



Olympic Summer Games



Final Report of the Liechtenstein Delegation



Foreword

The Summer Olympic Games in Beijing were as one had expected: excellently and pompously organized with an enormous army of volunteers brimming over with hospitableness and helpfulness. The Games had enormous radiant appeal and caused many of the negative headlines published in the run-up to them to be forgotten. Politics allowed their influence to be felt here and there in the work and activities of the NOCs - something that was naturally not appreciated by the Chef de Mission. The competitions were able to be carried out on schedule in perfect stadiums. The Olympic village in Beijing was designed in a way that was both mellow and generous while the city itself had been smartened up.

The BOCOG (Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games) had performed outstanding work as far as I myself as Chef de Mission of a mini-delegation could evaluate. In our opinion it was the right decision that the Games were hosted by China despite controversial discussions about human rights. We are absolutely convinced that the peaceful aims of the international sports scene had a much better effect on human rights than a possible boycott of China. I would like to thank all the responsible persons and here in particular our NOC co-ordinator Mr. Su Yang who gave us excellent support during the long years of preparation as well as during the Games themselves.

Alex Hermann, Chef de Mission



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Preparation Pre-Olympic-Team

At the start Liechtenstein had seven hopeful athletes in the Pre-Olympic team. These athletes were supported financially by the LOSV (Liechtenstein Olympic Games Association) in their preparation projects. The types of sport represented were beach volleyball, marathon, shooting, cycling and tennis.

This was the first time in Liechtenstein's sporting history that the Pre-Olympic Team could be so well prepared for the Games. The effort and expenditure for this was considerable. Some of the athletes even gave up their jobs temporarily.

Invitation Cards

At the present time it is more or less impossible for Liechtenstein's athletes to qualify for the Summer Olympic Games direct since the international limits are too high. For this reason we depend on invitation cards which the IOC provides for small countries which normally send fewer than 6 athletes to the Summer Games. We registered all the members of the Pre-Olympic team with Olympic Solidarity. Finally we received one invitation card each for Oliver Geissmann, shooting and Steffi Vogt, tennis. For the athletics and swimming disciplines we were allowed to send one male and one female athlete. However all had to reach the national limits. These are set in such a way that the athletes should be capable of being graded in the first two thirds of the relevant Olympic ranking list.

Reception at Vaduz Castle



In accordance with tradition the members of the Olympic team were presented with their Olympic identity and accreditation cards, which provided the necessary accreditation in Beijing, from the hand of HSH Prince Alois on 20th July. The short ceremony was a great honour for all team members.

HSH Prince Alois showed himself knowledgeable on Liechtenstein sport and wished the athletes great success.

The Team in Beijing

Finally, in addition to Oliver Geissmann and Steffi Vogt, Marcel Tschopp too achieved the limit. Unfortunately Steffi Vogt injured herself badly during a game one and half months before the Games and had to be operated on. As a result she missed taking part in the Games. Accordingly the team consisted of the following athletes and persons in support:



The team showing the national flag in the Olympic village

Athletes and Coaches

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Geissmann Oliver, | Air Rifle |
| Tschopp Marcel, | Marathon |
| Frick Dieter, | Coach Shooting |
| Schlatter Sabin, | Coach Marathon |
| Hermann Alex, | Chef de Mission |

Officials

| | |
|--|--|
| I.D. Prinzessin Nora von Liechtenstein, Member of the IOC and honorary Member of LOSV (not shown on the picture) | |
| Kranz Leo, | President NOC |
| Wohlwend Johannes | Secretary General |
| Eberle Josef | Representativ of Sports Commission of the Liechtenstein Government |



The official Clothing Supplier

Results

Shooting



The results were modest. With 588 rings Oliver Geissmann achieved a result which - although reproducing his best performances of the season - only earned him 34th place. Thereby, however, he just reached the 2/3rds limit on the ranking list.

He has already proved that he is capable of better things and he could hardly hide his disappointment. Oliver was one of the athletes who had been generously supported by an Olympic Solidarity scholarship.

Athletics



Marcel Tschopp was a so-called "finisher", something that 23 of the 99 runners that started did not achieve. However he himself was not happy with his time of 2.35.06 and 74th place for his analysis showed that there is potential for improvement in the tactical area. However, something quite out of his control was the unfairness of another participant who had taken his drink bidons from kilometre 25. From this point Marcel had only pure water which is naturally totally inadequate for a marathon.

What is noticeable is the fact that the tip of the sporting pyramid has become wider. 204 nations were represented at the Games whereby athletes from 87 different NOCs achieved medals. 132 Olympic records were broken and at the same time 43 world records. The level of performance is increasing in a highly visible manner. Top rankings are no longer to be achieved without absolute professionalism. If Liechtenstein does not want to compete just for the final places in each case, intensive preparation must be put in during the three to four years before the Games.



Marathon Fan's

Olympic Youth Camp

In the persons of Selina Pfister and Simon Beck two young citizens of Liechtenstein were able to take part in the Olympic Youth Camp. This was sponsored by Olympic Solidarity and the organizers of the Games in Beijing. The fact that the objectives here were achieved in full is vouched for by the statements of our two young persons.



Meeting persons of one's own age from every country in the world, visiting the famous cultural sights in Beijing and experiencing the Olympic Games close at hand are things I would not have liked to miss. I am very grateful for the good luck I had in being able to take part in this journey with the Liechtenstein Olympics delegation and that thereby I was able to gain new pleasure and motivation for sport, travel and foreign cultures. I will never forget these two weeks!

Selina Pfister

Selina, second from the left, with other young persons in the Olympic Green Tennis Centre. Selina and Simon with Dieter Frick on the occasion of the team dinner. (below)



As my name was drawn out of the hat by Donghua Li at the Sportspersons' Meeting, 2007 and my great good luck became clear to me, I could naturally hardly wait to be off to Beijing. At that time I had no idea what would be waiting for me in China. Now I know: the atmosphere, the enthusiasm of all the Chinese people and of the participants, the making of innumerable new friendships, the opening ceremony, great sporting performances and much, much more besides!

During the whole of our stay in China Selina and I could always be certain of the support of our delegation. The invitation to take part in the Liechtenstein Team evening was just one of many gestures that we appreciated. Finally I would like to express my thousandfold thanks once again for the unique chance we were given to - as it were - take part in the Games and also many, many thanks to the Association for the great amount of associated work put in.

Simon Beck



The official Telecommunication partner

Extracts from the Press

Freundschaften knüpfen Projekt, das leider scheiterte

Leichtensteins Quartier leer

henteinster Abschluss im Swiss-House

Kurzsitzte im Olympischen Dorf

Live vor Ort

CRJ - CHINA RADIO INTERNATIONAL

Leo Kranz: «China-Spiele organisieren»

Geissmanns Steig Mut für heutigen

Ein Tagesausflug in die lange Geschichte des Riesenreichs

Der FC Vaduz tritt heute zu Hause gegen...

Marek Topczyński als Fahrertrüger

Geissmanns Angela sorgen für Aufrühr

Warum «Geiss»-nar Laifgewehr schießt

Dieter Fricks Sprachkenntnisse

Live vor Ort

Willi die Grille

Impressionen aus Beijing



Prinzessin Nora of Liechtenstein with the Delegation on the occasion of the Welcome Ceremony



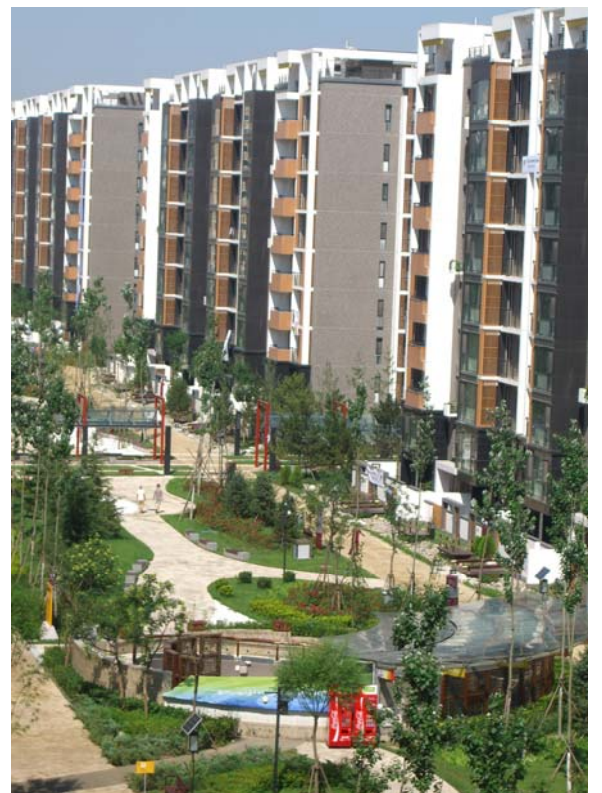
Without all the volunteers there could have been no Olympic Games



Sabin Schlatter und Marcel Tschopp on the Chinese Wall



Oliver Geissmann und Dieter Frick in front of the Shooting Range Hall



The sensational Olympic Village

Closing Words

Even though Liechtenstein has hardly a chance to play a role in the final sporting rounds, participation at the Olympic Games is nevertheless a must for a sovereign state. Speaking for this are not only sport-related but also national-political and medial reasons. It is from this perspective that Liechtenstein is perceived. More than 4.7 billion persons watched the Games on TV. That is more half the world's population.

Some modifications though would be appreciated as far as the qualification system for small countries, the prices and conditions for accommodation as well as the allocation of tickets are concerned

A warm thank you

The Liechtenstein Olympic Sports Association LOSV wishes to thank the following institutions and sponsors that made Liechtenstein's participation at Beijing 2008 possible.

- Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Sports Commission for taking over the costs for the preparation and sending of the team
- Olympic Solidarity for the scholarships for the athletes and contributions to sending the team
- The Tripartite Commission for the invitation cards
- The top sponsors of the IOC
- LOSV sponsors and outfitters
- BOCOG for the outstanding organization and hospitality



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