also the Nauru Olympic Committee Sports Development Officer. Treasurer is Decalina Joram - Detudamo and the Vice President is former Olympian, Sheeva Peo - Cook.

Paul Coffa was also accompanied by Trent Dabwido, the new Assistant Secretary of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation.

A lengthy meeting was held with the President of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation, the Hon. Vinson Detenamo. Many topics were discussed including the future of the Commonwealth Championships. The development of regional Commonwealth Championships, sponsorship, a development programme for Commonwealth countries who have no weightlifting federations, and many other matters. It was decided that an Executive Board meeting should be held during the World Junior Championships in Penang to continue these discussions. The anti-doping issue was another matter which was discussed as the sport is still having problems within a few Commonwealth countries.



Some the Nauruan lifters in attendance with Paul Coffa.



A young Nauruan in action

ARNOLD INTERNATIONAL



Arnold Schwarzenegger with some of the Commonwealth Pacific Islands Team members.

The highlight of this year's Arnold International Tournament held in Columbus – Ohio on March the 5th was the Pacific Islands against the USA team. There were some excellent results from both teams. Of the six lifters representing the Pacific Islands, four of them were from Commonwealth countries. The lifters were: Manuelli Tulo (Fiji), Manuel Minginfel (FSM), Yukio Peter, Itte Detenamo (Nauru), Steven Kari (Papua New Guinea) and David Katoatau (Kiribati).

The event was brilliantly organised by the competition directors, Mark Canella and Dan Bell. The volunteers were superb and the crowds were outstanding.

It was also great to see **Arnold Schwarzenegger** at the competition. It makes a lot of difference when you have a person like Arnold make an appearance and take a genuine interest in an event such as this. The Institute looks forward to a rematch against USA next year – hopefully this time with a full team.

ARAFURA GAMES AND OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS



The Arafura Games and Oceania Senior, Junior and Youth Championships will be held next month in Darwin. The dates of weightlifting are May 11th, 12th and 13th. Seventeen countries are taking part in the Arafura Games, of which twelve are Commonwealth countries. These countries are: **Malaysia, Singapore, Niue, Samoa, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Australia, New Zealand, Nauru.**

CHINESE GRAND PRIX

The Chinese Grand Prix held on January 15- 17 was an excellent event. It was well organised and also well attended. In fact 35 countries were present on this occasion including quite a few **Commonwealth countries**. The Chinese Weightlifting Federation must be congratulated on this initiative. There is a lot of future in this concept and it could become a major marketing tool for the IWF. Congratulations to Mr. Ma Wenguang, General Secretary of the IWF and President of the Chinese Weightlifting Federation. The General Secretary of the CWF was an invited guest at this event.



Guests of the Chinese Weightlifting Association at the China IWF Weightlifting Grand Prix held in Fuzhou, Fujian Province on January 15-17, 2011



The incredible weightlifting complex in Fuzhou.

DISASTERS HIT OCEANIA REGION

Unprecedented weather has caused drastic loss and devastation in the Oceania region in the first three months of this year. First the floods which devastated the state of Queensland in Australia also came with the tragedy of losing two members of the weightlifting family in Australia.

On the 10th January, Steve and Sandra Matthews were swept away in tragic circumstances as a result of flash flooding. Both of them were members of the Toowoomba Weightlifting Association. Steve was a competitor, official and volunteer representing both Queensland and Australia as a Masters athlete.

Then New Caledonia and the Institute experienced a cyclone with flash flooding which unfortunately flooded the training area of the Institute leaving platforms floating, with bars and weights under water. Another super cyclone hit Queensland again, followed by a tragic earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand, where many lives were lost.



Steve and Sandra Matthews

GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS

Niue – Congratulations to Alan Tano, President of Niue Weightlifting for being reappointed General Secretary of the Niue Sports Federation and Olympic Committee.

Tonga - Congratulations also to Vili Tu'amoheloa who was reappointed President of the Federation and Michael Bloomfield reappointed General Secretary once again. The Vice Presidents are Peni Tu'ihalangie and Malakai Kaufusi. The Treasurer is Rev.Kava Fisi'ihoi.

Solomon Islands - Also held their annual general meeting. Andrew Nori was re-elected President again whilst the new General Secretary is now Martin Rara . The Vice President is David Firisua and the Treasurer Joel Benjamin. The national coach is Leslie Ata.

Wales - Congratulations to Jonathan Roberts for being elected Chairman of the Welsh Weightlifting Federation and to Ray Williams for being elected General Secretary and Ray Vaughn as Treasurer.

ONOC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Oceania National Olympic Committee Assembly was held this year in Noumea –New Caledonia from March 24th – 26th. With the Assembly held in Noumea, it gave the opportunity to many NOC leaders to visit the Oceania Weightlifting Institute. Everyone who visited were very impressed with the facilities. In addition we also had the pleasure of having with us at the Institute, the OWF President, His Excellency, Marcus Stephen and the IWF Vice President Sam Coffa.

With so many countries of the Pacific also being **Commonwealth countries**, the 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid for the Gold Coast came to Noumea to put forward a presentation to the countries. Mark Peters the CEO of the Gold Coast 2018 Bid also visited the Institute together with Sam Coffa, President of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association. We were also looking forward to meeting the delegation of the Sri Lanka Bid but unfortunately they were not able to attend.

A luncheon was held to discuss weightlifting in the region, the Commonwealth Games and the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games between His Excellency, Marcus Stephen, Vui Tapasu Leung Wai , President of Samoa Olympic Committee and Regional Vice President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, Sam Coffa, and Paul Coffa, the Commonwealth General Secretary for weightlifting.



Vui Tapasu Leung Wai



Sam Coffa in his capacity as President of the Australian Commonwealth Games Association with the CEO of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Bid, Mark Peters, at the Institute with some of the Institute lifters.



The "Big Boys" of the Commonwealth in the Pacific paid a visit to the Institute. In the photo amongst the lifters are: Joe Carlo- Vanuatu, Vice President of ONOC, Fred Maetolaa President of the National Olympic Committee of the Solomon Islands, Rota Onorio the General Secretary of the Kiribati Olympic Committee and its First Vice President David Collins.

COMMONWEALTH SEMINAR

The CWF has put forward a proposal to the IWF under the regional development programme. The proposal is to host a major seminar covering coaching, administration, refereeing, anti-doping, and development of countries of the Commonwealth where weightlifting is not affiliated to their National Commonwealth Federation. If this proposal comes to fruition, we intend to run it in one of the Caribbean countries in the month of December of this year.

FUTURE COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the Commonwealth Championships to be held in South Africa this year (October 10-15) a decision will be made by the Congress on the 2012 Commonwealth Championships and the 2013 Commonwealth Championships. In 2012 it is the turn for the Oceania region to host the event and there are two countries from this region who are bidding for this. The Cook Islands and New Zealand. Whilst in 2013, it is the turn for Europe and there are two countries also bidding and that is Malta and Scotland.

COMING EVENTS

- May 10- 13 Darwin – Australia, 2011 Arafura Games & Oceania Senior, Junior & Youth Championships.
June 26- July 7 Penang –Malaysia, 2011 World Junior Championships .
July 22-24 OWF office, The 2011 ZKC Email international club tournament.
October 10-15 Cape Town- South Africa, 2011 Commonwealth Senior, Junior & Youth Championships.



Paul Coffa
General Secretary