

PDGA Europe Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2014 1930-2130 hrs Evaux Park Chalet, Geneva CH

Participants:

Brian Hoeniger (PDGA INT), Paul Francz (ET), Sinus Frank (DK), Boris Lazzarotto (CH), Frank Hellstern & Werner Sylbalski (D), Hans Nagtegaal (NL), Jean-Louis Tanghe (B), Derek Robins (UK), Bernd Wender (A), Dinko Simenc (HR), Daniel Hatvani (H), Lukas Filandr (CZ), Tapani Aulu (SF), Christer Köhler (S), Haukur Arnason (IS), Renita Cameron (I), Darius Gricius (LT), Ingar Ballo Sandum (N), Yuri Zelentsov (RU), Carlos Rio (E), Florence Dumont (F), Richard Kollar (SVK), Steve Ganz (PDGA IT)

Absent: Estonia, Latvia. (any corrections to this list ?)

Minutes

Brian summarized PDGA Europe numbers as of Aug 20 = 2715 current members + 266 events on the 2014 Tour calendar. This projects to another solid year of 15-20%+ growth. Finland's remarkable #s were cited – 993 current members as of 8/20 (only 3 US States had > 993 in 2013), a 38% increase from 718 at end 2013. Finland has 65, Sweden has 63 tour events on the 2014 calendar at present. All told there are 3300 current members and 351 events (incl Leagues) outside of USA as of 8/20.

Using skype and screen share, Steve Ganz provided the countries with an overview of the new pdga.com memberships system, including, new, renew, auto-renew, new member disc and magazine options, and entering someone else's membership. Individual mems can pay by c card or paypal, processing fee is no longer \$3 per mem, rather it is 3.5% of the price = \$0.70 on a \$20 Am membership. Countries whose National Assoc's process their PDGA mems should contact Sara the PDGA Memberhips Manager who will provide them with a "Coupon Code" which will allow them to enter batches of mems and to pay later by c card/paypal/wire transfer. Countries will need to advise Toni the Office Manager when they are making batch/multi-batch payments including the amounts and batches in question. Once typed in a renewed or new member will be instantly current and have their own pdga.com member page, can immediately take the officials test, and can print out a temp copy of their card to use until their mem package arrives from the PDGA Fulfillment house. The new system will officially launch October 1 (= 1st day when new and current year non-current renews extend to end 2015). After Oct 1 the PDGA will no longer accept spreadsheets of mems from the countries. The countries gave Steve a big round of applause.

Brian summarized the formation of the WFDF-PDGA International DG Committee and its limited roles, since PDGA will continue to essentially be in charge of global disc golf, including design of a new World Team Championships event to be 1st held in 2015, bidding system and possible formats for the event, as well as WADA related benefits, and the hope that this will also foster return of DG to the World Games, and maybe one day the Olympics.

In order to reduce confusion between PDGA USA and International standards, more areas where globalization/commonalization of standards will be pursued. In 2014 this included standardization of sanctioning fees and requirement that TDs be certified officials (and current members of course) before an event will be sanctioned. The counties were requested to strictly follow the MA1234 ratings breaks which most are already doing. As requested by Estonia (by email to the Intl Director) this will also

include adding "Pros playing Am" to the INT standards per USA, it will be up to each country's assoc whether to allow PPA in their domestic events (Finland remarked later to PDGA rep that Pros should only be able to play Pro.) The countries were also requested to sanction their larger events at the tier level they meet, larger events (ie SF and S national series and national championships, should be sanctioned as A or B tier, as it is more work for PDGA to process events with more players. Many of the countries ie N F D CH are already doing this. Better presentation of info in question by PDGA at the website and better distribution of the PDGA Europe/International system info by the countries to their members and TDs will also reduce incorrect interpretation by Euros re PDGA INT vs USA standards.

There will no changes to the Rulesbook/Competition Manual in 2015.

Brian presented his 2012 + 2013 tested system for determining PDGA Europe Male and Female Players of the Year, to begin with the 2014 season (winners will be determined in early 2015 once 2014 events data is complete and will receive their awards at 2015 Euro Major event). The system is based on a straight line descending system of points awarded to the top 20 men (100 to 5) and top 5 women (50 to 10) in a # of categories including year end Player Rating, plus EuroTour and the Euro Majors/Euro DGCs performances, with bonus points awarded for top 20/5 finishers at Pro Worlds and USDGC/USWDGC. The countries voted 17-3 not to include Pro cash won as a factor (SF S and N were predictably the 3 to vote yes here!), and 12-8 not to award double points for the EuroTour criteria. It is hoped these award competitions will also stimulate more players to compete for the ET titles.

The 2015 PDGA Europe Guide will include a table of the PDGA partner Country assocs and their website addresses, and the Euro POTY system table, other changes to be determined at our teleconference circa beginning of November.

Iceland, Czech Republic and Italy reported on new courses and other they are pursuing. Disc Golf Italia requested an indication of the countries support for their 2015 EXPO initiative. While some countries indicated it would be difficult to provide financial or volunteer support, the country reps agreed to be videotaped expressing their support for Renita's efforts here which was done on Sat 8/22.

Renita Dinko Lukas Crister and Frank H will join the Euro Disciplinary sub-committee to facilitate quicker review of issues when they arise (some committee mems will not always be available, or will abstain from involvement in decision recommendations to the PDGA DC when they involve player(s) from their country).

Brian asked the country reps if they have been receiving their complementary Discgolfer magazine subscriptions. Half said yes half said no. Brian will review who is Mag yes and Mag no in the INT members data he receives from HQ and will advise Sara and Breiner to resolve errors here and send out missing mags as needed.

Countries were reminded that it is both their and the PDGA Office Manager's (with BDH assistance) responsibility to track what they owe and to settle their accounts in a timely manner = every 3 months when sums of > \$500 are owed, less frequently for the small countries so that they don't incur too many wire transfer fees. Most countries are doing a solid job here.

World Championships invite system will be tightened up for 2015. (At another point during the ECs week Hans suggested to BDH that each country be allocated a # of spots in Pro/Am Worlds based on merit,

per the ECs invite system, to encourage INT players participation, countries would have to declare/register their players by the Phase 1 registration deadline, this is an excellent idea.)

Paul Francz is stepping down as EuroTour Manager to take on the Euro DG Federation project (see below). The group thanked Paul warmly for his years of service in this role. Hans Nagtegaal (2013 PDGA Europe Volunteer of the Year) was then unanimously elected new ET Manager and Paul ensured a smooth handover of finances and related info to Hans. Hans' goal will be to strengthen the ET in ways that attract more players to compete for the year long titles and thereby increase participation. BDH will also send Hans examples of ET year end financial reports which are included in the PDGA audited year end statements and therefore must be received by PDGA soon after year end.

The meeting closed and group photos were taken.

Prepared by BDH 8/25/14