



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

Date: Wednesday 17th August 2022 at 7:30 PM (Central European Summer Time)

Venue: Mayor's Parlour Zlotoryja City

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

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.

Invitations were also sent by email to those who are attending the meeting virtually. A vast majority of delegates attended the meeting physically.

1. Opening of the AGM

Sanjay Singh, President *opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the meeting. The President expressed appreciation to all those who were present. He remarked that we should all see this gathering as a sign hope as compared to the previous 2 years. The president also thanked delegates for their patience and understanding with regards to the technical glitches experienced by those who were joining virtually.*

The Annual General Meeting 2022 was found to be legal and quorum.

2. President's report

The president's report was presented and accepted. Copies of which are available.

3. Financial report 1st July 2021- 30th June 2022

Budget of the WGA for the next fiscal year, 1st July 2022-30th June 2023
Daniela Múčková, Treasurer

Reports had been sent to delegates prior to the meeting.

Treasurer Daniela Múčková, presented the financial report 1.7.2021 – 30.6.2022, realized budgets 2021-2022 and Working Budget and Project Budget for next term 2022-2023.

These were accepted by the delegates

4. Communication Committee report

Arturo Ramella, the Chairperson of the Communications Committee joined the meeting virtually.

The reports were also sent to delegates prior to the meeting.

Christian Wolf presented the reports.

Arturo Ramella presented thank you for Christian for having excellent working the committee.

The Facebook page is doing quite well and updates are done monthly or more frequently.

Moved and accepted to approve the report as presented.

5. Competition Committee Report

Esko Orava, the Chairperson of the Competition Committee.

5.1. Summary of the European Championships 2021 in Tuzina, Slovakia **Esko Orava.**

Zlate Hory, Czech Republic had to cancel hosting of the 2021 Championships. Twelve countries attended the event in Tuzina Slovakia. The event was well run. There were no reruns and no protests.

Moved and carried unanimously to accept the competition report as presented

Recommendations on clarity of rules as proposed.

Recommendation to clarify Rule 3 (c) the internal and external tube measurements. There needs to be a proposal to the Board for review at the spring meeting and referral to the appropriate committee.

6. World and European Championships 2023 Presentation

Marko Touru of Tankavaara, Finland made remarks on the **EGC 2023** scheduled to hosted in July 2023. He indicated that they were ready and it was all systems go for the event .He invited all to attend. The issue of the proximity of dated between the EGC 2023 and the WGC 2023 in Pilgrims Rest was raised. Both hosts indicated that it will

be difficult to consider change of dates as planning and preparations were at an advanced stage

WGC 2023 South Africa, Sherry Goodwin

Ms. Sherry Goodwin the Chairperson of the South African Gold Panning Association presented a slide show which covered supporting events, excursions, new timing system and above ground pools, entertainment, parade and Ceremonies during the day, A more detailed presentation with more information was planned for the South African night later in the week.

Mac Mac Competition will be August 5th 2023, ahead of the WGA Championships. Will have shuttles and transport. Traditional pan planned to be the Eastwing. Will have an unofficial over 75 senior's category.

Contact Sherry at Brummertours@gmail.com should anyone require additional information and support

7. Bids for World Championships 2024, 2025 and 2026

It was noted that there were no bids for WGC after 2023. While this was a concern, it is understood that under the current circumstances prevailing in the world, members are reluctant to make any commitment. It was agreed to pursue discussions with possible organizers such as Canada, Spain, Germany, and New Zealand. Canada may consider 2025, however this is still subject to further discussions and confirmation. The board also recognized the fact that it may be strategic to have a host in Europe after SA and before the Competition goes to another continent purely for economic reasons and attendance. Members are urged to submit bids and intentions to bid for WGC for the next 3 years.

Application for New Zealand 2026 (or could move forward to 2025), presented by Terry and Odette Hopkirk.

The dates will be announced by the 1st November 2022.

Expectation that there will be a more detailed plan and presentation as the event gets closer.

Accepted.

WGC2024 - Jirka will approach Czech Republic, Zlate Hory, regarding hosting in 2024 as they had to cancel their previous bid due to COVID 19 concerns. Should this attempt be successful, in the context of the time constraints, it may not be necessary for them to issue another bid. They will have to write to the Board and confirm their willingness to revive their previous bid with the new dates of 2024. The Board will convene a special meeting to ratify this request and then inform the WGA membership of the decision.

WGC2025 – Follow ups will be done with Spain to formalize their interest in hosting 2025.

Note: Should we receive interest from Canada for 2027 and from Spain for 2025, it may be possible to open negotiations for New Zealand to consider hosting in 2025, Spain in 2026 and Canada in 2027. This will be dependent on whether the WGA does receive formal bids or intentions in good time

8. Election of the Board Members

The 1st term of the position of the President **Sanjay Singh** and that of the Treasurer **Daniela Múčková** is completed. Both of the office bearers are available to stand for a second term. There were no other candidates.

Jiri Dunovsky acted as the election officer, voting by raising hands.

Sanjay Singh elected for a second term by delegates.

Daniela Múčková elected by the delegates for the next two years (Previous term ended a year ago but not addressed due to COVID so this term made retroactive starting in 2021.(Unanimous)

9. Youth /Children / family programs

It was also noted that there is a need for some intervention to encourage more young people to be involved in Gold Panning both at local, National and International level where possible.

The Board presented a recommendation for the introduction of an official category between 0 and 16 years (Juniors) as this was one way in which members may encourage younger participants to join .A new official category of U12 to be implemented from 2023. The current rules for the juniors will serve as guidelines for this category in the interim. The board will confirm this during the SBM in 2023.

Recommendation, that Children be made an official category.

Recommendation accepted.

Guidelines will need to be developed for example will there be a different bucket size, how much sand in the bucket, etc. should the need arise for a change from the guidelines for Juniors .

Other younger age group competitions may continue at the discretion of the LOCs however these will remain unofficial

10. Call for interest to host the permanent address of the WGA

The board recommended the establishment of a permanent Physical Address for the Headquarter of the WGA. The board considered the importance of having a permanent headquarters for the Registration of the WGA as an NPO and to solicit official support for the programmes of Member countries and the WGA. The Permanent address should allow office space and provide necessary support to the WGA should the need arise. For obvious reasons it was proposed that the permanent address should be in Europe from its inception.

In this regard, member countries were called upon to register their interest in hosting the permanent address / office of the WGA.

Currently using the WGA is utilizing the Secretary's address which is a private address. Two Proposals were considered 1, Tankavaara Museum, 2, Poland - Zlotoryja Brotherhood. The President was to engage Finland and Poland to agree on who has an appetite to assist the WGA in this regard. Question raised as to whether a permanent

address would affect the move to become a Non Profit Origination. A permanent address would be more appropriate than a private address in this regard.

11. Registration of WGA as Non-Profit Organization in Europe

It was also noted that there is a need for some intervention to encourage more young people to be involved in Gold Panning both at local, National and International level where possible.

The rationale behind this proposal is that our Golden family needs to try different alternatives to encourage greater interest by younger people in our activities.

Registration of the WGA as a Non-Profit Organization may afford the WGA and its members a certain degree of legal status which may allow the WGA to access additional resources from possibly the European Union or from the respective member countries.

The operations of the WGA are not expected to change in any significant manner. This strategy may increase our access to an alternate approach building on the solid foundations already in place.

As is evident, the standards of our competitions have been raised to a significantly higher level over the years. We wish to maintain this and to see whether with additional support, there will be opportunities to increase the programmes of the WGA and Member countries. Individual members with expertise in this regards are requested to volunteer their time to assist.

Need to draft a project plan. This approach may take some time however, it needs to start somewhere.

Received unanimous approval to move forward with this.

12. Other current issues

None

13. Closure of the Meeting

Sanjay Singh, President once again thanked all delegates and closed the meeting at 22.20PM

All delegated were hosted to a dinner by the Polish Association there after.

On behalf of the Board

Sanjay Singh
President

Tuija Tunturi
Secretary