

## **REPORT** of President Dieter Massin

### **1. Council Work**

#### **Reform of EVAA**

##### Two working levels

In Poznań (POL) the General Assembly of EVAA marked the beginning of a general reform of the work in the association. The first step of the reform started with the installation of the office of the “Technical Director”. Together with the “Technical Director” the “Technical Board of Managers” was established. It meant that the core of the EVAA work strengthened and gathered the work of all technical requirements and simplified the key questions of the veterans’ movement.

In Ljubljana (SLO) the process of changing the offices was continued by reducing the members of the council and -in the same moment- the extension of the “Technical Board of Managers” (TBM), a step which made the work within the council and within the “TBM” as well more effective and more successful. After two year it is to notice that this step was the right one into the future and into more efficiency.

The Council could treat more political matters, like winning new candidates for the European Veterans Athletic Championships (EVAC), a matter what was neglected in the past and what a lost of interest has caused.

Now it is to notice that the interest in organising EVAC is again increasing on all areas, i.d. on stadia-, non stadia-, indoor- and mountain-area as well.

##### Council decisions

During the last two years EVAA Council decided to reinstall the medal standards in order to underline the meaning of the championships. The EVAA Council underlined moreover the meaning and the definition of “championship” and will push this definition.

EVAA Council has analysed the past championships regarding the financial situation, from stadia over non stadia, indoor till mountain. In the same moment EVAA is requested to guarantee the local organisers a save (financial) basis for the lead through of championships without any risks.

Besides EVAA and its federations have to support all championships in publications and in promotions for a reasonable and acceptable participation of athletes.

Moreover the EVAA Council decided to continue the way of co-operation as to the Non-Stadia- and Mountain Championships (EVACNS and EMMRC), i.d to integrate these championships into existing (local) events. This happened in Regensburg (GER) 2007, Aarhus (DEN, 2009) -EVACNS- as well as in Unterharmersbach (GER, 2006), Lenzerheide (SUI, 2008) and Cerdanyola del Vallès (ESP, 2010) -EMMRC-. Otherwise a championship (EVACNS and/or EMMRC) is no more feasible (lost of too much money).

At last EVAA Council has adopted a “work programme”, in which all council members are involved with special tasks.

### Future reform

EVAA Council will continue its way of work in the period of the elected term (2008 – 2012) and after this term it has to be analysed and corrected or continued this part of Council plans.

At present it is to note that the feedback and the acceptance of these reforms from organisers and federations and athletes are available.

### **1.2 Contacts and Information via Internet**

In 2009 EVAA changed the webmaster of the internet. Now the website (www.evaa.ch) is managed by “mediasport” in Switzerland, the same company like European Athletics (EA), World Masters Athletics (WMA) and World Mountain Running Association (WMRA). Since this time an enormous increase of daily links is to notice.

EVAA will use this opportunity to inform federations and athletes as well about all news in the European veterans' world.

Administrational items (like addresses of the council members, members of the TBM and the changes in federation addresses) are permanently updated, too.

Furthermore this website will get more and more a platform for “last news” to championships, always respecting that first of all the national federations will be officially informed.

In the meantime the menu of the (new) website is updated and new informative items are added, likewise the “video gallery”. A web-coordinator is controlling and updating the website a minimum of one time per week, so that the timeliness is guaranteed. A special thank to the web-coordinator is to say.

### **1.3 Other Activities of the Council**

#### 1.3.1 EVAA Academy

In 2007 (in Helsinki) the idea to the Academy was born and since this time many federations have used this institution for seminars, education matters and general information.

#### 1.3.2 European Best Veteran and Fair Play Award

In 2008 EVAA Council honoured Christine Müller (SUI) and Wolfgang Ritte (GER) as best Europeans in the Central Office of EVAA in Marathon, in 2009 Gitte Karlshøj (DEN) and Guido Müller (GER) have been the honourees.

During the opening ceremony of the Ancona-Indoor Championships (2009) Jean Gracia, General Director of the French Athletics Federation was awarded by the “Torsten Carlus Fair Play Award”. In Nyíregyháza Hannu Nurminen (FIN) will get this decoration.

#### 1.3.3 Support of Regional Interests

The Balkan Region with 11 federations started 20 years ago the regionalisation (Stadia Championships and Cross Country), while the Scandinavian Countries meet once per year to the Indoor Championships. Now the Baltic Region followed and for the first time Riga was hosting the Indoor Championships. The Black Sea Region is interested to gather the federation around the Black Sea, while the mediterranean federations plan to co-operate with the northern countries of Africa.

In the cases of the Baltic, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Region EVAA is supporting in structure and organisational questions.

#### 1.3.4 Co-operation to FIDAL – SIGMA System

After the success of EVACI in Ancona last spring EVAA is supporting the development of a database. The SIGMA company agreed with EVAA so that a future plan can be realised in short time. I.e. a database of all athletes in order to have a common system for all and to have a correct and updated list of the athletes (in particular the correct writing of names).

#### 1.3.5 EVAA Motto

The motto of EVAA for “clean sport and fair play” was again topic of all activities during the last years and will be part of all future developments.

#### 1.3.6 Record Service

Ivar Söderlind, now member of the TBM, has continued his job as EVAA statistician. He has done it in a perfect and correct way like the last years before in EVAA Council (since 1988). He is responsible for the official recognition of the European records, had a walk-over in approving the records.

Ivar Söderlind, in co-operation with most European Veteran Statisticians from the Member Federations, is working very hard in order to give a permanent up-date to the athletes, because results and records are the most interesting items on the EVAA website, what is confirmed by the daily links.

#### 1.3.7 EAVC Volunteer Pool

In Aarhus (DEN) 2004 the first time the idea was born to install a volunteer pool, after the Aarhus LOC has asked for volunteers coming from different part of Europe. Since this time the idea was maintained and extended. In Hungary again volunteers are coming from different countries of Europe helping the LOC in sport and lingual fields as well.

### **1.4 Co-operation / Partnership to EA**

The co-operation to the European Athletics (EA) is on a very good way (see last General Assembly with the change of the constitution). In 2010 other meetings with EA are planned in order to intensify the partnership with the aim to get a close collaboration of the EA.

In the meantime EA invited EVAA to take part in EA's announcement for researches, studies and new ideas top the development of the sport of athletics.

### **1.5 Looking ahead**

“A rolling stone gathers no moss” - this saying will be the guideline for the EVAA work in the upcoming years and here and now it is to say that EVAA beside the daily work will realise subjects as follow:

- Projects of standardisation (database, entry booklets, competitor booklets...)
- Analysis of proper and regional veterans' championships
- Seminars and congresses (=> EVAA Academy)
- Winning campaigns for the future championships

Finally it is to say that all projects, all works and all ideas could only be realised because of an effective and concentrated collaboration in the EVAA Council.

All council members sorted things out, clenched in many situations, contributed their free time for the team work in EVAA, always aimed to do the best for our movement and for the athletes.

For this I have to express many thanks to all my friends of the EVAA Council, who enabled all progresses, all developments and all successes.

The veterans' movement in Europe is on a very good track. Congratulations, thanks and compliments to all federations and their athletes for their commitments and contributions.

Let's continue and improve together this way!

Dieter Massin