

## INTERNATIONAL TUG OF WAR SPORT NEWS

EDITOR: Maaïke Hornstra 10cc@hetnet.nl

TWIF HEADQUARTERS: PO Box 77, Orfordville, WI 53576-0077 USA twif@t6b.com

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## Carl Erik Hagström 1927 – 2014

Written by HANS CARLSSON in Swedish | Translated by ANDERS ANDERSSON

Swedish Tug of War Association honorary president Carl Erik Hagström has died. Immediate family is his son Stefan and his family. Carl Erik was Swedish Tug of War Association secretary - president and then honorary president since 1982.

He was employed by the State Railways and since SJ's travel agency. In the 50's and 60's, there were several active clubs in Tug of War at the State Railways. Carl Erik belonged to the club that had Stockholm Central Station as a resident.

Carl Erik was a close friend of Tage Andersson, who was one of the founders of TWIF in the early 60's. Carl Erik was not pulling, but figured as an administrative figure in SJ's various sports sections. In the 50's and 60's, he was most active in tennis, where he was an international judge.

His career in tug of war began when he worked as an interpreter for the Swedish Tug of War Association's then president Torgny Falck. He joined Torgny at international gatherings because of Torgny's limited language skills. Carl Erik Hagström spoke several languages fluently. In addition to English, he also spoke German and Spanish. There are those who said he also spoke French,

but this he denied himself. After Torgny Falck retreated Carl Erik became president of the Swedish Tug of War Association and was its international representative. After his retirement from work, he worked with Tug of War full time. As the president, he worked for Tug of War for eight hours per day as if it was a job and this he continued for another ten years before he succumbed to life spans. He died suddenly on September 2nd 2014. Carl Erik Hagström was 86 years old.



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MATERIAL TO:  
Rosemary Smith  
tugofwarrose@talktalk.net

# GENSB 2014

By Alan Knott

Once again the young pullers of Europe gathered to compete under the GENS B banner in the GENS B Youth International tug of war tournament. This year's GENS B tournament was hosted by the England Tug of War Association at St Martin's Plain, Folkestone, Kent in association with the Army Cadet Force. Around 550 Competitors from 9 different countries formed 39 junior teams made up of junior male and junior female pullers.

39 teams from 9 nations entered the competition (Germany - 3 teams, England - 8 teams, Netherlands - 6 teams, Switzerland - 6 teams, Belgium - 7 teams, plus Ireland - 2 teams, Northern Ireland - 1 team, Scotland - 2 teams, Lithuania - 3 teams plus 1 Europa Mix). The GENS B competition saw Northern Ireland and Scotland enter junior teams into the event for the first time.

The ethos of the GENS B competition is a friendly international event, hosted on a budget, with the price of accommodation capped at an affordable level for competitors. Studies by Sport England suggest that in addition to access to transport and the availability of good facilities, cost is a huge barrier to participation in sport by young people. As such, GENS B continues to be an important event in terms of encouraging young people to get involved in tug of war, and this is demonstrated by the number of teams that take part in GENS B every year.

With the world championships taking place one week later, some teams made a choice between competing at GENS B or the World Championships in the USA, which was unfortunate, however still having 39 junior teams competing at an international event is still a strong entry.

England had a total of 69 competitors taking part in the event, made up of 43 boys and 26 girls. Of this number, we had a team of Young Farmers taking part in the event for the first time. The National Federation of Young Farmers in England is one of the largest rural youth organisations in

the country, and every year they have their own national tug of war competitions for senior male and females teams, as well as a national competition for junior teams run under GENS B rules. Having a team from the Young Farmers organisation taking part was a major step forward for tug of war in England, as many pullers from Young Farmers teams do progress through to established tug of war teams and many have gone on to compete at World and European Championships over the years.

The competition was split into 3 groups of 10 and 1 group of 9. All of the teams from England gave an excellent account of themselves in the group stages. The top 4 teams from each group progressed through to the last 16 knock-out stage and in many cases, the competition to get through was very close. Notable mentions go to

Gloucester ACF girls who competed with 10 girls against other teams of boys, or mixed teams containing boys and girls and also Derbyshire ACF who gave a good account of themselves after entering this event for the first time. It was also a baptism of fire for Parbold YFC who recently won the GENS B competition at the National Federation of Young Farmers Finals. Parbold finished 5th in their group to just miss out on a place in the knock-out stages.



*Leicester, Northants and Rutland Army Cadet Force (ACF) Team.*

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Mosnang (Switzerland) vs Ramygala (Lithuania)
TTV Schijf (Netherlands) vs TTV Powerrangers (Belgium)
TTV De Spoortrekkers (Netherlands) vs England Barbarians (England)
TTV Bison (Netherlands) vs TTV Elektrotrekkers (Belgium)
Appenzell (Switzerland) vs Eire OG (Ireland)
Ebersecken (Switzerland) vs Gloucester ACF Boys (England)
Sins (Switzerland) vs Waldkirch (Switzerland)
Simonswald (Germany) vs Eschbachtal (Germany)

Ramygala (Lithuania) vs TTV Powerrangers (Belgium)
TTV Elektrotrekkers (Belgium) vs England Barbarians (England)
Ebersecken (Switzerland) vs Appenzell (Switzerland)
Sins (Switzerland) vs Eschbachtal (Germany)

Gold	Ebersecken (Switzerland)
Silver	TTV Elektrotrekkers (Belgium)
Bronze	Sins (Switzerland)
4th	TTV Powerrangers (Belgium)
5th	Ramygala (Lithuania)
6th	TZC Eschbachtal (Germany)
7th	Appenzell (Switzerland)
8th	England Barbarians (England)

The England Barbarians and Gloucester ACF Boys performed strongly in the group stages, with the England Barbarians finishing as runners up to Sins from Switzerland in their group. Gloucester ACF Boys were also in the same group, and they progressed in joint third place with TTV Schijf from the Netherlands.

**The last 16 matches were as left, with teams from 7 countries being represented in the knock-out stages.**

Ramygala, TTV Powerrangers, England Barbarians, TTV Elektrotrekkers, Appenzell, Ebersecken, Sins and Eschbachtal progressed to the quarter finals. **The quarter final line up was as left.**

TTV Powerrangers, TTV Elektrotrekkers, Sins and Ebersecken progressed through to the semi finals, the closest pull being the match between Sins and Eschbachtal, which went to three ends, Sins eventually progressing.

The semi finals featured two teams from Switzerland and two teams from Belgium. Sins and Ebersecken faced each other in the first semi final, and Powerrangers and Elektrotrekkers faced each other in the second semi final, meaning that both Switzerland and Belgium were each guaranteed a team in the final. Ebersecken and Elektrotrekkers won their respective semi finals to reach the final, leaving Sins and Powerrangers to fight it out for the bronze medal.

The bronze medal match saw Sins take the bronze medal by 2 ends to 0, which never looked in doubt. The final was between Ebersecken and Elektrotrekkers, two teams who had gone through the competition without losing an end. Both teams performed very strongly, but it was the very good team from Switzerland who took the gold medal by 2 ends to 0 to become the 2014 GENSB Champions.

**The top 8 rankings are summarised left.**

At the end of the competition, medals were presented to the winning teams, and awards and thanks were given to all participants and the officials. The GENSB flag was then handed over by Vic Ludkin (England GENSB representative and chair of the GENSB committee) to the Netherlands who host next years competition. Well done to everyone who took part and thanks to the Army Cadet Force for looking after everyone over the weekend.

The GENSB trophy and medals were presented by Her Majesty’s Deputy Lord-Lieutenant of Kent Lieutenant Colonel Richard C B Dixon TD DL. Medals to the officials were presented by the German Attache.

The 2015 GENSB tournament takes place in Heino, the Netherlands. Further information about the GENSB tournament is available at [www.gensb.eu](http://www.gensb.eu).

# TWIF TRIPLETS

By Thomas, James and Matt Schiroo

**H**ello! We're Thomas, James, and Matt Schiroo, and we're 18 year old triplet brothers. It seems like that's unusual in the sport of tug-of-war (are we the only ones?), so we've been asked to tell you a little about us and how we got involved in tug-of-war.



First, we've always been active in sports. Since we were 5 years old, we've been on some type of competitive sports team. In high school, one, two, or all three of us were on the football, cross country, track and field, and Nordic ski teams. That kept us busy during the school year, but left the summer open. We did training for various sports in the summer, but didn't participate in any competitive sport. Then in the spring of 2013, some friends who were already on the local tug-of-war team invited us to come and see what it was all about. The team was DJ's in Lakeville, Minnesota (USA). We went to one practice, and we were hooked. We practiced several times a week, and learned all about the sport. We worked hard at practice, but we also had a lot of fun. We were in several competitions that first summer. In the spring of 2014 we started the process all over again. We competed again this summer, culminating in the World Championships in Madison.

Getting to Madison turned out to be a bit more eventful than we had expected. We are all attending different universities, so to get us to the World Championships, our dad (who is a pilot) used a small plane to pick us up and bring us to Madison Wednesday afternoon. Unfortunately, we had some engine trouble on the way, so we had to make an emergency landing at a very small runway. There was nothing but cornfields as far as you could see in every direction. We were on the phone with a mechanic in our hometown (4 hours away), but they didn't think they'd be able to get us flying until Thursday. We didn't want to miss any of the competition! There was no one at the airstrip except a crop duster and a few locals who stopped by to see why we were there. But one knew a mechanic, and one knew where we could get a spare part, so between them, they were able to get us patched up and back on our way, although we arrived at Madison several hours later than expected. But we did get there, we were in time to compete, and we came with a great story.

Madison was the first World Championships we've been a part of. We loved it! Competing on the field was great, but so was the time between pulls. We got to watch a lot of other teams, plus we had the opportunity to meet people from many countries. Evenings were fun, when we could relax and enjoy being part of such an awesome organization. And while we were sad to have it all come to an end, it was fun to trade shirts, hats, or other mementos to add to all our memories.

The World Championship was a great experience, and we can't wait until 2016 when we hope to compete again. See you in Sweden!

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## Mixed class – a Swedish weight?

Sweden put a proposal to the TWIF annual congress in 2007 in Stenungsund, Sweden to include the Mixed class as a weight class in the TWIF Rules Manual. The proposal went through. Sweden had competed for many years before in that weight - and it was always a very popular weight class at Swedish competitions. We arranged an international competition in Hovmantorp, Sweden in 2003 when the Swedish Tug of War Federation had their 70 year jubilee, and there we included the Mixed class on the competition with a team from Switzerland. We also invited teams to Swedish Open 2004 in Stenungsund and we had teams from Netherlands pulling Mixed. We did the same at the Swedish Open 2006 in Stenungsund with more teams. For an example Boley from Ireland pulled the Mixed class with 4 Swedish girls and won.

So the proposal went through and the first time it was on the program for closed competitions was in Pretoria, South Africa 2010. We thought that our Swedish team had a good chance to win and we did! **The first WC goldmedalists were:** Emma Elmelid, Löftadalens DK, Katarina

Eriksson (now Nylund), Brunnsbergs IF, Anneli Andersson, Löftadalens DK, Caroline Stjerna, Hovmantorp DK, Daniel Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Sören Alfredsson, Heds IF, Krister Nyrén Heds IF, Fredrik Nylund, Brunnsbergs IF and Coach Mats Atterheim. A year later Sweden won the first EC title in Mixed at the EC in Minehead, England. The team was nearly the same as in 2010. Two girls were the different. Linda Andrén, Löftadalens DK and Ida Heed, Brunnsbergs IF in against Anneli Andersson and Caroline Stjerna.

In 2012 we tried to get the WC title at home again. We did! This time in Appenzell, Switzerland. The team was a little different to the years before. **The 2012 team:** Jennie Andersson, Brunnsbergs IF, Lina Frost, Brunnsbergs IF, Emma Elmelid, Löftadalens DK, Ida Heed, Brunnsbergs IF, Morgan Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Daniel Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Sören Alfredsson, Heds IF, Per Frostgard, Brunnsbergs IF and Coach Mats Atterheim.

In 2013 in Assen, Netherlands we won the EC title for the second time. **The 2013 team:** Jennie Andersson, Brunnsbergs IF, Katarina Nylund, Brunnsbergs IF, Emma Elmelid, Löftadalens DK, Caroline Stjerna, Hovmantorp DK,

Morgan Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Daniel Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Fredrik Nylund, Brunnsbergs IF, Per Frostgard, Brunnsbergs IF and Coach Mats Atterheim.

The years go by very quickly - in 2014 WC was organized in Madison, Wisconsin, USA. We asked ourselves if Sweden could win and once again for the third time in a row we were **WORLD CHAMPIONS!** **The 2014 team:** Jennie Andersson, Brunnsbergs IF, Katarina Nylund, Brunnsbergs IF, Emma Elmelid, Löftadalens DK, Lina Frost, Brunnsbergs IF, Morgan Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Daniel Eriksson, Brunnsbergs IF, Fredrik Nylund, Brunnsbergs IF, Per Frostgard, Brunnsbergs IF and Coach Mats Atterheim. Two other pullers Emma Elmelid and Daniel Eriksson and the Coach Mats Atterheim have been in the winning team for all five years. We hope now after 5 titles in a row that we can win the third EC title in Belfast next year.

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# TWIF 2014 WORLD OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS, MADISON, UNITED STATES

## RESULTS & MEDAL TABLES

### OPEN CLUBS COMPETITION RESULTS

Weight	Gold	Silver	Bronze
700SM	Ebersecken (SUI)	TTV Bison (NED)	Heure (NED)
560JM	Luthern (SUI)	Vedum AIS (SWE)	Oakdale A (RSA)
580SM	Engelberg (SUI)	Norton (ENG)	Gaztedi (BAS)
540SW	Jingmei (TPE)	Gönten (SUI)	Gaztedi (BAS)
600MIX	Gaztedi (BAS)	Jagersrust (NED)	TTV Eibergen (NED)
600MU23	TZC Simonswald (GER)	Mosnang (SUI)	Wynland B (RSA)
640SM	Ebersecken (SUI)	TTV Veenseboys (NED)	TTV Bison (NED)
500SW	Jingmei (TPE)	Gaztedi (BAS)	DJ's A (USA)

### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS RESULTS

Weight	Gold	Silver	Bronze
700SM	Switzerland	Sweden	Netherlands
560JM	South Africa	Switzerland	Sweden
580SM	Switzerland	England	Basque Country
540SW	Sweden	Switzerland	Chinese Taipei
600MIX	Sweden	Netherlands	Basque Country
600MU23	Switzerland	Sweden	Germany
640SM	Switzerland	Sweden	Germany
500SW	Chinese Taipei	Sweden	Switzerland

#### MEDAL TABLE BY COUNTRY - OPEN CLUBS

No	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	Switzerland	4	2	0
2.	Chinese Taipei	2	0	0
3.	Basque Country	1	1	2
4.	Germany	1	0	0
5.	Netherlands	0	3	3
6 Jt	England	0	1	0
	Sweden	0	1	0
8.	South Africa	0	0	2
9.	United States	0	0	1

#### WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDAL TABLE

No	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1.	Switzerland	4	2	1
2.	Sweden	2	4	1
3.	Chinese Taipei	1	0	1
4.	South Africa	1	0	0
5.	Netherlands	0	1	1
6.	England	0	1	0
7jt	Basque Country	0	0	2
	Germany	0	0	2