



EUROPEAN CHAMPION
CLUBS CUP FOR JUNIORS



European Champion Clubs Cup in Track & Field – Juniors

Following on from the success of Raymond Demonceau in setting up the European Champion Clubs Cup in Track & Field for Senior Men, Joseph Xhaard, Dr Georges Mouton and Gilbert Evrard of RFC Liège in Belgium created an international track and field event for junior men in 1979, inviting the top junior clubs from the six countries of the then European Community. This event was called CJCE, the initials in French for 'Cup for the Young Athletes of the European Community'.

In 1984 the event got bigger. Clubs from all 32 European countries were invited through their national federations and in December 1985 an international committee was created. The first members were Dr Georges Mouton and Gilbert Evrard (both RFC Liège), Roger Simons (Shaftesbury Barnet Harriers of London) and Ben Nusse (AAC Amsterdam). The initial idea was that each of the founder clubs would organise the CJCE every third year at their venue.

Some years later the CEJF for junior women was created, as well as a combined international committee for this event with as members Henri Salavarda and Gilbert Evrard (President and Member of the International Board of RFC Liège), Jo Beaufile (President TA Rennes) and Eric Hughes (Team Manager of Sale Harriers). For some years the CJCE and CEJF followed their own separate paths.

In 1988 it was agreed that clubs from other countries could organise a CJCE event. The first one to do so was FC 05 Bayer Urdingen (GER). In 1991 Panellinos Athens put up a fantastic organisation, welcoming 17 nations and 22 clubs to the Olympic Stadium in Athens.

Thanks to the endorsement of European Athletics by including the events in the European Athletics calendar from 1992, the CJCE and CEJF became more and more popular. In 1992 the CJCE and CEJF international committees merged into one single body with as members Dr Georges Mouton, Gilbert Evrard, Roger Simons, Roy Sedoc, Eric Hughes and Jo Beaufile. In 1996 François Monteilhet from ESVNSE (Paris) and Salih Münir Yaras from Istanbul joined the committee, followed later by Edo Segal and Rudi Schön (sadly recently deceased), back then national coach for juniors from the German federation.

The CJCE became the 'European Champion Clubs Cup for Juniors Men & Women' with an increasing number of teams from the eastern part of Europe. The success story went on until 2001 when the event faced a lack of organisers. A big effort, with the great help of Sportnasola Gazela Maribor setting up the match in three weeks only, ensured that together with European Athletics Rennes the event could go ahead.

Since 2002 the ECCCJ has again run smoothly. Policy changes and the close collaboration with European Athletics through the Working Group for ECCC Affairs has turned the ECCCJ into a real Champion Clubs Cup, though without forgetting the spirit of the creators, namely bringing together young athletes from all over Europe in a spirit of competition and friendship.

For many years the ECCCJ Track & Field competition has been held in three Groups, this year being no exception with the A Group being held in Moscow (RUS), B Group in Tuzla (BIH) and C Group in Heusden-Zolder (BEL). The ECCCJ and European Athletics extend our grateful thanks to these three organisers for their promotion. This year will be the 31st edition from the original Men's competition held in Liege in 1979.

After 30 years in the post Georges Mouton, retired as President of the Organisation. The current ECCCJ Council is, Roger M Simons (GBR-President), Paul Zens (LUX-Secretary), Gilbert Evrard (BEL-Treasurer), Jo Beaufile (FRA), François Monteilhet (FRA), Edo Segal (SLO) and Salih Münir Yaras (TUR).