

PDGA Fall Summit – August 30-31, 2016

Day 1

The meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Rebecca Duffy, Board president.

Board Members Present: Rebecca Duffy, Kevin McCoy, Shawn Sinclair, Dave West, Justin Menickelli, Hans Nagtegaal, Bob Decker (via Skype)

Others Present: Brian Graham, Dan Roddick, Michael Downes, Steve Ganz, Chuck Kennedy, Matt Gregoire, Andrew Sweeton, Vic Allen, Ginny Sweeton, Brian Hoeniger (via Skype)

Headquarters Reports – Graham/Staff

Welcome by Brian Graham. PDGA is doing well. Financial report - \$1,063,000 in the bank (part is operating capital). Great financial position. Can consider some new projects. Over 20% growth in members and events. Most effective Board that the PDGA has had for years.

Tour Report – Andrew Sweeton – See Handout – 2,683 events in the database (around 12% growth overall). Reminders to TDs re reports have been somewhat effective. Rebecca questions the B/C decrease – not to worry, includes charity events. Chuck – thoughts on the 2% increase for leagues? Andrew – people concerned about ratings for leagues. Tabled for later discussion.

Membership – Vic Allen – (see attached report) 31,987 active members as of 8/29. Projection is 36,000 by the end of the year (Graham). Projection of 100,000 total members by early 2017. (Rebecca – increase in women?) 7.6% increase in women. Graham - 20% projected growth for next year. Dan – let's make a big deal of the 100,000 number – sell it? Give it a “package” deal. Steve – come up a marketing plan – tie it to charity. Chuck – need to make it a lifetime membership. Tabled for later discussion.

Technology – Steve Ganz – launched the sanctioning system on Thursday 8/25/16. Automated process now. Good feedback so far. Joonas in Finland working on mobile app. Steve will need testers among the staff/board (both IOS and Android). More to come in his report on Wednesday.

Events – Mike Downes – just finished the National Tour. Great year. Lots of media exposure. NT awards at Brent Hambrick – 67 total (FPO only) female competitors received NT points; men 147. Future focus to look for a tour sponsor for next year's NT. (Like Vibram used to do.) Looking for a target of \$50,000. Need to remain at the top level, attracting the top pro players. Currently \$10,000 to men and \$5,000 to women. Brian and Mike will discuss during budgeting. Lots of major events coming soon – Master's, Women's. Encouraging TDs to use Disc Golf Scene for registration, etc. PDGA/WFDF championships also the same weekend as Ledgestone. Fantastic event. Good feedback from players and teams. Thank you to Brian Hoeniger for being on-site. Charlie Lead is new chair of that committee. Brian – explanation of why European players not in attendance was because same time as their championships. Will hold events every other year from now on to prevent overlap. 6 teams from all over the world. 2 successful Marco Polo events – Zambia by the Leathermans; Jason Hendrickson in Nicaugua and Honduras. Mike – preparing a sponsorship package; send to Rebecca for review when ready.

Brian – largest payout in history for Pro Worlds. If Dynamic Discs will donate \$10,000 into the payout, would the PDGA match it – yes (\$4,000 investment) – could significantly bump up the cash payout. PDGA will still guarantee 25%, and there will be an incentive program for matching funds to keep the payouts large.

Committee Reports – Board Liaisons

Competition – Shawn Sinclair – Andrew has Jay’s revision from the committee. Andrew will speak on the changes at tomorrow’s meeting. Will also need the Rules update before finalizing.

Course Design – Kevin McCoy/Chuck Kennedy – been pretty quiet. Requests for resource information mainly.

Disciplinary – Rebecca Duffy – been quiet, but 3 from Ledgestone. 3-month probation for one; 2-year suspension for another; and a third still in committee. Robert Leonard is new committee chairperson; doing a good job.

Environment – Vic Allen – Sustainability – asking Justin to take over chair.

Game Development – Shawn Sinclair – Chuck will present later. Waiver requests have been working well with Andrew and Chuck.

Majors – nothing to report.

Military – Jerry Swami possible new chair. Rebecca will make decision.

PDGA Europe – Hans Nagtegaal – separate report tomorrow. (Brian H.) PDGA countries voted to open a European office in the Netherlands, and to approve the concept outlined in the PDGA Transition Document. Part of Wednesday’s report.

Ratings and Stats – Bob Decker – nothing to report. Chuck – possibility of propagators below 800?; looking at “hot” players as well with much-improved ratings.

Rules – Bob Decker – working on it. Brian H. – changes to rules need to be finalized soon as they will need to be translated into the other languages to produce and distribute. Brian G – September 1st is the deadline, but should have by the 10th. French, German, Spanish, Finnish at a minimum.

Senior Committee – Dave West – 50-plus club – Grandmasters and up; Want to create a casual event (partly competitive) at Kent State for 2017. Bill Griffiths getting the committee going. Looking for 250 seniors for this event. (Brian G.) National Senior Games is still interested in disc golf.

Test Standards – Bob Decker –

Women’s Committee – Vic Allen – quiet after WGE. National Disc Golf day a success. 1,651 registered players for WGE. No buzz on the WDGC.

Youth and Education – Justin Menickelli – proposed addition to the competition manual that Andrew will be talking about.

Break at 10:20 for 15 minutes

Game Developments – Chuck Kennedy (PowerPoint presentation)

What's Up Docs? – Define / Observe / Communicate / Systemize; Taking a looking at the 4 pieces and filling in what's lacking

Time to Define? Course design, rules and equipment – tightly tied together in many sports; PDGA is “looser”; example of something we can define – course design.

School-Age Competition – Issues – 1) lack of courses; 2) new courses expensive; 3) no structured competition system for school play; 4) no “how to do it book” for success; Possibilities – hole design templates for using existing athletic fields; match play format; specific disc category suitable for shorter courses

International Development – 12-hole match play format doesn't need official baskets; need to be defined as an official format;

Chart – Challenges vs. Penal Design; vertical obstacles the unique aspect to disc golf;

Chart – Stats Issues with Penal Designs – ratings are a statistic. Are we doing the statistic for the same sort of course design? Ratings for “punitive” and “normal” courses are not the same. If you have a punitive course, all holes should be punitive in order to get meaningful ratings. The problem is mixing the 2.

Chart – Design Help for TDs – Hazards and Islands – working on guidelines for how to design hazards and island on courses

Defining Disc Golf – It's About the Trees – “What challenge elements of trees in hole designs can be emulated in the open?” Mandatories? Nope. Contact Re-directs? Nope. Shot Shaping? Poles (temp). Special Throw Stances? Maybe. Locate marked “Challenge Areas” where selected throw stances can be chosen vs. penalty.

Defining Disc Golf – It's About the 3rd Putt – “Making putting tougher means increasing chance of 3-putts if 1-putts are reduced.” Smaller basket as some propose may not increase 3-putting enough; other ideas to increase putting spread for top MPO being pursued.

Discussion: Dan – what photos and images are showing up online as what people are interested in, i.e., kneeling? Rebecca – there is an established Texas high school program that could be reached out to as a pilot program re school-age play. Andrew – we develop stuff like this but never market it. Designing the platform, building it, and marketing it is the key. Chuck – yes, like similar to the collegiate – have someone take the ball and run with it.

Lunch break at 12:00

Meeting called back to order at 1:30pm by Rebecca

Technical Standards – Menickelli/Roddick/Graham

2:35pm Day 1 Wrap-up – Rebecca Duffy; followed by team building exercise.

Day 2

Meeting called to order at 9:03am by Rebecca Duffy

International Report – Brian Hoeniger

Historical Project – Laurie and Amber have done the TD reports from 2001 – a few more weeks to go for Laurie; Amber working on corrections; on website can see worlds results back to 1982 – a few issues for Steve and Tao to address in the database (back to 1976); will announce on the website when the archive is complete

Demographics – Brian sent files; 22% growth in current members outside the US; 616 events outside of the US on the tour schedule (6% increase); project 10% growth in events and 25% growth in members; 26% growth in membership in Europe – Estonia: fastest growing country – support from the government; Finland – 166 events this year, about 2,300 current members (40% of European members); 78% of the growth in membership from these 2 countries; 25 affiliated countries in all; Poland is starting to grow (2 members in 2013, currently at 31 members); challenged countries – Italy and France; Asia/Oceania – growth is modest – Australia, Japan and New Zealand; strong club in Taiwan; also in South Korea; 11 members in India – looking into whether it is legitimate or not; Canada – 6% growth in membership, 18% growth in events – tripled since 2010; PDGA Canada has been assisting their events; 4 events in Iceland

Team Worlds Event – in Vancouver; 6 countries participated; went very smoothly; competition was intense – Canadians dominated regulation play, Japanese also in the top 3 (lost to the US in the semi-finals); Good cooperation with WFDF – they consider themselves the governing body for disc sports and the PDGA of disc golf specifically; looking at criteria for getting into the Olympics in the future; Team Worlds will be held again next year, probably in Europe

European Disc Golf Championships – governed by the EDGF – both positive and negative feedback; live media coverage in Finland; no opening ceremonies with flag parade; very successful in the big picture, some flaws “around the edges”; Hans “was phenomenal” – a fantastic PDGA representative; EDGF – profound disappointment with Paul Franz; 7 member countries

PDGA Europe Transition – Brian Hoeniger/Hans Nagtegaal

15 countries present out of 25 total countries in the European PDGA; votes to approve the concept – 12 countries in favor of the transition; 3 abstentions; no nays; to open a PDGA office in the Netherlands with Hans as interim administrator – 9 in favor; 5 abstentions; 1 no vote

Transition of PDGA Europe – (sent transition document and budget) – will take 5 years to fully complete; benefits are in strengthening the PDGA brand around the world and as the governing body of the sport on a global basis; will transfer a portion of the workload of the PDGA staff to Europe; will create a model for other areas of the world (i.e., Asia); Plan - (1) opening a PDGA office in the Netherlands including membership and sanctioning of events – (2) board election for PDGA Europe – 4 Europeans (one being Brian H.) and 3 Americans (one being Dan) – (3) Hans will run the office – will need a salary and training.

Discussion: (BG) USA Disc Golf - working towards getting the trademark and purchasing the domains, etc. Will be under the PDGA Global umbrella (along with PDGA Europe). (Steve) – re the financials for

Internet and technology – will be around \$100K for the transition; (BH) – will be a challenge. (RD) – what will be the roles of the competition committee in his document; (BH) to accommodate the different visions of the different countries, mostly for C-tier events; (RD) suggesting a different name to avoid confusion with the US. (JM) Will there be a separate constitution; (BH) yes; will have to be a formal agreement between the PDGA US and the European office; (BG) how the PDGA is organized is not how international sports are organized; this transition moves us into that direction; USA Disc Golf and PDGA Europe will fall under control of the current PDGA Global; protections will be written in during finalization and attorney review

Today: Approval of the transition concept and to enable Hans to open a small office in the Netherlands (would like to have operational by November); then to look to have a BOD election in Europe.

Break at 10:20am

Continued discussion: Rebecca – concerned with Hans being paid; but according to the by-laws a board member cannot be paid “to be a board member” but can take payment as an employee or for services provided (precedent of Rick Rothstein); Dave – what does Hans want to do? Hans: Likes both positions; could be beneficial to be both administrator in Europe as well as PDGA board member. Brian G. – do you have time to do the administrator job? Hans – yes; would limit his travel and touring (from 100% to 5%). Brian H. – administrator position – interim basis, 40 hours/week, entry-level position, maybe to become “Continental Director” position in the future; Dan Roddick – it’s a good transitional deal for the PDGA – but how does the European (WFDF) people see this? Brian H. – WFDF is in full support; agrees that the PDGA is the governing body of disc golf; sees WFDF as peripheral on this issue; Justin – are the next steps to establish an office in Europe and develop a constitution and by-laws; Brian H. – next steps to set up Hans as the administrator for fulfillment and administration; next step to elect a BOD for Europe, and for them to develop the constitution (using the USA one as a model)

Motion: Justin Menickelli moves to take the necessary steps to establish a PDGA office in Europe. Kevin McCoy seconds. The motion passes with 6 yay votes and one abstention (Hans).

Motion: Dave West moves to approve stage 1 of the transition document from October through December 2016 – to proceed with those tasks for PDGA Europe. Justin Menickelli second. The motion passes with 6 yay votes and 1 abstention (Hans).

Summit minutes from the past meeting had been sent to the board but never approved.

Motion: Rebecca Duffy moves to approve the spring summit minutes and publish them. Second – Hans – passes unanimously.

BH will notify European PDGA on message boards of the decision to open the European office.

Hans: is the Board ok with him taking the position and staying on the board? Rebecca – precedent with Rick and the magazine; she doesn’t have a problem with him doing both. Polling the rest of the board – Kevin, Shawn, Justin, Dave, Bob – no concerns as of now

Tour and Competition Items – Sweeton (Handout)

Junior Worlds Proposal – recommendation to split off Junior Worlds (107 competitors this year); to begin in 2018; recommend Emporia and Dynamic Discs for 3 years

Youth Safety – parental and TD guidelines for safety of youth players to be added to competition manual, and tour standards manual; Rebecca – add a clause to the registration process that parents would supervise their children

Petition for new age breaks of 55 and 65 – recommend doing so for the 2018 season; Steve – need to consider renaming divisions – Andrew – yes, will be doing so; Shawn – recommends starting the age breaks at 50 – Straw poll – starting age-protected divisions at 50 – Andrew – abstain, Ginny – yes, Vic – no, Justin – no, Shawn – yes, Kevin – no, Rebecca – no, Brian – no, Hans – fence, Matt – no, Dan – no, Chuck – no, Dave – no, Steve – no, Mike – no, Bob – fence, Brian - no

2018 Worlds Invite criteria – need to announce criteria at the beginning of the year; for 2018 worlds, announce 1/1/2017

Am worlds champ cashed as non-member? Do we care? Does this need fixing? – Recommend adding new specs to the Reclassification section of the Competition Manual to clarify that someone who takes cash at a sanctioned event will need to be a PDGA member and is classified as a Pro

2017 Competition Manual Revision – in version 3 of revisions to the competition manual; cannot finalize until the rulebook revisions are finalized and approved; board asked to read over and get back to Andrew with any comments

Gender reassignment – how to handle with the new IOC requirements – need some direction; Dan Roddick – recommends continuing as we have been with the old IOC requirements; Andrew – we need to have a policy to let players know; Brian – stick with the old; Board – stick with what we have and look into it down the road

Future of the PDGA National Tour and the 2017 Proposed Schedule – Board will review Brian's emails on world tour and national tour overlap – sticking with the proposed 2017 national tour schedule as planned; Hall of Fame Classic – do you want the HOF Classic as the end of the NT every year at the IDGC and Hall of Fame inductees – on the proposed 2017 schedule

Discussion: Mike wants things to improve at all events which will take more manpower – a dedicated staff member for each of the larger event areas – worlds, NTs, majors. Brian – PDGA will continue to add staff as needed and as specific needs are identified. Some discussion of Jay Reading's email with issues at events. (PDGA Recommendations: Contracts for A-tier events, guidelines for acceptable t-pads, etc.)

Motion: Shawn moves to approve all of the competition items as listed by Andrew. Second – Dave West. Motion passes unanimously with 2 caveats – Hans would have voted against 2 and 3; Justin is not in favor of splitting the grandmasters age division.

Lunch break at 1:00pm.

Technology – Steve Ganz

Launch of first part of the first phase of their plan from last May's technology summit, including data migration, and changing work processes in the office. Two main components - event sanctioning and publishing is now automated, eliminating a lot of office labor and time; thinking of auto-sanctioning international events moving forward; second piece is automated post-event payments. Largest thing to have done since the online membership system.

The next step in their plan will be tying courses and events together online. Also working on a new version of the mobile app. Joonas from Finland is working on it (for a fee of \$8,000). Will be sending links to the board and staff for the beta version for testing this week. Would like to have someone full-time (consultant or staff) to manage the mobile apps. Steve's recommendation is to provide the app for free (promotional and marketing initiative). Will have special features for members, including enhanced course data, round ratings, personal ratings.

Things to do this year: rules update, start work on European transition – (1) set up Hans so he can edit membership data (create a membership editing form on the website); (2) develop a currency conversion of existing membership products and events and route the money into an account; or create different products for Europe; (3) develop APIs – for membership registration and renewal; batch imports. Ballpark estimate with Blue Spark, 520 hours of work, total \$100,000.

European project may affect the progress of other technology projects. Brian and the board will talk about priorities.

365-day membership – need a different PayPal account to make this work; mostly ready to go; would have option to auto-renew, manage subscriptions, etc. Could launch this anytime and grandfather people in if necessary. Anyone who signs up after January 1 would have a full year of membership. Brian G. – committed to this and will talk about in Executive Session.

Tournament registration API used by several groups.

Updates – DGF, DGHOF, St. Jude – Brian Graham

Disc Golf Foundation – offered to help strengthen them; list of skills they are looking for in board members; move their simple website to pdga.com; send a PDGA rep to sit on their board.

Disc Golf Hall of Fame – moved their website to pdga.com; hoping they will move their ceremony to the Hall of Fame Classic tournament in Appling. Ceremony this year at worlds was a “train wreck”.

St. Jude – our rep there has moved on; they still want us to run the event for them – John Heaton, Annabelle, and Brian want to run a PDGA-controlled event, instead of having them run the show. And is St. Jude the charity we want to continue with? A number of other cities have reached out to host, including having it in Appling. Raising \$420,000 in the past years. Steve – having it annually can cause “charity fatigue” – maybe every few years.

Break at 3:10pm

Executive Session at 3:25pm

Meeting resumes at 4:10pm

Sustainability Next Steps – Dan Roddick

Working on this for 3 years; proceeding with caution – what are the next steps? (1) Education / (2) Equipment / (3) Courses – Education: millions of “risk opportunities” every day – every throw. Education addresses that – the Disc Golfer’s Code – has raised consciousness. Just beginning; never over; continually educating beginners and young players. Second – Equipment questions. So far, research has shown that there is not a lot that can be done here, but perhaps designating certain discs for certain circumstances. Came out of Monterey with a new plan to give our members and our manufacturers with a brief history of tech standards. Currently wish to begin the conversation with the manufacturers consortium. Third – Course design – courses, holes, and tournaments that have a lot of risk. Pilot: ID some particularly challenging courses (i.e., outdated, in small parks, with jogging paths), and see if we can make them approach and putt courses, with signage with pictures of appropriate discs. Will that change behavior? Can we have courses that are equipment-specific? Then, we should start attempting to do an evaluation of worst-case courses, holes, and events, adding signage to indicate if a spotter is needed. Delicate matter, working locally, and see if they are willing to make adjustments. Or adding signage to indicate specific discs. Will need to get local advocates on board. We need to be the spokespeople on approved venues.

Next step/Board comments – Dave – the manufacturers should be engaged; course design is going to be a longer process. Hans – ok with letter to the manufacturers. Kevin – more concerned about course design; the less holes with problems, the better; will only change with course design. Shawn – are we ready to put the hammer down on events and not sanction them if unsafe. Justin – figure out a way to collect data on courses – (Brian – web form to collect data?) – inadequate signage – like “yelp”. Rebecca – really likes the manufacturers’ letter, need to get them involved; would like to see what the manufacturers have to say – based on their feedback we will know what we need to do. Brian H. – relationship between PDGA events and compliance is good to note; PDGA should communicate the broader initiative to the national associations in other countries

Day 2 wrap-up and closing remarks – Rebecca Duffy

Motion: Justin moves to adjourn. Second – Kevin McCoy. Meeting adjourned at 5:26pm.