

The General Secretary, Dan Engström is preparing the formal congress minutes now, but here is a quick summary of the annual Congress of WFDF held yesterday here in Hawaii:

The meeting was very well attended and the facility provided by the WUCC was quite good. The session was preceded by a luncheon also arranged by our hosts. Dr. Francis Pring-Mill of Vancouver, Canada facilitated the meeting through a grant from the UPE. President Bill Wright provided a complete briefing booklet for all delegates.

The opening included brief remarks from all representatives relating the highlight of current disc activities in their countries.

There was a treasurer's report presented by Matt Healey, representing Joey Gray who was unable to attend because of travel problems. The report showed a general decline of WFDF funds over the last three years

There were committee reports from all the committees. Team sports was presented by the chair, Charlie Mead. Within that report, Finland made its formal proposal for World Ultimate and World Guts in 2004. The congress voted to accept the bid and directed that a letter of understanding be established for that event. Dan Roddick presented the other committee reports and he described the recent reorganization of the committee structure with each of the committees beginning anew by selecting their chairs and setting up their operating procedures. On field events, he reported that it was being considered to hold freestanding field event championships for each discipline in the off years of WOC. That is, there would be WFDF World Championship events for distance, field events, discathon and ddc at separate sites during those off years. If Board approved, this event program would most likely use some existing events as the initial sites.

Formal approval was given to the pending new members of WFDF including:

Provisional- Russia, Iceland, Beach Lovers Ultimate Association and Goaltimate

Regular- Venezuela

Particular notice was given to the exciting development of the Russian Federation joining WFDF. This was cited as a particularly clear example of the WFDF original aims.

The consideration of the future of WFDF was launched with a listing and discussion of the WFDF mission and services that are needed by the flying disc community, whether provided by WFDF or others.

The three options that have been circulated earlier were then presented individually. Dan Roddick presented Option 1 (a movement away from WFDF with global services being provided by event-specific organizations. Bill Wright presented Option 2 (support of a more robust model for WFDF). Dan Roddick returned to present Option 3 (a continuation of WFDF, but at a significantly reduced level of operation). An extended discussion then was opened on the merits of each option. Midway in that discussion, Matt Healey presented a summary of a new Option 4 which has been recently provided by former WFDF president, Nob Rauch (a transition program of remodeling WFDF over the next year). Discussion then led toward the consensus that option 3 was really a practical application of option 1, and

option 4 was also an implementation the goals of option 2. A straw poll was then done of the representatives with each placing a dot on the option of their choice. All the dots save one were placed on option 2. More discussion then formulated a motion that directed the Board to proceed in the direction of option 2, using elements of option 4. The Board was further directed to present the membership with ongoing details of these developments and voting opportunities on the various components as they come into place. The goal is to have the new model completely established by Congress 2003 in Santa Cruz. This congress will be particularly useful, as the World Disc Games will include both the Pan Am Regionals and the World Overall Championships, so both sides of the sport will be present. The discussion included several expressions of support for increased financial commitment to WFDF. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

More details on all of this in the full minutes, which will come out in the next several days. Incidentally, the WUCC had a great first day with smooth registration and a very productive captain's meeting and field volunteer meetings run by Charlie Mead and Dan Engström. The WUCC organization, under Grant Wise, appears to be poised to produce an exceptional event.

Stork

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