

# **President's Report**

By Juha Jalovaara

WFDF Congress Perth, November 11th, 2006

### **Preface**

The purpose of this report is to give WFDF members a general overview of the state of the corporation and its activities in the preceding year leading up to this Congress. More detail on specific items will be presented in separate reports.

#### **Board of Directors**

The WFDF annual election was held electronically in December, 2005, with a total of 21 member organizations submitting votes of which 19 ballots were submitted in time. Six new directors were elected to two year terms, one of them being Dave Nesbitt, who accordingly resigned his position as WFDF Auditor after the election.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 WFDF Secretary General Joey Gray submitted her resignation to the board effective October 4, citing "an ongoing cycle of irreconcilable differences and low morale" as reason for her resignation. The board decided to leave the Secretary General position open for the last three months of the term, until the upcoming election.

The composition of the current WFDF Board:

		Term ends
President	Juha Jalovaara	2006
Secretary General	<vacant></vacant>	2006
Treasurer	Nob Rauch	2007
Team Events Chair	Brian Gisel	2006
Individual Events Chair	Paul Francz	2007
Board Members	Fumio Morooka	2006
	Thomas Griesbaum	2006
	Jeff Scott	2006
	Todd Demetriades	2007
	Dan Engström	2007
	Dave Nesbitt	2007
	Ruediger Veitl	2007

#### **Personnel**

During 2005 and 2006 WFDF has contracted the following individuals for administrative duties:

Event Manager and Ultimate Coordinator - Deirdre Abrahamsson

- supporting the Ultimate Committee in the bid process, contracting and hosting of WFDF events
- supporting other WFDF events in certain areas as well
- supporting Ultimate Committee work in general

Administrator/Communications Director - Jonathan Potts

- answering and directing questions
- maintaining WFDF web site



- organizing WFDF census and dues collection
- member services

Consultant and Advisor - Dan Roddick

- maintaining WFDF World records
- maintaining WFDF history
- specific strategic work for the Board

Deirdre resigned her position as Event Manager in early 2006 as a result of moving to work full time with the European Athletics Championships held in Gothenburg in August.

Pottsy also took on a new job in the spring of 2006. Between the demands of his new full-time job and local disc organizing responsibilities, he was forced to sharply curtail his contributions to WFDF tasks. For all practical purposes, WFDF's volunteer officers and board have been without proper administrative support for much of 2006. Unfortunately, this has led to many administrative tasks being delayed, communication response has not been on a desired level, and the Executive Committee has had to take on most of the administrative tasks which would normally have been handled by paid staff.

A memo submitted by the President and Treasurer covering the personnel issue and proposing a search for a new part time Executive Director for WFDF was presented at the Board meeting held in June, with an outline for a work schedule of 20 hours per week on average to be performed, within the similar budget guidelines for administrative work approved for 2006. The Board approved the proposal and directed the Executive Committee to move along the lines of the memo to resolve the staffing issues. An announcement for the position was released in early September and it resulted in 12 applications, including several strong candidates. It is anticipated that a new Executive Director will be hired in late November.

### **Finances**

At the end of the fiscal year 2005 the financial position of WFDF was satisfactory. Our net operating cash flow for 2005 was a deficit of USD 6,626 compared to a budgeted deficit of USD 12,364. The net operating cash flow for 2004 was revised from USD 6,850 positive down to USD 5,337 positive. This change was made due to a check of USD 1,500 clearing after the statement period and a several small discrepancies (for a net effect of USD 13) discovered in the figures for 2004. These revisions had no material impact on the financial standing of WFDF.

At the end of the fiscal year 2005 WFDF had total cash assets of USD 47,052 and no liabilities. Outstanding membership dues payments totaled USD 5,107.

More detail on the fiscal year 2005 is given in separate financial reports.

An unaudited intermediate financial report for the first three quarters of 2006 is included in the Congress materials. Mainly as a result of the sharply reduced administrative staff and related expenses, the current estimated net operating cash flow for the full year 2006 is expected to be approximately USD 31,000 compared to a budgeted figure of USD 8,909.

In November 2005 the Executive Committee commissioned a WFDF Finance Task Force to review and revise WFDF financial and administrative processes. The key assignment of the Finance Task Force was to find a solution whereby the operative WFDF financial functions such as accounting and reporting could be separated from the governing and oversight role of the WFDF Treasurer. The goal was to find a permanent solution that would enable a Treasurer from any member country to be elected without having to move or change any of the operative functions. After presenting the recommendations of the Finance Task Force to the Board, the Executive Committee, in May this year, entered into an administrative agreement with the Ultimate Players Association to provide WFDF with certain accounting and other administrative services (mainly mail forwarding). The base fee before out-of-pocket expenses of this arrangement for WFDF is USD 500 per annum.



First experiences with the new arrangement have been overwhelmingly positive, with the Board receiving regular updates of WFDF's financial position at each meeting. The Finance Task Force was headed by Nob Rauch, who was later elected as new WFDF Treasurer.

#### **Board Resolutions**

The most notable resolutions made by the 2005 Board were:

- Awarding of the WFDF Pan-American Ultimate Championship 2005 to Federacao Paulista de Disco of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Changing the age limits for masters play in Ultimate
- Recommending to Congress to award the WFDF World Junior Ultimate Championship 2006 to the New England Ultimate Alliance
- Awarding of the WFDF World Overall Championship 2005 to the San Diego Free Flyers
- Approving a WFDF feedback report to the IWGA
- Awarding of the WFDF World Ultimate and Guts Championship 2008 to Vancouver Ultimate Events

#### And in 2006 to date:

- Approving the report of the WFDF Finance Task Force
- Approving the establishment of the new Executive Director position and initiating the search
- Approving the mission statement for the WFDF Anti-doping Task Force
- Awarding of the WFDF World DDC Championships 2006 to Team Banzai from Phoenix, Arizona
- Ratification of the new WFDF Rules of Disc Golf

# **Board and Executive Committee Activity**

During 2006 the WFDF Board has held three teleconference meetings to date and kept in touch between the meetings through the use of a Yahoo discussion group. The minutes of Board meetings are available upon request to members in good standing.

During 2006 the WFDF Executive Committee, consisting of President, Treasurer and Secretary General, has met by teleconference a total of 14 times to date. The lack of administrative staff has severely burdened the Executive Committee and the current way of operating that relies on excessive volunteer efforts is not sustainable in the long term. We believe that hiring a capable and enthusiastic Executive Director will relieve the pressure of day-to-day administrative tasks on the Executive Committee members and allow the Executive Committee and the Board to focus more on the strategic issues facing WFDF and communication toward WFDF membership.

## **Rewriting of WFDF Bylaws**

The rewriting of the WFDF Bylaws has progressed within the WFDF Executive Committee albeit at a slower pace than expected due to high workload in other areas. The current plan is to present draft revisions to the membership for comments in late 2006.

#### **External Relations**

WFDF continues as a member in good standing in GAISF (General Assembly of International Sports Federations) and IWGA (International World Games Association). Two of our Board members, Joey Gray and Fumio Morooka attended the SportAccord Congress in Soul in April, 2006. SportAccord is the annual event that hosts the annual general meetings of GAISF, IWGA and the International Olympic Committee.



#### International World Games Association

The World Games 2005 in Duisburg, Germany were an extremely well run and successful event overall, as well as from the WFDF point of view. Five countries (Canada, USA, Australia, Finland, and Japan) qualified to participate in this mixed Ultimate tournament with host country Germany receiving the sixth starting position. A total of 66 athletes participated in Flying Disc play. The final game between Australia and USA was broadcast live on Eurosport2 and shown several times on College Sports TV in the United States. The only major negative aspect about the 2005 event was that Disc Golf was stricken from the Sports Program. The reason cited was the lack of suitable venue i.e. a permanent Disc Golf course in Duisburg.

Preparations for World Games 2009 to be held in Kaohsiung, Taiwan are already running at full speed. The Board has named Michael Hu of the CTFDA as WFDF Technical Delegate to the 2009 event. WFDF volunteers, with PDGA support, have literally spent hundreds of hours this year to achieve the reinstatement of Disc Golf into the Sports Program. Activities included organizing an International Disc Golf tournament in cooperation with the PDGA and Hero Discs in Kaohsiung in March to celebrate the World Games. Prominent guests at the event included the mayor of Kaohsiung. Unfortunately our work did not bring the desired result, as Disc Golf was rejected again by the IWGA. This time the stated explanation provided by IWGA President Ron Froelich was "that the Sports Program will be kept the same as in Duisburg". In the meantime, negotiations for the exact number of Flying Disc athletes and teams to be invited to the event continue.

In September 2005 WFDF submitted a ten page recommendation report to the IWGA commenting on the organization and successes of the World Games 2005 and making recommendations for the 2009 event.

The participation of WFDF in the World Games requires a high level of administrative commitment, and contrary to what one might expect from the outside, this commitment is required on a continuous basis, instead of once every four years. This is because planning and preparations for the next event start almost immediately after the previous event has been completed. If WFDF continues its participation in the World Games, sufficient resources must be allocated to this task. This includes both paid administrative hours and travel, meeting, and PR expenses required to keep WFDF's at a professional level.

### **Anti-Doping Task Force (ADTF)**

A task force commissioned by the WFDF board and chaired by Board member Todd Demetriades has researched the anti-doping movement and the requirements posed to WFDF by our adoption of the WADA Code in 2004. The purpose of the research has been to gather sufficient factual information for WFDF and its membership to make well-informed decisions in relation to the anti-doping movement and the practical implementation of the WFDF Anti-doping Rules, and to understand the implications for WFDF of continued Olympic movement participation. The ADTF has delivered a 14 page report available to the membership as part of the Congress materials. The report presents the findings of the task force, which in summary are:

- a significant amount of administrative resources and other costs will have to be committed in implementing a comprehensive anti-doping program
- WFDF is not the only small International Sports Federation that is in a difficult position due to lacking these resources
- WADA and GAISF are in search of finding alternative ways to help small sports federation implement their programs; IFADO is one such initiative
- failure to comply to the anti-doping requirements of the international sports movement in the medium term is likely to mean the removal of flying disc from the World Games and permanently end hopes of any future Olympic participation



- currently no internal pressure from flying disc events is compelling WFDF to run a comprehensive anti-doping program; at the same token WFDF is not in a position to definitely say, whether substances which are on the prohibited list have been used in flying disc competition
- the task force recommends that enough resources are committed to WFDF anti-doping program
  administration so that we can continue to aim for participation in the World Games 2009, while
  reviewing our own participation in the Olympic movement and waiting until the overall
  requirements for compliance are clarified by the bigger players e.g. WADA, IOC, and GAISF.

The research done by the ADTF indicates that WFDF's anti-doping program is inextricably intertwined with our participation in the Olympic movement. (Olympic movement is used here to mean participation in any multi-sport events including the World Games, World University Games or Olympic Games.) The WFDF Executive Committee expects a discussion on WFDF goals and participation within the Olympic movement to be a fairly long process requiring member involvement. It is our intention to kick-off this discussion with a discussion oriented workshop on the topic during the World Ultimate Club Championships in Perth.

#### **Team Events Committee**

#### **Ultimate Committee**

The Team Events Committee chaired by Brian Gisel is submitting a separate report focused on the activity of the Ultimate Committee during the past year. Key activity has included:

- supporting two world championship events: WJUC and WUCC
- definition of allocation principles for teams at World Ultimate Club Championships
- a revision of the player eligibility criteria for World Ultimate Club Championships
- work on a revised and restructured set of rules for Ultimate

#### **Guts Committee**

The Guts Committee led by Takumi Nunokawa of Japan has formulated a plan for global development of Guts in the next two years. The plan includes trying to grow the annual Winter Indoor Guts tournament in Japan and increase foreign participation in the event, possibly sanctioning the International Frisbee Tournament in Michigan in 2007 as a WFDF World Guts Club Championship and supporting the participation of as many teams as possible in the World Ultimate and Guts Championships in Vancouver in 2008.

#### **Individual Events Committee**

The Individual Events Committee chaired by Paul Francz has been revitalized after a few years of silence. Committee members now include Harvey Brandt, Conrad Damon, Blair Paulsen, and Paul Kenny. First actions of the committee have been to sanction a WFDF World DDC Championship for 2006 and start active solicitation of bids for the WFDF World Overall Championships 2007.

#### **Disc Golf Committee**

WFDF Disc Golf Committee activity has been limited as all the major disc golf events have been sanctioned and operated by Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA). The Disc Golf Committee did, however, move the changes incorporated in the latest version of the PDGA rules of disc golf into the WFDF rules of disc golf and the new set was ratified by the WFDF Board on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

WFDF and the PDGA have been cooperating by running a joint PDGA-WFDF International Disc Golf Committee. That committee has discussed a wide range of issues including player classification (e.g. professional vs. amateur) and the PDGA Eurotour. WFDF has a guest seat on this committee.

WFDF has continued to negotiate with the PDGA on joint sanctioning of Disc Golf World Championship events. Although the parties are close to an agreement, there are still open issues concerning the extent



of WFDF sanctioning and the amount of sanctioning fees. This negotiation has been carried out by the Executive Committee under guidelines provided by the WFDF Board.

# **WFDF Events Program**

During 2006 WFDF is sanctioning the following events:

World Junior Ultimate Championship 2006, Devens, MA, USA, August 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

World DDC Championships 2006, Phoenix, AZ, USA, November 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

World Ultimate Club Championships 2006, Perth, Australia, November 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>.

More information on our Events program, including bidding and upcoming events is available on our web site <a href="https://www.wfdf.org">www.wfdf.org</a> and in the Team Events Committee report.