

TWIF MONTHLY FOCUS

NOVEMBER

SPOTLIGHT ON English Teams

Tug of war is very much a family sport, and like a number of other clubs, one English team that can claim tug of war success as a family is Sandhurst TOWC.

*Dominating the 560 kg from 2000 for a decade, Sandhurst not only accumulated **three world championship golds, two European championship golds and numerous silvers** in both open and closed TWIF competitions, but they did it as a family.*

Brothers, cousins, uncles and dad; by 2006 there were not only four members of the same family pulling on the same rope, but supported by team attendant Wally and all carefully watched over, managed and coached by the head of the family Sam Canning.

Sam's tug of war career started on the rope in 1962, earning him European championship gold in the opens in 1979, but his biggest success has come from coaching Sandhurst and his family which he began in 1983. It has not only won him medals and cups but royal attention with Sam and his wife Sandra meeting Prince Philip in 2013 and the team receiving an invite to take part in the queen's 90th birthday celebration at Royal Windsor show in 2016 when the queen attended in person.

Top: Sam Canning. Above: Sam meeting the Duke of Edinburgh.



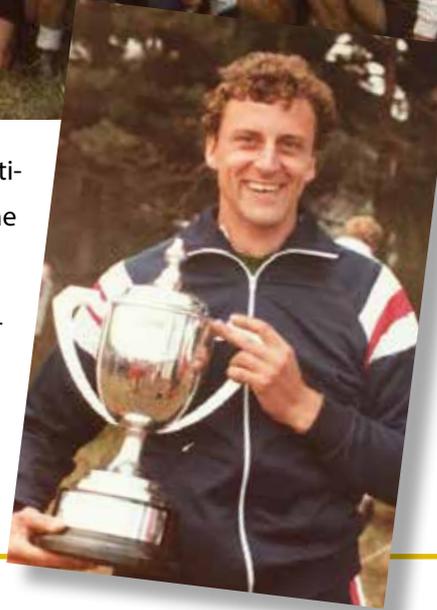
TWIF completion memories

Isle of Oxney, European Championships, Jonkoping Sweden, 1979

This is a humorous story of one of the Isle of Oxney team members (right) after their success in winning the 560 kg closed competition at the European Championships held in Jonkoping, Sweden in 1979.

Roy Miller (right) gave his return ticket to a Thorne Farmers puller and decided to hitch hike back to England after the competition, this was Roy all over, he was known to the rest of the team as "Mad Henry"!

He hitched lifts around Sweden, caught a ferry to Denmark where he stayed with some friends in Norresbondy, before heading south to Germany where he stayed in a Bavarian al-



pine castle for a few weeks at Tubingden, an outlying campus of Hamburg University. He then went to Munich for the beer festivals, where one night after having too much to drink, stood on a broken beer bottle and cut his foot badly, he was very grateful when an Australian lady helped him to hospital - and after a while gangrene set in!

There are countless stories to be told, but you would need a whole magazine to tell them!

Yours in sport MIKE HUTCHISON
*Secretary Oxney Vines Cross
Tug of War*

George Hutton

George Hutton was elected vice chairman of the English Tug of War Association at the inaugural meeting in 1958, and in 1959 he became chairman, a post he held for 17 years.

He was stationed at Kensington Police Station, and had already taken his divisional team to a Met Police championship title at 104 stone, followed by the national 104 stone in 1958.

George was exceedingly industrious in promoting the sport of tug of war. Hearing in 1960 that England was staging an athletics match against Sweden at Crystal Palace, he saw Jack Crump (secretary of the Amateur Athletic Association (AAA)) and had Tug of War included in the match.

From that, sprang the Tug of War International Federation (TWIF) in 1964, seeing the first international competition at the Baltic Games in Malmo, Sweden.



George Hutton (holding the trophy on the left) with his F Division Metropolitan Policy Team at the White City Stadium in 1958 after winning the National Police Tug of War Championships.



Bosley at the 2015 European Championships. In the front row, Fred Hanna, Sam Porter, Dame Mary Peters and Hugh Barr MBE.

Bosley Tug of War Club

Bosley Tug of War Club has a very proud history, which is known to many on the tug of war circuit, winning a huge number of AAA, national and international titles. The club represented England at the first TWIF international held at the Baltic Games in 1964, and a year later, the club represented England at the first TWIF European Championship at 720 kg with the team winning the gold medal against Northern Ireland in the final. Bosley also represented England at the first TWIF world outdoor championships in 1975.

The club still competes and in 2015 competed at the European Championships in Northern Ireland, the 50th anniversary of the first European Championships and was also hoping to compete at the World Championships this year.



Bosley representing England in a TWIF International make the front cover of 'The Game' magazine. Right: 1976 Bosley walk out to represent England at the World Championships in South Africa.

It was fitting at that event that the club attended the opening ceremony of the championship and got to meet three upstanding gentlemen who were members of the Aghadowey Tug of War Club from Northern Ireland. They were members of the Northern Ireland team that reached the final of the first European Championship in 1965 and met the English team represented by Bosley Wood Treatment with Bosley winning the gold (see pic above).

Bosley Tug of War Club were also involved in helping to spread tug of war around the world and aside from TWIF events, we also invited on tours of South Africa and Switzerland during the 1970's. The club has been an integral part of TWIF's history from the beginning and hopes to continue to be part of that history in the future. (See more pics on the next page).





1965 European 720 kg Championships at Crystal Palace, England.



1969 720 kg European championships in Ireland.



1965 Bosley Team.



1964 Wood Treatment Bosley at the 1st Baltic international games in Sweden.



1969 European 720 kg Champions in Ireland.



Bosley 720 kg European Champions.



1964 Baltic Games Medal.

Right: 1968 Bosley are European Champions in Holland - coach on the podium

Left: 1969 Bosley win Euro 720 kg title at Folkestone, England.

Below: The mighty men of Bosley TOWC.



Some Early International TWIF highlights for Bosley



St Pats (Leicester) England

St Pats was formed in the early 1970s and named after an Irish working man's club in Leicester.

Founder member and anchor man, Jim Stretton, pulled throughout his pulling career at just one club - St Pats, until he retired from pulling in 2002 - although he regularly attended many tug of war events (indoor and outdoor) after his retirement.

The club first competed in TWIF competitions in the mid-1970s, and from the mid-1980s until 2000, they won a total of 18 medals, including 1 European 720 kg gold when representing England, 5 world open golds and 2 European open golds. Anchor man, Jim Stretton, pulled in all 18 medal winning teams.



St Pats were involved in one of the funniest moments during a TWIF final in 1988 in Malmo, Sweden that many will remember. The video has been viewed on Facebook and YouTube many times. During the pull between St Pats and Halfweg Boys, St Pats number 4, James Stretton (son of Jim Stretton)'s shorts began to fall down. Determined not to let go of the rope, James carried on pulling until the shorts fell down past his knees - so he reluctantly had to let go of the rope to pull them back up again.

Needless to say they came down again - and St Pats lost the final!

