



Minutes of the General Assembly
held at the XVth IOF Congress
on Friday 10th July 1992
at Filzbach, Switzerland

1. The President of the IOF, Heinz Tschudin, SUI, wished the delegates welcome to Filzbach and to Switzerland, his home country. He pointed out that the Congress had been called and Congress material sent out to all Member Federations as stipulated in the Statutes; the delegates agreed to this. **Opening**
2. A roll call of the delegates was taken. Present were: **Roll call**
 - AUS Kathy Liley
 - AUT Friedrich Woitsch, Wolf Eberle
 - BEL Paul Chauveheid
 - BUL Vasil Kitov
 - CAN Jack Forsyth, Colin Kirk
 - DEN Ove Gasbjerg, Birthe Helms, Gunnar Tamberg
 - ESP Miguel Borrero, Eusebio Garcia
 - FIN Erkki Frick, Veli-Markku Korteniemi, Barbro Rönnerberg
 - FRA Edmond Szechenyi, Alain Frangeul, Didier Haberkorn
 - GBR Anne Braggins, Richard Speirs, Tony Thornley
 - GER Dieter Kirchhamm, Wilhelm Holz, Hans-Juergen Zacharias
 - HUN Josef Hollo, Sarolta Monspart*), Andras Hegedues
 - IRL Faith White
 - ISR Giora Cohen
 - ITA Michele Galbusera, Cesare Tarabocchia, Benito Cavini
 - NOR Magne Hagen, Anne-Berit Eid, Einar Undstad
 - POL Lech Trzpil
 - ROM Nicolae Stroescu, Constantin Alexandrescu
 - SUI Thomas Scholl, Yvonne Caspari, Marianne Bandixen
 - SWE Lillvor Johansson, Sören Jonsson, Stig Carlsson
 - TCH Juray Nemec, Jaroslav Dokoupil
 - USA Per Stensby*), Linda Taylor

Council members

Heinz Tschudin, President	SUI	Members of the Presidium
Sue Harvey, Vice-President	GBR	
John Pearson	BEL	
Josef Krch, Vice-President	TCH	National delegates as indicated by *) above
Kalevi Tarvainen, Vice-President	FIN	
Hugh Cameron	AUS	
Åke Jacobson	SWE	
Sarolta Monspart	HUN	
Per Stensby	USA	

**Committee Chairmen**

Clive Allen	GBR	Development and Promotion
Thomas Brogli	SUI	Map
Gunnar Jonsson	SWE	Ski-O
Geir Tveit	NOR	Technical

Observers

Finn Arildsen	DEN	High-tech
Sietske Blasse-Vel	NED	Development and Promotion
Lars-Erik Engberg	SWE	IOF Auditor
Peter Gehrman	GER	Editor Orienteering World
Ernst Gruhn	GER	Technical
Rolf Heinemann	GER	High-tech
Lovro Jonak	CRO	
Mara Jonak	CRO	
Lars-Åke Larsson	SWE	Technical
Tord Nilsson	SWE	Ski-O
Flemming Nörgaard	DEN	Map
Heinz Friedrich Pape	GER	
Tuomo Peltola	FIN	Technical
Berit Pehrson	SWE	IOF Secretariat
Hans Pohl	GER	
Heidi Schrott Cavini	ITA	
Rainer Sonnehald	SUI	
Gyula Szabo	HUN	
Carlo Alberto Valer	ITA	
Brian Watkins	GBR	High-tech

Secretary General

Lennart Levin	SWE
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3. The Secretary General announced the voting rights (one non-transferable vote per Member federation), the number of votes required for two-thirds majority (15 out of the 22 Member federations present) and three-quarters majority (17 out of 22). **Voting rights**

Please NOTE that these figures were amended from item 14 onwards, following upon the election of new Member countries (of which a number were present).

4. The following persons were elected to constitute the **Presidium** during the proceedings of the General Assembly:

Heinz Tschudin, Sue Harvey, John Pearson, Lennart Levin. *John*



5. Colin Kirk, CAN, and Friedrich Woitsch, AUT, were elected to certify the minutes of the meeting. **Minutes witnesses**
6. Barbro Rönnerberg, FIN, Miguel Borrero, ESP, and Didier Haberkorn, FRA, were elected tellers. **Election of tellers**
7. Accepted on the agenda as urgent matters (two-thirds majority required) were, by 19 votes out of 22, the following two issues: **Urgent matters**
- * Election of Malaysia as Associate member (proposed by Council)
 - * English to be the official language of the IOF (proposed by FRA)
8. It was agreed that the sessions should be open and observers permitted. **Open sessions**
9. It was announced that the countries responsible for auditing the IOF finances during the current Congress period have been Sweden and Switzerland. The auditing work has been done by Mr. Lars-Erik Engberg, SWE, and Mr. Hans Rudolf Brand, SUI. **Auditors**
10. The minutes of the previous General Assembly meeting, at the XVth Congress in Cambridge, GBR, were approved as a true record of the proceedings. **Minutes previous meeting**
11. The President briefly commented on Council's report on its activities during the current Congress period (see the Biennial report, pp. 89-109). He apologized that, due to a misunderstanding, his introduction in German had not been translated into English. **Council's activity report**

Council's report was approved by the General Assembly.



12. The General Assembly having been given the opportunity to comment on each of the Committee reports separately (see the Biennial report, pp. 110-130), approved the reports.

will
Committee reports

13a. The General Assembly was presented with membership applications from eleven countries, namely:

**Applica-
tions for
member-
ship**

- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Russia
- Ukraine
- Croatia
- Slovenia
- China
- South Africa
- The Netherlands
- Malaysia (Associate member)

The President remarked that the present IOF Congress, if approving the applications, will become historic. When the IOF was founded in 1961, that was done by ten pioneering countries. Since then the IOF has grown steadily but relatively slowly; today's large number of applications is an unparalleled record, HT said. He also commented on the recent political tidings which gave rise to the present situation, allowing the Orienteering federations in a number of new countries to seek independent membership in the IOF. HT thanked the umbrella organisation for sport in the former Soviet Union, Goskomsport, particularly its orienteering section, for previous cooperation with the IOF.

He finally expressed his satisfaction that three of the applicant countries, China, Malaysia and South Africa - all three mentioned in the present Long-Term Plan as appropriate foci for IOF development work - did respond so soon and so enthusiastically.

The Secretary General thereafter informed the General Assembly about certain procedural matters, such as the dates for previous appointment of the various applicants by the Council, receipt of required documents (statutes, competition rules, statistics), etc. He informed the delegates that the National and Olympic Sports Congress of South Africa (NOSC) had endorsed the application from the Southern African Orienteering Federation, a necessity in this case.



The General Assembly was asked to consider the eleven applicants together and vote them in as a group. The proposed procedure was accepted and the new members approved with acclamation.

Immediately after the election, representatives of those new member countries present at the meeting, expressed words of thanks to the General Assembly. Rimantas Mikaitis, LIT, spoke on behalf of the three Baltic countries, Zeljko Gobec for Croatia, and Ruedi Siegenthaler for South Africa. The speeches were warmly applauded.

- 13b. The President informed the General Assembly that, regrettably, all efforts to communicate with the Philippines Orienteering Federation had been futile over the last three years, nor had any membership fees been paid during the current Congress period. Council therefore recommended expulsion of the Philippines Orienteering Federation. **Expulsion**

The General Assembly unanimously decided to expel PHI as Associate member of the IOF.

Item 13 on the agenda concluded, the Secretary General informed that the number of member countries present is now 28. Two-thirds majority requires 19 votes, three-fourths majority requires 21.

Addendum to the list of countries and delegates present:

CRO Zeljko Gobec, Marija Gobec
EST Kalju Vaikjärv, Mati Poom
LAT Rodrigo Slavinsh
LIT Robertas Preiksa, Rimantas Mikaitis
RSA Ruedi Siegenthaler
SLO Boris Bauman

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- 14.1 John Pearson presented Council's proposal that (a) the present regional structure be abolished, and (b) that elections to the IOF Council cease to be regionalized. Since the background of the proposal had been gone through in great detail the previous day, JP limited himself to repeating that Council had found that the regional structure had not contributed to development; Council also held the view that Coun- **Abolition of regions (Council proposal)**



cil election should be based on merit, rather than geographical relationship. The only exception to this would be granting two members from non-European countries seats on the Council.

A rather brief discussion followed. AUT was in favour of the proposal and stressed the importance of electing persons with good ideas; SWE also supported the Council proposal. CAN hinted at the problem in defining present Europe by asking to which IOF regions some of the new members belong. The Chairman of the discussion (SH) said the new member countries do not belong to any region. However, she informed that Council had prepared a proposal for allocation of the new members to various regions, should the General Assembly not approve of Council's proposal.

When put to the vote, Council's proposal, implying amendment to the current Statutes (3/4 majority required), was unanimously supported. Thus the regional structure is abolished, and Council shall be elected as follows:

- 1 A President
- 2 Three Vice Presidents
- 3 Five other members

At least two of the persons elected under 2 and 3 above shall (nominations permitting) be from outside Europe.

The General Assembly thereafter unanimously decided that the changes proposed shall come into effect immediately, i.e. they will prevail at the Council elections to take place under item 20 of the present Congress agenda.

- 14.2 The President briefly commented on the objectives formulated by Council for the coming Congress period, plus the Activity plans drafted by the various Committees and Working groups. He said "Value for money" has become a catchword, signalling the intention of the Council to aim at high-quality activities at as low cost as possible. He also pointed at the continuous ambition of the IOF Council and Committees to recruit new member nations, and to increase the number of orienteers in the current member nations.

Objectives and Activity Plans for 1992-94
(Council proposal)

The General Assembly unanimously approved the objectives and activity plans (as presented in the Congress folder under item 14.2) for the coming Congress period.



14.3 Geir Tveit presented Council's proposal for change of selection criteria for the classic distance at World Championships in Orienteering. Since the matter had been gone through in great detail the previous day, GT limited himself to pointing at the principal matter of obtaining a reasonable balance between representation, i.e. the right of every Member country to enter runners in the classic event, and participation, the latter defined as the number of runners a country may enter into the classic event in relation to its standard. Council considers the present WOC Rules, allowing each Member nation to enter two runners, too liberal in this respect. GT said that the effect of the large increase of Member countries (under the present WOC Rules) would be to aggravate the situation for the medium-standard nations who until now could enter 3, or perhaps 4, runners. He presented statistics illustrating the effect of Council's proposal, should it be accepted by Congress. GT expressed his appreciation of written comments received from CAN and AUS. He concluded by stating that the maximum number of competitors at the classic event, although 80 in principle, would be increased depending upon how many runners from the organising country have qualified. If only 1, the total number of participants will be 83 because of Council's previous decision to allow the organising country to enter the maximum number (4).

Change of
WOC Rules

(Council
proposal)

The Chairman (SH) asked the delegates to limit the discussion to principles, and to leave wording of a detailed proposal to the Technical Committee.

NOR considered Council's proposal to give a good balance between representation and participation, and supported it. ITA also agreed for what was called technical reasons, but asked the Technical Committee to keep in mind the possibility for the smaller Member federations to participate. AUT thought it was good that the organising country is allowed to enter 4 runners. AUT also agreed to the proposal, pointing out that each country is entitled to register 5 runners for the short-distance event. However, AUT urged the Technical Committee not to include results in the previous year's World Cup among the criteria for selection. The latter point was stressed by GER who said that financial problems deter certain countries from participating in the World Cup. GBR defended including the World Cup among the criteria, arguing that it allows quicker response to changes in standards within the Member countries, thereby increasing the likelihood of smaller orienteering nations entering more than 1 runner in the classic event. USA,



organiser of next year's WOC, said number of participants in the classic event may not be a very crucial matter; USA could accommodate a few more runners without great problems. SWE, finally, supported Council's proposal.

Brought to the vote, Council's proposal was carried; no votes against.

- 14.4 AUS had tabled a motion that the Statutes (article 2.4) be amended to the effect that the naming of major IOF events might be associated with sponsors or advertising companies. AUS argued that selling the name would not compromise the IOF.

Proposal (AUS) regarding sponsorship policy

Åke Jacobson, in presenting Council's view on the proposal, mentioned Council's concern to secure sponsorship revenue from its major events. Since the IOF does not, as opposed to the Member federations, have a team 'to sell', the **name** of an event becomes the more important for the IOF to protect as a possible means of income. In particular, the name of the World Championships ought to be 'kept clean'; regarding other events, Council has a more liberal opinion.

USA asked when the motion, if carried, would come into force. (Answer: immediately). ITA said an organiser should be free to collect money, although after coordinating the efforts with the IOF. ÅJ responded that what ITA was asking for was exactly what has been termed the 'price tag philosophy', i.e. the possibility for an organiser to buy all naming and sponsorship rights from the IOF for an agreed-upon sum.

AUT commented on the financial regulations related to the World Cup and said that the present revenue from the Main sponsors (SEK 150,000) could be increased, to the satisfaction of both the IOF and the local organiser, by thoughtful cooperation between the IOF and the latter. AUT also said the present time-schedule for World Cup sponsorship matters, allowing the local organiser to seek a Main sponsor (in case the IOF has not succeeded in obtaining one), is inappropriately short. DEN agreed with this and suggested that the IOF conclude negotiations with potential Main sponsors 18 months ahead of the first World Cup event (rather than 12 months as stated by the current rules).