

International Rafting Federation

Newsletter

1998 and 1999 - Newsletter

The last few months have been very productive for the IRF. An office has been set up with Sue Liell-Cock as Administrator. This has hugely assisted communications and we request that all contact be done through this office. All membership applications, queries and updates will be handled through here as well as communications on competitions, other organisations and all aspects of the IRF, including those detailed below. We have been working on various criteria and as details are finalised we will be putting them on our website for everyone's easy access. If they are not on the website yet, please contact this office for your copy.

IRF Race Rules

These have been drawn up and finalised and are available on the website. These rules will be used for World Champs, Continental Champs and any other official IRF events and are a guideline for countries to use for their national events.

Bid Documents

Bid Documents for a host country to hold the IRF World Rafting Champs or Continental Champs have been finalised and are also now available. The Continental Champs bid is open to flexibility. The World Champs are still heavily dependent on sponsorship, so please keep in contact if you have any possible options here.

IRF Standard Guide Requirements

The initial stage laying out guide requirements has been completed and the next stage of guide training is being worked on. It is hoped that these standards are accepted by all rafting organisations around the world.

Competitions

We are drawing up a rafting competition calendar, which will be kept on the website. Please let us know of all competitions being held in your country.

Camel White Water Challenge 1999 and 2000

A communication has been sent out already detailing what is happening and who has been invited to compete. The CWWC is an IRF approved event and gives it its full support, just as the CWWC has given the IRF its support. It will be run according to the IRF Race Rules with some special exceptions being made. The Kayak race is for points and the Time Trial is not; and the point structure is slightly different. The invitations to this event are dependent on the country being a member of the IRF by April 1999. Other teams have a chance to get to the 1999 CWWC by competing at the European Champs. The top team not already invited will be included for 1999.

In February 2000 the event is going to the Futalefu in Chile. Selection for the countries / teams for this event will be based SOLELY on Continental Selections. The 1999 Continental Selections must be held, according to the IRF rules, by 15 December 1999. Please contact this office to ensure your Continental Selections will be approved by the IRF. All participating countries must be members of the IRF prior to competing. The number of teams qualifying per region is as follows:

North America - 2, Latin America (South and Central) - 2, Africa - 2, Europe - 6, Asia - 2, Oceania - 1 and Host - 1. This totals 16 men's teams. Women's teams will be N. America - 1, Europe - 1, Oceania - 1 and the 4th will be a wild card (determined by the CWWC on merit).

Members and membership applications

The following countries had joined the IRF by the time of this letter: Czech Rep, South Africa, Belgium, Slovakia, Russia and Japan.

To join the IRF:

1. Form a National Rafting Organisation in your country that is representative of all rafters.
2. Send us a summary, in English, of the following sections of your constitution: - Aims / Objectives of the organisation, Membership Criteria, ie. who can join, voting and decision making, ie who votes your committee in.
3. Send us the list of the committee members, their positions and contact details for the organisation.
4. Pay the US\$500 membership fee.
5. Fax the declaration through to this office.

We hope to hear from you all soon and that you all had a very Festive Season, whether it was in the snow or the sun!

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COMPETITIVE RAFTING

2001 was a year of great international competitions. The *IRF World Champs* were held in West Virginia, USA and despite the awful tragedy of September 11, most teams still made it and showed great international unity in the face of this world intimidation. The event was well run and thoroughly enjoyed by the 11 men's and 5 women's teams that made it. Germany came away with the top honours with Italy second and Czech Republic third. The women's section was won by the Czech Republic, with Slovakia second and the USA third. For more details, check www.rapidpulse.net.

The final *Camel White Water Challenge* event was held on the Zambezi River earlier in September and saw the domination of the European teams broken and southern Hemisphere teams doing very well. Australia came away as the champs, followed by Canada and then New Zealand. The women's section was won by New Zealand for the 3rd time in a row, followed by USA in second and South Africa in 3rd. This was the last CWWC as Camel have now pulled out of sponsoring the event.

FUTURE EVENTS

WORLD CHAMPS: We are hoping to run the 2002 IRF Champs in Tasmania in December. This is dependent on sufficient sponsorship coming through and this will only be finalised by the end of May. Whether this event happens or not, World Champs will be held in 2003. Various venues are being investigated for this and more details will be given at a later date.

EURO CHAMPS: If any country is interested in holding the 2002 IRF Euro Champs, please contact as soon as possible. As soon as more definite news is known we will let you know.

OTHER EVENTS: There are other international events being held and we suggest you keep an eye on our website, www.intraftfed.com, to keep up to date with them. At this stage we suggest you look at the Czech Republic's calendar of events which has an international event early June and the Europa Cup and Gumotex Cup events. Italy's calendar is also available on the website as are the coastal rafting events in Belgium. The USA events can be found on www.rapidpulse.net and include the Clear Creek event in May and the Gauley event in September. Indonesia usually hold an annual international event and New Zealand held their festival in February.

If you have events you wish to be announced to the rafting world please send them through to us and we can add them to the website as well as send the out to our database of contacts.

GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION

This has been split into regions so that more workshops can be run and so the whole process can be run more easily by the regional representatives. The representatives so far are: Europe - Steve Thomas ([please click here](#)), Robert Kazik ([please click here](#)), Americas - Steve Nomchong ([please click here](#)), Australasia - Grant South (south@hiddenvalleys.co.nz), Africa - to be confirmed

French and Spanish translations of the Guide Award Scheme, Minimum Requirements and Training Programme will be added to the website soon as will the list of IRF certified guides, instructors and assessors.

Guides and companies are making good use of the advertising facilities on our website to either find guides or guiding work.

Keep an eye on our website for updates on the above topics. Also feel free to contact us if you have any suggestions or would like to be more involved in the running of the IRF.

MEMBERSHIP FEES are due again for the years 2002/ 2003. The amount is still US\$500 for the 2 years.

PLEASE NOTE - the email address for the IRF is ([please click here](#)). The email address thansen@iafrica.com was for the CWWC and so is no longer for rafting matters of this nature.

Happy paddling !!

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GUIDE EDUCATION & TRAINING

The IRF website (www.intraftfed.com) has been updated with the list of IRF certified Assessors, Instructors and Guides. The French and Spanish versions of the GT&E system of certification has also been made available there. The advertising page for guides and companies has been erroneously requesting passwords and logins. This should be sorted by the time you receive this newsletter. Apologies for those who encountered this.

COMPETITIVE RAFTING

There are a number of events that are happening in the near future. Some are open for international teams and some are national events. Here they are, more or less as given by the organisers:

XV ITALIAN Rafting Championship 2002 Valsesia International Trophy – Save the river 1st June 2002 – Scopello (VC) – Italy (International teams welcome)

This competition is proclaimed by the Italian Rafting Association (UISP-Coni) and organised by A.I.Raf in collaboration with the "Valsesia Wild Water 2002 Organising Committee". This event plays a role in the A.I.Raf's initiative, organised in the UISP's Italian Canoe and Kayak Federation circle.

Those allowed to take part in the competition are the A.I.Raf's Club, Company and affiliate Team members. Foreign teams are also invited to take part in the competition.

This is the only opportunity teams will have to compete for the Italian Title Super Sprint Event and the "Valsesia International Trophy – Save the river"

The race - Super Sprint in two heats

Score- Sum time of the two heats

Boats and competing team members Teams are only permitted to use rafts provided by the organization (Pulsar 3.80). Competing teams: One raft for 6 member teams.

Course Scopello services park – Scopello bridge. Distance: 800 meters, difficulty III – IV WW.

Schedule Saturday 1st June

10.30 Team Leaders Meeting for the collection of competition numbers and the course trial schedule awarding (the rafts will be provided by the organisation)

11.00 Course trials Start

14.00 Course trials End

15.00 1st heat starts

16.30 2nd heat starts

18.30 Prize-giving

Regulation A.I.Raf's sport regulation

Entry Maximum competition entries; 30 teams. Team entry must be sent to A.I.Raf before the 30.05.2002.

The official announcement of competition along with logistic information and the entry models will be available after the **10.05.2002** at A.I.Raf., Fraz. Neyran, 85/e, 11020 Brissogne (AO), tel/fax 0165/762711 – e-mail: airaf@airaf.it, or consulting the web site: www.airaf.it

WORLD COAST RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS in Oostende Flanders 13 - 15 Sept 2002

The preparation of the WORLD COAST RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIP on 13 - 15 sept is almost finished. We have put together a program that will make all the teams feel welcome. Our attention is now focused on the team selections and the training. We give all the international teams the opportunity to test their preparation in the two races on the Flemish coast : on the 22 th of june in BLANKENBERGE and

on the 23 th of june in OOSTENDE on the location of the W C R C.
The price for participation is 150 euro for the two races. Teams of 6 members : men, women of mixed allowed. If you have any question, don't hesitate and mail us. You will also find a lot of info on our web site (click on English) www.rafting.be

SCANDINAVIAN RaftingChamps
26th and 28th June 2002
(extremsport festival, international teams welcome)

The rafting championship is to be held on the 26th of June (slalom and downriver combined). There will also be riverboarding, inflatable kayaking and several kayaking competitions throughout this week. Most of the international best kayakers will be participating while the raft people are from Norway, although all teams are welcome!! Last year we had 600 participants from 16 different nations. We expect more than 800 participants in the different sports during the weeklong festival.

Check out www.ekstremsportveko.com, see "RAFTING", then follow the links through "Lpent Scandinavisk mesterskap" and finally RULES - this is in English and tells what is happening.

HOLLAND - Dutch Coastal Rafting
9th June & 8th September
www.raft.nl

These events are ideal for training for the World Coastal Rafting Championships. Also, there are 2 new sites, full of links for rafting (competition, equipment, tourism): www.raft.pagina.nl; www.raft.startkabel.nl

GERMAN Nationals 2002
October 19th to the 21st
Augsburg/Gremany.

For more information check out www.RaftingCanyoning.com > Rafting > Europa > Deutschland > Deutsche Rafting Meisterschaften

RUSSIA

Siberian Rafting Champs on the mighty Katun River. It will be held in format of the World Rafting Champs on May 31 to June 2 (C4, C6) in Altai Region. It is an official competition hosted by the Russian Rafting Federation. Contact: rafting@prpassat.ru

1st AUSTRIAN Rafting Championships
April 2002

25 Teams came from Hungary, Italy, Czech Rep., Germany and Austria competing in 4-man Rafts. One women's team from Hungary.

Racing site: Village of Wildalpen/Country of Steiermark/Austria (next big city is Linz) .

River: Salza, WW Grade II-III

Water temp: freezing, rain/snow.

sprint: 81 sec.

slalom: 3 Min 3 sec.

downriver: 28 Min 40 sec.

Results.

1st: RTA - Kanu Schwaben Augsburg 920 Pt.

2nd: Rafting Club Sterzing - ITA 724 Pt.

3rd: Raftingklub Adaco Tabor 2 - TCH 720 Pt.

USA

Clear Creek Challenge, Colorado, May 31 - June 2

Whitewater Cup and Gauley Race are combining and are on September 20 to 23rd. Even though it is for the US Nationals, all teams from all over are welcome.

FYI we will be doing the whitewater cup in Sept 2003 on the Gauley once again so please put that in your diaries as well.

We hope these events stir you into action and hope to see you attending as many as possible.

WORLD CHAMPS: The announcement will be made at the end of May as to whether the next IRF World Champs will happen in Tasmania later this year. If the sponsorship is not found for this event, the World Champs will then definitely happen next year.

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WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The next World Championships will be held in 2003. There was insufficient sponsorship to hold it in Tasmania in December as we had hoped. The location and dates for the Worlds next year is being decided at present, the BOD is analysing the various bids that we have received and we will let you know as soon as possible.

CAMEL WHITE WATER CHALLENGE

This event is no longer being held as Camel have pulled out.

OTHER EVENTS

The last newsletter had a number of events listed. Here is the most recent Italian event announced:

Italian Rafting Association

XV Italian Rafting Championship 2002
Absolute Italian Marathon Championship
Absolute Italian Speed Race Championship
29 – 30 June 2002
Vipiteno (Bolzano) – Isarco River - Italy

This competition is proclaimed by the Italian Rafting Association (UISP-Coni) and organised by "Rafting Sterzing-Vipiteno". Those allowed to take part in the competition are the A.I.Raf's Club, Company and affiliate Team members.
[Foreign teams are also invited to take part in the competition.](#)

This event takes a role in the A.I.Raf's initiative, organised in the "Comitato Sport per Tutti" circle, which takes part of the Italian Canoe and Kayak Federation.

The race

Absolute Italian Marathon Championship and Absolute Italian Speed race Championship. titles will be awarded in sole trial.

Boats and competing team members

Teams are only permitted to use rafts provided by the organisation (Pulsar 3.80). Competing teams: One raft for 6 member's team.

Course

Isarco river from Stilves to Mules
Distances: Marathon 3.5 km; Speed race 1.5km
Difficulty: II-III WW.

Schedule

Saturday 29th June:

From 13h to 14h: Entry and registration at the boarding place (Stilves bridge in Vipiteno), training, boats and safety equipment check-up (life jacket, helmet, throw bag etc...). Rafts will be at disposal by the boarding during the whole morning.

14h30 Team Leader's meeting by Stilves bridge.

15h00 Marathon race start

19h00 Spaghetti party by "Derby Club". Everyone is welcome!

Sunday 30 June

10h00 speed race 1st heat starts

11h00 speed race 2nd heat starts

Prize-giving at the 2nd heat end.

A.I.Raf registration and affiliation.

To participate to the race and use the boats given by the organisation team, it's necessary to be A.I.Raf registered and be a Club member, or a navigation Company member or an affiliated team member. **It's not planned to pay a inscription**

fee for Team and Club for the 2002 championship. The registration like a athlete is € 13.00 (per person) and covers the A.I.Raf affiliation and the UISP insurance. Conditions and documents for the affiliation and the registration could be requested by the A.I.Raf secretary by e-mail: airaf@airaf.it

Stranger teams are admitted.

Attention: To participate to the races planned by A.I.Raf, it's necessary, at the entry moment, to show a medical certificate, which will states the athlete is suitable to practise competitive/amateur sports.

Race entry We can admit to the race up to 30 teams.

Applies with the Club/company or Team name, and the athlete list must be delivered to Segreteria A.I.Raf, Frazione Neyran 85/e, 11020 Brissogne (Aosta), tel/fax +39-165-762711, e-mail airaf@airaf.it **within the 27th june 2002.** The organisation will not guarantee your request after this time limit.

Safety rules and A.I.Raf's sport regulation must be observed by the competitors.

Entry registration

Rafting Sterzing/Vipiteno, via Pfarranger, 139049 Vipiteno (BZ) Tel: 0472/765660 Fax: 0472/764809 0472/767700

E-Mail: Schifferle@dnet.it

Entry fee € 80 per racing team

Racing numbers The numbers will be assigned at the race council end

Overnight stay and logistic

Over 31 €

HOTEL STAFLER – Mules 10 – 39040 Campo di Trens (0472/771136 1 km. from the start

HOTEL LAMM – Città Nuova, 16 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765127 4 km from the start

HOTEL GASTEIGERHOF – Casatein – 39040 Racines (0472/779090 5 km from the start

From 23 € to 30 €

Albergo BURGFRIEDEN – Castelpietra, 9 – 39040 Campo di Trens (0472/765400 2 km. from the start

Gasthof STERZINGER MOOS – via Palude, 4 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765542 4 km from the start

Gasthof LENER - Trens, 8 – 39040 Campo di Trens (0472/647133 0.3 km from the start

Albergo KLAMMER – via Brennero, 42 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765186 www.gasthof-klammer.com 3 km from the start

Albergo MONTE CAVALLO – via Brennero, 36 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765364 3 km from the start

Hotel ZOLL – Novale, 30 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765651 5 km from the start

Albergo MAIBAD – via Brennero, 6 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765461 3 km from the start

Hotel SHUSTER – via Parrocchia, 1 – 39040 Colle Isarco (0472/632322

From 15 € to 22 €

Garni FARBE – fam. Sparber + apartments – old town, 46 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/764123 4 km from the start

Privatzimmer KOFLER WALTER – via S. Margherita, 48 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/765566 4 km from the start

Albergo FRICK – viale della Commenda, 25 - 39049 Vipiteno (0472/764496 3 km from the start

Albergo LANERHOF – Tunes, 49 – 39049 Vipiteno (0472/764777 5 km from the start

It's possible to stay cheaply in camping getting in touch with Rafting Sterzing Vipiteno.

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1) 2003 IRF WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS

The Czechs are the Mens World Rafting Champs! After being so close the last 4 World Champs (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 2nd), they have at last secured that elusive 1st place! Congratulations! And **the New Zealand Women took back their crown from the Czech women's team** making it the 3rd time they are the Womens World Rafting Champs - well done!

The general response from competitors is that the race venues were excellent for racing and that the race organization was flawless. The thanks must go to the volunteers, sponsors, teams, supporters, Czech organisers and all the others involved and particularly to Stan Hajek and Robert Kazik.

It was an excellent turn out with 24 countries being represented and a new record of 10 womens teams, which is very promising for the future of women's rafting internationally.

The full results as well as pictures and daily news releases can be seen at www.e-rafting.info/rafting/WRC03.

2) OTHER EVENTS RESULTS: -

a) Results for the events that have recently run in **Europe** can be seen on www.e-rafting.info

b) The annual **Gauley Whitewater Challenge** which is split into the Whitewater Cup (which is also the USA National Champs), the Animal Upper Gauley Race and the Gauley Citizens Challenge ran from the 18 to the 22 September. Results can be seen on www.rapidpulse.net.

3) OTHER EVENTS COMING UP:-

INDONESIA 2003 – ASAHAN WHITEWATER FESTIVAL

Dates : 11th of 16 th Oktober 2003

Location : Asahan River Tangga Village Regency, Asahan. North Sumatera, Indonesia (INA) South east asia

Whitewater Racing :

- * Elite – Pro Kayak International Open Tournament
- * Raft International Open Tournament.

Entrée fee :

- Elite - Pro Kayak International open tournament \$ US 120.-
- International Raft Open Tournament \$US 92.- / Team

Prize money : Total Prize \$ 15.500-

Sponsored By : Government of Asahan Regency , PT Inalum, and Local Participant

Event Organizer by :- SPASI ENTERPRISE & INDONESIAN RAFTING FED. (FAJI); Phone: +62-(0623) 42540, Fax : +62-(0623) 42020; Website : <http://www.spasi-asahan.com>

4) RACE JUDGES

Various judges courses and exams were run in Czech before the start of the World Champs. All these judges are now certified IRF Judges (Assistant Judges level). These Judges can confirm their certifications on the website at www.intraftfed.com/sport & comp/Race Judges.

5) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION

A GT&E Instructor Workshop was run after the World Champs. This was held on the Salza river in Austria. The workshop was very succesful and a number of Instructors were certified, furthering the extent to which the IRF certification is extending itself.

If there is a need for a workshop to be run in your region please contact us and we can get to work on that. Workshops are ideally run to certify potential instructors as IRF Instructors so that they can then certify all their future guides and trip leaders with the IRF certification.

6) BIDS FOR 2004 WORLDS

All bids for the 2004 IRF World Rafting Champs should be sent to us before the 15th October. A decision as to where it will be next year will be made before the end of this year.

7) CONTACT WITH NEW COUNTRIES

We are always wanting to extend our contact to all those that raft and so are always pleased to make contact with individuals, companies and organisations that have these same interests.

Recently the IRF was invited to a rafting seminar in China which was successful and it seems that future contact and growth between us is viable. China has a huge potential for rafting and could be a great source of new adventures for the ever hungry guides. They have also shown an interest in future competitions.

Other countries we have recently heard from for the first time are the Philipines, Honduras, South Korea and Portugal. We also had a number of new countries joining recently: Greece, Austria, Hungary and revival of contacts with many other countries. We are therefore looking forward to an even bigger World Champs next time!

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1) STOP PRESS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2004 IRF R4 WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS (4 man rafts)!!! It has just been announced that the Greeks will be hosting the R4 WRC on the new Olympic slalom course in Athens. Details are still being finalised but in the meantime we hope this announcement will get you all motivated and moving to prepare for this event. The dates will be sometime between late March and early May.

2) OTHER EVENTS COMING UP:-

a) INDIA CUP

Dates: 13 to 21 March 2004

Venue: River Satluj in Himachal Pradesh, India

Teams invited: Open to all IRF members (Men's and Women's teams)

Entry fee: \$ 150 per team.

What's provided: All accomodation, meals and transportation will be taken care of in India except trainfare from New Delhi to Shimla and back which is \$ 100 per person. Teams have to take care of their international airfare, visa fees, Insurance and personal rafting gear.

Rules of event: IRF rules.

Contact person for more info: Shaukat Sikand

b) EASTERRAFT - rafting race in Spring, April 10-12, 2004 (Easter holidays) in Croatia. Venue: River Dobra near Ogulin, between Zagreb and Rijeka, grade 3-4+. More information to follow soon.

3) BIDS FOR 2005 WRC

There will be no R6 WRC in 2004. This is to allow countries and teams to raise sufficient funding to get themselves to the next R6 WRC in 2005! As usual, we are looking for bids for this event and preference is given to bids that assist the teams as much as possible. Anyone interested in bidding is to please contact us.

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 - c) Dutch coast-raft championships - 8th September 2002
 - d) Costa Rica National Championship - 26 to 27 October 2002
 - e) Whitewater Cup, USA - 20 and 23 September 2002

1) IRF CONGRESS 2002

An email Congress will be held during the week of 16 to the 20 September 2002. Topics of discussion and nominations for election to the new Board of Directors need to be raised first with your federation who then must bring it to the attention of the IRF Secretary. There are ten positions within the BOD: President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Head's of the following Committees: Sport & Competition, Education & Training, Tourism, Conservation. These are merely titles as everyone tends to assist with all aspects of the federation.

2) OTHER EVENTS

- a) Euro Champs 2002- 3rd to 5th of October 2002.
 - 3/10 (German national holiday) - Sprint on Eiskanal in Augsburg
 - 4/10 - Slalom on Eiskanal in Augsburg
 - 5/10 - Travel to Tyrol early morning (5-6 am). It takes 2-2,5 hours.
Downriver on Inn River in Tyrol (either Imster section or Landecker section).
Evening of 5/10: Party time and prize giving in mountain lodges. Free Camping in Augsburg
 - Training: On the Eiskanal - Sept. 29th to Oct. 2nd. On the river Inn - every day. Most probably we use from Imst to Haiming (45 min).

b) WORLD COAST RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS on 13 to 15 sept in OOSTENDE BELGIUM. One month to go and here is the last update:

1. We have 22 teams until now (4 womens teams)
- 2 The second last race to train your team is held on 25 August in Bredene, participation fee is 150 euro for a 6 member team.
- 3 The very last race to train is in Zandvoort Holland on 8 Sept (see below)
- 4 Last entry is accepted on Monday 9 Sept. See entry form on web site www.rafting.be
- 5 If you need assistance for transport, hotels etc, let us know...

c) Dutch coast-raft championships - September 8th 2002 in Zandvoort (20 km from Amsterdam). This is the weekend before the World Championships in Belgium (200 km from Zandvoort), so the last chance to meet the waters of the North Sea! For more info: www.raft.nl (also see: www.raft.pagina.nl)

d) Costa Rica National Championship 2002 October 26-27 on the Reventazon River, organized by Association of Adventure Operators.

e) Whitewater Cup, USA - 20 and 23 September 2002 on the Gauley River in West Virginia, USA. The race will be one of the top whitewater events of the year, and we will be selecting the U.S. men's and women's rafting teams. These teams will go on to represent the United States at the World Rafting Championships, to be held in the Czech Republic in August 2003. The Whitewater Cup, however, is open to anyone in the world and teams from Mexico, Czech Republic, Indonesia, South Africa and Canada are already showing interest.

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1) IRF CONGRESS 2002

The 2002 IRF Congress was held via email and was very successful. A complete set of minutes is available [\(click here\)](#) and includes the new BOD and all the details of discussions and decisions that were made. T

2) Euro Champs: 3 - 5 Oct

Attached is a list (as of 30th Sept) of the teams that have entered the 2002 Euro Champs. So far it is 18 mens teams and 8 womens teams. Teams are already starting to arrive and the anticipation for this event is high. Good luck to the teams and organisers!

3) Andy Duff - New Zealand

It is with sadness that we announce the loss of Andy Duff of New Zealand. Many of you will remember him from the 1997 - 1999 Camel Challenges. His untimely death due to a road accident while rafting in the USA has been a shock to many and he is a big loss to our rafting fraternity. His ashes will be scattered into the Kaituna River in Rotorua/NZ in a ceremony there in the next few days.

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1) 2003 IRF WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS

The World Champs are drawing near very rapidly and teams are scrambling to finalise their entries. We are looking at at least 22 countries being represented at the event, possibly even up to 29! Out of those entries we are looking at about 11 women's teams, which is an excellent number and shows how competitive rafting is on the increase among women. In Norway and Britain it seems the women are more organised and competitive than their men as they are only sending womens teams!

The event promises to be highly competitive and organised as the top teams from around the world prepare to face each other and the Czechs, who are very practised at running numerous large rafting events throughout their season, get everything and everyone in order. Any spectators keen to see the event can look at the details on www.e-rafting.info. The location is about 200km from Prague and not far from the Austrian border.

2) OTHER EVENTS: -

a) European Cup: Come practise before the World Champs! 23-24 August in Ceske Budejovice, near Lipno.

b) Gauley Whitewater Challenge:

is one of the premier whitewater events in the USA. Held annually on the Gauley river in West Virginia this event offers something for everyone. The Whitewater Cup is the selection race for the USA National Rafting Teams (men and women). Any team, from any country can participate. There will be a sprint, slalom and downriver as per the IRF rules. This event will be held from September 18 - 22nd. On Monday the 22nd experience boaters can compete in the Animal Gauley Downriver Race. This race is open to rafts, kayaks, boogie boards or anything you think you can use to get down the river. A new addition this year is the Gauley Citizens Challenge. This race is designed for your friends who don't paddle on a regular basis to compete against other inexperienced paddlers on a world-class river.

Get your friends to sign up with one of the local outfitters on the Gauley River (17 to choose from) and they will supply the guide, raft, gear and transport for a small fee. This event is one of the larger whitewater events in the US and now there is a chance for everyone to compete in a race that is right for them and their experience. For more info log onto www.rapidpulse.com, send an email to gauley@rapidpulse.com or call 303 989 7194

All 3 events (whitewater Cup, Animal Gauley Downriver Race and the Gauley Citizens Challenge) make up the Gauley Whitewater Challenge.

c) 2003 -Asahan Whitewater Festival:

in Indonesia run by the Indonesia Rafting Federation (FAJI "federasi arung jeram indonesia). Multi event: Rafting International Open tournament and Kayak Pro-elite tournament. Rafting event: 1. head to head; 2. slalom; 3. downriver Kayaking event : 1. head to head; 2. downriver; 3. free style
Prize money: Rafting International :US \$ 5.400. Kayak Pro-elite : US \$10.500.
Entry fee: Raft : US \$.92; Kayak : US \$ 120.
more info u can see www.inraftfed.com & www.raft.startkable.nl

3) RACE JUDGES - certification exams before Worlds.

There will be an IRF Judges workshop at the World Rafting Champs venue (Ceske Vrbne whitewater course) on Friday

evening, Aug 22 at 18:00. Judges will have a written exam and be certified according to the IRF Judges certification levels. Those working at the event will also be given their judging tasks for the event then. Contact us if you are interested.

4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION

There will be an IRF Guide Training and Education workshop straight after the Worlds. Guide and Trip Leader exams will be held in conjunction with the Instructor workshop. Guide exam on Sep 2, Trip Leader exam Sep 2-3, Instructor workshop Sep 2-4. Location: still to be finalised but will be about 4 hrs drive from World Champs location of Lipno. (Either in Austria, Slovenia or Slovakia) Please contact us if you are interested.

5) BIDS FOR 2004 WORLDS

All bids for the 2004 IRF World Rafting Champs should be sent to us as soon as possible. A decision as to where it will be next year will be made before the end of this year.

International Rafting Federation

Newsletter

IRF NEWSLETTER - November 2005

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- 1) WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS 2005 - **RESULTS**
- 2) WORLD CHAMPS 2007 **BIDDING** STARTED!!!
- 3) EURO RAFTING CHAMPS 2006
- 4) RAFT RACES: a) Russia, b) Indonesia,
- 5) **CONGRESS!!!**
- 6) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION: a) next workshop!

1) WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS 2005: Quijos river, Ecuador, 12-16 Oct.

Overall results attached; Full results at: <http://www.raftingecuador.org/pages/events.html>

Congratulations go to RUSSIA men and Czech women who are the new World Rafting Champions! Well done to ALL teams!

The event began with the USA men taking first place in the Sprint, with Canada and Russia close behind. In the women's section the New Zealander's took Sprint honours with Slovakia and Norway in 2nd and 3rd.

Russia performed very well in the Slalom to clinch a solid first place for the men with Brasil and Germany take a close 2nd and 3rd. The Czech women took a convincing first in Slalom with Slovakia 2nd and Australia 3rd.

The deciding event, Downriver was won convincingly by the Czech men but this was not enough to overtake the Russians (3rd) for first place. Germany took 2nd place in the Downriver which unfortunately did not get them the 3rd place overall that were hoping for. The USA, although only coming 4th in the Downriver, managed to hang onto 3rd place overall.

The Czech women sealed their World Champs status by winning the Downriver, with NZ achieving 2nd in the downriver and overall. Slovakia's 4th place in the downriver secured them a 3rd place overall.

A HUGE thank you must go to Steve Nomchong and all his volunteers that made the event happen in a most succesful way.

2) WORLD CHAMPS 2007 BIDDING STARTED!!!

Bidding for the 2007 World Rafting Champs has started! If your country is keen to host this event, please get hold of IRF admin immediately.

3) EURO RAFTING CHAMPS 2006

Please find attached the first information letter for the 2006 Euro Champs which are to be held in Croatia from the 28 April to the 1st May.

4) RAFT RACES:

a) Russia - The event has been given full support from the government and will be held in the Altai Republic. Dates: 10-14 August(in case of official training: 8-14 August). River: Katun and its tributary, Chuya (grade 4). This event will be a part of the IRF World Cup series! (More about this World Cup series in the next IRF newsletter!!!)

b) Indonesia - Federasi Arung Jeram Indonesia (FAJI=Indonesia Rafting Federation) will be holding their National Championship on 23- 27 Nov 2005 in Citarum River, West Java.

5) CONGRESS!!!

The IRF will be holding an email CONGRESS from the 23 - 27 January 2006. An agenda is being drawn up, if there is anything you feel needs to be raised at the congress please let us know as soon as possible. At this stage the following items are on the agenda: a) Report back from Committee of International Relations; b) Pass new fees scheme; c) Pass updated Statutes; d) Voting for new BOD; e) Voting for Euro Committee. On this note - please starting thinking of nominations for the Board of Directors, and for the Euro Committee. The completed agenda will be sent out in December.

6) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION

The following are workshops being proposed for next year in Europe:

IRF Guide up to class 3: Saturday 25.4 to Friday 5.5. Assessment: Saturday 6.5 and Sunday 7.5. Cost chf 600.-

IRF Guide up to class 5: Monday 18.9 to Saturday 23.9, Assessment Sunday 24.9

IRF Trip Leader up to class 3: Monday 18.9 to Friday 22.9, Assessment Saturday 23.9

IRF Trip Leader up to class 5: Monday 18.9 to Saturday 23.9. Assessment Sunday 24.9

Contact Miki Webber

International Rafting Federation

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- 1) NEW YEAR
- 2) RAFT RACES: a) WRC 2005; b) Copas Amazonas; c) India; d) USA; e) Norway; f) South Africa; g) Australia; h) Austria
- 3) EURO CUP: i) 2004 Results; ii) Programme for 2005
- 4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION WORKSHOPS
- 5) RAFT RACE RULES

1) NEW YEAR

We hope you all have welcomed in the New Year with enthusiasm albeit with great sadness for the plight of those in Asia and for all those that have lost loved ones in the Tsunami.

The year is a big one for us all as the World Champs will be held this year in October in Ecuador. The rafting news has poured in over the last few weeks so this has become a long and newsy letter!

2) RAFT RACES

a) WORLD CHAMPS 2005 If you are wanting to race a team in the WRC 2005 then the following are the criteria that you need to satisfy:

- i) Your country's rafting organisation must be a fully paid up member of the IRF;
- ii) your country must have held or will be holding fair and credible national selections to choose the best men's and women's teams to represent your country.

If you have any queries on this please get back to us.

b) COPA AMAZONAS, Ecuador (same venue as the 2005 World Champs)

The Copa Amazonas 2004, prelude to the 2005 WRC, was successfully held by Club Rafting ECUADOR on the Quijos river in Ecuador from October 27-31. Eighteen teams from the Czech Republic (2 women, 5 men), Russia (3 men), Slovakia (1 woman, 1 men), Japan (1 men), Brazil (1 men), USA (1 men), Venezuela (1 men) and Ecuador (2 men) competed at the same sites where the next WRC will be held from October 12-16, 2005. The event was especially important for the delegations from Czech Republic (women and men) and Russia (men) as they used it to select which of their top two teams from their national championships will represent their respective countries at the 2005 WRC.

The winners of the Copa Amazonas 2004 were: Women - Czech Women 2 / Troja/Stan Prague (Jezinky) and Men - Altai-Raft (Russia). The complete results can be found at www.raftingecuador.org

c) INDIA

i) INDIAN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS were held recently. There were 10 mens teams and 1 womens teams and the standard of rafting has seen a marked improvement since the India Cup in March this year. The event went well and it is a good sign that rafting in India is going from strength to strength. Results can be seen at: www.inraftfed.com/sport & Comp/

ii) INDIA CUP 2005

After the great success of the India Cup earlier last year they are planning the second one for this year.

Dates: 12 to 20 March 2005

Venue: River Satluj in Himachal Pradesh, India

Teams invited: Open to all IRF members (Men's and Women's teams)

Entry fee: \$ 150 per team. (6 +1)

What's provided: All accommodation, meals and transportation will be taken care of in India except train fare from New Delhi to Shimla and back which is \$ 100 per person. Teams have to take care of their international airfare, Visa fees, Insurance and personal rafting gear.

Contact Shaukat Pal Singh Sikand (Secretary, The Indian Rafting Foundation) for more information: Cel: +91 9810857600.

Email: indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in

d) USA - up and coming races for next year

i) Gore Canyon Race: August 19-21, 2005

This race consists of the Whitewater Cup (U.S. National Rafting Championships) and the traditional downriver race. Gore Canyon is one of the top class V runs in Colorado. The Gore Canyon Festival is all about the paddler, not only is the race solid but there is also music, movies, videos of the days paddling and is a great atmosphere to camp, race hard and enjoy. The Gore Canyon Race is held the 3rd week in August every year so you can always plan ahead.

ii) The Clear Creek Downriver Race. June 3, 2005

This event will be from Lawson to Idaho Springs, CO. Clear Creek, is one of Colorado's hidden gems for river running. The Lawson to Idaho Springs section is a continuous class 4 run with many drops and no flat water. In early June the water is cold but high. A perfect race section. It will take top teams just under 45 minutes to complete the section. The race is open to rafts, kayaks, shredders, sledgers, and so on. This years raft race is a qualifier for Gore Canyon 205 and entry into the Whitewater Cup (US National Rafting Championships). In addition, the Citizen's Challenge, crew of novice or amateur paddlers with an experienced guide, now in its third year, will be a major focus. To find out how to get your company involved, please contact mark@rapidpulse.com. For more information on the race goto www.rapidpulse.com

e) NORWAY will be holding their Extremesport week again this year from Tuesday the 21st to Thursday the 23rd June 2005. A rafting event consisting of sprint, slalom and downriver is included and this event will be a part of the Euro Cup series. This should be particularly appealing to those countries close to Norway as they at last have an event on their own doorstep. You can see more information and photos on <http://www.ekstremesportveko.com/>

f) SOUTH AFRICA held their National Champs on the Tugela River at Ukutula Bush Camp near Winterton in Kwazulu Natal on the 18th and 19th December 2004. The winning teams (mens - Aardvarks, womens - Mary's Angels) are now eligible to represent SA in Ecuador later this year at the World Rafting Champs. Results can be seen at: www.inraftfed.com/sport & Comp

g) AUSTRALIAN Rafting Federation is hosting its Nationals Championships at Cataract Gorge Launceston Tasmania on the weekend of the 15th and 16th of January in conjunction with the Teva Cataract Extreme event. Water supplied by Hydro Tasmania. The A.R.F Nationals consist of a seeding/qualifying race, followed by the final consisting of a head-to-head elimination race, a slalom race and a down river race. Cataract Gorge is one of only a few areas in the world which combines challenging white-water up to class 4, a spectacular gorge with excellent public access, in a city. Importantly, the flow of the river is controlled by Trevallyn Dam located some 10km upstream allowing a measured flow (900ccs) that is predictable in terms of difficulty and hazard management.

h) AUSTRIA - For the Rafting season 2005, Sportklub Wildalpen are organising the official International Austrian Rafting Championship 2005 (R4) on the river Salza in Styria and invites all Rafting friends to this event in Wildalpen Styria. The date for this competition is the Weekend from 29th April - 1st May 2005. More information will follow or you find at www.raftingsport.com

3) EURO CUP

i) The Euro Cup 2004 came to its conclusion in Sept last year with the Czechs dominating the mens, taking 1st and 2nd place, and Germany taking 3rd. The women's section saw Slovakia taking 1st place followed by the Czechs in 2nd and 3rd places. Results on www.e-rafting.info

ii) The 2005 programme is being finalised. Please keep an eye on www.e-rafting.info for up to date information and if you are wanting your event included contact Stan as soon as possible.

4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Workshops have successfully been run in the Czech Republic, Switzerland and Ecuador recently. There is one planned for after the India Cup and a few others in early stage planning. If you have enough people around you that are needing a GT&E workshop please contact us. These workshops are to certify people ideally as IRF Instructors and Assessors.

5) RAFT RACE RULES

The IRF Race Rules are maintained on the IRF website. At regular intervals discussions are had and the rules are updated, so please always work from the rules on the website or keep an eye on the date at the end of the rules which states when the latest updates were made to ensure you are working with the latest version.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please reply to us with "Remove" in the subject. - Thank you.

International Rafting Federation

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- 2) EURO CUP
- 3) RAFT RACES
- 4) SAD NEWS

1) BIDDING FOR 2005 WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS

The date for receiving bids has passed and we are very happy to tell you we have received no less than FIVE well put together bids! These bids were received from:

Ecuador
Indonesia
Mexico
Philippines
Uganda

These bids have been assessed by the IRF BOD. The process now is that a short list is being drawn up for round two and these bids will undergo further assessment. A third list will be drawn up for scouting trips and then the final decision will be made. We will keep you informed with these developments.

In the meantime we would like to thank those that entered their bids and hope that we all get a chance to compete in your countries soon, whether it is for the WRC or for another international event. The standard of the bids was very high. This is extremely encouraging for the future of the sport of rafting.

2) EURO CUP

The Euro Cup series is being launched officially this year. This is a series of international events, class C, aimed at developing cooperation between federations and helping to widen the range of teams that paddle at international events. Rules can be found at www.e-rafting.info/rafting/rules/04EC.asp. A number of people have worked very hard to get the Euro Cup up to this level and in particular we can thank Stan Hajek and Robert Kazik.

The 2004 Euro Cup will be launched at the first event which will be held on the Salza in Austria in April (see below).

3) RAFT RACES

a) 3rd AUSTRIAN RAFTING COMPETITION & EURO CUP RACE:- On the river Salza, April 24 - 25. Up to date there are 21 men and 7 women teams from Germany, Italy, Holland, Switzerland, Slovakia, Czech Republic., Hungary and Austria.

You can find the list of entries and photos of the reconstruction of the rapid at www.raftingsport.com
<<http://www.raftingsport.com>> . Contact Gerhard Enickl for more information gerhard.enickl@tropenlut.com

b) CROATIAN EURO CUP RACE - had to be cancelled. The hotel being built by the river and willing to sponsor the event was not finished by Easter.

c) INDIA CUP - this event happened in mid March and was enjoyed by all who attended. Congratulations to the Czechs for making a clean sweep of the women's and men's sections with the Austrian men and Slovakian women taking second places and India taking third in both.

d) DUTCH OPEN 100m SPRINT:- Friday 30 April, organised by the Omni Club "De Batavieren" out of Helmond. Contact Harry Vermeulen on h.vermeulen3@chello.nl.

4) SAD NEWS

We regret to have to announce the sad news that on the 17 January 2004 two members of the Czech WRC team, Jiri Kafka and Jan Trefny, were buried in an avalanche while climbing in the West Tatra mountains. They sadly will never be able to defend their titles of world champions. They will be missed by all the paddling community.

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- 2) EURO CUP
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- 4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION WORKSHOP

1) 2005 WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS - update

The plans for the 2005 WRC to be held in Ecuador next year are moving on smoothly. The Ecuadorians themselves are very excited to be hosting a world championship of this nature. For those who are keen to see the river and location of next years WRC, the Amazonas Cup is running their later this year. (see below under 3a).

2) EURO CUP

a) Upcoming races - the next race on the Euro Cup calendar is in Bosnia Herzegovina in Vrbas. It is an R4 & R6 event and will be held from the 31 July to 1 August.

b) Results: we are waiting for the results from the event in Norway but the results of the Euro Cup races so far can be found at http://www.e-rafting.info/rafting/events/04EC_results.asp. We find Germany on top of the R4 & R6 mens logs with Czech and Italy right behind. With the women we find the Czech teams dominating the top of the R4 log but Slovakia managed to edge them out of 1st position in the R6 log.

3) RAFT RACES

a) Copa Amazonas 2004; 27-31 October; Quijos river, Ecuador

Club Rafting ECUADOR, host of the 2005 World Rafting Championships invites you all to the Copa Amazonas. The Sprint, Slalom and Downriver events will be held at the same sites as planned for the WRC 2005.

The Copa Amazonas is a C-level event with women's and men's categories and will be run according to IRF rules (www.IntRaftFed.com).

Equipment: The organizers will provide 14' self-bailing rafts. Competitors should provide their own paddles, life jackets, helmets, knife, throw bag and personal clothing. Wetsuits will be available to rent but this must be arranged in advance.

Inspection fee: \$100/team. Includes rafts for competition and training from Oct 27 to 31 inclusive.

Other costs: \$100/person to cover accommodation, meals, transport and social events from Oct 27 to 31 inclusive.

Training prior to the event: Boat rental \$50/day. Transport will be arranged by the organizers with local taxis (mostly twin cab pick ups) that have published rates to all put-ins and take-outs.

Accommodation options include free camping and hotels in the \$5- 10/person range (recommended). All values are in \$US.

Interested teams should contact info@raftingecuador.org for more details.

4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION WORKSHOP

An IRF Guide Training and Education workshop will be held after the Amazon Cup 2004. Guide and Trip Leader exams will be held in conjunction with the Instructor workshop.

Dates: Guide exam Nov 4, Trip Leader exam Nov 4-5, Instructor workshop Nov 4-6. Place: El Chaco, Quijos valley, ECUADOR. This location is the same as for the Amazon Cup.

River: Quijos river (Class III+ - IV+).

Prerequisites: As described in the following documents.

Guide Training and Education Award Scheme - <http://www.inraftfed.com/GT&E/GTE%20Award%20Scheme.htm>

IRF Recommended Minimum Requirements for Guides (for Guides and Trip Leaders)

- <http://www.inraftfed.com/GT&E/GTE%20Min%20Req.htm>

If you don't meet any of the requirements please contact Steve.

Cost: Costs for participation including qualification for two years if passed are: - Guide \$US30, Trip Leader \$50, Instructor \$100. Meals and accommodation approximately \$15-20/day.

Provided: Boats, paddles, pumps, etc. and transport to the river will be provided by Alliance Yacu Amu Rafting / Rios Ecuador.

What to bring: Personal equipment including buoyancy aid, helmet, throw bag, river knife, whistle, and flip line.

To register please contact: Steve Nomchong steve@andinanet.net; Head of Guide Training and Education Committee International Rafting Federation; www.IntRaftFed.com

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- 5) JUDGES WORKSHOP & EXAM
- 6) NEWSLETTERS

1) COPA AMAZONAS (same venue as the 2005 World Champs) 27 - 31 Oct; Quijos River, Ecuador.
In general, all is going well with the organization of the events with most energy focussed on the Copa Amazonas 2004 right now. The organizers are very encouraged by the number of teams that have entered and continue working closely with local government authorities in the Quijos valley to ensure the event will be an outstanding success.

Teams that have already sent in their entry forms:

Women's category - WD Tygłki CZECH, Mistral SLOVAKIA, Jezinky CZECH
Men's category - Cucupas ECUADOR, RK Troja Praha CZECH, PRSI CZECH/SLOVAKIA, WD WC CZECH, WD Samani CZECH, PROSPORT CZECH, Guamanchi VENEZUELA, TEIKEI JAPAN, Sin Nombre BRAZIL, Sin Nombre ECUADOR

Other teams are still finalising sponsors and travel arrangements.

An agreement has been reached with SOTAR to be the official raft provider for the Copa Amazonas 2004 and the IRF WRC 2005.

2) EURO CUP

a) NEW DATES FOR SOME EVENTS!!!!!!!

- i) European Cup - Augsburg (GER) - new date 02.-03.10.04 (before 16.-17.10.04)
 - ii) Czech Championship and European Cup R4 - Lipno (CZE) - new date 25.09.04 (before 28.08.04) Organizer: Zbynek Netopil, zbyneketopil@volny.cz
 - iii) European Cup R6 - Lipno (CZE) - CANCELLED
 - iv) European Cup R6 - Trnavka (CZE) - new date 18.-19.09.04 (before 25.-26.09.04) Organizer: Stanislav Hajek, hajeks@chello.cz
 - v) Slalom and Sprint Race - Veltrusy (CZE) - new date 02.-03.10.04 (before 18.-19.09.04) Organizer: Martin Prochazka, martin.prochazka@seznam.cz
- b) Results as at 15 August 2004 www.e-rafting.info/rafting/events/04EC_results.asp

3) RAFT RACES

- a) Indonesia Open Tournament - Rongkong River, South Sulawesi. Dates: 27 - 30 September. Run according to IRF rules with Sprint, Time Trial and Downriver. Ideal training event for the Australasian teams. Interested teams should contact fajisulsel@yahoo.com or yunita@arusliar.co.id for more details.
- b) The Indian National Rafting Championship will be held from the 14th to 21st November 2004. Contact Shaukat Pal Singh Sikand indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in for more information

4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION WORKSHOP

A reminder about the IRF Guide Training and Education workshop which will be held after the Amazon Cup 2004. Guide and Trip Leader exams will be held in conjunction with the Instructor workshop. Dates: Guide exam Nov 4, Trip Leader exam Nov 4-5, Instructor workshop Nov 4-6. At the same location as for the Amazon Cup.

5) JUDGES WORKSHOP

A judges workshop and exam will be held on Sat 23rd Oct in Ecuador. This will be run by Steve Nomchong and will be run in Spanish and if need be, in English as well. This will be primarily for the locals.

6) NEWSLETTERS

- a) No longer want to receive this email? Send reply saying REMOVE!
- b) Wim Onderwater who maintains the raft.pagina.nl site can make free (automatic) newsletters which contain news items from all over the world which include the word: "rafting". People can subscribe directly with him and he will send them the newsletter (weekly). They can also subscribe on the website but then they receive the newsletter in dutch (with english and dutch items). No longer available.
- c) If you have any newsworthy items you wish to share with us please send an email! Please ensure your subject mentions rafts or something familiar or it may get deleted as spam!

If you no longer wish to receive news from us please reply to us with "Remove" in the subject. - Thank you.

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- 2) RAFT RACES: a) Germany; b) Dutch; c) India; d) Australia; e) Czech Rep. f) Italy
- 3) EURO CUP: Programme for 2005
- 4) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION: Renew licenses!!!

1) WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS 2005: Quijos river, Ecuador

PLEASE NOTE CORRECT DATES: 12-16 October

Club Rafting ECUADOR invites all IRF member nations to participate with a women's and a men's team in the 2005 IRF WRC. **Please contact Club Rafting ECUADOR directly to let them know if your team intends to go to the event - info@raftingecuador.org**

The WRC will be run according to the rules as found on the IRF website www.IntRaftFed.com.

Program:

Wed 12 Oct Registration. Practice Sprint and DRR. Official opening.
Thu 13 Oct Practice Sprint, Slalom and DRR. Social event.
Fri 14 Oct Sprint, Borja. Optional practice Slalom and DRR. Prize giving and social event.
Sat 15 Oct Slalom, El Chaco. Optional practice DRR. Prize giving and social event.
Sun 16 Oct Downriver race, Borja-Oyacachi. Riverbank prize giving for DRR. Overall prize giving and social event.

Teams: Teams of six plus a reserve (optional) must be selected by their national rafting body. If your national rafting body is not a current member of the IRF please contact Sue, IRF Secretary, to discuss your situation.

Interested teams should contact info@raftingecuador.org for more details. The full information letter and other information will be found at www.raftingecuador.org as well as www.intraftfed.com from the beginning of March. For general information on Ecuador and travel tips see www.ecuadorexplorer.com

2) RAFT RACES

a) GERMAN NATIONALS are to be held on May 7th/8th 2005 in Augsburg.

b) DUTCH RAFTING NATIONALS - international teams welcome!

Dates; 13 - 15 May 2005.

Venue: Durance, France (Hautes Alps)

Event will be run according to IRF Rules (ie Sprint, Slalom, Downriver) and a special Rodeo race that is not counting for the Championships!

Sprint on Friday, slalom on the Saturday, Downriver on the Sunday with the rodeo! First Dutch team wins a ticket entry to Ecuador. 600 euro entry fee for the whole team. Details on www.rafting.nl

c) INDIA CUP 2005

Dates: 12 to 20 March 2005

Venue: River Satluj in Himachal Pradesh, India

Teams invited: Open to all IRF members (Men's and Women's teams)

Entry fee: \$ 150 per team. (6 +1)

Contact Shaukat Sikand indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in

d) AUSTRALIAN Rafting Federation: results from their Nationals Championships at Cataract Gorge Launceston Tasmania

were that team Liquid Life from Sydney won the men's section with Team Cairns second and Tassie Uni 3rd. The women's section was won by the Foxy Ladies, followed by Chicas and Xtreme. The winning teams are not preparing for the trip to the WRC in Ecuador.

e) CZECH RACE CALENDAR has been finalised and can be seen on www.intraftfed.com as well as www.e-rafting.info

f) ITALY - 26 - 28 March, event on the River Lao in Calabria, which runs into the National Park of Pollino. Contact Anna of the AIRaf on airaf@airaf.it.

4) EURO CUP

The 2005 programme has been finalised and can be seen on www.e-rafting.info

5) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION. It has been over 5 years now that the IRF GT&E scheme has been operating. In this time we have more and more countries taking on the scheme as their official one. This year we are going to be making an even bigger effort to get the IRF scheme as the official scheme in as many countries as possible so that it becomes as widely recognised and usable around the world.

TIME TO RENEW!!! If you have been certified as an IRF Guide, Trip Leader or Instructor and your certification took place more than 2 years ago it is time you renewed it. Please contact us.

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- 4) 2006 EURO CHAMPS - bid winners
- 5) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION
- 6) RACING COACHING

1) R-4 EURO CHAMPS 2005, 7-10 July IN BiH

Eleven countries have confirmed their entries to the R-4 Euro Champs next month with a number more still to confirm. A reminder to all countries that they can send up to 2 mens and 2 womens teams to this event.

The women's section is growing hugely and should be a great competition.

The organisers would like to remind teams that TV crews and all spectators are welcome as well.

Contact: Aleksandar Pastir: email: kanjon@teol.net; Tel: 0038765420000; Fax:0038751413569

2) WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS 2005: Quijos river, Ecuador, 12-16 Oct.

The organisers are working on a deal with KLM for european teams. Contact them for details.

A reminder that inscriptions are due 15 July.

For more information about the event look on the IRF website (www.intraftfed.com) or www.raftingecuador.org. There will be a dedicated WRC site up within two weeks. Or contact the organisers on info@raftingecuador.org

3) RAFT RACES

a) AUSTRIAN INTERNATIONAL RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIP (Part of EU Cup - R4 category) took place on the river Salza in Styria, 29 April - 1 May. The Mens' section was won by the Italian's 1st team and followed closely by Germany's RTA1 team. Stan Hajos' Racing Team took 3rd place. The Womens' section was dominated by the Czech Jezinky Prag team with another Czech team, Georgiasport, taking 2nd and Germany's RTA womens' team taking 3rd.

b) GERMAN RAFTING CHAMPS was held in Augsburg from the 7-8 May. Croatia, Czech and Germany all had teams there. RTA Kanu Schwaben dominated the men's section with their Plan B team coming 1st and their 1st team coming 2nd. Stan Hajos' Racing Team took 3rd. The women's section was won by William + Delvin Ladies Prostejov, 2nd was Augsburger Kajak Verein and Czechs Georgiasport Tsutsugamushi took 3rd.

c) 2nd INDIAN NATIONAL RAFTING CHAMPIONSHIP We would like to inform you that the 2nd National Rafting Championships 2005 will be held in Ladakh India, on river Indus / Zanskar, from 24th to 31st 2005. This letter contains necessary information for teams to assist with their planning for the India Cup 20004.

Invited teams

We would like to invite all states, Armed forces, Para military forces, Universities and Private clubs to send their top teams to race on this event. In according to IRF rules, you can bring in more than one team for the 2nd National Rafting Championships.

Contact Shaukat Sikand indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in

d) RUSSIA

The Russian National Championships were held in May. Altai Raft Team confirmed their leadership by winning. Altai State University Team come a very close second (after 12 km of downriver they constantly only lost half a boat length). Bureya Crane Team which was the former Neva-Tour Team and WC-2000 came in third.

4) EURO CHAMPS - bidding results

We received bids from Austria, Croatia and Norway. The Croatian bid was the successful one and so we announce that the next R-6 Euro Champs will be run in Croatia from the 28 April to 1st May 2006. More information will follow in the future. In the meantime add that date to your calendars.

5) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION

A GT&E workshop was recently held in Spain by Steve Nomchong where Spain gained a number of certified IRF guides and Trip Leaders and Europe gained a few more Instructors. Other Instructors have been busy elsewhere - Matj Zapletal has been running workshops in Czech and Bosnia and IRF certified guiding is gaining strength in this region. Plans for workshops in Japan are in the pipeline as well as a number of other areas. If you are keen to attend any of the upcoming workshops let us know so we can keep you up to date.

6) RACING COACHING

There is a growing need for coaches as countries coming in to the sport wish to get up to speed quickly. Anyone wanting coaches please let me know and anyone wanting to coach, send me a CV!

International Rafting Federation

Newsletter

IRF NEWSLETTER - March 2006

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1) WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS 2007 - bidding

Bids have been received from Korea, Bosnia, Japan and Philippines. The Sport & Competition Committee are assessing these bids and will determine a short list of which countries they will do scouting trips to. These scouting trips will all be done by about the 18th April and a final decision will be made by the end of April. We are hoping to make the announcement at the Euro Champs and via the web by the 1st of May.

2) EURO RAFTING CHAMPS 2006 - Russia

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Croatia has had to pull out of hosting the 2006 R6 Euro Champs. This was a major blow to the IRF, but we have been very fortunate in that Russia has stepped up and with amazing speed and planning, has managed to put together an event for the same dates.
Euro Champs 2006 - Venue: Russia on the Belay River in Adygea from the 26-30 April.
River: The Belay River (which means White) is the major natural river in Russia used as a sports venue. Tradition of holding whitewater competitions here dates back as long as 27 years, the longest history in Russia. The section for the Champs is grade 4. The river should be at peak water level.
Contact: Oleg Grigoriev

3) RAFT RACES:

a) Pan American Champs in Costa Rica from 13 to 17 September. More information on http://riostropicaleschallenge.com/es/eventos_campeonato_rafting_2006_es

b) India Cup: 11-19 March 2006.

Venue: River Satluj in Himachal Pradesh, India. Teams invited: Open to all IRF members (Men's and Women's teams)
Entry fee: \$ 250 per team. (6 +1) What's provided: All accommodation, meals and transportation will be taken care of in India except train fare from New Delhi to Shimla and back which is \$ 100 per person. Teams have to take care of their international airfare, Visa fees, Insurance and personal rafting gear. {we are in advance stage to get special rates for international flights}
Contact person for more details and information: Mr. Shaukat Pal Singh Sikand. Secretary, The Indian Rafting Foundation New Delhi. indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in
For Photo's of India Cup 2006 please log on to www.E-rafting.info , <http://avc1.upol.cz/indie/fotky/> .
Results: www.himachaltourism.nic.in

c) German Nationals: 30th September/1st October 2006 in Augsburg.
More details on: www.RaftingCanyoning.com/dm2002.htm in German.

d) Indian Nationals: 3rd National Rafting Championships Indus / Zaskar Rivers 19th to 26th August 2006.

e) Belgium:

i) 20th BELGIAN RAFTING CUP - 11-12 March 2006;

ii) 13th RAFTING COAST RACE - 3 September 2006
iii) 6th GLADIATORS RACE Arras (Artificial river N France) - 5 November
Nieuw email : rafting@myonline.be

f) South African Rafting Champs series 1

Date: 4th and 5th March
Venue: Bushman's River
Cost: R480 per team (6 people in team - includes T-shirts)
Accommodation: Camping at Wagon Drift Dam at the boat club R40 per person/night - Bathrooms, Kitchen, Braai area, electricity
Party and braai Saturday night at the Dam (Bushman's boat club)
Selections for worlds - We are holding 3 events throughout the year if teams want to qualify to go to Worlds you must enter your team into at least 2 out of the 3 events hosted.
Contact: Hilary Pitchford 083 383 9929 kayakwagz@yahoo.co.uk
Bruce Campbell 082 833 5839 xtreme@futurenet.co.za
Kate Frost 082 855 6040 katefrost@polka.co.za

g) Euro-cup in Voss, Norway 26th - 28th of June 2006
raqneb@frisurf.no or post@vossrafting.no

h) Italy:

15/16/17april -national - Scalea (CS) - Calabria - Lao River
27/28may -national - Scopello (VC) - Piemonte -Sesia River
8/9 July - international - Vipiteno (BZ) - - Alto Adige - Isarco river- competition for european cup
27/28 luglio -national - Villeneuve (AO) - Valle d'Aosta - Dora Baltea River
28/29october -national - Papigno (TR) - Umbria-Nera River

The international teams are accepted in all italian competitions
Turistic events 2006:
- Valstagna (VI) - Veneto - Brenta river - 11june 2006

Piateda (SO) - Lombardia - 21/22july
Sacile (PN) - Friuli Venezia Giulia - 21/22 october

5) CONGRESS

The IRF held a very successful email CONGRESS from the 23 - 27 January 2006. Out of 29 members we had 25 present. The key issues from this Congress were that the BOD remained the same, an European Committee and an Australasian committee were formed. The newly revamped Statutes were passed. The new International Relations committee was swamped with volunteers and all the other committees now have a good number of volunteers to take things forward. Thank you to everyone for making this happen so smoothly.

Please find attached minutes of this meeting.

5) GUIDE TRAINING & EDUCATION

India - workshop conducted by the IRF in February / March 2006. Contact Shaukat on indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in.
Bosnia - course early April. Contact Robert Kazik on robert@denali-et.cz

6) NEW IRF MAGAZINE!!!

Aiming at having 2 issues a year initially. It will be in electronic form and the first will hopefully be out in April. If you have **ANY material** for this magazine - please send it through to us. If you would like to **advertise** in it, or **promote your events** or **sponsors**, please let us know. If you have **ideas** for it, let us know. We want the magazine to be there for the sport of rafting.

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2007/2

KZN teams shine in rafting challenge

14 December 2006

The KwaZulu-Natal mens and womens rafting teams shone at the final leg of South African White Water Rafting Championships, and set in concrete their places in the team to represent South Africa at the World Championships, to be held in South Korea in 2007.

The third and final leg of the South African Championships was held this weekend on 40 cumecs of water immediately below Inanda Dam, just outside Durban.

Teams of six powered their way through the waves, dodging gaping holes in the unnatural Tops Needle rapid that is notorious for ending many a top paddlers race in the annual Dusi Canoe Marathon. With an additional water release, courtesy of Umgeni Water, the rapid provided some challenging rafting and exciting spectator entertainment.

The three races (slalom, sprint and downriver) that made up the event were dominated by the KwaZulu-Natal mens and womens teams, confirming that they are the best representatives for the country and have earned their slots.

The slalom race proved particularly challenging, to the extent that one upstream gate was completely left out by all except one of the teams earning a 50-second penalty in each run.

The only team to slice their way across the upper reaches of the rapid, daringly dropping over a number of dangerous pour-overs to successfully reach the illplaced gate were the KZN mens team, giving a preview of their world-class skill in the raft.

Second-placed in the mens slalom was the Lost Vikings team from Durban, although their navigation through the course would have had any hardy captain make them walk the plank.

Third were the Wits mens team who lost members of their crew on their second run and along with it any good score they might have achieved on their first run. The rules state you must cross the finish line with all members of your boat on board. Second to the KZN womens team were the ever-present Wits women.

The sprint race was an exciting one with two womens boats racing head to head. The KZN women, who started on the slower outside lane, stretched ahead in the initial few strokes, winning the faster current and placing themselves firmly between the second boat Wits women and the finish line. Any attempt to pass would have put the Wits team in the hazardous water on the outside of the main channel and they opted for the safer route, tailing the KZN team into a graceful second place.

The mens race was a calamity of rafts and paddles, as any route through the rapid would do in the rush for the finish line. The KZN men took the title once again.

The third event, downriver, was held in scorching midday heat on Sunday. The cool water was a relief, not only from the sun, but to soothe exhausted muscles at the end of the race. The course was quite a taxing one, incorporating lengthy flat stretches interspersed with rapids that required careful navigation so as not to get beached on rocks.

The KZN mens and womens teams came out on top, followed by the Wits women and the intrepid Lost Vikings in the womens and mens races respectively.

The Vikings held true to form and proved they are quite apt, as long as there are no gates to traverse.

The mens team members (including reserves) to represent South Africa in South Korea are Deon and Sven Bruss, Bruce Campbell, Guy Collyer, Brett Frost, Shaun Griffin and Craig van Heerden.

The womens team selections are Kate Frost, Lea Herbst, Nicky Irvine, Kirsten Oliver, Hilary Pitchford, Alice Rawlinson, Jeanette Walder and Jackie Fourie.

The World Championships will be held at the end of June 2007 and will host the top teams from around the world on a technical river near Seoul in the icheon Province.

The South African teams will need to be fit and technically tuned to fare against the other teams and will begin a strict training programme including technical practice on a number of KZN rivers and the sea in the build up the World Championships.

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2007/3

Austria wins bid for 2008 Euro Champs!

Austria has successfully bid to hold the 2008 IRF Euro Champs. They have held a similar event for the past 5 years and so it is fitting for this event to at last be held at this venue.

The event will be held from the 13th to 18th May 2008 on the Salza River in the Wildapen Styria area. The hosts are Sk Wildapen.

What will be different is that for the first time the Euro Champs will see R4 and R6 events taking place at the same event. Although this has been done for Euro Cup events, it has never been done for Euro Champs.

Congratulations to Austria!

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2007/4

BIDDING NOW CLOSED FOR 2009 WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS

Bidding for the 2009 World Rafting Champs has now closed. The Spotr & Competition Committee is now considering the bids. The final announcement of the winner will take place at the 2007 WRC in Korea in June.

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2007/5

AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPS 2008

Japan wins bid to host the 2008 Australasian Champs! The event will be held on the Nagara river, Japan . Event dates are 11-13 October, 2008.

Congratulations to the Japan Rafters Federation and the Nagaragawa Whitewater Festival Organising Committee.

Thank you to Federasi Arung Jeram Indonesia/Faji (Indonesia Rafting Federation) and PB & Pengda Sumut Faji for their bid to host the event on the Asahan River , North Sumatra , Indonesia .

More information on the event will be sent soon. So with just over a year to prepare it's time to start getting ready for what will be the biggest Australasian Championships to date.

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2007/6

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FOR THE IRF

The IRF is looking for someone with a proven track record in business, marketing and media relations, preferably for a sports organisation.

The task is to raise rafting's profile, participation and revenue - all which are closely interrelated. Priority must initially be given to activities that generate revenue.

To qualify, the applicant must have/be:

- An excellent command of English (written and spoken)
- Experience in presenting to large and small groups
- Competence in MS Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Willing to travel
- Passionate and knowledgeable about rafting
- Willing to risk a performance-based position
- Comfortable to work on their own with guidance from the Board

Contact Sue (IRF Secretary) on devofficer@intraftfed.com

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2008/1

INDIA CUP NOT RECOMMENDED!

Due to the involvement of Shaukat Sikand in the Kashmir/ India Cup we have to recommend to you all not to take part in this event. The Indian Rafting Foundation was expelled as a member a few months ago due to his continual unacceptable and misleading actions. It was also found that the only person IN the organisation was Shaukat.

We are in contact with the Indian Government and are working with them to create a proper organisation which is democratically run and represents all rafters.

International Rafting Federation

News Bulletin #2008/2

FUTALEUFU UNDER ASHES!

Many of us have spent time on the Futaleufu River or in the area itself and have been hooked by its beauty and the excellent 5 star quality of the river. In 2000 the Camel White Water Challenge was held there and those of you who were there and remember dancing until late at night in the sports hall or parading all dressed up (or down!) around the town in the procession will be able to appreciate the fact that the town is thickly covered in ash, the people of the area have had to evacuate, many animals have died and many livelihoods destroyed.

Go to www.futafriends.org or www.exchile.com to see what the latest news is and what you can do to help.