



Minutes for the Annual General Meeting 2020 (AGM) of the World Gold Panning Association (WGA)

Date: Wednesday, 19th August 2020 at 7:00 PM (Central European Summer Time)

Venue: The Annual General Meeting 2020 took place at **Mining Museum in Příbram**, Czech Republic

Attendees:

See attached the lists of the Delegates of the World Gold Panning Association Member Nations, Members of the WGA Board, Chairpersons of the Committees and Observers at the meeting.

Some attendees were represented virtually because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. Opening of the SBM

Sanjay Singh, President, attending at the AGM virtually, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Vice President Jiri Dunovsky was present at the meeting and acted as a chair of the meeting

The Annual General Meeting 2020 was found to be legal and quorum.

2. President's report

Sanjay Singh, President, presented virtually his President's report:



PRESIDENTS REPORT –WGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOVY KNIN, CZECH REPUBLIC

19TH AUGUST 2020.

Good evening and welcome to all delegates from the various member countries to the Annual General Meeting of the World Gold Panning Association. To all those delegates who have joined we through our virtual platform a warm welcome to you too.

In addition, all observers to the meeting, your presence is also appreciated.

Last year it was my pleasure to present to you a brief report of the year under review. However, this year I must declare that it is more with mixed feeling that I carry out this task. I must declare that for obvious reasons the report will be brief.

After a very successful and well-presented World championships during the “summer “in Finland and following the exciting presentation made by the team from Novy Knin in the Czech Republic there was great enthusiasm from members of the Gold Panning Family throughout the world to attend the WGC 2020 .

Upon return to South Africa, follow-ups were done on a few items as discussed at the AGM.

1. The youth group were engaged regarding the development of some guidelines for them. In this regard, a short catalyst document was shared with them for consideration and further development. This is considered as work in progress.
2. The South African representatives were engaged regarding the submission of information on the bid for 2023 as presented by their representatives at the AGM in Tankavaara.
3. Board members engaged with representatives from potential hosts for the European championships in 2021.

Preparations for the Spring Board meeting were underway early in the New Year. The notifications went out calling for items to be put on the Agenda. Then Life as we knew it changed “overnight”. Because of the declaration of by the World Health Organization of the COVID-19 as a pandemic and the various interventions and restrictions imposed by countries around the world, we decided to schedule the meeting of the Board later, towards the Middle of June. However, in the meantime members of the board had been in constant contact with each other on a range of issues as well as the uncertainties prevailing across the world.

The Spring Board Meeting was our first Virtual meeting. At this point, let me place on record our sincere appreciation to our Vice President Mr. Jirka Dunovsky for his expertise with the necessary IT logistics and the Google Meets Platform.

The board engaged with agenda items deemed most critical:

1. The decision on the Hosting of the WGC 2020

2. The Preliminary Financial reports and budgets for 2021
3. The Communication committee report.
4. The Competition committee report for 2019- Finland
5. Bids received for European and World Championships
6. Elections for the post of Secretary
7. Future Youth, Children / Family Programs

After much deliberations and consultations with the LOC in the Czech Republic, the office of the Mayor, the very difficult decision of proceeding with the WGC 2020 was taken. It was with the clear understanding that during these unusual conditions the event in itself will have many unusual characteristics to it. The board understood that it was going to be a smaller event with fewer participants and minimal pomp and splendor. The WGA received a letter from the office of the Mayor / Town hall during this time confirming their readiness to host the world gold panning championships 2020. In addition, the LOC also assured the committee that all the necessary health protocols would be in place.

During all of this time member's from, all around the world showed their affection and care by hosting at least two Zoom get togethers. This was indeed amazing; as the excitement of seeing each other was palpable. Many shared their stories, experiences and opinions of what transpiring in their respective countries. One effort that really sticks out for me was when Anne from Canada had to wake up at 1 AM in the Canadian winter snow, drive I think 20 miles just so that she could have network to connect with this Gold panning family. To our KIWI connections, a huge thank you also for hosting with your account for one of the get together. Others off course-shared information on other Social media platforms.

These were inspiring moments. Thank you, Arturo and the communications team for being instrumental in this regard.

The decision to proceed with the WGC 2020 was met with mixed reactions; however, I want to place on record our sincere appreciation to the Czech Republic, the Mayors council/ Committee and the LOC for the steadfast commitment you displayed in your preparations. Be certain we are very aware of the difficulties you have all been through to get us to this point. Thank you for your commitment.

To those who were unable to make it to the competition or who were not happy with the decision to go ahead, we wish to thank you to for your patience and understanding in this regard. You have stood together with us in this regard and for this, we are thankful.

Differences we may have but Family will be Family!

Finally let me also place on record my sincere appreciation to the members of the board for your loyalty, support, commitment over the last year. We would fail as the WGA if we did not say huge thank you to Raimo Repola who has served as the Secretary of the organization for the maximum period of 2 terms.

“Raimo, you have served with such humility and diligence, you have shared your wisdom so often in difficult times, you were able to raise above emotions and be impartial in so many instances. You have taken so much pride in carrying out the work of secretary. Thank you Thank you Thank you. However, thank you for offering to support and mentor the incoming secretary of the WGA. I am sure with your support your legacy will be safe.”

Finally, let us give confidence to the LOC in Canada that indeed we will be supportive of them as they prepare for 2021 under these circumstances. May these conditions change for the positive as quickly as they began.

In the meantime, be well and be safe.

Thank you.

SANJAY SINGH

PRESIDENT OF WGA

3. Financial report 1.7.2019- 30.6.2020 and the Budgets of the WGA for the next fiscal year (1.7.2020– 30.6.2021).

Treasurer Daniela Múčková, presented the Financial report 1.7.2019 – 30.6.2020, realized budgets 2019-2020 and Working Budget and Project Budget for next term 2020-2021.

Decision: Accepted unanimously

Attachments: Financial statements

4. Communication Committee report

Arturo Ramella, the Chairperson of the Communications Committee, attending at the AGM virtually, presented the report and views of the Communication Committee.

See attached.

Decision: Accepted unanimously

4.1. Composition of Communication Committee 2020

Arturo Ramella	Chairperson	Italy
<u>Members and duties:</u>		
Christian Wolf	Pictures and web site updates	Austria
Alba Iglesias-Gomez	Collection of Golden News	Spain
Michael Greyshock	Golden Times & Newsletter	USA
Luka Hink	Youth Program, Youngsters delegate at the AGM	Netherlands
<u>Proposed Member:</u>		
Jesus Menendez	Photos	Spain

5. Competition Committee Report

Esko Orava, the Chairperson of the Competition Committee.

5.1. Composition of Competition Committee 2020

Ordinary members:

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

Temporary members:

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

5.2. Summary of the World Championships 2019 in Tankavaara, Finland

Esko Orava, Chairperson of the Competition Committee will present following report done by **Peter Grubenmann**, Switzerland of the WGC 2019 in Tankavaara, Finland and Area Inspection Protocols from Tankavaara.

Shortreport

concerning the

WORLD GOLDPANNING COMPETITION 2019 at TANKAVAARA FINLAND

From Competition Committee Member Peter Grubenmann, Switzerland

- A great and perfectly organized Championship by our friends from Finland is over. The competition ran smoothly, efficiently and all the systems used worked perfect, highly effective and very important - perfectly at time schedule. All persons involved at practicing pool area, bibbing area, sand and seeding area, competition area, speakers, scrutineers and all supervisors at the competition area worked very efficient and to everybody's happiness!

- The spirit and philosophy of the World Goldpanning Association of fair play and sportsmanship prevailed throughout the event.
- As far as I know, we had 140 Women and 194 Men participating at the two main categories. Out of them, there was 137 Veterans and in addition approximately 30 Juniors.
- After I was appointed by Esko Orava, our Chairman, to write the Competition report on behalf of the WGA Spring-Meeting Members. I asked various Competitors from nearly all the participating countries to please tell me all about any hints or meanings concerning the running Competition, any Competition improvement suggestions as well as any complaints they may have of what's however concerning the Competition. No negative answer was made to my ears up to now... Everybody seemed to be very happy of what they encountered at Tankavaara, were full of good words and thankful to everybody who contributed to and for the perfectly organized Competition.
- There were no reruns – no disqualification – one official protest was handled by Jury during the whole competition. Any minor complaints by single participants could be solved peacefully by competent and positive negotiations with our Competition Committee Chairperson Esko Orava. Special thanks to you Esko...!

Perfectly done Finland - many thanks to all of you!

Ostermundigen, Switzerland, 15. of September 2019

PETER GRUBENMANN

Attachments: [Arena Inspection Protocols Tankavaara, Finland](#)

Decision: Accepted unanimously

6. Bids for European Championships 2021

Czech association is proposing **Zlate Hory** as the host of 2021 European Championships.

Zlate Hory's bid was approved in SBM and this matter goes further to AGM2020. The date of the event was not included in the application and is expected at AGM2020 in finalizing the date, consideration should be given to the fact that the Canadian WGC2021 takes place in the beginning of August, so all countries could organize their local national events.

Attachments:

[Application of Czech Republic's Association for hosting European Gold Panning Championships 2021 in Zlate Hory](#)

Decision: Accepted unanimously

7. Bids for World / European Championships 2023

South African Association SAGPA is bidding to host World Gold Panning Championships 2023 in Pilgrims Rest, Mpumalanga..

South African authorities have already at last year's AGM confirmed the support to LOC (Local Organizing Committee) of 2023 World Gold Panning Championships event in Pilgrims Rest.

Attachments:

Commitment for hosting World Gold Panning Championships in South Africa

Application of South African Association for hosting World Gold Panning Championships in South Africa

Decision: Accepted unanimously

Frank Hartmann informed that German Association is interested in hosting **2023 European Championships** after the South African bid was successfully decided.

8. Election of the Board Member

This year **Raimo Repola**, Finland, has served his full terms of 2x3 years as the member of the Board on the post of Secretary and a new person will be elected on this post at AGM 2020.

Due to limitations on voting by Proxy, Member Nations which may nominate a candidate for the post of Secretary were requested to inform of this to Secretary **latest to the end of July**. (secretary@worldgoldpanningassociation.com)

This allowed to share information of all nominations, in time before the AGM, to all attendees.

Voting in this item will happen by secret ballot, virtual attendees could use the proxy form by sending it, filled on this item, by e-mail to the Vice President once the list of candidates has been notified. (vicepresident@worldgoldpanningassociation.com)

The Finnish association, **LKL** ry has informed in SBM the Board of proposing **Tuija Tunturi** as a candidate to the member of the Board on this post.

The French association, **FFOR**, has 30.7.2020 informed the Board of proposing **Pierre-Jean Guide** as a candidate to the member of the Board on this post.

No other proposals for the post of Secretary have been received.

Both candidates were not able to attend the meeting because of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

*As a candidate for the post of Secretary **Pierre-Jean Guide**, France, was presented by French delegate **Jean-Baptiste Guide**.*

***Tuija Tunturi**, Finland has sent to the meeting her own presentation of the candidacy for the post of Secretary, which was shown to all attendees and is attached in this document.*

Decision:

*After a secret ballot, 1 vote / delegate, **Tuija Tunturi**, Finland, was elected as a member of the Board to the post of the Secretary with 26-4 votes.*

*Former secretary **Raimo Repola**, (virtually) thanked all Delegates and Board members for the demanding and challenging, but very interesting, task in which he has been allowed to act for six years' time. He pointed out, that it has been a privilege to work on this great international team and serve all the people in this association and our hobby society.*

9. Youth /Children / family programs

The Board has discussed at SBM on the 18th of June of Family events in competitions and how they should be controlled in future. This item still needs some fine-tuning however, it was agreed that the role of the LOC of each event will provide guidance.

When the Board last year made a decision to support Tankavaara Children's' program during the WGC 2019, a feedback how this was arranged and succeeded was required.

Following report from Tankavaara Gold Village by Marko Touru was accepted:

Report: Children's programs at 2019 World Gold Panning Championships in Tankavaara, Finland

Planning

Children's program was planned by Competition project secretary together with local municipality's culture secretary. Plan was to utilize local resources such as sports clubs etc. Local associations that participated: Lapin Kiehiset, Sodankylän Kisasiskot, 4h-kerho, Lappi Leader project.

Program

Organized and guided children's programs were organized from Tuesday to Friday 10:00-15:00 during the World Gold Panning Championships. Themed workshops schedule and the associations responsible for arranging:

Tuesday 6.8. Gold Village nature workshop – Local Scouts association

Wed 7.8. Rhythm & movement music and sports workshop – Kisasiskot

Thu 8.8. Tankavaara Gold adventure – 4H

Fri 9.8. Nature day in Lapland – Tankavaara Gold Village

The workshops were aimed at children aged 7 and up. Maximum group size for each workshop was 25 at a time. All workshops started from Nugget square and happened in Tankavaara area.

Lappi Leader project also held a face painting booth at the market for a few days during the competitions.

8-10 children attended the workshops daily, mainly competitors' children. Turnout was smaller than expected, probably due to chilly weather. Also, local children's summer holiday had just ended before the competitions started.

Feedback

Competitors who gave feedback were very happy about the guided children's activities, since competitions usually don't have activities only for children. Also the children who attended the activities said they liked the workshops.

Marko Touru

Tankavaara Gold Village

The board expressed its appreciation for the initiative and noted the positive feedback as well as the challenges experienced.

The Board encourages all LOCs to continue with programs for children in future competitions

Decision: Accepted unanimously

10. Other current issues

No issues.

11. Closure of the Meeting

President Sanjay Singh and Jiri Dunovsky, Vice President, 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 Novy Knin.

President Sanjay Singh declared the Annual General Meeting 2020 of the World Gold Panning Association closed

On behalf of the Board

Sanjay Singh
President

Raimo Repola
Secretary

Attachments:

Attendees

Financial statements

Communication Committee report

Arena Inspection Protocols 2019 Tankavaara

Application EGC Zlate Hory

Commitment for hosting World Gold Panning Championships in South Africa

Application of South African Association for hosting World Gold Panning Championships in South Africa

Presentation Tuija Tunturi