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If your federation would like to publish information on tournaments, clinics, etc. in this newsletter please send your information and pictures to Michael Schmidt at: [m Schmidt@europeansoftball.org](mailto:m Schmidt@europeansoftball.org)

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Softball will not be in the 2016 Olympics. As is now well known, our sport was not nominated by the IOC Executive Committee to be considered in October for inclusion in the 2016 Games. This is very disappointing to us all.

The BackSoftball campaign was successful and ISF President Porter did everything to bring International Softball to IOC level. This included working to give us our own "image", increase the number of Federations worldwide, develop softball in Africa and Muslim countries and foster television coverage of the 2008 Olympics and the 2009 World Cup Oklahoma.

There was softball before the Olympics and there will be softball after the Olympics. We have to realise, however, that many Federations will face a difficult time because the National Olympic Committees were supporting softball as member of the Olympic Family. Funding is now under pressure. To help these Federations must be our first concern. Also, and until we return to the "Olympic fold", we have to find a new way to "replace" the Olympics. A World Championship every two years is one possibility, as would be bringing Woman's and Men's Fastpitch Softball to the World Games, and the Commonwealth Games.

Wide television coverage is essential. This attracts the attention not only of fans but also sponsors. Sponsorship is needed to pay for the organization of tournaments and to Federations to invest in their countries for development of our sport.

There are great Tournaments all over the world – the Canada Cup, The Japan Cup, the World Cup Oklahoma, the Maccabiah Games, plans for an Australian Cup and the Haarlem Softball week in the Netherlands. Perhaps it is possible to combine one or more of these tournaments in one Worldwide competition or start a "Grand Tour" of tournaments.

This year, in European tournaments, we saw exciting games, strong and sometimes unexpected winners. ESF Technical officials and the Executive Council are evaluating the Competition forms that we received from many participants to keep what was good and to improve what needs adjustment.

The ESF will be in Brussels on 29 September to meet with the European Members of Parliament responsible for EU sports and we will use this time to discuss with them our plans for developing our sport in Europe. We need every ESF Federation to attend the ISF Congress in October. Many decisions have to be taken concerning the ISF and also the future of softball as an International sport. There will be time to discuss European issues in relation to the ISF.

Many National Softball competitions are in their final stage. Enjoy the games!  
*Your President Andre van Overbeek*



**Andre van Overbeek**  
President

## THE „TROPHÉE INTERNATIONAL LAFARGE 2009“

The 4th Trophée International Lafarge (T.I.L), men's international fastpitch tournament, took place on July 24, 25, 26th at the field of "la Tana" in Contes, 20km from Nice, France.

5 teams have contested the tournament: Roma Softball (Italy champions), Pados Pardubice (Czech Republic), Die-Hards (Switzerland), BCF Paris (French vice-champions) and the host team, Contes' Cobras.

Most of the 15 games played during the competition were interesting and tight, level was high and scores were closed. The batters had to raise their level of hitting because of the experienced pitchers. Finally, Roma and Pardubice went to the final, and the Czech team conceded the victory to the powerful Italian batters (12-5).

Final ranking was:

- 1st Roma
- 2nd Pardubice
- 3rd Paris
- 4th Die-Hards
- 5th Contes

This tournament was a good training for all the teams, especially for Roma and Paris who will play the European cups this summer.

All the players had fun playing this 4th T.I.L, now one of the finest men's fastpitch tournaments in France, a good way to promote softball in this country!

You can find all about the TIL2009 (results, standings, pics) on the Contes Cobras' web site: [www.bcc-cobras.org](http://www.bcc-cobras.org).

## ESF TOURNAMENT RESULTS

### AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

#### European Championships Woman A, Valencia

July 27th – August 1st

European Champion	NETHERLANDS
2nd Place	GREAT BRITAIN
3rd Place	CZECH REPUBLIC

#### Individual Awards:

Best Batter:	Lucie Petraskova (CZE)
Best Pitcher:	Rebecca Soumeru (NED)
Most Valuable player:	Stacie Townsend (GBR)

#### European Championships Woman B, Hoboken

July 27th – August 1st

European Champion	BELGIUM
2nd Place	SWEDEN
3rd Place	CROATIA

#### Individual Awards:

Best Batter:	Nathalie Hoster
Best Pitcher:	Veronique van Braeken
Most Valuable Player:	Patty van Wymelbeke



Photo: Franco Bagattini - [www.fastpitch.it](http://www.fastpitch.it)

**European Cup Woman A, Legnano**

August 17th – August 22nd

European Cupwinner **Sharx, AUSTRIA**  
 2nd Place **Carousel, RUSSIA**  
 3rd Place **Forli, ITALY**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter: **Sharonda McDonald (Forli)**  
 Best Pitcher: **Danielle Spaulding (Sharx)**  
 Most Valuable Player: **Danielle Spaulding (Sharx)**

**European Cup Winners Cup Woman A, Parma**

August 17th – August 22nd

Winner **Terrasvogels, NETHERLANDS**  
 2nd Place **Joudrs, CZECH REPUBLIC**  
 3rd Place **Sparks Haarlem, NETHERLANDS**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter: **Daria Shembereva (Moskovia)**  
 Best Pitcher: **Kimberley Jacobson (Viladecans)**  
 Most Valuable Player: **Nathalie Gosewehr (Terrasvogels)**

**European Cup Woman B, Dupnitsa**

August 17th – August 22nd

Winner **Borgerhout Squirrels, BELGIUM**  
 2nd Place **Nika Duhl U. Lugansk, UKRAINE**  
 3rd Place **Trnava Panthers, SLOVAKIA**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter: **Ksenia Smirnova, (Nika Duhl U.)**  
 Best Pitcher: **Valeriya Yavorskaya (Nika Duhl U.)**  
 Most Valuable Player: **Jennifer Feret, (Flyers)**

**European Cup Winners Cup Woman B, Edirne**

August 17th – August 22nd

Winner **Angels London, GREAT BRITAIN**  
 2nd Place **Eagles Reussbuehel, SWITZERLAND**  
 3rd Place **BAT Paris, FRANCE**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter: **Morgan Parkerson (Angels)**  
 Best Pitcher: **Joke Van der Hulst (Angels)**  
 Most Valuable Player: **Karlene Headly Cooper (Angels)**

**European Cup Men, Bagnaria Arsa**

August 24th – August 29th

Winner **Chomutov Beavers, CZECH REPUBLIC**  
 2nd Place **Magois Tenerife, SPAIN**  
 3rd Place **DeMo EHS, NETHERLANDS**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter: **Cameron Thomas (DeMo EHS)**  
 Best Pitcher: **Vrbensky Lubomir (Chomutov Beavers)**  
 Most Valuable Player: **Cameron Thomsa (DeMo EHS)**



Photo: Franco Bagattini - www.fastpitch.it

**European Cup Winners Cup Men, Spijkenisse**

August 24th – August 29th

Winner **Horsholm Hurricanes, DENMARK**  
 2nd Place **HSV Centrals, NETHERLANDS**  
 3rd Place **Spikes, NETHERLANDS**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter: **Dennis van Brummelen (HSV Centrals)**  
 Best Pitcher: **Frank Pointen (HSV Centrals)**  
 Most Valuable Player: **Frederick Terkelsen (Horsholm Hurricanes)**

**European Cup Coed Slowpitch, Dupnitsa**

August 26th – August 29th

Winner **Dodder Dynamos, IRELAND**  
 2nd Place **Dragons, GREAT BRITAIN**  
 3rd Place **ASKOE Linz, AUSTRIA**

Individual Awards:

Best Batter Female: **Emily Clifford (Baker Tomkins)**  
 Best Batter Male: **Carlos Anglada (ASKOE Linz)**  
 Best Pitcher: **John Austin (Dodder Dynamos)**  
 Most Valuable Player-Female: **Emily Clifford (Baker Tomkins)**  
 Most Valuable Player-Male: **John Austin (Dodder Dynamos)**



Photo: Franco Bagattini - www.fastpitch.it