

Made In Japan



Photos: Martin Merk

Amidst traditional ceremonies and excellent hospitality, the 135th IIHF Congress took place in Tokyo, Japan. The Congress was hosted for the first time in Asia to honour outgoing IIHF Vice President Sho Tomita.

"General Congress shows a united ice hockey family"



After the General Congress in Tokyo, we have a largely new Council, a united IIHF family and four very important years ahead of us.

RENÉ FASEL EDITORIAL

First and foremost, I would like say a wholehearted thank you to the General Congress, the IIHF's highest legislative body, for the confidence shown in me. I can assure you that the re-election for a fifth term as IIHF President is something is very humbling and it fills me with great honour and an enormous sense of responsibility and pride.

As I have done since 1994, I will stay committed to improving and developing our beautiful game, and at the same time protect the interests of the IIHF and international ice hockey. This has been my driving force since Day 1 on the job and my enthusiasm is as high as it was 18 years ago.

■ On page 7 in this Ice Times you can read about the eight main challenges which I listed to the Congress in Tokyo. These will be the areas of priority for myself and for the new Council in the upcoming four-year period.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Bob Nicholson and Thomas Wu (Vice Presidents), and members Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer, Vladislav Tretiak, Luc Tardif, Igor Nemecek and Henrik Bach Nielsen to the IIHF's executive body.

■ As I already said to various media outlets in Tokyo, I really look forward to working with this group. What makes me very excited is that each and every one of the seven newcomers has accomplished extraordinary things domestically and they have now decided to bring their expertise and passion to the international scene.

At the same time I would like to express my appreciation to the outgoing Council members and thank them for what they have done for the IIHF: Sho Tomita, Frederick

Meredith, Murray Costello, Ernest Aljancic, Juraj Siroky, Alexander Medvedev and Monique Scheier-Schneider.

The General Congress showed that the international ice hockey family stands united, which is a pre-condition for success. For the first time since the ground-breaking changes in European hockey 10-15 years ago, we have established a constructive working relationship with the professional leagues and their clubs.

■ As this is written, two separate Working Groups under the guidance of a Co-ordination Group have started with their projects, which include presenting concrete proposals for a re-launch of a European club competition, and figuring out how to reform the International Break tournaments. A third group, dealing with governance issues, will be formed shortly.

All groups have representation from the National Federations, Hockey Europe, European Trophy, KHL and the IIHF. Leading up to the next congress in Stockholm in May 2013, the groups should have proposals ready for presentation.

■ The absence of a collective bargaining agreement between the NHL and their player's union, and the ensuing lockout, has already had vast consequences on the world of hockey.

For the fans in North America this is a major disappointment. For the fans in Europe this is early Christmas. Approaching November already over 150 NHL players have signed with European clubs and many of them are reporting increased attendance figures.

But from the standpoint of integrity of the game, artificial shifts in competitive balance, and increased costs (salaries and player insurance), the effects of the lockout are negative, also for Europe. The best for most involved parties would be if the labour conflict ended as soon as possible.

René Fasel
IIHF President

Hockey Forum working groups formed



The Hockey Forum in Barcelona in June resulted in the main players of European ice hockey joining forces to address and work on three areas of priority. The Member National Associations, Hockey Europe (union of top leagues), European Trophy (top 32 clubs), the KHL and the IIHF decided to form three Working Groups, each of which has received a mandate to find solutions in the areas of:

1. Re-launch of a top European club competition
2. Reforming the International Breaks
3. New Governance structure

It is also a common goal to create a long-term calendar for international club tournaments as well as for national team play, including major championships.

The progress of three Working Groups will be monitored by a Co-ordination Group. The objective is for the groups have final proposals ready to be presented to the IIHF Congress in May 2013. The Co-ordination Group, chaired by IIHF Vice President Kalervo Kummola, had their first meeting on September 19 in Copenhagen and it later presented the Working Groups with a framework for their future activity.

The composition of the groups is as follows:

Co-ordination

Kalervo Kummola, chair
Horst Lichtner, IIHF
Gernot Tripcke, Hockey Europe
Peter Lüthi, Nat. Fed.
Alexander Medvedev, KHL
Anders Ternbom, European Trophy

Club Competition

Timo Everi, chair, European Trophy
Szymon Szemberg, IIHF
Christian Feichtinger, Hockey Europe
Martin Urban, Nat. Fed.
Igor Kuperman, KHL

International breaks

Franz Reindl, chair, Nat. Fed.
Rob van Rijswijk, IIHF
Jörgen Lindgren, Hockey Europe
Igor Kuperman, KHL
Peter John Lee, European Trophy

NEWS & NOTES

■ **IIHF:** The 124th IOC Session in London re-elected IIHF President **René Fasel** for another four-year term on the International Olympic Committee's Executive Board. The Executive Board is the highest body within the IOC and assumes the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the IOC. The IOC Session took place in the British capital of London, one day before the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics.

■ **AUSTRIA:** The Austrian Ice Hockey Federation announced that **Jason O'Leary** and **Dieter Kalt** will coach the Austrian U20 national team. O'Leary, 34, was the head coach of the U18 national team last season. The Canadian is also coaching the Lower Austria Stars from St. Pölten in the Austrian junior league EBYSL. Kalt, 38, was named assistant coach and brings with him vast international experience. As a player, he represented Austria in 15 IIHF World Championships and in three Olympic Winter Games.

■ **GERMANY:** The German Ice Hockey Association (DEB) introduced **Pat Cortina** as new head coach of the men's national team. Cortina appeared as Italy's assistant coach at the 1992 Olympic Winter Games already at the young age of 27. Four years later he was coaching the U20 national team, and in 2000 he took over the reign of the Italian men's national team, leading

it to three IIHF World Championships including two in the Top Division (2001, 2002). In 2003 he became the national team coach in Hungary and led it to the 2009 IIHF World Championship in Switzerland – the first time in 70 years Hungary had appeared in the Top Division.

■ **KAZAKHSTAN:** The Kazakhstan Ice Hockey Federation named **Vladimir Krikunov** as the new head coach of the men's national team. The 62-year-old Russian will also coach the country's KHL team Barys Astana at the same time. Krikunov has several years of experience at the international stage with Belarus, Slovenia, and Russia. At the same time it was announced that **Shumi Babayev**, a player agent, will become the new General Manager of the Kazakh national team after Nurlan Orazbayev's resignation.

■ **LATVIA:** The Latvian Hockey Federation announced that it has extended the contract with its national team coach **Ted Nolan** for the 2012/2013 season. The Canadian coach joined the Latvian national team last season and finished the 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship in tenth place. The contract was signed for one year and will be extended until May 2014 if Latvia qualifies for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games. Nolan will also work as a consultant for the U20 and U18 national teams.

■ **LITHUANIA:** The Lithuanian Ice Hockey Federation signed **Bernd Haake** from Germany as new head coach of the Lithuanian national team. He will be assisted by Lithuanian U20 and U18 national team coach Andrius Jadkauskas. Haake, 66, was an assistant coach for the past six years with the Iserlohn Roosters of the German top league. Before that he was coaching in Italy for several years.

■ **USA:** USA Hockey announced that **Don Granato** will guide the U.S. National Under-18 team after serving behind the bench for the Under-17 team last season. He is the brother of former NHL player and current Pittsburgh Penguins assistant coach Tony Granato and of former women's national team player Cammi Granato.

OBITUARIES

Karl-Gustav Kaisla (FIN, 68). Kaisla passed away on 21 September after battling a severe illness. He officiated at three IIHF World Championships, three U20 World Championships and the 1980 Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid where he called the "Miracle on Ice" game between the United States and the Soviet Union. He also officiated at the 1987 Canada Cup. Between 1969 and 1990 he called 514 games in the Finnish top league and was inducted into the Finnish Hockey Hall of Fame in 1991.



Kaisla

Walter Salzmann (SUI, 76). The former Swiss national team forward died of cancer on 12 September at age 76. He was one of the biggest legends in his hometown of Visp, where he led the club to its only Swiss championship in 1962. Salzmann also represented Switzerland in 30 international games including the 1963 IIHF World Championship B-Pool and the 1964 Olympic Winter Games. Later he was active with EHC Visp as coach and president and worked in his native region as a businessman and politician.

Richard Bucher (SUI, 56). Former Swiss national team goalie Richard "Richi" Bucher passed away on 6 September following a heart attack. He was 56. Bucher represented Switzerland in two World Championships and the 1988 Olympic Winter Games where he backstopped the underdog Swiss team to a 2-1 win over Finland. He led HC Davos to two championships in the '80s.

Vladimir Vasiliev (RUS, 71). Vladimir Vasiliev, a former head coach of the Russian men's and U20 national team, died on 8 August as a result of a heart attack. Vasiliev has coached Russia in three IIHF events, achieving a perfect record during a run to World Junior gold in 1986. Vasiliev was named head coach of the Russian national team in 1995 and was behind the bench when Russia placed fourth at the 1996 IIHF World Championship in Austria.



Vasiliev

Urs Lott (SUI, 63). The former Swiss national team player died on 18 June of Alzheimer's disease at age 63, one year after his brother Jürg Lott. He was one of the best Swiss forwards of the '70s and represented the national team in 54 games, including five World Championships in the lower pools. He played for EHC Kloten, Zürcher SC and EHC Biel, winning two national titles.

Jean Ayer (SUI, 82). The former national goalkeeper, who passed away on 15 June, represented Switzerland in five IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships, including four in the Top Division. He played for several teams in Switzerland as well as for the legendary French club ACBB Paris. He was 82.

Russell Jones (AUS, 82). Ice Hockey Australia's long standing member and Ice Hockey Victoria's patron fell very ill a number of weeks ago and passed away on 1 October 2012. Russell was a patron of IHV's for many years and has a 'Premier A' trophy named after him. He played for the Melbourne Demons since his early days in the 40's and 50's, and was also a member of Australia's 1960 Squaw Valley Olympic Team.

■ **CANADA:** The Government of Canada and the City of Ottawa announced that Sport Canada will provide \$500,000 in funding for the 2013 IIHF Ice Hockey Women's World Championship, taking place April 2-9, 2013 at SBP Arena in Ottawa and the Nepean Sportsplex. The financial support is a result of Sport Canada's Hosting Program, which aims to enhance sport development across the country by assisting sport organizations in offering national and international events, in order to create lasting athletic, cultural, economic and social legacies.

WORLD GIRLS' ICE HOCKEY WEEKEND

From Perth via Kuala Lumpur to Buenos Aires

Thousands chip in on World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend with more than 340 events in 30 countries



Zilina, Slovakia - Organizers in Zilina, one of three venues in Slovakia, were overwhelmed with 140 girls who wanted to learn ice hockey. More than 400 people attended the event.



Linköping, Sweden - 72 events were organized in Sweden and Finland. Pros who showed up to support included Kim Martin (above, left), who gave some tips to tiny netminder Wilma Svensson.



Boston, USA - It was a busy weekend in the US, as 138 events were hosted in 33 states ranging from Lake Worth, Florida, to Anchorage, Alaska. The girls hockey clinic pictured above was organized by the Boston Bruins with the help of assistant coach Doug Jarvis (on left).



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - The Sunway Pyramid Ice Rink in a shopping mall near Kuala Lumpur was one of the more unique venues. 100 girls took part in an event in Ankara, Turkey, another Muslim nation.



Narvik, Norway - Hockey enthusiasts in seven communities around Norway were eager to set up girls' days. The northern city of Narvik welcomed 80 girls and even state TV broadcaster NRK.



Calgary, Canada - Around 70 events took place in Canada from Labrador to British Columbia. 150 girls came to this event in Calgary.

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Girls' Hockey takes a trip around the world:
For more info visit
IIHF.com/2012WGIHW



Geneva, Switzerland - Photo: Roberto Marano



Ankara, Turkey - Photo: TBHF



Buenos Aires, Argentina - Photo: Liberatori Photos



Nivala, Finland - Photo: Nivala Cowboys

2012 IIHF GENERAL CONGRESS

New IIHF Council created in the Land of the Rising Sun

Introducing the new faces on international ice hockey's highest executive body

By Martin Merk

■ The 2012 IIHF General Congress elected the new IIHF Council for a four-year term. Bob Nicholson, Thomas Wu, Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer, Vladislav Tretiak, Luc Tardif, Igor Nemecek and Henrik Bach Nielsen joined the IIHF's executive body as of 1st October.

The 13-person Council consists of one President, three Vice Presidents and nine other Council members that are elected by the General Congress every four years, as well as the General Secretary as a non-voting member.

René Fasel was re-elected as IIHF President by acclamation. Also for the three Vice Presidents representing three regions there was only one candidate each.

Kalervo Kummola was re-elected as Vice President representing the European and African members. Bob Nicholson was elected as new Vice President for the Americas to succeed Murray Costello and Thomas Wu was elected as new Vice President for Asia and Oceania succeeding Shoichi Tomita.

In the first round to determine the nine other Council members two female members out of five candidates were elected to fulfil the statutes' minimum number of female representation. Beate Grupp was re-elected for a third term and Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer joins as a new member.

The seven remaining Council members out of 13 female and male candidates were elected in a second round. Christer Englund, Tony Rossi and Frank Gonzalez were re-elected. Vladislav Tretiak, Luc Tardif, Igor Nemecek and Henrik Bach Nielsen were newly elected. Fabio Oetterli (Switzerland) and Juraj Siroky (Slovakia) were elected as Auditors by acclamation.

■ Bob Nicholson

Born on May 27, 1953 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Nicholson has been Hockey Canada's president and CEO since 1998. He manages a staff of 95 people within five offices across Canada and oversees all operations for competitions that Canada participates in internation-

ally, including in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship program and Olympic Winter Games. He was senior vice president of the Canadian Hockey Association from 1992 to 1998 and vice president of programs with the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association from 1990 to 1991.

Before joining the national body, Nicholson was technical director with the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association from 1979 to 1989. He was inducted into the B.C. Hockey Hall of Fame in 2004 and received the City of Penticton's 55 Award for having brought recognition to the Penticton area through hockey. He played minor hockey and Junior A hockey in Penticton, helped the Penticton Broncos win the BCJHL and B.C.-Alberta championships and played NCAA hockey at Providence College.

■ Thomas Wu

Born on 3 September 1972 in Hong Kong and educated in the U.S., Wu is an established businessman who successfully re-engineered his family's listed businesses in Hong Kong, leading him to his present position as Managing Director of Hopewell Holdings Limited. He was selected "Young Global Leader" in 2006 by the World Economic Forum and received several awards recognising good corporate governance practices.

Wu is also active in government and sports sectors and helps create synergy among different sectors. He has long been serving different government advisory roles in Hong Kong and China. He also localised ice hockey by co-founding the Hong Kong Amateur Hockey Club in 2001, which is now the anchor of hockey development in Hong Kong, and establishing the Hong Kong Academy of Ice Hockey in 2007. He also works with other ice hockey associations in the region on their development.



Top Row (from left): Frank Gonzalez, Tony Rossi, Luc Tardif, Vladislav Tretiak, Igor Nemecek, Henrik Bach Nielsen, and Christer Englund.
Bottom Row (from left): Thomas Wu, Beate Grupp, Kalervo Kummola, René Fasel, Bob Nicholson, Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer, and Horst Lichtner.

■ Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer

Born on July 3, 1977 in Budapest, Hungary. Kolbenheyer was the first registered female ice hockey player in Hungary, starting her career in 1990. She represented Hungary in 55 games with the national team. After her playing career she became the general manager of the women's national teams. As a lawyer she has been a member of the Hungarian Ice Hockey Federation's Disciplinary Committee since 2009, and member of the governing board since 2012. She is married, and has three children.

■ Henrik Bach Nielsen

Born on July 12, 1966, in Herning, Denmark. Bach Nielsen served as a board member of Danish club AaB Aalborg for five years until 2005 when he was elected to the Board of the Danish Ice Hockey Association. In 2007, he was elected President of the Danish Ice Hockey Association.

Bach Nielsen was a member of the Danish Sport Confederation's Media Committee 2006-2010. In 2008, he was appointed to the IIHF Facility Committee. Bach Nielsen is educated in Political Science and has held executive positions in a major Danish broadcaster company. Currently, he is the owner and president of a real estate development company.

■ Igor Nemecek

Born on August 28, 1961 in Bratislava, Slovakia. Finishing his studies at the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education of the Comenius University in Bratislava, Nemecek began to work for Slovan Bratislava and after military service he continued at the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation as a Sports Manager responsible for the Junior National Teams. For several years he had worked as the head coach of ice hockey teams in Austria and Italy.

In 1999 Nemecek accepted the offer to work for the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation as General Secretary. These were the successful years of achieving the silver (2000), gold (2002) and bronze medals (2003) at the IIHF World Championships.

In 2001 he also joined the Slovak Olympic Committee where he is the Vice President and is responsible for winter sports.

The highlight of his professional career was in the year 2011. He was the General Secretary of the successful 2011 IIHF World Championship in Bratislava and Kosice and at the same time he was elected President of the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation.

■ Luc Tardif

Born on March 29, 1953 in Trois-Rivières, Canada. Tardif played ice hockey in his native country from age 3 to university level. He came to Europe in 1975 where he played in Brussels (Belgium) before moving to France in 1978 to play for Chamonix and later Rouen.

After his player career, the dual Canadian-French citizenship holder was in charge of Rouen's youth ice hockey program for several years. In 2000, he was appointed head of the ice hockey department at the French Ice Sports Federation. In 2006, he was elected as first President of the newly created French Ice Hockey Federation, a position he was re-elected for in 2010.

An IIHF Sport Committee member since 2008, he is also strongly involved in the French Olympic Committee and was named Chef de Mission of the French delegation for the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.

■ For Vladislav Tretiak's profile, see page 12

Outgoing Council members honoured

■ Before the IIHF Council election was conducted, the outgoing members were honoured and four long-time members named IIHF Life Members by the IIHF General Congress.

IIHF Vice President **Shoichi Tomita** from Japan was the longest-serving member on the old IIHF Council. Tomita served the Council for 34 years and has been a Vice President for 18 years. It is in his honour that the Congress is staged in his hometown of Tokyo and in Asia for the first time ever.

"I don't cry when I say good-bye. I made every effort for ice hockey," Tomita said. "We were only a few Asian nations when I was elected, now we are 17 countries. Ice hockey is my life and I will never quit before I die."

Two out of the three Vice Presidents are retiring from the Council, the other being **Murray Costello** from Canada, who served on the Council for 14 years.

"We are a family, and the reason we're a family is that we share a childhood passion for the game," Costello said. "Looking out over the people [in the Congress room] I see many great stories. Keep the childhood love for hockey. When it comes to an end, it's time for a new generation."

Frederick Meredith was credited for his 18 years of service as a Council member, contributing with work on the Statutes & Bylaws and his expertise on European Union regulations.

"It comes from two things. First from working with people and receiving friendship and support from them," Meredith said when explaining why this work gave him so much satisfaction. "I'm proud to be part of the development and the success we have had in this area."

Ernest Aljancic leaves the Council after serving for nine years. After a career as a player and former President of the Slovenian federation, Aljancic said a third part of his life has now begun.

"Now I'm 67 and I'm ready to work and I wish to stay in ice hockey," he said. "My new challenge is to work with the Balkan development group."

Tomita, Costello, Meredith and Aljancic were named IIHF Life Members for their contribution towards international ice hockey.



2012-2016 Council



René Fasel

Kalervo Kummola

Bob Nicholson

Thomas Wu

Beate Grupp

Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer

Frank Gonzalez

Christer Englund

Tony Rossi

Henrik Bach Nielsen

Igor Nemecek

Luc Tardif

Vladislav Tretiak

Vote on youth movement in Council

Wu, Kolbenheyer look to carry the IIHF torch into the future

By Martin Merk

■ ■ With several veteran members retiring from the Council, some younger faces now join the IIHF's executive body.

Thomas Wu from Hong Kong succeeds Shoichi Tomita as IIHF Vice President representing the region of Asia and Oceania. He was elected three weeks after celebrating his 40th birthday. Wu got involved in ice hockey after discovering the sport through friends of his family in Hong Kong, where he started to help developing hockey in 2001 with several initiatives. Being fluent in English, Chinese and Japanese should help him in his new role.

Zsuzsanna Kolbenheyer, 35, joins Beate Grupp as one of two female Council members. She was the first registered female player in Hungary and represented the national team in 55 international games. Aside from her experience as a lawyer, she also serves as the Hungarian Ice Hockey Federation's board member responsible for women's ice hockey, and as a team manager for the women's senior and U18 national teams.

Ice Times sat down with Kolbenheyer and Wu to talk about their work and their goals as Council members.

You were both elected as new, young Council members. How did you feel after the election?

Kolbenheyer: I was a little bit surprised when I was elected because I thought I could maybe be seen as too young, but I'm glad the delegates didn't think that way and I hope I can live up to their expectations and be a good member of the Council.

Wu: I was excited and a little bit nervous at the same time because there are a lot of challenges both in ice hockey and in the Asian region, but it's just like the game, everybody who's involved is very dedicated and if we can channel our energy together, I think we can achieve a lot.

When it comes to your age you're almost in a similar situation as Shoichi Tomita when he was elected 34 years ago. Can the situation be compared?

Wu: I think so. The game is less developed in Asia in general. Not only do we need to make the game better known, we want more countries to participate in the world family of ice hockey. Shoichi Tomita has developed a very good foundation for that.

What are your main goals for your contribution on the IIHF Council for the new four-year term?

Kolbenheyer: I hope that I can help develop young people. I maybe don't have enough experience to say what to do in men's hockey, but I know what we need to do in women's hockey. I have seen it from several angles. I saw it from a player's side, now I'm a team manager and board member. These experiences can also assist me to help develop hockey in smaller countries.

Wu: There are two areas. One is the same, the youth side. It is the foundation for any hockey program in any country. We need to either kick start or strengthen national youth programs. Some countries actually have pretty



Kolbenheyer (left) and Wu (right) are the youngest members on the new IIHF Council.

Photo: Martin Merk

good programs, so we need to guide them so they can participate more in international hockey. Looking at Asia, there's great potential for hockey. Bringing them to the world stage is another goal I want to work on.

Hungary has enjoyed a fast rise in women's hockey especially with the U18 women's national team joining the top division. What's the secret behind the success of your women's hockey program?

Kolbenheyer: I think it took a long time to develop. It's not just the last two years. The program for the U18 women's national team began only four years ago, but the women's hockey program started 20 years ago.

So it's quite a long time to develop. We have very talented young ladies who play ice hockey and they are really involved and would like to have success and they have good coaches. Everything came together at the same time.

What do you want to change to improve ice hockey in Asia?

Wu: There are many countries within the Asian Strategic Planning Group and they have different levels of participation and the stages of development are different. For some of them it's most important to create awareness for the sport. We need people who are dedicated and work hard to get the word out to the general public.

Here in Japan the sport is pretty well developed and people know about the sport and it's played professionally. They have a strong federation here. It's easier than in other countries.

For example in China many people don't know about the sport, so it's harder to develop it. Having similar levels of public support within the countries would help with development.

I see a lot of potential in the near future. We will not only have the Asian Winter Games in 2017 in Sapporo but also the Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang, Korea in 2018. If we prepare to get the word out for those two events we can raise the profile of winter sports and ice hockey in particular, so we want to make use of those two events.

At the Congress IIHF President René Fasel said he hopes you can help make hockey bigger in China with your background. Do you think that's possible and what do you think hockey will look like in China in five years?

Wu: It's a great challenge. In working with the Chinese Ice Hockey Association and people at the local level I have a strong feeling that there is a vast potential for Chinese ice hockey to develop, so that's very encouraging for me. I have some programs in the Hong Kong body like the ones already happening in China. The IIHF is also very involved in the initiative with the Harbin Institute. If we can find a way for everyone to work together we will certainly have more and better hockey in China.

You played hockey for a long time. What do you think about women's hockey internationally and how can the program be improved?

Kolbenheyer: I think it's a great idea from the committee to have the World Girls' Ice Hockey Weekend in the program because I saw how it worked well in Hungary. We did it two times and after that many young girls came to play hockey. It's also very necessary in smaller countries to let girls play together with boys as long as they can. It's not dangerous for them and they can learn a lot from the boys.

If they play only together in women's specific leagues they don't develop as well. We would like to have good national leagues, but we have to build the basis together with the boys. I think that's very important in the smaller countries. Of course in Canada and in the U.S. it's not that important because they have very good women's teams from the beginning, but in other countries it's different.

You were a player for a long time also on the national team. How will it help you for your work within the Council?

Kolbenheyer: I think players always have a different view on some things. I can think like a player and see what could be different.

You have more of a business background. How will this help you for your work in ice hockey?

Wu: I had business training in North America, which lays a good background for hockey development. On the hockey front I saw how hockey works in the U.S. from high schools to university to professional hockey. It's a model that works quite well.

Developing hockey is similar to developing a business. You have to think about the angles, sustainability, elements, how to manage the resources and get everybody in. I think it's similar, but there are also many differences. It's different than working for profit-oriented businesses. We're working to develop the sport and for bigger recognition: people joining hockey at different levels like players, coaches, referees, fans and others who are part of the game. I hope in working together with the hockey family I can help keep hockey going strong.



Fasel presents 8-point platform for future

League cooperation, hockey in Asia, player safety among key goals

TOKYO – IIHF President René Fasel outlined his platform for the upcoming four-year period and identified eight areas of priority and challenges.

These are the eight areas which IIHF President identified as the most vital to address for him and the new Council during the 2012-2016 mandate period.

1) IIHF World Championship program

"We are facing some challenges with the new World Championship format with two groups in the top division and also the issue with co-hosting. We must stay flexible and always be able to adjust things if we see that they don't work."

"It must be remembered that we spend twenty million [all figures in CHF] on our World Championship program. Thirteen out of that is spent on the lower divisions as travel support, host organizer's support and other expenses. We are the only major team sport federation that organizes a full World Championship program every year and I believe we should keep this."

"But the smaller nations must realize that without the success and drawing power of the big nations at the World Championship and Olympics we would not have been able to do that. The money for all championship events below the top division is generated by the big nations. Without success at the top this structure will not work."



Improving the Korean program ahead of PyeongChang 2018 and making progress in China will be a focus for the future.

Photo: Andras Wirth

2) Governance structure

"When I was the president of the Swiss Ice Hockey Federation in the early '90s, everything was easy. The federations controlled the leagues and the clubs. It's not the case anymore. The leagues have become more and more independent, so have the clubs and this to the point where the leagues don't even control the clubs."

"In order to have a sustainable system, we need to work together to grow the game and to fulfill our potential. We started a new era with the Hockey Forum in Barcelona last June where we, for the first time, invited the leagues and clubs to discuss how we can move forward. We have formed working groups which will come with proposals how to create a new European club competition and how to reform the national team breaks."

"Furthermore, we will have to find ways how to incorporate the leagues and the clubs into our structure so all stakeholders have a say. The IIHF regulations must also stay compliant and compatible with EU laws. Simply, we must follow international law."



IIHF President René Fasel presented his four-year platform to the General Congress in Tokyo.

Photo: Martin Merk

3) Kontinental Hockey League

"I have had many discussions with [KHL President] Alexander Medvedev about the KHL's role since the league's foundation and the KHL has maybe sometimes been a headache for others. But there is no question that without the KHL we might not have had top professional club hockey in countries like Latvia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and now Ukraine."

"Now also Slovan Bratislava from Slovakia has joined the KHL and the management tells me that the club could never survive as a top European challenger had it stayed in the Slovak league. So we see concrete examples where the KHL has been very good when it comes to keeping and upgrading top club hockey in several countries."

"Having said that, we must keep a dialogue with the KHL regarding the league's expansion plans to the west, making sure that we find solutions that are good for everyone involved."

4) Asian development

"We have a great opportunity to improve Korean ice hockey with PyeongChang being awarded the 2018 Olympic Winter Games and we need to seize the opportunity. To improve the standard of Korean ice hockey leading up to 2018 is one of our greatest challenges."

"China is a sleeping giant. The country has over one billion inhabitants and 300 male hockey players. There is so much to be done in this country. I am very confident that our new Vice President Thomas Wu from Hong Kong can assume the same leading role in Asia as his predecessor Shoichi Tomita did during his long tenure on the Council."

5) National Hockey League

"The goal must be to always maintain a good working relationship with the NHL. Right now the league has a labour conflict with the players' union and the effect of this is a dream for European hockey fans as many of their favourite players are back in the European leagues."

"But this also comes at a possible expense of sportive integrity. Maybe all these players will leave in December

and those players who lost their positions to the NHLers must be asked to come back. How motivated are they to come back after having lost a job in September?"

"Once the conflict is over, we must very soon sit down and discuss conditions for Sochi 2014 participation. It is my goal to have a fifth consecutive best-on-best Olympics in Russia."

"On longer term, we must together find a solution on the issue of transfer compensation for European players who leave for the NHL. It is not good how it is now and many clubs struggle when they are not adequately compensated for the players who leave for the NHL."

6) Player safety

"Also here we must continue to work together with the NHL and the NHLPA when addressing this crucial issue. One idea I have is to form an Athletes' Commission within the IIHF and have the players help us in this area. I hope our delegates will accept our proposal to have such a commission so we can talk to our athletes about safety and also different issues such as competitions."



The NHL lockout has had a double-edged effect on hockey in Europe.

Photo: Matthew Manor / HHOF-IIHF Images

7) Anti-doping

"Also this fight must continue, although it is sometimes costly and it's not always easy to deal with WADA. The issue with athlete's reporting their whereabouts is quite challenging for hockey players who constantly move from one place to another. Having said that, the IIHF is WADA code-compliant and it will stay that way."

8) Match-fixing, betting

"We are lucky that match-fixing and betting are not major issues in our sport, but this has become a huge problem for other team sports and ice hockey must stay vigilant so it doesn't creep in into our sport."



Fasel emphasized cooperative measures to address player safety.

Photo: Matthew Manor / HHOF-IIHF Images

Congress approves amendments

Changes in co-hosted World Championships, qualification, eligibility

■ The 2012 IIHF General Congress approved amendments to the Statutes & Bylaws, several regulations, and rule proposals for future co-hosted IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships. Below are some of the most important changes or additions approved in Tokyo:



The rule changes came as a result of a study conducted during the 2012 Worlds in Sweden and Finland (pictured).

Rules for co-hosted World Championships

After the experience and research at the co-hosted 2012 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship with various stakeholders, Congress approved proposals for future co-hosted bids. The exact rules will be voted for at the next Congress. Here are some of the key elements:

- Only one main host will become contractual partner of the IIHF. The main host must have necessary sub-contracts in place with the co-host.
- No back-to-back World Championship applications are guaranteed.
- Co-hosting venues have to be named in the bid and cannot be changed after the allocation.
- The travel time between the two venues shall not be more than three hours and the venues be not more than one time zone (1 hour) apart from each other.
- The movement of persons and equipment into and between cross-border venues shall be free of travel restrictions.
- Both the main and co-host must have played in the top division in four out of the last five years (note: two out of five for single hosts). Additionally, one of the two hosts must be among the top-12 nations of the IIHF World Ranking.
- In the case the national teams from both host countries have been relegated, only one predetermined nation can exercise the right of automatic participation.
- Cross-over quarter-finals will be played in both countries.

Cross-border leagues

Rules for clubs from Member National Associations wishing to play in a cross-border league were approved. A club that wishes to play in a cross-border league of a Member National Association that is not the Member National Association where the club is located must (1) obtain the permission of the Member National Association where the club is located (this Member National Association shall consult the respective national league regarding such intent); and (2) obtain the permission of the Member National Association of the country where the club's future league is located. For purposes of this Bylaw, location shall mean the place where the club is conducting its daily operations, specifically including but not limited to, the venue where the club is holding its home games.

New qualification mode

Qualification tournaments for an IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship tournament will promote only one participant to the lowest tier for the following championship season. Until 2012/2013, it promoted two participants but for the same season and the successful qualifiers had thus to participate in two events during one season.



For countries like UAE and Greece, a different qualification mode for IIHF World Championships will be put in place.

New transfer deadline

The transfer deadline has changed from January 31 to February 15 to provide the possibility for international transfers after the last international break. This will give the clubs an opportunity to replace players who got injured during that break. For the southern hemisphere the deadline is July 31.



The player transfer deadline is now in February.

Update on Eligibility rules

Eligibility rules were adjusted for players who have multiple citizenships or who changed their citizenship or acquired or surrendered another citizenship and who want to participate in an IIHF Championship and/or an Olympic competition. If they represent a nation for the first time, they need to have played for at least two consecutive years (730 days) after the player's 12th birthday in the national competitions of the new country and be a legal resident and citizen of the country.

Updates on Minimum Standards

The Minimum Standards to participate in the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship will be fully enforced in view of the IIHF's 2013/2014 championships and will be based on the figures from 2012/2013 of the national programs.

One change calls for the minimum number of players in the respective category to play their games on a full size ice rink in accordance with the IIHF Rulebook. The minimum numbers of registered and participating players remain the same: 60 in the men's senior and U20 categories, and 45 for the men's U18, women's senior and women's U18 categories.

In order to verify participation, national associations that wish to participate in the IIHF Championship Program must operate and maintain a fully functional online statistical system for any league where players who wish to participate in any IIHF Championship category take part. The system must include schedules, standings, statistics, player information and a suspension list.

Other changes:

- The tie-breaking formula in case of equality of points of two or more teams was amended to make it clearer and to avoid any room for different interpretations. It is now regulated in the Sport Regulations and not anymore in the Statutes & Bylaws.

- A Member National Association will not be eligible to apply to host the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Division I Group A if it has been relegated from the World Championship in the preceding season unless there is no other applicant.

- A new bylaw concerning match fixing has been added to prevent sporting fraud from entering ice hockey. Any infringement of this prohibition will result in disciplinary sanctions.

- The General Congress will be integrated into Annual Congresses bi-annually. Council elections will take place in 2016 and every four years thereafter. Statute and Bylaw amendments will take place in 2014 and every four years thereafter.

- The IIHF will establish an Out-of-Competition Registered Testing Pool based on the IIHF World Ranking and select a set number of players who are eligible for inclusion into the program. This to maintain compliance with the WADA code.



For complete list of changes:
IIHF.com/statutechanges

Slovan heads to the east

Slovakia's most famous club becomes KHL's biggest catch... so far

By Szymon Szemberg

BRATISLAVA – In its fifth year of existence, the KHL has redrawn the hockey map of Europe. History was written in early September when Slovan Bratislava became the first established European club from a Top-8 league to debut in the Russian-International league.

Apart from of course Russia, the Kontinental Hockey League (founded in 2008-2009) in its infancy had teams from Latvia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. It also expanded to Slovakia last season by placing a club called Lev in the town of Poprad.

But adding Slovan Bratislava is something totally different. It is the first KHL acquisition of a truly major and traditional European club from a country outside of the old Soviet borders. *Ice Times* was present when Slovan and another KHL newcomer, Donbass Donetsk from Ukraine, squared off in their season opener at Bratislava.

■ Judging by opening night, there was probably not a single person among the 10,305 fans who regretted that Slovan Bratislava – after 91 years of playing in the Czechoslovak and later Slovak league – was leaving the national domestic environment for the Russian dominated KHL.

Away games at traditional rivals like Kosice, Dukla Trencin, Zvolen and Nitra will now be redirected to Riga, Moscow, Astana and Kazan. And Khabarovsk, nine time-zones and twelve hours' flight away.

Logistical challenges aside, Slovan's General Manager Maros Krajci sees that new opportunities have opened for his club, a potential which became increasingly limited in the Slovak league.

"As soon as it became known that Slovan would join the KHL, we immediately felt that it was well received by not only our fans in the Bratislava region, but also by many others," said Krajci.

"Suddenly we started to get ticket requests from Austria (Vienna is only 60 kilometers away, editor's note), Hungary and also cities in Slovakia which earlier were our opponents. Can you imagine, on 31 July we played an exhibition game here against SKA St. Petersburg. Slovan had never before played a game in July. It was well over 30 degrees outside and the Olympics were on television. We had 8,700 in the building."

"This was the first sign that we were not only doing something which is right, but it also reinforced what we knew all the time about Slovan; we are more than just a club in our country. Slovan has always been Slovakia's team, a club which has produced many national team players and famous stars."

Maros Krajci doesn't say it outright, but it became clear that Slovan Bratislava would not be able keep its ambi-



Slovan's fans should have a reason to smile with their team carrying the flag of Slovak hockey into the KHL.

tions to be a major player in Europe in a league which has an average attendance of 2,699 (last season). Even though Slovan was an overachiever with an average of 5,895 fans, this is still a modest number if compared with the best in Europe.

So when Slovan was rejected by the Czech league a while ago, the club refocused to the east.

"The KHL is the best league in Europe and we have a good fan base and a wonderful arena, so when the KHL showed interest of including us in their expansion it wasn't really a difficult decision."

"It must also be kept in mind that Slovan has always had a very positive approach to everything which has had to do with international hockey," said Krajci. "We were enthusiastic over the old European Hockey League, we participated and hosted the Continental Cup, Slovan was very proud to play in the Champions Hockey League and when the European Trophy asked us to participate we did that too. So playing in the KHL really reflects us embracing international hockey."

■ The General Manager admits that the current instability in the Eurozone contributed to the club's openness to Russia.

"The Euro is shaky right now and we don't know what will happen. By joining the KHL we are splitting the risk between having one foot in Europe and one in Russia."

By jumping leagues, Slovan had to increase their budget almost three-fold to comply with KHL regulations which have a provision of a minimum budget for the pro team of 10 million Euros, including a salary floor of 6.25 million Euros. Slovan is slightly above those two numbers, which still makes the Slovak team a low-budget club by KHL standards.

But the General Manager and his ownership group (Slovan is entirely privately owned) see very encouraging signs that the club's new status is paying dividends already.

Slovan has sold almost 4,500 season tickets (roughly 50 percent of capacity) which is an extraordinary number for a Slovak team and the sales of VIP-boxes and VIP-seats have gone beyond expectations.

"We have sold 30 sky boxes which is double from last season and on top of that we have sold 240 additional VIP seats. We have basically only 60 VIP seats left to sell," said Krajci.

■ Despite all this, game revenues, compared with the NHL or even Sweden or Switzerland, are modest. An average monthly salary in Slovakia is below 1,000 Euros. This is why ticket prices must be kept moderate.

For the home opener against Donbass Donetsk you could buy the cheapest ticket for 10 Euros while the most expensive was 16 Euros. The average price for a season ticket is 260 Euros.

"We are hoping to increase our average attendance from almost 6,000 to 8-9,000," says the GM.

Igor Nemecek, who is the President of the Slovak Ice Hockey Federation and one of the newly elected members of the IIHF Council, echoes the optimism of Maros Krajci, although he realizes that the Slovak Extraliga has lost its most attractive team and the implications of that this could mean to Slovak hockey.

"We have a good fan base and a wonderful arena, so when the KHL showed interest of including us in their expansion it wasn't really a difficult decision."

"Slovan has always been the magnet club in our league," said Nemecek. "Despite that many attendance numbers haven't been low, Slovan has always been a good draw. Now, the clubs will miss out on this revenue opportunity. But there is no question that, for the club and the fans around Bratislava, joining the KHL is a good thing."

From having the ambition to win the league title every year, Slovan must get used to setting new, more modest, goals.

"For us the goal this season is very simple, it's to make the playoffs," said Maros Krajci. "And we want to do it with a team which is dominated by Slovak players."



Veni, Vidi, Vici

Croatian champions Medvescak redefine the outdoor game concept



Pula arena, one of the largest Roman amphitheatres in the world. The organizers overcame tricky ice conditions and both games were successfully staged in front of a sellout crowd.

By Martin Merk

PULA – It's a famous hockey trivia: Which is the oldest venue where ice hockey is played?

Knowledgeable hockey fans may say Northeastern University's Matthews Arena in Boston, originally built in 1910, or the Colosseum in Calumet, Michigan, which has been used constantly since 1913.

But these venues took a back seat to an ice rink that redefines the term "classic". It was located in Arena Pula, a Roman amphitheatre built between 27 BC and 68 AD in what is now modern-day Croatia.

2,000 years after the Romans, gladiators with different helmets entered the stage on ice skates and with hockey sticks in a coliseum that hockey had never seen before.

■ Pula is located on the Istrian peninsula, about 260 kilometres west of Zagreb where the home team Medvescak Zagreb came from to host Olimpija Ljubljana from Slovenia and the Vienna Capitals for two regular-season games of the Austrian-based EBEL.

The surface of the old arena was exactly big enough to fit in an ice rink, levelled almost 50 centimetres over the ground to protect the site.

Because the gates were too small, all material was brought in by 30-metre high cranes to build the regular size ice rink within two weeks. Many locals flocked to the venue to witness the rink with their own eyes.

"I cannot believe that this is happening in my city," said Marko, a local teenager who entered the arena with his camera the day before the event.

■ Playing the open-air game labelled "Arena Ice Fever MMXII" was not without risk as the weather can be anything from hot and sunny to rainy, but for the organizers it was worth a try. Not because of the money – the cost was about €500,000 – but to get promotion in Croatia and worldwide.

"It's a challenge from the idea to the game. The most difficult thing with warm temperatures is not the temperature itself, but the wind," said Daniel Zimmermann, whose marketing agency worked with the club to realize the idea.

The organizers had 1,800 square metres of foil to protect the ice from warm weather. Although the hot period had left Istria some days before, warm winds from the south were a challenge and caused a power outage that stopped the cooling.

"Mother Nature caused us some difficulties, but otherwise it's a great elevation for Medvescak to play a game in an amphitheatre from the Roman Empire," said general manager and former player Markoantonio Belinic. "It's a big event that has been worldwide recognized. A lot of people loved the idea of us staging an official game in Pula."

■ For people from the coastal part of Croatia, there's little opportunity to play or watch ice hockey normally.

"I have never attended an ice hockey game before," said Ivan, one of the volunteers. But the club also has fans outside of the capital city. "People across Croatia can now follow the home games on TV. Medvescak has become like a national team."

Since Medvescak Zagreb joined EBEL in 2009, things have changed. The club

came out of amateur hockey and averaged 8,835 fans last year, top in the league and the 12th-highest rating in Europe.

No wonder is the club lured by the Russian KHL. Its President Alexander Medvedev came to Pula to play with his veteran team against Croatian legends and said: "Medvescak should play in the KHL next season. The probability is 95 per cent."

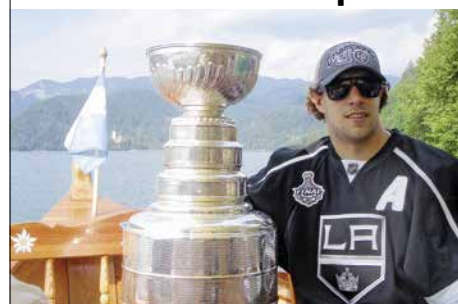
Medvedev also expects Milano Rossoblu from Italy and two Russian teams to join.

The first game was tough for the home team. The ice problems could be fixed late and the game started with a lengthy delay around 22:30. On the difficult surface Olimpija was more successful and won 3-2. Caesar wouldn't be too impressed about the home team.

But Medvescak's gladiators succeeded two days later with better ice conditions and defeated the Vienna Capitals 4-1. Both games were played in front of a sell-out crowd of over 7,000.



2012 club champions



Stanley Cup champion Anze Kopitar cruising on Lake Bled, Slovenia.

Country	Champion
Australia	Melbourne Ice
Austria	Black Wings Linz
Belarus	Metallurg Zhlobin
Belgium	HYC Herentals
Bulgaria	Slavia Sofia
Canada (Memorial Cup)	Shawinigan Cataractes
Canada (Allan Cup)	South East Prairie Thunder
China	Qiqihar
Chinese Taipei	Taipei Wolves
Croatia	Medvescak Zagreb
Czech Republic	HC Pardubice
Denmark	Herning Blue Fox
Estonia	Kalev-Valk Tartu
Finland	JYP Jyväskylä
France	Rouen Dragons
Germany	Eisbären Berlin
Great Britain	Belfast Giants
Hong Kong	Coors Light Hongkong
Hungary	Fehervar AV19
Iceland	Björninn Reykjavik
Israel	Maccabi Metulla
Italy	Bolzano Foxes
Japan (Asia League)	Oji Eagles
Japan (nat'l league)	Nippon Paper Cranes Kushiro
Kazakhstan	Beibarys Atyrau
Korea	HighOne Chuncheon
Kyrgyzstan	Arstan Bishkek
Latvia	Liepajas Metalurgs
Lithuania	Energija Elektrėnai
Luxembourg	Tornado Luxembourg
Malaysia	Asian Tigers Kuala Lumpur
Mexico	Aztec Eagle Warriors
Mongolia	Zaluus San Ulaanbaatar
Netherlands	Smoke Eaters Geleen
New Zealand	Canterbury Red Devils
Norway	Stavanger Oilers
Poland	KH Sanok
Romania	HSC Csikszereda
Russia	Dynamo Moscow
Serbia	Partizan Belgrade
Slovakia	Slovan Bratislava
Slovenia	Olimpija Ljubljana
South Africa	Gauteng Miners
Spain	CH Jaca
Sweden	Brynäs Gävle
Switzerland	ZSC Lions Zurich
Thailand	Hospital Blades Bangkok
Turkey	Baskent Yildizlari Ankara
Ukraine	Donbass Donetsk
United Arab Emirates	Dubai Mighty Camels
USA (Stanley Cup)	Los Angeles Kings
USA (NCAA)	Boston College

Photo: Mike Bolt / HHOF-IHF Images

SOCHI 2014 OLYMPIC QUALIFICATION

Croatia's win opens Olympic Qualification

ZAGREB – The Olympic Qualification for the ice hockey tournaments in Sochi 2014 started in mid-September when Croatia hosted the men's Olympic Preliminary Qualification to advance to the second stage with a clean record.



"The first ice rink in Belgrade opened the season only two days earlier, so we just had two ice practices," general secretary Djordje Ljoljic said. "We don't have the best conditions to participate."

Croatia now moves on to the Pre-Qualification stage, joining Hosts Croatia ran the table against Mexico, Serbia and Israel. Group G with Hungary, the Netherlands, and Lithuania. The tournament will take place in Budapest, Hungary in early November.

"We played better than the two games before. Serbia was the toughest opponent," said Petar Trstenjak, who scored a pair of goals.

"We play with them a lot because we're neighbours, so we know most of the players. It's always a good game between Croatia and Serbia. Playing Serbia was a good preparation for the next round. Now we're looking forward to Budapest."

■ The clash between the former Yugoslav neighbours – both geographically and in the World Ranking – didn't become as close as hoped for also because the Serbs didn't have much practice.

Before that game Croatia had already defeated Mexico, 9-2, and Israel, 15-2. Mexico became a surprising second after edging Serbia 5-3.

■ For the other teams Croatia was simply too good. But coming to Zagreb was also according to the Olympic motto "taking part is what matters".

"We came to try to reach the next round, but we knew we're at an inferior level than other teams," Mexico's captain Fernando Ugarte said. "We were there to learn rather than to make it to the Olympics."

No less than 33 teams applied to enter the 12-team men's ice hockey tournament in Sochi 2014. The top-9 teams from the World Ranking are pre-qualified while all other teams have to go through the three-stage qualification. 26 teams applied for the eight-team women's ice hockey tournament and the top-6 nations are pre-qualified. (MM)

Danish, Dutch women stay in hunt for Sochi

BARCELONA – Denmark's national women's team took its first step towards Sochi 2014 with a clean sweep of their opponents at the Olympic Preliminary Qualification tournament Group G, held in Barcelona.

The Danish squad edged Hungary 4-3 in its opening game of the round-robin, and followed up with a 6-0 shutout of host Spain and a 20-1 steamrolling over Croatia.

■ Josefine Persson had ten points in three games, putting her atop the scoring table for the tournament, with Gasparics placing second with four goals and four assists (8 points). Denmark will now have a few weeks off before travelling to Valmiera, Latvia for the Group F tournament of the Olympic Pre-Qualification stage. Their opponents will be Latvia, Austria, and Italy.

■ A ticket to Sochi is by no means assured yet for the Danes. They will have to win this next tournament in order to move into the Final Olympic Qualification stage, to be

held in February. If they can win this last tournament, they will book a place as one of two qualifying teams, joining the top six-ranked nations in the IIHF Women's World Ranking who have earned an automatic berth to the 2014 Olympic Games.

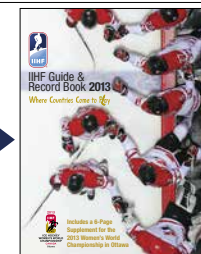
Netherlands advances

The Netherlands women's team took its first step on the long road to the 2014 Winter Olympics, winning the first Preliminary Olympic Qualification group stage held in Jastrzebie-Zdroj, Poland in late September. The Dutch will travel to Group F in Shanghai that also includes China, France and Great Britain. (AS)

The Dutch dispatched Korea, Poland and Slovenia in the round robin, claiming Group H with an undefeated record, thanks in large part to the scoring trio of Mienke de Jong, Savine Wielenga, and Julie Zwarthoed, who combined for 22 points in only three games.

■ The 2012 Annual Report and the 2013 Guide and Record Book are now available.

■ The IIHF Guide & Record Book can be ordered on IIHF.com in print, on DVD, or as a package, while the Annual Report is available to download or in print.



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At 60, Tretiak reaches new summit

After a career stopping pucks, No. 20 now calls the shots

By Paul Romanuk

TOKYO – International hockey's most decorated player has reached a new milestone in his career. Forty years after he became a household name by starring in the 1972 Summit Series, Vladislav Tretiak, 60, was elected to the Council, IIHF's executive body.

Vladislav Tretiak was still only 17 when he debuted in the 1970 IIHF World Championship in Stockholm, winning the first of his ten World titles. Despite winning his first of three Olympic gold medals in February 1972 (in Sapporo, Japan), it was only later in September the same year that Tretiak rose to global fame during the historic Soviet vs. Canada eight-game confrontation, known as the Summit Series.

■ In what must be considered as quite ironic, Tretiak sat down with *Ice Times* on 28 September, 2012 to do this interview – to the day 40 years after Game 8 of the Summit Series, the final clash which was decided by Paul Henderson's epic goal 34 seconds before the end.

Another piece of irony is that despite winning more than anyone else on the international hockey scene – 3 Olympic golds, 10 World golds and the 1981 Canada Cup – Tretiak is always asked about the two events he didn't win, the 1972 series and the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid.

■ After the IIHF Congress (in the same country where he won his first Olympic gold medal) elected him to the 13-member Council, maybe some future questions from media will be about his new role as member of the executive body which runs international hockey.

On his new role as member of IIHF Council:

"I am pleased that I was elected to the Council by a majority of the Congress. It also proves that Russia is considered as one of the leading countries in the world of ice hockey. And many countries are hoping that Russia will help to contribute something new to the development in the world of hockey.

"I hope to help many of the smaller countries. They seem eager to co-operate with us and they trust me to help them. With our assistance, they want to participate more fully in what's taking place in the world of ice hockey. I will do my best to fulfill the expectations of the IIHF Congress".

On the 1972 Summit Series:

"I think about it quite often, especially when I travel to Canada or the United States. I played in four Olympics and in thirteen World Championships, but no one asks me about that. Always I am asked about the 1972 series and if it's not that, it's about the 1980 Olympics in Lake Placid.

On the legacy of the 1972 Summit Series:

"Wherever hockey is played, 1972 will always be remembered. Why? Because 1972 was a revolution for ice hockey. We were representing not only Soviet hockey, but all of European hockey. And, after 1972, it opened the gates for Europeans to the NHL. You can see the result now."



Vladislav Tretiak is one of the most decorated goaltenders in the history of international hockey.

things I'm sorry I never had the chance to win, the Stanley Cup with the Montreal Canadiens."

"The Canadiens' style was closer to ours. It was more of a European style of hockey they played. It wasn't a rough style... it was a style that the players on our team knew of and appreciated."

Comparing the Soviet Union's teams against today's Russian teams

"I can't say what is better or what is worse. But you must understand this: During my time, we were at training camps for 9 of the 12 months during the year. Because of that, it was much easier for the head coach to be working with the players all the time. The coach could take any player from any team and we would play together all the time. The players could play the power play with their eyes closed because they had practiced it so much."

Photo: Martin Merik

On the changes in the game since 1972:

"Yes, there were two directions – European hockey and Canadian hockey. Today, as a result of 1972, we can see the two styles combined. We have the best from Canadian hockey and the best from European hockey. For example, it's much more difficult for a goalie now to know what to expect. Will it be a shot, will it be a pass? Before it was easier. Playing against the Canadians back then, most of the time they didn't pass, they took the shot. Many Europeans would pass the puck and not take the shot. But this has totally changed in all the leagues now."

On the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" in Lake Placid:

"For the coach [Viktor Tikhonov] to pull me from the game after the first period was a very unusual decision, both to the players on our team and especially me, because the score was 2-2."

"Coach Tikhonov wrote in his memoirs that pulling me from the game was his biggest mistake. But he has never explained to me why he made this decision."

On the regrets of never playing in the NHL with Montreal [Tretiak was drafted by the Canadiens in 1983]:

"I was going to play on that team, but our authorities at that time forbade me from doing this. It is one of the only

"Now, you have something even like the Olympics and the head coach gets the players only one or two days before! They are good players, but they don't have the chance to practice and play together like we did. I think you must agree with me when I say that, at that time, the teams were stronger because of all the time they spent practicing together. The coach now doesn't have the time to have five and five and five [the famous 'Five Man Units' used by the great Soviet coaches of Tretiak's era] like we used to. I think that, according to those types of criteria, the teams were stronger then, than now."

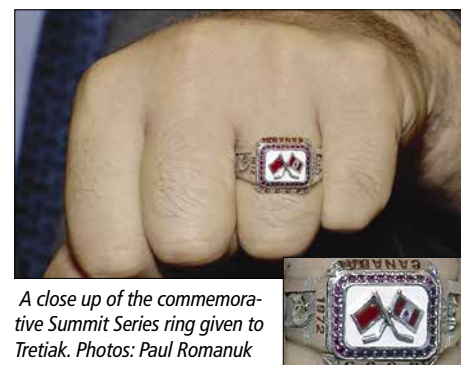
On his commemorative Summit Series ring:

"In 1972, 16 rings were produced. After each game, one of the best players from each team – one from Canada and one from our team – was given a ring. The design was two crossed hockey sticks with a Canada flag on one and a Soviet flag on the other. The rings were gold. So this year, to celebrate the 40 years since the series was played, the Russian Federation had the rings re-created – but a little more expensively. We thought that for 40 years we should have it a little more expensive! [laughs]."

"The players who were on the Soviet team received a ring as well as Phil Esposito, because most of the players on the Soviet team felt that he was the best player on the Canadian team. A ring was also given to Wayne Gretzky as a symbolic gesture because of what a great player he was."

Fact file: Vladislav Tretiak

- Born: April 25, 1952 in Dmitrovo, Soviet Union.
- Olympic champion: 1972, 1976, 1984. Silver 1980.
- IIHF World Champion: 1970, 71, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83. Silver: 1972, 76. Bronze: 1977.
- Canada Cup champion: 1981.
- Soviet league champion: 13 times, all with CSKA Moscow
- Elected to the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1989.
- Elected to IIHF Hall of Fame in 1997.
- Elected President of the Russian Ice Hockey Federation in 2006.



A close up of the commemorative Summit Series ring given to Tretiak. Photos: Paul Romanuk