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From the President's Desk

WSI is ending its 5th year as this century is melting away and a new one is waiting in the wings. These last few months have been filled with activity by WSI members, on behalf of the global women's sport advocacy movement. The pages of this Newsletter chronicle just a portion of the progress. I know that I speak for you, in extending thanks to the hard working officers, task force and committee members who have accomplished a great deal through their diligence and effort. A very important paper authored by Libby Darlison is now in the hands of UNESCO. It is outstanding and will be of enormous aid to all of us in our efforts to make clear why the progress of women in sport is so important to women generally. As soon as we have permission to do so, we will get the paper up on the web site. Watch for that and thanks to Libby.

To our dismay, a good deal of the communication within WSI is one-way. Through the Newsletters and our web site, we do the best we can to report to you what we are doing and planning. As international "interactive" communication is expensive and slow, we do not hear frequently from you, our members.

I know that YOU are also hard at work on behalf of women's sport. I know that because I can see all the movement and progress around the world. Not nearly what we would like; but good progress nevertheless! All this could not happen were it not for the "thousand points of light" phenomenon wherein the masses of women and fair-minded men each contribute their "voltage" day in and day out. Thanks to each member and let us all resolve to maintain our efforts through another new year.

Carole Oglesby

Update on WSI Activities - *Carole Oglesby*

Let me recount some of the WSI happenings about which I recently reported to the International Working Group meeting in Alexandria, Egypt.

The Sydney Olympic Games will feature some very special programs to mark the centenary of women's participation in the Games. Additionally, Mar. 6-8, in Paris, the IOC is holding the 2nd International Conference on Women. This event, opening on International Women's Day, will also honor the Centennial. Both of the "happenings" have been advanced and influenced by our Secretary General, Libby Darlison in her roles with Australian officials and the IOC Working Group on Women.

UNESCO recently commissioned a Technical Document 'Gender, Sport, Physical Activity and Social Development' for international distribution and discussion. The Document, written by WSI Secretary General Libby Darlison, addresses gender in the context of social development and physical activity and documents the benefits of involvement in sport and physical activity for girls and women. It also includes some good practice strategies incorporating both gender specific and gender mainstreaming approaches. The document is sufficiently generic to be used by a wide range of groups and individuals as an information and lobbying tool and should be particularly useful in the preparations for Beijing+5.

Celia Brackenridge, Kari Fasting and I presented at the 7th International Women's Studies Conference in Norway last summer. Kari and Celia, independently and together have completed, published and presented literally around the world their groundbreaking research on sexual

harassment in sport. While it is a difficult area to raise with mainstream sport and the general public, this very important work goes forward.

The IOC has placed, for the foreseeable future, a moratorium on gender verification testing. This was a MAJOR advocacy victory. Sandi Kirby and Berit Skirstad are two WSI members who exerted leadership in this project. It followed a very hard debate on this matter at the 1st IOC Conference on Women in which Barbara Drinkwater was a very informed and persuasive speaker. Many men and women sport medicine professionals have been contributors as well. Our thanks to all and job well done.

Our WSI Ethics chair, Dr. Angela Schneider, has prepared a massive document on Olympic reform. Dr. Schneider, a former Olympian, has joined with other members of the Olympic family in a group called OATH (Olympic Advocates Together Honorably) to offer some solutions to the current crisis within the IOC. Under the auspices of OATH, the report on reform of the IOC was presented. The outcome of the IOC's own deliberations will be forthcoming in December, 1999. The OATH document is available on the WSI web site (<http://www.de.psu.edu/wsi/index.htm>) or you can go to www.theoath.org

With IAPESGW, WSI is responsible for a day-long seminar on women and sport at the Brisbane Pre-Olympic Scientific Conference, Sept 7-13, 2000. If you are interested in presenting a paper, watch for a notice on our web site or contact me by email or regular mail.

UN Strategic Bridges Initiative: The area of greatest attention for me this year and next is our project focused on the UN General Session, June 2000, referred to as Beijing+5. This session is the deliberations of UN members to assess the world progress on implementation of the Beijing Platform For Action (PFA) and to determine if further world conferences like Beijing are needed. There were three specific planks in PFA which addressed sport, exercise and physical recreation opportunities for girls and women. This was a first! The report on our web site deals with this matter in some detail.

As you may know, the general women's movement has not been integrated into (nor particularly interested in) the women's sport community and WSI is committed to moving women's sport/physicality into the mainstream of the Beijing+5 preparations. I attended the March, 1999 PrepCom in New York City following which Libby and I prepared our web site report which has been up since mid-summer. As part of the continuing preparations, I have circulated as widely as possible, information on how to sign on to a global electronic forum which is still on-going on several issues: ending violence against women, empowering the 'girl child' and women and educating the media are still open. If interested, post to jbrodman@edc.org

There are now available, at UN web sites (see our WSI web report on UN) reports from each country stating progress on implementing PFA. These reports, and "alternative or shadow reports" (developed by NGOs), are being discussed and formulated now. See p. 5 for Web site addresses.

In the USA, ten regional conferences are being held in order to hold discussions about representation and positions. These conferences are around the country from November to February. To see dates, location in your area, click on www.uswc.org (USWomenConnect is a new co-ordinating body for NGOs in this country) There will be another PrepCom next March but, in reality, the great majority of plans and materials will be in place by that time. We must be at work now to make sure that women's sport and exercise concerns have a place in the PFA assessments.

What can you do?

From our web report, you can click directly to the PFA. There are, in addition to the direct references, several planks which have implications for us. For example, there are many planks which address empowering girls and women and enhancing self-esteem. We know that research has shown the potential role of sport/physicality in meeting this goal. However, government officials and women's activists aren't so fully informed and we need to tell them. This is a big, and time-consuming job. We can use your help. If this is of interest to you, please contact me. Between now and next March, we need "many hands to make light work".

The warmest of holidays and the dawning of a great new year to each of you.....*Carole Oglesby, WSI President*

Arja Laitinen
Born 3.1.1949
Died 21.10.1999

There were several of us working in women and sport, who met Arja Laitinen for the first time in Jyvaskyla in 1987, when she presented a feminist paper which beautifully critiqued the prevailing research and theoretical approaches being used at Jyvaskyla - a very influential research department, dominated by scientism (my perception, better articulated by Arja). We were astonished at the virulence of the responses from her colleagues, and awed by Arja's dignity and "grace under pressure".

During the next 8 years or so, Arja and I often talked about the work she wanted to do for her doctorate, and how she might, first, persuade her department that the topic was scientifically sound; and second, secure appropriate supervisory support for this work. She visited me in Leeds to talk through her ideas, and to ask me to become an international adviser - a request that I was honoured and delighted to meet.

But then her plans were overtaken, first by the birth of her son, and then soon afterwards, by the first diagnosis of cancer. It was typical of Arja that she fought this illness with such positive courage and intelligence, just as she had fought her less enlightened colleagues. And in 1997, at the IAPESGW Congress in Lahti, it seemed that she had won both battles - she had a good prognosis on her health, and had decided to register for her doctorate outside Finland, so that she could pursue the topic of her choice with people she felt would both support and extend her. She looked very beautiful and was bursting with energy and her plans for her academic work and her family. So the news last autumn, that the cancer had recurred, was a terrible tragedy. Arja's death has robbed us and her family of a bright, beautiful, brave friend and colleague. Her contribution would have been immense; Arja would not ever have allowed us to forget that future generations need academics who have the courage and intellect to challenge dominant myths, to present alternatives and to encourage creativity and application to reality.

Margaret Talbot, IAPESGW President

EUROPEAN WOMEN AND SPORT GROUP (EWS)

The Finnish Sports Federation is now chairing the European Women and Sport Group (EWS). Finland took over the chair after the EWS Conference in Athens in September 1998 and will lead the EWS Group until the EWS Conference in June 2000. In addition to Finland, the Steering Group is comprised of Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, Malta and Norway. The main aim of the EWS work is "an equal sports culture where all girls and boys, women and men, shall have equal opportunities to participate, act and make decisions in sport". During its EWS Chair,

Finland has carried out various activities and taken part in many international meetings and conferences and informed about the aims and work of the EWS activity. At the end of September, the EWS people attended the EWS Open meeting (29 Sept) in Malta under the theme of Women's Fair Play. The meeting preceded the European Sports Conference (29 Sept - 1 Oct), the theme of which was "Sport: Business as usual?"

At present, there is an EWS contact person in 38 European countries. The contact persons have received EWS material and information on EWS matters. We have compiled a report on the basis of questionnaires returned by the contact persons regarding the equality work and women's status in the respective countries. The summary of the enquiry was presented at the meeting in Malta.

Welcome to the EWS Conference in Helsinki in June 2000!

The EWS2000 conference will be organised in Helsinki on 8 - 10 June 2000 under the theme of Women, Sport and Culture - How to change sports culture? The conference is open to people all over the world.

Active engagement by France

European women are really active in the promotion of an equal sports culture. At the end of May, French sports women led by the sports and youth minister Marie-George Buffet organised the national conference *Femmes et Sport*. The conference gathered over 200 enthusiastic participants and the feeling was very inspiring. Working groups such as women and elite sport, women and corporate sport, social integration, media group, women and male-dominated sports, international group had compiled material and made preparations before the meeting. Also during the conference, the work was divided into many working groups where the conversation was lively. The international group included reports on the IWG and EWS work. France has decided to take an active part also internationally. They are already participating in the Atlanta-Sydney activity, for example. Minister Buffet is an inspiring person and also personally engaged in the promotion of an equal sports culture in France. The meeting gave faith that French women will be more involved in the different sectors and levels of French and international sports life.

Pirjo Puskala, EWS Secretary

If you want to be put on the EWS2000 mailing list, please send your name and address to EWS Secretariat, Ms. Pirjo Puskala, Finnish Sports Federation, FIN-00093 SLU or fax +358 9 3481 2605 or e-mail pirjo.puskala@slu.fi

International Dialogue on the 'Web'

The key issue addressed by the members of the Working Group, hosted by WomenWatch, United Nations, was the empowerment of women through training. Among the comments selected for posting was this one by Carole Oglesby, President, WSI

A member from the United States wrote that sport and physical exercise are empowering activities for women. "Here in the USA, studies of women who hold high positions in business, government and education administration report that, in childhood and adolescence, they participated in sport or some form of physical recreation which was dear to them." She mentioned her efforts, as part of an organization called *WomenSport International*, "to treat sport and physical recreation as a human right that must be available to girls." She listed similar, successful programs, including "African Women in Sport Association," "Colombian Women in Sport Association," and "Arab Women in Sport."

Join the conversation at the WWW site: <http://sdnhq.undp.org/ww/women-edu>

UN Commission on the Status of Women

The CSW has recommended that as part of actions to be taken by Governments, the UN system, and civil society to ensure universal access, on a basis of equality between women and men, to quality, comprehensive and affordable health care and services that include: **regular sport and recreational activities for all women and girls.**

Do girls and women have equal access to sport in your country? Write or e-mail WSI President Carole Oglesby with your comments and suggestions.

Around the World

>The Times, London

>June 23 1999

The macho world of Italian football reacted with emotions ranging from astonishment to mild hysteria yesterday to the news that a woman is to coach a men's professional team for the first time. Carolina Morace, 35, who has been appointed to manage the third division side Viterbo, took it all calmly. The former international centre-forward, who is blessed with blonde curls and long legs, has posed for mildly enticing publicity photographs in her football shorts, balancing a ball on her toe. But meeting the press yesterday, she offered a steely-eyed rebuff to anyone who suggested that she was a woman in a man's world.

The appointment was front-page news in all the national dailies, and obliterated all other topics in Viterbo, 30 miles north of Rome, where the football team has just been promoted to Serie C. The decision to bring in Morace was made by Luciano Gaucci, the team's owner. He said the appointment was not a gimmick. "I cannot see what all the fuss is about in an age when we have women prime ministers and heads of state."

Morace, a law graduate from Venice, became one of the highest scorers in the history of women's football, with 554 goals, including 105 scored in 151 games for the the national side. She retired as a player in June last year and has since become a familiar face as a television commentator.

La Repubblica said that Italians had accepted women pilots, soldiers, and cabinet ministers, but the idea of a female football coach "could be a step too far . . . this punctures the last male taboo in Italy".

Greece

The Hellenic Association for Women's Improvement in Sport recently held a two-day seminar, "From Myth to Reality for Women and Sport". Attendance was good and many important issues were discussed, including implementation of the new requirement that women represent 20% of the members on sports governing bodies.

As acting Chair of the Commission on Leisure in Later Life in the World Leisure and Recreation Association (WLRA), Yvonne Harahousou is attempting to establish collaborative work on leisure and gender in later life with the WLRA. As part of the celebration of the International Year of the Older Person, programs are planned to highlight Elderly Women and Leisure and to participate in the Global Walking Event established by the World Health Organization (WHO).

"I think working more collectively from various sources we will advance more the issue of women and sport." *Yvonne Harahousou*

New Zealand Conference

Women from over 28 countries - mostly Africa, Pacific South Asia and the Carribean- attended a Conference held in New Zealand in conjunction with the World Netball Championships. Topics in the main addresses were different from those normally found at such meetings. There was a general agreement that the issues women face in the South are very different from those in the North. The vast majority of the

world's population is in the South and these are the countries with the highest populations of youth and also with the greatest social, health, economic and political problems. The South, with the exception of Australia and New Zealand, are developing countries where the issues for girls and women are all about economic, social and political survival, and where physical activity will only be of use if it can address those issues.

A South Dialogue Network will be formed where ideas can be exchanged and women can assist each other with issues which are of concern in this part of the world and are often very different from what happens in the Northern Hemisphere. There is a need to work together more closely and to link to the more central development agencies and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). This will also link us more closely with the UN (UNDP, UNIFEM Beijing Plus5, etc), UNESCO, and WHO which are active in many of these countries.

Norway

Over 1300 women from all nations and interests met at Tromso, Norway above the Arctic Circle for a week-long conference in late June 1999. WSI was well-represented with the President, Vice President and Secretary in attendance. We hosted a symposium on the first day of the conference at which papers were delivered about the research and advocacy work of WSI. Whilst the numbers attending our sessions were relatively small we did manage to interest women from several new countries in the work of our organisation and to make useful contacts with women working in cognate fields. All the membership forms and information leaflets that we took were snapped up from the public displays. Health was a prominent theme in the conference programme but sport as such was not much in evidence. It seems that we have much work to do to strengthen our ties with women working for similar political and policy objectives but who have not yet realised the benefits that women's sport has to offer.

Celia Brackenridge, WSI Secretary

TASK FORCE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SPORT *Celia Brackenridge, Chair*

The personnel associated with the Task Force have changed slightly, with resignations being received from both Mariah Burton Nelson (USA) and Hazel Hartley (UK). I should like to take this opportunity of thanking both of them for their support and active work in preventing harassment and abuse in sport. WSI is fortunate that Laura Robinson (Canada), a journalist, has agreed to join the Task Force and she neatly fills Mariah's area of interest. Laura's groundbreaking book on sexual abuse in hockey has shaken the Canadian sports world and has been widely acclaimed.

Collation of research into the issues from around the world:

The Cheltenham office still provides a de facto clearinghouse of sources and research data, although lack of staff has meant that much material has not yet been adequately catalogued or analysed. The attitude towards this issue amongst major sport organisation in the UK has changed considerably during the past year and I am hopeful that we might apply successfully for resources to organise the research base in the future. Indeed, one major youth sport charity has recently offered to fund a research assistant post to do child protection programme reviews next academic year and this could well have positive spin off for WSI.

Promotion of best practice examples in coach-athlete behaviour

The Task Force members continue to promote ethical standards in coach-athlete relationships through speeches, media appearances, lobbying, writing articles, etc. Again, there now seems to be a more receptive climate for promoting ethics in sport, at least in the western world, and we are able to piggyback on this in a number of ways.

Drafting and dissemination of materials on the legal, social and moral context of child protection in sport

As before, this has been pursued by individual advocates, journalists and researchers through our engagements in conferences, sport organisation meetings and dealings with the media. Leaflets and fact sheets have been produced by Task Force members, sometimes as part of wider teams, and distributed to young people, parents and others.

Lobbying of sport agencies and others to work for the eradication of harassment and abuse in sport

Task Force members are involved in lobbying and advocacy as well as scholarship and writing. Particular lobbying has taken place in the UK with the minister for sport and through sending written responses to official government enquiries on age of consent issues and on draft legislation around police checking of coaches and volunteers in sport. Workshops and training events have proliferated in this field and a number of exceptionally useful contacts have been made with lawyers, child protection workers, and with probation and police staff working with sexual offenders.

Sport England Forms Child Protection Task Force

A task force for child protection issues in sport has been officially formed by *Sport England*. The task force will prepare a sports-wide strategy to address child protection in sport, and will also set objectives and agree on an action plan to achieve them. *Sport England* Director of Development and Chair of the task force Anita White said: "This is a very important issue for everyone involved in working with or in a sport, but also for parents of the children who attend sports clubs. The task force is being set up to protect the youngsters, but also to safeguard the interests of coaches and volunteers, without whom sport in this country would be almost impossible."

John Stevens, Chief Executive of the National Coaching Foundation, added: "I am delighted that Sport England has taken this initiative. Sport does not stand apart from life and the abuse of children is something that all society has a responsibility to prevent. It is the complete opposite of what sport for children should be, and children and parents need to know that sport is safe. Helping sports organisations face up to their responsibilities in this area is one of the biggest challenges. It is simply too important to ignore and we look forward to working with the task force on what has been achieved already."

UN Web sites:

Here are the websites where information on the meetings to develop positions on these matters are taking place:

Arab region: admin_unifem@nets.com.jo

Asia : isis@isiswomen.org

Canada: fafiadir@web.net

Central/easterneurope: ebarclay@newww.org

Pacific: pac-ywca@sopac.org.fj

UK : motaylor@cabinet-office.x.gsi.uk

Annual Meeting of WSI Executive Council

The Annual Meeting of the Executive Board was held in Oslo on June 19th 1999, hosted by Kari Fasting, the WSI Vice President. The meeting gave the executive an opportunity to review its progress and to set new goals for the forthcoming year. A number of key decisions were made that will impact on members: these include the adoption of a graded scale of membership fees from January 1, 2000, differentiated by country, to allow for the different economic situations of women in different parts of the world. This brings us into line with other international organisations. The executive is currently negotiating for symposium place in the programme of the Pre-Olympic Scientific Congress in Brisbane 2000 at which next year's annual meeting could be held.

Memberships from January 2000, as agreed at WSI Executive Board meeting 1999

Individual active	Band A \$40	Band B \$30	Band C \$20
Individual associate	Band A \$40	Band B \$30	Band C \$20
Student	All bands \$20		
Organisation	All bands \$150		

BANDS AND COUNTRIES

Band A

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bermuda, Brunei, Canada, Cayman Islands, Denmark, Finland, France, French Polynesia, Germany, Hong Kong, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lichstenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norway, Qatar, San Marino, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States

Band B

Afghanistan, Anguilla, Antigua-Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia/Herzgovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Chile, Cook Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominica, Gabon, Greece, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Hungary, Iraq, Korea Republic, Kuwait, Lybian Arab Republic, Macedonia, Malaysia, Malta, Martinique, Mauritius, Mexico, Mirconesia Fed., Montserrat, Netherland Antilles, Oman, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Reunion, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Suriname, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.,

Band C

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burkino Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde Islands, Central African Rep., Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial, Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea Dem., Republic, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Moldova Republic, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines,

Romania, Russian Fed., Rwanda, Saint Vincent-Grenada, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe.