Latest News

January 2018

80 DAYS TO GO..

How time goes quickly. 80 days to go to the Opening of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

This will be my 10th Commonwealth Games and even though I have attended 9 Olympic Games, nothing matches the Commonwealth Games.

They have a unique flavour. The comradeship between athletes and officials cannot be compared to any other Games. Even though the games embraces the diversity of the five continents, the Commonwealth culture creates a bond which is unique in the sporting world. Just to give you an indication of this exceptional Commonwealth bond and just how much it is valued, the President of IWF, Dr. Tamas Ajan has not missed one games since 1978. This alone, is a testament as to the enormous significance that the Commonwealth Games has.

The weightlifting event at these Games will be brilliantly organised. Four of the top officials of the Australian Weightlifting Federation are currently working for the Organising Committee. They are Ian Moir, an official with over 25 years of experience in sports organization who is the Competition Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting Manager. The President of the Australian Weightlifting Federation, Craig Wegert is the Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting Sport Operations Manager. Bowen Stuart the AWF Manager of IT & Communications is the Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting Sport Services Manager and Linda Eades the Secretary of the NSW weightlifting association is the Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting Technical Operations Manager. Apart from these four officials, they have almost 70 volunteers looking after the sport of weightlifting to ensure that all areas of the sport run smoothly.

This year weightlifting has taken a different format. It is the first time that athletes have had to qualify to compete. It is the first time that there is only 15 lifters per category – thereby eliminating 'B' sessions. It is the first time also that there is only one lifter per country per category. It is the first time also that athletes needed to compete in IWF approved qualifying events under doping control. It is only a matter of time before we can gauge how successful this system will have turned out to be. So welcome to the Commonwealth Games and the CWF wishes every athlete a successful Games.

"Paul Coffa - CWF General Secretary "

The 40 international technical officials who will be officiating at the Commonwealth Games are:

From Asia;

Yong Joo Tom LIAW (SGP), Kumaradasa ARCHCHIGE (SRI), Mohyddin Ahmed (BAN), Sahdev YADEV (IND),Reiko CHINEN-JAP, (not sure why, Japan is not part of the Commonwealth), Poh Eng ONG (MAS), Hafiz Imran BUTT (PAK),

From Europe:

Dr Mike IRANI (ENG), Stephen DONOVAN (WAL), Heather ALLISON (ENG), Sandra SMITH (ENG), Gayle CARUANA (MLT), Denise HOFFERMANN (CYP), Nicu VLAD (ROU- AUS), Francis HETHERSON (SCO), Dominik DOERR (LUX) (not sure why-Luxemburg is not part of the Commonwealth)

From Africa:

Sayler HORST (SWZ), Dudu MOTSA (SWZ), Margareta MANADOU (CMR), John OGOLLA (KEN), Kevin Du PLOOY (RSA), Gardencia Du PLOOY (RSA),Robert ROSE (SEY), Salim Musoke SSENKUNGU (UGA), Miesa Musoke NANSIKOMBI (UGA), Aveenash PANDOO (MRI), Lawrence IQUAIBOM (NGR),

From Pan-America, Don Mc NEILL (CAN),

From Oceania:

Della SHAW (FIJ), Alan TANO (NIU), Sheeva COOK (NRU), Garry MARSHALL (NZL), Keisha-Dean SOFFE (NZL),
Dr Moni KAMI (TGA)

From the host country Australia:

Jennifer SANCHEZ, Debra KEELAN, Lilly COFFA, Danielle WALLER, Mary MACKEN, Philip MAUNDER, Dr Danielle BARWOOD..

CWF ELECTORAL CONGRESS

The Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation will hold its Electoral Congress at the Gold Coast on April 4th at 08:30 The venue for the Congress is Gold Coast Sports and Leisure Centre (the Commonwealth Games Weightlifting Venue). All affiliated countries who have paid their membership fees will be eligible to attend and vote. Those countries who have not paid their affiliation fees, can pay their membership fees at the registration desk in the morning, prior to the meeting. The fees are USD$100 for four years.

SEPTEMBER -ASHGABAT- AIMAG

For the first time the region of Oceania was invited to compete at the 5th AIMAG – A**sian Indoor Martial Arts Games** – which were held in the incredible city of Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. This was truly an experience. The facilities for all sports in Ashgabat were outstanding. Given the wonderful sports facilities and excellent accommodation, Turkmenistan can run international games at a moments notice.

Many officials and athletes alike, commented that they had never seen sporting facilities as good as what they saw in Ashgabat. The athletes village was incredible. Clean, spacious and without doubt, probably the best at any games. The volunteers played a major part in assisting with the smooth running of the games. They were friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.

The weightlifting stage in Ashgabat

Eileen Cikamatana-Fiji, Gold Medal

Apolonia Vaivai-Fiji,Silver

13 Commonwealth countries took part. The counties attending were: Sri Lanka, Fiji, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Samoa, Australia, Kiribati, Bangladesh, Solomon Islands, Pakistan, Tonga and the Cook Islands. The weightlifting event was magnificent. Ms. Jaquie White from Australia, did a great job as the Manager of the Weightlifting Event. The performances of some of the Commonwealth lifters, in some categories, were quite outstanding. Eileen Cikamatana (Fiji) won gold in the 90kg category and was the only gold medallist from all sports from the Commonwealth countries.. She established 3 Commonwealth Senior and 3 Commonwealth Junior records. Eileen snatched 111kg and clean & jerked 142kg for a 253kg total.

One silver medal was also won by another Fijian lifter Apolonia Vaivai (Fiji) in the 69kg category setting a new Oceania Senior record in the snatch of 105kg. A bronze medal was won by Sipaia Luniara (Samoa) in the +90kg category.

OCTOBER - UGANDA

Salim Musoke -President Uganda Weightlifting

From the 7th to the 16th of October in Entebbe -Uganda, the African Junior and Youth Championships took place. This was also a recognised qualification event for the Commonwealth Games for members of the Commonwealth. There were some excellent results with quite a few commonwealth countries taking part. The countries from the Commonwealth were South Africa, Ghana, Botswana, Mauritius, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda. The Uganda Weightlifting Federation also ran a coaching course prior to the Championships. The Championships and coaching course was organised by Salim Musoke, the 1st Vice President of the African Weightlifting Federation, Executive Board Member of the CWF and President of the Uganda Weightlifting Federation. Congratulations Salim on an excellent tournament and coaching course.

OCTOBER -PAPUA NEW GUINEA:

Sir John Dawanincura was re-elected as President of the PNG Weightlifting Federation. Sir John also is the President of the PNG Olympic Committee and Vice President of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation. The CWF wishes Sir John continued success.

OCTOBER - TUVALU : Iona Talavai has returned to weightlifting and has once again been elected to the position of President of the Tuvalu Weightlifting Federation. Due to work commitments, Talavai needed to take some time away from the sport. But we are very glad that he is now back and the CWF wishes him all the very best for his term of office.

NOVEMBER - 2017 SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

India you did it again! What a champion you have produced in Chanu Saikhom Mirabai. She is just simply magnificent. Young Chanu won the 48kg category at the recent World Championships held in Anaheim USA. She won gold in the total, gold in the clean & jerk and a silver medal in the snatch. The CWF is truly proud of this young athlete. Congratulations to the Indian Weightlifting Federation President Birendra Prasad Baishya, the Secretary General, Sahdev Yadev and the whole weightlifting fraternity of India.To you Chanu Saikhom Mirabai the CWF salutes you. A splendid performance and we hope that you repeat it at the 2020 Olympics. Before that we look forward to see you at the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in three months time.

Chanu Saikhom Mirabai -

Also Laurel Hubbard the +90kg category, champion weightlifter from New Zealand, made history when she became the first woman from Oceania to win a World Senior Championships medal. Laurel won a silver medal in the snatch with a lift of 124kg and a silver medal in the total with 275kg.

Laurel Hubbard – New Zealand

Laurel is now the hot favourite to win the Gold medal in the +90 kg category at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games to be held at the Gold Coast from the 4th April to 15th April. Many Commonwealth countries took part in the World Championships in Anaheim. Ghana, Great Britain, Fiji, Malaysia, Cyprus, Uganda, India, Canada, Cameroon, New Zealand and South Africa.

NOVEMBER -BARBADOS INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT

The 2017 Phillips & Springer Classic hosted by the Barbados Amateur Weightlifting Association (BAWA) and under the auspices of the Barbados Olympic Association (BOA) was held on the 25th November. The tournament turned out to be a great success with excellent results. And already patrons and athletes are looking forward to another edition of the Phillips & Springer Classic this year 2018. One of the highlights of the tournament was the appearance of guest lifter, Luisa Peters from the Cook Islands. It was reported that Luisa's participation made the event that much more successful. Other international lifters competing came from Guyana. This is the second international tournament held in Barbados.

Congratulations to Andrew Callender, the President of BAWA and to Shelley Griffiths, the Secretary General. One week prior to the event, a coaching and technical course was conducted which was very well attended.

DECEMBER -VANUATU -PACIFIC MINI GAMES

WHAT AN EVENT IT TURNED OUT TO BE !

The crowd, the atmosphere, the lifters performances the organisation, the technical officials, transport accommodation, equipment. **It was a magnificent event**. The television coverage was superb, thanks to the New Caledonia television crew.
We reached almost 90 countries through the web streaming with thousands watching. Commonwealth senior records were broken, Oceania senior records were broken, Pacific Games records were re-written. It was also great to see that the +105kg lifter from Samoa, reached the magic 400kg total. Most of the flag bearers at the Opening Ceremony were weightlifters, which gives you an idea of the popularity and success of weightlifting in the Pacific Islands. Regional countries of the Commonwealth attending these games were: Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Cook Islands, Samoa, Tuvalu, Fiji, Vanuatu, Niue, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati and Nauru.

There was doubt, at one point, that the games would even go ahead when Vanuatu was hit by a massive cyclone almost 12 months earlier. But go ahead it did. With Government support and the support of the Vanuatu people and just as important the Pacific Games Council and the Vanuatu NOC.

OWF PRESIDENT CLOSES GAMES:

The President of the OWF and President of the Nauru Olympic Committee, the Hon. Marcus Stephen, officially closing the Pacific Mini Games. Marcus is also the Vice President of the Pacific Games Council. He is the most decorated athlete in the Pacific region, winning 7 Commonwealth Games Gold medals and 5 Silver medals. Marcus also won 12 Gold medals at Pacific Games plus a world championship medal.

Standing behand Marcus at the closing ceremony is Mr Andrew Minogue the CEO of the Pacific Games Council.

DECEMBER- ROME

Jesmond Caruana -President Malta Weightlifting Federation

During the 1V European Union Cup held in Rome on the 16th of December, at the Electoral Congress of the European Union Weightlifting Confederation, Jesmond Caruana was elected President of the EUWC. The General Secretary elected was Giuseppe Minissale from Italy, whilst the First Vice President was Jaksa Ivanisevic from Croatia.

Jesmond is the President of the Malta Weightlifting Federation and Executive Board Member of the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation. Jesmond on behalf of the CWF we wish you a great and successful term of office. You deserve this position. You put so much of your time in the development of weightlifting.

OTHER NEWS

Australia: Mr. Craig Wegert, a former weightlifter and very respected official, has now been elected the new President of the Australian Weightlifting Federation at their recent Executive Board Meeting held in Sydney. The CWF wishes Craig a very successful term of office.

New President for Vanuatu Weightlifting: During the CWF General Secretary visit to Vanuatu in the month of November, a meeting was held with the Vanuatu Weightlifting Federation and a new interim President was selected until the next general meeting of the federation. Mr. Williams Worworkon is the new interim President, whilst the General Secretary stays with Henry Tavoa.

Botswana Mr Joseph Mathambo is the new President of Botswana Weightlifting Federation. The Secretary General is Mr Alex K. Rankgwe . The CWF wishes Joseph and its new Board a very successful term of office.

India At the recent election of the Indian Weightlifting Federation Mr. Birendra Prasad Baishya was once again re-elected President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation. The Secretary General is once again Mr Sahdev Yadav. The CWF wishes both gentlemen a very successful term of office including its Executive Board.

SIR JOHN DAWANINCURA AWARDED BY ANOC

At the recent ANOC Annual General Assembly (Association of National Olympic Committees) held in Prague, in front of 206 National Olympic Committees and representatives from International Federations, Sir John Dawanincura, President of the PNG Weightlifting Federation and President of the PNG Olympic Committee, received the **MERIT AWARD** for his outstanding service to sport and the Olympic movement. The award was presented by the IOC President, Thomas Bach and the ANOC President, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahad Al-Ahmed Al -Sabah. Sir John, has been involved with sport for over forty-five years. Over the many years, Sir John has served on the Boards of ANOC, ONOC, Pacific Games Council, and the Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation.

Sir John Dawanincura with the IOC President Thomas Bach

Paul Coffa MBE
CWF Secretary General

TOUCHDOWN TOURS

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