

whdf european cliff diving championship

**Gola del Lupo, Bignasco/Caverigno
Maggia Valley, Ticino, Switzerland
25 - 26 July 2008**

Since 1992 international cliff diving competition, such as Swiss Open Championships, European Championships and World Championships have taken place in the magic Maggia Valley. With its countless breathtakingly beautiful, natural swimming pools, often surrounded by steep granite cliffs, the Maggia Valley belongs to one of the most spectacular natural settings for cliff diving in the world. It's for the first time, that the European Cliff Diving Championship will take place in Bignasco/Caverigno, a tiny village located in the upper Maggia Valley, in the South of Switzerland. The diving place is called Gola del Lupo (wolfs throat). During the European Championships, the participants will dive heights up to 22 meters, performing aesthetic and acrobatic skills.

For the two Swiss Cliff Divers Andreas Marchetti and Andreas Hulliger and the German Christian Wurst, the European Cliff Diving Championship will be their last chance to qualify for the High Diving World Championship, which will take place 20th September 2008 in Coatzacoalcos in Mexico. Who places best, gets the last ticket.

What is Cliff Diving?

Cliff-Diving is the acrobatic perfection of diving into water from elevate heights. This sport demands tremendous physical and psychical fitness. After their launch from 22 meters, athletes have approx. 2.5 seconds to execute their dives before entering the water with more than 80 km/h.

Performing multiple somersaults with twists from capricious heights demands absolute body control, self-confidence, concentration and courage. To be a successful Cliff Diver, one must have at least ten years of experience as an Olympic diver (springboard or platform) or in a similar sport discipline. Cliff Divers must have perfected the ability to complete technical diving maneuvers before attempting jumps at elevated heights. The demanding nature of this sport might be one reason why only a limited number of around 200 athletes worldwide perform this extreme sport. Since Cliff Diving's establishment as an official sport discipline and with the WHDF's support for young talent, the number of active Cliff Divers is world wide increasing.

The history of Cliff Diving

Cliff Diving's birth place is on the tiny Hawaiian Island Lana'i. At the island's South Western point lies Kaunolu which was an inhabited village, but is now a sacred ruin place. Verified by documents are the first Cliff Dives from Kahekili, chief of four Islands, who "flew" from the 63 feet Cliffs at Kaunolu in 1770. To prove loyalty and courage, Kahekili forced his warriors to follow his example. Legends say that Kahekili, nicknamed "birdman", was flying from cliffs up to 400 feet (122 meters). Later, under King Kamehameha I, there were Cliff-Diving competitions held at Kaunolu. The Hawaiian expressions „lele kawa“ (diving without splash) and „lele pahu“ (diving with a lot of splash), testify to this past.

World High Diving Federation (WHDF)

The World High Diving Federation with head quarters in Avegno, TI, Switzerland is an independent international sport federation, founded in February 1996. Responsibilities of the WHDF include:

- presenting professional information about the sport of Cliff Diving / High Diving
- organizing and carrying out national and international competitions
- supporting and promoting new generations of divers, in co-operation with national Olympic Diving Federations
- WHDF is recognized by the Swiss Olympic Committee and is a member of ISF (International Sport Federations).

The European Cliff Diving Championship 2008

The athletes can dive from 18 or 22 meters height into the crystal clear, around 12 degree cold water of the Maggia river. The natural diving pool has an average water depth of around 13 meters. Big trout have this pool all for themselves, except for a few weeks during the summer months, when they must share their habitat with unusual guests. To hit any object, even a fish, while diving from such heights could have fatal consequences. That's an additional reason why the WHDF recommends that no diving from 20 meters or higher is attempted without rescue scuba divers. The WHDF's experienced organization establishes safety precautions, although accidents very rarely happen.

Competition Information:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Diving Heights: | 18 / 22 meters |
| Water Depth: | 8.5 meters |
| Participants: | max. 20 athletes (male + female) |
| Start List: | attached |
| Judges: | 5 Judges |
| Program: | July 25, 2008 free Training July 26, 2008 Competition Start at 11.30 am followed by award ceremonies |
| Regulation: | 3 different dives 1 compulsory round + 2 optional rounds all dives can be executed from the same height |
| Live Audience: | max. 200 persons per day |
| Entrance | free. WHDF declines any responsibility. |
| Safety precaution: | To enter this natural venue, good shoes are recommended; the trial to the diving site is not suitable for small children nor disabled persons. Dogs are not allowed. |
| Tourism Information | Ente Turistico Vallemaggia www.vallemaggia.ch |

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Start List

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Anna Bader | European Cliff Diving Champion 2005 + 2007 Ladies Category |
| Nationality: | Germany |
| Age: | 24 years |
| Hobby: | Cliff Diving, Travelling, Gymnastics, Reading |
| Magnus Dehli Vigeland | European Cliff Diving Champion 2007 |
| | 6. Rank World Cliff Diving Championship 2006 |
| Nationality: | Norway |
| Age: | 28 years |
| Hobby: | Classic Music, Bio Informatics, Athletics |
| Artem Silchenko | World Cliff Diving Champion 2006 |
| | 1st rank Chinese International Cliff Diving Competition 2006 |
| Nationality: | Russia |
| Age: | 24 |
| Hobby: | Diving |
| Oleg Vyshyvanov | 2nd Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007 |
| | 3rd rank Chinese International Cliff Diving Competition 2006 |
| Nationality: | Ukraine |
| Age: | 43 years |
| Hobby: | Diving, Cliff Diving |
| Michal Navratil | 3rd Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007 |
| Nationality: | Czech Republic |
| Age: | 23 years |
| Hobby: | Inline Skating, Swimming, Snowboarding |
| Andreas Marchetti | 6th Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007 |
| | European Cliff Diving Champion 2005 |
| Nationality: | Switzerland |
| Age: | 36 years |
| Hobby: | Martial Arts, Scuba Diving |
| Gunnar Bull-Berg | 7th Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007 |
| | 7th Rank World Cliff Diving Championship 2006 |
| Nationality: | Norway |
| Age: | 29 years |
| Hobby: | Sky Diving, Cliff Diving, Climbing |
| Christian Wurst | 8th Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007 |
| | 4th Rank China International Cliff Diving Competition 2006 |
| Nationality: | Germany |
| Age: | 37 years |
| Hobby: | Gymnastics, Trampoline, Cliff Diving |

Jimmi Andersen

Nationality:

Age:

Hobby:

9th Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007

Denmark

30 years

Mountain Biking, Gymnastics, Travelling

Andy Hulliger

Nationality:

Age:

Hobby:

12th Rank European Cliff Diving Championship 2007

European Junior Cliff Diving Champion 2001

Switzerland

23 years

Cliff Diving, Longboard Downhill, Music

Jakob Sievers

Nationality:

Age:

Hobby:

1st participation

Germany

27 years

Gymnastics, Diving

Judges

1 Frederic Weill

2 Carlos Ferra

3 Peter Rüedi

4 Andre Wulff

5 Mäge Frei

Head Judge, Switzerland

Mexico

Switzerland

Germany

Switzerland