

INTERNATIONAL POWERLIFTING FEDERATION

President's Report

Presented to the Congress, Vejle, Denmark

4 November 2003

It is now four years when I was elected IPF President at the Congress 1999 in Trento, Italy, and this means that it is time to draw up the balance for this period. Many important steps have been done to make the IPF a worldwide-recognized organization, which need not fear to be compared with others. The IPF is the only member for Powerlifting in the GAISF, the General Association of International Sports Federations, and is also representing Powerlifting at the World Games, the Olympic Games of the Non-Olympic Sports.

In the moment the IPF has about 90 member nations on all five continents (the exact number will be announced during the congress), a number that is be far enough for becoming an IOC recognized sport. Unfortunately changes at the head of the IOC - Juan Manuel Samaranch was followed as IOC-President by Dr. Jacques Rogge - have so far prevented Powerlifting from being accepted, because the new president has his own ideas as to the criteria for recognition. Certainly a lot of the so far recognized federations will lose their membership in this elite circle, others, to be hoped including Powerlifting, will be affiliated.

And the IPF is still working on that: I am in permanent contact with Ron Froehlich who is the President of the IWGA (International World Games Association) as well as of the IRSF (IOC Recognized Sports Federations). We are completing a brochure about „Powerlifting – A Sport For Every Body“ and preparing a five minutes video tape with highlights of our sport. Both enclosures will complete the official letter for acknowledgement to the IOC when we get the signal to make our application.

IOC recognition is a very important issue because it is connected with public reputation and financial benefit but it does not consequently mean that Powerlifting has to become a part of the Olympic Programm. The only chance is if we can convince the Olympic people by an impressive performance at the World Games, which they see as a show-window for possible new Olympic sports, and by a blameless behaviour what we still try to do.

The IPF practises a strict anti-doping policy. We have signed a contract with WADA (World Anti Doping Agency) to carry on Out of Competition Tests especially in countries with positive doping cases. An anti-doping passport shall help to register the testing of lifters who compete at international level. And the number of tests at World Championships can from now on be increased thanks to a broad-minded offer by the IOC lab in Cologne.

Furthermore the IPF has now a new Constitution & By-Laws as it is needed for a modern sports federation. Thanks to Detlev Albrings, who did the main work and who has now established as a perfect successor for the resigned Heiner Koeberich as IPF General Secretary. After some years of un-known status the IPF is now officially registered in Austria. The „International Powerlifter“, edited by Dennis J. Unitt, has become the official magazine of the IPF, containing the bi-monthly IPF-Newsletter.

The number of sponsors has increased as well as the willingness of our member federations to pay their membership fee since Gaston Parage has taken over the duty of the treasurer. There is no one anymore who dares not to pay. Thank you, Gaston! The good financial situation has enabled the IPF to take over the travelling costs for the EC members twice a year i.e. at the World Championships for Women and for Men what helped to get a by far better communication within the EC.

Last year after 19 years absence the IPF come back to America with the Masters Bench Press World Championship in Killeen, Texas, followed this year by the Women's Worlds in Chicago. This fulfilled yet another promise I made to the IPF Congress 1999 in Trento when I was for the first time elected. I am also pleased to remark that Larry Maile, IPF Vice President North America and newly elected USAPL President, has started talks with AAU, USPF and other powerlifting organizations to find ways to cooperate and use their respective synergies. It would be great to see Powerlifting in the USA grow together.

The World Championships for Men in Vejle, Denmark, as two years before the Worlds in Sotkamo, Finland, will have a copious TV coverage with attendance of the Danish TV televising the highlights on every of the five days of competition and Saturday as well as Sunday two hours live. Besides that also Eurosport confirmed to broadcast a one-hour summary to all their 68 connected countries in 18 different languages and the daily highlights for use in Eurosport-News. A big chance to make Powerlifting known better.

This year was a hard one for me because of my sickness that forced me to stay in hospital two and later on four weeks within less than three months. But during this time I was happy to see that the other EC members worked pretty well and showed that the president does not necessarily need to interfere in every matter. My thanks go to Arnulf Wahlström, Gaston Parage, Detlev Albrings, Larry Maile, Robert Wilks, Alan Ferguson und Susumu Yoshida.

Now I have completely recovered and also put some private and business things in order. So I am ready for re-election as IPF President and I would like to do that with the same team as in the past four years.

Norbert Wallaich
IPF President

