

## **THIS ISSUE CONTAINS...**

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### **WFDF Newsletter**

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## **SECRETARY BY CHANCE**

By Johan Lindgren (ex Secretary)

You know how it is - you plan and try to figure out how to run your life but in the end pure chance rules.

It was back in 1982. I was president of our local frisbee club. We were one of the largest clubs in Sweden at that time but no one was competing on a national level. We were mainly playing disc golf. My brother and I tried to get some Ultimate going but the others were to lazy.

The contact with the bigger flying disc world was through the Swedish associations newsletter (FrisBEELAGAN). In one of the 1982 issues I read about the Ultimate World Championships taking place in Göteborg in the summer of 1983.

Since I was a journalist working at the Swedish News Agency I called the Swedish Association and offered to come down to the championships and work with press relations.

I was greeted with open arms and spent one week in Göteborg watching Ultimate all day, taking care of press relations in the evening and producing a newsletter for the players during the night.

After that I suddenly found myself in charge of FrisBEELAGAN with ten issues a year. Shortly after that the Swedish Association held it's annual meeting and during that I was elected to one of the board positions.

The next event was the biannual meeting with the Swedish Sports Confederation. At that meeting, in November 1983, the Swedish Frisbee Association was elected into the Swedish Sports Confederation and thereby becoming a recognised sport in Sweden. It had the immediate benefit of economic support to the Swedish National Association and all swedish frisbee clubs. It also meant access to sports arenas, more media coverage etc.

(As a sidenote: After the championships I managed to get people in my local club interested in Ultimate so early in 1984 we went to Stockholm to take part in our first tournament.)

It was the national indoors championships and we was scheduled to play the first game in the morning. So we lined up for the game and the only player in our team that had actually seen an ultimate game was myself. Obviously we lost 2-15. But it was fun!

The events continued in 1984 with the european individual championships in Örebro, Sweden. I was there helping out with statistics and producing a newsletter. Charlie Mead was president of the European Flying Disc Federation and during the annual meeting the EFDF member countries decided to initiate a world wide flying disc organisation - the WFDF. The task of doing that was given to the Swedish association.

On our board I was elected to be responsible for that task and I started a cooperation with Charlie Mead. Together we outlined the first set of statutes and other documents needed for a first WFDF Congress.

In late summer 1984 we went to the World Ultimate Championships in Lucern, Switzerland, and got a confirmation from all representatives from all participating countries to go ahead with WFDF.

So came 1985. In Helsingborg the swedish association hosted the World Disc Golf Championships. During that championship we held the first WFDF Congress. We spent two long evenings and one lunchbreak to get the statutes and elections done. Charlie Mead was elected president and myself secretary.

So I have now served 10 years as secretary. My aim has been for WFDF to grow into an organisation that has a strength by itself, not being totally dependant on a few individuals. I feel we are getting there and I also feel that I do not have the time to spend on WFDF issues as I used to have. My wife and I have had three children during these ten years and my responsibilities at work have greatly increased these last couple of years.

So it is with a combined feeling of relief and bitter separation that I pass over the secretarial duties to my successor, Kathryn Middis and wish her the best of luck.

I am still treasurer of WFDF so I will still be actively working on the board and on some projects.

## **SECRETARY BY CHOICE?**

Kathryn Middis

Gidday!

During the World Clubs in August this year my husband (Jonathan) and I attended the WFDF Congress at the request of the New Zealand Flying Disc Association. One of the many things being discussed at this very long meeting was the various board member positions which all continued to be held by the existing members, all that is until the Secretary position came up and it was announced that Johan wanted to retire from this position.

Various discussions were held as to who they could vote in as the next Secretary and after some time I started asking various questions regarding the duties of the Secretary. After about 1/2 an hour of deliberation I finally announced my interest in becoming the WFDF Secretary (much to the relief of the other people at the meeting). Since then my letter box, Email and fax machine have been running hot.

Jonathan and I are currently in the final stages of shifting to a new city and I have, unfortunately, had little time to familiarise myself with the role of WFDF Secretary, but as soon as we are settled in and life is back to normal there will be no stopping me.

Most of you are probably wondering who this crazy woman is so here is a brief rundown.

I started playing Disc Golf in New Zealand approximately 4 years ago (thanks to Frank Balzer of Germany) and very quickly moved into the Ultimate scene. Ultimate in New

Zealand is fairly unknown (more so than in Europe) and there are close knit groups scattered throughout the two Islands. Consequently we got to play in the New Zealand Nationals within our first year of playing and have also been to the Australasian Nationals representing New Zealand 2 times.

The highlight of our Ultimate careers was when we were both asked to represent New Zealand in the 1994 World Ultimate and Guts Championships. At this time we also moved to the UK on a long term basis.

Since then we have competed in numerous competitions through out Europe and the UK as well as competing in the World Clubs this year.

I'm not just an Ultimate junkie though. I have enjoyed competing in individual events (TRC, MTA, Distance, Accuracy etc) and still enjoy playing the odd round of Golf when I get time.

Well, thats enough about me - on with the newsletter.....

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## **AGE PROPOSAL CHANGE FOR JUNIORS**

Tiina Booth writes..

I'd like to propose a change for the age limit for juniors competition for ultimate. As it stands now, no one who turns 19 in the year of the tournament is eligible. This discriminates against US competitors as many of my students who are seniors in high school are ineligible for Junior Worlds.

I would like to see the age raised by one year. This year I had a superb team: we had 30 wins and 3 losses and went 8 and 2 against COLLEGE TEAMS! One of the reason that we were so good is because 11 out of 17 kids were seniors. I had had them as players for three years and they were at the top of their game in their last year in high school.

However, had Worlds been this year, over half of the seniors would have been ineligible. This is not because they "stayed back" a year but because our school finishes later than other schools.

If the US is ever going to put together a seriously competitive juniors team, the juniors age has to be raised. Otherwise, the teams will only be composed of underclassmen and the European teams (i.e. Sweden) will continue to dominate.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tiina Booth  
High School Ultimate Coordinator for  
Massachusetts  
ARHS Ultimate Coach  
Friend of Juniors Ultimate

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## **1995 WORLD ULTIMATE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS**

23 - 29th July 1995

The World Club Championships were recently held at Millfield School, Street, England. Sixty-two teams from ALL OVER the planet

showed for a week of terrific Ultimate and general good times.

Once again the American teams showed themselves to be one step ahead of the rest, winning all divisions, and having 7 of the top 10 teams in the Open Division. Nonetheless the rest of us are watching and we are doing our best to catch you guys and gals.

In the Open division Double Happiness (Bay area) just sneaked home 20-18 against Death or Glory (Boston) in a very exciting and close fought match. The Womens' final (another all-American affair) saw Women on the Verge prove themselves too strong for Ozone who never gave up (19-12). The only chance for the Europeans came in the Masters final, where Germany's Gummibears played the Seven Sages. However it was not to be and the Americans were victorious once again.

Spirit winners were Chain Lightning, Twin Peaks (Midlands, UK), and Old Growth (Canada). In fact throughout most of the week the games were played in excellent Spirit and I can remember very few 'incidents'.

The facilities were overall very good. Charlie Mead certainly managed to work wonders given the time he had available to organise the event. The fields were not always forgiving (but I guess Charlie can't control the weather). The weather was sunny and hot all week; the only bad weather arriving the morning when no games had been scheduled (perhaps he CAN control the weather!?!). The food was definitely a vast improvement over Colchester though catering staff still don't seem to realise how much Ultimate players eat! I for one, had a ball..... Roll on 1997.

## 1995 W.F.D.F. CONGRESS - MINUTES

July 24, 1995

Millfield School, Street, England

- I. **OPENING:** In the absence of Charlie Mead who was busy arranging Division 1 and 2 pools after the first two days of play, Board Member Thomas Griesbaum opened the Eleventh World Flying Disc Federation Congress at approximately 8:20 p.m.
- II. **PARTICIPATION:** Present and representing countries eligible to receive a vote according to WFDF policy that each member has to pay its WFDF dues before the Congress were: Julia North proxy for Andy Borinstein (United States), Fumio Mooroka (Japan), Rasmus Pedersen (Denmark), Erik Hammer (Denmark), Mikael Norr (Sweden), Paul Eriksson (Sweden), and Ian Scotland (Great Britain) and Matti Suurnakki (Finland). New Zealand did not receive a vote as their association fees have not been paid but representatives Kathryn and Jonathan Middis attended. Venezuela did not receive a vote as they are Provisional Members but representative Gary Auerbach attended.
- III. **SUMMONING:** The participants acknowledge that the Congress was not called according to statutes because the agenda was not received two months prior to the Congress. No participant objected to proceeding.
- IV. **FORMALIA:** Thomas Griesbaum was elected chairman to lead the Congress, Julia North as Secretary to the Congress, and Matti Suurnakki & Erik Hammer as election officials for counting votes and signing the minutes.
- V. **ALTERATION OF THE STATUTES:** No suggestions.
- VI. **ANNUAL REPORT:** Congress reviewed some of the highlights of President Bill Wright's annual report found in the 2-95 WFDF Newsletter. Moro detailed his planned trip to Seoul with Bill October 23-26, 1995 during which they will attend the GAISF conference. Presently WFDF is a Provisional member of GAISF. Moro explained that he and Bill must attend the conference in order to explain some of the problems the organization has with our sport. These problems include the absence of referees, absence of uniforms with numbers and the fact that the application committee thought that Ultimate is only a US sport. The last two problems listed arise from the fact that the video sent with the application was of the UPA Nationals where uniforms are not required and only US teams participate. Moro further explained that the interest in becoming a member of GAISF (and IWGA) stems from the fact that membership will raise the status of Ultimate as a sport in the world athletic community. Furthermore, if Ultimate becomes a member of these two organizations, Ultimate could be a sport in the IWG in Japan in 2000.

Europeans).

Congress did not spend a lot of time on this last issue and agreed to discuss it with country-mates and bring it to Congress 1996.

Based on a suggestion by Mikael Norr and Paul Eriksson regarding WUGC96, the Congress recommends that the board discuss and establish a policy about providing special funds to teams within the vicinity of a World Championships who have special economic needs and are first time participants in such a tournament. This fund would have the same objective as the Disc Missionary Program and would allow teams, who would otherwise not be able to participate, a chance to experience international ultimate unlike ever before. With regard to WUGC96, there are some Russian teams (Estonia, St. Petersburg) that are interested in attending but need assistance. Mikael and Paul estimate \$500-700/team for 3-4 teams for a total of \$1500-2800. Congress feels strongly that this is a good idea and asks the Board to put it on their agenda.

XIII. BUDGET: Budget approved with the addition of \$2000.00 for financial assistance to Russian teams attending WUGC96. This money is to be used at the discretion of the Board and to be re-evaluated in 1996.

XVI. PROPOSALS: None.

XV. MOTIONS: None

XVI: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Mikael gave a good overview of WUGC96 in Jonkoping, Sweden: The hotel has a capacity of 510 and is within 200m of fields with a cost similar to WUCC95 (255 pounds). Mikael has met with personnel about food twice to let them know what to expect from Ultimate players' stomachs. There will also be two options less expensive (floor space in a nearby gymnasium, camping by field). Everything is in walking distance to fields. Mikael had with him promotional discs and shirts as well. This group seems to be on the ball! Swedish Nationals have been held at this site twice.

WUCC97: Interest expressed from a group in Minneapolis, MN and Seattle, WA.

WUGC98: MUFA in Madison, WI is considering this.

WUCC99: Berlin- a sports promotion company that hosted WUCC89 in Cologne is interested in hosting this tournament.

XVII: HONORARY MEMBERS: None.

XVIII: CLOSING: Meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

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