

## KRANJ 16<sup>th</sup> CMAS UNDERWATER HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The championships were held between the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. The pool was divided into 2 playing areas with a warm up area in the middle

Twelve countries attended in two different categories. 11 open elite squads: France, Great Britain, Spain, Turkey, Slovenia, Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Croatia, Portugal and South Africa.

7 Ladies squads: Germany, Great Britain, France, South Africa, Spain, Turkey and Hungary.

After two days of training 07.30 to 22.00, the opening ceremony took place at the swimming pool at 20.00 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Mayor of the City, The President of CMAS and the President and Vice President of the commission were present.

The championship matches began on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August and finished on the 29<sup>th</sup>. The games were held every day at 08.00 up to 20.00.

A total of 55 matches were played by the open elite teams in the first phase of the championship which was a round robin, every team played against all the other teams. The ladies played 21 matches in their round robin.

The first match of the open elite play offs started on Thursday evening. The other 22 play off matches were played on Friday and Saturday. The semi-finals and Finals were held on Saturday making a total of 107 matches played throughout the championship.

The results were:

Open Elite : 1 France , 2 South Africa, 3 Great Britain, 4 Turkey , 5 Spain, 6 Slovenia 7 Italy, 8 Hungary, 9 Belgium, 10 Portugal, 11 Croatia

Ladies: 1 Great Britain, 2 South Africa, 3 France, 4 Spain, 5 Turkey, 6 Hungary, 7 Germany.

In open elite there were two evident levels, the teams from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> positions were strong teams with good teamwork and skillful play. Teams from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> just couldn't quite match the skill of the first 5 teams.

The ladies could be divided into 3 groups : the top 3 teams, an intermediate level group , and 2 lower level teams.

During the championship the new President of the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission, Mr. Thomas de Trébons arranged a meeting for all of the countries attending the championship.

Representatives from 13 countries attended the meeting where the President presented new proposals for UWH, and with the agreement from those attending the new CMAS UWH commission was set up and ready to work .

The first step will be to update the rules of play and to prepare the schedule for next years World CMAS Games

