

THE MAGAZINE OF THE
WORLD
GOLD PANNING
ASSOCIATION

Golden Times

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Editorial

Welcome to Golden Times and an edition for me with mixed emotions!



When I started helping Kauko, Inkeri and Pirjo back in Sept1998 with Golden Times, I had no idea it will become a 12 year involvement ending up as the editor! It will be a delight to sit back and read editions of GT without remembering the cajoling to get content, chasing emails and hours spend getting it edited in this format. It has though, been a splendid commitment and this along with Communications Committee (CC) chairman has generated good friends and fond memories. **Thank you** to everyone who has helped in all the roles it takes to get information to our community both via Golden Times and on our web site <http://www.w-g-a.org>

As you will read, Arturo has selected an excellent replacement both as editor and CC chairperson and I hope you will support that person even more than you have me. Golden Times and the WGA website are our link to our friends around the world, our information portal and how the world see us. As nations prepare bids and seek sponsors they help to show that we are truly a world organization with a strong history and one that shows quality and commitment.

It will feel a little weird to not be in the thick of things but new energy, ideas and enthusiasm is always required to keep things vibrant and moving. Thank you again and all the best to the future! Now to put my feet up, settle with a good Lapin Kulta beer (hint hint) and watch our new team spring into action :-)

Paul



Dear Friends,

It is certainly exciting for me to be able to write to you from these pages for the first time as President of the World Goldpanning Association.

Those who know me well can reassure you that I will do my utmost for this Association of which we are all a part and that I will not waste time just "keeping

the seat warm", as we say in Italy. I believe that the system which provides for frequent change at the top ranks of our Association is the right means of keeping our attention focused on the various problems, as well as having a supply of "new blood and oxygen" at the head of the organisation.

2009 could not have ended in a more positive way for me - the year in which I was able to host the world's greatest goldpanning event in the land of my birth. The whole of our world came to Biella, and my being elected was the 'cherry on the cake'. Everything went pretty well during the Championships and I'm happy to have seen you all in my home territory.

There have also been changes within the World Council and I will be working side by side with such great people as Vice-President Ken Karlsson, Secretary Pirjo Muotka-jarvi and Treasurer Marlise Luedi. I wish each of them a successful term in office.

We may now start thinking about packing our bags and heading for a new destination, a historic one for gold panning...Zlate Hory or the "Golden Mountain". What better name to welcome all of us, the world's goldpanners? The Czech Republic will once again host the World Championships and this will be the 34th edition, 11 years after Kocaba, the Championships which boasts the highest number of participants. It has all the ingredients

to make it into a memorable event and its Presentation Evening, which we witnessed at night in Zubiena during Biella2009, was just a hint of what is to come.

But since we are not merely goldpanners, but also and above all gold prospectors, I hope to be able to read in these pages of fantastic findings in some of the corners of the world in which we, all of us, happen to be just now, and of adventures during the quest for the yellow metal which is responsible for our fever.

On Facebook, the popular social network, I came across the remarks of a user who said: "If you search for gold you'll have to dig a lot of earth and you won't find much gold!! But goldpanners are aware of the value and the rarity of what is precious in a river and in life!!". If that is true, and I must say I agree with this person, then we really are special people (or some might call us "strangely" special...). But I would like all of us to keep in mind the words pronounced by President Vincent Thirkettle during the closing ceremony at the last Championships. Having just spent his umpteenth week amongst us, he said: "You are not just the best goldpanners in the world, you are the best PEOPLE in the world !"

Thanks to those like Vincent and Kauko, our Association was born and has grown a lot over the years. I hope to do my part, with your help, so that we may improve even further, if that is possible, the wonderful plaything which is their gift to us, namely the W.G.A.

See you in Zlate Hory!

Arturo

President World Goldpanning Association



My name is Ken Karlsson, and I was born 1955 in Kopparberg, Sweden. I started to dig and pan for gold 30 years ago. In 1984 when we started goldpanning competitions in Kopparberg, I was one of the first to join the organisation in charge.

My first World Goldpanning Championships was in Tankavaara 1987, and since that first time, I have been to 20 Championships. The results of my competing, so far in WC is 17 different medals, with my 2 gold in mens prof in 2001 and 2002 as highlights.

In 2001, I was asked by Mike Gossage to join the Competition Committee, and of course I accepted. 2005 I took over the role as Chairman of CC. A position I had until 2009. Those years in CC was very nice, good friends to work and solve problems together with, but also some hard times, with hard and rough decisions to make.

And then, at the AGM in Biella Italy 2009, I was elected to be the new Vice President of WGA. That was for me, very honourable and exiting. As I had worked close to the board of WGA, since I became Chairman of CC, I knew quite well what was expected to come in my new role as Vice President.

The fact that the new President of WGA was Arturo Ramella, a man in which I have the deepest respect, and regarded as one of my best friends, together with the fact that the rest of the board and the Chairman of the Committees also is really good friends of mine, I look upon the years, and the work to come with great enthusiasm.

Looking forward, as I have been working a lot with questions concerning rules, categories, pans, way of selection etc. I know, there is still a long way to go, but I am convinced that year by year, we will improve the way of competing in goldpanning, to be as fair and fun as possible, for everyone to enjoy.

One thing, that really bothers me, is how to get new and young people to start to compete and pan for gold. Looking at the competitors coming to the WC today, I can see us ending up with only one category, the Veterans.

So at last, I really believe that our association, the World Goldpanning Association, is something unique. A worldwide network of Nations, Federations and Associations. But most of all, a big happy family of friends, seeing each other at least one's a year somewhere in the world, having the best of times. And maybe that's why we use to say "Happy days are here again" at the start of the Championships.

Golden greetings, Ken Karlsson.
Vice President



My dear Golden Friend,

I know you don't like being under the spotlight or staying too much on the stage, but I'd like to let everybody know that you are really a good Friend I found along the river of my life.

Thank you for teaching, thank you for learning, thank you for talking and thank you for listening. Thank you for not speaking a word or for telling me the few right words. It was such a pleasure to shake hands or hug or just glance on some occasions as we didn't need even one word. A not-too-cold, plain pint of beer is always ready for you to drink along the riverside or at the goldpanning arena, or at my place.

Ciao Vince, see you in Zlate Hory!



Thank you Paul!

Special thanks to Paul Thurkettle, editor and publisher of Golden Times for several years.

Under his guidance the newsletter improved amazingly reaching the stage of being a proper information point for all gold prospectors and a real, official newsletter of a world-recognised association such as W.G.A. must be. In handing over his duties to Esther Van Diggelen from now on, he is handing over a high standard newspaper, a working Committee and developed website together with a heavy workload! Have a good rest, please don't disappear and rest assured that you will have us to welcome you whenever you want to come back again!

Thank you Paul.



Secretary: Pirjo Muotkajärvi

Born in Enontekiö in the very North of Finland four decades ago. Following my studies in 1992 fate threw me to the other side of Lapland and I got the first touch of gold at the Gold Museum in Tankavaara. There I started working as a Project Secretary of the Golden World aiming to realize the permanent exhibition about the history of gold in the whole world.

The history of gold, consequences and traces of gold rushes, amazing stories of those days fascinated me deeply. The old timers showed me how to pan and encouraged me to participate in the gold panning competitions where I had no success for years but enjoyed it greatly sharing in the excitement of these events. Since 1992 I have participated in every World and Finnish Championships as well as numerous smaller competitions.

Soon after arriving to the gold fields I worked at a hired claim in Tankavaara followed by a shared claim with friends working with traditional methods. I discovered about how the ancestors were involved with gold rushes in Lapland, Klondike and Alaska. During my eleven years in Tankavaara I have had a chance to travel to many gold fields of the world, meeting the people involved with gold – the friendships more precious than gold.

In 2003, I married a gold miner, Jouko, moved to Oulu (500 km south of Tankavaara), started working at a Art Museum and had a baby girl, Vilma. Since then I have spent all the digging seasons in Lemmenjoki with my family, working with hydraulic excavators and having our livelihood partly funded from this activity. Gold and gold mining has been one of the most important parts of my life – and always will be, one way or the other.

I am delighted to be back on the WGA board and will do my best for you all.

Pirjo

Treasurer: Marlise Luedi



Hello, I am Marlise Luedi. I was born 50 years ago in the middle of auriferous creeks. My husband and I have started to pan for gold 20 years ago.

About 15 years ago we started to attend goldpanning competitions as an additional part of our prospecting hobby. Sometimes we are more, sometimes less successful than in the creeks.

I am fascinated about goldpanning in many dimensions: Looking for the adventure, finding something hidden, getting together and eating together or having a party with like minded people. Being elected to watch over the golden treasure of the WGA is the peak of my career. And I am like all the women: They take all and don't like to give. So the WGA-treasure shall not diminish.

And the best to the end: What about finding my first nugget that is bigger than 2 grams? However, I hope this does not happen right tomorrow – then all the happiness about seeking would have been gone! In this sense I wish everybody to find what he searches and I am looking forward to meeting you somewhere in the future on the world.

Golden greetings and kisses

Your treasurer, Marlise

New Committee Chairs (appointed by Exec Board)



Rules Committee Chairman
Eugene Swanepoel with deputy
Esko Orava



Communications
Committee Chairperson
Esther van Diggelen



Gold miners bring million Euros to Inari Municipality

The most of the alluvial gold fields in Finland situates in the Municipality of Inari, North Finland. Gold brings money in many ways to the area.



A few big nuggets were again found in Lemmenjoki in the summer of 2009. 'Rukkanen' (= mitten) weights 88,3 grams

A student of Oulu University recently published a thesis about the financial effect of gold mining in the municipality. The research was sponsored by the Inari Municipality and The Goldprospectors' Association of Finnish Lapland. Some 55 gold miners were interviewed in summer of 2008 for the study in Lemmenjoki as well as Saariselkä-Ivalojoiki River area. The Association's enquiry for the members in 2004 were used as a standard reference and supplementary material - 45 % of the members answered the questioning.

For the research some 10 % of the active gold miners were interviewed as mentioned and it doesn't entitle for the rigorous conclusion but together with the member enquiry it gives quite reliable idea of how much gold miners bring money to the municipality.

Purchases during the digging season

78 % of Lemmenjoki miners working far in the wilderness went for shopping only once a month as they have brought food and daily consumer goods mainly during the winter by snowmobiles. But 93 % of those working near the roads in Saariselkä and Ivalojoiki area visited the shops at least once a week. They used about 50 euros per week in average. It is estimated that the gold miners do about 4.000 working weeks per year. For the daily consumer goods thus would have used 200.000 euros which in practice remained all in Inari Municipality.

Purchases before the digging season

A half of the interviewees purchased food, construction and other materials as well as fuel before the digging season. The biggest amount mentioned was 35.000 euros but most of the miners used from some hundreds euros up to few thousands. Overall amount of money of these some 550 gold miners can't be estimated precisely but accordingly average counts used for this study it would be at least 500.000 euros up to one million. It's estimated that at least half of the purchases bought before the digging season would be done in Inari Municipality.

Investments

Those interviewees reported that they have invested together some 800.000 euros for their present claims. In 2008 the amount was 50.000 euros, half of them had used less than 1.000 euros for total investment, 35 % used 1.000-10.000 and 14 % over 10.000 euros. According to the average counts can be counted that the total investment of all gold miners would be 1,1 – 8,2 millions euros. The reason for the big differences is that the gold miners working with machines could invest hundreds of thousands when the recreational miners usually can go with cheap tools. Overall amount of investment of these some 550 gold miners can be estimated at least 5-6 millions euros. Inari Municipality got probably at least 100.000 euros of these investments.

Total amount of money

With conservative estimate the gold miners bring 550.000-800.000 euros per year in Inari Municipality with the direct purchases mentioned above. This does NOT include for example the following; winter time service, boat transportation in summer, tax revenues, purchases done by relatives, friends and other visitors, using the accommodation and food services – with these the amount would be over one million.

The indirect effects are more challenging to estimate. Gold panning, prospecting and mining is widely used as a tourist attraction all over Lapland. Hundreds of entrepreneurs are utilizing gold in their marketing. Similar tourist 'magnets' can only be found in few rare places in the world. Even gold panning competitions bring their own colour to the otherwise quieter summer season of tourism in Lapland.

As the study was concentrating only to the Inari municipality, the biggest tourist venue for gold: Tankavaara was left out. This has effects to both directions, as miners from Inari side spend money also in Tankavaara (belonging to Sodankylä municipality) and miners from Tankavaara area do shopping in Inari.

The Goldprospectors' Association of Finnish Lapland is continuously seeking for possibilities to conduct studies on different aspects of gold mining, together with universities in Finland. Students interested are encouraged to take contact: www.kullankaivajat.fi



10th Swiss Goldpanning Championship. 3rd-5th Juli 2009 in Bowil



For the third time Marlise und Willi Lüdi und Co. had decorated the log cabin 'Schächli' in Bowil and its surroundings. A main 'gate' made of untreated, bold shaved logs greeted the participants with an

evident Welcome. Due to the mid-summer time, everything was set up for outdoor conduction. A striking custom ornamentation for the bar decorated the Goldrush-Saloon along the log cabin front. An ample number of seats, benches and tables was available in open camouflage tents. Between the Goldrush-Saloon and the eating area a stage had been exclusively built for the Saturday night entertainment. Sadly the participation was somewhat scarce – both for championship competitors and visitors. We were not able to determine the cause, maybe it was due to the summertime or the large number of concurrent local events. Nevertheless we beat the 100 threshold. In total there were 106 competitors, both male and female. The most far traveled goldpanners came from the easter part of Germany. The former world champions Sam Sosef (2008) and the Esther Van Diggelen (2006) from the Netherlands were also present. From Biella (Italy), the 2009 Goldpanning Championship location, a delegation lead by Arthuro Ramella paid us a visit. The detailed numbers per country in comparison with the Swiss Goldpanning Championship two years ago are shown in the usual statistic below.

(three guys with medals)

Swiss Champion Serge Glatz (middle) with Erich Wüthrich (2nd) and Jean-Pierre Steiger (3rd).

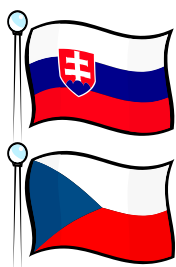
With the new competition Peter Grubenmann there were some changes to the way the contest was conducted. For one thing we complied with the slightly modified WGA-rules, e.g. the penalty for lost gold flitter has been reduced from 5 to 3 minutes. Also, the maximum time for panning has been reduced from 30 to 20 minutes. For another thing we already implemented the new mode of qualification that is anticipated for future WGA World Championships.

With this we were once again fully abreast with current developments. The idea is to alleviate 'overly harsh' selections. The goldpanners should travel long distances drop out after just one heat and retire to the 'spectators bench' till Sunday. The existing last-sixteen and quarter finals (for women and veterans also the semi finals) were for that reason replaced by a preliminary, where everyone could start twice. The results of the two preliminary heats (after penalty for possibly lost gold flitter) were added up. This total time was relevant for moving up to the semi-finals (for women and veterans the final). There were 87 participants in the preliminaries (women, men, mixed veterans).

The Klondike category was available for the second time after 2007, so the 'creek gold panners' could do their thing as well. This time we set the pan type and provided plastic Klondike pans. 65 contestants participated in the Klondike match (women/men mixed). In the two main categories men and women the speed pans dominated as always. Towards the finals, the times speeded up continuously. In men's final it lastly took Sam Sosef (NLD) only 2 minutes and 1 second to extract 10 gold flitters from 15 kg (33 pounds) of a sand and gravel mix. The time of 1:28, set by Arthuro Ramella in 2007, wasn't quite reached. The suspense was doubled as the men's final had to be repeated. One competitor faound an astra gold flitter. It is unknown, how that happened. There are a lot of sources for error. Sam Sosef (NLD) was also the international winner with the men. The new Swiss champion's name, however, is Serge Glatz form Langnau. Being 6th in the international ranking, is is the best Swiss participant. With the women Sylvie Séchaud (FRA) got the international titele ans Ines Fatzer ftom Horw the Swiss title. So we have new faces for the Swiss men's and women's champions. Brigitte Megert (4 tim Swiss master) and Werner Marti (2 times Swiss Master) have to take aone (?!) season break after the serial wins of 2007.

We made one cosmetic mistake when determining the overall winner. Bjiouterie Sonderegger from Bern sponsored this popular special price, a silver pin with the Swiss Cross and a soldered on gold nugget, for the second time. In the heat of the battle the Jury (to be exact the scribe) had asserted Sam Sosef as overall winner of the categories men/women and Klondike. At a closer look, no Adam Riese could miss the fact, that Marlise Lüdi had the fastest time. The issue has been solved and Marlise is in possession of the worthy price. We'll make good for the awarding ceremony at an appropriate opportunity

By Victor Jans (translated by Michael Utz)



Goldpanning Championship of the Czech and Slovak Republics Zlaté Hory 2009 as a test for next World event

The last Goldpanning Championship of the Czech and Slovak Republics took place in a picturesque valley of the Olešnice stream in "Údolí ztracených štol" ("Valley of Lost Galleries"), not far from the replica of the Gold Ore Stamp Mill, close to the town of Zlaté Hory. Here the World Goldpanning Championship will be held in about one year from now.



Zlaté Hory is a traditional Moravian or more precisely Silesian locality where "gold mining" has a long history. Here, several nuggets of gold, fairly big (some weighting more than a kilo), were discovered in the past when the mill race was being cleaned – in the same way as in the Sutter's Mill in California. The wider surroundings of Zlaté Hory are also worth visiting as they are a part of the Protected Landscape Area Jeseníky, which is popular for its gorgeous countryside, picturesque villages and the well-known spa Karlova Studánka. Not far from Zlaté Hory there is a pub where a native artist carved portraits of local dwellers into wooden chairs. All of this and much more can be seen in the Zlaté Hory region.

As far as the weather is concerned, it was not perfect during



the Goldpanning Championship, which is common in the Czech Republic. But if the sun had been shining all the time, would gold panners have felt perfectly well? There were not as many competitors as usual, only a bit more than 200. This might have been partly caused by the fact that some of absent participants might have been preparing for the World Championship in Italy, others might have been a little frightened by recent floods which, as luck would have it, avoided Zlaté Hory

altogether. Foreign competitors, apart from Slovaks, arrived from Austria, Germany and Poland.



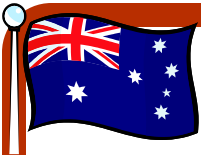
In addition to standard competitions and categories, night gold panning was performed again under torchlight. As usual, the better ones or the luckier ones became winners; but it's always like that and you know that it's not the most important thing about the whole event. In our region, Moravia, what we appreciate most of all is friendship, hiking and camping, the moments spent together at live music with campfires. He or she who has ever been here is bound to remember these pleasant moments and they will remain imprinted on his heart. And after all, those of you who were the first to be beaten were at least lucky enough to have the chance to set out to explore the surrounding woods and pick mushrooms, so abundant that all of them can hardly be collected. And there are other surprises that are ahead of those who come again next year.

What should I say in conclusion? It was really pleasant here and if you didn't come, don't cry, it is not the end of the world. You can all come to Zlaté Hory next year, when the World Goldpanning Championship is being organized just for you. Therefore, please, don't hesitate and book August 16 – 22, 2010 in your diary. Whoever comes, a warm welcome awaits him. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Greetings to all from,
George "Pyrotechnik" Fischer

Photos by Martin Večeřa





GILBURNIA - A Theatrical Spectacle



Here is a little known fact about our area's history: Baringhup in Victoria

Raffaello Carboni

Before the Italian writer and composer Raffaello Carboni went to the Ballarat goldfields in 1854, he worked as a shepherd in the Tarrangower area (Maldon, Bar-

inghup).

His contact with the local Aboriginal tribe led him to write a piece of theatre in eight acts, which he intended to be mimed with musical accompaniment. This work is called '**Gilburnia**', which is about a young Aboriginal woman of that name, who is kidnapped by miners and rescued by her tribe.

Raffaello Carboni is best known for his chronicle of the 'Eureka Rebellion', which is the only published eye-witness account of the uprising.

Charged with treason after the Eureka Stockade, Carboni spent some time in jail before being released. After traveling extensively, he eventually went back to Italy where he worked as an interpreter and translator. He still found time, however, to write music, plays and librettis.

Lost for over a Century

'**Gilburnia**' was first published in Rome in 1872, but for over a hundred years, it was believed, to have been lost, until a copy was discovered in a flea market in Rome in 1990.

It was translated into English and published by Tony Pagliaro in 1993.

Apparently, Carboni lived with an Aboriginal tribe while in the Tarrangower area, which leads some historians to believe, that he may have been in the Baringhup area. This is because, by 1854, most of the aborigines from the local Dja Dja Wurrung tribe had been resettled on land near Baringhup. The actual settlement was about one mile north of Hamilton's Crossing, on the Loddon river. From here, the aborigines were shifted to Franklinford, down near Mount Franklin, and then taken to Corranderk – where many of them died in the cooler and damper climate.

'**Gilburnia**', as with the actual fate of the Dja Dja Wurrung tribe, has a sad ending which has everything to do with the actions of the white settlers in Central Victoria and nothing to do with the actions of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

Baringhup area is approx. ½ hour's drive from where Henry and Anne Doran live in Central Victoria.

This story was published in the 'Tarrangower Times' – Fri. Jan. 15, 2010.

Anne Doran – Victoria Australia
GOLDEN TIMES

THE SONS OF GWALIA MINE Western Australia

A Turbulent History

South from the station country in the goldfields of Western Australia, in search of the regions gold history at the famous "Sons of Gwalia" mine and Museum, which is located four kilometers south of Leonora, and sits on the edge of a huge open pit.

The region was first explored in 1869 by a young surveyor, John Forrest, who later went on to become the Premier of Western Australia. It was not until much later in 1869, that gold was first discovered by prospectors, after significant finds to the south at Coolgardie, Southern Cross and Kalgoorlie.

The reef that provided the basis for the commercial mine development was found by Messrs. Carlson, Glendinning and White, who, after working the gold for a brief period, sold out to George Hall for the princely sum of 5000 pounds. George was a smart operator, and managed to get back his original investment capital after only one month's operations, but needed additional capital to expand the mine operations.



The London firm, Berwick Moreing, was actively seeking investment opportunities in Western Australia and sent out a young geologist, Herbert Hoover, to seek out potential purchases. Arriving in Albany, Hoover had an enforced stay in quarantine, as smallpox had broken out on the ship. He then made it to

Kalgoorlie by rail, and started exploring the region, mostly by camel.

Shown the Workings

On one of his early treks to the north, Herbert Hoover camped one night near the small mining operation run by George Hall, called "The Sons of Gwalia", after the original prospectors who found it. Over the following days, Hoover was shown the workings which comprised a shaft to 175 feet and several hundred feet of drives and a small, inefficient treatment plant.

It needed major re-engineering, but Hoover quickly realized the ore body's huge potential. He recommended to Berwick Moreing they purchase a majority share for 200,000 pounds and put up a similar amount for development capital. Further, he more or less demanded that he be appointed the general manager, with a free hand in the design and development of the plant and the mine. He also proposed a handsome salary for himself.

Berwick Moreing made the acquisition and the "Sons of Gwalia" was formally launched in January 1898. Most of the share capital was issued to the London and Western Australia Exploration Company to control the property, with smaller parcels going to a consortium of associated companies. Berwick Moreing retained a consulting and advocacy role and also promoted the development extensively in the press. Only a few shares were made available to the public, and these

sold at double their face value on the first day of trading. Following the successful launch, Hoover was made a partner in Berwick Moreing and was appointed general manager of "Sons of Gwalia" in May 1898.

Incredible Self-confidence

It says much for Hoover's incredible self-confidence and consummate powers of persuasion that the whole deal went ahead. Especially considering that Hoover was just 23 years old and on his first proper job! Despite the fact that the Mine Manager's Institute based in Coolgardie, insisted that a mine manager have at least three years of practical experience. It gives one a clear sense of Herbert Hoover's capabilities and more insight into how he went on to become the 31st President of the United States of America, 31 years later.

Hoover took on a very demanding task requiring a radical redesign of both the mine workings and the treatment plant to reduce high operating costs. He also needed to make the labour force more productive and reduce the wages bill to make the operation viable.

Through clever design and astute management, Hoover achieved these goals.

Within weeks of taking over, he created dramatic changes in working conditions that would be the envy of today's Federal Government!

The working hours were increased from 44 to 48 hours per week.

Hot shift changeovers now took place underground at the face, not on the surface, as was the accepted practise of the day.

Double time on Sundays was also cancelled as were bonuses for

working "wet ground". Contract shaft sinkers on piecework rates were brought in and he moved to employing mainly immigrant labour on contract. He reputedly also sacked the union organizers.

Hard -drinking Australians

Being a Quaker, Hoover had little time for the hard-drinking Australians and was quick to fire workers found drunk on site. This practise did little to befriend him to the workforce, but probably contributed greatly to increased work safety!

To reduce the mining costs, he had to improve the ore-to- waste ratio and eliminate unproductive drives to access the ore. He designed a new shaft on a 45 degree incline that closely followed the lode. He built a new 48 feet high headframe from Oregon pine, installed a new primary crusher and ore bin, and the largest double-drum winding gear in the southern hemisphere. Work then started on the new inclined shaft in September 1898 – excavating upwards from the existing workings, recovering more ore as it went. Hoover's next task was to focus on the new plant design, however, he started to run into issues of com-

pany politics. The new Coolgardie office of Berwick Moreing started to issue 'technical directives' on the plant design without – in Hoover's opinion – full consultation. This challenged his 'command and control' management style causing much irritation and many acrimonious communications to the Coolgardie office. Eventually, Hoover could take no more and 'pulled the pin' leaving in November 1898.

Despite his relatively short tenure, he managed to create a vast amount of positive change, setting up the "Sons of Gwalia" on its very profitable future.

This was no mean feat given the remote location (the Menzies railhead was 112km away), harsh climate conditions and high turnover in the workforce.

Herbert Hoover left Australia almost immediately, returning to the US to marry

his childhood sweetheart.

A ramshackle collection

Meanwhile, around the mine, a ramshackle collection of tents and temporary buildings sprang up and the emergent town was called Gwalia. This is a Welsh poetic name for Wales, and a collective term for a syndicate of Welsh miners. There was much competition between Gwalia and the nearby settlement of Leonora which offered more in the way of shops and other services, but as the mine provided the most reliable source of employment, most of the workers elected to build their houses at Gwalia. Competition between the two settlements ended in 1903 when a tram service was established between them. The houses were

small and basic, wood framed and iron-clad, often with only dirt floors. There was no running water, electricity or sewage system. Despite this, the settlement had one of the first electric tramways and the first of the State Hotels which was built in 1908. It also boasted the State's first 'beer strike' which occurred in 1919.

A large group of the residents walked out

of the hotel and voted not to return to until their complaints had been met. These grievances concerned the brand and price of beer sold, the size and cleanliness of the glasses, and the behaviour of the hotel manager, whom they felt, should be dismissed. The township of Gwalia had its ups and down, as one would expect of a single industry entity. The population peaked around 1,700, but changes in the gold price and other external factors, often created shock waves. Typical of these was the sacking of 400 men which had a devastating impact on the community.

A Mass Exodus

After 67 years of operation and the recovery of some 2.5 million ounces of gold, the mine closed on New Year's Eve 1963. There followed a mass exodus and the population slumped to just 40 people by mid January. The hotel soon closed and another ghost town was created.

(Excerpts taken from the original story by John Mack - as published in 'The Australian Gold, Gem & Treasure' magazine 2007 Annual)

Reproduction provided by Anne Doran.





MEMORIES OF THE FIRST ITALIAN GOLDPANNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Ottavio Lora, Biella Goldpanners' Association, Italy

(With an introduction by Geraldine McCrossan, member of the Competitions Committee, who also translated Ottavio's article from Italian)

Well, here we are in an autumnal Biella, Italy, just beginning to draw our breaths and settle down in the wake of the Big Event back in August- the World Goldpanning Championships, aka Biella2009. Many of you from all across the globe were here soaking up the sun, labouring against the clock and generally sharing your time with us. We believe the general consensus to be that ours was a job well done, incorporating as it did the now legendary 3 Fs which are, as you know, Fun, Friendship and Fair play.

The Fun element was clearly in evidence from the very beginning of the week, in and around the Goldpanners' Arena. I'm sure that you, like me, have your own personal memories which still bring on a chuckle or two!

As regards Friendship, I hope you agree that this element was, as it should be, an integral part of the entire proceedings. After all, any Championships not conducted in this spirit could only be a very clinical and even nasty affair that would not attract such huge numbers of wonderful people from every corner of the Earth!

-Which brings us to Fair play. On June 1st this year, the finishing touches were put to the updated version of THE COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDELINES! A lot of work was put into this by the WGA Board and the Competitions Committee and finally we had a really clear version, in language which was easy to comprehend, interpret and enforce. (- And certainly easier to translate into our own local languages, as has been done here in Italy). This updated version came into force for the first time at our Championships in August. Who could ever forget the dreaded "Yellow Card" warning for anyone bottling sand along with gold?!? Yet this proved highly effective and, as well as guaranteeing parity for competitors, made the job of scrutineer that much eas-

ier.

This new, updated version of the Rules and Guidelines (check it out on the W.G.A. website) covers just about every aspect of running and competing in a gold panning competition and so, organisers have clear parameters and panners can no longer plead ignorance! Fair play is ensured as far as humanly possible.

But what was a goldpanning competition like prior to the introduction of rules and guidelines..? Just read on.... !

THE FIRST ITALIAN GOLDPANNING CHAMPI- ONSHIPS

" Up until the eighties I was interested in minerals as well as gold, but little by little my love for gold prospecting claimed the upper hand. My prospecting 'buddy' in those days was Beppe Pelizzone, President of the Piedmont Region's Mineralogy and Palaeontology Society of which I myself was a committee member.



Photo: Ottavio Lora and Dino Buccoliero

Every year towards the end of September, a splendid, international exhibition of mineralogy and palaeontology was mounted in the prestigious Turin Exhibition Centre located in the Valentino Park. One of the problems was how to publicize this event. Each year something new and spectacular had to be invented so that it would be given enough exposure in the Press.

While talking to my friend Beppe one day, I had a brainwave: why not organize an Italian Goldpanning Championships? Our enthusiasm for this venture grew and in spring 1982 we got the go-ahead from our Committee.

Nobody had the remotest idea of how to run a competition of this type. We were groping about in total darkness! Some fragmentary information was provided by Dr G. Pipino who in those days was the WGA's official representative in Italy. However, many points remained which left us rather perplexed.

Apart from the ethics involved in running a "correct" competition, the logistical problems were



infinite. The competition would be held inside the pavilions of the Turin Centre and so, how could we create a relatively large water container on a marble floor (we had not yet hit on the idea of individual pools or troughs..)? How would the water be drained? We knew that all these operations would come under the close scrutiny of engineer Tavella who was in charge of all the Centre's events.

We came up with the idea of creating a little 'lake' by lining up bales of straw tied firmly together so as to create a rectangle. This was then lined internally with two strong sheets of plastic and finally filled with water.

Judging was entrusted to Prof. Gallo, President of 'Teksid' and our first, very generous sponsor- a person highly regarded in the world of mineralogy. Our second sponsor was Giannino Rambaldelli, who offered his equipment- in those days considered to be on the cutting edge- as prizes. Competitors' times were kept by the Association of Chronometrists, under the guidance of Dr. Costa.

And so the great day dawned.... Large numbers came from Milan, Ovada, Feletto and Biella and the competition, despite its highly approximate nature, was a big success.

Nowadays, anyone venturing to organize a competition in such a way would at the very least be shot in the back without the comfort of religious rites... If you just consider the fact that there were 8 people competing at the same time in the little lake, all very close together. The waves generated by each competitor's washing created a tsunami which added to the difficulty of finishing the job.

Another naïve idea (due to our complete ignorance of the matter) was that gold flakes found by competitors were presented to the jury IN THE PAN!!!

However, despite all the approximation, the Championship was highly acclaimed and was an enormous success. The event was held in the Turin Exhibition Centre for just two years (1982 and 83). Then, as happens with all things successful, it became the domain of many, and moved on to other shores where it got better and better each year until it reached today's levels.

For the record, the first Italian Championships were won by Giovanni Vautero and the second by Sergio Lanza of Vercelli both in times of over 7 minutes.

It was a wonderful experience, but what counted most for me was the fact that the seed for competitions had been sown. Following this, the Turin City Council gave me the task of organizing the "San Giovanni Trophy" on the occasion of patronal festivities and this was won by the unforgettable Ferdinando Lacchia. Unfortunately however, this competition was not held again for reasons of bureaucracy and ecology.

Who knows, maybe in the next article I'll tell you about the origins of the first, bizarre "San Damiano Trophy" organized by yours truly and by the then President of "Oro in Natura" Dino Buccoliero.

Ciao,

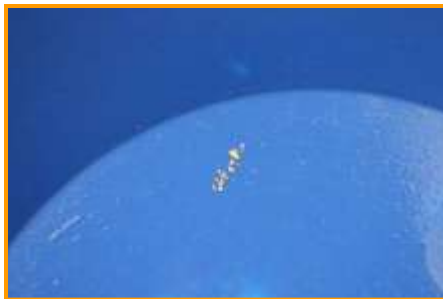
Ottavio Lora





We have to arrange a exciting trip to the Golden field " Helliskogen ", its about 80 km from the town Karasjok and 320 km from Kirkenes, where we live, in the northern part of Norway.

The plan is to drive in our own cars, and camp in tents or cars. The start is from Kirkenes in about the middle of July and stay in Helliskogen about a week.



At the gold field we have all the trousseau to dig and wash the gold. There will be instruction in gold panning, and you can dig and find you own nugget. So we hope if anybody is in the northern part of Norway at this time and have interest of gold panning please contact us.

Golden wishes from Norway, Torill and Geir Langseth
g-la@online.no



'WELCOME STRANGER' GOLD PANNING REPORT

The

4th Annual "Welcome Stranger" Gold Panning Championships were held in Dunolly at the weekend 25th Oct. 2009. It was attended by 40 panners and their families



who had come from as far as Sydney, Albury, Geelong, Melbourne, Maffra, Bendigo, Jindabyne and Tasmania to contest their titles at a World Class event. Panning times this year were of World Standard.

Some amazing times were set by skilled panners who battled it out in their quest for 3 beautiful gold nuggets in the Golden Triangle Challenge.

The weather may have been a little on the cool side, but this didn't deter young panners, or Novice panners who took the plunge and had a go. One lady novice panner beamed a biggest smile at her husband as she showed him the 7 gold flakes she panned out in her new speed pan.

The atmosphere was tense with concentration as seasoned panners found up to 15 flakes of gold in their pan. Our special thanks to all the timekeepers who did us proud, especially as we were short on the day. Our commentator for the day was Bryce Rawlings who did an excellent job of keeping panners to task. Many thanks to the seeders and bucket brigade who worked tirelessly all day.

Cr. John Smith of the Flynn Ward, presented each winner and placegetter with their ribbons and medals and the many prizes provided by our very generous sponsors.

The event was held in the Gordon Garden which looked picture perfect for the weekend.

Henry Doran – President of the "Welcome Stranger" Gold Panning Association thanked the sponsors and judges, Bryce Rawlings and all the panners who had come along to make this such an eventful day. Henry also thanked his wife Anne for the massive work load in organizing this year's Championships..

He went on to say, that he and Anne had been involved in gold panning for 14 years, and it was now time that a younger generation should get behind this wonderful community event.

A group photo of the winners and place getters was taken and the day concluded on a high note.

Rodney Melham – Winner of the Mens Skilled category - won the White's Metal detector from GoldSearch with the fastest time ever of 1 minute 56.12.





HABEMUS AURUM IN NAVELGAS!!

Habemus aurum! Shouted an astur slave. Quickly, the rest of people who were around him inside the mine stopped to work. They dropped all the tools, and turned the head to him as he had discovered a treasure, so it was. The surprise and amazement filled the air.

The roman sentry ran to him among the crowd, beating everything and everyone who could block his way to reach that man who held a bright nugget. Exactly, it was gold. News didn't last too much to arrive at Rome. It was the first, but not the last, time who the Imperator named the magic place of Navelgas.

It was well-known by the Romans that this place lost in the Northwest of Spain, owned this precious metal. The Astures, native people of this land, used gold as much as they got from the river. Now, all of them worked for the Empire inside the mine.

This deposit, besides the great Roman Mine in Las Médulas (León) turned into the most important source of wealth of the Empire. This fact caused big social and economic changes in theses areas.

This happened 2.000 years ago but Navelgas is still being a Golden place. At the beginning of the 1950's, the company knows as "Sociedad Aurífera Asturiana" rekindled the gold mining activity area, after confirming the existence of gold in one of the underground mines that had been opened in Roman times. It was at that time that the practice of panning for gold was recovered.

Some years

later, a group of neighbours got together to form "Barciaecus Gold Panning Association", with the aim in mind of becoming involved in a more playful and tourist spirit of this new sport. At present it has over 70 members. Its activities are aimed at promoting the area, making it know to numer-

ous people all over the world who are dedicated to searching for this precious metal and all that this attractive sport brings with it.

So, Navelgas stands as a reference of this activity all over the world, but to keep this tradition alive is really hard in our days and the Association tries day by day to work in it. The first step to do it, was the creation of MOA (Asturias Gold Museum) in Navelgas, opened on 2006, with the aim of being the place where people could know the history of gold in the area and its relation to the inhabitants. Here, goldpanning is learning by everyone.

In short, more than 2000 years of gold in Navelgas, more than 2000 years of a unique tradition, more than 2000 fighting for our identity signs which it has been permitted us to be part of the goldpanning family. For all this, we would like to appreciate all goldpanners around the world and make you remind Navelgas, people and environment, is waiting for you in any occasion to enjoy together of our land.



The WGA 2009 Council Meeting

Some of the highlights from the World Goldpanning Association Annual General Meeting



Vince greets the South African Delegation, informs them of the council decision on who will host the 2012 Championships and then congratulates them on winning



Italy provide a wonderful meeting area for the council

**For the full minutes of the meeting go to
<http://worldgoldpanningassociation.org/agm.htm>**



The council elect Marlise as Treasurer, Ken as Vice President and Arturo as President forming the new WGA Board



**At the end of meeting,
Arturo takes over control
thanking Vince for his
service**





New mining law bans professional mining in Finland



The proposal for a new mining law in Finland has progressed to the parliament for the final tuning. Despite strong arguments from the miner's side, practically no changes have been made to the law. The main points that threaten the 140 years old continuum of professional gold mining is banning hydraulic machines in Lemmenjoki area. This act is done without any reasonable explanations.

Lemmenjoki gold was found in 1945 and first machine was brought into the area in 1951. The National Park was established in 1956 but not until 1971 was the gold area merged into the vast national park. During this act, it was promised that gold mining shall let to continue as a way of living similar to e.g. reindeer herding. The gold mining area is only 0,35 % of the total 2850 square km². Strong demands against mining gold with machines came to publicity during 80's when Metsähallitus (Administration of state's land and water areas) made several law prosecutions against the miners, losing them all. During the last 40 years reindeer herding has been taken as special custody while gold miners have gotten almost criminal treatment from government; even though no permanent harm is caused for the nature and the mining activity is strictly supervised and restricted by law, regulations and additional costs.

Those twenty professional gold miners in Lemmenjoki produce about 80% of the

total 30 kilos annually in Finland. Lemmenjoki is the richest alluvial gold deposit in whole Europe. If this law shall be accepted as it is, the whole profession of gold mining is diminished from the continent. As a final highlight, the miners shall not get any compensation for losing their fortune, profession and homes because they are allowed to continue with shovels! In those areas it's not even possible to work with shovels and definitely it would not be profitable giving no one's livelihood.

From recreational miner's point of view, the law proposal is not so good either. The annual fee



for the land owner shall be tripled from 16,75 euro per hectare to 50. The excuse is that now the miner is able to build a cabin to the claim. The odd point is that building a cabin is strictly forbidden according to another paragraph of the law.



The Gold Miners Association of Finnish Lapland with it's members of 3100 is continuing the fight on the political scene. The situation is very, very serious – one of the oldest and most traditional profession in Finland is threatened to be destroyed at short notice.

Jouko Korhonen
Chairman – The Gold Miners
Association of Finnish Lapland



Gold Prospector Museum has a new website and changing exhibition

Gold Prospector Museum's new website is just released. There is also a new changing exhibition about freshwater pearl mussel. It is a rare species. Only few of us have had a chance to see it. Mussel are not a beautiful creature, but there might be a pearl inside it shells.!



Pearl Jewel from Lapland

Freshwater pearl mussel is the oldest species in Finland. It can live up to 200 years old. Mussel grows slowly and also its breeding is a slow process. This invertebrate needs help from salmon. In fish's gills the small larvae live until metamorphosis. Only one of hundred million larvae becomes a mussel.

A pearl starts to grow inside the mussel, when a grain of sand or other particle get's inside the mussel. The pearl is useless for the mussel and it tries to get rid of it. Only few of the pearls are evenly rounded, and those ones were expensive. It is estimated that only one of 10 000 mussels has a round pearl inside.

Mussels were overfished, though some of the fishermen opened only the oldest and curviest mussels that usually had a pearl inside. There were also other reasons for mussel population's collapse, like dam construction. In 1955 the species was protected in Finland. Nowadays in Finland freshwater pearls lives about in 70 rivers; in the beginning of 20th century there were at least 200 mussel rivers.

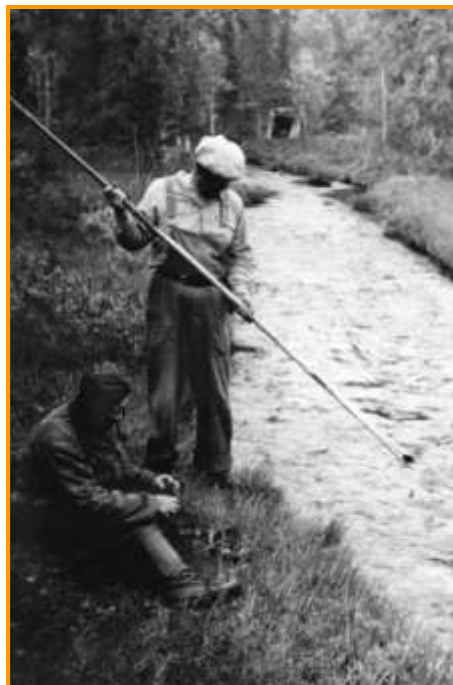
The exhibition tells about mussel fishing and animal's biology. The exhibition material is from the Hunting Museum of Finland. There are also some objects related to mussel fishing from Sodankylä Local History Museum. The most beautiful things in the exhibition are jewels that have real pearls from Lapland. The exhibition is open 1.2. - 30.9.2010.

Gold Prospector Museum proudly presents Gold Info

Gold prospector museum's new website has been just opened. The project is called Kultainfo – Gold Info, and it is funded by Finland's Ministry of Education. Project's aim is to renew museum's website and collect together information about gold, geology and gold prospecting among other things.

Now in the website visitor can sneak inside the museum and for example look photos from Outdoor Museum Area and Golden World. In the near future there is also coming new web exhibition Sauva-Aslak's Gold, which is based on same named changing exhibition. Welcome to our new website www.kultamuseo.fi, English version is coming soon!

Raija Hauta-aho
Curator, Gold Museum



Pear Fishing in Vuotso area 1953
Photo: GTK



The Friends of Lapland's Gold

The Friends of Lapland's Gold (Lapinkullan Ystävät ry) is a non-profit association in Finland established 1986 having nowadays over 500 members. Its aim is to cultivate a valuation of Lapland's gold and the tradition of gold panning.

During the years the association has supported the tradition of gold in many ways. One of the most remarkable projects has been a 3-meters high goldminer's monument placed in the yard of the Gold Museum. It honours the work of the old timers in gold fields of Lapland.

Past few years the association has concentrated in repairing and restoring the cabin of Iso-oja for the members which was bought in 2003. The cabin sits along the Gold Route some four kilometres north from Tankavaara. It was built already in the beginning of 1950s by the Finnish Forest and Park Service. In those days they cut down trees and clean up after war in the area and the cabin was as a base of the workmen. In 1960s the rangers of nature park lived there and soon it was rented to the occasional hikers and the following decades different associations rented it for the recreational use.

The size of cabin is some one hundred square metres and there are 'small side' with 6 beds in two rooms and 'big side' with 10 beds. Both sides include kitchen corner and beautiful fire place. In the yard there are sauna, woodshed, ecological latrines, well and fire place. In surroundings there are good possibilities for fishing, hiking and goldpanning.

In two years time the volunteer members of associa-

tion have done a huge work in restoring all the buildings in Iso-oja. They have given thousands of working hours and many associations, companies and individual people have donated construction material and even money for the project which was realized in very low budget. The cabin itself was totally pulled down and built again on the new base – everything was renovated inside and outside. Other buildings in the yard were far

and wide renovated and restored. Final result was impressive and the cabin is now very charming and cozy.

It took a lot of efforts from the voluntary workers who even paid the food, ac-



commodation and travelling costs by themselves, gave their tools and engines needed. It was a great testimony of power of voluntariness and goodwill and teamwork.

Reopening ceremonies of Iso-oja were celebrated with hundreds of members in August 2009 during the Goldpanning Finnish Open. Now Iso-oja cabin is rented mainly for the members in low-price but also to the other people if it's not used by the members. Also gold panners from abroad are welcomed to rent it. Further information: www.lky.fi

Pirjo Muotkajärvi

Photo: The reopening ceremonies of Iso-oja were celebrated in August 2009.



Snap shots of... THE 2009 NATIONAL GOLD PANNING CHAMPS

By Judith Mason

The annual SA National Gold Panning Championships were held over the first weekend in October 2009 and was, once again, a memorable event (please refer to page 8, for official results). On behalf of the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one who assisted in making this event a great success. The South African Gold Panning Association (SAGPA) and its various committees (and sub-committees) are to be commended for the hard work and dedication, which went into organizing the gold panning championships.

We present you with a gallery of pictures of the medal winners, as seven* of them have won flight tickets to Zlate Hory, Czech Republic, to represent South Africa at the World Gold Panning Championships in 2010.



Proficient Men



Junior Winner Martin Nsimba



Proficient Women



Hes Pringle, winner of Traditional pan



New WGA Pin

The new WGA pins will be on sale at this years championships.

Designed by our past President Vince Thurkettle

"I chose these colours most carefully, they are my favourites! The blue is not just water, but sky and health - there is something so special about this shade of blue. The gold speaks for itself; the tingling joy when this colour, bright, wet and almost alive, appears in your pan. The white is more difficult; purity, moonlight, arctic snows, it does represent the prospector's spirit in many ways. So, my choice explained!"



One mine, two campsites and lots of golden goodies

The BGA (British Goldpanning Association) visit to Scotgold's Cononish Gold Mine and panning weekend in Tyndrum – a report by Andrea Thompson

The chance to explore Cononish, the small mine near Tyndrum owned by Australian-funded mining



The Scotgold's Cononish Gold Mine

company, Scotgold Resources Ltd, proved extremely popular, with over 30 BGA members, friends and associates (including a delegation from the Museum of Lead Mining in Wanlockhead) turning up at The Green Welly Stop rendezvous point on the morning of September 18.

Several members had been camping and panning in Tyndrum in the week leading up to the visit, which BGA president John Hooper had arranged with Scotgold Resources Ltd chief executive, Chris Sangster.

Mr Sangster was particularly accommodating given the unexpectedly large size of the party, which was divided into smaller groups for guided tours of the mine.

Vince Thurkettle, former World Gold Panning Federation president, who'd made the Tyndrum trip en route to Wanlockhead, where he was running gold panning courses the following week, was among the first to go underground.

[Those of us who chose to walk the however-many-miles it was to the mine, rather than risk their sumps on the unforgiving track, arrived much later!]

He said: "Kitted out in wellies and mining lamps we slogged and stumbled into the adit for about 500 metres. Mr Sangster stopped a few times to brief us on minor veins and faulting. When we reached the main vein it became clear just what a complex ore body this is.

"The gold is fine and intimately associated with pyrites within the quartz vein. Apparently the richest area is the result of contact metamorphism where a basalt dike has run concurrent with the quartz vein. It was interesting that this particular enrichment seemed to be a random event. It's clearly evident that natural gold occurs over a wide area and it is quite probable that richer veins may yet be discovered. I picked up that the geology of the area was inordinately complicated with the whole area having been disturbed by a massive explosive brecciation event."

The visit also included the chance to explore the shed where hundreds of core samples are stored.

Those of us who'd just arrived in Tyndrum that day spent the afternoon recce-ing some potential gold 'hotspots' and a during a bit of impromptu panning with Vince, John H and local prospector and academic Jamie Shepherd, who was generous with his knowledge of the area, I'd managed to find a wee bit of colour.

It was a tale of two campsites when it came to setting up 'home' for the weekend, with half the contingent already settled in at the recommended Strathfillan Wigwams site and the rest at the recently re-opened Pinetrees Leisure Park. The Pinetrees' proximity to Paddy's Bar & Grill (Beer! Real food!) was the deciding factor for me –

though I first had to endure the embarrassment of revealing my £25-still-in-the-box-tent to the world – and that was before my efforts to erect it. There was much mocking of what was quickly dubbed 'the blister on the grass' but thanks to all who helped me get her up – and your top tips for buying a proper tent.



Jim Wallace & Jamie Shepherd—Tyndrum

The evening was spent with an enjoyable get together in Paddy's: good food, good beer, good craic, great company, good music and even some games of pool – everything you'd want from a fun Friday night with friends.

There was more good banter after closing time with a camp fire-style gathering round the smouldering embers of a disposable barbecue at the Pinetrees.

Saturday saw everyone head out in different groups to various locations for a day of serious panning.

John Hooper, Jim Wallace, fellow Cumbrian Rod ('Rod with the rope') Chilton and I converged on a picturesque spot with a backdrop of waterfalls. Jim earned the best bragging rights of our group that day (as well as the nickname, Banana Man) when the 2½ ft wide, 3ft deep spot he'd been working all afternoon yielded a couple of grams, including a small nugget and half-a-dozen pickers.

His collection compared favourably at the 'kitchen party' at the Wigwams on Saturday night where everyone gathered round scales and an impressive selection of spirits to show their gold, share the stories and sink a few drinks.

While rain was forecast for the Sunday, several of us took advantage of the fair weather the morning presented to hit the water for a final few hours' panning before heading

home.

Jim said: "It was a good weekend and everyone seemed to be picking up wee bits and bobs. Nobody went home empty handed."

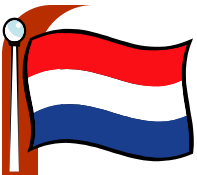
And while I've yet to find my first nugget, I was pleased with the flakes I found. It was my first BGA panning weekend and it was great to chat to and learn from members, hear their stories and experiences, and spend a thoroughly enjoyable weekend with wonderful people in beautiful surroundings.



John Hooper—Tyndrum

Thanks to all those who helped me, particularly those who took the time to advise and tutor me on panning techniques. And thanks again to John Hooper for organising the mine visit and weekend.

Andrea Thompson



Indoor goldpanning in the Netherlands

Our indoor panning weekend started on Friday 13th: a good date to start. I did not walk underneath ladders nor kicked some black cats crossing my way, so nothing could go wrong. Although the amount of gold found in the competition pan was nothing like a fairy tale. I was present around 20:00, while our president Frenk and his wife Mireille were busy decorating Dirk's Barn (Dirk owns a company with a barn and has hosted several indoor goldpanning competitions). All the decorations were retrieved from the attic in an attempt to pimp the barn. It looked great! Three troughs with ice-cold water were ready and the sand was patiently waiting to be washed. The entourage was great!



Indoor panning

There was a tour around the building showing the dormitory. We were sleeping altogether in a big room. Luckily I was there in time, so I could pick a nice mattress. After the tour we waited in the canteen with some drinks for the arrival of the die-hard goldpanners. That night we chatted over a beers and nibbles until it was time for some nightpanning. My last competition was the Belgium Championships, which was already half a year ago, so I needed some practice. I didn't do well in the categories where we used the fast pans nor in using the Klondike, but, surprise surprise, the batea was the better pan for me this time. Even though it was only the third time I had ever used it. Despite the gold, the cold water made us quickly go back to our beers and start a game of poker.

The next day, even more panners arrived. We waited for a while, but around ten everybody was ready for a walk in the Dunes around Schoorl (unpronounceable for non-dutch, so don't try) with our guide Marcel, who is both goldpanner and forester. We intended pan in original dune-stream, but unfortunately there was not enough water and we headed back after a two hour walk to do some more panning. Around 16:00 two Dutch guys struck by gold fever planned to give a presentation about their dream to emigrate to the Yukon territories and prospect for gold. They had already claimed the desired land and were seriously planning this adventure. Their presentation increased the yellow fever among us tremendously, so we panned some more competitions. Then stopped to enjoy very nice traditional Dutch dishes for dinner, and continued competition afterwards.



"The Dunes"

Around 20:15 the annual meeting of the Dutch Goldpanning Asso-

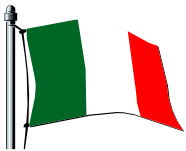
ciation started. Many subjects were discussed, but I think we have to check the minutes for the details. After the meeting there were plenty of beers and we even tried some soccer. Somebody (we don't mention who) had little control over the ball and damaged the score board (yet to be refunded) in such a way that the president raised his eyebrow into an awkward angle. And that means something! According to the Wild Western traditions we gambled the retrieved gold over a game of poker.

It was a very nice weekend and I would like to compliment the organisation and give special thanks to Dirk and Manuela Swager, who hosted again this indoor goldpanning event in their barn.



The Winners

Patrick van Duin
The Netherlands



Italian Championships 2009 – Biella 2009 part II

For years we had been looking forward to Biella 2009, the World Goldpanning Championships in Italy. Our Italian friends had promised us good food and good competition and both were very true. Since we had such a wonderful time at the World's, Sam and I (Esther) decided to return to Biella for the Italian Championships in October, so we could enjoy Italy again, only now in a more quiet time of year.

We stayed in a lovely bed and breakfast in the town of Ochieppo Superiore. And after a quick site seeing tour it was time to meet friends. This is what I love the most about goldpanning competitions: to meet both old and new friend in places that you never heard about or would never considered to visit if it were not for the goldpanning.

Competition started on Saturday and had many different categories. In addition to the Open, Traditional and Couples categories, there was a Biathlon in which the competitors had to pan two buckets using a Victimula Klondike type pan for one bucket and any other pan for the second bucket. It was nice to use the classic river gold pan as well as the flat competition pan in a single round of panning. In the 3-person team we tried with 3 ladies to beat our men. It was a competition within a competition and we got really exited, especially when we finished before the guys! However, they found slightly more gold than we did...

The most interesting event was the 5-member team competition. Unlike the WGA competition rules, 5 people had to pan 8 buckets using a panning pool the sizes of 3 standard pools and one single tube. Everything was allowed. It was a competition we had never seen before and it required real team work and a joined effort. The team captain had to communicate with all members to make sure the tube was at the right place at the right moment, and that is quit diffi-

cult if everybody speaks a different language! It was a nice experience and I would surely recommended it for use as a fun- or unofficial event at future world championships. The

final competition of this weekend was Italy against the rest of world. The 6 best Italians competed against a team of Finnish, Swedish and Dutch goldpanners in an event similar to the 5 member team competition. Of course, Italy won J

Many of the people who volunteered at the World Championships got a gold fever and competed themselves in the beginners category this time. Some practiced hard during the weekend. At the end of Sunday's competitions there was a special ceremony to again thank all the vol-

unteers who made the 2009 World Championships such a great experience!

Despite the fact that it was already October the weather was sunny and warm; perfect for goldpanning, which, according to the locals is very unusual in this time of year. We

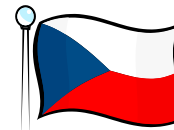


really enjoyed the weekend, the great food and the delicious tiramisu!

Golden greetings,

Esther van Diggelen
The Netherlands





World Championships in Goldpanning 2010, Zlaté Hory, Czech Republic

Hallo everybody,

This is a voice from Zlaté Hory, Czech Republic. We are deeply in preparations of the coming world championships, and we are doing our best to welcome you within few months.

We are happy to have an opportunity to give you some information on the place and programme in this issue.



On the excursions around Zlaté Hory

by Josef (Pepa) Večeřa, Zlaté Hory

The excursions organized within the Golden Week 2010 in Zlaté Hory („Golden Mountains“) are focused on the main historically exploited gold deposits in the Jeseníky Mts. The itinerary was prepared in cooperation with our Polish colleagues.

The first whole-day trip will be held on August 16, 2010. It will take you from the town of Zlaté Hory to the Polish territory, through the most important arsenic and gold ore deposit in the region – Zloty Stok. An underground trail to the historical mine (www.kopalniazlota.pl) is prepared for participants of the morning part of this excursion. An afternoon part will be situated to Glucholazy still in Poland just behind the state border, where a local mining trail and the Three Kings adit entrance with its history are waiting for you.

The second excursion (August 17) will guide you along the mining trail through medieval gold mines near the town of Jeseník, within 20 km from Zlaté Hory. Next two stops – the prehistoric mining fields near Suchá Rudná and the medieval claims near Vysoká are parts of the Andělská Hora „soft“ mining district located 25 km SE from Jeseník. The final part of the trip will show you various types of placers in the Opava River valley.

The Golden Week spare time will give us a chance to visit three education mining trails exploring the history of Zlaté Hory outskirts close to the competition centre. These half-day walking trips, both morning and afternoon, provide visitors with a glance over local hard-rocks and placer gold mines active from Middle Age to present days. For more information and details on excursion booking, please follow the web page www.goldpanning2010.cz. It should be noted that we have planned one bus capacity for the proposed whole day excursions, so please do not hesitate with booking.

V rámci MS v rýžování zlata, které se uskuteční 16. – 22. 8. 2010 ve Zlatých Horách, budou připraveny exkurze a výlety, po hlavních historicky těžných ložiskách zlata v Jeseníkách a blízkém okolí. První celodenní exkurze (16. 8. 2010) povede ze Zlatých Hor do nejvýznamnějšího ložiska arsenových a zlatých rud ve Zlotem Stoku (Polsko), kde navštíví účastníci podzemní trasu historickým dolem (www.kopalniazlota.pl). Další zastávkou budou Glucholazy (Polsko) s ústím štolý Tří králů a hornickou stezkou. Druhá celodenní exkurze (17. 8. 2010) zavede účastníky na středověké zlatodoly u Jeseníku. Další zastávkou bude Andělskohorský rudní revír s pozůstatky pravěkého dolování u Suché Rudné a středověkými důlními poli na Vysoké. Na závěr navštívíme různé typy rýžovišť v údolí řeky Opavy. V následujících dnech (18. a 19. 8. 2010) se uskuteční půldenní exkurze (dopoledne i odpoledne) po naučných hornických stezkách v okolí Zlatých Hor, tedy přímo v místě konání Mistrovství světa v rýžování zlata. Při těchto exkurzích uvidí účastníci pozůstatky po těžbě zlata na rýžovištích i v pevných horninách, od středověku po současnost. Blíže informace o chystaných exkurzích a možnostech přihlášení sledujte na www.goldpanning2010.cz.

Foto ZCH 488 – zlaté dobývky na Zlatém Chlumu
Vysoka2433 – středověké důlní pole (Vysoká)





LOCATION:

The competition site is located close to the town of Zlaté Hory, Jeseník County, Czech Republic. It can be found at GPS coordinates: 50°15'15"N, 17°22'00"E

INFORMATION ON THE MINERAL AND GOLD FAIR

The Mineral and Gold Fair will be held from Friday August 20 to Saturday 21. For any details contact please Mr. Vladimír Vranka (vranka@diamo.cz).

REGISTRATION

The registration closes on Tuesday, August 17 2010, at 10 p.m. at the place.

On-line registration for the competitions is strongly recommended. The page provides English, German and Czech versions. In other case please fill in the form as given below and send by snail mail or E-mail to

Mrs. Gabriela Kotasová

MIC ZLATÉ HORY

Address: Bezručova 144, 793 76 Zlaté Hory

Phone Number: + 420 584 425 397

E-mail: mic@zlatehory.cz

Registration on-line

Please open the web page of the championships Welcome to the registration for the 2010 World Goldpanning Championship, Zlaté Hory. Thanks to this system, you and your friends will be able to check in faster upon entry at the competition venue.

Before starting the process of registration (START button), please pay attention to the following. We highly recommend you to read the latest version of WGA Competition Rules and Guidance, which will be followed in the competitions. Let us remind you that the National Team consists of 5 competitors from one country; 3 + 2 competitors are not required any more. All the pans for the unofficial categories Classic pan (Klondike pan) and Classic pan (Batea pan) will be the same and will be lent by the organizing body on the spot. See Estwing (14") and Batea (50 cm) on the web page <http://kmsz.lin.cz/EN/Reg/>. No unofficial categories such as 'Amateurs' or 'Greenhorns' will be opened at this championship.

Concerning the registration form, please follow the instructions on the web page. When the registration form has been submitted, a comprehensive registration information package will be sent to the email address given in your registration form. Moreover, final results from all the competitions as well as links to photographs will be sent to the email address given in the registration form. Prices given in Euro are final and fixed, whereas prices in Czech Crowns mentioned in brackets may be modified as a result of the effects of the currency exchange-rate fluctuations. Based on the fulfilled form you will be provided with the registration number which should be used in all communication with us. Please print out the Registration Protocol and produce it in due time at the registration desk at the competition venue. Attendance checks for all official categories are concluded at 10 p.m. on Tuesday 17 August 2010!

Your admission is valid only when the participation fee has been paid. You can pay either in advance by money transfer or on the spot by cash. In case of payment in advance, please transfer money to our bank account:

name: Klub moravskoslezských zlatokopů, Velkopavlovická 12, Brno

number: 2023231329/0800 (IBAN: CZ29 0800 0000 0020 2323 1329)

bank: Česká spořitelna, a.s. (BIC/SWIFT: GIBACZPX)

Variable symbol: Please use your registration number as a variable symbol. If you omit the variable symbol, your payment will be difficult to find and identify.

Since the number of competitors in unofficial categories is limited, we recommend that you should not unnecessarily delay the payment and should pay as soon as possible. The payments received after all the competitor places available have been filled to capacity will be refused and refunded. For details please see up-to-date list of competitors and categories.

In case of problems or questions, please contact us on our e-mail address kmsz@post.cz or leave a message. We are looking forward to meeting you at the Zlaté Hory competition venue on 16 - 22 August 2010.

The WCH 2010 Organizing team

Registration Form structure (* - obligatory item)

Sex*: man woman

First Name*: Last Name*:

Date of Birth*:

Address:

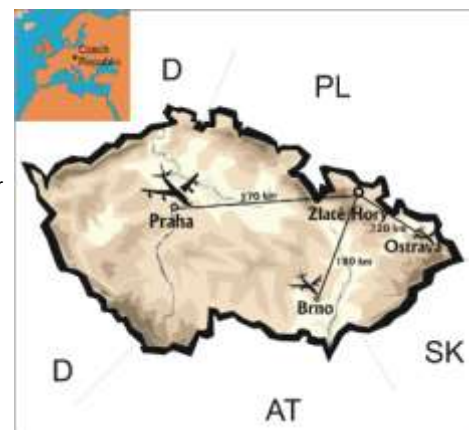
City*:Country*:

Telephone:E-mail:

Confirm*: I approve of processing my personal data for

the need of organizing the 2010 WorldGoldpanning Championship Zlaté Hory.

The personal data in registration form will be processed in accordance with the Act No. 101/2000 Coll., on protection of personal data as amended.



Official Competition

Men 25 € (625 Kč)

Women 25 € (625 Kč)

Veterans (60 and over) 25 € (625 Kč)

Juniors (under 16) 15 € (375 Kč)

The National Team 75 € (1875 Kč)

name of team

Optional Competition

Classic pan (Klondike pan) 20 € (500 Kč)

Classic pan (Batea pan) 20 € (500 Kč)

Children (under 12) 5 € (125 Kč)

Five-member Team 75 € (1875 Kč)

name of team

Three-member Team 45 € (1125 Kč)

name of team

Night Triplet 50 € (1250 Kč)

name of team

Night Tandem 35 € (875 Kč)

name of team

Program of the 2010 World Goldpanning Championship Zlaté Hory

Monday, 16 August 2010

9.00 a.m. Guided excursion to Zlotý stok (Poland). Applications should be sent by 1 August 2010 to josef.vecera@geology.cz
 From 6 p.m. Registration in the Municipal Information Centre in Zlaté Hory
 8.00 p.m. Official opening ceremony of the 2010 World Goldpanning Championship

Tuesday, 17 August 2010

From 9 a.m. Goldpanning school
 9.00 a.m. Guided excursion to gold deposits - Andelská Hora and its surrounding – Applications should be sent by 1 August 2010 to josef.vecera@geology.cz
 6.00 p.m. Goldpanners Parade from the meeting place to the town
 8.00 p.m. Music performance of the group Holátka
 10.00 p.m. End of registration for official categories

Wednesday, 18 August 2010

From 9 a.m. Goldpanning school
 From 9 a.m. Competitions in official categories: Men, Women, Juniors and Veterans - basic rounds
 9.00 a.m. Guided excursion along gold deposits - mining nature trail
 3.00 p.m.: Guided excursion along gold deposits - mining nature trail
 7.00 p.m. Music performance (Vagon/Kreni)
 8.30 p.m. Music performance of the group Campanula
 10.00 p.m. End of registration for Classic pan categories and Night goldpanning

Thursday, 19 August 2010

From 9 a.m. Goldpanning school
 From 9 a.m. Competitions in the categories: Men - eighth-finals, Classic pans (Clondike pan and Batea - basic rounds
 9.00 a.m. Guided excursion along the Údolí nature trail
 3.00 p.m. Guided excursion along the Údolí nature trail
 5.00 p.m. Annual General Meeting of WGA - Pension Rejvíz
 7.00 p.m. Music performance of the group Kelt Brass Band
 8.30 p.m. Music performance of the group Dobrá Poloha
 9.00 p.m. Competitions in Night goldpanning (Night Triplet and Night Tandem)
 10.00 p.m. End of registration for the children's category and Teams

Friday, 20 August 2010

From 9 a.m. Goldpanning school
 From 9 a.m. Competitions in the categories: Men - quarter-finals, Classic pans (Clondike pan and Batea pan) - quarter-finals, Five-member Teams - basic rounds, Women - quarter-finals, Three- member Teams - basic rounds
 7.00 p.m. Presentation of the 2011 World Goldpanning Championship by Poland
 8.00 p.m. Music performance of the country group from Ketrzyno (Poland)

Saturday, 21 August 2010

From 9 a.m. Goldpanning school
 From 9 a.m. Competitions in the categories: Men - semi-finals, Women - semi-finals, Veterans - semi-finals, Clondike pan - semi-finals, Batea pan – semi-finals, Children – basic rounds, Three-member Teams - semi-finals, Five-member Teams – finals, Three-member Teams - finals
 5.30 p.m. Award ceremony for the Three-member Teams, Five-member Teams, Night, Triplets and

Night Tandems

7.00 p.m.

Whip performance 7.30 p.m. Music performance of the group Holátka

9.00 p.m. Music performance of the group Rangers 10.30 p.m. Music performance of the group Žalman and comp.

Sunday, 22 August 2010

From 9 a.m. Goldpanning school
 From 9 a.m. Competitions in the categories: Children - finals, Clondike pan - finals, Batea pan - finals, National Teams - finals, Juniors - finals, Veterans - finals, Women - finals, Men - finals, Pan of the Zlaté Hory Mayor, VIP
 2.00 p.m. Award ceremony and Closing ceremony of the 2010 World Goldpanning Championship (passing on the WGA flag to the next organizer)

Accompanying program:

Exposition of photographs in the Municipality museum "History of goldpanning competitions in Zlaté Hory 1993–2010"
 Gold and Mineral Fair (date will be specified later)
 Guided or individual walking tours around mining educational trails
 Program subject to change!!!!

Dear Paul,
Please forward this message to our community

It is with great regret that we heard about Sammy Mapatlanyane's death. Sammy was always at the National Gold Panning events in South Africa and have attended several World Championships with the South African group, handling the communication section. He was the offices spokesperson for the department of Culture, Sport & Recreation in Nelspruit, Mpumalange South Africa.

Sammy was killed in a senseless attack In January

We will miss a great man.

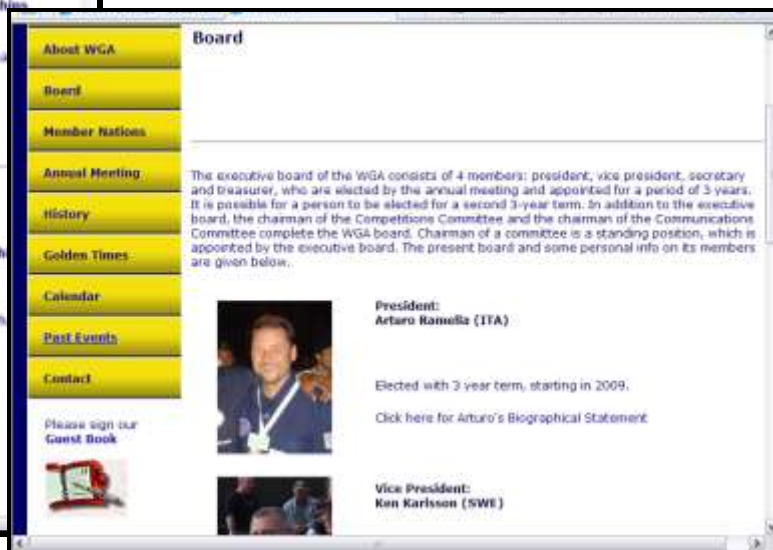
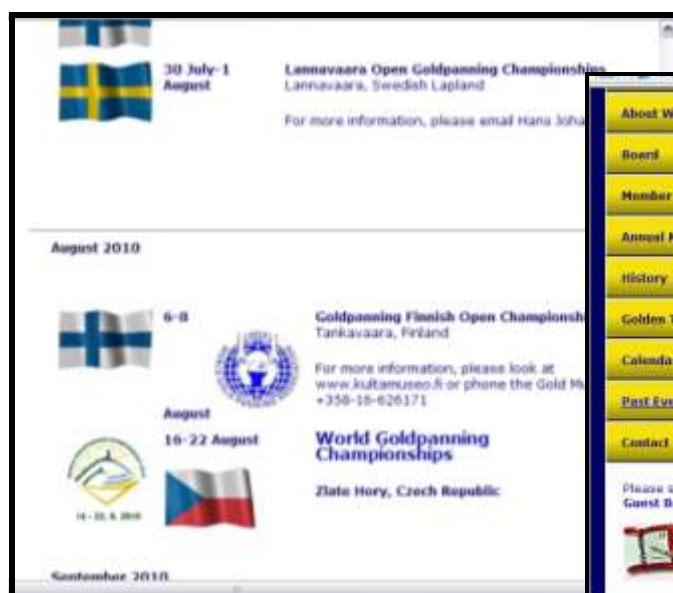
Christine



Sammy Mpatlanyane 1065—2010



For all information about the WGA visit our web site



Visit the WGA website

<http://www.w-g-a.org>

or

<http://www.worldgoldpanningassociation.org>