

WDSF DELEGATES REPORT 2017

This year New Zealand was represented by two delegates, Sandra Maxfield and Jenny Lamb along with observer Harry Raiend at the 60th anniversary meeting of the WDSF held in Singapore.

The annual informal meeting for the Oceania and Americas members was held late Saturday afternoon and was joined by Tony Tilenni, WDSF Treasurer, Tommy Shaughnessy, Sports Director and representatives from Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA. Tony briefed the meeting on details of the background for the proposed increase to WDSF ID card fees along with other information regarding financial matters. Discussion on these matters was lengthy and followed by a verbal presentation on the state of dancesport by each country.

Sunday 11 June (8.45–4pm)

Open Forum

1. Road to Buenos Aires

The first presentation was by Jean Laurent Bourquin the WDSF CEO on the great news of the inclusion of breaking for 3 medals in the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires 2018 and the pathway for athlete selection over the next 6 months. Information is available on the WDSF website under Breakingforgold. Other dance styles will be showcased at the YOG which is expected to lead to the possible inclusion of other styles in future Olympic Games. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for WDSF to prove itself as an Olympic sport and has already led to Member Bodies gaining full membership of the Olympic Committee in some countries where they have been struggling for recognition for many years.

2 Tasked to Succeed

President Lukas Hinder spoke as Chairman of the Task Force to Combat Competition Manipulation in Dancesport. Match fixing is the biggest issue facing WDSF – progress to date includes the updating of the judging system from 2.1 to 3.0 to remove some of the opportunities for manipulation by adjudicators. The second step is that all adjudicator panels are now made public prior to competitions to give the athletes confidence there will be fair judging panels. A single point of contact has been provided for any athletes or officials who are concerned – contact is Mr Antero Koponen from the Ethics committee – ethicscommittee@wdsf.org

3 WDSF Survey

The results of the recent survey of NMBs were presented to the meeting. 80% member bodies participated with some interesting results. Full results are available on request.

4 WDSF ID card fee increase

Tony Tilenni presented full information on the reasons for the proposed increase from CHF 10 for 4 years to CHF50 for 2 years. This was considered to be a contribution from the athletes towards the costs of running the WDSF, providing prize money, organising competitions etc and an investment in the future. There was opposition from some countries who felt it was too expensive especially for Junior/Juvenile/Youth athletes and thought that the WDSF would lose athletes as a result. Following an afternoon tea break discussion with a group of delegates a compromise was reached for CHF10 per year for Juvenile, Junior and Youth athletes and CHF20 per year for Adult and Senior athletes. The motion is to be amended for the AGM

5 New WDSF structure

To bring the WDSF in line with other modern sporting bodies it has been proposed to restructure the Presidium so that the new Vice President roles all have job descriptions and specific roles. This is to help 'share the load' as the body moves forward.

6 On the ballot

Nominated candidates were invited to give a 3 minute address to the meeting.

Professional Division AGM (4-6.15pm)

The meeting ran smoothly with the presentation of reports, financials and small amendment to the Administrative rules.

A motion was presented by Czech Federation to provide 'battle competition format' for PD Super Grand Prix events to make the competition more interesting for the audience and television coverage. This was passed unanimously

Elections for the PD Director and Management Board were held with the following results:

Director Verena Sulek
Members Sergey Belyaev (Finland)
Marek Chojnacki (Poland)
Davide Cacciari (Italy)
Alexander Melnikov (Russia)

Mr Tanabe from Japan was presented with a PD Life membership for his services over many years.

On Sunday evening the 60th anniversary dinner was held at Gardens by the Bay, a beautiful spot on the waterfront in downtown Singapore. Member representatives were presented with a commemorative tiepin or scarf ring.

Monday 12 June

WDSF AGM (10am to 9.45pm)

53 countries were present with 6 proxies.

Due to the number of motions to be dealt with and the Presidium elections it was proposed to present all reports except the Treasurers in one group to save time. All reports had been previously circulated.

The report from the legal commission raised questions from Portugal regarding the items included in extraordinary expenses. Jim Fraser Chair of the Legal Commission and Tony Tilenni (Treasurer) spoke at length answering questions. All reports presented as a group were accepted unanimously.

Treasurer Tony Tilenni presented the financial reports and budgets. Questions were again raised regarding expenditure including the cost of offices in Barcelona and Lausanne. Jim Fraser said that under the confidentiality clause in the agreement with Mr Seitas the Presidium could not release some of the information requested without a formal motion from the AGM members. This motion was then moved by Michael Shelton (England) and passed unanimously. Mr Fraser then summarised the content and financial information contained in the agreement. The information provided clarified the whole situation for the meeting. Consensus was we must move on. The accounts and provisional budgets were passed but are dependent upon the motion for the WDSF ID card fee increase.

Presidium Motions

- 38.1 The new structure was approved unanimously without opposition
- 38.2 Motion fighting competition manipulation – unanimous
- 38.3 Formal guarantees – unanimous
- 38.4 ID Card increase. Amended motion was presented as discussed at the Forum – passed, 2 against with 4 abstentions
- 38.5 Rule X rules for chairpersons/adjudicators, to introduce C licence etc - passed with several minor amendments unanimously
- 38.6 (1-4) Competition Rules - all passed unanimously
- 38.7 Showdance rules – passed 1 against 2 abstentions. New rules will run in conjunction with current rules until Jan 2018.

Member motions

Canada

- 39.1 Host AGM – overwhelmingly defeated (NZ abstain)
- 39.2 Withdrawn
- 39.3 WDSF championships (a) unanimous (b) withdrawn
- 39.4 & 5 both withdrawn

Columbia

- 39.6 & 7 both withdrawn

Croatia

39.8, 9, 10, 11 Dress Regulations - majority against – all defeated (NZ abstain)

39.12 Add 'Senior III Latin and 10 dance - passed by large majority, 2 abstentions (NZ for)

Czech Repub

39.13 withdrawn

Finland

39.14 Advertising on costumes - unanimous

Germany

39.15 withdrawn

Japan

39.16 withdrawn

Latvia

39.17 withdrawn

39.18 Conflicting schedules Championships/Cups - passed with amendments unanimously.

Portugal

39.19 Transparency of Presidium work - Defeated (NZ against)

39.20 WDSF Chairperson/Examiner courses - Unanimous

39.21 Text consistency on WDSF website – passed by majority (NZ for)

39.22 Presidium Opinions re Members Motions - Majority No 2 abstentions (NZ against)

39.23 Value of payments – Majority No, 1 abstention (NZ against)

The majority of withdrawn motions were due to previous Presidium motions/bylaw changes covering the same items.

Elections for Disciplinary Council (VP and ordinary member)

40. Ordinary member Noel Laman (Phil) was elected as Vice President leaving a vacancy for an ordinary member which was filled by Karen Pedersen (Denmark) - unanimous

41. Presidium Elections (secret ballot)

President: 1 nomination Lukas Hinder – elected

Vice President for Sport 1 nomination Shawn Tay - elected

Vice President for Finance 1 nomination Tony Tilenni - elected

Vice President Legal Affairs 2 nominations Jim Fraser (USA). Ivo Kappet (Estonia). Jim Fraser by majority

Vice President Development 2 nominations Ken Richards (USA), Antony Cyzyk (Poland). Antony Cyzyk by majority

Vice President Communications 2 nominations Heidi Goetz(Germany), Leena Luisvaara (Finland). Leena Luisvaara by majority

Vice President Marketing 2 nominations Vasile Gliga (Romania), Ken Richards (USA). Vasile Gliga by majority

General Secretary 2 nominations Nenad Jeftic (Serbia), Markus Sonyi (Germany). Nenad Jeftic by majority

Ordinary members (3)

Nominations

Lena Avidesson (Sweden), Glen Weiss (USA), Petr Odstrcil (Czech), Peter Maxwell (England), Markus Sonyi (Germany), Boris Odikadse (Israel), Kiyotaka Uzaki (Japan)

Elected – Glen Weiss, Lena Avidesson and Peter Maxwell

First Vice President (elected from VPs) – Shawn Tay

Meeting closed 9.45pm