MEETING WITH THE MEDIA

On 15.04, a press conference was held in the conference room of the "Termy Maltańskie" complex on the occasion of the 2015 ISF World Schools Swimming Championship in Poznan. This event has raised a lot of interest not only among local journalists, but also the national media, including radio and television stations. The members of the Honorary Committee listed below have talked about the planned event, and answered questions from the press: Ewa Bąk – The Director of the Department of Sport of Poznan, Jerzy Krzęlewski – The President of the Management Board of "Termy Maltańskie", Łukasz Kubiał – The PR manager of "Termy Maltańskie" and the host of the conference, Organising Committee Member from Polish School Sports Association – Marcin Czajko. Just how much prestige this event enjoys in Poland can be seen in the fact that among others, the following announced their intention to attend the opening ceremony Andrzej Kraśnicki – The President of the Polish Olympic Committee, Wojciech Ziemiński – President of Polish School Sports Association and Otylia Jędrzejczak – Olympic gold medallist in swimming! Altogether 22 events will be held and they’ll involve participation by 330 contestants from 17 countries.

WORKING FOR THE ORGANIZERS

Schief Referee: Waldemar Kilian (Sosnowiec)
He has been refereeing swimming events since 1976, since 2000 has been an association-class referee, and since 2002 has been on the FINA list of international referees. He has been chief referee for among others the European Junior Championship in Prague (Czech Republic), the European Championship in Budapest (Hungary) and the European Championship in Antwerp (Belgium). He has also been a referee at the European Championship in Eindhoven (the Netherlands), the World Championship in Rome (Italy), the World Junior Championship in Lima (Peru) and the World Championship in Doha (Qatar). In addition, he has participated in several training courses for swimming event referees organized by the FINA Technical Committee in Singapore, Beijing and Tokyo.

Start Referee: Jakub Krzywda (Kalisz)
He is the judge since 2006 and since 2014 the judge of the Paralympic International Committee (swimming for disabled). He was the judge during European Junior Championship in Poznan, European Swimming Championship for Disabled in Eindhoven (Netherlands). He is appointed to World Swimming Championship for Disabled in 2015 in Glasgow (Scotland). Jakub Krzywda is a co-author of translation into Polish of the FINA and IPC swimming manual. He also runs the website about the refereering in swimming (www.sedziaplywania.pl). During the Opening Ceremony of ISF Swimming 2015 World Schools Championship in Poznan he took an oath in the name of Referees Committee.

Representatives of the ISF: Jan Coolen, Avraham Zuchman, Fernando Delgado, Angeliki Douka, Francoise Recoura, Edina Szep, Balemir Gürbüz.

Redakcja Express MAGAZINE: Mariusz Frąckowiak, Marcin Czajko, Dariusz Abramuk, Zdzisław Urbaniaczyk, Barbara Mendyka, Agata Klabinska.
Skład: Tomasz Kapitan; Foto: Elżbieta Skowron
Wydawca: SZS „Wielkopolska” www.isfswimming2015.eu

Volunteers: Michalina Kapitan (The Head), Kamila Piwowarczyk, Agata Klabinska, Kasia Pic, Bernard Busz, Kornel Sobora, Bartosz Suchodolski.
Dear Students! Ladies and Gentlemen!

For many years I dreamed of a day when as president of the Polish School Sports Association, I would be able to host and co-organize the World Championship in such a beautiful sport as swimming. In the life of every community, there occur special events and dates that form the basis of its history. And this is just such a historic occasion, because today we begin the Swim-Cup World Schools Championship, which for the first time is being held in Poland. At this point I would like to emphasize that school sports events are today closest to the ideals of the Olympics, because they are free of doping, money issues and squabbling in the stadiums.

Sport is not an end in itself, but a very important element in the education of young people and their all-round development. Sport is an appropriate way of instilling sound and healthy passions in life. Sport is a magnet, a force that attracts, ensuring exercise, joy and development. The Polish Pope John Paul II once said "Sport is the best way to break down barriers". Although not everyone can beat world records, we can all enjoy sports to the best of our abilities. Sportsmanship is a struggle with one's inner self, with one's own weaknesses, fears and inhibitions. It is a beautiful value and well worth the effort.

A fine and noble feature of sportsmanship is the development of character by combating and overcoming stress, failure, pain and effort. Sports rivalry is struggling with everything that constitutes an obstacle, which also applies in everyday situations. Sport plays an especially important role in the lives of young people. It has a huge impact on their physical fitness, as well as their intellectual and spiritual development. When we are not very fit, fearful and frustrated, we easily become depressed. From there it is a very short road to various forms of social pathology such alcohol abuse, tobacco, drugs, or membership in sects or gangs.

But I am convinced that You Fine Young People here today are in no such danger, because merely your participation in this year's World Championship as representatives of your respective countries indicates that you have chosen the right path in life. I congratulate you and wish you perseverance in your efforts towards ever better results. I also wish you an enjoyable stay in Poznan and hope you will feel at home here!

Wojciech Ziemniak - President of the Polish School Sports Association

A WORD OF WELCOME

I would like, first of all, to welcome all the Head Of Delegations, coaches, swimmers, teachers and all the ISF Family to Poznan. We hope you enjoy the 2015 ISF World School Swimming Championships and that you have wonderful time in Poznan.

Dear students-athletes, you are models for your peers, and your example can be crucial to them in building their future positively. So be champions in sports and in life!

Therefore the use of schools sports as a vehicle for positive messages contributors to building a more fraternal world with greater solidarity.

Remember you are one of the ISF strongest assets to promote and popularize the image of our ISF schools sports. Thanks to your dedication and love for swimming, great talents are transformed into Stars, for the delight of our fans worldwide.

On behalf of all the ISF Swimming Technical Commission members we want to inspire all of you and to set the reference for the future. ...we are schools sports...

Fernando Delgado - President ISF Swimming Technical Commission
How was your trip and what were your first impressions of Poznań, The Termy Maltańskie Complex and your hotel?
- Our trip was just fine and my first impressions of the country and the hotel have been good too. Poznań is a very beautiful city and the hotel accommodation is comfortable.
(Hatzenbichler Chantall – student from Austria).

Only your girls representation has come to Poznan. Do Belgian boys not like swimming?
- It's just us girls, because there were no boys in our team interested in coming.
(Sigiez Leonie from Belgium Flanders).

Is there a chance of swimming ever becoming as popular as soccer or volleyball in Brazil?
- Football in Brazil is extremely popular, so it may take a while to achieve the same level of popularity…
(Bahia Guilherme from Brazil).

In Israel you took third place in the category of schools and girls selections. Will you also be on the podium in Poland?
- Of course we're going to try our best to stand once again on the podium. We naturally want to achieve the highest score.
(Yuan Yue from China P.R.).

Have you ever competed in Europe before, how was your trip and how many hours did your flight take?
- This is my first time in Europe and I'm really excited. It took too many hours to count :) but now the most important thing is to achieve good results.
(Hsu An from Chinese Taipei).

In Doha in 2009, France’s representatives Margaux and Melanie and the girls 4x100 metres freestyle relay set world records. Is there a chance of your improving on those results in Poznan?
- I hope so, maybe we are going to do it again! We will do our best of course.
(Sabathe Quentin from France).

At the last Championship in Herzliya you took fourth place in the girls selections category and the girls were third. Will you be trying for medals at Poznan too?
- We think that we are well prepared to win medals and we aim to do just that!
(Molnar Flóra from Hungary).

How have you been preparing for this Championship, aren't you worried about acclimatisation problems?
- I think we are ready and well prepared. If we're talking about the climate, at first it was a little bit too cold for me, but it's OK now. Now all we can feel is the spirit of the championship.
(Navin Agarwal – coach from India).

2 years ago you won the world championship in the boys and girls school categories. Do you expect to repeat that success this year?
- I think we are going to do so, because we have a good chance and opportunities!
(Salschow Josha from Germany).
Your country recently organised the World Swimming Championship. What in your opinion is the most important aspect of such an event?
- I don't know… maybe the feeling that we are all together here and we can achieve some more good sport results.
  (Ziv Kalontarov from Israel).

In 2001 Luxembourg organised the 4th World School Swimming Championship. With what hopes have you come to Poland?
- Well, we will see… we have high expectations and the girls are well prepared. We'll see what it will be possible to achieve.
  (Michal Gulwicki - coach from Luxembourg).

In the 2009 World Championship in Doha the polish representatives set as amant as 5 world records. Now the events is being held at the pool wher you often train. Can we count on one of you again setting a record time on one of the distances?
- Of course! We have trained hard every day. We are really strong in the 50m and 100m categories, so I hope we will win the medal!
  (Kacper Biernacki from Poland).

With what do you most associate Poland, what attractions are you looking forward to the most?
- The people, the spirit of competition and the chance to have some fun – these are the most important things for us.
  (Ferreira Catarina from Portugal).

You come from a far off country. Have any of you already been to Poland and what is your first impression of Poznan?
- Actually the weather because it's so cold, windy, rainy and we are from a tropical country. But people are really nice and friendly. The truth is we have never been to Poland before. It's our first time.
  (Aldarondo Elismari – coach from Puerto Rico).

Who in your opinion is the funniest in this Championship and why?
- Puerto Rico because they are full of life and have really good fun!
  (Anghel Andrei from Romania).

What for you will be the most important in this event – good fun and integration, or rather the sports results?
- In my opinion to have fun and integrate with other teams is really important but of course we are here to get good results
  (Kozaniova Sara from Slovakia).

You come to Poznan as the reigning World Champions in the selects category and runners up in the schools category. Which country will be the greastest rival for you?
- Well, we are very well prepared, but maybe Germany or France judging by their past results. They are really good…
  (Deniz Beyza from Turkey).
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In a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere, the official opening of the 2015 ISF World Schools Swimming Championship, Poznan Poland 16-21.04.2015 was held at the Termy Maltańskie swimming pool complex. First on the agenda was a presentation of the event’s special guests. Then the swimmer Otylia Jędrzejczak – the 2004 Olympic champion in Athens, World Champion and three times record holder, European Champion and record holder, and three times elected the best Polish athlete, to the accompaniment of the Polish National Anthem hoisted Poland’s national flag. Next, in alphabetical order the delegates representing the 17 countries participating in the Championship entered the swimming complex. The first to welcome all those gathered was Wojciech Ziemniak, a member of the Honorary Committee and President of the Polish School Sports Association, followed by ISF delegate Avraham Zuchman from Israel. The actual opening ceremony of the Championship was conducted by the President of the Polish Olympic Committee Andrzej Kraśnicki accompanied by Otylia Jędrzejczak and Honorary Committee member Jakub Jędrzejewski - Deputy Mayor of the City of Poznan. Following the hoisting of the ISF flag, all those in attendance watched a show of synchronized swimming, a brief game of water polo and a show of artistic gymnastics. The ceremony’s final event was the audience bidding farewell to the delegates of each participating country.
BEGINNING OF A FUN TIME