

EuroThrowers Report 2014 / 2015



Member clubs

Now 14 clubs are member of the EuroThrowers (up from 8 in last period). One more (Salento Throwers) is in the process of joining. List:

www.EuroThrowers.org/clubs

Members

We are now exactly 159 members: 14 clubs, 19 women, 126 men.

Action pending (as approved by a previous members meeting): 15 members are marked for deletion, as they have not paid the membership fee since many years.

Big Throwers Meeting

- 2014 in Callac/France, experimentally as "World Championship". Organised by the association Lanserien Kontili Breizh, headed by Pierre Cazoulat. 147 participants (thereof 33 women) from 12 nations: Czech Republic, France, Germany, Russia, Great Britain, Italy, Switzerland; Hungary, USA, Latvia, Belgium, Poland; The first 7 countries mentioned were represented by a team of at least 5 throwers.
- 2015 in Huthwaite/England; Held officially as a "World Championship"; Organised by the club KATTA UK, headed by Little John Taylor, on the grounds of Dan Mosley.
- Future events:
 - 2016: Since some months, negotiating if European Championship in St. Petersburg will be possible - as voted for by the EuroThrowers members. Club "Knife Throwing Association of Saint Petersburg" is ready to do it, the commitment of the City of St. Petersburg is still to be confirmed.
 - Open for proposals by other countries for the next years!
 - Reminder: A detailed best practice checklist for throwing events is available at the website (author: Christian Thiel; languages: English, Deutsch, Italiano, Русский, Magyar)
- Principle of country-rotation is excellent
- Starting 2013, a contract was made between local organiser and EuroThrowers, to give both a clear picture who does what, and which support is provided.
- There are many national/regional throwing events each year. For example, for 2015, Thiels calendar at KnifeThrowing.info/Messerwerfen.de lists 12 mayor competitions.

Countries with Rising Knife Throwing Activities

Switzerland:

- Foundation of umbrella organisation "Schweizer Werfervereinigung" on January 10, 2015
- 1st National Championship in Knife Throwing, Hölstein, July 11, 2015; Using EuroThrowers Standard Rules.

Hungary:

- 1st National Championship in Knife Throwing, Alsómocsolád, September 26 2015; International participation much invited, English and German spoken! Using EuroThrowers Standard Rules.

First Online Members Meeting

For the first time, a members meeting was held online - via Email. The occasion was that we needed a quick members decision on two issues (Russia - shall we try; World Championship?). The votes by all the members were cast by email, and around 5 were received via letter. The number of members contacted was 138, the number of valid votes received 60.

Thank you to Alexander Martynov who acted as election supervisor and received and counted the votes.

"World Championship"

As per overwhelming decision in the first online members meeting (votes: 52 yes, 8 no), the European Championship can also be held as a "World Championship" every some years.

The rules for the "World Champion" title have been tried out in Callac, and this year in Huthwaite. They are not fixed yet, and will evolve some in the coming years.

Comparing Internationally: Werner Lengmüller und Mikhail Sedyshev

Werner from Germany and Mikhail from Russia both took World Champion titles in the Callac Championship. So, how well did they do in the US Championships (IKTHOF) they attended?

Werner won 1st place in the following:

2013 Champion Gold Cup Hawk
2013 Champion Hawk (251 points, new record)
2013 Champion Fast Draw (
2014 Champion Gold Cup Hawk
2014 Champion Hawk (258 points, new record)
2014 Texas three Step

Mikhail won 1st place in the following:

2013 Champion Gold Cup Knife
2013 Champion Knife Thrower (276 points, new record)
2013 Champion Texas Hurricane

Duel Cup

Walter Steinbeck developed a duel cup machine, that gives the "go" signal and measures the time until the impact of the knives in the target. It was tested extensively, and works very reliable. The system has first been used at the World Championship in Callac 2014 (machines built by José Louarn), and is now employed in Huthwaite 2015 (machines built by Walter). The machine is under active development by Walter.

The Duel Cup rules have been adapted by Thiel to the machines.

Since the duel cup machines are so precise, and doubt is so much reduced compared to observation by human arbiters, that it is not recommended any more to hold the Duel Cup without a machine.

Website

The three main languages are EN/FR/DE, some documents are available in Italiano, Český, Русский, Português & Magyar.

List of member clubs was added: www.eurothrowers.org/clubs

Reminder: Every member can request a login (from Thiel) to make changes to club website! For example, to add his language.

Maier is testing a website at www.flyingblades.org that is also multilingual.

Legal Situation of Throwing Knives in Europe

The EuroThrowers want knife throwing to remain a legal sport in Europe.

To know more about the legal situation, Thiel created a page that collects the status in various European countries. See: www.eurothrowers.org/legal-situation-of-knife-throwing

We can report a huge success: in **Denmark**, knife throwing is now legally possible! Our member Jester Chango from the ChangHigh Circus, Denmark lobbied for many years the government to lift the ban of knife throwing, and succeeded!

János Kohl detailed the new situation in **Hungary**: Throwing is legal, the transport restrictions are similar to France or Germany.

Records

For the first time ever, new European records were established outside of the Big Throwers Meeting: At the 2015 French national Championship, Pascal Boucreux (knife 5m, 96pts) and Marie-Claire Le Tessier

(axe 7m, 58 pts) beat the current records. It was verified and documented by Thiel that the rules of the disciplines were indeed compatible with the current EuroThrowers Standard Rules.

See: www.EuroThrowers.org/records

Press

Germany, Spiegel Online, 20.8.2014, Report on Pierre Cazoulat

Germany, Waffmarkt 7/2015, Announcement of Championship in UK

France, Le Poher, No. 964, Semaine 20 au 26 aout 2014, "Callac, capitale du lancer de couteaux"

France, Le Poher, No. 965, "Lancer de couteaux: en plein dans la mille!",

France, L'écho, no 3410 du 20 au 26 aout 2014, "Les lanceurs sont affûtés!",

France, Excalibur, 15.12.2014, on the Callac Championship

Belgium, PersInfo.org, 25.8.2014, Freddy Kempeneer on Callac

...and TV in France and worldwide on the Callac World Championship!

Christian Thiel