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Issue 1 2011

**TAEKWON-DO TALK MAGAZINE**  
World Champs Exclusive Edition





***ROBERT MELEISEA***









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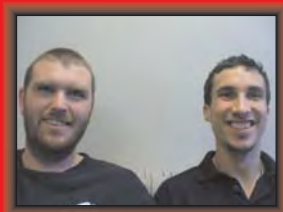
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



### Master Evan Davidson

VII Dan, President

On behalf of everyone in ITFNZ I wish to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to the organising team and the many volunteers of the biggest martial arts event ever to be staged in New Zealand, the 17th Senior and 11th Junior ITF World Championships.

Our organising team, headed by Mr Nick Lourantos, had only 3 years to put this World Champs together. They obtained full support from the Wellington City Council and SPARC and many other Sponsors. This hard working team is listed below. Their commitment and preparation was immense, which even included travelling to Argentina to observe the 2009 World Champs for inspiration, ideas, problem solving and other procedural processes.

I again would like to acknowledge the hard work given by all the other volunteer staff i.e. ITFNZ Taekwon-Do people, families, and friends who gave up their free time to assist the organisers and to ensure the championships went smoothly and ran in a timely manner.

ITFNZ has set a high standard and is now the benchmark for all World Champs to follow. This high standard was not only shown during the competition days but also in the 'Meet', 'Greet' and 'Farewell' of the visiting teams, the umpires, the officials, the VIP's and included accommodation and visitors being well looked after whilst in the host country.

To not only present a magnificent ITF Taekwon-Do World Champs but to also win the medal count as the 'Top Nation' is the icing on the cake. Thank you and well done to everyone involved.

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# 2011 WORLD CHAMPS - SHOWING THE WORLD

by **Mr Doug Hanna** ITFNZ Official Photographer & Reporter

At the end of the 2009 World Champs in Mar Del Plata, Argentina, I really thought that coming second overall with the huge tally of 32 medals was the best New Zealand could possibly do. It was an amazing achievement, setting many records for NZ Taekwon-Do and showed that we'd made a steady rise over the preceding years to get to this enviable position. Countries like Poland were surprised and rather taken aback. After all, Argentina and Poland had dominated the leaderboard for some time.

Because the 2011 World Champs were to be held in New Zealand, the cost of attending was considerably lower for the Kiwis than the usual \$5,000 or so budget needed per competitor for overseas attendance, so we had a record number of trialists... about 80. This was an opportunity and a challenge, but overall it meant that we could select the best performing athletes available without being limited by their personal budgets.

However, despite this advantage, there were a number of challenges facing the New Zealand Team.

Our Junior team in Argentina for 2009 was mature, with many who had performed in Honduras in 2006 and again in Canada in 2007. However, quite a few turned 18 to become seniors and after the trials it looked like overall our junior team lacked the numbers and experience to pull many medals.

A massive challenge was the sudden passing of the team's head coach Mr Dave Ballard in September 2010. The whole NZ Taekwon-Do community was knocked back by this with his own students and his mates, the management team of Mr Mike Yates and Mr Richard Burr hit very hard as well. As a result, the management changed with Mr Steve Pellow taking the reins of head coach and Ms Angela Barltrop as manager. Mr Lawrence Mantjika and Mr Matthew Breen were our assistant coaches.

Another challenge was the time of year. A March tournament meant that our traditional Christmas holidays upset the training routines less than three months out from the event. Because northern hemisphere countries only take a short mid-winter break over Christmas, they



The New Zealand Team arriving in Wellington

had an advantage. Consequently, we only had two full team camps in the last three months of the campaign, one in January and another in February.

On Saturday 12th March the team assembled in Wellington, with only three full days remaining until the event began. Because we usually travel for up to 30 hours and arrive about a week before the event to get over jet lag and acclimatise, it gives time for the team to knit. Everyone travels in the team tracksuits, and we watch out for each other. With the event in Wellington this build-up didn't occur and it wasn't really until the Sunday afternoon training at Wellington College when everyone donned their tracksuits and lined the footpath with 60 of us (including coaches and some supporters) that we had that team feeling back.

Over the next few days we ran into more and more competitors from other countries as they arrived with their nice bright tracksuits, and wandered the streets exploring Wellington.

Wellington was a wonderful place for the tournament. The only transport teams needed was getting from the airport and once in town everything you could want was within walking distance. I've been going to World Champs since 2006 and this was my first experience of not needing buses to get to and from the venue. This added a very convenient element and a nice feel

to the place and the tournament.

The team trained lightly at the venue on Monday morning and again Tuesday and before we knew it we were on the eve of the first day of the World Champs.

## Day 1 – Opening Ceremony and Junior Individual Events

This is the first World Champs I've been to where the opening ceremony was at the start of the event... before the competition got under way. It sounds logical but not something that has been done since 1994 in Malaysia. We think the competitors in particular enjoyed this approach, rather than having to come back in the evening later in the week plus it was a nice way to get the event underway.

The Opening ceremony was an uplifting event consisting of:

- A march-on of all the tournament officials.
- A march-on of the teams from each of the 42 countries in their colourful tracksuits, carrying their flag and led by a local junior member of International Taekwon-Do holding up the name of their country.
- A traditional New Zealand Maori Powhiri – ceremony of welcome. Grand Master Pablo Trajtenberg headed the delegation being welcomed. For all but the New Zealanders, this was

















something never seen before. This was followed by performances by a Maori Cultural group dancing and singing songs of welcome.

- Next a large group of young Taekwon-Do students performed a slick action-packed demonstration.
- Lastly the official opening speeches were made opening the tournament and competition got under way immediately.

After some initial familiarisation with the new systems, coaches and teams enjoyed the quick flow between the large warm up area next door and the competition floor accompanied by the ring marshalls. The warm-up hall contained large flat screen TVs streaming video of each ring and also the live draws in real time.

Something also trialled at the World Champs was the new version of the NESS scoring software, where the public (and competitors) can see the judges scores displayed on the screens during sparring. A summary also shows which competitor is leading at any time. There were mixed views as to whether this is something that should be used in the future.

Also new was that multiple events (Sparring, Patterns, Special Technique and Power) were all run at the same time in the arena. This made for a very exciting spectator event. Innovations in the areas of Power and Special Technique judging also made for fast running rings, with little delays or problems.

### Junior Individual Competition

The competition started with junior male Sparring and junior female Patterns. In the afternoon the Sparring and Patterns rings swapped from males to females, keeping up the efficiency of the rings and officials and avoiding reconfiguring rings. This was repeated the next day for the seniors.

The juniors dominated in Power Breaking and Special Technique but also did very credibly in Patterns and Sparring.

In male and female Power Breaking Kiwis won gold and silver in both male and female events:

Jason Teio – Gold

Kara Timmer – Gold

Hamish Duncan – Silver

Patrina Guptill – Silver

Then in Special Technique Kara Timmer picked up her second gold which earned her the Best Overall Junior Female.

Matthew Chan – Gold

Kara Timmer – Gold

Sparring has in the past been New Zealand's biggest challenge, as the Europeans tend to emphasise sparring over all the other disciplines plus have the advantage of multiple European tournaments to compete in each year. However, this year we can be really proud of our sparring results.



Above: NZ Junior Team members Jason Teio, Patrina Guptill and Kara Timmer





Scenes from the opening ceremony



Ethan Parker – Silver

Michael Davis – Silver

Robert Meleisea – Bronze

Paige Moki – Bronze

Phillipa Henry – Bronze

In patterns we achieved one silver and two bronze medals.

Matthew Chan - 1st Dan – Silver

Ethan Parker - 2nd Dan – Bronze

Paige Moki - 1st Dan – Bronze

It was great to see so many junior medal winners. Kara, Matthew, Ethan and Paige all won two medals and amazingly we had some major achievements from competitors for whom this was their

first World Champs event. In my humble opinion it's difficult to achieve this when you haven't experienced the anxiety, pressure, noise and high level of competition at a World Champs before. First time medalling competitors included both a gold and silver for Matthew Chan (a record for a first timer), a gold for Jason Teio, a silver for Patrina Guptill and a bronze for Robert Meleisea.

We finished the day amazed with having achieved 4 gold, 5 silver and 5 bronze medals and the leading country in the medal stakes - something we'd never achieved before. To compare with our record breaking performance in Argentina in 2009 this was almost half the total tally of 32 medals we achieved back then and yet we'd only finished one of the four



Above: NZ Junior Team members Matthew Chan, Ethan Parker and Michael Davis

Phillipa Henry in action







Matthew Chan



Hamish Duncan

days of competition. We were thinking that the seniors have got a challenge to maintain this high success rate. We went to bed wondering how they'd perform in comparison.

## Senior Individual Competition

Day 2 of competition. We needn't have worried. The seniors defeated the world in events across all disciplines.

### Gold medalists

Carl van Roon won gold in both Special Technique and heavy-weight Sparring. Whilst achieving his 5th consecutive world championship in Special Technique (2003 Poland, 2005 Germany, 2007 Canada, 2009 Argentina and 2011) covering almost a decade, he has now achieved New Zealand's first Sparring World Champion, coming from 3rd in 2007, 2nd in 2009 and now first in 2011. With these two golds he achieved the Grand Champion award for the second consecutive time. Carl plans to retire from Special Technique now and focus on his Sparring.

Luke Thompson won gold in Power achieving his 3rd consecutive World Championship (in 2005 Germany he won silver, then gold in 2007 Canada, 2009 Argentina and again in 2011).

Jeremy Hanna won his second consecutive 3rd Dan Patterns World Championship and this, his first year as a senior. (As a junior: gold in 2009 Argentina, 2nd Dan silver in 2007 Canada). In 2009 he drew the Best Overall Junior Male competitor.



Carolina Dillen

Carolina Dillen won her second consecutive World Championship for 1st Dan Patterns (2007 Canada bronze, 2009 Argentina gold and 2011 gold). She also won silver in 52-58kg Sparring – the best result ever for New Zealand Senior Female Sparring. In 2009 she drew the Best Overall Female.

Both Jeremy and Carolina also won gold medals in these events at the 2008 World Cup in Italy.

### Silver medalists

Well we did very well achieving silver medals in Sparring, Patterns and Special Technique (with bronze in Power).

Mark Trotter – Male -54kg Sparring – silver (2009 Argentina bronze)



Jeremy Hanna



Luke Thompson

Carolina Dillen – Female 52-58kg Sparring – silver (2009 Argentina bronze, 2008 Italy World Cup silver)

Christopher Broughton – Male 1st Dan Patterns – silver (2009 Argentina gold)

Dane Canton – Male 2nd Dan Patterns – silver (and his first World Champs)

Sandi Legg – Female Special – silver

### Bronze medalists

Amy Reeder – Female 64-70kg Sparring – bronze

Courtney Meleisea – Female 58-63kg – Sparring – bronze

Melissa Timperley – Female 3rd Dan Patterns – bronze



Carl van Roon





Mark Trotter



Chris Broughton



Sandi Legg



Amy Reeder



Dane Canton

## Coaching, Management and Selectors

### Coaching Team

*Coach selection by Mrs Lena and Mr Ian Walton*

Late Mr Dave Ballard – previous head coach

Mr Steve Pellow – head coach

Mr Lawrence Mantjika – assistant coach

Mr Matthew Breen – assistant coach

### Management Team

Ms Angela Baltrop – manager

Mrs Sandra Meleisea – assistant manager

Previous management team –

Mr Mike Yates, Mr Richard Burr and Ms Tanya Katene

### Selectors

Mr Steve Pellow

Mrs Lena Walton

Master Paul McPhail



Melissa Timperley







# COURTNEY MELEISE

Amanda Cleland – Female Power Breaking (2009 Argentina bronze).

New Zealand sparring is now firmly printed on the world map with our seniors taking 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 senior bronze medals. For a country that at the last World Champs broke records achieving 1 silver and 2 bronze medals – we have come a long way. And with 2 silver and 3 bronzes from our juniors we have the talent to maintain this rising position.

So, at the end of the individual competitions New Zealand was again leading the country medal table with 9 gold, 10 silver and 9 bronze medals (28 medals) and we still have team events to go.

Friday was a well-earned day of rest for the competitors while the officials attended the ITF Congress.

## Junior Team Events

Saturday morning welcomed junior teams to perform. We won 5 of the 9 gold medals. It was so exciting.

### Gold medals

Female Junior Team Special Technique - Paige Moki, Kara Timmer, Samantha Young, Phillipa Henry.

Female Junior Team Power Breaking - Kara Timmer, Patrina Guptill, Uma Goodyer, Phillipa Henry.

Male Junior Team Patterns - Mitchell Leong, Ethan Parker, Ryan McNie, Matthew Chan, Hunter Edwards.

Male Junior Team Power Breaking - Mitchell Craig, Corey Hunter, Ethan Parker, Aramai Tahau, Jason Teio, Hamish Duncan.

Female Junior Team Sparring - Uma Goodyer, Patrina Guptill, Phillipa Henry, Paige Moki, Vanshika Sudhakar, Kara Timmer.

### Silver medals

Female Junior Team Patterns - Paige Moki, Phillipa Henry, Vanshika Sudhakar, Kara Timmer, Samantha Couling.

Male Junior Team Special Technique - Aramai Tahau, Matthew Chan, Hamish Duncan, Jason Teio, Ethan Parker.

Our junior teams achieved Best Overall for both male and female teams and we finished day three well ahead on the leader board.

*I have no words to express my gratefulness for all the hospitality and efficiency of this Wonderful World Championships done in New Zealand!*

*Many many thanks for your dedication and super job!*

*Best regards, Pablo Trajtenberg  
President ITF*

## Senior Team Events

Day 4, Sunday, and the last day of competition. Today we have senior team events and the closing ceremony. Would we continue our success and become the best overall country for the first time ever? Well the seniors took it up a notch winning 6 of the 9 gold medals on offer.

### Gold medals

Male Senior Team Power Breaking - Luke Thompson, Stuart Maden, Clint King, Kane Baigent, Brendan Doogan, Shane Black.

Female Senior Team Power Breaking - Kristy Leong, Nikki Galpin, Amanda Cleland, Alisa Parker.

Male Senior Team Special Technique - Carl van Roon, Shane Black, Jeremy Hanna, Clint King, Mark Trotter, Kane Baigent.

Female Senior Team Special - Sandi Legg, Estelle Speirs, Nikki Galpin, Amy Reeder.

Pre-Arranged Sparring - Mark Trotter and Luke Thompson – 2nd time World Champions (2007 Canada gold, 2008 Italy world cup gold, 2009 Argentina silver, 2011 gold).

Male Senior Team Patterns - Shane Black, Matthew Breen (Coach), Christopher Broughton, Jeremy Hanna, Mark Trotter, Carl van Roon.





Paige Moki

Just back home after a 35 hours trip and would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you once more for a fantastic organised WC 2011.

Everything has been great from the arrival to the departure, hotels, sport stadium , hospitality etc.

You have set an example for the future events to be organised.

Once more many many compliments!!!

Yours in Taekwon-Do

**GM Willem Jacob Bos**  
ITF Board Director

### Bronze medals

Female Senior Team Patterns - Kristy Leong, Courtney Meleisea, Alisa Parker, Melissa Timperley, Amy Reeder, Carolina Dillen.

### Other NZ Team Members

These NZ team members didn't feature in the medals but made a great contribution to the depth and breadth of our team. Look out for them in future!

### Senior

Alex Couling, Clint King, Estee Speirs, Michael Onland.

### Junior

Jamie Searle, Joshua Campbell, Joshua Jamieson, Matthew Brunton, Mitchell Craig, Riley Phillips-Harris, Sarah Jackson, Samantha Couling, Simon Davis.

It was a great day to be a New Zealander! We'd heard our national anthem for one third of all medal ceremonies over the length of the event. We can be very proud of our team, coaches and management for such an amazing performance.

The closing ceremony highlight was the announcement and presentation of the 9th degree for Master Lan from Germany. A very special moment for everyone that witnessed this most popular Instructor becoming a Grand Master!



Amanda Cleland



Carl van Roon





## Records Broken

Sitting down talking about the event afterwards we believe we've broken these records for New Zealand's performance:

First time NZ Best Country overall.

First time a single country has won all four best overall team awards.

First 2 x best senior male overall twice in a row – Carl van Roon.

Carl van Roon – NZ's first ever Sparring World Champion.

Luke Thompson – 3 consecutive times PowerWorld Champion.

Carl van Roon - 5 consecutive times World Champion senior male Special Technique – the most times anyone has been a consecutive undefeated World Champion.

Mark Trotter and Luke Thompson - first 2 x World Champions for senior Pre-arranged (this event was introduced in 2006).

Junior Female - First ever NZ Team Sparring World Champions.

Most gold medals for a NZ team – 20 - (possibly the most for any team ever but I lack enough historical statistics to check this. Previous best 13 gold in 2009 Argentina).

Most medals for NZ team – 42 – 18.5% of the medals (previous best 2009 Argentina– 32).

Possibly the best organised and run World Champs tournament.

First time 5 x rings free video streaming.

First time immediate publishing of results on twitter and official website.

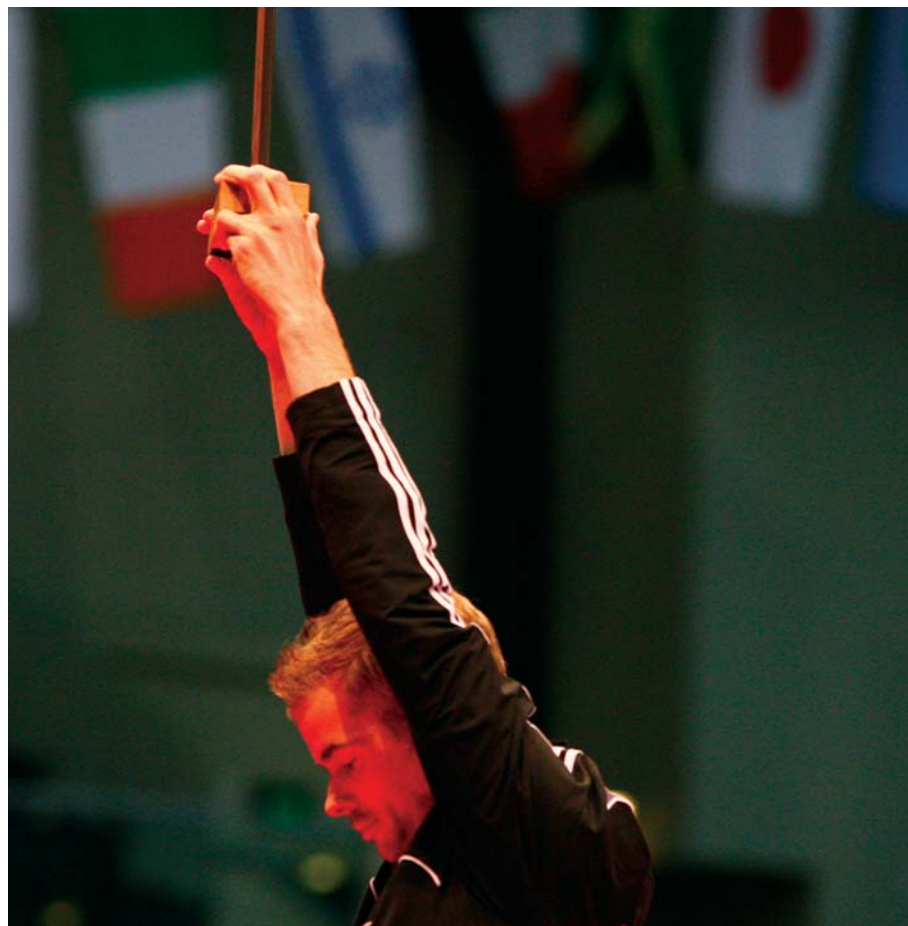
## Innovations

Being Kiwis, we wanted to show the world how good a job we could do and so there were many innovations contributing to this event including:

- Running the World Champs as a separate company with a Board of Directors including independent directors.
- Having a venue that is walking distance from all accommodation.
- Having Country and VIP liaison Teams to a higher level than in the past.
- Having our own passport stamp and meeting people at the immigration counter.

- Getting the registrations information correct (they were cross-checked with the ITF database).
- Photo ID with bar codes.
- Having the draw published on the website before the event started.
- Getting 4 full days of competition.
- Improving the travel and accommodation processes.
- Improving and speeding up the weigh-in.
- Having a proper warm up area.
- Having ring marshals.
- Keeping the competition area relatively clear.
- Running the event on time.
- New innovative breaking machines.
- Looking after the umpires and officials to a new level.
- Trained NESS helpers.
- Getting the flags and anthems correct.
- Publishing official results immediately during the event.





ITF's new 9th degree – Grand Master Lan

## Overall Awards

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
New Zealand	20	12	10	42
Argentina	9	3	13	25
Poland	8	13	8	29


And scooped for the first time ever for any country all of the best team awards. Here's what the best overall awards looked like:

Top Country	New Zealand	
Senior Male Individual	New Zealand	Carl van Roon
Senior Female Individual	Russia	Ekaterina Kozlachkova
Senior Male Team	New Zealand	
Senior Female Team	New Zealand	
Junior Male Individual	Poland	Michal Wieleba
Junior Female Individual	New Zealand	Kara Timmer
Junior Male Team	New Zealand	
Junior Female Team	New Zealand	



# WORLD CHAMPIONS!

by Miss Alisa Parker



As a team we had put in the hard work; months of training, numerous Taupo camps and the astounding support and consolidation of each and every one of us to get through one of our toughest campaigns.

For many of us this was not our first time competing at a World Champs, but I'm sure I would not be alone in saying that this was the one that meant the most. We didn't just have the advantage of not enduring long hours of flight, but we also had more of an anticipation to succeed as we were competing in our own country. It was an honour and privilege to be wearing the New Zealand fern and flag in our own country, and in front of family and friends. Most of all it was to honour a friend and New Zealand Coach, Mr Ballard.

Arrived in Wellington on the Sunday; great weather and it was fantastic to catch up with the rest of the team and parents. An organised team training was held at the Wellington Girls College, this being the first whole team training since the last Taupo camp. As we walk en masse to the school, a wave of black team apparel looks like a formidable sight. Everyone gets into the training mode, parents on the sideline, Doug (Hanna) snapping away on his camera and the Coaches, watching, discussing and giving feedback to team members.

The nerves had really set in by the next day, as we headed over to the TSB Stadium for our scheduled training. I find entering the venue for the first time upon arrival, is when it all really hits you. It's the final realism of what all the previous months of training were for, but also the excitement of doing what you love and to have reached this high-level competing as one of the country's top athletes.

Getting closer - the day before tournament, weigh-in day. This was absolutely well organised, and from the experience of

being put through long waits at previous World Champs, this was bliss. We were all in and out within 20 minutes, and everyone remarkably making their weights. The rest of the day was for our leisure, to relax, reflect and focus; and a little retail-therapy never did any harm. That night, and each night before competition, as per tradition my Mum and I lent our services of braiding the female team's hair.

The four competition days were some of the most exciting, heart-stopping and emotional we've experienced. The atmosphere throughout the tournament was very lively. The roar of the crowd; the feeling of excitement surging around the stadium as teams were chanting and yelling, and the ear-piercing sound of the New Zealand drums and horns.

The juniors delivered an exceptional start, they completely blew us away. Although I got the impression that the new juniors were nervous and overwhelmed, we all had faith that after the hard work they had put into their training, they would do their best and make us proud. They surely did! As for those who were competing for the last time as juniors, they displayed what I believe was their best World Champs performance, leading the way for aspiring future young juniors.



Following their success, we seniors were so overjoyed and were that much more determined to maintain the standard. There was so much excitement during the senior competition as there were so many moments of sheer excellence. For those medalling for their first time as seniors, it was a total adrenaline rush and the feeling of wanting to burst out with excitement and share how proud you were of your achievement. It was a highlight to witness the supremacy of athletes and World Champions at their best; bearing the intense pressure but to come out with the sense of accomplishment, joy, and pride for themselves and their country. This tournament will leave lasting memories. I have achieved my first senior World Champs medals, one being in Senior Team Patterns which has been a long-time desire. Another was witnessing the proud moments of my brother Ethan's willpower and determination in winning his first individual medals and his leadership as Junior Male Team Captain.

Thank you very much to the organisers, committee, and helpers; the tournament was a great success, it ran so smoothly. You've certainly set the benchmark for future World Champs. Huge congratulations and thank you to our Coaches, Instructors, and the amazing parents/supporters and of course the No.1 Team in the World, NEW ZEALAND!!

I have just come back from a trip to the South island and I have read all these past mails thinking again and again how lucky I have been to be part of it all. What follows are a couple of lines from the random German girl who found her way into the midst of a really great and dedicated bunch of people and who thus was able to not only to experience a week of world class TKD, but also the warmth, welcoming, friendliness, kindness,... that makes out the TKD-kiwi :-).



This stranger happens to be me.

There are a number of people I'd really like to thank personally, but I also want to say "Thank you" to everyone I've met in Hamilton, Wellington and now Auckland and who has helped me to feel a little less lost and much more part of the team.

Right at the beginning of my trip, my first little challenge arose when Christchurch was hit by the terrible quake and I found myself 'stranded' in Auckland... not for long at all though, only after a couple of mails I was on my way to spend wonderful days and became great friends with David Blackwell and Charlotte Blair. Thank you so much guys!!!

I was also able to up-date with Andrew Niven who had put me in contact with Chris Blackford in the first place as well as with John Matsuoka who kindly offered to stay with him and his family for my last two days. My great thanks to all of you!

After a long and "once-only" time on the overnight bus south to Wellington, I was picked up by Penny Darwin and then very kindly looked after for over a week having a place to stay during the competitions. Thank you and your family.

I strongly agree that this event has been amazingly well-organised and, being a member of the volunteers, that it "came into flow" better and better every day as we all started to see where help was needed and how it all worked.

The weighing-in was definitely impressive and one of the fastest and smoothest I have experienced so far!

I thought Monday, Wednesday and Thursday were quite long, but the volunteers were well looked after and even catered for - and Chris made sure his team was happy and working at its best! The day off on Friday was appreciated by everyone and it made it a lot easier to be back for the team events on Saturday and Sunday - when, due to the rocketing numbers of volunteers, I could spend some "quality time" with my brother and the German team as well.

Furthermore, I thought it was great how New Zealand's Maori culture was integrated in both the opening and the closing ceremony, one of the funniest moments of the Sunday turned out to be at the hotel where the German team was staying when our guys showed their own interpretation of the 'haka' after dinner :-). good times.

All in all, I am very glad and thankful for my opportunity to travel all this way to such a great country, to get to know amazing people and I will remember it for a very long time!

I hope we stay in touch - anyone heading to Germany, give me a mail and maybe some days notice :-)

Thanks a lot, take care!!!

**Sabrina Brumme**





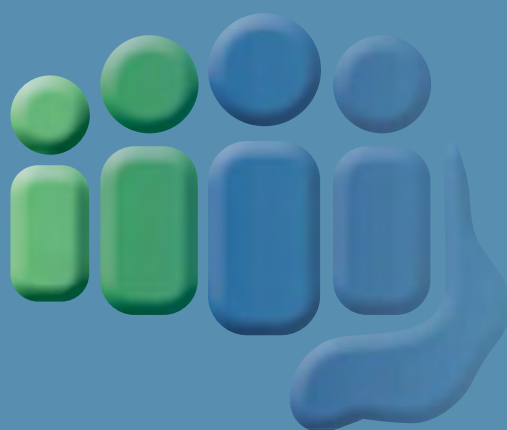


**MARK  
TROTTER**

**& LUKE THOMPSON**

**PRE-ARRANGED FREE SP**



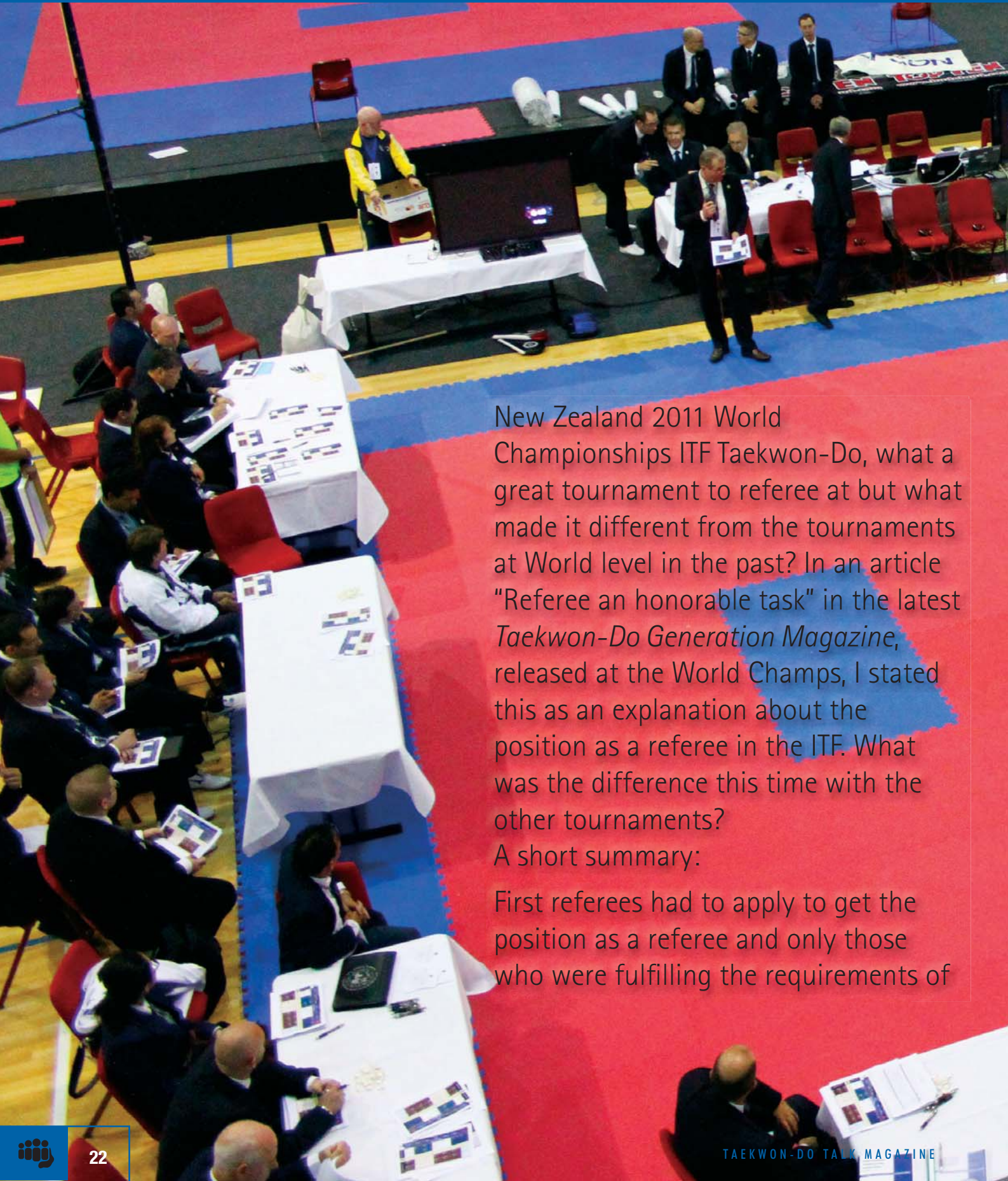


**WARRIOR WORLD CHAMPIONS**



# WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS NEW ZEALAND

by **Mr Harry van Schaik**, Umpire ITF Netherlands, Member ITF Development Co



New Zealand 2011 World Championships ITF Taekwon-Do, what a great tournament to referee at but what made it different from the tournaments at World level in the past? In an article "Referee an honorable task" in the latest *Taekwon-Do Generation Magazine*, released at the World Champs, I stated this as an explanation about the position as a referee in the ITF. What was the difference this time with the other tournaments?

A short summary:

First referees had to apply to get the position as a referee and only those who were fulfilling the requirements of



# “THE BEST EVER” FOR REFEREES?

Committee

Umpires Meeting and Workshop Tuesday 8th March 2011

*Thank you very much for the organization of the World Championship on a high level.*

*Uzbekistan National team expresses its thanks to you for your help to our delegation.*

*We felt great support from you and your people.*

*Yours Sincerely,*

**Master Han**  
ITF Uzbekistan

the Umpire Committee were officially invited. The information before, during and after the tournament was excellent, and displayed on the website [www.tkdhosting.com/worlds](http://www.tkdhosting.com/worlds). Referees were all personally contacted to get their details correct. At arrival we were welcomed by one of the many fantastic volunteers of this championship! A special stamp in our passport and VIP treatment at customs was the first ever!





After checking in, I attended the umpire meeting. This was the first time a “hands on” workshop had been presented by Master Katz and Mr. Ottesen of the ITF Umpire Committee. All items were explained and the standard for umpiring was made clear with many examples. For the first time specialist umpires were assigned to the position they had the most experience and knowledge in. Pattern referees with patterns, breaking referees with breaking etc.

One item that is good to keep in mind is that the communication before the competition starts, between umpires and coaches/competitors should be matched to give all the right information to all who require it.

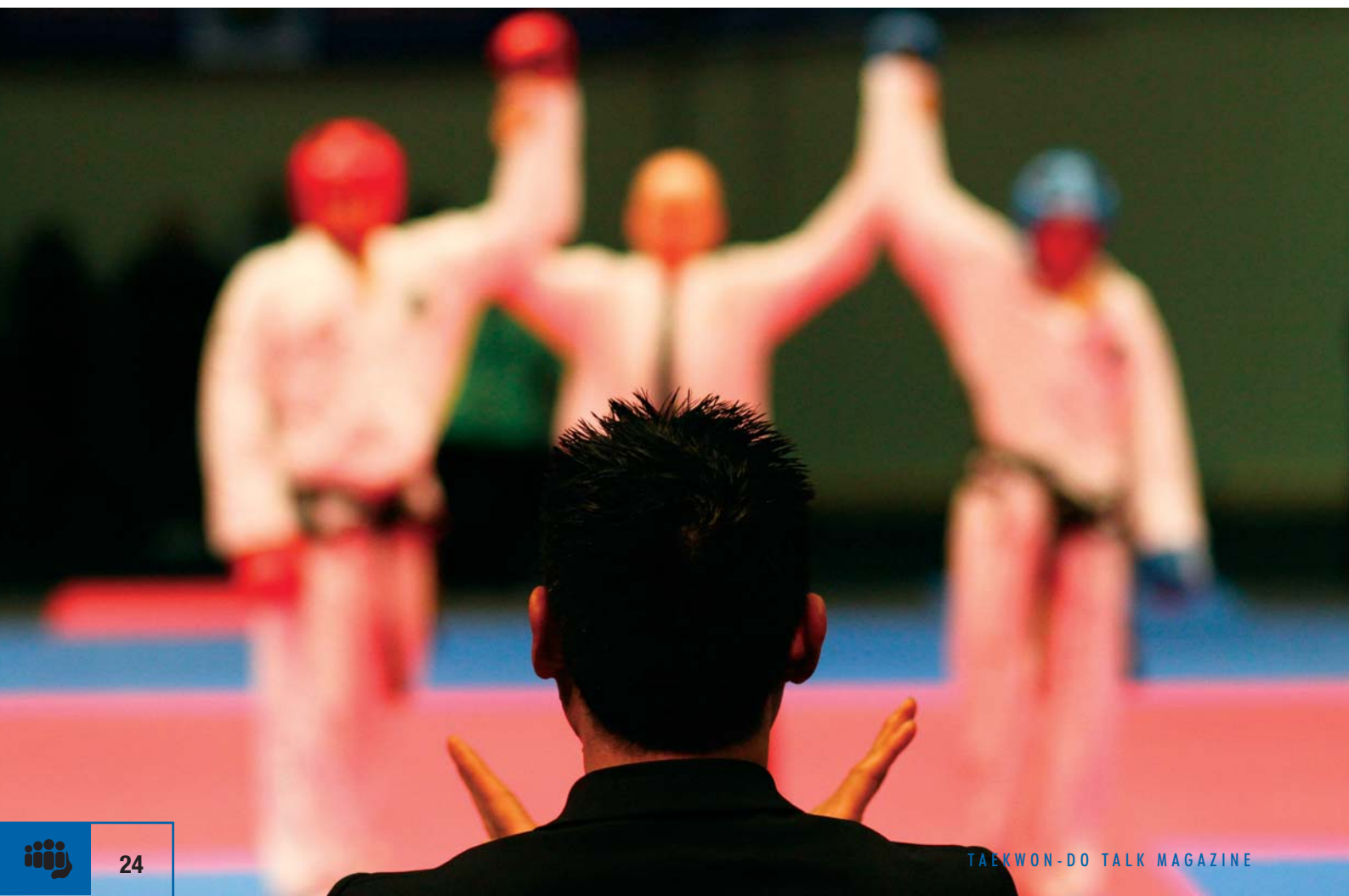
The distance between stadium, hotel, restaurants and recreation area was perfect. It was always easy to walk to the required area you had to be at without taking extra time for transport, a very welcome experience I have to say. The stadium, hotel, restaurants and recreation opportunities were all very close and within walking distance and essential for a relaxed environment during the days of the Championships.

Another difference for this tournament was the new schedule of juniors on one day, seniors on next. For the referees this was a very pleasant environment to work in and I have heard good feedback on this from the competitors and coaches as well. The day of rest was essential to get the referees rested and perform at their best during the last two days of competition. I think the opening ceremony at the beginning of the championships was also a welcome change – logical, but sometimes old habits are hard to change.

Continued on page 27



The author refereeing at the Wellington World Champs









# HOSTING THE UMPIRES

by **Mr Peter Graham** V dan, ITF NZ Board Director

When I first approached Mrs Lena Walton to see if there was anything I could do to help out, she tweaked my curiosity by answering, "I think I have just the job for you. Leave it with me and I'll get back to you in a couple of days."

True to her word, she did. I was asked if I would be prepared to assist Ms Chris Morton in the job of Umpire Liaison. Although I had no idea what the job might entail, I said, "Yes."

Thus began one of the most enjoyable experiences I've had within TKD over a good many years.

It began by distributing invitation letters to the 65 umpires appointed by ITF to officiate at the World Champs. A majority of these I had never met (although I'd heard quite a bit about them) and this, combined with a few language barriers made the job very interesting.

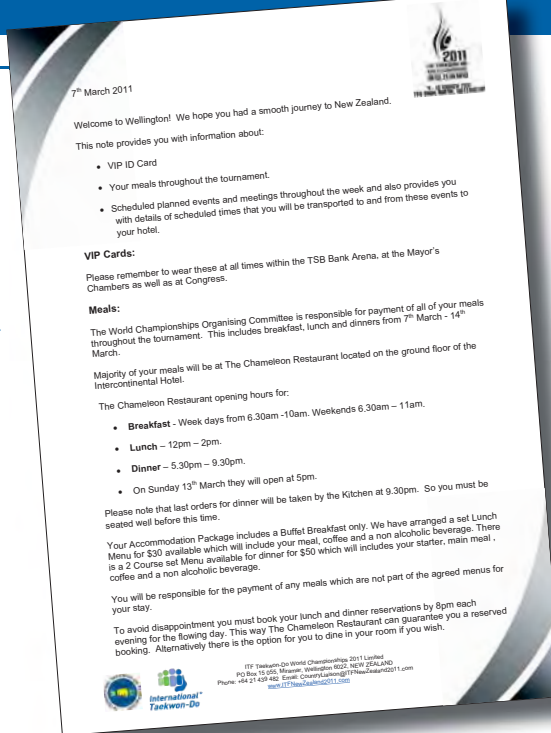
Ms Morton and I were also involved in the travel and accommodation arrangements. Again, mainly due to language misinterpretations, we struck a

few sticky moments but with the aid of our travel expert, Trisha Inglis, these too were overcome to everyone's satisfaction.

At first, the protocols and niceties involved in our art made some of the initial contacts somewhat stilted, but it was not long before we had established a sort of trust amongst all concerned. With the many emails travelling both ways in the three month final run up to the event, I felt I knew some of them quite well – even before they stepped off the plane.

This rapport was further cemented in the couple of umpire dinners we escorted them to (even though we had to wait three days for the meals to be served! - maybe a bit of an exaggeration - but it seemed like that at the time!). It was amazing to see how so many people from so many diverse nationalities, worked together as a fully functioning unit.

To my knowledge, this has been one of the few contests where open animosity has not been evident regarding umpiring decisions (this does not mean that everyone has been entirely happy with some of the last



minute rule changes the umpires were required to work under) but to me, this speaks loudly of the integrity of those involved and I feel that, even in that brief week when we physically worked together in Wellington, I have been exceptionally lucky to have made many new friends whom I look forward to have dealings with in the future.

In all, this has been a shared experience which has made me proud to be a member of such a wonderful family.

## WEB STATS

**www.ITFNewZealand2011.com**

77,062 Visits  
259,407 page views  
30,033 unique visitors

### Most viewed pages:

Home page – 52,651 visits  
Webcasting page – 56,057 visits  
Results page – 37,432 visits  
Draws page – 32,056  
TKD Action Live  
Feed page – 22,921

**www.TKDAction.com**

27,694 images taken (133GB)  
32 Blog posts  
595 Tweets



	Afghanistan		Japan
	Argentina		Nepal
	Australia		Netherlands
	Austria		New Zealand
	Belgium		Norway
	Brazil		Paraguay
	Canada		Poland
	Chile		Puerto Rico
	China		Russia
	Colombia		Scotland
	Cook Islands		Slovakia
	England		Slovenia
	Finland		Spain
	Germany		Sweden
	Greece		Switzerland
	Hong Kong		Trinidad & Tobago
	India		Ukraine
	Indonesia		United States
	Ireland		Uzbekistan
	Italy		Vietnam
	Jamaica		Wales



*I cannot thank you enough for your hospitality and the excellent way you hosted the World Championships in Wellington.*

*It is normal that I find fault with something in every World Championships but I am hard pushed for New Zealand. Congratulations.*

*I compliment your whole Organisation on their friendliness and endeavour to look after everyone. The Mayor gave us a hearty and prestigious welcome and then was gracious enough to visit our event.*

*Your opening ceremony was very emotional and I thank the indigenous people who made it such a success. While you all were very welcoming,*

*I feel that special thanks are due to Mr. And Mrs. Lourantos who provided that special evening which will be fondly remembered in our memories.*

*My faith in the Taekwon-Do community as a whole has been refreshed and I will always have a special feeling for the Taekwon-Do people of New Zealand. Many thanks and "Lang may yer lums reek" with the spirit of the Taekwon-Do of Gen. Choi Hong Hi.*

*Yours in Taekwon-Do*



**Grand Master  
Tom MacCallum**

*Continued from page 24*

## **World Championships New Zealand "The Best Ever" for referees?**

Working at the championships was made even more pleasant as at every square there were marshalls and volunteers to help out with the common items such as communication, computer and circumstances on and around the mat. This made the work as an umpire very pleasant and comfortable to work in. Thank you to all these fantastic people!

Another new referee challenge was the display of the scores of the sparring competition. This has made a big difference and tactics, and matches have changed – sometimes greatly. To improve the atmosphere of the sparring competition the scores need to be displayed larger so the audience can also benefit from the excitement of the scoring. The display of the items for breaking was also something that helped make things more visual.

The presents, gifts, the recognition of the public, coaches, competitors and the ITF has made our work as Umpires one to be remembered and will stay with me for a long time. The new Umpires who worked for the first time at a championship of this scale were of a good standard. They would have been challenged to get the best out of themselves as umpires. This is the top of our competition and it must be an honour and challenge to work in and it was!

After working on the World Championships in Europe, North America, South America, Asia and Oceania I can say that during the last decade big progress has been made in organizing the championships. I can state that one of the biggest assets are the people who make organizing these championships possible. It is very important to value the workers in the competition as they are the backbone of an organisation and should be treated with the highest gratitude as they make the championships possible. I hope for the future we can set up an honour system for referees to acknowledge the work they do. A challenge for the future.

Every tournament was a highlight in my life and the WC NZ 2011 was one which will be remembered as a friendly, well organised and great environment to work at as an Umpire. For me it's my last tournament but the future referees at World Championships have a secure working place in our organisation and a professional environment.

I'd like to thank all the hard working people of ITF New Zealand who made our work as umpires very pleasant.

Thank you all!

*I hope you all recovered from the hard work with the climax the championship. I like to thank you all one more time for the real nice cooperation on the championship and the year before. It was a great pleasure to work with you all on a so professional way (also the people I don't know by name).*

*It is already say a few times that it was one of the best organised champs but for me, it was the best.*

*One more time thank you all for everything.*

*Hope to see you all soon,*

*regards Master Coos van den Hovel*





# GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

by **Mr Terry Harkin** Championships Director



**NEW ZEALAND**  
MAJOR EVENTS



**Absolutely**  
**POSITIVELY**  
Wellington

It's one of the big challenges for any minority sport. How do you get your sport highlighted in the media, when you're competing with the likes of Rugby, League, Netball and the like?

The key thing we knew very early on, is that if you don't manage something like this you will not gain any attention – for a sport like ours, the media will not come to you – you have to go to the media.

As part of our preparation to host the World Champs, the WC2011 Chairman, and Event Manager – Mr Nick Lourantos and Mr Steve Fox respectively, spent some time establishing very good relationships with key government agencies, and local government. This not only secured the required funding for us to host the event, but promoted the 2011 ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships as something important on their calendars. A large body of work was required which took over a year to accomplish, but the result was that people who mattered knew about us, and our event. This included an advertisement for the World Champs going out to all Wellington residents in a Council sponsored publication.

The other key thing we did was hire a professional media manager. Through some local contacts we identified Mr Dave Worsley as the person who could best help us establish the required media relationships. Dave has been around the sport reporting scene in New Zealand for 20 years, and tends to specialise in Tennis, Basketball, and Netball. He knows all of the key people in television, radio, and newspapers. You will have seen him every day at the World Champs as the daily Prize giving Ceremony MC for which he did such a great job, announcing the medals and, involving the crowd. Whilst he did this job as a bonus for us, the real work he did was to garner interest from the media both before and during the event.

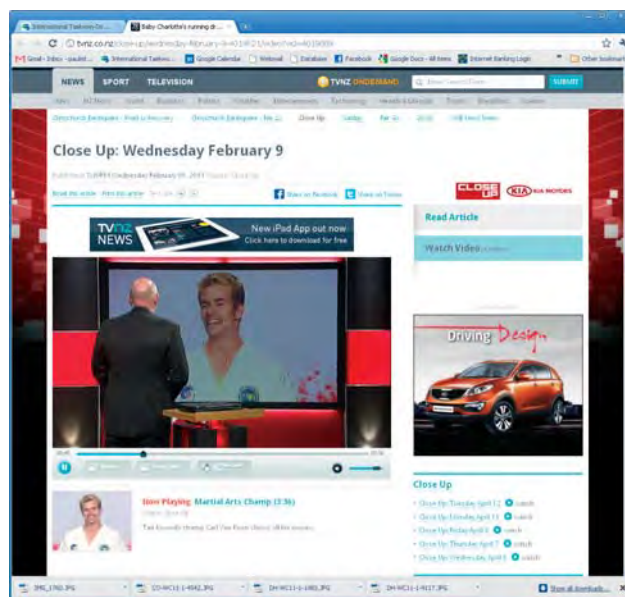
One of the things I was tasked with was to organise the Civic Square Demo launch event, which occurred exactly one month before the World Champs began on 09 February. The concept of this event was Dave's idea - to start soliciting media interest by hosting an event in which the Mayor and other dignitaries would

attend. The presence of the Mayor would attract media, and combined with the great showing from our demo team put together by Mr Lance Brunton, and the inclusion of Carl van Roon in the Demo, meant that we had some good media interest which Dave had set up.

The most interesting thing for me to witness on this day, is just how much media related activity occurs 'real-time' – and is not necessarily planned. The demo occurred at lunch-time, and Dave had arranged for a reporter from the Dominion Post, and also a camera-operator from Stuff.co.nz to attend. This media alone generated its own interest, and within 3 hours of the event, after some frantic phone conversations, we also had a confirmed spot on TV1 News that night, and an interview between Mark Sainsbury and Carl van Roon which featured on Close-up immediately after the news that night. In terms of media coverage we achieved the following coverage for this event:

- An article in the Dominion Post 2 days prior highlighting Major Events NZ support of the event.
- Interview and video coverage on Stuff.co.nz (also on youtube).
- A spot on the event on TV1 News sport that night.
- Close-up feature with Mark Sainsbury interviewing Carl van Roon on Close-Up that night.
- A half-page photo and article of the event in the next morning's Dom Post.

To the event itself – I picked up Dave on the Monday of event week. Dave's plan was simple – he would start small – get some content out there, which would hopefully encourage mainstream media to take notice and want to include some coverage. The plan worked, and throughout the week



we gained some great momentum from all sorts of media. The end result was that we were able to produce a number of different stories, which featured across a whole range of different media.

Most of us tend to only look at certain media regularly, but below I've listed as best as I can remember the coverage we received during the event – This will give you an idea of just how wide our coverage went:

- Good Morning TV Show – commencing on the Tuesday which started with an interview with Mr Nick Lourantos and a small demo performed by Mr Andrew Salton and Mr Peter Parata. Each day for the rest of that week Mr Salton was assisted by Mr Parata and Miss Morgan Searle in providing viewers with a series focusing on Self-Defence. It seems Mr Salton and his assistants did such a great job, that he has been invited back to do another similar series in the future!
- Breakfast TV – on the Wednesday, just as the opening ceremony began, I had escorted Mr Luke Thompson and Miss Carolina Dillen (with her parents) along to an area in front of the Beehive where Reporter – Lucas De Jong, had some fun with Luke and Carolina. This item appears on the Regional Roundup portion of TVNZ Breakfast that morning, with both Luke and Carolina doing a fantastic job, and having some fun too.





- TV1 News Sport on the Wednesday night – a full 'article' which featured event footage and interviews with Carl van Roon, Matt Chang, and Master Davidson. Also featured were two kids from Berhampore Club – very cute!!
- TV3 News Sport Sunday Night – featuring an interview with Luke Thompson and some event footage celebrating Luke's 3rd World Championship Gold Medal.
- Maori Television Sport – story about Luke Thompson.
- Te Karere News show on TV1 – another story about Luke Thompson!
- Dominion Post – throughout the week, every day, there was a different story appearing in the Dominion Post, along with a wrap-up story which appeared on the Monday after the tournament finished. Different people were interviewed to provide content for the articles which included:

■ Interview with Miss Carolina Dillen – a great story with a photo which Caroline loved (not!!).

■ A story featuring our newest Gold Medallist – Mr Jason Teio from Porirua – interestingly the reporter concerned wrote to Dave after the event commenting on how much he enjoyed meeting Jason, saying 'it was a classic case of the positive influence sport can have'.

■ An interview with Carl van Roon – Parts of this appeared in an article which also included comments from Luke Thompson.

■ Various medal updates as the week progressed.

- NZ Herald – various cuts of the above stories were used in the NZ Herald throughout the week – all relating to the medal count based stories.
- Radio NZ – three main stories appeared on Radio NZ including:
- An interview with Carl van Roon.
- A local story about Cook Islands' sole representative - Mr Ben Maaka.
- Event wrap-up with the great headline

– 'New Zealand in a class of their own at Taekwon-Do World Champs'.

- Radio Network – various stories throughout the week.
- Newstalk ZB Wellington – host Jason Pine spoke to Carl van Roon.
- Asia Downunder – Matt Chang focused reporting of the event.
- Kapiti Observer – various stories around the event.
- TV1 Kids Show – featuring Matt Chang for a future upcoming sport focused TV series.
- NZPA Reporters/photographers – various results and stories submitted for publication around the world.
- NZ Fighter Magazine – their media team have produced a number of stories and videos which included interviews with:

■ Carl van Roon ■ Luke Thompson

■ Carolina Dillen ■ Kara Timmer

- SPARC NZ – The Sparc team were there over a number of days recording video footage and interviewing Mr Nick Lourantos. They are very impressed with the organisation of the tournament, and it appears that they will be promoting what we have done as a non-profit organisation in hosting such a well-run and successful event.
- Wellington City Council – Mayor Celia Wade Brown made a very poignant speech at our opening ceremony. And on Wednesday she hosted a number of Taekwon-Do and local dignitaries to an Official Mayoral Reception in her Chambers, which shows just how much the local City Council were on-board for this event.
- The Public – you may have noticed that during the weekend the public spectator area got rather full – to the extent that half of the VIP area had to be opened up to cater for the high numbers of interested spectators – and that area filled up too! This in itself is a demonstration of the effect that the media penetration had over the course of the event.



I'd like to take this opportunity to give a huge thanks to those athletes for their willingness to talk with the media throughout the event. Your contribution made these stories happen, and those stories are what will make New Zealanders take notice of our sport – big kudos to you all!

And so to finish – As you can see, International Taekwon-Do has gained some hugely valuable exposure both before and during the event. The challenge now is for all of us to leverage this exposure for the betterment of our whole organisation. I know our CEO, Mike Thompson is shifting his focus to this aspect, and I'm sure we'll now all play a role in showing people why we are the WORLD CHAMPIONS!!

*Just arrived home one hour ago and want to say **JUST COMPLIMENTS.** you did it an excellent work, and you deserved all what you earned in this Championships.*

*For sure all of you give a hard work for the next organiser*

*This WC will remind in my memory and also all what you did it for make feel comfortable during the WC*

**THANK YOU**

*Warmest Regards, GM Hector Marano*





## NEW ZEALAND TEAM BEHIND THE SCENES









# NEW ZEALAND TEAM





# BEHIND THE SCENES







# Kicks for Kids



by Shirley Pygott - II dan

## Welcome to Issue #27

This edition of Kicks for Kids is all about the World Champs. We find out how kids that were too young to compete and not even black belts yet still took part, Taekwon-Do Teddy looks into why the Junior Black Belts got 'striped', and you can play 'Where's Ted at the World Champs?' at the bottom of the next page.

### Wellington TKD Kids Take Centre Stage at World Champs Opening Ceremony

By Dr. Jake Pearson IV Dan



We wanted to showcase the TKD "stars of tomorrow" as part of the World Champs Opening Ceremony, while demonstrating the key elements of TKD. Almost 50 kids of a wide range of ages and ranks from Wellington TKD clubs volunteered to be involved. They had to attend a training every weekend from the start of the year. The trainings were a mixture of fun and hard work, and everyone worked together unselfishly to produce the best group performance possible.

Each demo team member also was a flagbearer for a country, leading them in at the Opening Ceremony. The demo was performed to NZ music suggested by some of the demo team members. The performance went really well on the day, with each member concentrating on their own role, and also remembering to enjoy the experience. There was a lot of impromptu clapping from the audience during the demo, and many of the grandmasters and masters said what an excellent demonstration it was. I was very proud of the members.



Watch the whole demo on You Tube at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuhg4gmjAc0>



TKD Teddy investigates:

Snazzy Stripes for the Junior Black Belts !

So what was with the strange belts that all the Junior competitors were wearing?

This World Champs all juniors (eg competitors 18 and under) had to wear the official ITF Junior Black Belt, which is a black belt with a white stripe all the way down the middle (the sidekicker at the top of this page looks great in his one!).



All students under 18 who grade to Black Belt in NZ will get one of these belts from now on, so you will see them around more and more. They still have the name and rank embroidered on them, and when they become seniors (over 18) they can change to a full black belt.





Libby Ross, a 4th Gup from Kapiti Taekwon-Do was in the Kids demo team and has written a fantastic article about training for it and performing it at the World Champs! Thanks Libby

## Taekwon-Do World Champs

By Olivia (Libby) Ross

I was really excited to hear that I could have a chance to be a part of the world champs as a member of this team. My dad and I talked about the fact that I would have to commit to trainings every weekend, even if I had something that sounded like more fun to do.

I decided that I would do it because I wanted to be in the world champs and I knew that all the world's best black belts would be there and that they would be watching me!

I liked the demo team because I had an important part; I was really excited and proud of myself to be chosen to do the front snap kick and to break a wooden board. I had to build my confidence to break the wooden board as I had never done this before.

I enjoyed going to the training sessions because I got to meet new people from different clubs and I got to train with different instructors who were really encouraging. On the days when I didn't break the board I felt sad but on the days that I did break it I felt really really good! One of the best parts of the trainings was when I got to train with the New Zealand junior black belts, I got to spar with them which was really cool and one of the team said that my turning kicks were really good.

The training session before the World Champs was the worst! I couldn't break the board and felt really disappointed and I was worried that I might not do it on the day.

On the day of World Champs I felt really nervous and excited. It was fun being a flag bearer; I was the flag bearer for Italy, and they were friendly and awesome! When it was time to get up on the stage I was very nervous but I knew I had to focus and have fun. I loved being up there and being

a part of the team. I could hear the audience clapping for us and I was focused on my part and on breaking the board. When the time came I concentrated on the board and did my best front snap kick, the board went "bang" when it broke in half and I felt like I wanted to fly around the moon twenty times. It felt so good! When I got off the stage the Italian team high fived me and later on the Canadian team told me that I did really well.



Libby waiting to start the demo.

I enjoyed watching the competition, meeting black belts from all over the world and having my photo taken with them. When I got back to school I showed my video of the demo and told my class about being in the demo team, they asked if it hurt my foot when I broke the board and I told them that it didn't

Libby & her demo mates perform on stage



**Where's Ted?** TKD Teddy wanted to get really close to the World Champs Action. He found 9 great lookout places. Can you find them all?





# MEDAL BEARING AT THE WORLD CHAMPS

by **Miss Sarah Gudsell** 2nd gup, Auckland

After an eight hour drive from Auckland I was finally in Wellington, at the Taekwon-Do World Champs! The first day I really just watched and got used to the building, but the second day was completely different, I was helping with the coffee runs, handing out water bottles to the officials as well as refilling their bowls with lollies.

The most exciting things though happened after lunch. We had the first medal ceremony and I was lucky enough to be a medal bearer. This was followed by some more finals which were very exciting and then the last thing we did was the second and last medal ceremony of the day.

All together there were eight kids carrying the medals. We carried the medals on a plastic tray which only became a problem when it came to team events and two teams tied for third! This meant that I (who was presenting all the bronze medals) had to, at times, carry 20 heavy medals on one flimsy plastic tray.

We would line up next to the people who had won the medals and then when we were given the signal by Mr Lee we would walk up to the podium and stand about one metre away then Master Davidson and Master McPhail, and a collection of other masters, would present the medals to the winners.

When the national anthem started playing (often New Zealand's!) we would walk off the stage carrying the empty trays and pass them on to the three medal bearers who were next in line, they would then only have the length of the national anthem to get the medals on their tray and be lined up.

The highlight of my whole week was presenting my idol, Carolina Dillen, with her gold medal for Patterns. One of the last memories was carrying the medals for the senior female team patterns which included: Carolina Dillen, Melissa Timperley, Courtenay Meleisea, Kristy Leong, Amy Reeder and Alisa Parker.

The Taekwon-Do World Championships have really inspired me and shown me what can be achieved through Taekwon-Do if you just have courtesy, integrity, perseverance and self control.

The author Sarah Gudsell – medal bearer





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# NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

by **Mr Nick Laurantos** Chairman, 2011 World Champs

It started as a dream some 8-9 years ago. A dream that New Zealand could, would, host the World Championships. The actual World Championships. One month on from the closing ceremony, I still find it hard to get my head around the idea that we actually did it!

Over 510 competitors from 42 countries, some 180 volunteers, record (and at capacity!) crowds on the Saturday and Sunday of the tournament and a "knees up" to rival the coolest of parties! On top of that, and as I'm completely neutral here, the New Zealand team topped the medal count and nailed the top prize - the best country in the world! How good is that?!

Once we secured the rights to host the World Championships, the dream, the vision, shifted gears. We revised the dream from merely hosting the event, to hosting the best ever World Championships the ITF community as ever experienced! We wanted to showcase the best of Kiwi hospitality, and we wanted to make our fellow New Zealanders that form part of our ITF family very proud.

And by all accounts, we pulled it off. We have received some wonderful feedback from all corners of the ITF world that suggest that people consider the New Zealand World Championships to be the best World Championships to date. We have raised the bar.

One of my particular favourite pieces of feedback came from Grand Master MacCallum of Scotland – see page 25. 'Lang may yer lum reek' is a Scottish salutation wishing long life and prosperity. Literally translated it means 'long may your chimney smoke'. I would like to 'smoke the chimney' of some of the most hard-working, dedicated and passionate people I have ever had the opportunity to work with. The World Championships Leadership Team! All of them are natural leaders in their own right but when we came together as a team it was like a well-oiled machine. For those of you that know a little about corporate management, the theory of Synergy states that that the 'whole' is greater than the sum of all the parts.

I told this group back on day one some three years ago that this is going to be so big, and so different, to what we've done in our lives before. I told the group that it was going to be a big ask, and that they will have to make significant sacrifices in their lives. I also told them that it was likely that afterwards, we are never going to want to see each other again!

Yes, like in all machines there are sprockets and cogs that break and get out of sync from

time to time. Yes, believe it when I say we had the odd 'blue'. There may have been a couple of minor melt-downs or two along the way, as the team coped with jobs, family and Taekwon-Do clubs. We even had a wedding thrown in for good measure! The lovely new Mrs Wong spent what should have been her honeymoon helping out at the tournament! Must be love ha?!

Ultimately we were on a mission to deliver something significantly bigger than our own individual egos. They show simply had to continue on, as they say. While Mr Steve Fox and I got some recognition at the closing ceremony, just in case you hadn't worked it out by now, it was in fact the Leadership Team that made us look good (contrary to what my Mum thinks!). This article provides me with the chance to blow a little smoke up the chimneys of that team, whom I name among my dearest friends, and whom I would work together with again in a heartbeat!

Looking back I think one of the most important bits of research we did was to hop over to Argentina and witness the World Championships in Mar Del Plata in late 2009. It's interesting to note that most feedback we got from competitors, supporters, coaches, managers and officials, was that those Championships was not a great example of how to run a World Championships. Many people suggested that we look to the Canadian or German Championships a few back, to provide us with good examples. Well, I know the team has worked miracles in some instances, but we couldn't manage to go back in time to experience first hand those World Championships. Thus, the strategy then became to use the Argentina Championships as an example of what not to do.

We literally looked at everything, from well before the moment people arrived in the country through to the moment they left. We started the process of 'the best experience' even before people turned on their computer to register on the World Championships website. At our focus meetings we asked: how would we want our favourite cousin to experience all of this? What could we do if money was no object and what would we do to show our "cousin" the best of British... er New Zealand?

We followed this process for registration, arrival in New Zealand, hotels, food, the tournament venue, non-tournament events like the Congress, VIP and Officials dinners, the after match celebration, the Umpires meeting, the Coaches and Managers meeting, the Civic reception hosted by the Mayor, the opening



Mr Laurantos entertaining the VIPs at his home.


and closing ceremonies, various presentations, sponsors, VIP hosting, transportation for each and every event..... the list goes on and on!

I recall a conversation I overheard between Ms Sheryl Chase and Master Alberto Katz as they planned the Umpires meeting on the Tuesday before the tournament. Master Katz asked Ms Chase to get him a 'bow-tie' microphone. He said that despite his requesting a bow-tie microphone at every event he goes to, nobody can ever produce a bow-tie microphone. I saw Sheryl nod her head and say "Sir, we will get you a bow-tie microphone!" Master Katz said "I will believe it when I see it" - and Sheryl had her fingers crossed behind her back. But sure enough, despite not having allowed for a bow-tie microphone, Master Katz got his bow-tie microphone. This may seem like such a small thing to readers. However it is this attitude, applied by every team member across every single event, and all the thousands of decisions over the course of three years that made this World Championships the best ever: "Sir, you will get your bow-tie microphone!"

After we worked out what we wanted to do, the next step was the establishing a budget. When it came to working out budgets we quickly needed to figure out 'best practice' to ensure that ITFNZ was protected, as there was no underwriting of any shortfall by the ITF. If there was a short fall.... well that fell back to ITFNZ to pay. This reminds me of a conversation I once had with a very wealthy and successful businessman around 15 years ago on a deal I was involved with. He said that he really likes to walk around Wellington, find a nice cafe, enjoy a cup of coffee and nice food, and enjoy the peace - and it was important to him that he could continue to be able to do so after a deal without someone coming up and spitting at him! I didn't really appreciate fully what he was saying until now.

ITFNZ established a separate company and I proceeded to set-up a Board with Directors with very strong Financial or Sports Management experience. We then established a delegation framework that covered all aspects of financial management that included monthly financial reporting and a cunning plan





to bring in the revenue we needed (at the end some \$1.5 million dollars went through the Company's accounts!).

Getting external funding from Major Events New Zealand and SPARC was a major achievement as they do not just give money to anyone that asks. The year we applied to Major Events only 3 events out of 20 got funding. We will forever be in the debt of Major Events NZ and SPARC and I thank them every day for this support. To single someone out at the Ministry of Economic Development, where Major Events sits, is a big ask. However I would like to publically acknowledge Ms Lisa Gibson. Outside of my very understanding wife Vienna, Mrs Lena Walton, and my buddy KB's wife Ms Karen Brown, Lisa is the only other woman that I am truly scared of! (Actually truth be told, I'm scared of most ladies – as they well know I'm sure!).

A special thanks also to Mrs Helen Miller who spent many long hours filling in funding applications. Mrs Miller managed to secure a great deal of funding in this manner and we are eternally grateful for her patience and expertise. Ms Chris Morton kept us on track with minutes at our many meetings. And talking about meetings.... I don't know what to do now that evenings and weekends are somewhat free – but alas Mr Kunz now expects me back at training and my very understanding wife (have I mentioned this before?) Vienna will fill my weekends with those jobs around the house that I'd said I'd get round to. For some reason 25th wedding anniversaries are somewhat important and surely it's not my fault that mine fell right in the middle of the Champs! Right?

Obtaining Major Events Border Steering Group Accreditation was just fantastic as we could treat visitors with a passport stamp of the tournament logo as well as meeting and greeting the teams at their plane on arrival, to ensure minimal hold-ups at Customs & Immigration.

A 'Big Ups' for Wellington City Council. The support we got from Wellington City Council and the Mayor's office was just fantastic and extremely appreciated. Simply put, the event would have been very different and nowhere near what was achieved without the support of Wellington City Council. The funding allowed us to get over to Argentina but more importantly gave us the kudos to nail venues and hotels in particular. As you can imagine, it is pretty hard to pop along to a hotel and say I want to book 4 floors for a Taekwon-Do tournament to be held in three years time. It would have been even more difficult without the cash to pay! The Events Team at Wellington City Council, and

in particular Lauren Fantham, were always extremely approachable and generous with their time and support.

Once the actual event finally arrived there was at least a week of hard work prior to the first day of competition. The Leadership Team were able to build amazing sub-teams around them, many of whom stepped it up 100 notches and went beyond the call of duty in the lead up to the tournament. I'll probably get in trouble for singling out a couple but the Country Liaison Team, headed by Mrs Lena Walton, who worked tirelessly with Alison Lavin, Carolyn Baigent and Sharon Alderson to develop and train a team of Country Liaisons to work with each team during their stay in New Zealand, is but one team that springs to mind. This team did us proud – they stood at Wellington airport for four or five days, arriving at 6am and staying until 2am the next morning, to offer our visitors a smooth and warm welcoming, and making sure they were ferried off to their hotels successfully. The many Team Liaison Representatives alone raised the economic indices by looking after each and every country team to ensure their needs were met during their stay.

Mr Ian Walton assisted by Mr John Raptis were – and I do not say this lightly – absolutely amazing. They spent months sourcing equipment and planning the stadium set up. They developed and built breaking machines, designed and developed medals and ran what has to be the most unbelievably efficient and effective weigh in and registration system ever seen. There was Mr Chris Blackford who, as our 'Volunteer Co-ordinator' managed to build a massive team of people to help and allocated many to all of the jobs required throughout tournament week without raising his voice once! And what about the medal ceremonies? These were brilliant, allowing everybody to have their moment on the podium in a professional and organised fashion. Didn't Mr Nick Lee and his team do a great job? They need to make some sort of super hero TV series about these guys. This I would pay to watch!

The vision for the opening ceremony on day one of competition, was to showcase New Zealand and what we are about – no one else... just us. Thank you to Dr Jake Pearson, Ms Sheryl Chase and the many kids and parents involved – it was just awesome! I heard people comment afterwards that the whole ceremony "gave them chills". People were moved.

Ms Sheryl Chase was able to put together other fantastic events and functions outside of the tournament, such as Congress and a Civic Function hosted by the Mayor as two examples that just put the icing, cherry and chocolate on top! I cannot thank her enough.

The IT Team headed by Mr Andy Wong and Mr Craig Hannah ensured we started and finished each day on time. Mr Wong ran the IT in each ring brilliantly – he was all over it! Mr Hannah worked with Mr Dave Blackwell for months building the registration system. Mr Doug Hanna and his team provided absolute brilliance again with stunning photography. We proved that "new media" has a massive future in our sport, with real time internet updates and live feeds through to the official website. Facebook and Twitter were also used as key media to help increase NZ and ITF's profile the world over. The webcasting alone had one of the largest viewer audiences for any recent sporting event in a long time – in fact we blew the viewer hours of the recent 3 day swimming event by lunchtime on the first day of the Worlds!

One of the unsung heroes of the World Championships was our travel agent Ms Trisha Inglis. Ms Inglis had the hardest of all jobs and I'm not kidding when I say this. She looked after travel and accommodation – very stressful indeed. I heard her say on many occasions that no one listens and no one reads the fine print. And indeed, no one does! Juggling punters, hotels, food, travel plans and holiday plans (and Mr Fox and I) is now her middle name.

Working with Mr Terry Harkin was our external media guy Mr Dave "dude" Worsley who ensured we got loads of great press and radio coverage – I've almost forgiven him for stealing my Amex and taking a bunch of media out for a night on the town! Mr Harkin and Mr Worsley put together a fantastic media launch one month prior to the Worlds beginning, and worked tirelessly throughout the tournament raising the profile of the event.

Mr Steve Fox. What can I say. I have thanked him over and over and over and will continue to do so. I will be forever in his debt. I'm sure my children will understand why I have bequeathed my worldly goods to Mr Fox when I leave this world.

Finally I'd like to mention the Board by name for their support and for asking the hard questions and keeping us on track. Please join me in thanking Mr Trevor Gill (external independent Director), Mr Terry Harkin and Mr Kris Herbison.

It is very difficult to put into one article the amount of work so many people did over many years. It is even more difficult to thank everybody enough. There are many more people I haven't personally mentioned in this article that helped along the way. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I am very proud to have been a part of it.

See you all in Spain!







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