



International Committee Electric Wheelchair Hockey  
(ICEWH)

An IWAS Sport

*The international Electric Wheelchair Hockey movement*

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# **Business Plan Electric Wheelchair Hockey 2006-2012**

***‘Rolling to London 2012’***

**International Committee of  
Electric Wheelchair Hockey  
(ICEWH)<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> ICEWH is a Sports Committee with a provisional status of the International Wheelchair & Amputees Sports Federation (IWAS)

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# 1. International Electric Wheelchair Hockey: where do we stand?

## 1.1 Why this business plan

The present business plan is a revision of the original business plan of the International Committee Electric Wheelchair Hockey (ICEWH<sup>2</sup>, 2002). In that document the long term vision, the aims and the steps to achieve these aims had been described in such way that it formed the basis for the commitment of countries, and for the founding of the ICEWH in April 2002.

The original business plan functioned as a guide for the fresh Executive Committee members. It proved to be a fairly good business plan, since many of the mentioned aims had been achieved in time, so the international development of Electric Wheelchair Hockey (EWH) proved to be as potential as was hoped. See paragraph 1.4 for an analysis of the 2002-2005 period. Despite achieving the set aims, in a process of building an international committee and bringing a sport to an international stage, the course of development sometimes takes its own route. These different routes result in new facts, and new opportunities, which require an integration into the planned strategies. After four years it is time to adapt the vision, aims and the necessary steps, to secure the international development of a great sport for athletes with a severe disability.

Therefore that business plan is now revised. This document describes the pre-ICEWH years, evaluates the ICEWH years (2002-2005), and sketches the near future (2006-2012).

In the first chapter we will offer a historical review of the sport and a definition of the target group. Then an analysis of the period 2002-2005 is given. In chapter 2, the required action points are discussed.

## 1.3 The origin of Electric Wheelchair Hockey and the athletes

EWH in Europe emerged by accident. In the early seventies of the twentieth century in the Netherlands, a few schools for disabled pupils start giving sports lessons mainly for severely physically handicapped children. Because of the limited possibilities of the children, mainly due to restricted muscle strength, a game is chosen in which they use a hockey stick and a hockey ball of light material. Because of the great similarity with hockey, the same name is used and the word "wheelchair" is added. Later on, the word "electric" is added to indicate that participants make use of an electric wheelchair.

The past shows that this new sport answers the need of many severely handicapped people. For example, in December 1978 and 1979 two pilot-tournaments are held in the Netherlands, in 1981 the national league is started and in 1982 May 26<sup>th</sup>, the first national championship is organised. Besides this development in the Netherlands, contacts with Germany resulted in playing EWH in this country as well. After this also other European countries came in contact with the game and started playing. In Canada people in electric wheelchairs started playing EWH in the way of PowerHockey from 1979 and also in Australia they started playing a game of EWH.

### 1.2.1 Who were allowed to practice EWH?

It seems that people with a muscle-dystrophy and spastics could participate for the first time in a team sport. Despite the sceptic attitude of medical people (body-exercise could negatively influence the patients' physical condition) they showed that practising this sport stimulates ones self-esteem and because of that it causes a positive effect to the players. This discussion had lead to the fact that EWH is not used for rehabilitation and nowadays it is accepted as a real sport by national and international sports organizations.

### 1.2.2 The current athletes: players eligibility

In 2005 the most recent criteria for athletes had been tried out. The ICEWH had established this set of criteria (players eligibility), and during the European Championships EWH in Rome a medical committee assessed and evaluated these criteria. In 2006 their evaluation is expected.

The current criteria can be summarized as follows. In words, athletes who are not able to participate in a team sport in another way than in an electric wheelchair are allowed to participate in EWH. To objectify this general rule, a minimal disability has been defined. Athletes meeting the criteria will receive a certificate which is required to enter any ICEWH competition.

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<sup>2</sup> From 2002 until 2004 the ICEWH was named as the Committee International Federation (CIF)

#### **1.4 International development 1987-2001 (pre-ICEWH years)**

Let's take a step back to the beginning of the international EWH development. It was Germany who organised the first international tournament for club teams (1987). Munich hereby took the first international step and this tournament became a tradition which is continued to this day. After the Munich Animals, Ladenburg (Germany) followed in 1988, after which the Stick Drivers (1989) organised a tournament in Arnhem (the Netherlands). Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands itself took part.

In 1990 the World Games for Disabled took place in Assen (the Netherlands). This event gave EWH the honour to play a demonstration with a national team on an international event. Despite high expectations that this tournament would cause an international breakthrough this was not the case. It is true that on club level one had international contacts (amongst in Brisbane (Australia) 1991, Horsens (Denmark) 1992, Erlangen (Germany) 1993, Munich (Germany) 1987-2001, Ladenburg (Germany) 1988, 1990, 1993, 1999, Tilburg (the Netherlands) 1992, Neubrandenburg (Germany) 1993, 1994, 1995, and Gallen (Switzerland) 1994) and did the Dutch EWH team play an international match against the national team of Germany (1991), but all these activities hardly caused further international development. More recently, three international tournaments took place in the Netherlands: Tilburg (1997), Leiderdorp (1997) and Eindhoven (2000). In 1998 an EWH Tournament was held for the first time in Italy (Milan). This illustrates that an increasing number of international events took place and still take place.

In 1998 an impulse was given to the international EWH sport. The first World Games for EWH took place in the Netherlands (Utrecht), officially approved by the Dutch National Organisation of Adapted Sports. Ten national teams took part. Finland took the initiative to organise an international meeting during this event. Several agreements were made concerning further international development, but unfortunately nobody fulfilled their pledges. But the good thing was that they initiated the writing of a draft international game rules EWH. Finally a big international PowerHockey tournament for any team was held in Minneapolis (USA) in August 2001 (11 teams from 6 different countries). Both Finland and Germany indicated that they were willing to organise the second World Games for national teams, but because of organisational obstacles such international event has not taken place till 2004.

## 1.4 The ICEWH years: 2002-2005

### 1.4.1 Faces of the ICEWH

In 2000 the Dutch Committee International EWH (DCIEWH) was formed. In 2001 the DCIEWH drafted the business plan, which formed the basis for the gathering of five countries in April 2002: the Spanbroek meetings. Here the ICEWH was founded.

In 2002 the first Executive Committee was installed. In the passing years, some changes took place (Table 1). The ICEWH Executive Committee manages several subcommittees. The members and the tasks of these subcommittees are presented in Table 2. This table clearly demonstrates the need for more active volunteers.

**Table 1**  
**ICEWH Executive Committee Members 2002-2005**

<i>Function</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Country</i>
<i>2002-2004</i>		
Co-chairman	Sander Hilberink	Netherlands
Co-chairman	Miro Reijonen	Finland
Member at large	Antonio Spinelli	Italy
<i>June – November 2004</i>		
Co-chairman	Sander Hilberink	Netherlands
Co-chairman	Miro Reijonen	Finland
Secretary	Kenny Verbraekel	Belgium
Member at large	Antonio Spinelli	Italy
Member at large	Rick Suffield	Australia
<i>November 2004 – June 2005</i>		
Chairman	Sander Hilberink	Netherlands
Vice-chairman	Miro Reijonen	Finland
Secretary	Kenny Verbraekel	Belgium
Member at large	Antonio Spinelli	Italy
Member at large	Rick Suffield	Australia
<i>June 2005 – present</i>		
Chairman	Bruce Ashby	United Kingdom
Vice-chairman	Miro Reijonen	Finland
Secretary	Kenny Verbraekel	Belgium
Member at large	Anja Wouters	Netherlands

**Table 2**  
**Members and tasks of the ICEWH Subcommittees (December 2005)**

<i>Members</i>	<i>Main tasks</i>
<p><i>Developmental Committee</i>  Chairman: Anja Wouters (Netherlands)  Vacant  Vacant</p>	<p>Establishing development plans, assessing and monitoring international development, offering support to nations, developing internal regulations.</p>
<p><i>Media Committee</i>  Chairman: Miro Reijonen (Finland)  Juan Montalva (Spain)  Kenny Verbraekel (Belgium)  Petr Alina (Czech)  Dorte Berenth (Denmark)</p>	<p>PR releases, website development and up dating, data infrastructure, publication of handbooks, managing press during events.</p>
<p><i>Technical Committee (governing 4 Commissions)</i></p>	
<p><i>Regulations Commission</i>  Chairman: Anja Wouters (Netherlands)  Riccardo Rutigliano (Italy)  Kenny Verbraekel (Belgium)</p>	<p>Refining Game Rules, Competition Regulations and Organizers Regulations.</p>
<p><i>Equipment Commission</i>  Chairman: Vacant  Vacant  Vacant</p>	<p>Establishing appropriate equipment protocols/checklists, controlling techniques, developing standardization of equipment and gathering information of EWH materials for publication.</p>
<p><i>Referee Commission</i>  Chairman: Matti Huhtala (Finland)  Joost Bazelmans (Netherlands)  Vacant</p>	<p>Organizing and reporting referee meetings, establishing educational referee programmes, developing referee handbook, controlling materials during competition, developing certification of referees.</p>
<p><i>Jury Commission</i>  Chairman: Dorte Berenth (Denmark)  Vacant  Vacant</p>	<p>Appointing, scheduling and supervising referees for competitions, establishing a referee and jury register and educational programme, certificating referees.</p>
<p><i>Medical Committee</i>  Chairman: Daan Eenkhoorn (Netherlands)  Denis Jaeken (Belgium)  Miro Reijonen (Finland)  Dorte Berenth (Denmark)</p>	<p>Refining players eligibility, accrediting of classification, promoting sports science in EWH, supervises anti doping policy, establishing educational classifiers programmes.</p>
<p><i>Athlete Committee</i>  Chairman: Vacant  Vacant  Vacant</p>	<p>Safeguarding the interests of EWH athletes.</p>

### 1.4.2 Production

Between 2002-2005 the ICEWH established several documents, which are the foundation of the international sport. This production is listed in Table 3. As soon as the new ICEWH website is online ([www.icewh.org](http://www.icewh.org)), these documents can be downloaded.

**Table 3**  
**List of the main official documents (restricted to latest versions)**

<i>Document</i>	<i>Year</i>
Minutes 1 <sup>st</sup> SA*	2002
Minutes 2 <sup>nd</sup> SA	2003
Minutes 3 <sup>rd</sup> SA	2003
Minutes 4 <sup>th</sup> SA	2004
Minutes 5 <sup>th</sup> SA	2004
Minutes 6 <sup>th</sup> SA	2005
ICEWH Game Rules	2005
ICEWH Competition Regulations	2005
ICEWH Organizers Regulations	2005
ICEWH Internal Regulations	2005
ICEWH Organizational Structure and profiles	2005
ICEWH Tasks and duties ICEWH Executive Committee and committees	2005
ICEWH Questionnaire	2005
ICEWH Requisites and tasks of the Jury	2005
ICEWH Judge form referees	2005
ICEWH Players Eligibility and Classification	2005
ICEWH Competition Checklists (players and equipment)	2005
ICEWH Match form, protest form and penalty stroke form	2005
ICEWH Competition Statistics	2005
ICEWH Business Plan 2005 – Founding the Progression	2005
ICEWH Business Plan Development Event 2006	2005
ICEWH Promotion leaflet	2005
ICEWH Promotion video	2005
ICEWH Trainers and Coaches Handbook	In preparation

\* SA = Sports Assembly

### 1.4.3 Events

#### 1.4.3.1 Sports Assemblies

Between April 2002 and December 2005, the ICEWH had organised six Sports Assemblies (named as Conferences until 2004) in five different countries. The total number of participating countries in the Sports Assemblies increased from five to ten (Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and Australia). Those countries were present once or more times and represented by one or two persons at the time (Table 4).

#### 1.4.3.2 Competitions

In the 2002-2005 period a total of four tournaments have been held. Two Four Countries Tournaments were held (The Netherlands 2002, Belgium 2003), one World Championships (Finland 2004) and one European Championships (Italy 2005).

Apart from the events organized under responsibility of the ICEWH, a large amount of international tournaments for club teams were held. PowerHockey Cup in 2004 in Minneapolis, U.S.A.. Zurich (Switzerland) organized two tournaments (2002, 2004). In Germany several tournaments took place between 2002-2005.

**Table 4**  
**Sports Assemblies 2002-2005**

<i>Year and month</i>	<i>Country and place</i>	<i>Participating countries</i>
2002 April	Netherlands, Spanbroek	Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Belgium (5)
2003 February	Finland, Helsinki	Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Spain (5)
2003 October	Belgium, Gentbrugge	Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland (7)
2004 June	Finland, Helsinki	Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Australia (8)
2004 November	Spain, Liria	Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, (8)
2005 June	Italy, Rome	Finland, Italy, Netherlands, Czech Republic, Belgium, Germany, Denmark (7)

#### *1.4.3.3 The philosophy of Development Events*

Apart from the competition, ICEWH wants to organize so-called Development Events. Here emphasis lies on the education of athletes, trainers/coaches and referees. The initiative for the first Development Event was taken in 2004; the first edition was scheduled for 2006.

This investment in the future is especially aimed at countries where EWH is not a widely known sport yet. The ICEWH acknowledges the importance of stimulating and encouraging further growth. For this reason, the ICEWH decided in 2004 that encouraging development should be an important aspect of ICEWH policy. In 2005 the ICEWH published a business plan which outlined the aims and activities to encourage this development. By organizing so-called Development Events, countries where EWH is not practiced yet or not widely are invited to join with some athletes and trainers/coaches. Both groups then shall receive training and will learn from the experience. Moreover, the contacts with other nationalities function as major motivator to develop the sport in their own countries. Furthermore, Development Events can also be used for education of officials. Apart from the educational aim, participating countries should feel a sense of belonging; feeling part of the international EWH movement. Table 5 provides an overview of worldwide EWH activity.

When the participants go home, follow-up is needed to assist with developing EWH in the various countries. These countries deserve support in: 1) setting up EWH teams, 2) setting up EWH tournaments, and 3) setting up EWH competitions. Countries are able to receive support by means of the ICEWH promotional package, and via IWAS secretariat or Regional Offices. (IWAS Regional Offices are aimed at support of regional activities of IWAS sports. They operate mainly independently, but are in close contact with the IWAS secretariat). This strategy shall result in an increasing number of countries where EWH is practiced, who in turn can contribute to the international development of the sport.

Each Development Event should result in an increased number of EWH practicing nations. This increased number is defined as a minimum of three new countries showing EWH activity one year after the Development Event took place.

**Table 5**  
**Worldwide EWH activity and current development status (2005)**

<i>EWH Competitions with National Championships</i>	<i>EWH Tournaments</i>	<i>EWH Teams</i>	<i>Showed interest in EWH</i>
Netherlands Italy Finland Belgium Germany	Denmark Spain Switzerland	Australia Czech Republic Estonia Slovenia	New Zealand South-Africa Iran Iraq Korea Argentina Sweden

#### 1.4.4 *Electric Wheelchair Hockey in countries*

In 2003 the ICEWH started with sending questionnaires to all NPCs/NOSDs in the world. The objective of this data collection is: 1) to monitor the international development of EWH, 2) to provide figures to IWAS and IPC to objectify the status of EWH, and 3) to be able to provide support that is tailored to that specific country. The last questionnaires were returned in 2005. A few numbers of the 13 countries that practice EWH are shown in Box 1. Although EWH is a mixed sport, more efforts are required to attract females. However, looking at the great proportion of young athletes, EWH shows great potential for the future.

- *Of 10 countries data is available*
  - o *8 countries have regular competitions (leagues and/or tournaments)*
    - *50% more than 15 teams included*
    - *25% with 25-50 athletes*
    - *25% with 51-100 athletes*
    - *25% with > 100 athletes*
- *Of 5 countries we have athletes' characteristics*
  - o *16% female athletes*
  - o *72% < 25 years old*
  - o *22% 26-40 years old*

#### 1.4.5 *Federation or Sports Committee?*

In the original business plan it was planned that EWH would get an official legal body in 2005, the IFEWH. The idea was that an own federation would mean that EWH formed part of the network of the international adapted sports, allowing EWH to present itself on a wide stage. However, in 2004 it became clear that both the ICEWH did not have reached sufficient growth to manage an entire federation without any larger context than this organisation. Moreover, much more emphasis was needed for the development of the ICEWH and EWH. One logical step was to integrate EWH within an already existing infrastructure. After approval from the Sports Assembly in June 2004, the ICEWH contacted the International Wheelchair & Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS). The contacts between ICEWH and IWAS were really constructive, resulting in a meeting in October 2004 where several agreements were made. In the following months the preparations were made so that in June 2005 the ICEWH and IWAS could sign an agreement of sports committee with provisional status. This was reinforced by the IWAS General Assembly in September 2005. This all means that the ICEWH functions as a sports committee of IWAS, with IWAS being the legal body. By acting within the network and events of IWAS, the ICEWH is assured to have a stage where EWH can be demonstrated and to receive qualitatively good support. The long term aim is to establish the IFEWH, however, no steps will be taken to do so before the year 2012.

#### *1.4.6 How to become a professional organization?*

As noted in 1.4.5, the ICEWH needed to invest in its own development, which in fact was the reason to form the alliance with IWAS. In 2004 an analysis was made of the current situation. The ICEWH signalled difficulties to open new doors in existing organizations. This hardly can be a surprise: the ICEWH is managed by hardworking and good willing people stemming from the basis of EWH. If one wants to gain influence on other countries, experienced men and women are needed with an existing network in the international world of adapted sports. This analysis was shared by the member nations, meaning the start of the recruitment for these "professional" Executive Committee members. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that these members are found. In June 2005, the new chairman was elected (Bruce Ashby), and he went home with the mandate to fill the Executive Committee.

These new Executive Committee members have the potential to lift EWH to the Paralympic status. Hence, much efforts are required to find qualified new members.

### **1.5 Vision for 2012**

The business plan 2002 worked towards the Paralympic status of EWH. The described steps were means to contribute to that aim. Since it is realistic to say that acquiring this status in 2012 is not likely to happen, a new scenery of ambitions is needed. In this paragraph, this new vision is outlined, integrating some recent developments in IPC.

First it is important to state that the ICEWH still holds the ambition to acquire a Paralympic status for the sport. Nevertheless is recognized that the road towards the Paralympic Games may be a bit longer than firstly was hoped. However, since IPC reinitiated the opportunities to programme demonstration sports during the Games, the ICEWH is determined to successfully apply for this in 2012. This can be seen as end goal of the present plan.

Now, a vision is needed that provides a framework for achieving this goal. We feel that there are two main aspects for this vision: 1) development of ICEWH and expanding the international network and 2) development of the sport.

#### *1.5.1 Development of the ICEWH and international network*

It is in the interest of EWH to have a solid, strong, professional and influential sports committee. The ICEWH should be capable to manage the development of the sport, and should have a good reputation in order to act as a reliable partner in the international sport organizations. Because the ICEWH represents a new group of athletes (athletes with a severe disability) which sometimes need different facilities than one is used to, the sports committee should make use of active working methods. Or to put it short: ICEWH should stand for "professional", "reliable", and "progressive". It is clear that Executive Committee members match with this profile. The recruitment procedure should be intensified; in paragraph 2.2.1.1 some relevant steps will be discussed. A new Executive Committee should be installed in 2006, facing a delay again might harm the current position of the ICEWH and EWH as sport.

Executive Committee members have the responsibility to lead the ICEWH. However, just as important is to maintain contacts with relevant organisations (e.g., IPC, IWAS, NPCs and NOSDs) and individuals. This is important at an informational level, but also on an influential level. For example, in 2006 the new IPC standing committee Athletes with a severe disability was installed. This standing committee is dealing with the question how to involve the more severely disabled athletes in the IPC programme. ICEWH should prove itself as a reliable and useful partner, this shall contribute to the image of EWH, which then contributes to the development.

#### *1.5.2 Development of EWH*

An ICEWH Executive Committee is the means to achieve worldwide development of EWH. By development we refer to several aspects. Regarding countries, "EWH development" refers to a growing number of countries where: 1) EWH is practiced, 2) EWH competitions are regularly organized, 3) EWH national championships are regularly organized, 4) an EWH national team is formed. In any case, the country takes part in ICEWH Sports Assemblies.

Another level of development is education of EWH officials. These include: 1) referees, 2) jury members, 3) classifiers and 4) time keepers and score keepers. Investment in these officials is necessary for running high quality competitions. Moreover, education shall lead to an increased involvement of these officials in the international EWH movement. And even importantly, international educated officials can apply their knowledge in their own country, thus supporting national development as well.

To encourage these two aspects of development, ICEWH should offer a variety of activities. First of all it is important to organize elite international competitions on a regular basis. This allows elite athletes

to practice EWH on the highest level. Besides that, less developed countries need to be attracted. Therefore the ICEWH initiated the so-called Development Events. In these events, athletes, trainers/coaches and referees from less developed countries are invited to join this event. Here they can be trained by experienced trainers and referees, and they can practice in a tournament. The trainers/coaches and referees receive education and assistance while they give a training to the athletes or are whistling a match. Of course they will get the educational material on paper. During these events, other educational programmes can be organized as well as for officials. It is important to hold in mind that education does not stop when the event is over. If ICEWH really wants to encourage and support new programmes, a follow-up strategy should be added. This latter is crucial in the effectiveness of development programmes.

## **1.6 Finally**

After this introduction we shall deal with the planning of these steps in detail. Regarding the final objective, annual activities will be planned and/or decisions will have to be taken which are essential for achieving the earlier mentioned major goal. The credo is development, and with the planned activities described in the next chapter, we feel that we have taken this seriously.

## 2. Aims and activities 2006-2012

### 2.1 Framework and activities

If one wants to be in the spotlight during the Paralympic Games in 2012, the ICEWH should plan its steps carefully and objectify the aims that contribute to the presence in London in 2012. In this section, we will clarify the mentioned activities in order to achieve the goals (see Table 6). As described in the introduction of the planning of these steps they will be set up chronologically. We start in 2006 and finish in 2012. Each year a number of international activities will take place.

**Table 6**  
**Planned activities towards London 2012**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Activities</i>
2006	SA7 DE1 Installing ICEWH Executive Committee and Subcommittees Publishing trainers handbook Publishing new ICEWH website
2007	SA8  Elections ICEWH Executive Committee IWAS WG (WC2) Attending GA IWAS Reaching full IWAS status  Promotional package
2008	SA9 RC2 ICEWH delegation Paralympics (Beijing)
2009	SA10 IWAS WG Attending GA IWAS Preparations London 2012
2010	SA11 DE2 Preparations London 2012
2011	SA12 Elections ICEWH Executive Committee  IWAS WG (WC3) Attending GA IWAS Preparations London 2012
2012	SA13 RC3 Demonstration Sport London 2012

SA: Sports Assembly ICEWH  
DE: Development Event EWH  
WC: World Championships EWH  
RC: Regional Championships EWH  
WG: World Games IWAS

### 2.2 Moving towards London 2012

In table 4 the most important targets are listed. These targets are not stand-alone targets; they are conditional for being present in London 2012. In the remainder of this business plan, these steps are explained and elaborated.

## 2.2.1 2006

### 2.2.1.1 Organisation

One of the major challenges for this year is to install a full ICEWH Executive Committee with candidates that fulfil the requirements. However, to achieve this, much efforts are needed. The chairman received the mandate to take the lead in this matter, but some additional support might be needed to increase the chance to success. Among other initiatives, the following steps are advised. Firstly, ICEWH should make concrete agreements with the IWAS, where the exact role of the IWAS becomes clear. These agreements should be in concordance with ICEWH visions on the organisational structure. These agreements need to be translated into action points: a strategy to recruit candidates and support in realizing the needed documents to reach a full IWAS status in 2007. The (new) Executive Committee members shall be installed during the Sports Assembly 2006 for a one year period, because the first official elections will be held in 2007, the year of the World Championships, to run into a regular four year cycle.

The past has shown that it is extremely difficult obtaining finances. EWH does not have an IPC status, which is the main barrier to successfully apply for IPC grants. Moreover, despite intentions, ICEWH failed thus far to establish a firm marketing and fundraising plan. It is necessary to install a Financial Officer in the ICEWH Executive Committee who can initiate this.

### 2.2.1.2 Events

The seventh Sports Assembly is needed to ensure the progress of the international development. One of the foundations of forming an organisation is that the involved people feel part of that organisation. Apart from the opportunity to discuss documents and to set up policies, this human element and its importance for ICEWH may not be underestimated.

The Sports Assembly as event cannot be seen separately from the Development Event that has been planned for this year. This event was initiated in 2004, but no finances has been found to date. Nevertheless, the ICEWH wants the Development Event to take place this year. Firstly, because it is the embodied priority of ICEWH policy, thus encouraging and supporting athletes, trainers/coaches and officials to develop themselves and their country. If one wants to do something for countries with no or little EWH experience, waiting is no option. The next chance will be in 2010, so three important years would be lost. In the earlier mentioned meeting with IWAS, these points should be addressed, followed by concrete actions. An Organising Committee should be formed. The involved Committees should contribute to this event by providing the educational programmes. Apart from the financial part, communication with the nations is needed to inform them about the current status. This requires some urgency. The set objectives for the period 2006-2012 should be incorporated into the plans for Development Events. In addition to the isolated event, a follow-up strategy needs to be developed to facilitate national development.

### 2.2.1.3 Other things requiring attention

A more practical aim is to publish "Principles of Electric Wheelchair Hockey" in 2006. This is a handbook mainly for trainers and coaches. The content covers all the techniques and basic tactics of EWH. The ICEWH considers the book to be an important instrument in the development strategy. Contours of a new website saw light in 2004, but technical problems slowed down the uploading of the final product. A professional website is the face of an organisation, therefore the current barriers should be eliminated. Next to the structure and graphical context, the text of the site should be complete, up to date and attractive.

Two major events are scheduled for the next two years: the World Championships (during the IWAS World Games 2007) and the Regional Championships in 2008. For the first event, an Organizing Committee should be formed very rapidly, in order to comply with ICEWH/IWAS regulations and timetables. For the Regional Championships, the preparations should be initiated.

## 2.2.2 2007

### 2.2.2.1 Organisation

For 2007 the ICEWH Executive Committee should make real progress in improving the financial position. It's important to have sufficient financial basis to develop the necessary activities. But also the first official elections of the ICEWH Executive Committee can be seen as sign of maturity. These elections should be carefully prepared. The Executive Committee members should be installed during the Sports Assembly 2007 for a four years period and shall give direction to the subcommittees and execute a firm policy towards growth. At the end of 2007 a full IWAS status should be reached. All needed documents shall be ready and approved by the IWAS. The ICEWH Executive Committee starts the preparations for visiting the Paralympics 2008 in Beijing, where it shall advocate EWH. Moreover, the Executive Committee is represented in the General Assembly of the IWAS. Here it must be proven that EWH had made significant steps since the General Assembly in 2005. The Executive Committee is responsible to find enough capable persons for the several committees. Without these committees, ICEWH cannot guarantee to offer support and achieving its aims.

### 2.2.2.2 Events

During the IWAS World Games the second World Championships shall be held (WC2007), in combination with the eighth ICEWH Sports Assembly. During the WC2007 much attention is given to the education of officials. The revised criteria of Players Eligibility will be applied, controlled by ICEWH Classifiers. The ICEWH also attends the IWAS General Assembly. The Executive Committee guards the preparations of the Regional Championships 2008 (RC2008) and the World Championships in 2009 (WC2009).

### 2.2.2.3 Other things requiring attention

Among other things, two activities need special attention: 1) the promotional package, and 2) the questionnaire. The development of the promotional package was already put forward in the business plan 2005. This package aims at countries to encourage and support development of EWH in countries where this sport is not practiced (widely) yet. Apart from a trainers handbook and a set of the Rules and Regulations of EWH, the package contains leaflets, DVD and other materials. This package needs to be finished and become available for anyone who needs it. The second point to address is gathering new data on international development of EWH. This is needed to monitor the trends of growth. Therefore, the biannual questionnaire shall be sent in the beginning of 2007, data shall be presented at the IWAS General Assembly.

## 2.2.3 2008

### 2.2.3.1 Organisation

By now, the Executive Committee manages the several committees smoothly, where the committees prove themselves to be able to work efficiently and towards objectives. There are no vacant places left in the committees.

The Executive Committee is present at the Paralympic Games in Beijing. During the Games, the primary aim is to give EWH "a face". Promotional activities shall take place. Since acting on the Paralympic Games 2012 is the major goal, presence in Beijing is the right moment to start with this process. The objective should be that IPC and ICEWH work hand in hand towards an equal relationship.

### 2.2.3.2 Events

Two events are scheduled: the Regional Championships 2008 (RC2008) and the ICEWH Sports Assembly. Apart from the competition, educational activities for officials will take place. In order to encourage development, the minimum number of participating countries in the European Championships should be 10.

### 2.2.3.3 Other things requiring attention

Of course the organization of both the World Championships 2009 (WC2009) and the Development Event in 2010 (DE2010) requires attention. Both events should attract relatively many countries outside Europe. The DE2010 should result in an increase of three new EWH practicing countries; ICEWH strives towards participation of at least 4 non-European countries in the WC2009. In 2009 new elections for the IWAS executive committee shall be held. In order to strengthen the position of the ICEWH, the ICEWH should put forward a candidate for the IWAS executive Executive Committee. Preparations for this candidacy should start this year.

#### 2.2.4 2009 – 2012

It is hard to describe the necessary steps to be taken in three or more years ahead. Therefore we will describe the last four years in one paragraph in more general terms. The Executive Committee is responsible to precise these plans. The main objective – acting in the Paralympics 2012 – should function as the ambitious spot to which the international EWH movement is guided.

##### 2.2.4.1 Organisation

In the last four years of this business plan, many challenges lay ahead. Here we want to mention three main points. Maybe the first test case for the influence of the ICEWH Executive Committee is the elections for the IWAS executive committee. The candidate supported by the ICEWH needs to be elected to advocate the interests of EWH.

Secondly, the ICEWH should be in a continuous process of professionalizing. This is shown by the increased cooperation with IPC and the status of the sport. Working towards the Paralympic Games in 2012, where EWH should be a promotion sport cannot be an isolated ICEWH process. But also the elections of the ICEWH Executive Committee can be seen as sign of maturity. These elections in 2011 should be carefully prepared. And, of course, the financial situation of the ICEWH plays an important role in this process.

Thirdly, the growth of EWH. Growth should be proven by the number of EWH playing countries, which should be 18 in 2012. But growth also refers to the number of officials, educational programmes, etc.. These programmes shall determine the success of the international EWH movement, which in turn is a major factor in achieving such level that applying for the Paralympic Status is realistic. What is a better time to apply for this status than the year in which EWH has acted on the Paralympic stage?

##### 2.2.4.2 Events

A series of events are scheduled. In 2009 the World Championships (WC2009), the Development Event in 2010 (DE2010), World Championships in 2011 (WC2011) and Regional Championships in 2012 (RC2009). Moreover, IWAS organises General Assemblies in 2009 and 2011. The IWAS General Assemblies can be used for the annual ICEWH Sports Assemblies. It is important to stress that all these events should have a function, namely encouraging and facilitating growth. In this light, new events should be scheduled.

##### 2.2.4.3 Other things requiring attention

As said in 2.2.4, it is difficult to foresee which steps are necessary in this period. However, some elements can be identified as important activities. Here we want to mention a few.

Just as in 2007, the biannual questionnaire should be sent in 2009 and 2011. With this instrument the ICEWH can monitor international development, and therefore can evaluate its own success. The data are input for policy decisions. The results should be presented at the IWAS General Assemblies. The idea of the promotional package is that it is sent to countries that ask IWAS to do so. It is up to the Executive Committee to monitor this, and to trigger the need for this package. In general it is important to stay up to date with the promotional materials. So, new professional DVD releases, books, posters, etc., are important instruments to promote and to encourage the sport.

## 2.3 A final word

Moving towards London 2012. Only six years ahead, but it requires much efforts to make it to London. The ICEWH believes that this main objective can be achieved, that EWH is on the verge of proving its potentials. Now it is the time to facilitate and to manage this potential.

With the present business plan ICEWH sketches the future and the needs to arrive in that future. The major issue is to form a high quality management, possessing a network, but most of all possessing the art of inspiring. The vision is clear, the opportunities are clear. The challenge is to be what we are: professional, reliable, and progressive. If ICEWH is capable to succeed herein, London 2012 would be only the beginning.