



1. Platz Victor Francey, rechts, 3. Platz Steve Marro, links



3. Platz Maria Gilgen

## Dutch Open 2016

Am Samstag 11. Juni fanden in Sittard-Geleen in Holland die 14. Dutch Open Poomsae statt. Das siebenköpfige Team von SWISS Taekwondo reiste bereits am Freitag nach Holland, um sich so besser

auf das Turnier vorbereiten zu können. In der Kategorie Männer unter 30 Jahren starteten Steve Marro und Victor Francey und trafen im K.O.-System direkt aufeinander. Das bessere Wettkampfglück an diesem Tag

besaß Francey: Er erreichte einen hervorragenden 1. Platz, Marro belegte den 3. Platz. In die Medaillenränge kam auch Maria Gilgen bei den Frauen unter 50 Jahren, wo sie einen sehr guten 3. Platz belegte.

## Austria Open Poomsae 2016

Am Wochenende 18. und 19. Juni fanden in Wien die Austria Open Poomsae statt. Das 6-köpfige National Team von SWISS Taekwondo reiste unter Leitung des Technischen Direktors Mark Sandmeier in die österreichische Hauptstadt. Am Samstag

stand Maria Gilgen, 2. Dan WTF, im Einsatz und wollte den Erfolg von den Dutch Open in der Woche zuvor bestätigen. Dies gelang ihr auch: Im K.O.-System erreichte sie mit perfekten Läufen das Finale, auf dem Weg dorthin besiegte sie die amtierende

Weltmeisterin sowie die Europameisterin. Am Ende erkämpfte sie wieder einen hervorragenden 3. Platz, was einmal mehr ihre starken Leistungen bestätigte.



Das Team von SWISS Taekwondo in Wien, v.l.n.r.: Michel Heldner, Maria Gilgen, Laura Heldner, Sarina Zemp, Mike Gilgen, Celina Nim, Sebastian Coppex, Mark Sandmeier



## ETU European Taekwondo Championships in Montreux

**Résumé by Jean-Marie Ayer, President of the Organising Committee**

Montreux, Switzerland hosted the 22nd edition of the ETU European Taekwondo Championships between 19 and 23 May 2016. The town is situated on the beautiful Geneva Lake and provided an ideal and relaxed ambiance for the 600 Taekwondo athletes and officials participating in the final major event leading up to the Olympics Games in Rio. 41 of the 42 European athletes who will compete in Rio, as well as 10 former Olympic medallists brought some spectacular moments to the many spectators in

Montreux. 47 of the 50 Member National Associations (MNAIs) of the European Taekwondo Union (ETU) were present at the Salle Omnisports du Pierrier – setting a new record for these ETU European Taekwondo Championships.

### Prestigious in several respects

The opening ceremony, held on the evening of 19 May, was attended by the highest authorities of the town of Montreux and







the Canton of Vaud, representatives from various International Sport Federations based in Lausanne and members from the clubs of Swiss Taekwondo. The highlight of the evening was the dynamic and stylish performance from the WTF (World Taekwondo Federation) Demo Team, who came from Korea especially for the ceremony, and dazzled the entire audience, both young and old.

History was written by several athletes, notably: Servet Tazegul (TUR), two-time Olympic medallist in both London (2012) and Beijing (2008), who won his fifth consecutive European gold medal – joining Geremia DiConstanzo's (ITA) 1988 record, as the only two athletes to win 5 European Championship titles. Following three previously failed attempts, London Olympic

gold medallist Jade Jones (GBR) finally achieved her dream and reached the highest platform on the European Championships' podium.

As for Baku two years ago, the Championships were broadcasted live for only the second time in their history. A team of more than 18 people comprised the Host Broadcaster, responsible for broadcasting the finals each day across the whole of Europe and beyond. 9 TV channels broadcasted the event in live.

### A job well done

It is the first time in its history that Swiss Taekwondo has hosted such a prestigious event; a remarkable way for the federation to mark its 40th anniversary. The Montreux 2016 Organising Committee consisted of people from the Commune (District) of Montreux and the taekwondo community across Switzerland, the members were: Jean-Marie Ayer, former Secretary General of the WTF (President of the OC), Yves Depallens (Vice President), Abdenbi Amhand,

President of Swiss Taekwondo, Julian Chevalley, Pierre-Yves Brélaz, Driss El Maliki, Benito Sindaco, Catherine Buchet, Aurélie Margueron, Victoria Unt, Geneviève Brunner and Cyril Richemont. Last but not least, more than 70 volunteers from both Swiss Taekwondo, the Commune of Montreux and other countries provided their most invaluable support during the event. For us all, the words of the ETU President "I have heard nothing but praise from all who attended the Championships" are a memorable reward for a job well done. The success of these Championships will certainly encourage all in Switzerland to get involved in Taekwondo, allow us to continue the great work and prepare us for future contributions to the success of Taekwondo worldwide.

