



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Council of the World Goldpanning Association (WGA)

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

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

Attendees: See attachment 1.

1. Opening, welcome and legality Sanjay Singh, President

Sanjay Singh the President of the WGA opened the Annual General Meeting 2019 of the WGA and welcomed all attendees, Delegates from the Member Nations, Members of the Board, Chairperson of the Competition Committee and Observers to attend the meeting.

The Annual General Meeting 2019 was found to be legal and quorum.

2. President's report Sanjay Singh, President

"PRESIDENT'S REPORT – WGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TANKAVAARA, FINLAND 8TH AUGUST 2019.

Good evening and welcome to all delegates from the various member countries to the Annual General Meeting of the World Gold Panning association

In addition, we welcome our youth representatives, the Japanese delegates, the New Zealand delegates, and our delegate from Denmark as observers to our meeting!

It is my pleasure to present to you a brief report of the year under review.

Upon return to SA as the President of the WGA the Provincial Minister of Culture, Sport and Recreation, the Hon. Premier of the Mpumalanga Province and members of the Ruling party all sent messages of acknowledgement and congratulations.

Of course, other messages also came in from members of the various member countries as well.

My first official engagement was to honor an invitation to the SA National Championships in October 2018, as president of WGA where a message of support was delivered at the Championships.

I also received an invitation by the Polish Brotherhood of Gold Diggers in Zlotoryja Poland for the celebrations of the anniversary of the organization.

Besides presenting them with a plaque on behalf of the WGA, I was initiated into the Polish Brotherhood.

During this visit I had the opportunity to engage with the executive committee members of the Polish Brotherhood regarding a possible bid for a World Gold panning Championships.

*Consequently, a meeting was arranged with the Mayor Mr. **Robert Pawlowski** to further discuss this idea. The Mayor appreciated our presence and the engagements were very fruitful. My sincere appreciation goes to the Polish for their warm reception and hospitality.*

Of course, the Spring Board Meeting was our first gathering as the new executives of the Board.

With a lengthy agenda, the SBM was hosted in Austria in conjunction with the Austrian Nationals at Unterwaltersdorf.

*At this point, let me place on Record our sincere appreciation to **Christian Wolf** for his assistance with the venue and logistics.*

The board engaged with agenda items ranging from:

- *Proposals by young people*
- *Possibilities of the future of WGA as an organization.*
- *Bids received*
- *How does WGA leave a bigger footprint with our members?*
- *Revenue generation and income streams to support our expenditure and programmes. Our treasure will touch on some of the initiatives.*
- *Formalizing of bids received. Received from Poland*
- *Concerns over hosting a European Championships in 2021.*
- *The issue of the revision of the rules. This will have to be done bite by bite.*

*We are also pleased to announce that version 1 of the Guidelines for organizers of future competitions is ready. Mr. **Ramella** will present this later during the meeting.*

As it is the intention of the board to show support to as many associations as possible members of the board and competition committee attended and participated in the Austrian championships. This was a very well run competition with a very small team. Well done Austria.

Some members also attended to Polish Championships the following weekend in Zlotoryja. Congratulations on your schools programme and a very successful National Championships. The Polish Championships coincided with the Celebration of the city.

It is a great strategy to link our competitions to celebrations of the city or organization. In this way, the history and heritage of Gold may also be celebrated. Resources can be utilized more efficiently.

Some of the items and discussions during our SBM were very difficult and robust but the resolution was to rather put them on the table so that we may engage and find appropriate solutions.

Hence, the agenda items you see on the table.

Now I wish to place on record our sincere appreciation to Alba Iglesias as chairperson of the communications committee. Unfortunately, she has resigned due to work and family commitments.

This position will have to be filled later this evening. We do have a proposal in this regard.

*I have also engaged with the deputy chairperson of the competition committee Mr. **Eugene Swanepoel** from South Africa and it is safe to say that **Esko Orava** may now identify new members for the Competitions committee.*

I also held some important discussions with the South African Gold Panning Association as well as the Minister in the Department of Culture Sport and Recreation regarding hosting possibilities.

*Let me take this opportunity to thank Mr. **Cesar Castano** of Spain for the trophy for the family competition.*

Congratulations and thanks to the Czech Republic for the very vibrant and entertaining presentation last night.

Thank you to the Sponsor of 100 WGA new T-shirt is from South Africa.

Finally, my sincere appreciation to members of the board for their support and positive inspiration.

I implore all member countries to go the extra mile in ensuring that the programmes of the WGA are carried out successfully!

Thank you

SANJAY SINGH

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

Treasurer Daniela Múčková, presented the Financial report 1.7.2018 – 30.6.2019, realized budgets 2018-2019 and Working Budget and Project Budget for next term 2019-2020.

Decision: Accepted unanimously

(Attachments 2. 3. 4. 5.)

In discussion at the meeting was also the positions of WGA's owned classic competition gold pans, Estwing 14" and Bateas Estwing pans (59 pieces, 1 missing)) are now in Tankavaara and Bateas should be in Navelgas, Spain, this will be checked later.

A decision at the brief Board meeting for preparing to AGM on Tuesday the 6th of August evening, was to get off of all old WGA-T-shirts and bandanas from Financial report, by donating these items to competitors during present Tankavaara event.

4. Communication Committee report

Jiri Dunovsky Vice-President

Chairperson Alba Iglesias-Gomez was not able to attend the meeting.

Jiri Dunovsky, Vice-President, presented the report of the Communication Committee by Alba Iglesias-Gomez. (see attachment 6.)

Decision: Accepted unanimously

Alba Iglesias-Gomez has resigned from her post as the Chairperson of the Communications Committee due to work and family commitments.

President Sanjay Singh appointed Mr Arturo Ramella , Italy as a new Chairperson of the Communication Committee

Communication Committee 2019 Ordinary members:

Chairperson	Arturo Ramella	Italy
Member	Jiri Dunovsky	Czech Republic
Member	Christian Wolf	Austria
Member	Geraldine McCrossan	Italy

New email addresses for all WGA officials are now in use:

president@worldgoldpanningassociation.com
treasurer@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 2019 - 20

*The President has engaged with Vice Chairperson **Eugene Swanepoel**, South Africa, about his continued position in the competition committee. This yielded no response. In view of his absence at WGA events and SAGPA events over the recent years a decision was taken to replace him in the committee.*

*According the needs for coming events the Chairperson **Esko Orava** shall subsequently complete the composition of the committee..*

Ordinary members:

Chairperson	Esko Orava	Finland
Member	Raimo Repola	Finland
Member	Geraldine McCrossan	Italy
Member	Peter Grubenmann	Switzerland
Member	Richard Deighton	Great Britain

Temporary members:

Daniela Múčková	Slovakia
Lorraine Millar	Canada
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 his report 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

A Working group set up at the AGM 2018, for updating the Competition Rules of WGA is doing its job.

The composition of the Working group:

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

5.3.1 The current progress report by Frank Hartmann was presented at the meeting:

Rules committee report, by Frank Hartmann:

“I would like to give you a short summary about the work of the Rules committee to explain what we have done in the past and what are the tasks for the future.

After WGC 2017 the WGA Board has received several proposals from Switzerland, from Sweden, from Netherlands and from Finland to improve and to change the Competition Rules.

At Spring Board Meeting 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 until SBM 2019.

As proposed from the Netherlands, **Ruurd van Wijhe** created a new version of the rules by taking the content of the existing „competition rules and guidance“ and bringing it into a new order first, then commenting every paragraph and every sentence, where the rules are not distinct enough and including the proposals of the WGA member nations. Then, within the Working Group, every single comment was discussed and priorities were set for the most important changes of the rules.

These topics were discussed with the WGA board during 2019 Spring board meeting. Because of the huge amount of changes in relation to the current issue of the rules, the decision was made not to present the (completely) new version but to make a proposal to change the rules for the most important topics (as given in paragraph 5.3 of the agenda).

During our discussion of the rules some very basic thoughts were made about the organization of World Goldpanning Championships, about the rules and about the penalties:

Our **WGA COMPETITION RULES AND GUIDANCE** contain a lot of recommendations for organizers of World Goldpanning Championships. But many very important and necessary things for organizing a perfect championship are not written anywhere. So WGA noticed that it would be very helpful to have a document – a guideline for organizers of WGC – to give future organizers every information needed to run a smooth and perfect event. Fortunately, this document has been made up (developed) by former WGA president **Arturo Ramella** and will be presented later on by himself.

But beside these recommendations we also have a lot of obligations for organizers: recommendations are „nice to have“, but obligations are a „must“.

What can we do, if organizers don't play by the rules? What if we have stones in the gravel, bigger than 25mm, what if we have lumps of clay in the buckets, etc., What are the consequences? We can't and we don't want to stop the whole event. Should we think about penalties for organizers? Is this an appropriate way to increase the income of WGA?

When we were discussing the rules, we noticed that several rules are not accurate enough, some rules are describing rule violations without setting penalties and several procedures are not even described in the rules.

I will give you some examples:

a) Rules that do not seem to be accurate enough.

Touching bucket or pan before starting signal will lead to two minutes penalty. But what about touching the tube or the cap? Some competitors are already holding their tubes between their lips or in a special tube holder around their arm during the starting signal. They do it because they think it's more comfortable for them or because they expect a small advantage in time. But shouldn't all competitors start under equal conditions? In our opinion it should not be allowed to touch the tube or the cap before (at) the starting signal.

b) Rules without penalties for rule violations.

If a pan is to be passed between team members it must be washed upside down by the panner in the panning pool before it is passed on. No penalty for a rule violation is given.

No team member is allowed to touch the bucket, pan or sand and gravel of the person who is panning. The others are permitted to prepare to pan. No penalty for a rule violation is given.

What is an appropriate penalty for violation these rules?

c) Missing rules

Currently it is not conclusively regulated that a competitor may start in two or more different teams in a category or that the composition of a team may be changed during the competition.

Competitors starting in two different teams may enhance their chance of getting to the next round. This can be an advantage for the competitor and has to be validated as an unsportsmanlike conduct. Disqualifications for the team should be an adequate penalty.

One very fundamental question is: why do we have those different penalties for different rule violations? What were the basic thoughts when the rules, the rule violations and the penalties were defined? When we were discussing the rules we could set up four basic rules for rule violations and penalties, that probably could be valid for every situation:

Proposal of basic rules for penalties:

1) If the execution of the event is disturbed or delayed: first time yellow card, second time two minutes penalty. If the event had to be proceeded: disqualification (e.g. arriving too late at bibbing area)

2) If the rule violation leads to an advantage in panning time: two minutes penalty, e.g. false start, pressing button before capping, two panners in the pool at the same time, etc.

3) If the rule violation might have an influence on the number of flakes found: disqualification (in that category) (e.g. taking spilled material back into the pan, and probably: not washing pan up-side down)

4) (crude) Unfair behavior with disturbing other competitors: disqualification

Most of the proposal seem to be useful, but...

Do we basically want to start a discussion about the content, about every sentence and every single word in the document?

You all know that we don't have the time to do this during our Annual General Meeting.

What would be a suitable platform for a discussion?

Who should be involved?

This is the quandary (dilemma) of our situation.

Or should we better use our rules and guidance as they are and make changes only step by step as we did in the past and as we do today?"

5.3.2 Current amendments of the Competition Rules

At the SBM 2019 was considered that handling of issues, **Amendment of the Competition Rules by the Working Group** and the **"Guidelines for Organizers of World and European Gold panning Championships"** by **Arturo Ramella**, are so extensive that they were combined and handled together.

the Board expressed its appreciation on the work done by the Working Group and **Arturo Ramella** 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.

After extensive discussion the Board proposes few most important changes in the Competition Rules of WGA to be voted for at the 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.

Decision: Accepted unanimously

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 between the heats is used.

Local Organizer must inform in advance which system will be 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.*

Decision: Accepted unanimously

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.

Decision: Accepted unanimously

5.3.3 Former President, Arturo Ramella has been working with the guidelines” How to help organizers of the Championships to arrange proper competition event”.

Arturo Ramella was invited to attend the meeting to briefly present his views of this matter:

Find the slide show presentation of Arturo Ramella as an attachment 7.

*During his presentation Arturo Ramella mentioned that “**Good Practices Booklet, How to organize a world event.**” will be available by asking the file on email basis.*

After thinking the matter more closely, he prefers to set the latest version on WGA’s website so anyone can download it there. The latest version will always be updated on the website.

Note: The Booklet will be uploaded on WGA’s website asap!

5.3.4 AGM discussed also the Family Category and its rules.

It was noted that for the future of the WGA is important to invest families and especially young people and children. Family Category was considered as a very important part of all Championships events.

Because this is not yet an official category, it gives to future Local Organizers the opportunity to develop the category further.

To inform in advance how this category will be run in the event is essential.

This whole issue of the future of the Family Category was sent to the next Spring Board Meeting to be handled further.

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 the 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 8. 9. 10.)

Delegate of Poland, Jaroslaw Dudkiewicz briefly presented the bid to host 2022 World Gold Panning Championships in Zotoryja, Poland and welcomed all to participate the event

Decision: Annual General Meeting unanimously granted WGA's Member Nation Poland's association, Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors, Zlotoryja, Poland, right to host and organize 2022 World Gold Panning Championships.

Polish Guild of Gold Prospectors / Norbert Makovski have sent earlier a letter to the Board that because no one of their officials are able to attend Tankavaara 2019 AGM, they want to do a brief presentation of Polish World Gold Panning Championships event at 2020 AGM in Nony Knin, Czech Republic. The Presentation to Competitors takes place in Dawson City, Canada 2021.

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.

President Sanjay Singh asked the Member Nations' Delegates seriously to consider of making a bid to host European Championships, perhaps even as a joint project of national associations.

For the organizer, interested in to run the event, there is time until next year's Spring Board Meeting (SBM) to leave to the President an application to host the European Championships 2021. Exact time and place of next years SBM is not been decided yet, normally it takes place in May - early June in connection to some Member Nation's competition event.

6.3 South African support to World Gold Panning Championships 2023

Ms. Sibongile Nkosi, Head of Communications in the Mpumalanga Department of Culture Spirit and Recreation, payed a visit at the meeting and addressed the government's official support to bid for hosting 2023 World Gold Panning Championships in ***Pilgrims Rest, South Africa.***

The Board is waiting for the official application form from the Local Organizer in South Africa.

7. Board Election

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

***President Sanjay Singh** noted to the Delegates to consider that next year Secretary's mandate (2 x 3 years period) will be over.*

8. Projects

Every year in the budget of the WGA a sum of money is reserved for the projects to support young gold panners.

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

*The representatives of Youth, chosen to be as the observers at the AGM, were **Luka Hink**, Netherlands and **Robin Hartmann**, Germany.*

*AGM thoroughly discussed the matter to establish the **Youth Committee**.*

The AGM made a decision, that the Youth Committee will be established, and young people of WGA shall choose the chairperson among them, and after that the President will appoint her/him until the next SBM?

(Attachments 11. 12.):

Young people of WGA/ Nicolo Polidori

South Africa / Sherry Goodwin

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.

The AGM considered that the issues exists according the chapters 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3 above.

Some questions were raised up:

How and where to do a registration of the association as NPO, in some Member Nation, USA, EU, globally?

How to get WGA’s own bank account, which is currently a private account of the treasurer?

Auditing procedure of Financial report?

Permanent address? Taxation?

Or whether it will be better to continue as it is today, as an unofficial community in its current form?

Eventually the Board needs a lot of assistance from Member Nations associations, in legal aspects of these matters, to be able to continue to handle this issue further.

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)

The Board asked the attendees at the meeting to consider this matter and to inform of the major celebrations of their own Nation’s, hometowns’, association’s, people’s and so on.

10. Other current issues:

No other issues appeared.

11. Closure of the Meeting.

President Sanjay Singh thanked all the attendees at the AGM as well the Local Organizer and wished all good time at the event and success in the competitions in Tankavaara.

President Sanjay Singh declared the Annual General Meeting 2019 of the World Gold Panning Association closed.

Attachments:

1. Attendees at the AGM2019
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. Communication Committee Report / Alba Iglesias-Gomez
7. Good Practices booklet / Arturo Ramella
8. 2022 WGC bid / Poland WGA application form
9. 2022 WGC bid / Poland Support Zlotoryja/ eng
10. 2022 WGC bid / Poland Support Zlotoryja/pl
11. Young people of WGA / Nicolo Polidori
12. Young people of WGA / South African association