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Candidate City Newsletter

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BRANDENBURG . GERMANY
World Rowing Championships . Candidate City

No World Rowing Championships in Germany in 2015

German Rowing Association withdraws from bidding process because of excessive financial risks

Joint press release by the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport, the City of Brandenburg an der Havel, the German Rowing Association and the Brandenburg Rowing Association

During top-level talks held yesterday on Tuesday, 24 May 2011 in the Brandenburg Ministry for Education, Youth and Sport, it was decided that Germany will no longer take part in the bidding process to host the World Rowing Championships in 2015. Among those taking part in the meeting, which was held in Potsdam, were Sports Minister Martina Münch and Brandenburg's Mayor, Dr. Dietlind Tiemann, along with Siegfried Kaidel, President of the German Rowing Association (DRV), and Hartmut Duif, President of the Brandenburg Rowing Association (LRV).

The decision, which was jointly made by those taking part in the consultation, means that although the comprehensive candidacy documents have been completed on time, the DRV will not hand over the 'Bid Book' to FISA, the International Rowing Federation, by the official deadline on 31 May 2011.

The enormous fee of 650,000 euros, which in contrast to previous international championships is now being demanded by FISA for submitting the bid, awarding the World Championships and acquiring the marketing rights – whereby it is to be paid by the host in advance of the World Championships – is just one of the reasons for withdrawing from the bidding process. In addition, the drawing up of a sound budget plan was also exacerbated by the fact that during its inspection at the beginning of March 2011, FISA demanded that the work of the organisational team for the World Championships should involve the deployment of salaried personnel over several years and not – as was previously usual in Brandenburg an der Havel – be exclusively based on using volunteers.

Even according to conservative estimates, these additional and unforeseen personnel costs would have considerably exceeded 600,000 euros.

To meet this shortfall in the budget plan caused by the aforementioned FISA demands would require public subsidies that go far beyond the support that is possible and has already been promised by the German Government, the Federal State and the City of Brandenburg an der Havel. In view of a raft of non-calculable risks such as, for example, the forecast spectator figures and possible advertising revenues, and in light of the experience of New Zealand, which recorded a deficit of around 1.3 million euros after the 2010 World Championships, it was finally decided to withdraw from the current bidding process for the 2015 World Rowing Championships.

Despite this decision, all those involved were unanimous in declaring their continued interest in hosting major international regattas in Brandenburg an der Havel, since the traditional competition venue at Brandenburg's Beetzsee Lake, which has been expanded in recent years with considerable expenditure, offers the best technical and infrastructural prerequisites. The sports-enthused people of Brandenburg have also demonstrated many times that they are both excellent organisers and cosmopolitan hosts. However, it is important that the conditions imposed by the water sports federations can be better met in future.

Hanover-Potsdam-Brandenburg/Havel, 25/05/2011



Expansion of regatta course is a worthwhile investment in the future

German Rowing Association and the Brandenburg Rowing Association are fully committed to Brandenburg as a centre for regattas

Joint statement from the DRV and LRV Brandenburg

In addition to many understanding responses, the joint decision made on 24 May 2011 by the Federal State of Brandenburg, the City of Brandenburg an der Havel, the German Rowing Association (DRV) and the Brandenburg Rowing Association (LRV) to withdraw from the bidding process for the 2015 World Rowing Championships has also given rise to some unobjective public comments. In response to these, LRV President Hartmut Duif says: "I would like to unequivocally reject claims that the funds invested in the past few years in refurbishing and expanding the regatta course on Beetzsee Lake in Brandenburg have now been spent in vain. Right from the beginning we said that we want to drive forward the further development of the competition venue not just with a view to hosting a possible World Championships but also because we want to be able to offer optimum and fair competitive conditions for sportsmen and sportswomen who train on Beetzsee Lake and compete for medals. Anyone taking a look at this year's fixture list for the Brandenburg regatta course, which is once again very full, will immediately see that there are very many national and international water sports events for which this state-of-the-art natural regatta course offers an ideal competition venue. That will also remain the case in future, even if the sports-enthused people of Brandenburg an der

Havel have to wait somewhat longer for a 'major' world championships." For DRV President Siegfried Kaidel it goes without saying that the State of Brandenburg and the City of Brandenburg an der Havel deserve many thanks for their excellent commitment to developing German and international rowing as a sport: "With their targeted investment, the political leaders in the state and the city have displayed considerable courage and vision, and the numerous rowing enthusiasts who volunteered in 2005 and 2008 have shown that they are capable of organising major international regattas."

The DRV's Vice-Chairman, Dag Danzgiel, who is responsible for competitive sport in the organisation, also does not view the legitimate decision to withdraw from the World Championships bidding process as a departure from the aim of further developing Brandenburg an der Havel as a centre for holding regattas. "On the contrary, we at the DRV are firmly committed to Brandenburg, which will continue to be an important venue for national championships in the future. Thanks to the investments that have been made, excellent technical conditions have been created so that Brandenburg an der Havel will continue to play an important role in the DRV's event planning. And I'm sure that Beetzsee Lake will once again be hosting international rowing in the foreseeable future."

Hanover-Potsdam, 27 May 2011

Thanks to volunteers and sponsors

The chief of the 'Candidate City 2015' organisation team thanks all rowing fans for the considerable support and looks to the future with optimism

"Of course it was also a difficult decision for me to have to abandon the vision of a 'major' world championships and I also admit that I have major concerns about the developments that have taken place at the executive level of international rowing in recent years, which are primarily focussed on commercial aspects," said Hartmut Duif, in summarising his feelings shortly after the withdrawal from the World Championships bidding process. For the past 2 ½ years, Brandenburg's LRV President, who already headed the 2005 and 2008 organisation teams for the Junior and U23 World Championships, has been leading the team of men and women volunteers who, in numerous meetings and consultations, prepared the candidacy documents for the World Championships in 2013 and 2015. "Together with my fellow associates, I have invested considerable time and effort in the past for this

ambitious project. We did that gladly because we enjoyed considerable support from rowing enthusiasts, and the City of Brandenburg an der Havel and the State of Brandenburg not only backed this important project conceptually but also provided extensive financial support. I would therefore once again like to express my thanks to all those involved. The enormous support we have received, particularly in the last few days, has strengthened our conviction that the water sports-enthused City of Brandenburg an der Havel, with its state-of-the-art natural regatta course on Beetzsee Lake, definitely has the potential to host a meeting of the world's best rowers. When improved framework conditions are created for this purpose by the FISA, we will certainly once again be on board in the foreseeable future as a candidate city."

Imprint:

Organisationsteam Candidate City 2015
c/o Landesruderverband Brandenburg e.V.
An der Pirschheide 28, 14471 Potsdam / Germany

Phone: +49 (0)33 1 / 97 23 62
Fax: +49 (0)33 1 / 90 25 60
Email: lrvbrandenburg@t-online.de