

# PDGA Europe Annual Meetings Draft Minutes

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2008  
1500 hrs – 1720hrs GMT

Present: Brian Hoeniger (HQ), Dave Nesbitt (HQ), Rick Rothstein (HQ), Brian Graham (HQ), Paul Francz (CH, EuroTour), Sinus Frank (DK, pdga-europe.com), Neil Webber (UK), Yuri Zelentsov (RU), Erik Schmieman (NL), Michael Vöglmeyer (D), Florence Dumont (F), Hasse (S)

## 1. Welcome & PDGA Europe/International Overview

PDGA Europe has shown continued growth – 102 events this year, nearly 50% growth. Just over 1000 members, around 20% growth.

Preliminary bid from Jussi Meresma on hosting Worlds.

Challenging year for PDGA HQ, mail delivery issues (now resolved), PDGA website overhaul has been complex and complicated by hacking issues, FDM magazine has let the PDGA down, and that relationship is due to end.

BG stated that the growth of the PDGA has been the cause of some of the issues, but that this should now be in place for the future.

Database issues regarding transfer to PDGA Europe. Both sides need to work together to resolve the issue.

**BH:** An issue occurred in the Netherlands between Erik and Arthur Havarkeamp. The issue has been passed to the [national association NFBD](#) to resolve, but we are hopeful that Erik will remain in role as he is valued highly.

BH will work with NW and others to move towards the possibility of

It seems that there may be some anti-PDGA sentiment in Germany, Michael was unavailable to comment.

## 2. 2008 PDGA Europe Review

Overall the tour has been good. Germany has some funds outstanding. Events after Stockholm in September and October are slightly smaller. Unfortunate as the final event is where the awards are handed out.

418 players in the ranking list, 709 individuals played in a EuroTour event. Finances were excellent, but it can sometimes be complicated with various payment types going to either to HQ or Europe accounts, and it was often done incorrectly.

Question from MV, at the Dutch Open, only 4 masters played in the final, when it should be 8. Also queried the payout at some events.

BH stated that only Stockholm did not do their payout correctly.

## 3. Country Updates

See appendix.

## 4. Guide to Europe 2009 Review

Updated text for registration procedures is fine. Suggested addition of 10 reserved spots for Women's division is a good thing.

Some TD guidelines and assistance is needed. Templates from PDGA NA can be used to help produce this guidance.

Proposed disciplinary guidelines accepted and included into the 2009 Guide.

Florence has raised the issue of amateur points on the EuroTour. Decided it was not feasible to implement a scoring system for Ams. Proposed a system for Amateur Junior division. Would be best 3

events instead of 4, with a requirement for 1 event in each of the North and South. Proposed also to reduce the GM requirement to 3 events, with a North-South requirement. Voting passed in favour 6-2. EuroTour and EuroChallenge events details should be clarified a little. BH will update.

### **5. 2009 USDGC Qualifier events**

Copenhagen Open, Stockholm Open and Swiss Open proposed and accepted as USDGC qualifiers. For 2010, Dutch Open would be interested in taking a qualifier [is standards could be met](#).

### **6. PDGA – Europe Structure/Relations**

With the right support PDGA Europe could be a self funding sister organization by 2010.

NW thoughts on the technical steps needed in 2009 are as follows, in no particular order.

- 1) Access to the database for membership management
- 2) Agree a method of buying the ratings service from PDGA, whether it's per-player or an annual fee
- 3) Sourcing/designing PDGA Europe membership packs - membership cards, mini discs with number on, welcome letters in all the languages etc
- 4) Database access for event management - or agree purchasing from PDGA as for the ratings
- 5) Setting membership prices/budget predictions
- 6) Agree the composition of the Board - all CC coordinators? If so, need to agree how we add/remove countries, setting limits. Or - CC could be a committee to discuss/propose options to a smaller board, with elections etc? For discussion.

We need a roadmap for the transition.

PF proposed NW should chair a working group consisting of PF, SF, NW and BH to develop this entity BH proposed that either RR or BG should part of the working group, and BG stated he would be happy to be involved.

BH, NW, PF, SF, BG to form the working group.

If we can agree a business plan, we could potentially present it to the PDGA BoD at their spring conference after April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **9. AOB**

Events in Germany and Denmark that are missing reports will be given a deadline of Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and made aware that suspension from the PDGA is possible if they do not comply.

Website updates: A good website is critical to presenting the face of PDGA Europe. Sinus and Paul will work together to generate a new site, with good content frequently updated. Sinus and Theo need to get in contact to sort out the database issues

### **Appendix – Country Coordinators reports.**

Great Britain:

*We have had another solid year of growth in the UK, with a substantial growth in grass-roots DG due to new publicly available courses in London and Shropshire. We have outlined the basis for a BDGA Coaching scheme, and we intend to run the first sessions in March/April. This should lead to a group of 20-50 approved coaches, all of which will have had official criminal record checks and training in coaching disc golf to all levels, from large groups of children to 1-to-1 coaching of existing players. We*

*hope that this will support a growing trend for schools to add DG to their sports programs. Our national tour has maintained its level, although there has been a disappointing slump in Scottish player numbers. We are looking into ways to support DG in Scotland. The ratings based divisions have proved a huge success, and we will be running them unchanged for 2009. We will be reassessing the ratings breaks at the end of next season to check they are still in the right places.*

#### **Netherlands:**

*Unfortunately, in 2008 we did not manage to take advantage of the commercial media coverage related to the sponsorship of Lipton in 2006 and 2007. Although the general public knows the existence of disc golf as a sport much more, no extra players are registered or take part in the National Dutch Disc Golf Series. Personally, I think the lack of permanent courses is the major bottleneck. Currently, there are only two 12/ 18 holes permanent courses. However, for at least three places (Amsterdam, Wageningen and in Landgraaf) prospects are hopeful.*

*Since three years The Dutch Flying Disc Association - NFB- (of which Ultimate and Disc Golf are the main branches) is a member of the Dutch National Olympic Organisation (with both Olympic sports and non Olympic sports). With the adoption of a policy that focuses much more on top sport last October, it will be much harder for Ultimate and Disc Golf to get subsidies to develop the frisbee sports. The main criterion to get 'top sport subsidies' is that at least 23 countries should participate in World Championships. So there will be much less subsidy opportunities in 2009. However, the situation is still much better than it was before when NFB was not connected to the main National sports organisation.*

*For the National Disc Golf series a steady 35-45 players show up every month (we play one day tournaments, with 3x12 holes, for the overall standings we take the best six out of eight, we play from September to May). This year we started with two different division (adapted from GB). With a Pro Open Division (obligatory for players with PDGA-rating >900) and an Amateur division. We never play for prize money, so "Pro" means "best skills".*

*The main objectives for 2009 will be to run a smooth National Series, to realise a well organised Dutch Open and to get one or two permanent courses in the ground.*

#### **Switzerland:**

*The year performed well again in Switzerland, specially we have had two PDGA Eurotour Events this year. Both events showed a high standard, but will continue to improve the quality of all services, it is the goal of the Swiss Open (Geneva) to become an A-Tier event soon.*

*In view of membership and number of players, all stays within the same level. There is some little increase in the Women's division, but no Juniors. A few smaller courses added in 2008 (mainly practice courses for schools). There have been some Train-the-trainer courses at the national sport school and many local activities at club-level.*

*A champion title (grandmasters) and a second place (senior grandmasters) at EC 2008 in Söhnstetten/Heidenheim were a big success for Switzerland and for the two players (Paul Francz and Franco Puliafito), which resulted in a high press-coverage and a sponsorship- contract for Paul Francz.*

*Swiss Discgolf is now part of the newly created Swiss Disc Sports association, which will try to achieve a membership with swiss olympics, the swiss governing body for sports. Submission of dossier is foreseen for March 2009. A membership will result in a full acceptance of the sports and financial support.*

*The main objectives for the association is to strengthen the swisstour (new tour is ready with 7 events) and the swiss championships. Again the two PDGA Eurotour events shall become the highlights. Several concepts have been prepared to strengthen the local play and achieve more local activities in the clubs. Switzerland will calculate a national rating as from 2009, beside the swisstour-point list.*

*A new PDGA Country Coordinator will be elected at the next general assembly of the association (February 2009).*

**Denmark:**

*In Denmark the only news is, that the "old" union DFSU finally seems to see the idea of having only one - independent - disc golf body*

**Norway:**

*The number of courses in Norway is now about 40. The federation is working hard to get more baskets in the ground and it is working.*

*The Norwegian tour this year had 180 players in open, women, jr, young-jr and master. There were 5 tour-events and one pdga c-tier outside the NoT.*

*There is a large number of people playing recreational disc golf, but it is very hard to get them to register into clubs.*

*Disc golf in Norway is governed by a disc golf committee under Norges frisbeeforbund (The Norwegian frisbee association) . There is no plan in Norway to split into a independent disc golf body like in Denmark. The different disc sports in Norway is strongly linked, not only historically and financially, but also in the everyday activities as many plays both disc golf, ultimate and freestyle.*

*The main focus in Norway is to spread the sport. More members equals more money that equals more courses and more members.....*