

JJIF GENERAL ASSEMBLY November 26, 2004 - Mostoles, Madrid (ESP)

Argentina? Present... Austria? Present... and so on for Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Columbia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Ukraine...

Although all JJIF Members are warmly invited to participate in both General Assemblies and Competition, these not always attract the same participating countries. Visas...distances... costs...



2004's formula of combining Congress and World Championships in a sole three-day event was evidently welcome and the encouraging presence of both Members and Observers ensured an overall success of JJIF's most important appointments.

The 2004 World Championships Organising Committee chairman, Spanish federation President Mr Alexandro Blanco, heartily welcomed the delegations and extended his thanks to the Mostoles Community for its involvement in the organisation of the World Chamionships.



Hosting president Alexandro Blanco and Paul Hoglund

Then, in his introductory speech, JJIF President, Dr Hoglund, illustrated how the Federation has grown by 85% in terms of membership in the last one-and-a-half-year period. He then commented the documents "Proposed Development Programme for JJIF for the years 2003 to 2007" and "Application for **IOC Recognition**, Answer to IOC Questionnaire". Seeing the Criteria for IOC recognition have recently changed (requiring an increased number of Member Countries in the five continents) the JJIF has unfortunately not obtained the sought-for status this year. However, this goal remains among JJIF's primary objectives and the trend of growth promise to bear the fruits in the near future.

It is due to this strategic planning that the JJIF has recently constituted the JJPAU. On November 11, 2004 the North and South American Unions merged to form a single the **Ju-Jitsu Pan American Union** with Mr Ignacio Alloise as its elected president. Looking east, the JJIF is likewise seeking to create the Ju Jitsu Asian Union (JJASU) with the help and support of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Another objective remains that of continuing to extend membership in the continent. Of course the JJIF will have particular care in this delicate moment in order to ensure a healthy technical and general development within the new Unions.

The 1st Vice-president for technical matters, Heinz Lamade, then presented his report on performed activities and plans for the year to come. He was proud to announce that the **JJIF Summer Camp's** Referee course held in Corfu last July was the first to have generated profit. The word then passed to 2nd Vice-president Luis Baguena, who gave a short report from the JJEUU Extraordinary General

Assembly held earlier that morning for the final approval of the **JJEU Statutes** and Financial Rules (for the complete documents please visit the JJIF website www.jjifweb.com).

It was convened that technical matters raised at this point by some delegates will be more appropriately examined and discussed during the **JJIF Technical Congress** to be held in Sofia (BUL) at the end of January 2005.

As the GA proceeded various representatives of **JJIF's Committees** were able to report on their 2004 activity. Thus, Sport Director Mario den Edel spoke especially of World Games matters and the new programme for the youth. He further reported on the JJIF grading system for Kyu and Dan examinations (special posters with the different techniques are already available and will be distributed to countries in the next weeks); Assistant Sport Director Georgios Zantiotis gave a report on activities for youth and children as well as the work carried out with handicapped and disabled people wishing to train in Ju-Jitsu; and Referee Director Henrik Sandberg gave a highlight on the matters that will be at the heart of the coming technical congress. He also stressed the need for an increased referee education in all continental unions, recommending also that the JJIF competition rules and referee regulations be updated.

Back to the board, JJIF Treasurer Luc Cassier gave an overview of the financial situation, asking Dr Hoglund (former JJIF Treasurer) to present the **JJIF Financial Report for 2003**. Mr Cassier signalled the presence of a significant increase on account of "membership development" that has been necessary to expand the JJIF total membership.

There were no complaints on the Financial presentation for 2003 however, Mr Ignacio Alloise, one of the auditors, asked for more time to make a more thorough control of the bookkeeping.

On the occasion the GA elected its **auditors** for the next two-year period, renewing Mr Panajotis Theodoropoulos, Greece, and appointing Mr Bruce Bethers, USA and Mr Jao Schiffer, Brazil.

The Treasurer then presented the budget for the coming two-year period. In the future this will be done on a four-year period, similarly to most Olympic sport federations. The JJIF will however base its term on the World Games calendar. The treasurer also reported that the JJIF is currently considering two sponsorship proposals from martial arts products Companies, but no final negotiations have yet been made.

Finally, Mr Cassier communicated that the JJIF received applications from **new member candidates**: Iraque Ju Jitsu Federation, Ju Jitsu National Federation of Kazakhstan, Kuwait Ju Jitsu Federation, Nepal Ju-Jitsu Federation, Chinese Taipei Ju Jitsu Association (Taiwan), Ju Jitsu Association of Ukraine. In Iran there has been a change of membership to Iran Judo, Ju Jitsu and Kurash Federation, where the old JJIF member has been integrated.

The JJIF Constitution also provides for "**associated membership**" to JJIF by other international judjitsu federations. Applications for associated membership of JJIF has been received from WJJKO)

(World Ju Jitsu and Kobudo Organisation) and YKKF (Yudansha Kobujitsu and Karatedo Federation).

The federation representatives were asked to make a short presentation of their respective federations and the GA unanimously decided to accept membership for the presented federations.



Newly appointed Honorary JJIF Member Frank Furst (left) and JJIF President Paul Hoglund

The GA, however, did not accept the JJIF-DC proposal to change the present JJIF Statutes to incorporate only one category of members. After a long discussion the assembly decided that the Statutes should be changed but maintain two categories of membership. The JJIF-DC

will elaborate and send out a proposal for the delegates to consider in view of the next GA.

Talking of which it was unanimously decided, that future **JJIF-GA** should take place every two years in connection with the World Championships, and on the day before the competition. Next assembly will thus be in the end of November 2006.

Finally, a new proposal for the JJIF Financial Rules will be worked out and sent to member nations to collect any comments. In principle the JJIF will follow the existing JJEUU Financial Rules.

The JJIF election system will be further discussed and decided at next assembly.

Dr Hoglund proposed, with the support of the JJIF-DC, to elect former General Secretary Frank Furst as **honorary member of the JJIF** for his 18 years of devoted work for the JJIF and the GA ratified the proposal by acclamation.



Newly elected General Secretary, Rossitsa Stateva (centre)
between Vice-President Luis Baguena and Pan-American Union
President Ignacio Alloise

But then it was time to vote for the present General Secretary with full-voting right within the JJIF-DC (as ordinary elections are not due before the 2006 GA). **Mrs Benedicte Rouby** coopted General Secretary, communicated her intention not to run for office. The president expressed the Federation's appreciation for her enthusiasm and devoted work over the last period and proposed to appoint Mrs Rouby as Assistant Sport Director (with the special task of promoting Ju-jitsu events for women). For the vacant post the JJIF received two candidatures: Mr Linus Bruhin (SWI) and **Mrs Rossitsa Stateva** (BUL). The election went in favour of Mrs Rossitsa Stateva who will undoubtedly bring her interest for youth activity in the heart of the JJIF agenda.

There followed a series of very professional presentations regarding **bidding cities** for future JJIF events and the calendar is available on the JJIF website.

The GA was closed at 7.30 pm allowing for dinner, a goodnight's sleep and an early wake-up call for the next day's World class competition!