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# newsletter

ISSUE MARCH 2014



WBSC/International Softball Secretary General, Ms. Beng Choo Low during the inspection of the Haarlem venue with tournament president Peter van der Aart.



**ISF XIV  
WORLD  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
FASTPITCH  
WOMEN  
2014  
HAARLEM  
HOLLAND**

<http://www.wcsoftball2014.com/over-ons>



**ESF XIII  
EUROPEAN  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
FASTPITCH  
JUNIORS  
WOMEN  
2014  
ROSMALEN  
HOLLAND**

21-26 JULY

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## FROM THE EDITOR

The ESF Newsletters will be published regularly and will contain a wide range of information about softball in Europe. If you want to publish an article, message or announcement on a softball topic in the Newsletter (on events, rules, equipment or anything else), please send your copy (in Word), preferably accompanied by pictures, to: [info@europeansoftball.org](mailto:info@europeansoftball.org).

## COLOFON

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## National Teams confirmed for historic 2014 Women's World Softball Championship to be in Europe for first time; Ticket sales more than halfway sold-out

- "The Softball World Championship provides a dedicated international platform for women athletes to shine and be the focus of sport, and the ticket sales being generated for this world event highlights the spectator interest, and the power and potential of softball as a promoter of women's sport, helping shape a sporting world that is more balanced and relevant to women." - Beng Choo Low, WBSC Secretary General

- The expected influx of visitors to Haarlem for the Women's Softball World Championship is set to provide a boost to the local economy, giving further arguments that women's sports -- and a popular women's sport like softball -- are increasingly growing into viable, valuable and stand-alone products with which to showcase a city and a nation as an international sports centre and tourist destination.

International Softball executives have revealed a global spread of sixteen National Teams -- the maximum allowed -- for the XIV ISF Women's World Softball Championship that will be historically staged for the first time in Europe -- in Haarlem, Netherlands from 15-24 August -- with ticket sales for the event having already passed the halfway point to being sold-out.

Japan, which won the gold at the 2012 XIII World Softball Championship, will be joined in Haarlem by China and Chinese Taipei to represent **Asia**.

Botswana, which represented Africa in the 2013 Youth (Under-19) Women's Softball World Championship, will head to Haarlem on behalf of **Africa**.

The **Americas** will send five representatives: Canada, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and 2012 silver medalist United States.

**Europe**, along with the Americas, will have the greatest representation at the Women's Softball World Championship, with the Czech Republic, Great Britain, Italy, host Netherlands and Russia all set to converge in Haarlem.

**Oceania** will be represented by 2012 bronze medal winner Australia and New Zealand.

For the first time in history, the Women's World Softball Championship will be celebrated in Europe, and with still nearly six months to go before the opening ceremony, the Local Organising Committee in Haarlem is reporting that ticket availability is already more than halfway to being completely sold-out, and that online ticket sales are being driven chiefly by outside countries.

The WBSC/International Softball Secretary General, Ms. Beng Choo Low, who recently led a site inspection in Haarlem, said: "The [Local Organising Committee] is doing a superlative job in building the profile of Europe's first Women's Softball World Championship and is readying the world stage to provide an exciting platform for the athletes from the sixteen National Teams and for the many fans from all over the world who will come to Haarlem to see them.

*"The Softball World Championship provides a dedicated international platform for women athletes to shine and be the focus of sport, and the ticket sales being generated for this world event highlights the spectator interest, and the power and potential of softball as a promoter of women's sport, helping shape a sporting world that is more balanced and relevant to women.*

*"I am confident the historic first-ever Women's World Championship in Europe will further deepen baseball and softball's collective global footprint, especially in Europe, and will deliver an excellent showpiece in women's sport -- leaving a truly unique and lasting legacy for the city of Haarlem."*

(source: WBSC press release)



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## DUTCH NATIONAL-SOFTBALL TEAM GAINS NEW SPONSOR

Sandd, a firm carrying out business mail delivery in the Netherlands, has become the new sponsor of Dutch Softball. At the end February, during an exhibition match between the Dutch National Baseball Team and the Women's Softball Team, Sandd made the news known to the softball women.



The announcement that Sandd supports the Dutch Women's Team in advance of the ISF Women's World Championship in August was ratified in line with the company's slogan, a convincing "I do!".

The Dutch Team has now won three straight European Championships, and will be aiming for a top-five place at the World Championship in order to maintain their A status in the eyes of the National Olympic Committee and hence their funding.

Currently, the team is ranked sixth in the world.

Dutch Head Coach Craig Montvidas is delighted with the new sponsor. "I almost fell off my chair when I got the call from Sandd," Craig said. "Getting an important sponsor was high in our to-do list for 2014. Without this support, we would have struggled to offer the players the training and facilities they need to achieve a good result. The sponsorship feels like an acknowledgement of the hard work and achievements of the past few years, and it gives us an extra boost for a great result at the World Championship!"

by Marco Stoovelaaar

## Tournaments in Europe

By Gabriel Waage  
ESF First Vice President

The **ESF Congress** held in Prague on February 14-16 made final allocations for ESF competitions in 2014 and Championships in 2015 (see the Calendar on the ESF website). But new tournaments for the future were also introduced and discussed in Prague.

The **Super Cup Junior Women** was proposed by the ESF as a new competition to begin in 2015, and after debate it was decided that this competition should be instituted in an 'open' format in the years between European Junior Women's Championships.

The **European Masters Games**, supported by the ESF, will take place in October 2015, and Federations will be asked to provide information to softball Masters Teams in their countries as soon the information becomes available. The European Masters Games in 2015 will be followed by ESF Masters Cup(s) in 2016 and beyond.

The **World Games 2017** will be hosted in Wroclaw, Poland. The ESF will fully support the World Games from a technical point of view and has allocated the 2015 Women's Cup and the 2016 Junior Women's Championship to Wroclaw to help them prepare and prove their facilities prior to 2017. The ESF will monitor the performance of the venue during the ESF events.

## APPOINTMENT of ORGANIZERS of COMPETITIONS

(Approved by ESF Congress February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

### CALENDAR 2014

Jul. 7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	IV. European Championship U 22 Women	Dupnitsa (BUL)
Jul. 14 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	XII. European Championship Men	Havlíčkův Brod, Pardubice (CZE)
Jul. 21 <sup>st</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup>	XIII. European Championship Junior Women	Rosmalen (NED)
Jul. 29 <sup>th</sup> – Aug. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	VII. European Super Cup Coed Slowpitch	Mladé Buky (CZE)
Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	III. European M.Romeo Youth Trophy	Collecchio, Parma (ITA)
Sep. 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	XXXVII. European Premiere Cup Women	Unione Fermata (ITA)
Sep. 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	XXI. European Cup Women	Dupnitsa (BUL)
Sep. 1 <sup>st</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	XXIII. European Cup Winners Cup Women	ASD Porpetto (ITA)
Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	III. European Super Cup Men	Amstelveen (NED)

### CALENDAR 2015

Jul. 20 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	XIX. European Championship Women	Rosmalen (NED)
Jun.29 <sup>th</sup> – Jul. 4 <sup>th</sup>	VIII. European Championship Cadet Girls	Nuoro (ITA)
Jun.29 <sup>th</sup> – Jul. 4 <sup>th</sup>	IX. European Championship Junior Men	Most (CZE)
Jul. 28 <sup>th</sup> – Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup>	X. European Championship Coed Slowpitch	Dupnitsa (BUL)



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*Pitchers and coaches at the clinic*

## Austrian National Softball Team: Sebastian Gervasutti attends first training camp

By Michael Vallant

The Austrian National Softball Team had its first training camp on February 8-9. The focus was on pitching, since it was the first time that new pitching coach Sebastian Gervasutti was with the team. Besides the Senior squad, about 15 other pitchers and 12 club coaches joined the practice in order to learn from Gervasutti.

"Pitching technique was built up and analysed," said one of the club coaches. "Sebastian Gervasutti and Connie Chwojka [pitching instructor for the national team] focused on the little things and gave detailed instructions. The pitchers had enough time to really work on their skills and have improved throughout the weekend."

Three young pitchers from Linz, Chiara, Steffi and Viki, only had one word left at the end of the weekend that left them exhausted but happy: "Cool!"



*Sebastian Gervasutti in action*

In 2014 it will be mandatory to use Austrian Under-19 pitchers in the Austrian Softball League. This means that all clubs have to develop pitchers, and the knowledge that club coaches gained during the weekend with Sebastian Gervasutti will be passed on in their club training to make their players better.

Catchers and infielders also had training sessions during the weekend, led by Head Coach Marcel Kratochvii and Francesca Fabretto. The camp finished with a hitting circuit.

In March, the Austrian Senior National Team will get together again, with a clear goal in mind: the European Championships in 2015. There, the team wants to at least repeat and hopefully improve on its sixth place finish in 2013.



WEBSITE EC JUNIORS 2014  
WOMEN ROSMALEN  
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GB Team and  
coach Hayley Scott

## GREAT BRITAIN GAINS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WILD CARD PLACE

by Bob Fromer

The Great Britain Women's Softball Team has been granted a wild card place at the 2014 Women's World Championship, to be held in Haarlem in the Netherlands from August 15-24.

It will be the first time that the World Championship has been held in Europe, and the first time since qualification was required that the competition will have five European teams. Great Britain, who missed out on automatic qualification only on runs conceded at last summer's European Championships, will join the host team Netherlands, plus Italy, Russia and the Czech Republic.

The British team was offered a wild card place by the ISF after South Africa was unable to take up the place they achieved through African qualification.

GB Head Coach **Hayley Scott** said: "I can think of no group of athletes that deserves to perform at the World Championship more than our GB Team – a team with heart, courage and a lot of guts. Now our preparations will need to step up a little bit more!"



## Czech Softball Extraliga unveils New Logo

By Pavel Hrdina, Media Director CSA

Women's and men's Extraliga of softball will have a new logo since the start of the upcoming season. Until now, the best Czech softball league lacked its own graphical image. New logo is created by a professional designer **Ondrej Blazek**, who built it up on the picture of home base with a softball and name of the league above.

"I hope that this year, the new logo will be well presented in different ballparks as well as on the websites of teams, in media or on social networks," says Gabriel Waage, president of the CSA.

In the Czech Republic, Extraliga is a synonym for a sport league of top quality, as it is also in softball.

„We want to improve the presentation of Extraliga as well as any other team sport wants to improve presentation of their top league – new logo is one of the ways. Last year, we made a good step with new logo for Final four of the Czech cup and this success also lead to this improvement,“

Waage introduces the reasons of creating a new graphical design of competitions with 8 teams in each category, men and women.

Ondrej Blazek's idea was the chosen one among many others. „We were choosing from concepts of three different authors, but in the end, we picked a version by the creator of the Final Four logo again. This also means a certain continuum in our design. The logo is an original one. It has some of the typical softball characteristics, but on the other hand, it isn't complicated and hopefully it can be well-remembered. I hope that this year, the new logo will be well presented in different ballparks as well as on the websites of teams, in media or on social networks and in future, it should be shown as well on the team jerseys,“ reveals Waage.



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## Umpire Clinics in Europe

by Gabriel Waage  
ESF First Vice President

**In total three Umpire Clinics will be held in Europe on May and June. ESF Umpire Slow Pitch Clinic will be held in Slough (Great Britain) by Riching Park Softball Club on May 7 – 11. In total 12 participants sent the Applications for this clinic, which will be headed by Robert Milosavljeic.**

ESF Umpire Basic Fast Pitch Clinic will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) by Czech Softball Association on May 21 – 25. Also here in total 12 participants sent the Application for this clinic. Experienced clinicians **Bert Loggen** and **Carolien Stadhouders** will run this clinic. National Czech tournament Women under 22 will be used for practice of the new umpires.

Europe will host also ISF Umpire Clinic, which will be held in Prague (Czech Republic) on June 23 – 28. Prague Softball Week, International Women's Tournament, will be used for practice of potential new ISF umpires. All information regarding ISF clinic in Prague are available at ISF website. ISF Certification Candidates must successfully complete (90% correct) pre-seminar qualification test online at the ISF UmpSchool before being approved to attend the Seminar. ISF clinic in Prague will be headed by ISF Director of Umpires **Bob Stanton** with **Marlies Struyvé** and **Andrea Marcon**.



## First ESF Umpire Convention big success

by Gabriel Waage  
ESF First Vice President

**First ESF Umpire Convention held on March 7 – 9 in Olympic Center in Roma was very successful. In total 60 ESF licenced umpires from 19 countries attended this Convention led by Bob Stanton, ISF Director of Umpires and Andrea Marcon, ESF Director of Umpires. The main goals of this Convention were introductions and explanations new rules and unifying umpiring at ESF tournaments.**

Bob Stanton introduced new rules including changes in the interpretation of some rules. Presentation perfectly introduced problematic interpretations and importance of communication was presented also by short video from Ice Hockey referee communication system. Specific rules as a DP/Flex or Interference/Obstructions were explained by umpires themselves in the workshop groups. The co-operation among the umpires was very effective and hopefully the information presented at the Convention will be brought also to their own countries.

New sponsorship agreement with **Tecnovap Company** was introduced at this Convention including ESF strategy regarding upgrade of ESF stuff. The Convention attended also FIBS representatives **Totoni Sanna** and **Giampiero Curti**.

Andrea Marcon introduced ISF Umpire Clinic in Europe, which will run in Prague on June 23rd – 28th, 2014. Also ESF Fast Pitch Umpire Clinic held in Prague on May 21st – 26th and ESF Slow Pitch Umpire Clinic held on May 7th – 11th were reminded.

Three men's system and answers to rules test were reminded by **Gian Paolo Pelosi** including specification for slow pitch announced by **James O'Farrel**. Finally assignments for ESF tournaments 2014 were also announced at this clinic.

The Convention was excellent time to bring umpire together and discuss on several topics regarding umpiring. This social part is very important for achieving second goal – unifying umpiring at ESF tournaments.

The Convention was timely good selected after ISF rule changes Congress and ESF would like to hold this Umpire Convention every four years.



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