

**Professional Disc Golf Association
Board of Directors Summit, NDGC, Columbia County, GA 9/22-23/05 – Approved Minutes**

The Summit was convened by Commissioner Theo Pozzy

Present: T. Pozzy, J. Lyksett, J. Chapman (absent 9/23), B. Decker (absent 9/23), P. May, B. Hoeniger (ED), L. Gibson (Staff), D. Gentry (Staff), D. Roddick (Dir of Special Projects)

Not Present: T. Calhoun, K Yoo

Guests: Harold Duvall, Pat Farell, Brian Graham, Chuck Kennedy, Tom Monroe, John Houck, Scott Warren

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Theo welcomed everyone to the first Summit held at the National Disc Golf Center.

State of the Association (B.Hoeniger)

Brian reviewed what has been a year of significant growth and challenge for the PDGA including the hiring of new staff, and the transition of PDGA HQ to the National Disc Golf Center (NDGC) site. Positive growth indicators include significant increases in the numbers of PDGA sanctioned events and current members.

Brian then provided a 2005 financial and 2006 budget overview. Financial Director Bob Decker performed the PDGA's first audit on 9/21/05 and reported briefly on his findings and positive first impression.

The NDGC building and course clearing schedule were also reviewed. The PDGA, host clubs, and the manufacturers collaborated to deliver solid Pro and Am World Championships in 2005.

The PDGA Board of Directors continues to evolve from hands on to strategic positioning.

The 2005 Process schedule is proving to be a very useful tool.

Media coverage is increasing.

Brian provided a draft update of the PDGA Mission Statement.

Ongoing Challenges:

The staff continues to spend 90% of its time on core tasks, customer service, info requests and complaints. The PDGA continues to struggle with an ongoing image problem, not least generated from the DISCUSSION Board

Brian emphasized it is time to demonstrate to the membership that the Board and staff are capable of organizing and delivering a campaign aimed at increasing media coverage and sponsorship. An in house marketing capacity will contribute to this goal.

The Pro Worlds format has not changed in 10+years. The 2006 Pro World Championships in Augusta will be a more compact event, less costly for the players and an experiment in fewer rounds and an overall reduction in capacity. The hosting of future Pro Worlds in Japan, and at the NDGC is expected to help rekindle the event's prestige.

Action Item (P. May/Stork)

To improve and formalize the PDGA Mission Statement for Board review.

PDGA Tour Part 1 (D.Gentry/J.Chapman)

The Competition Committee has been reactivated.

David provided the first draft of the 2006 Tour Standards document. There will be no drastic changes next year.

Pros playing as Amateurs was a new initiative in 2005 which was very well received

The trophy only "true Amateur" option did not catch on.

Action Items (Dave/Comp Committee)

- 1) Review Pro payout table incorporating payout value and event value.
- 2) Remove points from those Pros who played Amateur this past year
- 3) Increase Tournament Directors' awareness of trophy only option
- 4) Research: lowering of tournament entry fees;
 - grouping women players with male Master players;
 - guidelines for Tournament Directors regarding hazardous weather conditions

Motion (John/Theo)

That individual Series will have the option of allowing players to complete the Series in the division in which they started the Series despite a change in their player rating.

Default: Players must register in their PDGA rated divisions.

For: Unanimous **Motion Approved**

Motion (Bob/Theo)

That in 2006 'D' tier sanctioning fees be increased from \$10 to \$25

For: Unanimous **Motion Approved**

2006 Rules Update (J. Chapman)

There are 3 issues the Rules Committee is focusing on for implementation in 2006:

- 1) The Practice Throw: the Committee recommends that since this is not a crucial issue it can wait until next year to be settled.
- 2) The 2 Meter Rule
- 3) Casual Obstacles: the rule as written in the draft is different from the current rulebook; it will provide better guidance and is consistent with the current Q and A.

Motion (John/Theo)

That the Tournament Director must specify that the 2 meter rule is in place; otherwise the default is "2 meter rule not in effect."

For: Theo, Jon, Bob, John **Against:** Pete **Motion Approved**

Innova/USDGC (H. Duvall)

This event is on schedule and has reached capacity. The schedule has been moved up a day, the course will be open to the public on Sunday.

Harold expressed gratitude to the PDGA for its contributions.

Plans are in place to attract spectators:

- Local clubs have been given tickets to the Championships to distribute as prizes
- Local schools are selling tickets as fundraisers
- Educating sponsors in the value of donating to a disc golf tournament
- Media including "PGA Tour Sunday" television crew will be in attendance
- PDGA stipend to fund the "EDGE Championship Village presented by the PDGA" a spectator relations function.

The tournament will donate \$25000 to EDGE.

PDGA Radio (B. Sullivan via telephone)

Brian S. provided listener feedback and believes that PDGA Radio is highly valued by members. Brian S submitted a proposal seeking part time employment with the PDGA to improve the look and feel design and content of the website. The proposal will be considered during the Board's budget discussion later in the meeting.

Action Item (?)

Follow up technical standards dialogue between PDGA and the manufacturers. No follow up has been made since the initial forum at the Des Moines Worlds.

Membership (L. Gibson)

2005 has seen a 12% growth rate compared to this time last year, a very positive growth indicator. Reasons for this improvement and strategies for 2006 and beyond were outlined.

Marketing (J. Duesler via telephone)

Aims are to obtain sponsorship and raise awareness of disc golf and the PDGA. Believes the National Tour is the appropriate package to attract a corporate sponsor. An effort must continue to be made to counter the stereotyping associated with this sport. Pre-event coverage is vital.

Action Items: (John/PDGA BOD &/or Staff)

1. Structure of an agreement between John Duesler and the PDGA to be negotiated.
2. If a potential sponsor is identified, John Duesler to be notified.
3. Research the cost and obligations related to televising disc golf.

Virginia Beach 2007 Pro Worlds Bid (Scott Warren)

Scott presented the Virginia Beach proposal to host the 2007 PDGA Pro World Championships on behalf of the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Action Items: (Brian H/David G/Scott)

- 1) Course assessment visit by Brian and David and Course Designers
- 2) Forward a Worlds Agreement to Scott
- 3) Scott to select/appoint 4-5 Virginia Beach disc golfers who will join the host management team.
- 4) Representatives from the Virginia Beach host team to attend and assist at 2006 Worlds in Augusta.
- 5) Scott to redo budget according to PDGA template

Motion (Jon/Theo)

Sign a letter of intent accepting the Virginia Beach bid contingent upon the findings of the site visit.

For: Unanimous **Motion Passed**

Brian Hoeniger read aloud the letter of intent on behalf of the Japan Flying Disc Assoc., the Japan Professional Disc Golf Assoc., and Hero Inc., to formally submit a bid for the 2008 PDGA Pro World Championships. (This will not be a 150 class event.)

PDGA Tour cont'd

Proposed change to the National Tour: delete bonus at the Masters level. Include event evaluation as part of Marshals' duties. A check list could be used to facilitate this task. NT Tournament Directors are asking for marketing support.

Motion (Theo/Jon)

Increase temporary/non-current \$5 fee to \$8

Amendment to Motion (Theo/John)

In addition increase developmental membership fee to \$10 which can be used against a \$10 deduction off a full membership if purchased within 90 days.

For: Unanimous **Amendment to Motion Passed**

For: Unanimous **Original Motion Passed**

Day 2 Friday September 23/05

Updates and Proposals (C. Kennedy)

Action Item: (BOD)

Consider Chuck's documentary proposal

Ratings and Par

The ratings formula is gradually being tweaked with the aim of reducing complaints and keeping pace with player improvements.

The Ratings Committee is considering increasing the number of annual ratings updates.

Chuck recommends that par should be developed to match the design of the tee and the skill level of player.

Highbridge and Mid-Nationals

Hazards on existing courses at Highbridge are nearing completion.

A children's summer camp program is being developed which will ensure financial viability of Highbridge

The 2006 US Mid-Nationals will be held July 6-9, 2006.

National Disc Golf Center Update (M. Gillis/B.Graham)

An update was provided on the course clearing schedule.

Brian Graham displayed the plans and progress report on the 2700 sq ft NDGC building.

Next month the County will request RFPs from log building contractors.

Matt provided an overview on his recent accomplishments:

- organized archives
- creating a media database of newspaper clippings, photos collected over the years, digitization of prints
- gaining website skills
- community outreach: demos at community events
- liaising with 2005 Pro Worlds DVD production team and 2006 Course Directory editor

DISConcepts NDGC Course Hardware Installation (Pat Farrell)

Pat reviewed his services and prices. He is donating 1 bench to the NDGC.

Brian H. reported that the RFP for NDGC course equipment and installation is ready for distribution.

Action Items (Jon)

- 1) Create a structured format for a fund raising plan for the NDGC in conjunction with the Foundation creating a tax deductible endowment fund.
- 2) Committee (empowered by the Commissioner) chaired by Jon made up of Brian H, P. May and M. Gillis.

Action Item (Course Designers)

Select which NDGC course will be used for the 2006 Pro World Championships Mixed Doubles event and submit a clearing schedule.

Action Item (P. Farrell)

Submit a course clearing proposal.

Course Evaluation Update (Stork)

Nick Kight is the Course Evaluation Coordinator.

Sub- Goals of the project:

- 1) provide information enabling people to produce better courses
- 2) State Coordinators to head up or identify someone to be responsible for evaluating courses in their state.

The mechanism is now in place to generate debate and provide specific data to improve each individual course.

This program will help raise the prominence of the State Coordinators and empower them with specific job descriptions.

Stork updated the Board on the Technical Standards search for older discs on the market which may be non-compliant. No action has been taken of late.

Action Item (Stork/J. Homburg)

Follow up on the progress of this search and provide an update at the next Board teleconference .

PDGA Annual Critical Path Process (CPP) (Stork)

The core of this project is now in place. The eventual goal here is for the list to be exhaustive; to document this process and link it to process documents.

Action Items (HQ Staff/Stork)

1. Re-examine the CPP to discern where it needs to be tweaked.
2. Determine whether we want a more sophisticated delivery system (e.g. TeamWork.com) not simply a list
3. When an annual process is identified inform Stork/staff who will add it to the list.
4. Begin to document repetitive processes so that the information is available to everyone and not just “in the heads” of a few e.g. Document the recent electronic voting process. The level of detail to be determined.

Stork also suggested Board and staff adopt an “apprenticing approach” whereby individuals are identified who can learn and perform tasks should the person responsible be unavailable to do so or are interested in taking the task to a new level.

Board then went into Executive Session.

Meeting Adjourned 12:15pm

