

Minutes of the General Assembly held at the XIX IOF Congress on Friday 10th July, 1998 in Sintra, Portugal

1 (11)

1. Opening of the General Assembly

The President of the IOF, Sue Harvey, GBR, opened the XIX Ordinary General Assembly.

2. Roll call

The Secretary General performed a roll call among those present (see APPENDIX I).

3. Voting members present

The Secretary General announced the number of voting members present. At the time of the roll call 27 full member federations, each having one vote, were present.

4. Presidium

The following persons were elected to constitute the presidium during the proceedings of the Ordinary General Assembly:

Sue Harvey (President), Åke Jacobson, Hugh Cameron, and Edmond Szechenyi (Vice Presidents)

5. Minutes witnesses

David May, GBR, and Gottfried Tobler, AUT, were elected to certify the minutes of the meeting.

6. Election of tellers

Konrad Becker, SUI, Birthe Helms, DEN, and Shin Murakoshi, JPN, were elected tellers.

7. Approval of agenda

The agenda for the General Assembly was approved with the following amendments:

Agenda item 12, Applications for Associate Membership: addition of the application for associate membership submitted by Chinese Taipei (12.3).

Agenda item 13.11: RUS withdrew her proposal for the inclusion of a new distance in the World Championship, World Cup and Junior World Championship in Ski Orienteering.

Agenda item 14.2 corrected to read: 1996 JWOC in Romania.

Agenda item 14.13: a notification that an application to organise the 2002 WOC in ski orienteering had been received from Bulgaria.

8. Open sessions

It was agreed that the sessions should be open and observers permitted.

9. Announcement of auditors

It was announced that the countries responsible for auditing the IOF finances during the current Congress period have been Finland and Portugal. The auditing work has been done by Mr. Seppo Tervo, FIN, and Mrs. Isilda Santos, POR. Because of the IOF Secretariat being located in Sweden until the end of 1996, the auditing work for 1996 has been done by Mr. Lars-Erik Engberg, SWE.

10. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous General Assembly, at the XVIII IOF Congress in Jerusalem, ISR, were approved as a true record of that meeting.

11. Council's report

The report on the activities of the IOF since the 1996 General Assembly (see the Biennial Report 1996-98) was approved.

12. Applications for membership

Applications for associate membership had been received from India, Moldova, and Chinese Taipei. The General Assembly unanimously approved the applications, India thereby becoming the 49th, Moldova the 50th, and Chinese Taipei the 51st member of the IOF.

13. Proposals to the XIX IOF General Assembly

A. Proposals from the Council

13.1 Environmental policy

Bruce Wolfe presented Council's proposal for adoption of an environmental policy for the IOF.

The proposal was unanimously carried.

13.2 Olympic project action plan

In presenting Council's proposal regarding an action plan for each of the three Olympic Games, namely the Summer Olympic Games, the Winter Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games, Åke Jacobson confirmed that the seminar the previous day had been for discussion only, and that Council now welcomes formal comments on the proposed action plans.

NOR confirmed her support for the application for ski orienteering to be included in the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. With regard to the plan for the Paralympic Games, NOR said that the proposal implied that the General Assembly will approve the proposal for a WOC in Trail Orienteering. NOR proposed that the General Assembly should ask Council to develop criteria for Mountain Bike Orienteering and Trail Orienteering and to present its proposals for such criteria to the next General Assembly. It would then be the appropriate time to decide on the establishment of World Championships for these two disciplines. Because of these reasons NOR said she cannot endorse the plan for Paralympics.

Åke Jacobson commented that the action plan showed the ambition. Should the General Assembly make contradictory decisions, the action plan will naturally be revised.

SUI informed that she cannot support the goal of Olympic inclusion, but underlined her support for the proposed action in general and the development of the sport in particular.

Vote: 24 in favour, 0 against, 3 abstentions; i.e. Council's motion was carried.

13.3 Establishment of World Championships in MTB Orienteering

Edmond Szechenyi presented Council's proposal to establish a World Championship in MTB Orienteering.

NOR stressed that she is in favour of WOC's for all disciplines but repeated her proposal that the General Assembly should ask Council to develop criteria for both MTB and Trail Orienteering and present a proposal to the next General Assembly. The Norwegian proposal was supported by DEN and SWE, which, however, both underlined that they are positive to developing all the IOF disciplines including the establishment of a World Championship.

HUN held that the time had come to decide positively on the matter in order not to prevent the development of the sport. There is, however, an urgent need to finish the work on the rules in order to have a good WOC in 2002. This opinion was supported by BEL. FIN also supported Council's proposal pointing out that it is possible for the IOF to get new member countries via MTB orienteering, a fact also underlined by ISR, ESP, ITA and JPN. UKR and BUL additionally mentioned the fact that a World Championship is of utmost importance when dealing with national authorities and sponsors.

GBR announced her support for a World Championship in both MTB and Trail Orienteering.

On a question from BEL, Council confirmed that the request to ask the General Assembly for permission to appoint the organiser applies to 2002 only, and in future, the General Assembly shall appoint the WOC organiser in accordance with the current 'Competition Rules for IOF Foot Orienteering Events' (Rule 4.5).

The President said that there was a proposal from NOR to postpone the decision-making until the next Congress and the proposal has been supported by SWE. She then suggested that a vote be taken on Council's proposal as the postponement will naturally take effect if the General Assembly does not approve the proposal.

NOR, supported by SUI, strongly disagreed with the proposed procedure saying that a proposal for postponement should always be voted on before taking a vote on the proposal itself. The IOF President consented to this.

Vote on the postponement: 5 in favour, 18 against, 4 abstentions. The proposal to postpone the decision-making was not carried.

Vote on Council's proposal: 21 yes, 2 no, 4 abstentions. The proposal to establish and organise a World Championship in MTB Orienteering every second year from 2002 onwards, and to allow Council to appoint the organiser for 2002 was carried.

13.4 Establishment of World Championships in Trail Orienteering

Bruce Wolfe presented Council's proposal. In so doing he stressed that the WOC organisers in 1999 and 2001 have declared they are prepared to organise the Trail Orienteering World Championship.

At this stage, the SVK delegate joined the meeting, the number of voting members thus being 28.

GBR confirmed that the 1999 WOC organiser is pleased to put on a Trail Orienteering World Championship and she expressed her support for Council's proposal.

NOR repeated her proposal for postponement of the decision until 2000. In so doing she did, however, stress not being against having a World Championships in Trail Orienteering but wanting it to be handled in an orderly manner. The proposal to postpone the decision was seconded by DEN, ITA and SWE.

On a question from JPN, Anne Braggins, Trail O Committee chairman, answered that trail orienteering is challenging for those people for whom it has been established and that criteria have been established.

On a comment from DEN, GBR held that the strength of having events for the disabled organised in conjunction with ordinary foot orienteering events is that the required infrastructure is available. It also provides an opportunity for ordinary orienteers to attend open trail orienteering events.

HKG made a remark that this really is a matter of able-bodied people giving disabled a chance to orienteer.

Vote on NOR's proposal to postpone the decision and to establish criteria: 13 in favour, 8 against, 6 abstentions.

The motion was carried, and Council's proposal will therefore return to the next IOF General Assembly. 13.5 Rules change: confirmation of the appointment of WOC organiser

Hugh Cameron presented Council's proposal for amendment to paragraph 4.5 in the Competition Rules for IOF Foot Orienteering Events.

Put to the vote, the proposal was unanimously carried.

The WOC paragraph 4.5 to read as follows: "Applications shall be received no later than January 31st five years prior to the event. The provisional appointment of an organising federation is made by the IOF General Assembly the same year. The appointment must be confirmed by the signing, within 12 months, of a contract to organise the event, else Council may make an alternative appointment."

13.6 Sue Harvey presented Council's proposal for Activity Plan 1998-2000. In so doing she said that there are three different categories of jobs to be done, i.e. ongoing, priority and special tasks. The IOF will give first priority to the quality of events and to the project on development towards the Olympics.

NOR expressed her general satisfaction with the priority tasks but also thought that there was too much emphasis on the Olympic project. The highest priority should be recruitment of the young. The proposed Activity Plan can serve as a basis for planning of the activities. In terms of money and human resources it is, however, impossible to do everything. This view was supported by FRA who underlined the importance of deciding on the priority tasks.

Responding to concerns from FRA and AUS about the changes proposed for Orienteering World, Sue Harvey assured that the intention is to increase the availability of information, not to reduce it. Headlines, the Internet home page and other means of communication will be used to inform about the daily work. On a question from BUL regarding the promotion of ski orienteering, she said that the PR brochure handed out is an attempt to get over the universal message of orienteering and that, in future, the brochure will be followed up by discipline specific material.

RUS declared that a lot of tasks will be realised if all national federations can feel part of the plan. Developing the orienteering disciplines is a necessity, but the IOF also needs geographical spread. Then it will be possible to get more sponsors from several parts of the world. This is the reason why RUS has proposed to establish a European Orienteering Federation, which would serve as a tool for development. The President noted the Russian proposal but stressed the fact that it is not a matter for the Congress or the IOF to decide on.

Sue Harvey thanked the delegates for their comments saying that Council will start the implementation and look carefully at any suggestions. She also welcomed the federations to bring comments on the plan all the time, not only at the General Assembly.

Put to the vote the Activity Plan 1998-2000 was unanimously approved.

13.7 Amendments to the IOF Statutes

Hugh Cameron commented on the proposal saying that the proposed changes are necessary in order for the IOF to be registered as a legal body in Finland. Most of the changes are of a textual character rather than of a principle nature.

The General Assembly unanimously approved the proposal.

B. Proposals from Member Federations

13.8 Revision of the international elite events programme

SWE introduced her proposal saying that there are a number of reasons behind the proposal, such as the competition between orienteering and other sports and between international and national orienteering events, the strenuous programme for the athletes, and the financial implications of the heavy programme.

Thomas Brogli expressed Council's view on the SWE proposal saying that it is a major task for the IOF, and that representatives of the member federations and the athletes will be asked to participate in the work.

Vote: 26 in favour, 0 against, 2 abstentions. The proposal for a revision of the international elite events programme was carried.

13.9 Event rules to allow modern technology equipment at events

In presenting her proposal FIN stressed that it is not only a question of technology but even more a tool for marketing and a way of handling the recruitment.

Hugh Cameron referred to the brief response of Council included in the General Agenda papers and said that the issue in general was covered in the competition rules. Council supports the proposal and would expect ongoing discussions between FIN and the IOF Event Standards and Foot Orienteering Committees.

In his capacity as ESC chairman and controller of the said event, Barry McCrae proposed that the proposal be amended to read: 'That the General Assembly supports *in principle* that Council makes amendments to the event rules of the WOC in order to allow technical equipment making it possible for spectators to follow the runners in the event on an electronic screen in the WOC 2001 in Finland.'

A first vote was taken on the proposal to amend the original text. This proposal was unanimously approved by the delegates.

A vote was thereafter taken on the amended proposal. The motion was unanimously carried.

13.10 Ski-O World Cup every year; financial implications

FIN briefly commented on her proposal saying that it was most of all signalling the need to be cautious about the costs when planning the events programme.

On behalf of Council, Rimantas Mikaitis commented on the proposal saying that Council agrees that travel costs should be kept at a minimum and will work in order to achieve this if technically feasible.

Vote: 19 yes, 1 no, 8 abstentions. The motion was carried.

13.11 Ski-O: New distance in the WOC, World Cup and JWOC programme

RUS had withdrawn her proposal at the beginning of the General Assembly.

13.12 Extra slot at the WOC for the reigning World Champion

FIN presented her proposal stressing the marketing aspects and the media point of view. The increased costs would be the responsibility of the respective national federation.

Hugh Cameron commented that Council was in favour of the proposal. He pointed out that the proposal is to give the reigning champion an extra slot in the WOC qualification race, not directly in the final.

Barry McCrae, ESC chairman, made a remark that the champion would still have to be nominated by the relevant national federation.

SUI and JPN expressed opposition to the proposal. They thought that this would increase the number of runners from the large federations and, in addition, questioned whether it would make sense to allow a former champion to participate. ITA was in favour of the proposal and, on a question from SUI, said that there is a number of other sports (e.g. cycling) having the same rule.

On a question from SVK whether a possible refusal of the proposal would affect the present rules for Ski-WOC already allowing the reigning world champion to participate, Sue Harvey answered that the decision would be applicable to foot orienteering only.

Put to the vote, the proposal was carried by 13 votes in favour, 6 against, 9 abstentions.

- 14. International Championships and other IOF Events
- A. Reports from previous events

Written reports from the following events were accepted by the General Assembly:

Foot orienteering:

- 14.1 1997 WOC in Norway
- 14.2 1996 JWOC in Romania
- 14.3 1997 JWOC in Belgium

Ski orienteering:

- 14.4 1998 WOC in Austria
- 14.5 1998 JWOC in Russia

B. Forthcoming championships and other events

Foot orienteering:

Brief updates were given on the two forthcoming World Championships in orienteering, namely

- 14.6 1999 WOC in Great Britain, and
- 14.7 2001 WOC in Finland

David Peregrine reported that Bulletin 2 was released at the World Cup event in Great Britain. The WOC will be organised together with the Scottish 6-Days. The organiser will put on an international MTB orienteering event and, despite the fact that the General Assembly did not endorse the proposal to organise an official World Championship in trail orienteering, also welcomes trail orienteers to an international event.

Tuomo Juntunen reported that all races will be held within one hour's drive from the event centre. The decision on which punching system to be used will be taken in the year 2000 and the work on developing the tracking system is in process. The organiser has made an agreement with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in order to promote orienteering as an environmentally friendly sport.

14.8 WOC 2003: Appointment of organiser

One application to host the World Championships in the year 2003 had been submitted, namely by SUI.

Konrad Becker presented the application saying that the event centre will be Rapperswil-Jona near Zürich.

The General Assembly adopted SUI as organiser of the 2003 World Championships in Foot Orienteering by acclamation.

Brief updates were given on the following events:

- 14.9 1998 JWOC in France,
- 14.10 1999 JWOC in Bulgaria, and
- 14.11 2000 JWOC in Czech Republic

Ski orienteering:

14.12 2000 WOC in Russia

RUS gave a brief update on the preparations of the 2000 World Championships in Ski Orienteering and wished the member federations welcome to Russia. Planning proceeds according to schedule.

14.13 2002 Ski WOC; appointment of organiser

One application had been received to organise the World Championships in Ski Orienteering in the year 2002, namely from BUL. The application was commented on by Iordanka Melnikliyska who informed that the event will be organised in Borovets, a famous ski resort. In presenting the proposal, she said that BUL accepts Council's proposal not to organise the Ski-WOC, should ski-orienteering be included in the programme of the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

BUL was appointed organiser of the 2002 World Championships in Ski Orienteering by acclamation.

14.14 Brief updates of the planning work related to the two following events were 14.15 given:

1999 JWOC in Bulgaria 2000 JWOC in Slovakia

15. The 2000 IOF Congress and General Assembly

One application to organise the 2000 IOF Congress had been received, namely from AUT.

Gottfried Tobler and Sepp Hartinger presented the proposal. In so doing, they said that the intention is to organise the Congress at Graz during the first or second week of August. AUT also proposes that a Park World Tour Champions Week be organised in conjunction with the Congress.

The General Assembly appointed Austria organiser of the 2000 IOF Congress by acclamation. Decisions regarding the exact dates and the composition of the programme will take place a.s.a.p. between the IOF Council and AUT.

16. Auditors' report, approval of accounts and discharge of the Council

The Auditors' reports and the accounts for the two fiscal years 1996 and 1997 were approved unanimously, and the members of the Council were discharged from liability for the period concerned.

17. Membership fees and budget for 1999-2000

In presenting the proposal for membership fees for the coming two calendar years Council's Finance Officer, Edmond Szechenyi, stated that the principle

decision to reduce the highest fees as taken at the previous Congress is still valid. For the forthcoming Olympic project period Council, however, did not find it possible to lower these fees (FIN, NOR, SWE) and therefore proposes that all fees remain unchanged with the exception of HKG, whose fee is proposed to be lowered from FIM 9,000 to FIM 3,000.

Council's proposal for membership fees for the coming two calendar years (see APPENDIX II) was unanimously approved.

The fees thus decided, Edmond Szechenyi presented the budget for the coming Congress period. A proposal from NZL, that the budgets of the two previous years be published besides the proposal in order to make a direct comparison possible, was noted.

The General Assembly then voted on the budget as proposed by the Council. The budgets for the fiscal years 1999 and 2000 (see APPENDIX III) were unanimously approved.

18. Any other business

No other issues were brought up by the delegates.

19. Election of the IOF Council

The following Council was elected for the Congress period 1998-2000:

President	Sue Harvey	GBR	by acclamation
Vice Presidents	Hugh Cameron	AUS	

Åke Jacobson SWE by acclamation Edmond Szechenyi FRA

Five members were voted by a secret ballot, among the eight candidates nominated.

Result of first vote:

Thomas Brogli	SUI	21 votes	elected
Higino Esteves	POR	20 votes	elected
Iordanka Melnikliyska	BUL	18 votes	elected
Jan-Erik Krusberg	FIN	17 votes	elected
Rimantas Mikaitis	LTU	15 votes	
Bruce Wolfe	USA	15 votes	
Laszlo Deseö	HUN	14 votes	
Flemming Nörgaard	DEN	12 votes	

Since voting was equal between Rimantas Mikaitis and Bruce Wolfe, a second ballot was taken.

Result of second vote:

Bruce Wolfe

USA 16 votes

elected

Rimantas Mikaitis

LTU 12 votes

See APPENDIX IV for composition, addresses, etc. of the IOF Council elected for 1998-2000.

20. Appointment of auditors for 1998 and 1999

Finland and Austria were nominated to appoint auditors for the fiscal years 1998 and 1999.

21. Closure

The IOF President thanked all those having worked for orienteering and the IOF during the current Congress period. She directed special words of thanks to the two retiring Council members Rimantas Mikaitis, LTU, and Flemming Nörgaard, DEN. She also thanked the Portuguese Orienteering Federation for hosting the Centenary Congress in such a pleasant and efficient manner. Finally, Sue Harvey officially closed the XIX IOF General Assembly.

Sue Harvey President

Minutes verified by:

David May

Barbro Rönnberg Secretary General

Gotffried Toble

APPENDIX I

Ordinary General Assembly held at the XIX IOF Congress on Friday 10th July, 1998, in Sintra, Portugal

ROLL CALL/ATTENDANCE LIST

Delegates:

AUS Barry McCrae*)

AUT Gottfried Tobler

BEL Eric Hully

BRA Antonio Dmeterko, Jose Dornelles (Associate Member)

BUL Iordanka Melnikliyska

CUB Angel Lenis Gual Salfran (Associate Member)

CZE Jiri Subrt

DEN Finn Arildsen*), Ove Gasbjerg, Birthe Helms

ESP Juan M. Garcia Tutor

EST Leho Haldna

FIN Veli-Markku Korteniemi*), Jan-Erik Krusberg, Kimmo Sallinen

FRA Pierre Delforge, Michel Devrieux, Jean-Paul Hosotte*)

GBR David May, David Peregrine, David Rosen

GER Ernst Grühn, Rolf Heinemann, Jürgen Hilgenberg

HKG Albert Wong

HUN Laszlo Deseö, Laszlo Zentai

ISR Giora Cohen, Michael Friedlander

ITA Michele Galbusera, Bruno Gozzelino, Livio Guidolin

JPN Shin Murakoshi

LAT Zanete Jaunzeme, Aivars Prosenkovs, Rodrigo Slavins

LTU Rimantas Mikaitis*)

NOR Stig Carlsson, Oivind Holt, Helge G. Simonsen

NZL Graham Teahan

POR Isilda Santos, Luis Sergio

RUS Victor Elizarov, Igor Stolov

SUI Konrad Becker, Marcel Schiess, Daniel Sägesser

SVK Juraj Nemec (present from agenda item 13.4 onwards)

SWE Lars-Åke Larsson, Maria Nimvik, Björn Persson

UKR Oleksandr Sopov

USA Frank H. Kuhn, Bruce McAlister

Council members:

Sue Harvey, President (GBR)

Åke Jacobson, Senior Vice President (SWE)

Hugh Cameron, Vice President (AUS)

Edmond Szechenyi (FRA)

Members

of the Presidium

Thomas Brogli (SUI)

Higino Esteves (POR)

Rimantas Mikaitis (LTU)*)

Flemming Nörgaard (DEN)

Bruce Wolfe (USA)

Committee Chairpersons:

Finn Arildsen (DEN)*)	TDC
Anne Braggins (GBR)	Trail O
Jean Paul Hosotte (FRA)*)	MTBO
Veli-Markku Korteniemi (FIN)*)	Ski O
Barry McCrae (AUS)*)	ESC
Björn Persson (SWE)	Мар
Geir Tveit (NOR)	Foot O

*) national delegates as indicated above

Secretary General:

Barbro Rönnberg FIN

Observers:

Sepp Hartinger	AUT
Tuomo Juntunen	FIN
Jane Melia	FRA
Clive Allen	GBR
Kimiya Ochiai JPN	
Magne Brekke	NOR
Lars-Petter Lystad	NOR
Agneta Erfors	SWE
Tord Nilsson	SWE
Torgny Ottosson	SWE

Sigitas Stasiulis, IOF LTU

IOF Membership Fees for 1999-2000 (figures are in Finn Marks, 1000 FIM = approx. 185 USD)

Member Federations	1999	2000
FIN, NOR, SWE	81 000	81 000
DEN, GBR, SUI	28 000	28 000
AUS, FRA, GER, JPN	18 000	18 000
AUT, CZE, HUN, ITA, RUS, USA	9 000	9 000
BEL, BUL, CAN, ESP, IRL, NZL, POL, SVK	4 000	4 000
BLR, CHN, CRO, EST, HKG, ISR, KAZ, KOR, LAT, LTU, NED, POR, ROM, RSA, SLO, UKR, YUG	3 000	3 000
ARG, BRA, CHI, CUB, ECU, IND, MDA, MKD, MAS, TPE	200	200

APPENDIX III

IOF Budgets for 1999 and 2000

(figures are in 1000s of Finn Mark, 1,000 FIM = approx. 185 USD)

INCOME

	1999		2000	
Membership fees		551		551
Major events:		377		427
WOC	200			
World Cup			150	
JWOC	21		21	
WMOC	50		50	
Ski WMOC	15		15	
Ski WOC			100	
Ski World Cup	70		70	
Ski JWOC	21		21	
Other sources:		653		653
IOC	60		60	
Finnish Ministry of Education	300		300	
SUUNTO	150		150	
FINNAIR	143		143	
Publications (Scientific Journal)		10		10
Bank interests		5		5
TOTAL	1	1596		1646

EXPENDITURE

	1999		2000	
Council:		550		570
Travel(representation& business)	100		100	
Meeting attendance (council+chairs)	70		70	
Council projects	50		50	
Committee project fund	30		30	
Council meeting expenses	10		10	
Internal communications	20		40	
External communications	55		55	
Memberships of international bodies	15		15	
Olympic project	200		200	
Committees:		180		180
Мар	20		20	
Refereeing and controlling	150		150	
Technology development	10		10	
Disciplines (competitions, development, etc):		110		110
Foot-O	45		45	
Ski-O	45		45	
Trail-O	10		10	
MB- O	10		10	
Administrative services:		850		850
Staff (salaries, social secu., travel)	550		550	
Running costs of secretariat	215		215	
Scientific Journal	15		15	
Servicing commercial partners	70		70	
Budget surplus or deficit		- 94		- 64
TOTAL	1	596]	1646

APPENDIX IV

IOF Council

Sue Harvey, President

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