

## **WFDF Disc Golf COMMITTEE REPORT - Congress June 2017**

### **Disc Golf Committee and Responsibilities**

Since Congress 2016 considerable progress has been made with the development of the Disc Golf Committee. Charlie Mead was elected formally as Chair in November 2016 and the Committee was formally re-established in April 2017. Details of all members are recorded in this report along with a short profile of each.

The DG Committee have established seven priority areas of work for the next two years. These are:

- Integration of Disc Golf into all WFDF member countries organisation
- Establish Development and Missionary Programmes for Disc Golf
- Ensure the principles of Equality and Diversity are applied to all WFDF DG activities
- Develop a WFDF Disc Golf Ambassador Team to represent WFDF values within the sport
- Develop a Parasports programme of Disc Golf
- Create, Coordinate and Direct WFDF World Disc Golf Events including World Team Disc Golf Championships (WTDGC)
- Create, Coordinate and Direct WFDF Regional and Continental Disc Golf Events

All members of the Disc Golf Committee will be responsible for all of these priorities. However some will be the responsibility of one or two members of the committee to coordinate and report back for further action and approval before being presented to the Board and Congress.

### **Membership of WFDF and Relationship with Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA)**

In my last report to Congress in 2016 I outlined the differences between WFDF and PDGA approach to members. I clarified the significant difference as one of inclusivity on our part and exclusivity on the part of PDGA. During the past year this difference has hardened to the point of PDGA initially withdrawing all support for WTDGC. Their commitment to their own rules did not sit well with our desire to be flexible in creating events for mixed age, ability and gender athletes. Currently PDGA are supporting 2017 WTDGC as an XA Tier event but with no direct input.

PDGA have a new Executive Director and we are waiting for him to get his feet under the table before we approach him for an update on the potential benefits of a positive relationship between our two organisations. I am still hopeful that this will be possible and they will see the mutual benefits of working together. Currently PDGA has no formal agreement or MoU with WFDF.

It is likely that PDGA will also be required to help form a US Disc Golf Association and a Canada Disc Golf Association to help them qualify for future entitlements that will come with belonging to the Olympic family of sports. This will be part of the DG Committee's role in monitoring and helping advise how best that may happen in the years to come.

**This will also apply to other countries that currently do not have a formal relationship between their (mainly Ultimate) WFDF members and their country's National Disc Golf Association.**

***This will be the largest challenge we face in the next two years - seeing how we can match up the circumstances in each country to enable a single membership for all flying disc sports without compromising the relationships that currently exist between organisational and financial partners. The only way we can do this is by working together and developing a mutual understanding of each others roles - and not stepping on each other's toes!***

## **WFDF Disc Golf Committee**

The members of the committee have volunteered to cover the following developmental areas, threads and projects.

**Adriano Medola-** Development and Missionary Programme & WFDF DG Regional Competition development.

**Bernd Wender-** WFDF DG World Championship Competition development & WFDF DG Regional Competition development.

**Carlos Rio-** Development and Missionary Programme & WFDF DG Ambassador Team

**Charlie Mead** - Parasports DG Development & WFDF Ambassador Team. Plus management of the DG Committee including Board Membership.

**Florence Dumont-** 1. Equality and Diversity

**Hiroshi Yokota-** To be decided

**Leonard Muise-** Equality and Diversity & WFDF DG World Championship Competition development.

**Rein Rotmeister-** Parasports DG development

### **Raising awareness of the role of the DG Committee and DG amongst WFDF members.**

There are a number of ways of doing this including raising the profile of the Development and Missionary programmes to include DG. However, it is also important in our view to let members know who is on the committee and what their roles are. All the following details will appear on the WFDF website. Photos will be included in the final version.

### **Charlie Mead - Chair of WFDF Disc Golf Committee**

Charlie Mead has been a player, administrator, and tournament organizer of all disc sports since 1980. He has held World Overall titles, and European and British Titles in Disc Golf in Open, Master, Grand Master and Senior Grand Master Divisions, and he was awarded the Steady Ed Headrick Trophy for representing and developing Disc Golf in 2013. Still active, for 2016 he was elected Captain of the GB Team for the European Disc Golf Championships in Oulu, Finland. He was also a member of the Great Britain National Ultimate Team from 1982-1991 in the Open and Masters' Divisions. Charlie was the first UK Flying Disc President (1981), first European Flying Disc Federation President (1982), first WFDF President (1985- 1989), Chair of the WFDF Ultimate Committee and Board member (1994-2002), and he is currently International Coordinator for the British Disc Golf Association (BDGA). Charlie was the Tournament Director for the WFDF Overall Championships in Colchester in 1989; EFDF and European Disc Golf Championships in 1982, 1983, 1985, and 2012, and for numerous PDGA A, B, and C Tour events in GB from 2001-2016. He was the TD for WFDF World Ultimate Championships in 1986, 1994, 1995, and 1999, and Technical TD for WFDF's events in 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000, and 2002. Outside of his disc career, Charlie is currently an independent consultant providing localized community-based psychological support to children in need. He received a BA (Hons) from Keele University, and M. Ed degrees in both Child Psychology and Educational Psychology from Birmingham University. Charlie lives with partner Maggi and their sheep, pigs and dogs on their farm in Devon, UK.

## **Adriano Medola (Brazil)**

I am Brazilian and discovered disc golf about 7 years ago in Canada and it became my passion. I am the founder of the Disc Golf Brazil Project and current PDGA Country Coordinator. We are about to install our first Disc Golf Course in Brazil with the help of PDGA Marco Polo Program. I have volunteered in events in Canada and USA and TD and Co-TD PDGA sanctioned Tournaments and Leagues. I was also the first Brazilian to play a Worlds Championships and Captain of the first Brazilian Team Disc Golf at the very first WFDF/PDGA Team World Disc Gold Championships in 2016.

My goals are to connect and assist South Americans and Latinos to Disc Golf at all levels, promote events, National Team selection and Sport Development in South-America.

## **Leonard Muise (USA)**

Hi WFDF people!

I'm honoured and excited to be part of the WFDF Disc Golf Committee.

I've been involved in disc golf since starting a Frisbee club at my community college in 1982, which prompted a road trip to the Huntington Beach course. Since then, I've been intensely dedicated to one or two roles at a time: competitor, tournament director, event producer, or course designer -- save a long middle period where I only played occasional casual rounds.

My resume includes:

- Competitor: 8 PDGA MPO titles (1985-1990); 38th place PDGA Worlds MPO (1990); 2nd place WFDF Open (1991).
- TD / Event Producer: 1988 WFDF Overall; 1991-1993 NorCal Disc Golf Series; 2016 St. Jude Disc Golf Charity Invitational; many demonstrations and clinics.
- Course Designer / Co-Designer: ~20 temporary layouts (1985-2017); 7 permanent courses installed (2007-2016); 5 permanent courses under development (2017).  
Field Events/Other: US Open Accuracy title (1986); US Open Discathon title (1987-1990); top 10 US Open Overall (3-4 times 1984-1990); California State DDC title (1991); 24-Hour Pair Record (1986, 1988).
- Organizations: PDGA Member #3974, PDGA Certified Official, Disc Golf Designers Group, founder and/or member of many local disc golf clubs.

Presently, I'm fascinated by the arc of the sport's development. I'm wondering how WFDF might have long-term impact in these areas -- in order of my current interest:

- Course design quality, safety, and standards
- Cultural and economic evolution of free disc golf vs commercial disc golf
- Golf disc technical standards
- Equality and diversity
- Successful international (nation-vs-nation) competitions
- Developing technical bids -- did I hear someone say "Olympics"?!
- Target technical standards

I live in Hayward, California with my wonderful and generous wife and 9-year-old daughter, who support/tolerate my disc sports passion. Professionally, I'm a technical project manager for internet and software companies.

## **Florence Dumont (France)**

Florence Dumont

Florence Dumont was born in 1972 in a little town in Vendée on the Atlantic French Coast. She's been living in the Parisian region since 1994 since studying International Trade when she got her first job. Her professional experience is based on a twenty years long period as a commercial or

personal assistant in several and different type of companies or Institutions, most of them running international activities.

She discovered flying disc sports in 1995 with Loïc Dumont, member of the Ultimate national team at that time, and began to play DG the same year as DG was leisure time for the team. She already knew this was a great sport for her - a lot of fun and moreover wellbeing with this new type of outdoor flying disc sport.

She has been motivated to contribute as a volunteer to the growth of the sport. She says with typical humility that she can bring her abilities to the organisation of sport and help team projects grow. She was a founding member of the Parisian DG Club in 2002. This led her to be named secretary of the first French National DG body in 1998 until 2004, then to chair this body until 2013. She has been PDGA France Coordinator since inception, chairwoman of the PDGA European DG Championships subcommittee during the 2016's Edition bid process, and since spring 2015 DG vice-president of the Federation Flying Disc France, where she helped rebuild the organisation and now chairs the DG committee.

Being invited to join the WFDF Disc Golf Committee and help develop Equality and Diversity policy and practice is an honour for Florence. She brings over 20 years of experience to local, national and European level flying disc sports. She will now make a significant contribution on the World stage.

Florence Dumont  
FFDF 4121  
PDGA 25097

### **Hiroshi Yokota (Japan)**

Hiroshi currently holds high profile positions within the Flying Disc community in Japan. He is Secretary General of Japan Professional Disc Golf Association, Director of Japan Flying Disc Association and President of Disc Sports Co Ltd.

He started playing flying disc sports at University 38 years ago and has helped playing titles and Championships in Disc Golf, Ultimate and Overall competitions. He continues to play at Masters, and GrandMaster level.

Hiroshi has a specific interest in developing World Championship events in all disciplines but with a close interest in Disc Golf.

#### **Experience**

1979 Starting to play frisbee at Dokkyo Univ.

1981 1st place of the All Japan Ultimate Championships

1987 1st place of the All Japan Overall Championships

1991 to 1993 1st JPDGA Disc Golf ranking

2000 1st place of the JPDGA National Disc Golf Championships

2010 Participation to the WUCC as Masters team

2017 Participation schedule WCBU2017 as Grand Master team

### **Bernd Wender (Austria)**

My name is Bernd Wender, I live and work for an international IT company in Vienna, Austria. My first contact with disc sports dates back to 1985 when I was a student. I joined the Viennese Ultimate team "Scheibenkleister". In the beginning of the Nineties I played the European Ultimate Championships in Colchester. There I bought my first golf disc, a Cobra, from Charlie Mead, just to lose it in the middle of a big tree on the first day. But the disc golf virus has caught me. We played a lot in Vienna and the surroundings and began to travel to disc golf tournaments. Weilheim and Munich were great places to play these times, but there was not so much activity in Austria, so I lost touch. After these years of stagnation the Austrian disc golf scene came back to life again in the beginning of the new Millennium. I rejoined and started to play tournaments on a regular basis. In 2005 I went to the EC in Finland. From that time I played every EC, acting as the captain of team Austria. In 2008, Brian Hoeninger asked me if Austria wants to become a PDGA affiliated

country. We agreed, and he asked me to become PDGA country coordinator. In this role I was member of the joint PDGA / WFDF committee that was established to plan for the first disc golf team championship. I am also member of the EC advisory committee that reports to the European disc golf association. On National level, we founded the Austrian Disc Golf Association in 2010 which is affiliated to the Austrian Frisbee Association (WFDF member). My role in the association's board is International Coordinator. Furthermore, we are a founding member of the European Disc Golf Association. As a player, I am still active on National and International level in the grandmaster division where I could win two Eurotour events, the 2015 Konopiste Open and last year's Strudengau Open. I look forward to my new role in the WFDF disc golf committee where I will work together with Charlie on developing team events on regional, National and International level.  
Cheers,  
Bernd

### **Carlos Rio (Spain)**

Carlos has extensive experience of all Flying Disc Sports and has held World Titles in many! Originally from Spain he lived in Norway for many years before returning home. He has competed in National, Continental and World Championships for over 30 years and continues to be a major force in Disc Golf wherever he plays. Currently his energies are in developing Disc Golf in Spain after considerable time as an innovator and administrator in Norwegian Flying Disc Sports

Sporting achievements:

European Champion (Disc Golf): 2014 (MPG Division) National Champion Spain (Disc Golf): 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016

World Champion (Discathlon): 1987, 1989, 1994 European Champion (Discathlon): 1986 and 1987  
Norwegian Disc Golf Tour: 13 wins and 65 tour victories Norwegian National Championships titles (Disc Golf): 12 Norwegian National Championships titles (other disciplines) : 62 (9 Ultimate, 4 Guts, 8 Overall, 3 SCF, 1 Distance, 14 Discathlon, 8 Freestyle, 11 DDC, 4 Accuray)

2014 - present

President AEDG (Asociación Española de Disc Golf)

2012 - present

PDGA Country Coordinator Spain

2010 - 2012

Chairman, DiskSport Norge (DSN – Norwegian Disc Sports Association)

2010 - 2012

Project Manager, National Disc Sports Coaching Program (Phase I)

DiskSport Norge (DSN – Norwegian Disc Sports Association)

2000 – 2003 y 1986 – 1990

Member Executive Board, Norsk Frisbee Forbund (Norwegian Frisbee Association)

1993

Coach, Pancake Frisbee Ltd (Ultimate)

1992

Coach, Stovner Frisbee Klubb (Ultimate)

1990

Coach, Norwegian National Ultimate Team, World Ultimate & Guts Championships, Oslo. 1988 – 1992

Chairman Field Events Committee, World Flying Disc Federation.

1984 – 1990

Ultimate player, club and National Team level

**Rein Rotmeister (Estonia)** Profile to be added.

**New members of DG Committee**

I have received nominations for the following to join the committee and work with existing members on our current programme. They will be approached formally to see if they would be willing to join:

Ann Lindberg (Sweden) - nominated by Florence Dumont  
Natalie Holokoi (Switzerland) - nominated by Carlos Rio  
Sara Nicholson (USA) - nominated by Val Jenkins

**Note to members and delegates:** We are also looking for four further nominations, especially from Oceania and Asia.

### **2017 World Team Disc Golf Championships - Colchester, Essex GBR.**

We welcome the following teams! Further teams have expressed an interest in participating, and the deadline for registration has now been extended to Saturday 15th July in order to help as many teams as possible.

Canada  
Croatia  
Czech Republic  
Ethiopia  
Finland  
France  
Great Britain  
New Zealand  
Portugal  
Slovakia  
Switzerland  
United States of America

**Note to members and delegates:** Further invitations and encouragements have been given to Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Netherlands, Japan, Australia and South Africa. However, we are still looking for even more teams to enter.

We are still hopeful that there will be 16 teams at the event. Please encourage all your athletes to work together to form a Team for WTDGC. You can join forces with other countries if you wish to and there are dispensations for those who cannot field the agreed mix of age, ability and gender.

All details can be found at: [www.2017wtdgc.uk](http://www.2017wtdgc.uk)

### **Future WTDGC and other WFDF DG events**

After WTDGC 2017 we will be sending out the criteria for bids for the next WTDGC in 2019. The DG Committee will be responsible for the selection of the venue for WTDGC 2019 and the decision will be ratified by the Board in early 2018.

The DG Committee are also looking into the feasibility of holding Regional events, specifically in Europe and S America, and will report back in the Autumn. I am hopeful that there will also be Team DG in the Asiatic and Oceanic region.

We are also keen to foster TEST MATCHES between individual Members and will help and promote those events as they develop.

### **ACTION POINTS**

If Members wish to:

1. Nominate further individuals to join the Disc Golf Committee OR
2. Register a Team for 2017 WTDGC

Please contact me using the details below.

Thank You -

Charlie Mead  
Chair WFDF Disc Golf Committee  
May 28th 2017  
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