

OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION

May, 2004

Latest news

◆ OCEANIA & SOUTH PACIFIC CHAMPIONSHIPS – SUVA, FIJI

The 2004 Oceania & South Pacific Weightlifting Championships has come to an end. This tournament was also the Olympic qualification for the Oceania region. Fiji has done a good job considering that they only stepped in four months ago to take over this event from Samoa. Unfortunately due to financial difficulties with the Samoan Government not coming through with the funds in time, the Samoa Weightlifting Fed. had to withdraw from hosting this event.

The standard of lifting in Suva was extremely high resulting in quite a few battles and quite a few records broken in the process. The OWF was pleased to have Attila Adamfi and Robert Nagy from the IWF controlling the technical aspects of the competition.

The teams who qualified for the Olympic Games in Athens were as follows:

<u>Men:</u>	1 st Nauru - qualifying 2 lifters	<u>Women:</u>	1 st Australia - qualifying 1 lifter
	2 nd Australia – “ 1 lifter		2 nd New Zealand “ 1 lifter
	3 rd New Zealand “ 1 lifter		3 rd Papua New Guinea “ 1 lifter

In the Oceania Juniors, Australia won both men and women team trophies. In the South Pacific Seniors and Juniors team event, Nauru won both the men's sections whilst PNG won both the women's sections.

The best male lifter in the Oceania Seniors and South Pacific Senior was Manuel Minginfel from FSM. Whilst the best female lifter in the Oceania Seniors and South Pacific Senior was Reanna Solomon from Nauru.

The best male lifter in the Oceania Junior and South Pacific Junior was Yukio Peter from Nauru. Whilst the best female lifter in the Oceania Juniors and South Pacific Juniors was Dika Toua from PNG.

◆ OWF ELECTORAL CONGRESS

At the Electoral Congress of the OWF held in Suva on May 5th, 2004, the President, Seiuli Paul Wallwork and General Secretary, Paul Coffa were once again re-appointed unopposed for the next four years. The Executive Board of the OWF is as follows:

President:	Seiuli Paul Wallwork - Samoa
1 st Vice President:	Mr. Lawrence Stephen – Nauru
Vice Presidents:	Mr. Robert Grimaldi – New Caledonia Mr. Tony Hole - Cook Islands
General Secretary:	Mr. Paul Coffa - Australia
Asst. Secretary	Mr. Matthew Curtain - Australia

◆ O.O.T.C. PROGRAMME

The Oceania Olympic Training Centre Program for the sport of weightlifting has been very successful in Sigatoka. The athletes who are currently scholarship holders produced excellent results at the recent Oceania & South Pacific Championships.

Starron Dowobobo (Nauru) 56kg -	1 st place	Oceania & South Pacific
Manuel Minginfel (FSM) 62kg	1 st place	Oceania & South Pacific
Renos Doweiya (Nauru) 77kg	1 st place	Oceania & South Pacific
Rutherford Jeremiah (Nauru) 105kg	1 st place	Oceania & South Pacific
Itte Detenamo (Nauru) 105+kg	3 rd place	Oceania & South Pacific

◆ COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS – MALTA

This year's Commonwealth Weightlifting Championships will be held in Malta on June 25th – 27th. At this stage countries from the Oceania region attending are: Nauru, PNG and one lifter from FSM as guest.

- ✦ **IOC OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIPS**
 The two IOC Olympic Solidarity Scholarship holders, (Oceania region) Yukio Peter 69kg category from Nauru and Reanna Solomon 75+kg category also from Nauru , both produced great results during the Oceania & South Pacific Championships in Suva, with both athletes winning their respective categories and both of them broke Oceania records.
- ✦ **OBITUARY**
 Due to a tragic accident the President of the Kiribati Weightlifting Federation, Mr. Bweitu Nabau sadly passed away at a very young age. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family and the Kiribati Weightlifting Federation. Truly a tragic loss to weightlifting in this region.
- ✦ **NEW EMAIL CONTACT FOR THE I.W.F.**
 The new email contact of the IWF is as follows: iwf@iwfnet.net
- ✦ **UESAKA EMAIL CLUB TOURNAMENT**
 This was a very successful tournament as a first in the world of weightlifting. 58 clubs competed in the men's with 49 clubs in the women's from around the world. In all 468 competitors participated. The winning clubs were: for men Manu Samoa- Samoa and for women the winning club was the Fitness Club from Nigeria. The Oceania Weightlifting Federation deeply appreciates the sponsorship provided by the Uesaka Barbell Company. Individual medals have been posted to each Federation to distribute to their winning athletes.
- ✦ **NEW PRESIDENT FOR KIRIBATI WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION**
 The new President of the Kiribati Weightlifting Federation is Mr. Inatio Tanentoa. His email contact is knoc@tskl.net.ki
- ✦ **NEW GENERAL SECRETARY FOR FIJI WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION**
 The new General Secretary of the Fiji Weightlifting Federation is Mr. Manasa Vakuruivalu. His email contact is vakuruivalu@hotmail.com
- ✦ **2007 WORLD WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS**
 Unfortunately the Australian Weightlifting Federation- Sydney Bid to host the 2007 World weightlifting Championships was unsuccessful. The IWF Executive Board at it's meeting in Dresden, Germany, decided to allocate the 2007 World Championships to Thailand. Thailand delivered an offer which was supported by the King of Thailand that was difficult to match. A marketing fee of US\$200.000 was paid by Thailand above what was required. Hotel rooms at half of the amount of the Sydney Bid, free airfares and accommodation to the IWF Executive Board, plus 30 extra tickets and accommodation to developing countries. Also 50% discount airfares to any countries who flies on Thai Airlines to the Championships. No one was prepared to match such an offer. Congratulation to Thailand.
- ✦ **IWF – OWF SUMMIT**
 22 Regional Weightlifting Presidents together with the IWF President & IOC Member Dr Tamas Ajan, the IWF General Secretary & Prefect of Athens Mr Yannis Sgouros, and the IWF First Vice President, Mr Sam Coffa, met in Sydney for the first ever continental weightlifting summit between the IWF and the OWF. The summit was a great success. It gave the Regional Presidents an opportunity to discuss many matters relating to weightlifting in this region.
- ✦ **CHRIS RAE 400Kg SUPER-HEAVY**
 South Australian weightlifter Chris Rae last month did a 405 Kg Total, with a snatch of 177.5Kg and a clean & jerk of 227.5Kg in the 105+Kg category. Congratulation Chris.

Paul Coffa MBE
 GENERAL SECRETARY
OCEANIA WEIGHTLIFTING FEDERATION