

**Professional Disc Golf Association
Board of Directors Summit, IDGC, Columbia County, GA 9/21-22/06 – Approved Minutes**

The Summit was convened by Commissioner Theo Pozzy

Present:

PDGA Attendees

T. Pozzy, J. Lyksett, B. Decker, P. May, C. Bellinger, S. Dodge, B. Hoeniger (ED), L. Gibson (Staff), D. Gentry (Staff), M. Gillis (Staff), D. Roddick (Dir of Spec Projects)

Board Member P. Brenner present via teleconference.

Guests:

John Duesler (via teleconference)
Harold Duvall
Tony Inzana
Chuck Kennedy
Dave Nesbitt
Ken Rollins
Becky Zallek

Day One Thursday September 21, 2006

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Theo welcomed everyone to the Summit.

PDGA HQ Review 2006 - Brian Hoeniger

State of the Association

Brian reported that 2006 has been another year of significant growth for the PDGA.

A priority for the association in the coming year will be to update the Mission Statement making it more relevant, prominent and available e.g. posting it at the website www.pdga.com

He outlined the process schedule tool that is used by the office to track the annual cycle of tasks and activities, so far this year approximately 90% of activities have been delivered on time. These include the four core areas for which HQ is responsible:

- Memberships
- Tour
- Planning & Management of the World Championships
- Finances

Other areas of activity:

- Marketing – ongoing efforts are beginning to deliver results e.g. Bite Shoes, Microtel
- IT – continues to present a challenge and that in order to fit into today's world, it is important the PDGA project itself as a virtual organization.
- IDGC Project
- Agreements/ Contractual Relationships
- PDGA Trademarks

Action Item: (Staff)

Send key people .pdf copies of the member e-newsletters.

Brian announced that effective May 31, 2007 he and Lorrie would be retiring as the PDGA Executive Director and Memberships Manager respectively. Brian and Lorrie thanked all past and present Directors, staff, volunteers and members for their support over the years. Brian will continue on as PDGA consultant, building the International Program and supporting the new staff and Board in the next phase of the transition.

Memberships - (L. Gibson)

Compared to this time last year memberships are up approximately 18.25%.

The goal for 2006 was 10,500 members, currently we stand at 10,717

For 2007 the goal is 12,300. With an increase in membership fees next year the numbers are not expected to be as positive as the current trend.

The Reasons For Growth Remain Unchanged

- Player ratings
- Greater number of events equals a greater opportunity to play
- Members only DISCUSSION Board
- Increased publicity of the sport worldwide
- Improved customer service
- Improved communication with members
- Vigorous attention to promotion of memberships at HQ
- Improved efficiency and continued variety of opportunities to join/renew

Strategies for 2006: Goals Met

- Effective September 1/06 a PDGA mini brochure has been inserted in many Breiner Enterprises vendor customer packages.
- Exit e-survey to those whose membership expired 12/04
- Electronic last call renewal reminder sent in the spring with e-survey to members who expired 12/05
- Legacy bag tag program launched
- Women's Directory published twice in 2006
- Improved support packages to State Coordinators and key volunteers

Strategies for 2006: Goals Not Yet Met

- Follow up on non-current members who contacted HQ via email or telephone
- Inconsistent delivery of the member e-newsletter
- Acknowledgement of 10 yr Ace Club members
- What Is the PDGA?/Why Join? in brochure format and at website
- Revised and updated Affiliate Club program

Strategies for 2007

- Follow up on those goals not met in 2006
- Acknowledge 10 year members
- Johnny Apple Disc program – 3 month trial began Sept 1/06
- Assist TDs in promoting their events via emails from HQ

Action Item (L. Gibson)

For 2007: If a member renews late in the year, they will only receive the latest issue of Disc Golf World magazine.

2007 PDGA Tour - (D. Gentry)

Positive growth indicators:

David noted there was a 5% rate of growth in the number of tournaments in 2006 compared to those in 2005.

There was an overall increase in the Pro purse.

He then presented a list of accomplishments in 2006 and proposed changes to the Tour for 2007:

- Competition Manual nearly complete
- The Competition Committee has met fairly frequently in 2006
- Propose eliminating the Developmental membership: an unsuccessful program, confusing for Tournament Directors
- Consider an increase in the Pro purse minimum at B tier events: more research required
- Consider placing restrictions on D tier events in order to protect the purpose for which it was originally designed
- Canadian event fees be paid in Canadian currency to PDGA Canada Manager
- Recommendations for added cash allocation
- Reduction in protected radius for Am events
- Non-traditional group assignments for PDGA events: allowing these via a waiver system
- Complementary insurance for Super Tour events
- Amnesty for Pro players to reclassify as Amateurs
- Consider changes to non-member/non-current member fees for 2008.

Action Item (Staff/IT Team)

Add event sponsor logo to live scoring screen.

2007 Budget – Part 1 - (B. Hoeniger)

Brian presented the proposed 2007 budget.

New items for sale at the PDGA online store will be a generic PDGA shirt and a 2007 NT Tour Calendar. Assorted National Tour merchandise items i.e. shirts, hats and discs will be phased out due to the modest sales of these items.

For the sake of time and scheduled guests the budget discussion was tabled until Day Two.

International Disc Golf Center (IDGC) Discussion – (B. Hoeniger/ M.Gillis/B. Graham)

Matt Gillis presented a power point presentation illustrating progress on the IDGC project.

The selection of proposed IDGC logos was presented for Board review and approval.

Motion (P.May/B. Decker)

That the Board approves IDGC logo #17 for official use

For: Unanimous Motion Passed

A new contract with the County was approved recently. The County has agreed to replace at no cost to the PDGA the picnic shelter in the meadow and has put forth a 50/50 cost sharing proposal for stump clearing. This expense has already been accounted for in the 2007 PDGA budget.

The expected completion date for the Center building is now January 2007.

A mini disc golf course has been added to the IDGC plan; 18 baskets have been donated by the Mini Disc Golf Federation.

In the master plan for Wildwood Park the County intends to upgrade the main entrance and park utilities which will further enhance the IDGC.

The plan is to host the Disc Golf Hall of Fame Classic NT event at the IDGC coinciding with the IDGC grand opening in April 2007. It was suggested that the BOD Spring Summit be scheduled for the same date.

Next week Brian Graham and Brian Hoeniger will meet with Pat Farrell of DISConcepts regarding ongoing course work and further contract negotiations.

International Program - (B.Hoeniger/D. Nesbitt)

i) Europe

Europe has united around player ratings and the PDGA brand resulting in tremendous growth in the number of International members. 2 years ago there were 79 European members, in 2006 there are 485 with 11 affiliated countries now on board.

Within the next two years the need exists to strengthen the International program to the point that it becomes financially stable and self funding.

The role WFDF plays in international disc golf and its partnership with the PDGA continues to be discussed.

Today the Board has been asked to consider granting Major status to two PDGA Euro Tour events.

Recent Decisions Reached at a Recent PDGA Europe Teleconference:

1. PDGA membership is now mandatory at all PDGA Euro Tour events.
2. The European Open will take place again in August 2007
3. The 2007 European Disc Golf Championships has been approved as an XA tier event.
4. A basic fee structure for PDGA sanctioning and player fees will be proposed for 2007 Euro Challenge Tour events.

Motion (B. Decker/C. Bellinger)

That Major status be granted to the European Open in 2007 and to the Skelleftea International Open in 2008.

For: B. Decker, J. Lyksett, P. May, C. Bellinger, P. Brenner, T. Pozzy **Abstain:** S. Dodge

Motion Passed

ii) Canada

The Board has been asked to consider granting Major status to the 2007 Canadian Open being held in Toronto, the weekend of July 1, 2007. After discussion the following motion was made:

Motion (S. Dodge/P.May)

That the 2007 Canadian Open be granted National Tour status.

For: Unanimous **Motion Passed**

Marketing - (J.Duesler)

John reported that 2006 has been a year of learning; insight has been gained that will be of benefit in 2007. He described the 4 legs of his marketing model:

1. Advertising: where the sponsor controls the message
2. VIP/ Team Building at Events
3. Image sharing
4. Media Exposure: where the PDGA controls the message

There is a great deal in the pipeline, past strategies are beginning to show promise e.g. Merrell Shoes, Microtel Inns and Suites, Sierra Nevada Brewery

ESPN is interested in seeing the 24 minute disc golf pilot crafted by Media Active from the 2005 Pro Worlds DVD. A package is being sent to them shortly.

John now circulates a PDGA marketing newsletter *From the Treetops*. Beyond this he suggests a need for materials that can be handed out to potential sponsors.

Increased funding for marketing has been added to the budget for next year.

John thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the sport and the PDGA.

The Board went into Executive Session.

Executive Director will work with Breiner Enterprises to reach an updated Fulfillment House Agreement running through to the end of 2007.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:15 pm

Day Two Friday September 22, 2006

Budget Review - cont'd from Day One

As a cost savings mechanism the PDGA continues to transition to an electronic system in the following areas:

- World Championships invitation/ registration process
- Annual election
- For 2007 season: year end call to renew direct mail

It was decided that more data is needed before an informed discussion can take place on the following:

- mandatory membership below A tier events
- the possibility of increasing the non-current fee structure
- a magazine optional membership.

Action Items (HQ)

1. A check box will be added to the 2007 membership form offering Ace and Birdie Club members the option for the PDGA to "Keep My Gift"
2. Rather than raise the Ace and Birdie Club prices in 2007 the structure will be changed. \$100 (Ace) and \$50 (Birdie) will be added to the basic membership fee.
3. Beginning in 2007 all 10 year members will be acknowledged with a pin.
4. In 2007 the PDGA National Tour stipend will be increased from \$1000 to \$1250 per event.
5. Canadian A, B, C and D tier event fees will remain in Canada

Motion (B. Decker/J.Lyksett)

That the Board approves the budget as presented including the adjustments made over the past two days.

For: Unanimous Motion Passed

The Board went into Executive Session

Motion (T. Pozzy/J.Lyksett)

The Board approves a 2006 year end bonus for the Memberships Manager.

For: Unanimous Motion Approved

The Board resumed open session.

2010 Am/Jr World Championships Bid Presentation - (Ken Rollins – Mid Ohio Organized Disc Golf/MOOD)

Action Items (K.Rollins)

Explore opportunities for MOOD team members to gain more PDGA event management experience.
i) assist at 2007 Am Worlds ii) run an Am A tier event no later than 2009

The Board resumed open session.

Rules Update - (C. Howard)

The Board expressed its thanks to Carlton for serving as the Rules Committee (RC) Chairman for the past 18 years and for his continued commitment in this role.

Carlton explained he discourages frequent rules changes and supports that the next revision process commence in January 2008 for an updated rulebook release in 2009.

He emphasized that those individuals around the world translating the PDGA rules into other languages be informed every time changes are made to the rulebook.

Action Item (C.Howard/BOD)

Establish a Rules Committee yahoo group to facilitate present and archive previous communication.

Action Items (RC/BOD/Staff)

1. Review the process and timeline for the next i.e. 2008 rulebook revision.
2. When printing the rulebook for 2007:

- I. "Competition Director" will be replaced by "Tour Manager"
- II. Correct typos

College and Team Play - (D. Stork Roddick)

Stork believes Team play will address the need to draw more people to the PDGA.
College play will galvanize true competitive disc golf.

Pete May presented a proposal requesting that the Board agree to make National Collegiate Disc Golf (NCDG) a PDGA affiliate at no cost to the PDGA.

Motion (J. Lyksett/B. Decker)

That the Board gives Pete May approval to proceed forming his collegiate competitive plan

For: B. Decker, J. Lyksett, S. Dodge, C. Bellinger, T. Pozzy **Did Not Vote:** P. Brenner **Abstain:** P. May
Motion Passed

Technical Standards and Flex Testing – (D. Stork Roddick)

Stork reported that the approval process has been proceeding fairly smoothly.
He presented the Committee's research on previously approved discs in the market place that failed the flexibility test since being mass produced. Of the 186 discs tested from various manufacturers, 17 (9.14%) failed the flexibility test.

Action Item (TSC)

Technical Standards Committee will be asked to review the technical standards and appropriate tests.

USDGC – (H. Duvall)

Harold announced that in his opinion the partnership between the USDGC and the PDGA is better than ever. This year the field for the event will be reduced to 175 players while both the payout and the donation to the EDGE program will continue unchanged from 2005.

Harold made it known that former PDGA Commissioner Darrell Lynn is in ill health.

Action Item (J. Lyksett/HQ)

Research Darrell's needs towards which the PDGA will make a donation.

PDGA Processes and Procedures and Worlds Task Lists – (D. Roddick/ B. Zallek)

Becky presented a 12 page document that she and Stork have created. It was recommended that it be renamed the Major Event Process Schedule because of its overall usefulness appropriate for all large events.

The Board congratulated Becky and Stork on their outstanding work.

Using Survey Monkey a 2006 post Am Worlds survey was recently created and sent to everyone with an email address including members of the host club in Tulsa, their volunteers, and all players. Becky reported an excellent response rate in just 5 days.

Action Item (Roddick/Zallek/HQ)

Post Worlds survey to become a permanent tool in the task list.

2011 AmJr Worlds Bid Presentation – Tony Inzana (Rochester Club) and Scott Bell (Rochester Sports Commission)

The Board went into Executive Session.

The 2010 Am/Jr World Championships be awarded to the Mid-Ohio Organized Disc Golf club contingent upon a site visit and subsequent discussion.

The 2011 PDGA Am/Jr World Championships be awarded to the Rochester Disc Golf Club pending site review.

The Board resumed open session.

Board Roles and Responsibilities – (T. Pozzy)

Motion – (S. Dodge/P. Brenner)

That the following Board members be elected as the officers of the organization:

President (and Commissioner): Theo Pozzy

Vice President: Jon Lyksett

Treasurer: Bob Decker

Secretary: Cris Bellinger

For: Unanimous Motion Passed

Action Item (B. Decker)

The means of electing the Commissioner will be drafted, submitted to the PDGA attorney for review and then presented to the PDGA Board for approval.

In the past State/Prov Coordinators were managed by the Regional Director but are now largely supervised by staff. In the near future a Board member will be identified to liaise with members in this position.

Apart from those roles/titles already voted upon in the previous motion. e.g. the Financial Director becoming the Treasurer, Board members will now be considered Officers without specific titles. Directors will carry out tasks for which they were elected. e.g. Steve Dodge will assume responsibility for the Member E-Newsletter.

The Board is mandated to create and remove committees.

With the support of the Board the Commissioner/President elects the Committee Chairperson and Board liaison. It will be the responsibility of the Chairperson to select committee members.

Each Committee liaises with a designated Board member who has the option of serving strictly as a liaison or sitting as a committee member.

Motion (S. Dodge/ T.Pozzy)

That the currently non-functioning Marketing Committee be dissolved and removed.

For: Unanimous Motion Passed

Action Items:

National Tour Committee

Chairman: John Duesler; Board Liaison: Cris Bellinger

Each NT Tournament Director will nominate 3 NT TDs to fill a 6 person Committee.

Competition Committee

Chairperson: David Gentry; Board Liaison: Cris Bellinger

Course Committee (formerly known as the Course Design Committee)

Chairperson: Chuck Kennedy; Board Liaison: Jon Lyksett

The Course Evaluation Committee is a sub-committee of the Course Committee

Disciplinary Committee

Chairperson: Lyle O Ross; Board Liaison: Theo Pozzy

IDGC

Chairperson: Brian Graham; Board Liaison: Pete May

Rules Committee

Chairperson: Carlton Howard; Board Liaison: Steve Dodge

Ratings Committee

Chairperson: Chuck Kennedy; Board Liaison: Pat Brenner

Technical Standards

Chairperson: Jeff Homburg; Board Liaison: Pat Brenner

Women's Committee

Chairperson: Lynne Warren; Board Liaison: Jon Lyksett

International Committee

Chairperson: Dave Nez Nesbitt; Liaison: Pete May

This is a joint PDGA /WFDF Committee with sub-committees based on regions
e.g. PDGA Europe is a steering committee

Environmental Committee

Chairperson: Mike Belchik; Board Liaison: Pat Brenner

Other Business

A draft of the 2006 Pro Worlds DVD arrived yesterday.

Brian distributed copies of Joe Wander's latest *Disc Golf Live* show.

Annual Year End Awards: the question was posed whether or not to change the system of electing winners or keep it the same. It was decided to maintain the current system.

Motion: (S. Dodge/C. Bellinger)

That the Developmental Memberships be eliminated.

Unanimous Motion Passed

Action Item: (Board/Staff)

The task of updating/revising the Mission Statement will be that of the incoming ED.

Motion (P.May/P. Brenner)

Any Pro who wants to return to Amateur status must renew their membership by December 31, 2006

as an Amateur, after this date players wishing to reclassify will once again be subject to the petition process.

For: J. Lyksett, S. Dodge, P. May, P. Brenner, T. Pozzy **Against:** B. Decker, C. Bellinger **Motion Passed**

Motion: (T. Pozzy/ B. Decker)

Those tournament related waivers and reclassification requests previously handled by the Competition Director will henceforth be the responsibility of the Tour Manager.

For: Unanimous **Motion Passed**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:10 pm ET

