



# World Gold Panning Association

## Minutes of Spring Board Meeting of the WGA Board

**Date:** Friday 26.5.2017 at 9.00 AM

**Venue:** Hotel Przy Milej, Zlotoryja Poland

### Participants:

President	Arturo	Ramella	Italy
Vice President	Jiri	Dunovsky	Czech Republic
Secretary	Raimo	Repola	Finland
Treasurer	Eija	Orava	Finland
Board Member	Frank	Hartmann	Germany
Chairperson of the Competition Committee	Esko	Orava	Finland
Chairperson of the Communication Committee	Alba	Iglesias-Gomez	Spain
	(Alba was not able to participate the SBM)		

### The list of the matters to be considered at the meeting:

**1. Opening of the meeting:** President Arturo Ramella

President's review and visions for the last part of his mandate.

*President Arturo Ramella declared SMB open and welcomed all the attendees at the meeting.*

*Arturo will in the last period of his mandate as the president of WGA pay attention to enlarge cooperation between WGA and the gold museums in Member Nations.*

*He also told his intention to visit all hosting countries National Championships events year before the World Championships. This year Slovakia and next year Finland. He wants to listen local organizer's opinions and be aware of the situation regarding to arrangements.*

*Arturo wanted to remind that because of the end of his term of office next year, it is time in all member associations to seriously consider the election of his successor.*

## 2. Competitions: (Esko)

### Summary of the USA World Championships 2016

*Esko Orava stated that due to inexperience of the organizers, some problems existed in publishing the results. This issue was solved with the help of Richard Deighton and Frank Hartmann.*

*In any case the competition event was completed and carried out in a magnificent location in the historical Eldorado County.*

*Competition Committee appreciates all fine people involved, to make this awesome World Championships in Placerville possible to Gold panners from all over the world.*

### Summary of the Swiss European Championships 2016

- Marlise L<sub>ü</sub>di (see attachment)

*Marlise L<sub>ü</sub>di's / Swiss association letter concerning Swiss EU -Championships and US World championships was noted for information*

### Competitions Committee 2017 -18

*Esko Orava's proposal that mr. Peter Grubenmann, Switzerland, should be appointed as an ordinary member of Competition Committee was accepted. Also concerned that for 2019 WGC in Finland mr. Marko Touru will be asked as a temporary member by Esko Orava .Richard Deigtons appointment as the ordinary member of the committee and the roles of Eugene Swanepoel and Mike Matus were discussed. Decisions in these items should be made after Moffat WGC.*

#### Ordinary members:

Chairperson	Esko Orava	Finland
Vice Chairperson	Eugene Swanepoel	South Africa
Member	Raimo Repola	Finland
Member	Geraldine McCrossan	Italy
Member	Jiri Dunovsky	Czech Republic
Member	Peter Grubenmann	Switzerland

#### Temporary members:

Richard Deighton	Great Britain
Daniela M <sub>ú</sub> čková	Slovakia
Michael Matus	United States
Vilem Jansa	Czech Republic

## 3. Bids for the next World Goldpanning Championships

- Dawson City Yukon Territory Canada 2021 ( See attachment )

*The application form from Dawson City Canada, Yukon by Paul Robitaille was sent to President's email later at the meeting day.*

*Although the SBM was not able to handle the application document itself in the meeting this item was already known to all,*

*The SBM decided to handle this Issue and wants to wait the application and take Canada's bid on the Agenda of AGM in Moffat.*

*Even some discussions with Polish association's interest to host WGC has been done, but at the moment there is no application coming to AGM.*

*If AGM in Moffat is going to accept Canada's bid to host 2021 WGC, this will mean that in 2021 also European Championships are actual.*

**4. Communications:** (Alba was not able to be at present )

- Handling the current situation of the WGA homepage

- Future Email addresses of the board members

*Board wants to give huge thanks to Jiri Dunovsky, Sanjay Singh and Alba Iglesias- Comez of their efforts to get WGA's website working again.*

*There still are some issues to solve before WGA's website is totally in its own hands.*

Geraldine McCrossan, Italy are asked to be appointed as a new ordinary member of Communication Committee.

The Representative of the Board in Communications Committee acts Jiri Dunovsky.

- Communications committee 2017

**Ordinary members:**

Chairperson	Alba	Iglesias-Gomez	Spain
Member?	Geraldine	McCrossan	Italy

**5. Economy:** (Eija)

- WGA's current economic situation

*Treasurer Eija Orava introduced the Financial statements, Budgets and other economical documents dated to the meeting day.*

*Because WGA's financial year ends at 30.6.2017, Eija will attach final reports, documents and budgets in the invitation to AGM 2017.*

**6. Updating the Competition Rules of the WGA** (See attachments)

The Board had received three questions or proposals to change the competition rules:

- Proposal of Vittorio Mauri, Italy

*Board handled this proposal and understands the problem.*

*No changes to rules are proposed, but to the organizer must consider when preparing the qualification heats what is a fair and equal way of doing things.*

*Frank Hartmann has done marvellous job by gathering a huge amount of data from all championships from 2007.*

*Using this database, is possible to get all kind of statistics to compare different issues and also as the basis of making decisions.*

- Proposal of Pierre Jean Guidé, France

*France is proposing that in future all official competition categories should be divided in men's and women 's categories.*

*This issue has been on agenda before at AGM. The current practise was decided a few years ago and after discussion the Board's proposal is that we shall continue in the present way.*

**Board decided that President Arturo Ramella consults both Vittorio Mauri and Pierre Jean Guidé in these items.,**

- Question of Richard Deighton, Great Britain

*In his email sent to secretary Richard Deighton asked how to avoid too fast panning times in finals and asks if it is possible to make panning more demanding in finals by adding more sand or/and gold.?*

*Richard has got the answer that unfortunately no exeptions are possible in Moffat and they need to follow current rules and use their imagination in seeding and filling the buckets, in the fair and equal way.*

## **7. AGM 2017 in Moffat Scotland GBR:**

*Handling the topics and agenda of the next AGM at Buccleuch Arms Hotel Moffat 10.8.2018 at 7pm.*

- *The invitation to Annual General Meeting to Delegates must be sent before 9.7.2017*
- *Financial statements, Budgets, Member Fee*

*Treasurer Eija Orava prepares these items updated on the 30.6.2017*

- *Election of the Board Members, Secretary*

*Secretary Raimo Repola was asked if he is available to continue second three year's term as the post of secretary.*

*Raimo Repola accepted this proposal.*

## **8. Future of Gold panning, Support to Young panners**

- *Situation of the projects sponsored by WGA .*

*The Board is interested in to get more feedback and experiences from the projects done in Spain and USA.*

- Continuing the discussion about the ways of how WGA can help young people to get interested in this hobby.

*The Board encourages the Member Nation's associations to add their activity to get more young people and families to be interested in WGA's work and actions.  
To support this WGA has reserved a sum of money for projects. The Board is waiting for the applications.*

*This year in Moffat the Family Panning event will be arranged.*

## **9. Other items to be discussed**

**Attention**, the organizing Committees of WGA Member Nations.

*The Board wants to emphasize the importance of privacy when publishing material and pictures of the events in newspapers, internet and especially in social media (Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, Snapchat et al.).*

*Local organizer is always responsible that publication is in accordance with the privacy law.*

## **10. Closing of the Meeting**

*President Arturo Ramella closed the meeting at 16.00*

*Attendees of SBM would like to thank Zlotoryja's Brotherhood of Goldprospectors .*

*We spent a wonderful weekend in Zlotoryja.*

*Our Polish friends organized an awesome international level goldpanning event in a beautiful weather. Participants from Poland, Czech, Germany, Netherlands, Finland, Slovakia, New Zealand, Austria, Brazil !!!*

*Handsome parade in the Old Town Centre, the whole town having a good time, the central square full of market stalls, a lot of people in traditional dresses, celebrating this summer weekend festivals with several different events and shows, Goldpanning Polish National Championships, Dancing, Boxing and other fight sports, Music performances et cetera....*

*Thank you*

**Arturo Ramella**

*President of WGA*

**Raimo Repola**

*Secretary of the WGA*

Attachments: