

Teleconference Minutes
Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)
March 4, 2009

Board Members:

Present: Todd Andrews (joined at 7:38pm), 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, Dan “Stork” Roddick – Director Special Projects, Shawn Sinclair – Disciplinary Committee Chair (joined the discussion at 8:44 – 8:52)

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm EST by Chair, Bob Decker.

MOTION (Convers/Rothstein)

Approve the February 4th 2009 teleconference minutes with proposed change.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION (Rothstein/Korver)

Certify the Dart, Aftershock, Sparkle Aftershock, and Maxline - 1.

Motion passes unanimously.

Executive Director's Report: presented by Brian Graham

- 2008 Year end finances have been completed and the financial audit is currently underway. A copy of the detailed yearend financial report was uploaded to the Yahoo Group.
- The January 2009 financial report is 90% complete. We are waiting for some additional information from the fulfillment house before it can be completed. It should be done this week.
- As of 3/4/09, we had 7,599 active members. Last year at this time we had 7,124.
- This represents a 6/6% increase in membership thus far.
- United States – 6,982 members
- Canada – 83 members
- International – 534 members

PDGA Canada:

- The PDGA Canada manager has not submitted a yearend financial report to the office and is not returning emails or phone calls.
- Brian Hoeniger has agreed to take on the responsibilities of the PDGA Canada manager as part of his international consulting duties.

Shortened Elections:

- The board has shown an interest in shortening the voting period for annual elections from 2 months to 1 month.
- Most of our votes come in within the first 2 weeks of the election period.

MOTION (Korver/Gillis)

Change the voting period from 2 months to 1 month.

For: Korver, Gillis, Andrews, Bellinger, Convers, Decker

Against: Rothstein

Motion carries.

MOTION (Rothstein/Convers)

Hold the elections during the month of July.

For: Rothstein, Convers, Korver, Gillis, Andrews, Bellinger

Passes Unanimously.

US Entertainment Force (USEF):

- Graham is currently in negotiations with USEF to work with them to develop a national program to get disc golf courses installed on military bases. The USEF is a non-profit organization similar to the USO with a mission to support active military. Innova and Discraft have expressed an interest in supporting a program like this.

DiscGolfer Magazine Update:

- Rick Rothstein and Graham have been very busy coordinating on the first issue of DiscGolfer Magazine. Rick will be handling all of the editorial duties and Graham will be handling the business management.
- Thus far, we have sold \$11,420 in advertising for issue 1.
- Graham has uploaded a preliminary cost estimate for the magazine to the Yahoo Group, which does not yet account for postage.

PDGA Tour Report: presented by Dave Gentry

- As of last Thursday (2/26) there were a total of 455 unique events (402 US, 2 Canada, 51 International) on the PDGA calendar. In 2008 we had 508 events (428 US, 0 Canada, 80 International) on March 5th but we have 60 plus events waiting to be added and the number of International events is lower than usual with Brian Hoeniger's extended trip to Africa. Overall I would estimate we have a three to five percent increase in total events compared to a year ago.

- It is too early to have any reliable statistics for 2009 in regards to attendance but I did a quick comparison on the total number of US events on the calendar for the first quarter of 2009. The results are impressive with a 16.5% increase although this could be slightly skewed by the fact that Easter was in March last year.

- In other tour related news March will be busy and is when the season really starts to accelerate. The Memorial begins tomorrow, registration for the Worlds is scheduled to start on March 16th and the first ratings update of 2009 is schedule for March 17th.

- The Competition Committee has also reviewed the proposal sent in regarding the Legends division. The document with a detailed summary is attached but to quickly summarize the committee did not agree with the five year division breakdowns.

- In regards to how this impacts the 2009 Worlds the current schedule has the Legends playing five rounds compared to their traditional four and adding the Advanced Legends division for the first time. I believe that both the PDGA office and the host club are in agreement on this matter.

-On the IT front I am working with Ciphent to finalize the details for Phase II. We meet last week to review requirements and to identify potential issues. I received the first draft of a process document late last night and we should be finalizing everything soon. My guess is that implementation will start late next week and that we should see a new message board with an integrated by April 15th.

ED Evaluation: presented by Decker

- The staff is going to have more frequent staff meetings
- The process seemed to work well
- The office is overworked dramatically and something is going to need to change in the future.

2009 Budget: presented by Graham

- The summarized budget was published last year on the website that had a link at the bottom to the full budget.

Motion (Convers/Bellinger)

That the financial report as shown in the Yahoo group be published in the magazine and that when the final numbers are available, we publish on the website as we did last year.

For: Convers, Rothstein, Decker, Korver Against: Gillis, Andrews

Motion carries.

New PDGA Publication: presented by Rothstein

- Rick Rothstein is Managing Editor, Joe Feidt is Senior Editor, Scott Papa is Instructional Editor, and John Whinery is Photo Editor.

- We have \$11,000 sold in advertising already. The end result will be that we will save money doing the magazine in house versus purchasing FDM.

Player of the year award process: presented by Graham

- There is nothing new at this time. Chuck Kennedy is still tweaking the process.
- He should have something to us in the next week or two so we can discuss it during the next meeting.

National Tour committee reconstitution: presented by Convers

- The results of the BOD NT survey show that the board believes that the main importance for the NT is to promote disc golf (based on survey monkey) and attract media exposure.

- Previously the committee consisted of 2 board members, 2 TD's, and 2 touring pros. Convers proposes that we restructure the NT committee with more people who specialize in promoting disc golf.

Motion (Bellinger/Korver)

Ron Convers be appointed to the NT Committee chair.

For: Gillis, Bellinger, Korver, Rothstein, Andrews, Decker Abstain: Convers

Motion passed.

Mission statement update: presented by Bellinger

- Chris requests that the BOD send him what the PDGA is or should be.

Flying Disc Magazine:

-Rich Givens has requested that the PDGA publish a statement on our website explaining to our members that we received all of the magazines that we paid for. FDM is catching grief from members who think that FDM stiffed them an issue.

Proposed statement: *Regarding FDM: The determination was made to separate the parties after the 5th issue of 2008. The separation was mutually agreeable and FDM delivered all issues for which it was paid. DiscGolfer is the new in-house publication for the PDGA and will be received quarterly by all members in 2009. FDM continues as a national newsstand magazine, independent of the PDGA.*

- This should be included in the first issue of the Disc Golfer.

Parks Director Recognition Award:

- A member suggested that the PDGA create some sort of award to give to Parks Departments that go above and beyond the call of duty to support disc golf. Graham recommend that the office create a nice frameable certificate and that we allow members to submit the names of departments to receive these recognition awards.

Tech Standards - Duplicate Disc Names:

- Graham requested that the board of directors discuss the fact that we have no rule preventing a manufacturer from submitting a disc with the same name as a previously approved disc. This fact came to light recently when lightning submitted a disc for testing called "The Max" when Innova already had an approved disc named "Max". Lightning did change the name of their disc to the Maxline -1.

- This is probably a manufactures issue

- We should let the manufacturers know when there is a duplicate.

Other Business:

- The Rocket City Chain Gang – two groups are claiming this name and they are both trying to sanction the Rocket City Blast on the same weekend. They have been told that they need to figure it out between themselves. Now each group is sanctioning a different event.

- We have received a letter of appeal from one of the current disciplinary actions.

An executive session was held while Shawn Sinclair, Disciplinary Committee Chair, discussed a couple of the open cases.

Elections:

- It is time that people make it known if they wish to run for a PDGA position. 4 of the current board members (Juliana, Bob, Ron, Todd) are approaching the end of their current terms.

- Convers has talked to some of the disc manufacturers regarding the youth committee

- Stork suggested that we let manufacturers bid on specific opportunities as they arise and that perhaps the youth committee would be most beneficial if they broker these opportunities.

- We need to start thinking about agenda items for the summit

Action Items:

- BOD members and staff – send Chris what we think the PDGA is or should be.

MOTION (Rothstein/Korver)

To adjourn.

Motion passes unanimously.

- Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

- Minutes submitted by Secretary, Juliana Korver