

Merci Beaucoup Wallis & Futuna

Weightlifting was a great event !

The 2013 Pacific Mini Games, have come to an end with weightlifting once again shining all the way. The weightlifting event held on September 3rd – 5th, was an outstanding success.

The competition was held at the Kafika hall. The competition hall had nine warm up platforms and the stage 9m x 9m was impressive to look at. And would you believe it was built on five hundred, 30 cm high coconut stumps. The training hall had twenty platforms, with squat racks, saunas, scales, everything required for a major event. It was incredible to see such an excellent training centre in a country where mobile phones don't even exist.



The stage took two days to complete with 12 volunteers working and the end product was magnificent. Having the coconut stumps was a brilliant idea and very economical.



The medal presentation girls in their cultural attire added glamour to the victory ceremony.

The competition was fierce in some categories. Great battles were seen in the 62kg category, the 69kg category, the 77 kg category and in the 105+kg category. The large crowd attending the three day event really enjoyed the competition immensely. Amongst the crowd there were many Sports Ministers and National Olympic Committee leaders from the different islands of the Pacific.

The equipment used all came from New Caledonia (CTOS) This equipment, all ZKC, including the main platform, were used during the 2011 Pacific Games held in New Caledonia. Without this assistance to Wallis it would have been impossible to run such a



Thanks to New Caledonia, a container full of weightlifting equipment arrived from Noumea for the Games. Assisting with the unloading was Patrick Bouche from the Sport Committee, the Sports Director Jeff Chelpi and the Executive Director of the Games Eddie Filipponi.

major weightlifting event. There were eight sports involved in this Pacific Mini Games. They sports were: Athletics, Rugby 7, Volleyball, Weightlifting, Taekwondo, Sailing, Beach Volleyball and Va'a. Twenty countries participated, of which seventeen countries took part in the weightlifting event. This number was the highest number of country participation equal to athletics. The countries taking part were: **Cook Islands, Tahiti, Micronesia, Niue, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Palau, Nauru, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa and Wallis & Futuna.**

The opening ceremony was truly Pacific style showcasing the unique culture of Wallis & Futuna. Ten of the twenty flag bearers were weightlifters. From Micronesia- **Marcellus Taman**, from Niue- **Danny Nemani**, from the Solomon Islands - **Jenlyn Wini**, from Kiribati - **David Katoatau**, from Palau - **Stevick Patris**, from Nauru - **Yukio Peter**, from Samoa- **Mary Opeloge**, from Tonga - **Ilaniume Finau**, from Tuvalu - **Lapua Lapua** and from American Samoa - **Apineru Vaoga**

There was some great lifts during the tournament. David Katoatau (Kiribati) 206kg clean & jerk, Steven Kari (PNG) 147kg snatch, Tovia Opeloge (Samoa) 152kg snatch, Manuel Minginfel (FSM) 268kg total, Lapua Lapua (Tuvalu) 120kg snatch, Nevo Ioane (Samoa) 154kg clean & jerk, Mary Opeloge (Samoa) 133kg clean & jerk, Jenly Wini (Solomon Islands) smashed all the 58kg category records – in fact she broke the oldest Games records in the book set in 1999.



The large training hall in Wallis was well set up with 20 platforms, squat racks, sauna, etc.

of the weightlifters attending the institute have been funded continually by ONOC. This enormous financial assistance to the athletes via their NOC's by ONOC/ IOC Solidarity has taken the standard of weightlifting to the level that it is today. With 10 months to go to the Commonwealth Games, there is a very strong possibility that seven Institute lifters from the Pacific Islands could rank number one in their respective categories. And with some luck we could possibly have one or two more from other islands of the region ranking number one. The IWF also must be acknowledged for their continued support and financial contribution to the success of the Pacific Island lifters.

The Oceania Weightlifting Federation wishes to acknowledge many others including: the MC, Trent Dabwido (Nauru) the French MC, Claude-May Hanou (New Caledonia), Dr. Lisamoni Kami (Tonga), all of the International Category 1 referees - Garry Marshall (New Zealand), Phil Maunder (Australia), Frank Robby (Papua New Guinea), Hon. Marcus Stephen (Nauru) and Lilly Coffa (Australia) The Category 2 referees were - Dominic Cain (Nauru), Iwila Jacob (Papua New Guinea), and Alan Tano (Niue) plus of course the national referees in Riku Miria (PNG), Tressa Lolohea and Viliami Tu'Amoheloa (Tonga) Alone Kaikilekofe (Wallis & Futuna) and Landry Laufitoga (New Caledonia). Others assisting the Technical side of the Games were, Danny Nemani (Niue), Elson Brechtfeld (Nauru) Luisa Peters (Cook Islands), Lapua Lapua (Tuvalu). Special thanks must go also to all the Institute lifters assisting with the loading and also the Samoan and Kiribati lifters. All of them did a great job.

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The weightlifting hall was continually packed during the 3 days of competition.



The President of the O.W.F. the Hon. Marcus Stephen from Nauru, relaxing during a break from jury duty. Marcus is also the Vice President of the Pacific Games Council.



Andrew Minogue, the Executive Director of the Pacific Games Council also enjoyed the strong battles at the weightlifting stadium.



The medal presentation in the 62Kg category was made by the Minister for Sport of Tuvalu(left), the Minister of Sport for Samoa (centre) the Executive Director of ONOC, Dennis Miller with Paul Coffa –OWF General Secretary.

(One of the greatest battles ever seen in Pacific weightlifting was the 62kg category. With Lapua Lapua (Tuvalu) winning gold in the snatch. Nevo Ioane (Samoa) winning gold in the clean & jerk and the gold for the overall total going to Manuel Minginfel from FSM. Manuel Minginfel is now the leading weightlifter in the gold medal tally in the Pacific history, winning 19 gold medals from 1999 Games in Guam to Wallis 2013. He won 3 Gold in Guam, 3 in Suva 2003, 3 in Palau 2005,, 3 in Apia 2007, 3 in Rarotonga in 2009, 3 in Noumea in 2011 and 1 in Wallis.)

Special thanks to all the volunteers from Wallis & Futuna for their great contribution in staging the event. Most of them senior people who took time out from their jobs in order to assist. Thank you to Patrick Bouche, Alone Kaikilekofe, Siolo Iloai, Eddy Faupala, Otilone Tokotuu, Matteo, Yves-Joris Talalua and Mr. Talalua and many others who assisted.

And of course let's not forget the Organising Committee of the Games who overcame some great challenges in order for the event to be showcased as it was. To the Chairman Vahai Tulaki, the Executive Director Eddy Filipponi, the Sports Director Jeff Chelipi, the Logistic Director Yanik Burkhard, the Marketing Director Sophie Gandon, the Accommodation and Catering Elodie Pintat and others which unfortunately



MEMORIES OF THE GAMES



Steven Kari –PNG wins the 94Kg Category . Auvita Rapilla PNG NOC General Sec. presented the medals assisted by Garry Marshall – NZL. the OWF Technical Chairman.



Guba Hale –PNG wins the 69Kg Category . Sir John Dawanincura PNG NOC President . presented the medals assisted by Paul Coffa - OWF General Secretary.



Mary Opeloge –Samoa breaks the Oceania Clean & Jerk record with a lift of 133Kg. in the 75Kg category.



David Katoatau –Kiribati smashes the 105 Kg cat. Clean & Jerk Games record with a lift of 206Kg.



The warm up area was very well set up and had everything that major international event requires. It had nine platforms and fully equipped with ZKC equipment.



2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games gold medal hope, Mary Opeloge from Samoa.



What a great job the MC's did. Second from the left, Trent Dabwido from Nauru in English and Claude-May Hanou from New Caledonia in French.



Another Glasgow Commonwealth gold medal prospect Lapua Lapua from Tuvalu.



Samoan warrior steps on the stage to celebrate the 105+kg category win by Samoan lifter Tovia Opeloge.



02.09.2013

Ilaniume Finau from Tonga carrying the flag at the Opening Ceremony.



Paul Coffa – IF Technical Director in Wallis presented the OWF Gold commemorative medal to volunteers who contributed to the success of the weightlifting event.



Wallis & Futuna showcasing their warriors at the Pacific Mini Games Opening Ceremony



Polynesian dancing is beautiful and unique. Here we see the girls of Wallis & Futuna at their best.



It was very difficult for our international technical officials on their day off to avoid this type of scenery. They found it very hard to keep away from this majestic part of the world.



History repeats itself. Tongan warrior landing once again on the shores of Wallis. Dr. Lisamoni Kami lead the way for the all the officials to follow. Not only did he land on this isolated island but he also took control of the food. Raw fish, cooked fish, clam, breadfruit, coconut juice mixed specially with Mr. Johnny Walker. Indeed very difficult for our doctor to cope.



The water was so inviting and clear and the beach pristine clean, it was also difficult to keep our officials out of the ocean. The island owned by the family of one of the technical officials is uninhabited and as a result everything on the island is nature at its best. No pollution, no rubbish, just sheer magic. You know that you are in Paradise.



It was also difficult for the technical officials to have to stay at this hotel with this view. It was very hard to wake up to this every morning.

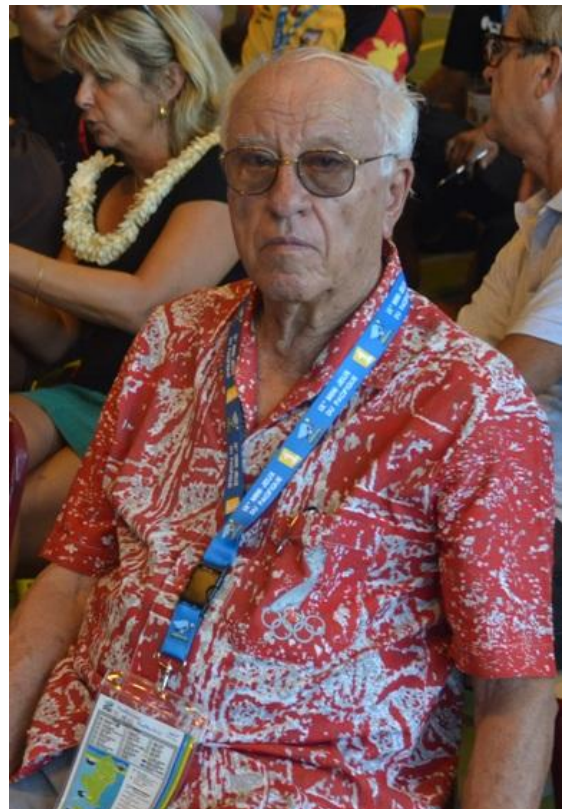
MEDAL TALLY	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1. PAPUA NEW GUINEA	13	4	10
2. SAMOA	11	4	7
3. KIRIBATI	7	1	4
4. SOLOMON ISLANDS	3	7	
5. FIJI	3	3	
6. NAURU	3		3
7. TUVALU	1	2	3
FEDERATED STATES MICRONESIA	1	2	
9. TAHITI		3	3
10. COOK ISLANDS		3	
10. MARSHALL ISLANDS		3	
10. NIUE		3	
10. PALAU		3	
14. NEW CALEDONIA		2	1
15. WALLIS & FUTUNA		1	2
16. TONGA			6
AMERICAN SAMOA			0

BEST MALE LIFTERS ON SINCLAIR FORMULA

1. Manuel Minginfel -FSM 62Kg Category
2. Lapua Tuau Lapua - TUV 62Kg Category
3. David Katoatau - KIR 105Kg Category

BEST FEMALE LIFTERS ON SINCLAIR FORMULA

1. Mary Opeloge - SAM 75Kg Category
2. Jenly Wini - SOL 58Kg Category
3. Guba Hale Mea - PNG 69Kg Category



Monsieur Roger KADDOUR – past President of the COMITE TERRITORIAL OYMPIQUE ET SPORTIF (CTOS) of New Caledonia and one of the founders of the Pacific Games watching one of the sessions in Weightlifting.