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If your federation would like to publish information on tournaments, clinics, etc. in this newsletter please send your information and pictures to Michael Schmidt at: mschmidt@europeansoftball.org

President's Corner

Dear Member Federations,



Dear sport friends, your are looking at the first issue of our ESF newsletter, where we want to inform you about the plans of the Executive council but also want to inform you about softball highlights in all countries of Europe.

After the congress in Lausanne, the EC started to prepare a "Working Plan" for 2009 of which you will be informed later after our

"EC Spring Meeting" which will be held in Amsterdam from the 17th till the 19th of April.

Some of the plans I like to share with you and in the same time I want to introduce the ESF Executive Council.

At this time all venues for the European Championships are being inspected and VP Technical and Competition, Gabriel Waage, announced an European TC meeting at London from 29th till 31st of May to inform all TC's for the 2009 ESF tournaments about the ESF Technical Rules in order to get one technical voice at every tournament.

The EC agreed about the plans of Slava Smagin, ESF VP for Development, to split Europe in 5 development regions with commissioners for every region. Next to these regions, there will be separate commissions for fast-pitch men softball and slow-pitch softball each with their own commissioner. Every

Federation will be asked the fill in the 2009 ESF questionnaire and the commissioners will be in direct contact with all Federations in their region to make development plans at Federation level. Clinics will be held per region to reduce the travel costs. Slava will be assisted by Tottoni Sanna our 1st Vice President and your President.

VP Athletes, Medical and Anti doping, Chiqui Vazquez was and will be responsible for the ESF website which needs to be transformed in a more readable website for clubs, coaches and players and not only for Federations. Chiqui will install a Backsoftball Task Force for Europe and is working on an Athletes Commission with players from all European regions.

Michael Schmidt is working on marketing and P/R plans with this newsletter as an example. Patrice Bienfait was and is our Secretary General, assisted by Francesca Fabretto as Assistant Secretary General and Eddy van Straelen will work as our Treasurer.

Last but not least, Ami Baran will be our VP Operations who will keep us on the right track and will have control over time-schedules and regulations.

Please feel free to inform us about softball highlights in your Federation and all questions you might have.

I wish you all a good start of the softball-season and let 2009 be an historical year in softball. Softball again at the 2016 Olympics.

Your President
Andre van Overbeek



The New ESF Board Members in Portrait

In this and the next newsletters, we'll publish more information about each of the ESF board members and their departments, commissions and committees.

Andre van Overbeek, President

André's career in baseball and softball starts somewhere in the sixties, when he is 18 years old. At that time he is playing soccer at DOS ,32, a club in Rotterdam.

When the chairman of that club decides to set up a baseball-team, he becomes a player through his soccer-friends. André plays baseball for some 20 years with DOS ,32, then starts to coach several softball-teams after he retires as a player.

When his son starts to play baseball for Euro Stars, he follows soon after to that club, coaching youth baseball- and softball teams, but also coaches the main baseball- and softball squad of that club.

Because of his work, André lives for nine years in St. Petersburg (Russia), but he doesn't forget softball. In this beautiful city, André (who speaks some Russian) was involved in a local softball-team, where he held weekly practices.

After returning from Russia, at the end of the nineties, André becomes a member of several committees at Euro Stars. Amongst them, chairman of both the baseball and softball committee and also serves at chairman of the board for the entire club.

In September 2004, André van Overbeek takes over the duties as KNBSB Member of the Board and was elected on March 12, 2005 and officially becomes a Member of the Board of the Royal Dutch Baseball and Softball Association (KNBSB).



In this position, he is responsible for the Topsport Softball Section within the Association and will not only oversee the competitions at the highest levels, but also all activities concerning the national softball-teams for both women and men. In this position he is responsible for the coaching-staff and all contacts with the Dutch Olympic Committee, sponsors and members of the Board of the Dutch Softball clubs.

From 2003, Andre was member of the board of the World Port Tournament, as he is a contributor to the bi-annual international baseball-tournament in Rotterdam, which is organized in every odd year.

Eddy van Straelen, Treasurer

Eddy was been an ESF international umpire from 1984 to 1996 and was involved in hundreds of games throughout Europe.

Eddy is the Treasurer of the ESF and is responsible for all financial matters. He is the Chair of the Financial Commission. His duties also include outside accounting services, EU contacts and responsibility for the budget.



Eddy served in the ESF Executive Board in various positions from 1991, with a brief "holiday" of about 2 years, through the present. In those years, it was the case that EC members usually became TC members, and Eddy started doing this in 1993.

Totoni Sanna, 1st Vice President

Totoni Sanna lives in Nuoro, Sardinia. He is president of his Province of Lega delle Cooperative, an organization that represent the cooperatives companies. He started to play baseball in Nuoro, and he played up to the Italian second division level.

Totoni coached softball from 1984 to 1995. From 1996 to 2006, he was president of Nuoro Softball, a team that plays in the Italian Softball League. He organized the 4th European Championship Juniors girls in Nuoro in 1996, and the Intercontinental Cup in 1998. He was the Chairman of "Francesco Sanna" international Tournament from 1990 to 2007. From 1995 to 2000, Totoni became a member of the Sport municipality commission in Nuoro and in 2000 he was elected member of city council.



In 2001, Totoni was elected to the Board of FIBS As a board member of the FIBS, he was the Delegate for different Italian national teams, for example, the junior girls in the Czech Republic for the 7th European Championship Juniors in 2002. In 2004 he was elected vice president of FIBS and in 2005 vice president of ESF. In 2006, Totoni was head of the delegation for the Italian national team in Beijing in the Women's World Championships.

In 2007, Totoni was the ESF executive in Amsterdam at the Women's European Championships and head of delegation for the Italian National team in University Games in Bangkok. In 2008 he was re-elected vice president of FIBS.



Slava Smagin, Vice President Development

Slava Smagin was born on February 15th 1963 in Tuchkovo of Moscow region, Russia. He is married with three children.

Slava was graduated at the Institute of Physical Culture in 1984.



He became a Baseball umpire, UIC Soviet Union (aka CCCP) from 1988 to 1993. He was the founder of Carousel softball in 1990.

Slava has been the Vice President and executive director of the Russian Softball Federation since 2001. He was elected ESF vice president in 2009.

Within the ESF, Slava is responsible for preparation of the Development Plan including fund-raising and forming sub-committees in development for all types of Softball. He is also responsible for communications between the commissioners of the regions planned and is the Chair of the Development Commission.

Ami Baran, Vice President Operations

Ami Baran was born in Chicago but moved to Israel by himself when he was 14 years old. Ami has long been a prominent figure in the Israeli sports scene. He is currently the Chair of the Professional Committee in Israel and is Head Coach of the Men's Fastpitch National Team. Ami was former Head Coach of the Israeli National Track and Field Teams (throwing events) and was a long-time Israeli Champion and record-holder in the javelin throw.



Ami helped develop the Coaching Certification Course for Baseball and Softball in Israel. He is the liaison for inter-sport cooperation between baseball and softball. Ami is a graduate of the renowned Wingate Institute, Israel's National Center for Physical Education and Elite Sport majoring in Biomechanics and Exercise Physiology, which allows him to plan training programs for athletes in Israel and around the world.

Ami also is a Major in the Israeli Police Force (on leave) and is a certified lawyer.

Within the ESF Board he is responsible for the implementation of the EC objectives based on all VP programs, plans and budgets by way of coordinating, assisting, consulting

and tracking all work to be reported to the President and the EC. He is charged, with the Secretary General, with coordinating efforts between the Commissions. His remit includes managing EC organizational structures to ensure unity and separation of duties and responsibilities within the legal framework of the ESF. He is also responsible for the communications between the Federations and the EC including "Ombudsman" form of interactions.



ESF Tournaments 2009

- ESF Championships
VI. EChJB, Ledenice (CZE): 30 Jun - 4 Jul
- ESF Championship
X. EChCG, San Sebastián (ESP): 13 - 18 Jul
- ESF Championship
VIII. EChWB, Hoboken (BEL): 27 Jul - 1 Aug
- ESF Championship
XVI. EChWA, Valencia (ESP): 27 Jul - 1 Aug
- ESF Cup
XII. ECWCWB, Edirne (TUR): 17 - 22 Aug
- ESF Cup
XVIII. ECWCWA, Parma (ITA): 17 - 22 Aug
- ESF Cup
XVI. ECWB, Dupnitsa (BUL): 17 - 22 Aug
- ESF Cup
XXXII. ECWA, Legnano (ITA): 17 - 22 Aug
- ESF Cup
III. ECCS, Dupnitsa (BUL): 24 - 29 Aug
- ESF Cup
VIII. ECWCM, Spijkenisse (NED): 24 - 29 Aug
- ESF Cup
XX. ECM, Bagnaria Arsa (ITA): 24 - 29 Aug

In the next issue of the Newsletter, you will find the portraits of General Secretary Patrice Bienfait, VP Chiqui Vazquez, VP Gabriel Waage, Assistant to the General Secretary Francesca Fabretto and VP Michael Schmidt as well as Rules and Technical updates.

