



WORLD SLEDDOG ASSOCIATION

Sleddoggraces since 1995

MINUTES

WSA General Assembly

21st November 2024, 19:00 hrs

Farmhouse, Haughley Park, United Kingdom

Topic 1: Welcome and report of the previous year

At 19:30 hrs, the Chairman Arno Steichler opens the WSA General Assembly (GA). He welcomes the delegates to the Farmhouse at Haughley Park and thanks everybody for coming.

Looking back, the Chairman thanks the organizers of the 2023 WSA Dryland World Championship in Mühlberg (Germany) for a beautiful and very well-organised championship despite extremely challenging weather conditions. The weather gods also didn't cooperate fully in Sportgastein (Austria), the venue of 2024 Sprint and Mid-Distance World Championships. Even though the final day of racing had to be cancelled due to the extreme winds, we look back on an unforgettable championship in a fairytale location. A big thank you also to Austria for hosting the WSA. The WSA World Trophy goes from strength to strength and is now a firmly established part of the annual sled dog race calendar. The Chairman thanks the many sponsors without whose help the World Trophy wouldn't be possible.

Looking forward, the 2024 WSA Dryland World Championship in Haughley Park is about to get underway. In 2025, the WSA will be celebrating its 30th anniversary and we will be back in Östersund (Sweden) for the 2025 Sprint and Mid-Distance World Championships. At the WSA General Assembly in 2025, the WSA Board will need to be (re-) elected.

Topic 2: Acceptance of invitation and agenda as per WSA statutes

The invitation and agenda of the GA is accepted unanimously.

Topic 3: Counting of delegates and votes & attendance list

Apologies were received from the delegates of Italy and from John Carter (Director Dryland).

After the attendance list is checked, the votes that are represented at the GA in Haughley Park are counted. It is confirmed that 23 votes are present. The absolute majority is 12 votes.

Appendix 1: List of attendees

Topic 4: Report of the Treasurer and the Financial Auditors - Discharge of Board

Cindy van den Brink, Treasurer of the WSA, reports on income and expenditures of the past year. The WSA started the year with a bank balance of €18'801.79 and finished the year with a balance of €20'555.46. In the 2023/24 accounting year, the WSA invested in an IT solution that going forward will make the vet check and the microchip checks at the finish easier. Also, for the first time in many years, the daily allowance for WSA Board members was increased in line with the rising cost of living. The World Trophy is successful and is now an established part of the sled dog race calendar. The fee that is being charged for the WDL accounts for the increase in the WSA's bank balance.

Ahead of the GA, the financial auditors Attila Kiss (ROU) and Rudiger de Pauw (BEL) checked the bookkeeping of the WSA. They confirm that the Treasurer has done a thorough job and that they found the books to be in good order. They ask the Assembly to discharge the Treasurer.



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Arno Steichler then asks the Assembly to discharge the entire Board.

The General Assembly unanimously discharges the Treasurer and the Board.

Topic 5: Elections

At the end of the 2023/24 racing season, Michael Landau stood down as Director (Mid-)Distance and as of this GA, Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber stands down as Director Sponsoring. Arno Steichler thanks both Michael and Manuela for their many years of service and their contribution to the WSA and the sled dog sport.

The Chairman asks whether the GA agrees to elect the new directors by open ballot. This is agreed unanimously.

- **Election of Director (Mid-)Distance for a period of 1 year**

Arno Steichler proposes Rudiger de Pauw for this role. Rudiger is a WSA Race Marshal and represents the Belgian member MBEL.

There are no other proposals and Rudiger de Pauw is elected unanimously.

- **Election of Director Sponsoring for a period of 1 year**

Arno Steichler proposes Marie Le Page for this role. Marie has supported WSA championships for many years and represents the French member FFST.

There are no other proposals and Marie Le Page is elected unanimously.

Election of 2 Financial Auditors for a period of 2 years

In addition, the two-year term of the two Financial Auditors Attila Kiss (ROU) and Rudiger de Pauw (BEL) has come to an end. The Chairman thanks the two auditors for their thorough job and the time they have invested in checking the WSA accounts.

The Chairman asks the GA whether the new Financial Auditors can be elected together. The GA agrees unanimously.

The Chairman proposes Violaine Girard (MCS Switzerland) and Siebren Moolenaar (DSO Netherlands) for the roles of Financial Auditors.

The GA elects Violaine and Siebren unanimously.

Topic 6: New membership applications

No new membership applications have been received from associations. Several single membership applications have been received from mushers in Norway and Denmark as well as one single membership application from the USA. The WSA Board approves single membership applications on a case-by-case basis.

Topic 7: Future championships

So far, no applications for the hosting of the 2025 WSA Dryland World Championship or the 2026 World Championships Sprint and Mid-Distance have been received. The WSA Board will approach members individually in the coming weeks to ask whether they have a venue and a team that is willing to put on these championships. All hosts can count on the full support of the WSA Board.



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The aim is to have received expressions of interest by year-end and to reach a decision by time of the 2025 World Championships Sprint and Mid-Distance.

Christof Diehl reports that he has a contact at the Slovenian biathlon and cross-country skiing performance centre. The venue is world class, and a championship could potentially be organised here but there is no local organising team, which means that any event would need to be organised by the WSA. Christof Diehl will investigate this opportunity further and report back.

Attila Kiss reports that in Romania they have both snow-safe areas and a dryland trail, which potentially could be used. However, at present both venues need further work before they are ready to host a WSA championship. Once this is the case, CSSBN, the WSA's Romanian member is being asked to submit an official bid to host a WSA championship.

Topic 8: Proposals WSA Board

There are no proposals from the WSA Board.

Topic 9: Proposals Members

No proposals from members were received by the deadline.

Topic 10: Any Other Business (AOB)

Melis de Heus has submitted the necessary evidence to proof that he meets the WSA's criteria for becoming a WSA Race Marshal. The GA confirms his appointment unanimously.

The Chairman raises the impact that global warming has on on-snow races. Because the chances of having to cancel an on-snow race are ever increasing, fewer and fewer race organisers are willing to put in the time and money. Arno Steichler therefore wonders whether it would make sense if the WSA would support organisers financially who are willing to take on the risk. Arnold Petutschnig is tasked with writing a proposal in collaboration with Arno Steichler. The proposal will be presented at the next WSA GA.

Rüdiger Rink (GER) enquires whether it would be possible to build an electronic solution that would force mushers to pay for their WDL before they can register for a world championship. The list of valid WDLs could then also be made available in electronic form to race organisers and WSA members on a need-to-know basis. The WSA Board will investigate and report back at the next GA.

Marcin Behlert (POL) asks whether conversations are taking part with FISTC. The Chairman responds that the WSA has tried to encourage talks between the two organisations but that at the moment FISTC is not interested.

The Chairman thanks the delegates for attending the General Assembly and closes the meeting at 22:00 hrs.

Minutes:
Irene Valenkamp/ Secretary

Approved by:
Arno Steichler/ Chairman



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Appendix 1: List of Attendees and Number of Votes

Association	Country	Delegate Name	Number of Votes
WSA	Austria	Arnold Petutschnig	1
WSA	Austria	Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber	1*
WSA	Germany	Christof Diehl	1
WSA	Germany	Arno Steichler	1
WSA	Germany	Karsten Hesse	1
WSA	Great Britain	Irene Valenkamp	1
WSA	Netherlands	Cindy van den Brink	1
		Total Number of Votes Board	7*
RSSC	Austria	Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber	1
		Arnold Petutschnig	1
MBEL	Belgium	Rudiger de Pauw	2
FFST	France	Marie Le Page	2
VDSV	Germany	Rüdiger Rink	2
		Christof Diehl	1
		Sara Diehl	1
AMWA	Great Britain	Irene Valenkamp	1
DSO	Netherlands	Siebren Moolenaar	1
PZSPZ	Poland	Marcin Behlert	2
CSSBN	Romania	Attila Kiss	1
MCS	Switzerland	Violaine Girard	1
RJ	Netherlands	Melis de Heus	Guest
		Total Number of Votes Members	16
		TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES	23*

* Until Topic 5 (Elections).

At topic 5 (Elections), Manuela Petutschnig-Gruber is standing down and as the new WSA Board Members Marie Le Page and Rudiger de Pauw both already represent the maximum of 2 votes, the total number of votes is reduced to 22 votes. The absolute majority remains 12 votes.