

Class 15, Issue 74 Publisher: INF-FNI

#### December 2023 **Federations Focus**

International Naturist Federation Newsletter



### A New Chairperson of EuNat Laurent Luft introduces his new role

Following a vote by the federations at the recent European Naturist Commission (EuNat) meeting on October 7th, I took on the role of EuNat Chairman, in addition to my post as INF-FNI Europe Assessor. First of all, I would like to thank Wilfried Blaschke for his 18 months as EuNat Secretary and his devotion to the naturist cause.

This most recent meeting was conducted entirely online, with the participation of 16 federation presidents or delegates. It was great to see Sweden back at the table after an absence of a few years. The translation and voting systems both worked well.

Colin presented the results so far of discussions within the youth working group and hopes to see youth from a wider range of federations represented. We dealt with the modernisation of EuNat and its formal incorporation as a sub-committee of the Central Committee of the INF-FNI.

BN was pleased to be granted two subsidies to finance two festivals targeting naturist youth, with the Wilderness Shambala Festival in July, at which BN will run a large stand, welcoming festival attendees who want to strip off and give naturism a go, and the EveryBody naturist festival in August.

Several other applications for subsidies were put forward by different federations. The meeting decided to postpone decisions on these until more supporting information could be provided. There will be another, short, online meeting in January, to finalise decisions on these.

Perhaps you wonder what purpose EuNat serves? As you can see above, this sub-committee of the International Naturist Federation exists to promote naturism across Europe, principally in the form of events, trips and sports activities. These gatherings bring together naturists from different countries and cultures for a few days of fun and, in the case of the sports events, friendly competition.

Subsidised by the INF-FNI, these events allow naturists of all ages to participate in international gatherings at a very reasonable price.

In addition to our list of long-standing events, our newly-adopted strategy is giving federations the opportunity to launch new events, subsidised by the INF-FNI for the first couple of years, until they can stand on their own feet without a subsidy. Two notable events launched in 2023 were an exhibition of the photographic collection of the campaign against body shaming by the French Federation of Naturism which was followed by a nude theatre evening and dance party, and the Naturist Games without Borders, organised in Montenegro by the Naturist Organisation of Serbia.

This new strategy also gives us an opportunity to help federations with more than just the organisation of events and we especially hope to help smaller federations play a more prominent role on the scene. Our more traditional international events, on the calendar each year, are the youth gathering, Alpe Adria in Croatia, the Northern European gathering in Germany, the pétanque tournament, the Southern European gathering in Spain and the swimming gala.

The EuNat secretariat is made up of just three people the chairman, the sports officer, Sook-Hwa Noh, and the youth officer.

In these roles, we work hand in hand with the European federations and also very closely with the Executive Committee of the INF-FNI and with the cash checkers, who are there to make sure that budgets are always respected and that money is distributed correctly.

I look forward to see you all at an event soon!

Naturistly, Laurent Luft

# KZANNA's fourth **Event** at **SunEDEN** in **2023**: A vibrant **gathering**





KZNNA's recent rendezvous at SunEden marked a bold step for the association. The decision not to book the entire resort beforehand was a gamble that paid off—ensuring ample attendance without the upfront costs often associated with non-naturist resorts. However, for many members, the expenses of travel counterbalanced the benefits of the 20% discount on fees and accommodation provided by SunEden.

Despite this, the event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of eighteen members, led by Phlip's fervent promotion. Their journey to what is arguably South Africa's premier Naturist Resort was an adventure heightened by the blossoming spring season. Credit is not only due to nature's allure but also to the dedicated management and staff of the resort, who provide world-class facilities steeped in an authentically African context.

The weekend commenced with a convivial Friday night ,bring and share braai at the campground. This gathering not only rekindled old connections but also warmly welcomed new acquaintances.

Saturday morning teed off with the inauguration of the KZNNA Shield Naturist Golf Challenge. Nine teams, six hailing from KZNNA, embarked on SunEden's newly established nine-hole course. While the course boasted unique naturist golfing experiences in the southern hemisphere, the challenge advised essentials like hats and sunscreen, despite some rough terrain.

Embracing inclusivity, the challenge welcomed naturists regardless of their regional association

memberships, provided they paid green fees and were willing to sacrifice a few golf balls. Despite a delayed start under the scorching early summer sun, the event was joyously captured in the official video.

The results showcased a mix of local insight, beginner's luck, and inherent talent. Notably, a GNA representative claimed victory in their first golf game using a single club, a seven iron, with impressive skill.

GNA teams dominated the ranks, sparking discussions about mandatory golf lessons for KZNNA representatives before the next year's event. The call extended to teams from other regional naturist associations, inviting participation from North West, Eastern Cape, Limpopo, and even Western Cape. SANNA Chairman Christo and Wayne D emerged as the top KZNNA team, clinching third place.



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The beauty of naturist golf in warm weather lies in its casualness—preparing for the prize-giving involved a quick dip in the pool. Following the ceremony, members re-applied sunscreen and relaxed around the glistening pool, engaging in discussions ranging from rugby to the conditions of the course's fifth hole, even recounting Vice Chairman Coen's SUV mishap in the sole wet patch of the resort.

As the afternoon waned, the community gathered at the BareBoma for the "KZNNA Kuier", meticulously arranged by Phlip and expertly catered by the SunCafe.

However, the Rugby World Cup semifinal compelled most to witness England's valiant effort against the Boks. The emotional rollercoaster left many drained, notably witnessed in Phlip's 15 Springbokkies, as he fulfilled his pledge after the Boks' triumph, debunking the premature doubt—a classic South African habit at half-time.

Sunday morning brought a mix of elation over the results and bittersweet goodbyes as members departed, reminiscing about the warmth and hospitality of SunEden and the cherished moments shared with friends.





#### **Focus February**

Deadline to remit articles: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Release of Focus latest: 31st January 2024

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## International Naturist Swimming Gala Belgrad 2023



The International Swimming Gala took place for the second year running in Belgrade at the beginning of November. We were delighted once again to be the guests of the Naturist Organisation of Serbia (NOS), whose organisation skills proved excellent.

The international swimming gala is the culmination of a naturist swimming competition which starts at federation level. Each country typically holds its own swimming competition from which a team is selected to attend the international gala. Those who qualified this year were indeed fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a wonderful event.

14 countries were represented. Alongside the 88 swimmers, taken from 11 member federations of the INF-FNI, were referees, technicians, a doctor, INF-FNI officials, the organisational team, and no less than 29 supporters. There were 153 participants overall.

The competition took place at the 25th Maj SRC Milan Gale Muškatirović swimming pool in Belgrade. Everyone was impressed by the exceptionally sporting and fair way in which the competition was conducted. The competition was led by a well-coordinated team of the Swimming Associations of Belgrade, the City Association of Swimming and FINA Judges.

Since it is a naturist event, as one would expect, all participants respected the rule of being naked in the pool during the competition and during the awarding of medals. Overall, the competition was won by the German

federation, whose team amassed a total of 61 medals. Italy was in second place and Great Britain third. Outside the pool, the guests were very well looked after, from their arrival at the airport and throughout their stay.

Arrangements had been made at the hotel, the Mona Plaza, to allow guests to be naked both in and between rooms, and in the hotel's wellness centre. Exclusive use of the dining hall, where meals and other events took place, meant that participants could, if they wished (as many did), be naked during meals and during all the events on the programme – including during a quiz, the gala dinner, and after dinner parties. The gala party was the perfect end to the competition day.

On the Sunday, two tours of the city were organised. One covered Belgrade's Kalemegdan Fortress and the central pedestrian zone of the city, while the second took public transport through the city centre from Trg Republike via the State Assembly, the Palace, the new railway station, Belgrade's inner-city waterfront, the Museum of Yugoslavia and the Kuća Cveća Memorial, where the grave of the former President of Yugoslavia, Josip Broz Tito, and his wife is located.

The Naturist Organization of Serbia sent out its thanks to all the participants. But the real thanks are owed to the NOS and their president, Goran, for their wonderful organisation of the event.

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#### Naked in the Vineyard





One of the newer activities on the events calendar this year was "Naked in the Vineyard", held in August, and organised by CNC, Clube Naturista do Centro, with the support of the Portuguese Naturist Federation (FPN).

It was the third time the event had been held, and the first time it had been supported by a subsidy from EuNat. Twenty-two people took part – including two entries that had been given as wedding gifts for a Spanish couple. Participants were invited to harvest grapes, naturist style.

The event took place at the Canal Caveira Estate in Alentejo, and went very well. There was also a naturist picnic, where it was possible to relax and mingle with people. At the end, participants enjoyed wine tasting – although by then everyone was dressed.

Everyone went home with the grapes they had picked and looked back on a fantastic activity. It was a very well-spent day, with excellent weather, and everyone was happy.

The organisers were grateful to have the support of EuNat and the INF-FNI, allowing us to enjoy a higher quality event.

Some participants were already talking about holding the event for a fourth time. We hope to do so in 2024!



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#### Tambaba Surf Open





Since 2008, when the 31st World Congress of the International Naturist Federation took place in Brazil, every year naturist surfers go to Tambaba beach, on the northeast coast of that immense country, to participate in the Tambaba Open Naturist Surfing sports competition. The competition first took place as an attraction at the INF-FNI Congress, but it became an independent event in the following years. It has become the only official naturist surfing competition in the world, and it is recognised by the category's sports federation, scoring in the regional championship.

In September 2023, the competition was held for the 14th time, bringing together 32 athletes from different

states of Brazil. They competed for awards in three different categories, surfing in the warm and not too rough waters of Tambaba beach – the only naturist beach in the state of Paraíba. It is a high-level competition, attracting athletes who have won awards in several other competitions.

Competitors are divided into heats of four surfers at a time. In the water they wear colourful t-shirts so they can be identified by three judges, who analyse their performances from inside a tent set up on the sand.

From the sand, competing or non-competing naturists watch and cheer for their favourite athlete, while



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enjoying a table of fruit and water offered by sponsors and organised by local naturist associations – SONATA and NU – and the Brazilian Naturism Federation.

It is a party, which will conclude with a cake celebrating the twenty-seventh anniversary of the SONATA association.

Also part of the event was an environmental awareness campaign, collection of rubbish found on the beach, and a surfing lesson for those who have never held a board in their lives – something which attracted many women.

Finally, after two days of competition, the result was announced and received with great joy by the winners, who received brand new surfboards as a prize, objects that they greatly desire.

Many of these intrepid surfers are humble people living in the small and poor city of Conde, where Tambaba beach is located. Some of them dream of being professional surfers, but they need sponsorship to

develop their skills even further. In particular, one surfer stands out: young Reginaldo, known as Guinho. Now 18 years old, he has participated in the Tambaba Open since he was 8 years old. Winner of many editions of the Tambaba Open, he is champion of several regional stages of non-Naturist surfing tournaments.

So ended another great Tambaba Open Naturist Surfing event. As the announcer, Wagner, constantly reminded us over the event's loudspeakers, "the fifteenth edition will be held next year." In Brazilian culture, when a young woman turns 15, she is a "debutando", ready to be presented to society. So when the event is held for the fifteenth time we can call it a "debutante". There are great expectations for an even bigger party. Only time will tell, but we must not forget that good sponsorship is necessary to throw a beautiful party.

Text and images by Pedro Ribeiro

