



World Transplant Games Federation

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Media Release New Leadership Team Now Complete

The President of the World Transplant Games Federation, Chris Thomas, today announced the appointment of Ms Liz Schick, a liver transplant recipient from Switzerland, to the Executive of the World Transplant Games Federation.

The position of Honorary Secretary became vacant with this month's appointment of Gary Green to the staff of the Federation. Mr Green commenced as Sports Manager on December 16.

"I am pleased to announce that at our December 15 Council meeting Ms Schick was unanimously voted on to the Executive as Honorary Secretary," Mr Thomas said.

"It might have taken to 2015 but I would also like to point out that this is the first time in the 30 year history of the Federation that a woman has been appointed to our Executive.

"As the new President we need to ensure diversity is at the heart of everything we do. And it is important that transplant recipients, the people for whom the World Transplant Games are conducted, have a strong say in our future. Ms Schick will ensure the transplant recipient voice is heard loud and clear."

Ms Schick said that it was in 1997 she went from being a healthy young mother without a worry in the world to being on the transplant waiting list.

"I could not imagine what life would be like post transplant. I have been competing in both the Summer and Winter Games since 2001. I had never competed in any sport before my transplant," Ms Schick said.

"Thanks to the encouragement of Dr Maurice Slapak, the WTGF Founder, I organised the first Nicolas Cup in 2001 and began working with transplant recipient children and promoting sport for transplant kids within the medical community in various countries. Over the years I have encouraged children from around the world to come to the Games and have had the privilege and delight of seeing them grow up and compete as adults.

"I feel honoured to be the first female transplant recipient athlete on the Executive Committee and to have the privilege of serving our transplant community and work with a wonderful group of people from around the world from all different sectors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for putting their faith in me in the role of Secretary. "



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Mr Thomas said the new leadership team was now complete with this appointment.

On the Executive are Chris Thomas as President, Colin White as Treasurer and Ms Schick as Secretary.

The staff team is now also in place: Ms Kim Renyard as Executive Manager, Mr Gary Green as Sports Manager and Ms Karen Cole as Administrator Coordinator.

“I would also like to note that Mr André Lassoij, a double lung transplant recipient from The Netherlands, was appointed Chair of the Federation’s Sports Committee at the December Council meeting,” Mr Thomas said.

“André is an inspirational athlete who has won many running open class events against non-recipients, he has led a group of recipients to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and he is passionate about the World Transplant Games.

“André is a great role model for all transplant recipients and will be a great Chair ensuring that our events meet everyone’s expectations.”

The Federation has three Standing Committees. Mr Lassoij heads up Sport while Dr Ka-Foon Chau from Hong Kong is Chair of the Medical Committee and Mr Willie Uys is Chair of the Governance Committee.

“We have a great team of 11 councillors and three staff working to ensure the next World Transplant Games in Malaga, Spain, are world-class. It has the potential to be the largest worldwide gathering of recipients in the history of transplantation.”

For further information please email chris.thomas@wtgf.org