

December 31st, 2005

LATEST NEWS

2005 has come to an end. The last four months have been a very hectic time for the OWF. The relocation of the OWF office from Sigatoka, Fiji to Apia- Samoa, as well as the Oceania Institute, the Commonwealth, Oceania and South Pacific Championships held in Melbourne, the OWF 25th Anniversary Congress, the World Championships and the Pacific Cup Tournament.

How we survived, I am not quite sure however we have survived these four months of being on the extreme go and we are now looking forward to settling down a little before our first major event of the year and that is the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

The end of August saw the conclusion of the Oceania & South Pacific League tournaments. It was an unqualified success. The winner of League A-1 was Nauru who was undefeated all season. Winners of League A-2 was New Zealand, also undefeated during the season. And in the Pacific League, also undefeated was the Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

All the teams won one set of Olympic weights sponsored by the IWF.

It was decided that during the Commonwealth & Oceania Championships in Melbourne that a match was to be held between the two winners, Nauru & New Zealand. Nauru won the match and therefore became the overall winners for the year.

This tournament will not be held during 2006 because of the Commonwealth Games in March, as most of the regional countries are preparing for the Games. Also because in July 2006, the 1st Pacific Rim Tournament as well as the Commonwealth, Oceania & South Pacific Championships will be held in Samoa where 30 countries or more are expected to take part.

The next Oceania League Tournaments will be held in 2007.

September 26th in some ways it was a sad day for the OWF to say goodbye to Sigatoka, Fiji where the OWF Office was resident for the past four years. And more so the closure of the Oceania Weightlifting Institute in Sigatoka where it was first established in April 2002.

The Institute in Sigatoka right from the start was an instant success and it is because of this success, that the Samoan Government had taken the opportunity to secure the

relocation of the Oceania Weightlifting Institute to Apia, Samoa. The Government of Samoa provided the ultimate training facilities for regional weightlifters to be able to train and prepare themselves for major world events.

The Samoa Government in consultation with the Samoa Weightlifting Federation have provided a stadium with a seating capacity for almost 3000 people.

So far the Oceania Weightlifting Federation has provided 28 platforms for training. The stadium also has room for nine warm up platforms and seven training platforms during competition. It has an international size stage with other facilities such as weigh-in rooms, rest rooms, medical room, doping control room, VIP room, technical officials room, sauna room, plus of course a large office for the OWF to operate from. It has also accommodation for 20 athletes to stay which has been built only 50 meters from the stadium.

This stadium will be used for the South Pacific Games coming up in Apia in 2007. And in 2006 Samoa will host the Commonwealth, Oceania & South Pacific Senior & Junior Championships plus the first Pacific Rim Tournament.

The stadium was opened on the 12th October, 2005, by the Prime Minister of Samoa, The Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi. Mr. Sam Coffa 1st Vice President of the IWF was in attendance. Representing the OWF was the President Seiuli Paul Wallwork, the OWF Vice President, Mr. Tony Hole, the General Secretary, Paul Coffa and Asst. Secretary, Matthew Curtain. The Commonwealth Weightlifting Federation President, Mr. Vinson Detenamo was also in Apia, as well Mr. Warwick Povey from the ASP Elite Program.

Today the accommodation is at full capacity with resident lifters coming from nine different countries.

On the 6th -9th October, the 2005 Commonwealth, Oceania & South Pacific Championships were held in Melbourne. The Championships were well organized and had the honour of the presence of the IWF President, Dr. Tamas Ajan. Dr. Ajan also attended the 25th Anniversary congress held on the 6th October at the Hawthorn Town Hall in Melbourne.

Some of the decisions made during the Congress was the hosting of events as follows:

2006 - Samoa to host the Commonwealth, Oceania & South Pacific Championships for Juniors and Seniors as well as the first Pacific Rim International Tournament.

2007 - Darwin, Australia to host the Oceania & South Pacific Junior Championships in conjunction with the Arafura Games.

2007 - American Samoa to host the Oceania & South Pacific Senior Championships

2008 - Auckland, New Zealand to host the Oceania & South Pacific Senior & Junior Championships and Olympic Qualification event for Beijing.

2009 - Oceania & South Pacific Championships tentatively booked by New Caledonia.

Also during the meeting the Hon. Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, Prime Minister of Samoa was made Patron of the Oceania Weightlifting Federation. This was unanimously voted upon.

In November, we saw success in Doha, Qatar for the region when Yukio Peter from Nauru came within three kilos of winning the World Championships in the clean & jerk in the 77kg category. Yukio won silver with 193kg and came 4th overall with 348kg total. A brilliant performance.

Manuel Minginfel from FSM lifted well also when he placed 7th overall with a total of 280kg in the 62kg category.

Also in the month of November, as the Queen Baton made its way through Samoa, it made a special stop at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute where most of the top Pacific lifters were training.

On 9th December, the first international event was held at the new stadium in Apia, Samoa. The Pacific Cup International Tournament had lifters from eleven countries taking part. The best male lifter was Manuel Minginfel from FSM and the best female lifter was Suzanne Hiram from Nauru. Countries which took part are as follows: Nauru, Samoa, New Zealand, Tuvalu, Australia, American Samoa, Fiji, FSM, Tonga, PNG, Niue.

With 2006 just begun, all eyes are on the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Undoubtedly it will be one of the best Commonwealth Games to be staged, if not the best.

Happy New Year to you all.

**Paul Coffa MBE
General Secretary
Oceania Weightlifting Federation**

August, 2005

LASTEST NEWS

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation and the Australian Weightlifting Federation has lost one of its most respected officials in Mr. Ted Hanlon. Mr. Hanlon passed away at the age of 89 years. Mr. Hanlon was an active official until the very end. His passion for the sport of weightlifting lasted for over 65 years.

For a long time Mr. Hanlon was President of the Australian Weightlifting Federation, the Victorian Weightlifting Association and he was also at one stage the Vice President of the International Weightlifting Federation.

Mr. Hanlon will certainly be missed by all who knew him over the many years in weightlifting.

The Oceania Weightlifting League tournament is now in its last round. Between 150 and 200 lifters have competed on a monthly basis, producing some outstanding performances throughout the tournament.

With one round to go Nauru has won the League A-1 tournament, as they are too far ahead in points and cannot at this stage be beaten. On the other hand in League A-2 New Zealand needs to win the last round to hold on to their first place. N.Z. faces in the last round a very strong team in Kiribati. The same scenario is happening in the Pacific League. A.C.T. needs to win its last round in order to maintain first position and win the cup.

The three cups to the winning teams will be presented at the Commonwealth, Oceania and South Pacific Championships. The OWF is now looking at the possibility of conducting an extra match between the winners of League A-1 and League A-2 in Melbourne on October 6th to 9th during the Commonwealth & Oceania Championships, in order to have an overall team winner in this Oceania League Tournament.

Palau hosted the 2005 South Pacific Mini Games from the 25th July to 4th August. The weightlifting event was well organized by Steve Patris, President of the Palau Weightlifting Federation and the weightlifting manager, Emerson Nobuo. There was

some outstanding performances produced, especially the battle in the women 75+kg category. This was one of the highlights of the games. It was pleasing also to see top athletes such as Dika Toua & Jeffrey Robby from PNG, Itte Detenamo, Yukio Peter, Sheeva Peo-Cook, Sheba Deireregea & Starron Dowabobo from Nauru, Manuel Minginfel from FSM, Sam Pera Snr & Sam Pera Jr from the Cook Islands, Uati Maposua from Samoa, Joe Vueti, Ivy Shaw & Saimone Turaganivalu from Fiji, all helping out with loading and on scoreboards.

The South Pacific Games Council met during the games and some of the significant decisions were:

- ✚ In future the games would be known as the "PACIFIC GAMES" and no longer as the "SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES"
- ✚ New Caledonia won the bid to host the 2011 Pacific Games. Other countries bidding were Solomon Islands and American Samoa.
- ✚ A recommendation was put forward by the Sports Committee of the SPG to eliminate the three medals for weightlifting and replace them with only one medal for the total. This recommendation was overwhelmingly rejected by most of the countries. Therefore the three medals for weightlifting remain as it is.

Jay Waller, one of the OWF recognised coaches spent 10 days in the month of July, in Kiribati, assisting the National team in preparation for the SPG games and also setting up programs for the clubs and schools in Kiribati.

The 25th Anniversary Congress of the OWF will be held in Melbourne on October 6th. We are pleased to have the presence of the IWF President, Dr. Tamas Ajan. The Commonwealth, Oceania & South Pacific Championships will be held from October 6th to 9th. This event so far has attracted 20 countries participating.

Paul Coffa MBE
General Secretary