

Fall Summit Minutes
Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)

September 16, 2008
International Disc Golf Center – Appling, GA

Board Members:

Present: Todd Andrews, Chris Bellinger, Ron Convers, Bob Decker, Matt Gillis, Juliana Korver and Rick Rothstein

Quorum present? Yes

Others Present:

Executive Director: Brian Graham Other: Dave Gentry – Tour Manager, Addie Isbell – Memberships Manager, Todd Breiner – Fulfillment, Dan “Stork” Roddick – Director Special Projects, Brian Hoeniger – Consultant for International Affairs, and Chuck Kennedy

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 8:37am by Chair, Bob Decker

- Graham distributed copies of an email he received concerning the NT application process.

Review of budget trends: presented by Brian Graham

- The budget was discussed line by line to look for missing items or identify those that should be removed.
- It was suggested that there be a profit center separate from the organization for the IDGC pro shop.

Archive historic publications:

- Rothstein suggested that we archive old PDGA publication to build a searchable library.
- Becky Zalleck started this and has recorded all of the Discgolfers, but the archive is not searchable. Frisbee World Magazine is currently being digitized by John Duesler.

Marshal Program:

- The Marshal Program needs some help. We need to make sure that all Marshals are well trained and well versed in the rules. Maybe we can add more responsibilities for the Marshals (such as writing articles or doing online scoring) to increase their perceived worth.
- Historically the number 1 thing we need to do is deliver a PDGA presence at big events. This can be done with a Marshal, board member or PDGA staff.

IT Committee Report: presented by Dave Gentry

- Theo Pozzy called in to the meeting to assist Gentry with a demo and review of the new website.
- Since 2004, there has been little change to the site. Originally, there was no security. It is currently less than stable and is potentially open to being compromised again. The new site will eliminate this danger.

- The site was displayed and discussed. - We are now at a point where we need testers for the new site. Ciphent has a system to log any bugs that testers find. - The new site should not need any new hardware requirements. Only potential problem is if it is too slow, then we may want to upgrade to a dual server.
- After the initial launch, the next big thing will be the member login and integration with the message board.
- Hoeniger requested that “international” be included on the main menu of the site.
- One great benefit to the new site is that staff and outside individuals will be able to update content with the content management system.
- Stork expressed a concern regarding the potential ads that will be displayed on the site. Will we be able to know in advance who Ciphent has sold ad space to.
- We need to make sure we maximize the positive benefits for the member’s only section. We don’t want to suddenly restrict current areas from nonmembers.

Message Board: presented by Rick Rothstein

- Rothstein lead a discussion regarding the rise to prominence that the message board has seen and the damage that he feels it does when PDGA officials or staff post. Not sure what good it does us.
- Stork answered the question of utility with the fact that it is by far the largest draw of the PDGA website and increases our hits significantly which in turn makes us more interesting to potential sponsors.
- Rothstein emphasized the use of e-newsletters to communicate with the membership instead of announcements on the message board.
- Gentry believes that the new FAQ section of the new website will help alleviate the need for staff posts on the message board.
- The possibility of shutting down part of the message board to the public was brought up.
- Stork suggested that we create a task force to look at the options. There are many other people and organizations that are dealing with the same issues. This is something that keeps coming up and we should work on addressing it.
- Gentry is researching a possible shift to a new message board. If we go with a new message board, the old stuff will at least be archived and searchable. Gentry is trying to get people from the message board involved in the process.
- A task force was formed with Gentry, Korver, and possibly Jeff Legrassa and Theo Pozzy.

Super Class: presented by Chuck Kennedy

- A power point presentation was presented to discuss a Super Class which is the idea that by restricting the discs that are allowed, we can potentially revitalize older outgrown courses as well as potentially draw many more ultimate players to disc golf because the Ultrastar, their primary disc, would be a competitive driver.
- Legal Super Class discs include: Zepher, Sky Pro 100 Mold, Super Pro (60), 50 Mold, Apple, SkyStyler, 80/82 Molds, 90 Mold, The Tool/T501 Modl, Gamedisc, The New Zealand Ultimate, Ultra-star, Supernova, Pulsar, and Floater. Restrictions on diameter of discs and the depth of the rim determine if a disc qualifies as a Super Class: rim width no greater than .8 cm, rim configuration rating of 82.0 or greater.
- If players play in a Super Class event, they will get a Super Class rating separate from their other rating.
- The Kenwood Classic was a successful test run for Super Class. - It is estimated that the Super Class SSA will be about 6 strokes higher per course.

- A first draft of this proposal will be delivered to the board shortly at which time Kennedy requests feedback from the board.
- Would like to start this program in 2009.
- General consensus is that it is an interesting idea. There was concern over the name, however.

Annual PDGA Awards: presented by Graham/Kennedy

- Due to some recent concerns, the way in which rookie of the year and player of the year awards are determined has been revisited. We need to find a more objective method to determine the winners of these annual awards.
- Kennedy presented the following method: use the average of the average ratings in a player's best 8 or 10 events to provide the top 7 candidates. The events included would be their best major, best NT or A-tier and best of 6 to 8 B-tiers or higher. The top 7 candidates will then continue in the running and have 3 more stats calculated: finish position, strength of field, and head-to-head. The vote from whoever is included in the voting panel is an additional factor combined with the previously mentioned factors. The vote would account for 20% of the final score.
- Stork loves the idea of having these awards be totally objective, but feels that adding a voting component will actually make the process more controversial than it already has become. He also added that as far as sportsmanship is concerned, if a player is not behaving correctly, the rules should take care of that and the player should not be achieving top finishes. In short, these particular awards should not be popularity contests. More global evaluations of a player's career and impact on the sport are the business of such groups as the Hall of Fame.
- Decker asked Kennedy to run the numbers for the last 3 years to see who would have won the awards if this method had been used. - Convers feels the vote or sportsmanship is an important part of the award and would like to see the vote worth 25% of the final score.

Board Liaisons:

- PDGA committees were assigned board liaisons. The assignments are as follows:

Competition – Bellinger
 Course Design – Gillis
 Disciplinary – Andrews
 Education – Decker
 Environment – Gillis
 NT – Convers
 IDGC – Decker
 Ratings – Convers
 Rules – Korver
 Tech Standards – Bellinger
 Women – Korver
 International – Rothstein
 Youth – Convers
 IT – Andrews

Comprehensive PDGA Survey: presented by Graham/Gillis

- It is time to do another comprehensive membership survey.

- We want to ask interesting questions and then keep a baseline of repeating those questions. This will give us historical data of real value.
- The last member survey has been uploaded to the yahoo group.
- Gillis will start to create a new survey based on the existing one. It will then go to a small group that will include Hoeniger, Stork and Kennedy for further refinement before it is brought to the board.

MOTION (Convers/Gillis) To complete a comprehensive survey of members on a three year cycle.
Passed unanimously

Competition Manual: presented by Dave Gentry

- The original competition manual was created by Bellinger and Gentry. It is not in wide distribution, but that could be solved by printing the rules and manual all in one.
- The more important issue is that there is overlap between the competition manual and the rule book.
- Gentry has started a document to outline the issues that are in conflict.
- The rules committee is concerned about items that have penalties associated with them. Should penalties be given in the competition manual?

MOTION (Bellinger/Andrews)

The Q and A be used as a guideline and not the authoritative document regarding the rules.

Discussion: There was concern that the Q and A is not printed and thus not widely available or even known to the tournament players. Ideally the rules should be modified so the Q and A is not necessary.

MOTION (Andrews/Korver)

Table the previous motion.

Passes unanimously

Flying Disc Magazine Critique:

- Stork suggested that we go to the readership for feedback regarding FDM and that we should include Rich in the process. This will give us as well as FDM guidance on how the magazine is doing.
- Rothstein expressed a concern that we were not making the best use of our PDGA pages in the magazine.

Membership issues:

- The calendar year membership model was questioned. Now with the evolution of IT, it is much easier to do annual subscriptions instead of calendar year subscriptions.
- Negatives to this are the potential loss of revenue and the additional work required by the TDs.
- There was a discussion regarding the price of junior memberships.

MOTION (Andrews/Korver) Junior memberships stay at \$25 with the option to get the magazine for an additional \$10.

For: Convers, Rothstein, Gillis, Korver, Andrews, Bellinger Against: Decker Motion passed.

Grand Slam and PDGA Championships: presented by Brian Graham

- This is a concept that people understand in other sports and it may be an avenue for more sponsorship for us.

- Initially the idea was to have the PDGA Championships at the IDGC, but this venue is not suitable for TV coverage or galleries. Brian is researching other possible venues.
- The idea behind this event would be to work together with all of the manufacturers. We bring in the best TD's, the best volunteers, and the best players.

New Business:

Girl Scout Patch: presented by Ron Convers

- Convers is working on a Girl Scout patch program. Ideally we will get many volunteers across the country to work with their local troops to help the girls earn a patch for disc golf.
- Currently the process is as follows: you start with your local troop. A volunteer goes to the troop and presents a program that includes instruction and hands on experience. If such a program is approved locally, it will automatically go to the next level and so on until it becomes a national program.
- Would like to begin this program in the spring and would like to have as many different areas as possible involved. If we can overwhelm the national level, it will improve our chances that this might become a national level Girl Scout program.
- The artwork for the patch that the girls can achieve is currently being worked on.
- Nothing is needed from the board other than help finding qualified individuals who may be interested in doing this for their local troops.
- It was suggested that state coordinators be used to help with finding volunteers.

Estate planning: presented by Dan Roddick

- We need to put the idea of estate planning in front of people to get them thinking about this.
- Potentially have an "Eternal Membership".
- This would be a good topic for an article on the website.

Future Worlds Venues: presented by Brian Graham

- Graham met with several groups at worlds regarding future World's locations. There are a few bids lined up that should be coming in.
- It was recommended that we have a single source that we can go to that is the master document for recording future World's possibilities so that we don't end up with multiple unconnected discussions. Such a source should even document conversations that we have with potential locations.
- Kennedy suggested that we create a template so potential bidders know what is involved in making a bid.