



Agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council of the World Gold panning Association (WGA)

Date: **Thursday, 8th August 2019 at 7:00 PM**

Venue: **The Annual General Meeting takes place at Wild Adventure and Conference Center Tankavaara, Finland**

1. Opening, welcome and legality **Sanjay Singh, President**

2. President's report **Sanjay Singh, President**

(Attachment 1. Summary of SBM in Seibersdorf, Austria 17.5.2019)

3. Financial reports 1.7.2018 - 30.6.2019 and the Budgets of the WGA for the next fiscal year (1.7.2019 – 30.6.2020). **Daniela Múčková, Treasurer**

(Attachments 2. 3. 4.and 5)

4. Communication Committee report

Alba Iglesias-Gomez The Chairperson of the Communications Committee

Jiri Dunovsky Vice-President (*In case Alba is not able to attend the meeting!*)

Communication Committee 2018 Ordinary members:

Chairperson	Alba Iglesias-Gomez	Spain
Member	Jiri Dunovsky	Czech Republic
Member	Christian Wolf	Austria
Member	Geraldine McCrossan	Italy

New email addresses for all WGA officials are now in use and the old ones are terminated:

president@worldgoldpanningassociation.com
treasure@worldgoldpanningassociation.com
member@worldgoldpanningassociation.com
competition@worldgoldpanningassociation.com

vicepresident@worldgoldpanningassociation.com
secretary@worldgoldpanningassociation.com
communication@worldgoldpanningassociation.com

5. Competition Committee Report

Esko Orava, the Chairperson of the Competition Committee.

Frank Hartmann, Member of the Board (Leader of the Working Group)

5.1. Competition Committee 2018

Ordinary members:

Chairperson	Esko Orava	Finland
Vice Chairperson	Eugene Swanepoel	South Africa
Member	Raimo Repola	Finland
Member	Geraldine McCrossan	Italy
Member	Peter Grubenmann	Switzerland
Member	Richard Deighton	Great Britain

Temporary members:

Daniela Múčková	Slovakia
Vilem Jansa	Czech Republic
Kauno Kuusela	Finland
Jaroslav Dudkiewicz	Poland
Vittorio Mauri	Italy

5.2. Summary of the World Championships 2018 in Hodrusa -Hamre, Slovakia

Esko Orava, Chairperson of the Competition Committee gave this report at the SBM 2019 in Austria of Slovakian Championships:

- In general, the Championships event in Hodrusa-Hamre was well organized. The competition ran, smoothly, efficiently and the systems used were highly effective. The spirit and philosophy of the World Gold Panning Association of fair play and sportsmanship prevailed throughout the event.
- Only one rerun!
- One protest was handled
- One disqualification

Few points to be noted:

- Even though it is not against the rules, the issue of buckets with no seeded gold in the team competitions emerged again. Perhaps it will be considered for adjustment as part of the rules review process we are currently embarking on.
- Quite a common issue again, just not only in Hodrusa-Hamre, was the treatment and maintenance of the practising pools. This matter will constantly be emphasized for correction to future host countries. As the Chairperson of the competition committee he will emphasize compliance to expectations/ rules. The matter should also be in the guidelines for future organizers to consider.
- **Extremely, well done Slovakia!**

The members of the WGA Board concurred with the sentiments expressed by many member countries on the success of the WGPC 2018 in Slovakia. The WGA Board on behalf of all member countries paid its compliments to the organizing committee!

5.3. Needs to change the Competition Rules **Frank Hartmann, Member of the Board**

The Board have received several proposals to improve and change the Competition Rules from Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Netherlands.

At the Spring Board Meeting (SBM) in Zlotoryja 25.5.2018 this matter was under discussion and because of the extensiveness of this issue, a Working Group was set to go through all proposals and to give a suggestion of the changes to the Competition Rules of WGA to the Board..

The composition of the Working group:

Frank Hartmann	Board (Leader of the Working Group)
Esko Orava	Competition Committee
Ruurd van Wijhe	Proposals/Competitors

A Working group set up at the AGM 2018, for updating the competition rules is doing its job and the current progress report by **Frank Hartmann** will be presented at the meeting.

Past President, Arturo Ramella has been working with the Guidelines ” *How to help organizers of the Championships to arrange proper competition event*”

At the SBM 2019 was considered that handling of these issues are so extensive that they were combined and handled together.

the Board expressed its appreciation on the work done by the working group thus far. The Board engaged with the various proposals raised for consideration. It was agreed that this “project” will be considered “Work in Progress” and consequently proposed changes will be presented incrementally for consideration and adoption.

The Board meeting went through proposals both “Competition Rules of WGA” by the working group and “Guidance for Organisers of World and European Gold panning Championships” by **Arturo Ramella**.

After extensive discussion the Board proposes few most important changes to be voted for at AGM:

3.D. The Competition Gold

1. The gold flakes used must be natural alluvial gold flakes and equal to or more than 18 carats. The gold must not be mechanically processed (e.g. hammered). Exception from this rule is only acceptable for host countries that are not allowed to use alluvial gold due to national or local laws.

3.D. The Competition Gold

3. The number of gold flakes for each competitor in a single heat must be the same.

The number of gold flakes between each heat and each round may differ, but in the same qualification round only by 1-2 gold flakes if time comparison is used.

The number of gold flakes must be between the following amounts:

- a. All individual competition heats between 5 –12.
- b. All individual competition finals between 7 –12.
- c. All team competitions between 10 –20.

4.G. Team Competitions

7. A competitor is allowed to start only in one team in every team category. If the composition of a team has to be changed due to special circumstances (illness, accident, etc.) a competitor may be replaced by another competitor who has not panned in that category. Competitors panning in more than one team in a category will be disqualified together with their teams.

Arturo Ramella, Past President is invited to attend the meeting to briefly present his views how to help organizers of the Championships.

5.4 WGA assistance to future host nations

Sanjay Singh, President

Discussion of this issue is opened.

What is the role of WGA in supporting member nations association?

What are the ways for supports and resources of the WGA?

6. Bids to host Championship events of WGA

6.1 Bid to World Gold Panning Championships 2022.

Poland has expressed its interest to host 2022 World Championships.

The representative of Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors Jaroslaw Dudkiewicz has submitted a support letter of the Mayor of Zlotoryja for hosting World Championships 2022 in Zlotoryja, Poland.

The formal application form of WGA to host Championships is also received.

See attachments 6.7.and 8.

Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors / Norbert Makovski have sent a letter to the Board that because no one of their officials are able to attend Tankavaara 2019 AGM, they want to do a formal presentation of this Polish World Gold Panning Championships event at 2020 AGM in Nony Knin, Czech Republic.

6.2 Bids to European Gold Panning Championships 2021?

2021 World Gold Panning Championships takes place in Dawson City, Canada. Because this event is outside of Europe, the European Championships shall be arranged in some European country.

The Board is still waiting for bids to this event.

7. Board Election

The election of new Board Members is not topical this time.

8. Projects

In the budget of the WGA a sum of money is reserved for the projects to support young goldpanners.

The SBM 2019 decided that, as the test case, the WGA supports children's event in Tankavaara with the proposed sum of 700 €. The impact of this programme will be assessed and evaluated.

The Board is waiting for proposals for new projects.

8. Youth /Children / family programmes

Sanjay Singh

Based on the letters from **Nicolo Polidori** by the Young People of WGA and **South African Association** the Board meeting talked about the possibility to establish a new Youth Committee, Youth representative's right to attend at AGM as the observes, even the possibility of getting the 6th member of the board for the youth.

As well as to separate the youth categories in competition according the gender, girls and boys.

In those letters were proposed several other worthwhile matters, which are depending on local organizers ability and willingness and the time schedule of the event. The Representatives of the youth should work closely with the LOC's to influence this proposal.

To get a new member in the Board, requires an amendment in the statutes of the WGA, which is a long process. More effective way of acting is by setting up a new Youth Committee and appointing a Chairperson. (President with the Board)

A question about the age limits in the committee was raised at the meeting, but this issue needs to be talked more later on.

As it was done experimentally last year, the Board agreed the idea to call permanently 2 representatives of Youth as observers at the AGM.

To share heats by gender in Youth category did not get much support at the Board meeting.

Attachments 9 and 10:

Young people of WGA/ Nicolo Polidori

South Africa / Sherry Goodman

9. WGA as an organization.

Sanjay Singh, President

9.1 Registration of WGA as NPO (Non-Profit Organization?)

The Board agreed with the Principle that some sort of registration will create greater leverage for the association in accessing more resources / partners / sponsorships.

However, there is a need for more information on possibilities regarding relevant organizations and processes to be followed in order to achieve this.

9.2 Permanent address of WGA.

If we are to follow the process of Registering the WGA as a Non-Profit Organization, there will be a need have a Non-private residential address for the organization. In this regard it may be necessary to consider using one of the Member Nation addresses as the address.

9.3 Fund raising and sponsorship for WGA and its programmes.

In order to take a greater contribution to programmes (in particular Youth programmes) of the WGA and for the WGA to be able to give greater assistance to host Nations, it is imperative to open up a discussion on possible areas of income generation.

A decision to open up this discussion to member countries may yield positive results. This will be considered "on going" until some solution will be found.

9.4 Tokens of appreciation/acknowledgement to

- Outgoing office bearer**
- Host nations**
- Celebrations of special milestones**

The Board meeting concurred that there is a clear need for tokens of appreciation to office bearers who have completed their terms of office. However, what exactly these tokens will be is still up for further discussion.

With regards to celebration of Special Milestones by Host Nations, Host nations are encouraged to ensure that the WGA has this information timeously, preferably when they are making their Bid Presentation.

e.g. This year in Finland, Tankavaara will be celebrating 150 Years of Gold Discovery in Finland, Ivalojoiki-river and 70 Years Celebration of Gold Prospectors Association of Finnish Lapland (Member Nation's association of WGA)

10. Other current issues:

11. Closure of the Meeting.

Attachments:

1. Summary of SBM 2019
2. Realized WGA Budgets 2018-19
3. WGA Budgets 2019-20
4. WGA Financial Statements 30.6.2019, Votes and Fees
5. Bank Statement 30.6.2019 WGA
6. 2022 WGC bid / Poland
7. 2022 WGC bid / Poland WGA application form
8. 2022 WGC bid / Poland Support Zlotoryja
9. Young people of WGA / Nicolo Polidori
10. Young people of WGA / South African association