

IWAS BEENNER REPORT 2004/2005

General Assembly of Nations

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil September 2005

Registered Charity No. 1011552

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INTERNATIONAL WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE SPORTS FEDERATION

President General

Mr. Juan Palau Francas, ESP

Executive President

Mr. Paul DePace, USA

Members at Large

Mr. Karl Vilhelm Nielsen – DEN Mr. Alan Dean - CAN

Secretary General/Executive Director

Ms. Maura Strange – GBR

Honorary Treasurer

Mr. Bob Paterson – GBR

Appointed Officers

Sports Science & Medical Officer – Dr. Oriol Martinez – ESP Marketing Officer – Mr. Seyed Amir Hosseini – IRI

Sports Officers/Representatives

Mrs. Ann Webb, Wheelchair Archery Representative – GBR Mr. Jean Minier, Athletics – FRA Mr. Jim Frere, Badminton and Amputee Football Representative – GBR Mr. Huang Chung-Jeng, Cue Sports – TPE Mr. Alberto Martinez Vassallo, Wheelchair Fencing – ESP Mr. Alf Boyle, Lawn Bowls - AUS Mr. Glyn Hibbert, Powerlifting Representative – GBR Mr. Brad Mikkelsen, Wheelchair Rugby – USA Mr. Paul Gockel, Swimming Representative – AUS Mrs. Linda Chen, Table Tennis Representative – TPE

International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation



2004/2005 BIENNIAL REPORT

On behalf of the IWAS Executive Committee, we present the Biennial Report 2004/2005.

Paul DePace Executive President Juan Palau Francas President General

PRESIDENTS' REPORTS

JUAN PALAU FRANCAS – PRESIDENT GENERAL

Since the first day when I was elected ISOD President after the retirement of Mr Guillermo Cabezas when I had enjoyed the great honour of contributing to the Paralympics of Barcelona 1992, I had a very clear and unfaltering aim of achieving the amalgamation of the two largest IOSDs responsible for Wheelchair, Amputee and les Autres athletes, i.e. ISMWSF and ISOD, on the premise that "Unity will make us strong". I therefore made contact with successive Presidents of ISMWSF, but for diverse reasons unification at that time was not possible. When Mr Paul DePace was elected President of ISMWSF in Paris 2001, we commenced dialogue immediately in an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, aiming for a more comprehensive and improved method of serving persons with a physical disability in sport, especially for the more severely disabled and women, because a single International Federation would undoubtedly be the most effective tool to achieve this purpose.

Also, from an economic aspect, it would be appropriate to have single budgeting and accounting systems and it was agreed that each Federation would contribute £40,000 sterling to the new Federation. Accordingly, ISOD transferred to the common account: $60.349,54 \in$.

All steps during the interim period of 2004/5 were taken with relative normality, conquering the difficulties which had hindered progress over the previous period of many years, culminating in the magnificent reality that today with pride is named IWAS and that together with IPC wants to collaborate so that sport for persons with a disability reflects its traditional role, which is none other than that of NORMALITY, i.e. sport without negative definition, respected by the media, public and private institutions and fundamentally, providing persons with disability the most beneficial aspects of sport practice – physical and psychological development and more importantly personal freedom and happiness, reflecting the universal desires of all human beings.

I would like to highlight the extraordinary work that was undertaken to progress the objective of an IWAS HQ, in the persons of Ms Maura Strange, Secretary General and Ms Kim Garner, Administrator with the support of Mr Alan Dean, former ISOD Secretary General and, from the Spanish Federation, Ms Araceli Lillo and Mr Mateo Medina.

Also in this report, it should be clear to all those people who have worked in both International Federations that the amalgamation, achieved with understanding, commitment and collaboration constitutes a substantial change and a base for even more changes that are to come to advance the global cause for athletes with a disability in the paralympic movement, from IPC through to IWAS – changes that we have to accomplish together with sportsmen and women, technicians and countries, looking for the best in each situation in terms of generosity and realisation.

Facing the future, our important Federation should look to maximise the opportunity for union among the Federations, not just IOSDs but also sports, perhaps as a legal body with its own statutes.

In combination with IPC, IWAS should strive to maintain a Sport & Scientific Calendar to encourage more effective development and wider participation, as for instance the organisation of the World Games in different continents, eg 2005 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, South America 2005. One of our fundamental objectives is development in countries with less economic resource.

Finally, I would like to thank our host, Mr Ciraldo de Oliveira Reis, President of ABRADECAR, and to all members of the Organising Committee for their hard work in making this a successful World Games and a fruitful General Assembly & Elections 2005.

PAUL DEPACE – EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT

In our last report to the General Assembly of Nations in Christchurch, New Zealand 2003, we were on the brink of realising the long term objective of unification ISMWSF-ISOD. The Strategic Plan presented to the Nations at that time highlighted our way forward for the interim period ISMWSF-ISOD and we are now working as a single and unified entity on behalf of physically disabled athletes within the paralympic movement. We shall be announcing our new image and profile as IWAS to the nations at the General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

From a governance perspective therefore the priority strategic initiatives highlighted in the 2003 document have been applied and the Federation's small but hardworking Board has been pleased with the progress being made to implement these into reality. The Board has absorbed its responsibility to monitor the continued application of policies and initiatives, delivered by the Sports and the HQ staff and provide report to the nations in this regard.

We are extremely pleased therefore to state that a common budgeting and accounting system has been set up and is running efficiently. We have also planned for the establishment of a new IWAS Executive Board at the forthcoming elections and recommend that our way forward is to be as flexible as possible within its composition and thus allow us to drive prioritised objectives forward, such as Games, Youth and regional development. As yet we have to find the means to boost income generation to the level that would more realistically be in a position to support a management/staffing base at HQ commensurate with the level of services the Federation outlines as crucial to our function. There have been innovative approaches to finding short term solutions to this presently, but we must not lose sight of the need to maintain the objective as a priority in the long term.

Nations will be aware that our inaugural Junior event, the IWAS Junior Athletics Championships took place in July 2005 at Stoke Mandeville. This was an event organised by the Athletics Executive and managed from the IWAS HQ. I am extremely pleased to report to the nations that a firm foundation for development in status, standards and participation has been established in this regard and we are looking forward to this being taken on by nations as an annual event. The venue of the next Junior Championships will be announced during the period of the Games in Rio, and the dates of 3rd to 7th July 2006 are already reserved on the international calendar. The Executive Board take delight in congratulating Athletics and the HQ staff in this respect.

We are pleased to report to the nations that relationships with partners in the paralympic movement are moving steadily closer and an atmosphere of collaboration and understanding prevails. This aspect of our work again deserves the realisation of depth within our staffing base, for as much as we the Board can define policy, we have the responsibility also to ensure that the policies are deliverable within our own operations. It is becoming increasingly obvious that our service function needs to be expanded to incorporate a higher level of service to IPC from a staffing and sports perspective.

From a sport's perspective, we have ensured that their annual allowances have been a priority this year, and we seek the nations' ongoing support in contributing to sport specific objectives, especially for paralympic programme sports, sports for the more severely disabled and women's participation levels. IWAS Sports will be holding Sports Assemblies this year and we look forward to the nations' involvement and attendance, particularly in respect to proposed technical rules and regulations and elections (where appropriate). Both Fencing and Athletics will be holding Assemblies during the Games here in Rio, and Wheelchair Rugby will hold General and European Sport Assemblies during forthcoming competition in Middelfart, Denmark. It has been a long held principle within IWAS (ISMWSF-ISOD) that sports should be as autonomous as possible in their functions even though the IWAS is the legal entity, and I have to say that I and the Board are extremely proud that our sports' Executives continue to strive for high standards and best practice within the management of the sport and the coordination of activity world-wide.

Both Juan Palau and myself have regularly attended IPC Governing Board meetings and been contributors to IPC's ongoing development in line with the IPC Strategic Review. As you will be aware, IPC will have its own General Assembly & Elections in Beijing this coming November, when the new Board infrastructure will be implemented. As there is no automatic representation on the new Board for IOSD's or Regions, we have thought about continuity in respect to collaborative endeavour and common and mutually beneficial policies, and the Executive Board has put forward my nomination for Member at Large to the IPC Governing Board. I humbly seek the nations' support in this regard.

In respect to our own elections in Rio, our Secretary General will, as Nominations Officer, provide detail to the nations in her own report. Suffice it to say, however, that the present Interim Board members having cemented the unification of ISMWSF-ISOD have all indicated their eagerness and commitment to the continued well being of IWAS and additionally welcome new members at the elections to give increased depth to our governance and management functions.

In closing, I would like to express, on behalf of the Board, our sincere appreciation of the opportunity for the first World Wheelchair & Amputee Games to be staged in the Americas, created by Abradecar, the IWAS member organisation in Brazil. Our thanks go to the Organising Committee, staff and all volunteers for their dedication and effort, and in particular Mr Ciraldo de Oliveira Reis, Mr Mauro Gandra and Renata Chaves.

SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

MAURA STRANGE – SECRETARY GENERAL

Introduction

The Executive Director/Secretary General is responsible for overseeing the management function of the Federation. The management function is responsible for the direct implementation of the Federation's Strategic Plan and policies and delivery of its goals and as such is monitored by the Executive Board. Until such time as the Federation realises a full complement of staffing/contracted department functions commensurate with management delivery objectives, 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 is directly responsible to the Executive President.

The present Secretariat staffing situation remains at the same level as 1993 and is composed of: Executive Director, Administrative Assistant (full-time) and Finance Administrator (1 morning per week). We have recently added (July 2005) an event coordination support function to the Games Organising Committee (short term full-time contract for 6 months).

Purpose

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

Report

It will be approximately 2 years since my last biennial report to the General Assembly of Nations in Christchurch, New Zealand 2003 by the time of our General Assembly and Elections in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in September 2005. At the time of our General Assembly in New Zealand, and on behalf of the Working Group on Amalgamation, I made the presentation to the nations of the report, recommendations and strategic planning to take the objectives of unification of ISMWSF and ISOD forward, following an intensive period of preparation and consultation. This publication has become a working document around which the Secretariat operational plan has been built during the interim period of ISMWSF-ISOD 2004/5.

As touched upon by the Executive President in his report, the Secretariat has determinedly and with dedication acted proactively towards delivering the goals identified within the Strategic Plan of Amalgamation, alongside maintaining our regular activities a propos the policies, procedures, systems, criteria, codes, rules and regulations already in place. Review systems have been consistently applied and appropriate reporting channels maintained.

January 2004 heralded the interim period of amalgamation ISMWSF-ISOD and the need to address commensurate objectives. I am pleased to report that the Secretariat has successfully translated policy into action, identifying and incorporating the key objectives into day to day operations as far as has been possible whilst the Secretariat remains at a full-time staff level of 2 persons:

- A joint budgeting, accounting and audit system
- Athletics consolidation

- Identification and establishment of Service areas appropriate to the goals of the new organisation
- o Funding
- Increase in women's participation
- Regional development
- Event coordination function/support to Rio Games OC
- Review of Constitution related to the Federation's registration as a Charity
- o New and/or expanded Events
- Assistance to new and emerging sports into the international arena
- Collaboration and service to the IPC generally and in particular regarding the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens
- o Relationship with WADA
- Identification and preparation for the new logo and name of the combined activities ISMWSF-ISOD
- o Funding

The new consolidated membership fee has been applied, commencing 2004 and has been well accepted by the member nations. The old ISMWSF account has been used to support the ongoing activities during the ISMWSF-ISOD interim period, with the addition of contribution from ISOD of £39,820. Audit of the 2004 accounts has identified the £40,000 contribution from ISMWSF and maintains a balance that is restricted in application under the laws of fundraised/donated monies to ISMWSF prior to the establishment of the new organisation. Further information in this respect is provided in the Annual Financial Report produced by our Hon. Treasurer, Bob Paterson. Preparation has been made to ensure that the account name can be changed to IWAS for the future.

Much work has been undertaken in the sport of Athletics to ensure a cohesive and unified programme for wheelchair, amputee and les autres athletes. The Athletics Executive now incorporates the appropriate expertise in this regard. The Secretariat has been involved in supporting the development of mechanisms to ensure a fully integrated education and training programme in the area of classification and the Athletics Section Executive will provide information in this respect to the nations at the forthcoming Sports Assembly in Rio.

Members will be pleased to note the addition on an annual basis to the Athletics international calendar of a Junior Championships, which this year took place in July at Stoke Mandeville. Press Releases and results can be found on our web-site: <u>www.wsw.org.uk</u>.

With the increasing service demands related to IPC, Paralympic Games, a wider sporting base and programmes, and increased membership under the ISMWSF-ISOD amalgamation, I have necessarily had to prioritise work in this area. Although the Strategic Plan foresaw increase in staffing capacity to be commensurate with the amalgamated objectives of the Federation, this has not come to fruition to the expected degree. It has remained somewhat of a juggling game therefore, and has caused the Federation problems in the case of burn out and exhaustion of present Secretariat staff. In view of the fact that I was out of the office for 3 months at the beginning of 2005, I take the opportunity to record and express appreciation for the hard work of Kim Garner in keeping together the basic function of the Secretariat during this period and the support given by Executive Board members. It does, however, highlight the fragility of management and administration functions, and to this end, a further evaluation of the situation was undertaken in April/May 2005.

Evaluation of the present situation, especially in terms of having to deal with multidepartmental demands from other bodies, indicates that previously identified staffing and departmental levels in ISMWSF and ISMWSF-ISOD Strategic Plans must be achieved sooner rather than later for us to keep pace with the burgeoning professionalism in the paralympic movement as a whole. My recommendations in this respect have been brought forward to the Executive Board with a new Secretariat Action Plan. In respect to services that we are obliged to deliver to non-ISMWSF-ISOD member organisations, but need to be delivered through ISMWSF-ISOD staffing allocation, we are establishing specific budget lines, and are currently exploring the idea of "payment for service" situations.

Objectives in terms of increased participation for women in governance, management and administration as well as the competition arena have been a long standing commitment within the ISMWSF-ISOD family. There is no doubt that the relatively recent adoption of policy by the IPC is similarly aimed at increasing women's participation. On ISMWSF-ISOD's part, we have this year included in our call for nominations, the requirement for nations to consider the inclusion of women for multiple nomination situations at governance/management level and we take up the challenge of increasing women's participation in sport, although we are having to contend with some past and present IPC decisions in this context that have already impacted, or have the potential to impact negatively on women's participation in the paralympic programme sports of Athletics, Wheelchair Rugby and Fencing. Our West Asian Regional Department is actively involved with the Islamic Federation of Women Sports (IFWS) who are currently planning, with the collaboration of the Iranian NPC, the 4th Women Islamic Games for September of this year in Tehran.

Our regional development objectives have figured within Secretariat operations. In May 2004, we confirmed and duly signed contract with the Iranian Sports Federation for the Disabled to establish an outreach regional function as an IWAS Department and extension of the Secretariat staffed activities in pursuance of regional activity for the West Asian Region. We also continue to progress this particular objective and establish further outreach departments on a regional basis to complement and support the HQ function on behalf of the membership and in recognition of the diverse needs of different regions. Reports will be made to the Executive Board in this respect in Rio.

We have recently appointed a new staff person in the Secretariat in the area of event coordination. Presently this is a short term contract situation for 6 months and primarily to provide service to the Games Organising Committee 2005. Ian Brittain started work with us on July 1st 2005 with a visit to the Organising Committee in Brazil with Executive President Paul DePace. Ian is a familiar face to the membership as he has been involved in a volunteer capacity with ISMWSF in the past on the Executive Committee and with direct experience of World Games organisation in both Games held in New Zealand (1999 and 2003). With an increasing number of event situations on the programme and new policy in respect to expanding Games situations and youth events, our projections are to make the position a permanent fixture within the Secretariat function.

During the period under review, and as a direct result of consultation with and direction from the Charity Commission under which the ISMWSF has been registered, a review of the Constitution (Memorandum & Articles of Association) has been warranted to ensure that IWAS is in a position to carry on the registration by demonstrating more clearly the relationships in governance and management etc. I have provided the Executive Board with the detail of this exercise and with their recommendation, the Constitution is provided to all members as a replacement document. I have commenced a similar exercise with regard to the internal regulations and a comprehensive Handbook is planned for publication by the end of the year.

As mentioned in our Executive President's report, the Secretariat made preparation for and managed the non-technical aspects of the new IWAS event – World Junior Athletics Championships, which took place at the beginning of July this year and which we have every confidence will grow as an annual event on the international calendar. It was an enjoyable,

although not novel experience to organise an event at Stoke Mandeville once again and to share this with enthusiastic volunteers, technical experts, officials and athletes at the birthplace of sport for persons with a disability. I take the opportunity to show our sincere appreciation to Jan Bockweg, Thomas Nuss and Ernie Guild in particular for their total commitment to the technical preparation and management of the event. The success in this area has ignited a very positive response from all involved, with 3rd to 7th July 2006 already earmarked for next year on the international calendar for a Junior Championship at a venue to be announced by the Athletics Executive during their Sports Assembly in Rio. The Executive Board is currently considering the idea of this being slowly expanded to a multisport junior programme for the future.

During a visit to Goiana, Brazil in April 2004, on the occasion of the celebrations of our member organisation, Abradecar, and with IWAS experts providing training and education clinics in Athletics classification and Powerlifting, the opportunity was taken by IWAS Executive Board members present to discuss regional development and the possibility of Games being hosted in Brazil. This opportunity led to a bid from Abradecar to stage the World Wheelchair & Amputee Games in Rio 2005. The Organising Committee felt this was a good opportunity for link up and mutually beneficial relationship with the OC of the forthcoming Parapanam Games and an opportunity to strengthen experience and participation in key sporting events within the region. The Executive Board awarded the event to Abradecar during the Athen's Paralympic Games. Initially, it was planned that the IWAS Secretariat would perform entry coordination function with member nations, but the OC preferred to do this from Brazil. The IWAS Secretariat has therefore played a consultative role to the OC in respect to the preparations that should be undertaken from a Games perspective, and from July filled the function of event coordination based on the entries made to the OC. The Organising Committee also offered to host the IWAS General Assembly and meetings, and so the IWAS Secretariat has also been in close communication with Renata Chaves of the OC in this respect. We are looking forward to a successful Games event and the important Assemblies and meetings, which will determine the leadership at Board and sports level for the coming quadrennium.

During the period under review, I have had the privilege to work alongside Sander Hilberink of the International Electric Wheelchair Hockey Committee. At the suggestion of IPC that IWAS provide consultation in respect to establishing infrastructure, best practice and a development plan for the sport to move forward internationally, we have commenced this operation by working through relevant documentation with a view to establishing conditions whereby the sport has a legal entity and established parameters and systems to work under. Members will note from the General Assembly Agenda that there is recommendation to endorse provisional sport section status to the sport of electric wheelchair hockey, which is a specialised sport specific for persons with a severe disability. Arrangements have also been made for presentation of the sport at the Assembly and members will have the opportunity to address questions directly with Sander Hilberink of electric wheelchair hockey. We trust that this opportunity will create a wider awareness of the sport, and adoption within a larger number of national programmes.

A full programme of events has been maintained by current IWAS Sports during the period under review and in addition, in collaboration with the IPC and the POC, their objectives in respect to the paralympic programme in Athens were successfully delivered. It ought to be said, on behalf of the sports, that they have been somewhat stretched by the changes in expectations and policies of the Organising Committee/IPC and future consideration by POCs, and IPC in particular when liaising with POCs, should take into account that very few sports have a dedicated administration function to work specifically on their behalf, or even access to a shared function. It is therefore challenging to their volunteer commitment to find that they are expected to respond to/absorb functions that should be carried out by paid staff within the POCs or IPC, within deadlines which they may well find difficult to make workable.

As the Responsible Organisation identified by Athoc/IPC in respect to participation in Athens, both sport specifically and in terms of the Federation as a whole, the IWAS Secretariat was heavily committed in administrative and coordinative duties related to the PIAC system for IOSDs as IPC members and as the IF for two sports on the Paralympic Games programme in the run up to the Athens Paralympic Games and similarly for attendance at meetings and medal presentations during the Games themselves. The Secretariat also supplied administrative support to our own Paralympic programme sports in respect to the IPC Paralympic Games Classification Code, qualification systems, TUEs and the announcements regarding of allocation of slots to NPCs in pre-Games period and during operations. In view of the amount of work this has involved, and the fact that this is a support service to the IPC and POCs, I would support a review that clearly identifies the services, obligations, needs and requirements of non-IPC sports in this respect and the reinstatement of IF agreements with the relevant POC and the establishment of IF agreements with the IPC, in order that there are clear definitions and conditions for an IOSD to contribute to the success of the Paralympic Games.

The sports, in concert with the Secretariat, spent some considerable time preparing application for the Beijing Games for IPC's consideration. It was, in some respects, unfortunate timing for IWAS and the sports, coinciding as it did with the Athens Paralympic Games period, wash-up reports and deserved breaks, when resources were limited and those that were available were obviously directed to immediate priorities. It was a disappointment therefore to hear of the IPC's decisions in respect to IWAS sports, with reduced programmes for Beijing, particularly as these sports delivered successful programmes in Athens and the advised consultation with the sports prior to notification of decision in respect to Beijing did not materialise. However, the IWAS sports concerned immediately contacted the IPC HQ to find solutions on behalf of nations participating in these growing sports. IWAS should be in a position to give up-date following a meeting scheduled at the IPC HQ to discuss our Wheelchair Fencing Action Plan, which will incorporate the Beijing Paralympic Games. This meeting will be held between David Grevemberg, Alberto Martinez Vassallo and myself just prior to the IPC Sports Council meeting and we will therefore be in Bonn from 7th to 11th September 2005 to progress matters.

The Secretariat has continued to give administrative support and assistance to the IWAS Sports Science & Medical Officer, in respect to the development of the IWAS Anti-Doping Code and the relationship with WADA and the application of TUEs to cover all sports and events, including the Paralympic Games for wheelchair rugby and fencing. These activities have necessitated liaison and collaboration with nations, IPC, Sports, Organising Committees and WADA.

As a result of further collaboration and consultation during the interim period of amalgamation, the Secretariat developed a new profile for the amalgamated organisation that is in keeping with the traditions of the sport for disabled movement, but offers a strong and readily identifiable name and image to the public at large. May I take the opportunity to thank all Board members for their support in developing this, especially Seyed Amir Hosseini and Bob Paterson and trust that the nations welcome this on board as a further step in our amalgamation activities. In support of this, the Secretariat has developed letter heading and business cards to incorporate new logo and profile of the role and responsibility of IWAS and ensured that new flags are available for events. Seyed Amir Hosseini arranged for supply of t-shirts for the young athletes competing at the 1st Junior World Athletics Championships which were enthusiastically welcomed. The Secretariat has also prepared for and put in place a new web-site under the name www.iwasf.com, which is ready to be launched as soon as the

new name and logo are ratified at the forthcoming General Assembly of Nations. All work in this area has been achieved in-house as commensurate with budget.

Although we presently still do not have a dedicated staffing function in the area of fund generation, sufficient to provide service to potential large sponsors and/or create our own staffed marketing/fundraising programme, we have nevertheless during the period under review, continued our staff driven servicing of regular VIK supporters, funding agencies and private/small donors. The Federation has therefore benefited from regular donations from the Ludwig Guttmann Paraplegic Sports Foundation for wheelchair sport activity (donations for Athletic's education and classification programmes, and the development of new sports for the more severely disabled), from the UK Sports Council in their contribution to HQ rental and subsistence of the Secretary General as an international representative and small, but important donors and volunteers and VIK supporters such as DHL who always ensure that our meeting documentation and preparation for moving the Secretariat function temporarily to Games venues is more readily achievable.

I have also allocated some time to creating a partnership situation with sports and funding agencies for further fund generation, which is slowly coming to fruition. I have recently been advised that, in partnership with IWAS Archery Officers, that a submission for sponsorship made in the name of ISMWSF-ISOD has found favour with the Gnocchi Foundation, and activities in Italy supporting fundamental work in grass roots education, training and re-establishment with rehabilitation institutes are already in progress in the sport of archery. My appreciation goes to Marco Carpignano with whom I worked to get our concept onto paper and brought to the attention of potential funding agencies, and who has shared the vision of mutual benefit in multi-sport situations which we can build onto this promising start. This is a concept that is readily transferable in application to other countries and situations and is a successful example of how partnerships can work to mutual benefit. The Secretariat maintains a priority to establish a more global application in the area of fund generation, and would be pleased to work with sport/nation and potential funding agencies in this regard.

Marketing, merchandising and fundraising events are driven by the IWAS Marketing Officer and are included in his report to the Nations. As we are now moving forward in terms of a new corporate image and profile, we look forward to greater success in this area to the benefit of IWAS membership.

During the two year period, I have, on behalf of IWAS, attended and participated at the following key paralympic movement meetings:

- IPC Sports Council 2003, 2004 and IPC Sports Council working group on review of Sports Council role and responsibilities relating to the IPC Strategic Review
- EPC General Assembly & Elections 2005.
- *IWFC Executive Committee meetings 2003/4/5*
- o IPC Extraordinary General Assembly & Conference November 2004
- o IWAS Executive Board Meetings May 2004 (Iran), November 2004 (Cairo)
- Meetings with IWAS Athletics Coordinator on a regular basis

In respect to the Secretary General's responsibility to act as nominations officer for IWAS elections, I am pleased to report that a call for mandates, motions and nominations for election has been undertaken in the Secretariat for IWAS Wheelchair Rugby Sport Assembly

(including European zone), Wheelchair Fencing Sport Assembly and Athletics Sport Assembly, as well as the IWAS General Assembly of Nations and elections to the Executive Board. I have also coordinated mandates, nominations and motions in respect to attendance and participation at forthcoming IPC General Assembly and elections, as well as the IPC Archery Sports Assembly.

Reports on mandates, motions and nominations have been sent to the nations in respect to IWAS Assemblies being held this year, and we are especially pleased to see the interest in respect to the IWAS Executive Board where the following candidates constitute the slate of nominees for the nations' election to the Executive Board. The Executive Board, as advised, will be composed of 8 persons (President, Vice President and 6 members at large), who become the Directors and Trustees of the Federation.

Nominations:

President	
DePace	Paul

Vice President

Dean	Alan
Nielsen	Karl Vilhelm
Palau Francas	Juan

Members at Large

Balaskas	Panagiotis
Bockweg	Jan
Campbell	Duncan
Hosseini	Seyed Amir
Kucirkova	Radka
Martinez Ferrer	Josep Oriol
Nielsen	Karl Vilhelm
Reis	Ciraldo
Stylianou	Andreas
Van Den Abbeele	Rudi

The appointments of Hon. Treasurer and Secretary General will need to be ratified at the Assembly.

As members can see, it has been an extremely busy, but productive time for the Secretariat during the period of amalgamation ISMWSF-ISOD. However, I sometimes wonder if the Secretariat is not a victim of its own success. Throughout 2004/5, we have consistently maintained service to the sports, member nations and the Executive Board. However, it has at times been a struggle during the amalgamation period and with new demands from the IPC to incorporate, and whilst budget presently does not allow for the necessary increase in resource to what is a vital function on behalf of IWAS, the cost has been borne at a personal level by the staff concerned. We therefore look forward to a future with commensurate staffing levels and the continued support of the Executive Board. May I take the opportunity to express my personal thanks for the concern and understanding of the Board and sports for a difficult period, and especially Mr Paul DePace, Executive President for his steadfast support.

MEMBERS AT LARGE REPORTS

MEMBER AT LARGE – ALAN DEAN

It has been a pleasure for me to serve on the Management Committee of the International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation since the ratification of our organization at the 2003 World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand. Many of us involved in the amalgamation of ISMWSF and ISOD share the optimism that the formation of IWAS has become a better way to represent the wheelchair, amputee and les autres classes of athletes at the international level.

I attended the international forum on the formation of one organization to represent our athlete classes in 1992 at the Barcelona Paralympics. The process was sometimes slow and arduous.

Some issues that will continue to be addressed in the very near future include:

- A comprehensive program for youth
- Sponsorship for IWAS activities
- Continued financial stability
- Initiatives to attract increased female participation in sport and administration
- Ensure representation for all athlete classes
- Increased calendar of sports events
- Regional participation in IWAS
- Good relations with IPC and other international sports federations

Since the inception of IWAS, I have attended all Executive Committee meetings and hopefully, contributed intelligent participation in debates and actions. A draft report for the new structure of the Executive and Management Committees was prepared for as a discussion paper.

While at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, I attended the IPC Commission for Women in Sport meeting. One of my main concerns was the amputee women 100m and 200m races where arm amputees competed in the same events as leg amputee. The system was extremely unfair for the leg amputee. The issue was brought up for discussion at the meeting and received good support.

Some interesting statistics presented were:

- 30% of athletes at Paralympic Games are women
- Powerlifting for women was introduced as a Paralympic Sport in Sydney, 2000
- Sitting Volleyball and Judo were introduced for women on Athens, 2004
- 70% in IPC Commissions are women
- Current IPC Executive, 3 positions of 14 are held by women

In December 2004, I represented IWAS at the 2004 World Wheelchair Cue Sports Championships, in Taipei, Taiwan. The competitions were very well organized and the skill level of the participants was exceptional. I am sure the Organizing Committee would have liked to have seen more countries participate in the event. Cue sports represent an event in which ambulatory classes could be included in the competitions. The inclusion would certainly increase the participation base for the event and the visibility of IWAS athletes.

In closing, I would like to thank the Executive Committee and Maura and Kim for their support over the past two years in working together for the success of IWAS. This is an exciting time for our Organization as we prepare for a new Executive Committee to launch IWAS into the future. Thanks should also be forthcoming to our gracious hosts in Rio for providing the opportunity to meet and compete in this beautiful country.

MEMBER AT LARGE - KARL VILHELM NIELSEN

I have been a long term member of the ISMWSF Executive Committee and feel privileged to continue in this role following the amalgamation of ISMWSF-ISOD, particularly as I had been a supporter of the objective to achieve closer collaboration of the two organisations and a member of the working group set up to achieve this.

During the period 2004/5, subject of this report, I have attended all ISMWSF-ISOD Executive Meetings. All tasks assigned to me have been carried out and I have met with the Secretary General/Executive Director to continue dialogue on ISMWSF-ISOD matters on various occasions at meetings that we have both attended in diverse capacities.

I like to think that the closeness and collaboration we all share with the Secretariat is a positive attribute to the Federation's operation and I share the concerns that we must expand the capacity and resources to facilitate this critical function of the Federation's work. To this end I have created the conditions for a bid situation for a Regional Department in Europe, which will be discussed during the forthcoming Executive Board meetings in Rio during our World Wheelchair & Amputee Games. I have been able also to give productive support to the Secretariat in their membership fee collection exercise.

There have been times when, in my capacity as President of the Danish Sports Federation for the Disabled, I have been able to utilise my attendance at other events to progress similar aims for ISMWSF-ISOD, and these include involvement in matters surrounding regional, athletes with a severe disability, new sports and events as objectives of mutual interest.

I have been able to share my own, and my nation's experience in respect to the newly emerging sport of electric wheelchair hockey and have actively promoted the Federation's objectives in this regard.

I believe that the IWAS (ISMWSF-ISOD) sports enjoy good conditions to promote their sport specific objectives and we, as the Executive Board can give general direction to their objectives without overpowering their autonomous function in technical governance. In addition, we provide a legal framework and Secretariat support to their operations and a membership base that is evidently appreciative of the growth in standards and participation. I am pleased to report that Denmark will be staging the European Championships in Wheelchair Rugby this coming October in Middelfart.

We are enjoying a closer collaboration and cooperation with the IPC to our mutual benefit and I am honoured to be able to announce that Denmark has nominated me as a candidate to the IPC Governing Board at the elections to be held this coming November.

In closing, I express my sincere appreciation of the endeavour taken on by Abradecar in hosting and staging the World Wheelchair & Amputee Games in Rio and look forward to good competition and meetings.

SPORTS SCIENCE & MEDICAL OFFICER – DR. ORIOL MARTINEZ

In my capacity as IWAS Medical Officer, it is an honour for me to present this report of the activities of the IWAS Sports Science & Medical Committee.

1) Development of the Actions Points, marked for the Sports Science & Medical Committee's attention

Status reports have been submitted on a regular basis to the Executive Board

2) Anti-doping Control

2.1. IWAS Anti-doping rules and procedures

We have been in a phase of revision of our rules and procedures of Anti-Doping Control, following publication of WADA's new regulations, including the process TUE (Therapeutic Uses Exemption) and the list of forbidden substances for 2004, and new IPC Anti-Doping rules and procedures adapted to the regulation of WADA at the end of the month of February 2004. This whole process has included consultation directly with WADA and approval by the IWAS Executive Board and the final objective is its presentation and approval at the IWAS General Assembly of Nations 2005.

Whilst IWAS was developing a TUEs system and process to deal with events under our own governance, we were advised that this was a process we were expected to carry out on behalf of IPC for our sports at the Athens Paralympic Games. However, it proved to be a confusing and very rushed last minute exercise. I believe that with a little thought in general in relation to Paralympic Games procedures that are undertaken by associated bodies, it should be improved for future Paralympic Games and I report the following points that IWAS addressed at its Executive Board meeting in Tehran, May 2004.

- The IPC to informed to the countries that in specific sports, non IPC sports, the International Federations for Disabled people will be those in charge of processing the TUEs prior to the Games in Athens. In our case this affects the sports of Wheelchair Rugby and Wheelchair Fencing.

- The IPC advised this to the nations without prior consultation with the International Federations concerned and established its own schedule for the development of this process that took no account of resourcing and scheduling on the part of the IFs.

- Subsequent to the above, the IPC made a proposal of collaboration with the International Federations with diverse administration possibilities under an IPC Anti-Doping Service Agreement that includes the possible payment to IPC for such services as assistance to the IFs concerned.

The Executive Board decided on the proposal put forward by myself as Sports Science & Medical Officer and Chairman of IWAS Doping Commission that, with Secretariat support, this service could be supplied to IPC. However, it was felt that there needs to be some clarification in regard to roles and responsibilities and services expected by IPC from IFs as member organisations of IPC for the future.

2.2. Anti-Doping Controls carried out in this period

During the period under review the ISMWSF - ISOD SS&M Committee has supervised the following controls with the following results:

World Games - October 2003, Christchurch (New Zealand)Athletics: 9Adverse Controls 1Swimming: 4Adverse Controls 0

World Cup Fencing - March 2004, Leganes (Spain) Non results

World Cup Fencing - May 2004, Lonato (Italy) Pending results

T.U.E's procedure for Athens 2004 Paralympic Games

•	Wheelchair Rugby:		
	-T.U.E's procedure:	19	
	- Approvals:	18	(non approval: 1)
•	Wheelchair Fencing:		
	-T.U.E's procedure	7	
	- Approvals:	6	(non approval: 1)

As IPC undertook the management of late TUEs during the Paralympic Games itself, for which we had to sign agreement of our acceptance, IPC had the obligation to keep us informed on these results. However, it should be said that ISMWSF-ISOD Anti-Doping Officer was not invited to participate in this exercise.

2.3. Adverse result in the World Games of Christchurch (New Zealand), October 2003

According to report received in our General Secretariat, the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency communicated the adverse result of a participant sportsman in the tests of Athletics carried out in the Games, related to the substance Terbutaline of the Beta-blocker family included in the list of substances prohibited by ISMWSF - ISOD / IPC as at 2003.

The Medical Officer elaborated a report in this respect for the ISMWSF - ISOD Executive Committee of confidential character, to decide, in its meeting in May in the city of Teheran, the actions to carry out and to give answer to this adverse result.

Recommendation was made to the nation concerned and appropriate action took place. WADA was kept informed of the situation.

3) Research project on the effects of "Boosting "

As it is explained in the development of the Actions Points marked for the Sports Science & Medical Committee, this research project is reliant on the identification of partners, sponsors and support in the sport sections.

It was proposed to the ISMWSF-ISOD Executive Committee that the research project be maintained as an action point until the conclusion of 2004, whilst investigation was made with IPC to see if they would support a collaborative effort and funding for research work in this area. The same SS&M Committee will propose in the year 2005 a new research project to be presented to the IWAS General Assembly, subject to prior approval and development study for the IWAS Executive Committee.

4) Report of the informal meeting IPC Medical Officer and IWAS Medical Officer (Paralympic village, Athens 22nd sep 2004).

The objective of this informal meeting was to establish some good cooperation channels among the 2 Medical Committees in diverse areas of mutual interest

Assistants: Dr. Björn Hedman, IPC Medical Officer

Mr. Toni Pascual, IPC Anti-Doping Sub-committee Dr. Oriol Martínez, IWAS Medical Officer

Place: Meeting room Paralympic Clinical

After thanking the Dr. Hedman the facilities for the realization of this encounter, the following points were discussed:

4.1. Dr. Oriol Martinez made a small presentation of the new International Federation IWAS, especially of his name, logos and it structures.

4.2. Basic channels of information among the two committees, through the respective secretaries and those responsible for both structures, centralized in:

IPC (Bonn) Mr. Andy Parkinson / Dr. Hedman IPC Medical Committee

IWAS (Stoke-Mandeville) Ms. Maura Strange / Dr. Oriol Martínez IWAS Medical Committee.

Agreements, records of meetings and notes of interest were exchanged for the good development of both.

4.3. Development of specific collaborations in areas and topics of mutual interest with the objective of reinforcing the work of both federations, inside the environment of Medicine and Sports Science in our athletes' benefit.

4.3.1. Doping Control

- To establish Anti-Doping Code mutual approval, especially for the new IWAS Anti - Doping Code.

- IWAS, in its independence like International Federation, will establish contacts and relationships with WADA, respecting the relationships and agreements of WADA with IPC.

- TUE's, IWAS will be able to require of IPC through Mr. Andy Parkinson the IPC TUE's granted in sports and dependent competitions of IPC, in the same way IPC will require the control from TUE's to IWAS in the sports and competitions of Fencing and Rugby and of other sports granted by IWAS in its specific competitions through the IWAS Secretariat.

- IWAS will receive the support of IPC to negotiate with WADA the help for the Anti-Doping Controls Out-competition, being able to be included in those granted by WADA to IPC. In this point the Dr. Hedman and Mr Toni Pascual recommended IWAS that this wing expects now from the requirements of WADA that it is a new organization and that this processing a new Anti-Doping Code, the idea is to win time and not to be ahead.

4.3.2. Classification and Protest

- The two organizations are in agreement that this area is responsibility of the Sports respective Section.

- But both structures think that they should be governed at the ultimate level for a dependent organ of the Medical Committee.

- IPC recommends IWAS the creation of a Sub-Committee that will handle the general development of classification principles and procedures, and for example development studies of the Minimal Handicap (Dr. Oriol also thinks of the Maximal Handicap), and a Committee of Protests which Sports can use as final appeal basis.

4.3.3. Research and Development

- In this point it is considered the possibility to develop projects group and in collaboration (although the IPC in any moment considers or he makes mention to the possibility of its financing)

- They are considered as interesting for the two parts the projects of:

- Approaches of Control of the "Boosting " effect.
- Study and research of the Post-Polio Syndrome in affected athletes

4.4. Final conclusions

- That both committees should make arrive to their Executives these proposals to be able to make official these proposals in one or several agreements of collaboration in these areas.

- That the relationships between both committees at the moment are good and flowing, especially for the good existent personal relationship, and above all for a good and effective collaboration to our athletes' benefit at international level.

5) Other Activities

During this period the SS&M Committee has assisted the nations by providing an advisory and consultation service, especially in topics of classifications, involving 3 investigations.

Lastly the SS&M Committee distributed the Decalogue of Adapted Sport, made as final conclusion of the International Conference on Adapted Sport, CIDA 2003 taken place in the month of November in Malaga (Spain) with remarkable participation success and a high scientific and medical level, where the ISMWSF - ISOD was represented brilliantly by several members of the Executive Committee, Sports Sections and especially of its SS&M Committee.

MARKETING OFFICER – SEYED AMIR HOSSEINI

The reports of the Marketing Officer are presented as follow:

Regarding the 1st International ISMWSF-ISOD Peace and Friendship Football Cup, due to some problems with Esteghlal Club attendance in Isfahan - the tournament venue, the organizing committee decided to hold the tournament in Tehran. Therefore the Sponsor could not approve his aims in such a short time and at the new venue. Anyhow, we found good opportunities to introduce IWAS and Disabled Sports.

Football Federation and Oil Company held a Footsall Tournament (Oil Cup), Regarding IWAS Marketing affairs, I have done my best efforts in attracting some financial sources for the IWAS aims and activities through this tournament. Moreover I found a good opportunity to introduce IWAS.

I am studying and considering other projects to find more secure financial sources to be allocated to IWAS.

I.R. of Iran National Olympic and Paralympic Academy "NOPA" in cooperation with I.R. of Iran National Paralympic Committee "NPC", organized some educational and training courses for disabled athletes as follow:

28 November 02 – 3 January 2003

Athletics Refereeing, Coaching and Classification Courses to include Blind Classification, attended by 86 participants

25 – 28 November 2003

Weightlifting refereeing and Coaching Courses, attended by 37 participants.

11 – 14 December 2003

Archery Refereeing, coaching and Classification Courses, attended by 66 participants

15 – 19 December 2003

Weightlifting Classification Course, attended by 2 participants.

7 – 8 December 2004

Swimming Coaching and Classification Courses, attended by 29 participants.

2 – 5 February 2005

Table Tennis Refereeing and Classification Courses, attended by 22 participants.

8 – 13 April 2005

Shooting Refereeing and Classification Courses, attended by 33 participants.

In this regard I am trying to do necessary actions to publish a magazine (IWAS News) for the Brazil 2005 Games in which we can introduce IWAS, with the kind assistance of the IWAS Secretariat in sending me through e-mail the news, photos and other necessary subjects to be inserted in this newsletter.

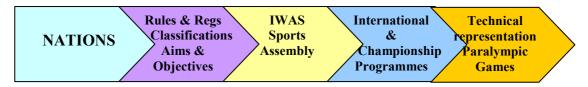
I am considering the production of advertisement merchandise and memorabilia for Brazil 2005.

SPORTS ACTIVITIES REPORT *Summary for the Period 2004 to May 2005*

The primary role of the IWAS programmes in sport is to provide increasing opportunities for all athletes with IWAS classifications, within the framework of sport specific technical rules and regulations as determined by the respective Sport Assembly. It is an objective of all IWAS sports to recruit and improve participation and standard globally. The IWAS sports programme includes events/activities/classification at different levels and, in addition to IWAS governed sports, includes collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships with IPC sports.

WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE ATHLETICS, WHEELCHAIR FENCING AND RUGBY

IWAS 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 & Amputee Athletics, Wheelchair Fencing and Rugby.



ATHLETICS – JEAN MINIER, CHAIRMAN

Back to Athens 2004

Classification

- A 3rd of the participants had to be classified or reclassified in Athens.
- For class 40, new rules were fixed after Lille. Three athletes were ineligible twice. But they went to the court of arbitration which allowed them to take part because the rules were not published two years before.
 Now three Tunisian female throwers and one Algerian are out of any paralympic

Now three Tunisian female throwers and one Algerian are out of any paralympic competition in F40 class.

Paralympic Entry process

- Entry process needs to be reviewed to disallow athletes with insufficient standards to enter the paralympic competitions just to promote athletics in developed countries.
- The entry performances for paralympics should be only sanctioned performances to make the entry process and the quota attribution system fair. Too many wild cards were distributed for Athens and not enough based on the ranking list.

Rules

• Following what happened during the competitions it is clear that new rules about overtaking in the 800m – 10000m wheelchair races have to be determined. These changes were proposed by the IWAS Athletics Executive in January in Paris, and will be ratified at the IWAS Sports Assembly in Rio de Janeiro.

Future of IWAS. Athletics Section

Next General Assembly and Elections

The IWAS Athletics Section will be holding a Sports Assembly in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 19 September during the period of the World Wheelchair & Amputee Games. This Assembly will ratify new technical rules and regulations and will act as a discussion forum for the nations present.

The athletics section will also hold a Sports Assembly during the next IPC World Championships for two major reasons :

- We are sure to have most of the concerned countries in ASSEN
- We were reconfirmed in our Executive positions in Villeneuve d'Ascq 2002.

In the interim, we have confirmed the old ISMWSF Athletics Executive Committee plus Doug KYLE and Thomas NUSS in managing the IWAS athletics.

Future Structure and Functioning

Classification

A classification seminar will be organised in ESPOO by IPC and run by experts appointed by the relevant IOSD.

An IWAS classification seminar should be organised during the Games in Rio de Janeiro as a follow up to the 2004 Brazil Seminar.

Due to the resignation of Mats LAVEBORN as chief classifier, we are currently undertaking a strategic review of the IWAS Classification Commission. This will include the further development of education and training materials. For the interim, Jane Freebody has stepped in to coordinate IWAS Classification/Classifier education exercises.

Present season

2005 is the reference year to determine the 2008 paralympic games athletics program. It is important that as many athletes as possible realise good performances in 2005 to ensure a coherent representation for IWAS in Beijing.

A maximum of 160 events will be probably on the Beijing program (instead of 195 in Athens).

We are asking the IWAS members:

- To send all their 2005 results to IWAS athletics section.
- To take part in the IPC and IWAS sanctioned events with a maximum of athletes and particularly with the weakest classes.

2008 Paralympic event program

The major goal of IPC athletics section should be to maintain 195 paralympic events in Beijing. We are supporting this goal.

IWAS athletics section has made a figure of the 125 potential events for Beijing based on 2003 and 2004 results (77 male events and 48 female events). We are thinking that the 2003 season is much more realistic than the 2004 one due the fact there were a lot

of sanctioned international competitions and the countries were unforced to send their results in order to have the biggest possible 2004 paralympic quota.

IWAS Athletics Section has worked on a class combination, in field events, in the perspective of Beijing.

IWAS has made a figure of the 148 potential events for ASSEN World Championships based on 2003 and 2004 results (83 male events and 65 female events).

Technical issues

The actual rule-book has been reviewed. The modified rule-book will be sent by the Athletics Coordinator to all the member countries. In this version the modifications are shown in different colour for anyone to identify them easily.

In Athens and Lille the F51 throwers have had a member of their staff infield to help them during the competition. We have no rules giving them this possibility and we wonder which IPC rules give it to them.

Specific IWAS issues

Next IWAS Athletics Executive meeting

The next meeting is scheduled the 12 and 13^{th} January 2006. The place has to be defined.

Next IPC 2006 World Championships standards in ASSEN. We will have only A standard for ASSEN championships. We have fixed the standard based on the IWAS score points calculation system. We have separated male and female in the standard determination. We have fixed a minimum level which ensures in the one hand a reasonable quality of athletes, on the other hand a reasonable number of athletes who can reach it.

Proposal :

Male track and jumping events : 800 points Female events : 700 points Male throwing events : 775 points

WHEELCHAIR FENCING - ALBERTO MARTINEZ VASSALLO, PRESIDENT IWFC

During the period in question, Wheelchair Fencing has seen many successful competitions which are listed as follows:

2004

March $5 - 7$	World Cup	Leganes, Spain
May 20 – 23	World Cup	Lonato, Italy
July 23 – 25	World Cup	Warsaw, Poland

2005

April 29 – May 1	World Cup	Montreal, Canada
May 20 – 22	World Cup	Lonato, Italy
July 15 – 17	World Cup	Warsaw, Poland
September 22 – 24	World Cup	Rio de Janeiro during World Games

Future Events

2005 November 25 – 27 December 2 - 9	World Cup European Championships	Paris, France Madrid, Spain	
2006 September	World Championships	Torino, Italy	

Paralympic Games Athens 2004

Wheelchair Fencing experienced extremely successful competition during the Paralympic Games in Athens with Fencers competing from 20 different countries from around the world. During the Games in Athens, Wheelchair Fencing, with the support of IPC and Electricité de France as sponsors, offered IWAS member nations the opportunity of one of the new fencing frames on loan, to enable them to develop the sport of wheelchair Fencing in their country.

This opportunity was received with appreciation and the following countries returned home with a Fencing Frame: Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Greece, Iran, Portugal, Thailand and Ukraine.

Each nation given a frame has to provide a 4 year development plan in the sport and has to sign an official declaration stating that the frames will be used to assist and develop the sport in their respective countries. Four extra frames from the Games in Athens are being held in Spain in order to assist organisers of official Wheelchair Fencing events where the number of frames required are not available in the country concerned.

World Championships 2006

During the period under review, IWAS and the IWFC awarded the staging of the Wheelchair Fencing World Championships 2006 to the city of Torino, Italy. This was a monumental step, heralding as it does, the very first totally inclusive World Championships for both ablebodied and wheelchair fencers. We must give due acknowledgement to the Organising Committee in Torino for their commitment in this respect. We look forward to experiencing such a magnificent stage, where the achievements of all fencers can be witnessed at the same time.

This is a fitting crown to the objectives of the IWAS Fencing Committee and will light the pathway to achieving a mutually beneficial relationship with FIE through recognition of the professional standards in wheelchair fencing management and the status of wheelchair fencers. The event will be open to men and women in Categories A, B and C, in Epée, Foil and Sabre and both individual and team events.

Development 2003 – 2006

The IWFC has formulated a development plan through a series of objectives that are described below and that will allow the sport to be in optimal conditions to reach the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008 with a technical, sports and administrative structure that will give credibility to our sports group and more value to our competitions, the results of our athletes and the application of our sport on the five continents.

As initial objectives the following are considered:

- a) At a sporting level
 - i) The development of an International Calendar of competitions with a two year planning that considers the following types of competitions:

- A) World Championships
- B) Regional or Area Championships
- C) World Cups
- D) International Competitions for Juniors
- E) Regional or Area Championships for Juniors
- F) World Championships for Juniors
- G) International Promotional Meetings
- b) At a technical level
 - i) The Development of necessary protocols for the approval of sports equipment specific for our sport.
 - ii) The development of standard Rules and Regulations for Wheelchair Fencing.
 - iii) The establishment of new classifications for standing athletes that do not require a wheelchair.
 - iv) The creation of Rules for Competitions specific for standing athletes that can fence standing up.
 - v) Training of new Classifiers at an International level specific to fencing until there is at least one per country that has participants in our sport.
 - vi) Training of Trainers and International Referees, especially in those countries that currently do not have any or that do not practice fencing for the handicapped.
 - vii) To create a group of International Referees that are valued professionally.
- c) At an administrative level

(IFFD)

- i) The creation of an international sports licence for all those who practice our sport.
- ii) The development of operationals regulations of the International Wheelchair (Disabled) Fencing Commission.
- iii) The creation of agreements with the International Fencing Federation (Olympic Federation) to be able to collaborate in the development of our sport in all countries that practice it.
- iv) To open the doors for our sport to becoming autonomous by reaching agreements with IWAS.
- v) The drafting and legalization of our own statutes.
- vi) To get this administrative autonomy to be recognized by the national disabilities sports organizations in the countries that practice wheelchair fencing.(NPC's & NDSO's)
 In other words, create the International Disabled Fencing Federation
- vii) Create a professional administrative secretariat.

Of course, the tasks described above cannot happen without two fundamental things.

The recognition and support from all disabled sporting organisations at national and international level.

Secondly, and just as fundamental is the financing of the new International Federation and for this the IWFC will create, in 2003, a Marketing and Financing Sub-commission to obtain the necessary resources.

At the date of this report, our calendar and technical objectives are moving positively forward and administrative objectives are being addressed.

Quadrennial Sports Assembly 2005

During the period of the World Wheelchair & Amputee Games in Brazil, 24 September 2005, the IWFC will be holding its quadrennial Sports Assembly, where elections will take place for the IWFC Executive Committee 2005 – 2009. The new Executive Committee will continue to drive to move the sport forward.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY – BRAD MIKKELSEN, PRESIDENT IWRF

Since the last ISMWSF assembly in 2003, the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation has seen eighteen months of intense activity. Great progress has been made in increasing the number of sanctioned events, in developing sport officials, in improving governance, and in developing the sport world-wide. There remain many challenges, but the IWRF has built a firm foundation for further growth.

The IWRF began the period with the 2003 Sport Assembly, held in October 2003 in Christchurch, New Zealand, in conjunction with the last World Wheelchair and Amputee Games. This assembly included representation from 14 nations, and discussed and decided on many important issues including new rules and regulations.

One key decision made was in regard to the future of the IWRF. Since before 2000, discussion had been ongoing within the IWRF on whether it was an appropriate time for the Federation to move out from under the ISMWSF umbrella to become an independent international sports federation. The IWRF Executive Committee reviewed the pros and cons of independence in detail and presented a recommendation that the IWRF not pursue independence at this time. This recommendation was accepted by the Sport Assembly.

Since the Assembly, the IWRF Executive Committee has also met regularly by conference call, and day-to-day operations are enhanced by frequent discussions via email. These improved internal communications have helped the Executive respond quickly when decisive action is needed. The Executive has also added two new members, with Gail Hamamoto-Dore of Canada joining as Development Commissioner, and John Bishop of the United States joining as Vice-President, Communications. The position of Vice-President, Marketing, remains vacant and the Executive is continuing efforts to fill this key role.

Members of the IWRF Executive continue to represent the sport internationally through participation in the IPC Annual General Assembly and the IPC Sports Council.

Other key accomplishments include the completion of the first international activity survey in 2004. This survey was designed to get a clear picture of the state of development and activity in wheelchair rugby around the world. The results were used in support of our successful application for inclusion in the sports programme for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, and have also helped to target development activities. In addition, the IWRF also successfully renegotiated a new sponsorship agreement with Molten Corporation. While not as financially productive as the previous four-year agreement, the current arrangement still represents a potential revenue source for the federation. The IWRF has also entered into discussions with the International Rugby Board with the aim of establishing a partnership for the development and promotion of our sport.

The IWRF intends to hold its next Sport Assembly in October, 2005, in conjunction with the European Zone Championships. We expect to have representation from at least 16 of the 20 currently active countries.

Competitions

The past eighteen months have seen a significant increase in the number of sanctioned competitions taking place, and this trend appears likely to continue. The following were the IWRF-sanctioned competitions for this period.

The first **Canada Cup** international tournament was held in Vancouver, Canada, from 25 to 27 June, 2004. This fully sanctioned six-team tournament included five National Teams. The event was considered a great opportunity for these teams to prepare for the later Paralympic Games. Planning has already begun for a second Canada Cup in 2006, prior to the World Championships later that year.

The highlight of the period was the wheelchair rugby competition at the **2004** Athens **Paralympic Games** in September, 2004. This brought together the best eight teams in the world for six days of intense competition. The tournament was very competitive and no country dominated; in the end, sixth-seed New Zealand defeated the defending world champion Canada to take the gold medal.

From October 15 to 17, the first **European Zone Qualifying Tournament** was held in Neerpelt, Belgium. This event included four teams from Europe competing to determine two that would qualify for the final two positions at the next European Zone Championship. This event included international classification, and also represented the first international competition for France, which entered the IWRF World Ranking List at position 20.

The annual **Bernd Best Tournament** was held in Cologne, Germany from 18 to 20 March, 2005. This event, the largest wheelchair rugby tournament in the world, brought together over thirty club teams from Germany and Europe. This tournament was sanctioned for referee certification.

The **Europa Cup**, the European club team championship, was held in Winterthur, Switzerland, from 13 to 16 May 2005. This eight-team event was sanctioned for classification purposes, allowing players in attendance to receive official IWRF international classifications.

Upcoming sanctioned events include the World Wheelchair and Amputee Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in September 2005; the European Zone Championships in Middelfart, Denmark, in October 2005; and the Oceania Zone Championships in Johannesburg, South Africa, in November 2005. Planning is also underway for the next Wheelchair Rugby World Championships, which will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, in September 2006.

Development

Development activities within the IWRF received a boost with the appointment of the Development Commissioner in late 2004. A number of development projects have taken place since then. Some of these have benefited from development funding provided by the International Paralympic Committee while others were funded wholly by IWAS member countries.

Sport development clinics were held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in March 2004; Toulouse, France, in April 2004; Mexico City, Mexico, in November 2004; Wuhan, China, in May 2005; and Buenos Aires, Argentina, in May 2005. The purpose of these clinics was to introduce the sport into new countries and to promote the development of local and national teams. The IWRF has already seen results, with France now an active participant in international play and with Mexico and Argentina both working towards sending teams to the

upcoming World Wheelchair and Amputee Games. China, while not as advanced, is already planning their first National Tournament for October 2005.

In addition to these general development clinics, specialized clinics for referee and classifier training were held in conjunction with the Canada Cup and Bernd Best tournaments.

One exciting development event took place in March of this year in conjunction with the Honk Kong Sevens Rugby Tournament. In a joint venture, teams from Great Britain and New Zealand attended this high-profile event and played three demonstration matches. The games were very well received and helped raise the profile of the sport. We are working with Hong Kong towards establishing a multi-team tournament format in conjunction with future events. This is aimed to assist with development in Asia, and to help further our partnering with the IRB.

Upcoming development activities included planned clinics in conjunction with the World Wheelchair and Amputee Games, with the Oceania Zone Championships, and with the Chinese National Tournament.

Sport Technical

The IWRF has made progress in several sport technical areas, beginning with the approval of new Competition Regulations at the 2003 Sport Assembly. These regulations were established to clearly define for our members how to run wheelchair rugby events in conformance with IWRF and IWAS regulations. In addition, they introduced several options for sanctioning events intended to allow Organizing Committees to tailor the level of sanction to their needs. This has led to a clear increase in the number of event sanction requests.

Following the adoption of several new and revised articles in the International Rules at the Sport Assembly, the IWRF decided to proceed with a comprehensive technical rewrite of the rules manual. This rewrite is not intended to change the rules; it's aim is to make the rules manual clearer and easier to understand to aid development and translation. This project is nearing completion, and the final rewritten version will be presented to the IWRF Sport Assembly in October 2005.

Also nearing completion is the IWRF Casebook. This document has been fully reviewed by the IWRF Technical Commission and is awaiting approval by the Executive, which will take place upon the completion of the rules rewrite.

Training and certification referees has continued to develop with the implementation of a new Officials Fitness Policy. This sets a standard for physical fitness for IWRF certified referees. Fitness tests are now conducted in conjunction with referee clinics and certification exams. In addition to fitness tests, certified referees are subject to formal evaluations of their performance at events.

In the area of classification, work is ongoing on revisions to the IWRF Classification Manual, and on a Layman's Guide to Wheelchair Rugby Classification.

The major problem facing classification is the shortage of trained and certified international classifiers. This is exacerbated by the increasing competition schedule and has resulted in some events having fewer classifiers than are required to grant international classifications. Priority in this area is given to official championships, with the result that events such as the World Wheelchair and Amputee Games may not be provided with full classification panels. Training and certification of new classifiers is a priority for the future.

IWRF classifiers have continued to work in co-operation with other sports and the IPC on overall standards for classification and on general classification rules for multi-sport events such as the Paralympic Games.

Paralympic Games

Even before the successful competition at the 2004 Paralympic Games, the IWRF had begun work on ensuring the admission of Wheelchair Rugby to the 2008 Beijing Games. This work paid off with the confirmation in April of 2005 that Wheelchair Rugby would again be on the Paralympic programme.

This approval was not complete; shortly after notification of the programme, the IWRF was advised that the allocation of athletes for Beijing had been reduced to 88, from the 96 who were approved for Athens, with 11 athletes per team. As well, the IPC had changed the designation of wheelchair rugby from a mixed sport to a men's sport. Both of the changes represent a violation of the International Rules.

In discussion with the IPC, it was explained that these changes were made based on an analysis of participation in the 2004 Games. As the total allocation of 96 for Athens was not used, with some countries choosing to bring smaller squads, and as no female athletes had ever competed in Wheelchair Rugby at the Paralympic Games, the IPC felt that a change in status was justified.

This change represents a challenge to all countries involved in the sport of Wheelchair Rugby. While the IWRF is currently concentrating on developing the sport in new countries, development cannot be neglected in the currently active countries. If some of the top eight countries in the world do not have sufficient depth and participation to support bringing a full squad to the Paralympic Games, that represents a threat to the long-term future of the sport.

The IWRF has expressed its disappointment with these decisions to the IPC, and we intend to work to have them changed. If we are to achieve this, recruitment of new players in active countries, and recruitment of female players in general, must become priorities. These activities will require the support and involvement of all our member countries.

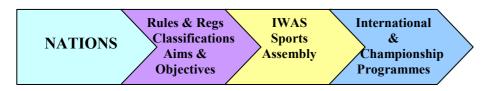
Goals

Looking to the future, the IWRF's chief goals are to continue international development and to place the Federation on more firm financial ground.

With the expected expansion of the sport into South America, the IWRF intends to strengthen competition and participation in the Americas Zone, leading to a Zone Championship in 2007. In Oceania, we intend to build on recent development activities in China to bring other Asian countries into the sport.

In the area of funding, the IWRF will continue to pursue opportunities with the IRB and to seek support from other sponsors and partners. Part of this activity will require increasing the international profile of the sport; to this end, the IWRF is establishing a web site, and looking at other opportunities to improve external communications. This will include the development of a resource package containing sport information which can be used for both development and publicity purposes.

IWAS NON PARALYMPIC PROGRAMME SPORTS



CUE SPORTS - HUANG CHUNG-JENG, CHAIRMAN

Ever since my election as Chairman of the Cue Sports Section at the end of October 2003, I have been devoting myself entirely to the development of cue sports. My hope is to establish Disabled Cue Sports Associations on every continent of the globe, under the body of IWAS, in order to further spread the development of cue sports. This year, the Cue Sports Section will look into the addition of standing events and the development of a full-fledged classification system for the events. Our hope is for IWAS to sanctify the events, after which I will petition the Asia Paralympic Committee to list Cue Sports as an official competition event in the International Paralympic Games.

The Cue Sports Section has carried out the following tasks in 2004:

- 1. The formation of the World Wheelchair Cue Sports Games organizing committee in March at Taipei.
- 2. On May 26th, Cue Sports Technical Committee member Martin Hennin came to Taiwan to inspect competition venues and hotel accommodations for athletes.
- 3. The 2nd meeting of the World Wheelchair Cue Sports Games organizing committee in July.
- 4. The 3rd meeting of the World Wheelchair Cue Sports Games organizing committee in September.
- 5. The 4th meeting of the World Wheelchair Cue Sports Games organizing committee in November
- 6. Wheelchair Cue Sports Referee Seminar in November
- 7. The holding of the 2004 World Wheelchair Cue Sports Games in December at Taipei.

LAWN BOWLS – ALF BOYLE, CHAIRMAN

Please accept this report on behalf of the Lawn Bowls Section of IWAS for presentation to the Assembly of Nations in Rio.

Since the very successful games held in New Zealand, lawn bowls for people with a disability have not enjoyed the best response from the various Word Organisations.

It was not too long ago that Lawn Bowls was omitted from the 2000 Paralympics. Next year 2006 Australia host the Commonwealth Games and again the sport of Lawn Bowls for people with disabilities has been omitted but not for able bodied lawn bowlers.

The IWAS Bi-Annual Lawn Bowls World Championship had to be cancelled for reasons beyond the control of IWAS and the Lawn Bowls Committee, and it came as a bitter blow that Rio was not able to host lawn bowls in the currant World Games.

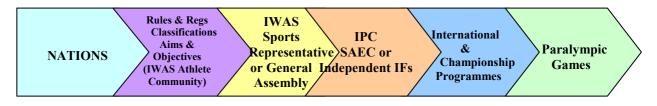
Since becoming the only true Multi-Disability Fully Integrated Lawn Bowls Competition in the world the interest shown by participating countries has grown as <u>our</u> championships now are aimed at the skill of participation within the sport and not within the disability.

It is for this reason that I have placed before the Assembly a Notice of Motion in an endeavor to address the needs of our membership who play Lawn Bowls and the need to conduct a Lawn Bowls Competition.

In seeking support for this Notice of Motion may I also take the opportunity to wish all the Delegates, Officials and participating Athletes a most wonderful and rewarding Games.

It is with deep regret that I cannot be there to enjoy the great friendship that always prevails at these IWAS World Championships and renew friendships that I have made over the years, so on behalf of the members that I have the honor to represent may I wish each and everyone success in your deliberations.

OTHER SPORTS



<u>AMPUTEE FOOTBALL AND BADMINTON – (INDEPENDENT, NON PARALYMPIC</u> <u>PROGRAMME SPORTS) - JIM FRERE, IWAS REPRESENTATIVE</u>

Amputee Football

The years 2004 and 2005 were re-building periods due to internal wranglings and serious mismanagement. Member countries who were present in Tashkent voted to dissolve IAFF at an Extraordinary General Assembly, and to reform at a later date. Throughout the re-building period, national development programmes have continued and several tournaments have been held in Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and England.

August 2005 sees the re-introduction of Amputee Football at World Championships level with the tournament taking place at the Niteroi Complex, Brazil. Prior to this tournament, the General Assembly will take place and a Rules/Constitution package will be offered for adoption (after extensive email communications between the members). An Executive Committee will also be elected.

Amputee Football continues to be introduced to different parts of the world and it is expected that the tournament in Brazil will see the first appearance of at least 2 teams from Africa.

Work is also in progress to construct an "All African Championship" in early 2006.

Badminton

Without doubt, one of the fastest growing sports, badminton for the disabled in 2004 and 2005 saw 2 major regional tournaments in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Holland. Already in 2005, we have had a major "back-to-back" events in Israel and May 27-30 saw the 7th German International being held in Dortmund at which many of the world's best players participated, using the tournament as a "warm-up" event in preparation for the forthcoming IBAD World championships being held in Chinese Taipei, October 27 – Nov 1 2006. The Dortmund tournament also saw the first appearance of players from France and Guatemala.

2005 will see the adoption of European and Asian sections of IBAD, which will greatly assist the promotion and development of the game and produce a more extensive calendar of events.

A demonstration by some of Europe's best wheelchair and standing players will be given at the "Europe Cup" in Paris in June between the quarter and semi-finals.

At this time,, I need to mention the tremendous help and assistance given by IBF during the past year. The working relationship that has been established between myself and the IBF Senior Vice President, Torsten Berg and the IBF Communications Officer, Lindsey Bell is second t none and on behalf of everyone within IBAD, I wish to offer my thanks for all their hard work and assistance.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH IPC PARALYMPIC PROGRAMME SPORTS

ARCHERY – ANN WEBB, IWAS REPRESENTATIVE

Over the last two years, Archery has achieved a number of things that have been in the plans for a long time.

- 1. FITA (the national governing body for able-bodied Archery) finally signed a memorandum of understanding with IPC. This means that disabled events will now be listed on FITA's calendar and the two organisations will co-operate to their mutual advantage. This co-operation extends to the FITA Events Manager being involved with the IPC World Championships, Archery SAEC Members writing the disabled section of the FITA coaching manuals and a general exchange of information.
- 2. The new functional classification, which was established in Sydney, is now working well and the classification committee have run seminars in a number of countries, such as I.R. Iran and Malaysia in order to have more qualified Archery classifiers around the world.
- 3. A number of new countries are beginning to develop Archery as a sport and technical and coaching seminars have also been held to assist with this.
- 4. Compound Archers have been accepted as a separate class ever since Atlanta 1996, but this class had never been accepted in the Paralympics. This year, IPC agreed to include the class in the Paralympics in Beijing without cutting down on the number of recurve Archers taking part. This is very good news as it allows more disabled Archers to take part.

Archery continues to enjoy a mutually productive relationship with IWAS and just recently, through the effort of Marco Carpignano and IWAS Secretary General, Maura Strange, we have received a strong boost to our development and training work in Italy, through the support of the Gnocchi Foundation amongst others.

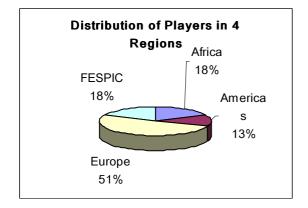
The IPC World Championships will be held in Italy immediately after the IWAS Games in Brazil. The sports Assembly will be held at that event and some minor amendments to the classification and technical rules are likely to be made there. These will be published as soon as possible afterwards.

TABLE TENNIS – LINDA CHEN, IPTTC APPOINTMENT TO IWAS

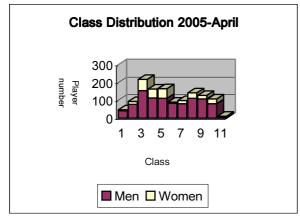
IPC has divided disabled table tennis athletes worldwide into 4 regions. As of April 1st, 2005, these athletes come from 105 countries all over the world, with 24 countries from the continent of Africa, 13 countries from the Americas, 44 countries from Europe, and 24 countries from FESPIC. 1838 men athletes and 514 women athletes have participated in

events, of which 978 men and 295 women athletes are on current ranking list as of April 2005.

Of all athletes worldwide on current ranking list as of April 2005, 155 men and 69 women are from Africa; 131 men and 37 women are from the Americas; 511 men and 140 women are from Europe; and 181 men and 49 women are from FESPIC. The percentage is Africa 16% men, 23% women, Americas 13% men, 13% women, Europe 52% men, 47% women, and FESPIC 19% men, 17% women.



Class distribution amongst disabled table tennis athletes worldwide is as follows: 42 men and 6 women in class 1; 78 men and 17 women in class 2; 156 men and 63 women in class 3; 115 men and 49 women in class 4; 112 men and 54 women in class 5; 84 men and 7 women in class 6; 81 men and 18 women in class 7; 112 men and 30 women in class 8; 109 men and 20 women in class 9; 81 men and 27 women in class 10; and 8 men and 4 women in class 11. The percentage distribution of the classes is as follows: 4% in class 1; 7% in class 2; 18% in class 3; 13% in class 4; 15% in class 5; 7% in class 6; 8% in class 7; 11% in class 8; 10% in class 9; 8% in class 10; and 1% in class 11.



Of all disabled table tennis athletes worldwide on ranking list as of April 2005, 425 men and 143 women are wheelchair players, whereas 475 men and 106 women are standing.

Disabled Table Tennis Athletes Worldwide 2005-April

Number				
Sex	Wheelchair	Standing	Total	
Men	425	475	900	
Women	143	106	249	
Total	568	581	1149	

Original data above were taken from the International Paralympic Table Tennis Committee website (http://www.ipttc.org/)

WORLD WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE GAMES



IWAS WORLD OF PEACE WHEELCHAIR & AMPUTEE GAMES RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, SEPTEMBER 2005

To date, whist writing this report, entries to the World Wheelchair & Amputee Games, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as advised by the Organising Committee, sound impressive and IWAS is pleased to hear that 47 countries will be participating across the sports of: Archery, Athletics, Cue Sports, Powerlifting, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Wheelchair Fencing and Wheelchair Rugby.

The following 5 sports will be holding clinics to start the event:

Archery	Classification Seminar
Athletics	Officials Seminar
Powerlifting	History, Working with Athletes with a Disability and Powerlifting
	Rules
Table Tennis	Theoretical and Classification Seminars
Wheelchair Rugby	Classification, Coach and Player and Referee Seminars

We have been informed by the Organising Committee in Brazil that there is great interest shown in particular from many African countries. IWAS is extremely pleased that there will be growing representation at the Games from one of the most under-developed regions.

The venues for each sporting event are as follows:

<u>Miecimo Da Silva Sports Complex</u> *Athletics, Cue Sports, Powerlifting and Table Tennis*

Naval College

Archery, Shooting, Swimming, Wheelchair Fencing and Wheelchair Rugby.

At the time of the General Assembly in Brazil and the presentation of this report, many of the athletes will have experienced a truly successful event in the beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro, and met up with old and made new friends from across the world.

IWAS Executive Board and the Organising Committee extends its sincere appreciation to the IWAS Sports, IPC and its sports on the programme, for their support of the event.

For more information, visit the Games website on www.tributetopeace.com

IWAS MEMBER COUNTRIES

ALGERIA	IRAN	POLAND
ARGENTINA	IRAQ	PORTUGAL
AUSTRALIA	IRELAND	PUERTO RICO
AUSTRIA	ISRAEL	RUSSIA
BAHRAIN	ITALY	QATAR
BARBADOS	JAPAN	SAUDI ARABIA
BELGIUM	JORDAN	SINGAPORE
BRAZIL	KENYA	SLOVAKIA
CANADA	KOREA	SLOVENIA
CHINA	KUWAIT	SOUTH AFRICA
CROATIA	LEBANON (not paid 2005 fee)	SPAIN
CYPRUS	LITHUANIA	SRI LANKA
CZECH REPUBLIC	LUXEMBOURG	SWEDEN
DENMARK	MACAU	SWITZERLAND
EGYPT	MALAYSIA	CHINESE TAIPEI
EL SALVADOR	MAURITIUS	TAJIKISTAN
FINLAND	MEXICO	THAILAND
FRANCE	MONGOLIA	TUNISIA
GERMANY	NEPAL	TURKMENISTAN
GHANA	NETHERLANDS	UAE
GREAT BRITAIN	NEW ZEALAND	UGANDA
GREECE	NIGER	UKRAINE
GUINEE	NORWAY	USA
HONG KONG, CHINA	OMAN	VENEZUELA
HUNGARY	PALESTINE	
INDIA		

Countries entered in blue = new members for ratification at time of publication Countries entered in red = not paid 2005 membership fee at time publication Countries entered in plum = not paid 2004 or 2005 membership at time of publication Countries entered in green = potential members – membership status being pursued



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