

ARE YOU READY FOR THE GAMES? LUXEMBOURG 2013

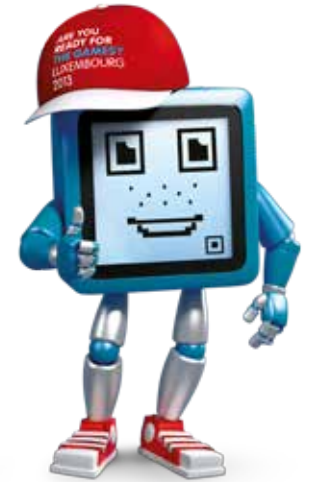
15th games of the small states of europe



27th may - 1st june
www.luxembourg2013.lu

GSSE NEWS

The Official Newspaper of the Games of the Small States of Europe in Luxembourg 2013



OPENING CEREMONY TONIGHT 20h00

Photo Gallery



Delegations arrive in Luxembourg see page 2

People



Interview with Head of the Volunteers see page 4

Weather Forecast

by MeteLux

Monday, 27th May max. / min.
 Sunny 16° / 6°
 Wind 12km/h 240° WSW

Moien, welcome to Luxembourg



André Hoffmann, President of the NOC Luxembourg

Two years after we last met in Liechtenstein, D-Day is finally here for Luxembourg 2013!

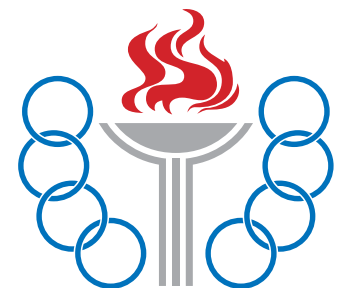
The entire country of Luxembourg is proud to host the 15th edition of the Games of the Small Nations 2013. I wish all participants the best of luck for their respective competitions and I sincerely hope that all of you will enjoy your stay in the green heart of Europe during this week.

The last months have been really challenging for the Olympic Committee and all the sports federations involved in the organisation of the 15th Games of the Small Nations of Europe, but finally, we are ready!

Let the games start!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE GAMES? LUXEMBOURG 2013

15th games of the small states of europe



- Flag Bearer (Luxembourg):** Sascha PALGEN (FLGym)
- Olympic Oath (Athletes):** Claude GODART (FLA)
- Olympic Oath (Judges):** Martine REUTER (FLGym)
- Olympic Oath (Coaches):** Hermann PAAR (FLBB)



(Photo: Jeff Gloden)

Partenaires Or



Partenaires Institutionnels



Partenaires Argent



Partenaires Bronze



Games of the Small States of Europe Luxembourg 2013 Here we are



1 & 3: Cyprus Volleyball Team and San Marino swimmers arrive at the airport in Luxembourg

2,4 & 5: Iceland, Andorra and Luxembourg check in at their Hotels

6: Mr. & Mrs. Ouranios M. Ioannides (NOC President)

7: The largest part of the Liechtenstein delegation

(Photos: Jeff Gloden)



Opening Ceremony GSSE Luxembourg 2013 at Josy Barthel Stadium

Unique person for a unique place



Main entrance to the Josy Barthel Stadium

(Photo: COSL)

After 1995 the "Josy Barthel Stadium" will again be the scene of the opening ceremony of the Games of the Small European States and the athletics competitions of the games will also be organized at the same place.

From "Stade Municipal" to "Josy Barthel Stadium"

Built from 1928 to 1931 and modernized on numerous occasions, the Stade Municipal was named after the most famous Luxembourgish athlete Josy Bartel in July 1993. Considered an outsider for the final of the 1500m race of the 15th Olympic Games in Helsinki, Josy Barthel won the Gold Medal on the 26th of July 1952. On the finishing straight he passed the favourites Werner Lueg (Germany) and Robert Mc Millen (USA) and won in the Olympic record time of 3'45"2! It was a particular honour for him to receive his Medal from the former Grand Duke Jean of Luxembourg.

Before his exploit in Helsinki, Josy Barthel had already defended the colours of Luxembourg at the Olympic Games of London in 1948, when he finished the 1500m race in ninth position and he took also part in the Melbourne Games in 1956.

If we can say, that Josy Barthel was extremely ambitious as a sportsman, he also showed exceptional qualities after his sports career.

He gave a proof of his leadership qualities as president of the national athletics federation (1962-1972) and after that as president of the National Olympic Committee (1972-1977). In 1977 Josy Barthel was appointed into the Luxembourgish government by the former Minister of State Gaston Thorn. Until 1984 he was in charge of the Ministries of Transport, Energy, Tourisme, Communication and Environment.

The stadium, which is equipped with a blue tartan track is the official venue of the national soccer

team. At the same time, it is the stadium of athletics club CSL.

From the athletics point of view, the highlights at the stadium were, the world record attempt over 1500m with the Olympic gold winner Barthel in 1952. Among others we must also mention the Cactus meetings with the former world stars Stanley Floyd, Calvin Smith (USA), Alberto Juantorena (CUB), Joachim Cruz (BRA), Carlo Tränhard (D), Florence Griffith, Carole Lewis or Jarmila Kratochviva (CZE). Nevertheless there is no future for athletics competitions in the "Josy Barthel stadium". The government with its Sports minister Romain Schneider has decided that the site will be renewed purely as a football stadium. The INS will probably become the new home of athletic.

Josy Barthel



Born in Mamer on 24th April 1927

Died in July 1992

9 times of a national champion

9 times member of the winner team of the "Coupe du Prince"

7 times member of the winner team at the club championships

32 national records between 1945 and 1956

32 selections in the national team

2 times competitor in European Championships (1946: Oslo and 1950:Brussels)

3 times competitor in Olympic Games

Véronique Linster gives the oath in 1995



(Photo: Revue)

During one of the first GSSE games in Luxembourg in 1995, the athlete Véronique Linster, pronounced the oath for the athletes at the opening Ceremony. She remembers she was honored to do so but was nervous for that occasion. Now, 18 years later, Veronique's heart is still beating for the new Games in Luxembourg. She was in the Luxembourg team during the Games in San-Marino, Cyprus and Malta, but the fondest souvenirs for Veronique are from the Luxembourg Games as she won 2 Silver-medals and 1 gold-medal. She still holds 2 national records in the 100 Meter and 100 Meter – hurdles. Veronique who is married to Frank Arend, member of the Luxembourg Basketball National Team, has given up her vacation plans so as to be able to visit along with her children a maximum of disciplines during the 2013 GSSE.

Flashback into the Opening Ceremony in 1995: Jeanne Maller, former volleyball international:

Last torch runner in 1995 - volunteer in 2013!

During the 1995 Opening Ceremony in Luxembourg I was one of the athletes from different sports that carried the Olympic Flag. After we finished our stadium round, the members of the organisation team were very nervous and excited, because the children who were supposed to bring in the Olympic Torch hadn't yet come back from their relay through Luxembourg City. The schedule for the Ceremony was very tight, so they needed outright someone to step in, and that is how Pascal Triebel and myself got to bring in the torch. I felt very sorry for the kids who had certainly been looking forward to this moment for a very long time.

Afterwards, Raymond Hastert from the Luxembourg NOC thanked



Jeanne Maller & Pascal Triebel

(Photo:Archives DMS)

us for filling in so spontaneously, but I can honestly say that this was a very easy favour to give. I considered it an honour to present the Olympic Torch in a very packed Josy Barthel Stadium!

Now, 18 years later, I think it only natural to be part of the volunteers. Having participated in the Luxembourg Volleyball team in 5 Games of the Small Countries, I believe this to be a good opportunity to give something back. All those nice memories I have from my active time as an athlete would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers, and that is why I did not hesitate for a second to become part of the volunteering team.

IMPRESSUM

Publisher / Editing
Comité Olympique et Sportif Luxembourgeois (COSL)
Graphic & Layout
COSL, Gilles Mehlinger
Print / Edition
Editpress, 2.500

GSSE PEOPLE

Head of the Volunteer Commission

Four questions for Hubert Eschette

• **How many volunteers will be helping during the Games?**

We've more than 800 volunteers, half of which are drawn from sports federations. The majority are working as greeters at hotels, in catering, as drivers or manning our information stands.

• **Coordinating so many people, it's no easy task?**

We've divided the task in different stages: the recruitment campaign to motivate people, the uniform fittings for volunteers, which discouraged some people, and we've finally assigned them to a job based around their availability and wishes and our specific needs.

After an intermediary review, we compiled a list of free posts. On the one hand, the needs increased and on the other hand, some volunteers backed out.

• **How much time have you spent working on this role?**

It's not quantifiable. The number of working hours built up little by little as the date of the Games approached. The last few days I've hardly done anything else. It's a bigger job than you might think to begin with but, what must be done must be done. That's how it is!



Hubert Eschette

• **What motivated you to take on this role?**

I work for the Sports ministry and during the last four years one of my responsibilities has been to encourage volunteering in sport.

COSL found that I was the right man for the job. I already have experience on the subject, notably organising "Wibbel an Dribbel" or the LTMA "Stonnelaaf" in Pétange.

I feel honoured and I will feel calmer in two days when everything is running.

First day of volunteering

It's better with two!

Retired couple Nico and Gerty Mehlinger showed the power of working in pairs when they volunteered to work together in the catering centre at the Halle Victor Hugo in Limpertsberg.

Aged 68 and 75 respectively, the big-hearted volunteers jumped at the chance to help out with such an important event for the first time and show that age should not be a barrier to getting involved.

"We've never worked in catering before," admitted Nico, who forged a career in a bank. He explained that the pair put themselves forward after hearing an appeal for volunteers via the radio.

"We live in Limpertsberg where the hall is so we said we would sign up," he said.

The pair are part of a team of 100 volunteers based at the dining hall who will clear tables and sort the rubbish into recycling bins at lunch times and during evening meal times.

"It doesn't bother us getting our hands dirty. That's what they need people for," said Gerty.

The team of volunteers was among the first to get down to work on Sunday when they



(Photo: Jess Bauldry)

welcomed more than 800 athletes from nine countries to the hall to dine.

"It's interesting to work next to the athletes," said Nico, adding: "Also, I like the multi-lingual aspect of speaking to them. There's no problem for me, I speak French, German, English and Italian."

"We also want to wish them every success," added Gerty.

Volunteers help out at the catering center

Getting a bite of the action

Volunteers at the dining centre in Halle Victor Hugo got their first bite of the action when the venue opened its doors to athletes for dinner on Sunday evening.

The Limpertsberg-based venue, which seats up to 832 diners at once, served 1,300 meals in its first sitting with the help of catering company Schnéckert.

"We've 100 volunteers working in the catering at the Halle Victor Hugo this week," explained organising committee and volunteer coordinator Caroline Hoeltgen, adding: "There will certainly be times when we get very busy and we will have to run around. I've told the volunteers to do what they can. We're really happy they are here."

The volunteers are responsible for clearing tables and sorting rubbish into the recycling bins during lunch, which is served from 11am to 3 pm and dinner, from 6pm until 9.30 pm. They will also get a chance to taste the food being dished up as will other people volunteering for the Games, who can travel to the venue using the free shuttle bus service provided daily. "The



Main Catering Center in Limpertsberg Hall Victor Hugo

(Photo: Jess Bauldry)

quality of the food is very good. The choice is very varied. There's a bit of everything," said Caroline.

Rick Hotschnig of Traiteur Schnéckert explained that all meals are home-made by his team of chefs, including the desserts. Unfortunately, there will be no Luxembourgish specialties on the menu. Instead the chefs have prepared a menu with a simple, international flavour to ensure the maximum nutritional value for athletes. With 3,000 dishes served

daily, it is expected that by the end of the Games staff will have prepared and served more than 19,000 meals at the venue.

Halle Victor Hugo in figures

832 places
3,000 meals served per day
Open daily 11am-3pm
and from 6pm to 9.30pm

GSSE 2013 Medals

The medals of the GSSE Luxembourg 2013 have been designed at the COSL by Gilles Mehlinger. The unusual design represents the coming together of all people to form one harmonic entity. Different aspects of people, sports and cultures are represented by its multiple parts. Only by combining those elements can the medal exist, much like friendship and harmony. The medals are composed of many different parts and are handcrafted in Luxembourg by "artec créations", located in Merscheid, in the north of the country.



(Photo: Nico Mehlinger)