

MINUTES OF THE IWAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS
Bangalore, India – Tuesday 24th November 2009
The Chancery Pavilion Hotel, Grand Ball Room

1.0 Welcome & Opening**1.1 Opening Address by Member at Large**

Executive Board Member at Large, Karl Vilhelm Nielson welcomed all the nations to the IWAS General Assembly 2009 and apologised for the absence of IWAS President Mr Paul DePace who is unfortunately unable to travel. He went on to thank the OC and volunteers and advises there are well over 800 participants in this year IWAS World Games. KVN then invited the President of the India Paralympic Committee, Mr Rathan Singh to say a few words of welcome to the Nations.

1.2 Welcome by Dignitaries**1.3 Roll Call of Nations**

Secretary General, Maura Strange carried out the roll call of delegates & nations.

IWAS EB: **Vice President** Juan Palau Francas, **Secretary General** Maura Strange, **Honorary Treasurer** Bob Paterson, **Members at Large** Karl Vilhelm Nielsen, Seyed Amir Hosseini, Radka Kucirkova, Rudi Van Den Abbeele, Oriol Martinez.

Nations: Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Latvia, Malaysia, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UAE and USA

MS confirmed that we had reached the quorum of 31 to conduct business by having 35 voting nations at the General Assembly.

1.4 Adoption of Agenda

Discussion	
Decision	To accept the Agenda Moved by Canada and seconded by Great Britain No comments Agenda Accepted Motion carried unanimously
Action	

2. Minutes of the Previous General Assembly**2.1 Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting in Taipei City, Chinese Taipei
Monday 17th September 2007**

Discussion	Donald Royer of Canada wanted to conclude from 2007 minutes point 4.4.1 where it states 'To accept all reports' that this is to receive the minutes and not to approve the minutes.
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	MS agreed this is just semantics, is meant as to only receive and not approve the reports.
Decision	To receive the minutes as a true record Moved by Denmark and seconded by Canada Motion carried unanimously Minutes accepted
Action	HQ to arrange for sign off of minutes (PDP)

2.2 Matters Arising

Discussion	MS advised this was dealt with in 2.1
Decision	No further comments
Action	

3.0 IWAS Membership

3.1 Ratification of New Members

Discussion	Motion to the following Countries Memberships to be ratified, subject to confirmed payment of annual full nation membership fee. <i>Algeria, Serbia, Colombia and Azerbaijan.</i> All have completed the requirements Transfer within a nation, from Hungarian Disabled Sport Federation to the Hungarian NPC
Decision	<i>Hungary accepted</i> <i>Algeria accepted</i> <i>Serbia accepted</i> <i>Colombia accepted</i> <i>Azerbaijan accepted</i> All unanimous
Action	1. Able to vote if present at this GA. 2. Ratified by General Assembly – HQ to process

3.2 Report on any issue/suspensions in progress

Discussion	MS there are no issues for the attention of the GA with regard to suspension of membership
Decision	No comments
Action	

3.3 Termination of Membership

Discussion	MS there are no issues of termination
Decision	No comments
Action	

4. Biennial Report

4.1 Executive Board Member Reports

Discussion	<p>KVN advised that although the report had been issued and circulated he would like to highlight a few issues from the last two years for everyone's attention.</p> <p>IWAS held three Junior Games, South Africa in 2007, New Jersey in 2008 and Switzerland in the current year 2009. All games being well attending and helping the athletes of the future to develop.</p> <p>There has been a gradual development of Electric Wheelchair Hockey with a successful development event in Australia January 2008.</p> <p>The IWAS Executive Board have met & consulted regularly, in the UK 2008 and in Prague, Czech Republic in 2009.</p> <p>He also wanted to highlight the sad news of the loss of Joan Scruton who passed away following a long illness. She was a very important and founding person leading a lot of energy in the in the movement. A lot of what IWAS is today is thanks to her.</p> <p>In administration, David Durrant who kept the financial books for IWAS suffered a stroke and will not be able to return to work.</p> <p>Beijing 2008 Paralympics games saw a very successful event for our athletes who set high standards and new records.</p> <p>The last two years have been very busy, none of which could have been achieved without the HQ staff and the team of volunteers. With their support it has all been made possible.</p> <p>To finish KVN gave the floor opportunity for comments regarding the written reports.</p>
Decision	Report received by GA
Action	No further action required

5. Finances

5.1 Approved Financial Report 2008

Discussion	<p>Presented by Bob Paterson, Hon Treasurer</p> <p>This year IWAS has been able to work under new UK legislation due to the size of the company that a full audit is not required.</p> <p>An Independent Financial Advisor has provided a statement to endorse the financial accounts as accurate. This action has therefore saved IWAS money and provided a simplified presentation.</p>
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	<p>To highlight End Position 2007, surplus £67, 996.00 End Position 2998, surplus £21, 099.00 (affected by Paralympics)</p> <p>BP summarises that IWAS is run on a shoestring, with thanks to the amount of staff which is kept minimal and the work of the volunteers in return for very little expense.</p>
Decision	GA received & accepted finished report from independent financial advisor.
Action	

5.2 Approval Income & Expenditure to September 2009

Discussion	<p>Presented by BP</p> <p>To September 2009 surplus £46,355.00 with 3 months to go with benefits from IWAS World Games 2009 not included. This has been due to HQ retrieving bulk of 2009 membership fees and outstanding 2008 membership fees. Concluded that this year is satisfactory.</p> <p>Canada (DR) asked why has the UK Sports Council financial support discontinued? In reply BP explains that methods of receiving the grant have been altered, but is something IWAS may be able to receive again in the future, the matter is being looked into further.</p> <p>Canada (DR) also asked for further clarification to the 'Grant Procurement Service'. BP advised that this has not been fully realised.</p> <p>Croatia asked why are the documents they have are only to June 2009? BP explains that documents were prepared in June to enable them to be sent out to nations. Initially agrees photocopies will be made and provided to nations on day. Later agrees with nations that they be forwarded to all nations electronically.</p> <p>Canada (CC) asked if it is being considered that IWAS should be looking at reducing their expenses, as per the revised projections because of the 'Grant Procurement' loss. Not been included in these documents as these are the budgets accepted in last GA, CC advised that projections should have been included in these documents, MS agrees point taken.</p> <p>BP advises that provision is in place for the IWAS financial system to become completely computerised which will ease administrative strain in HQ</p>
Decision	Moved by Croatia and seconded by Denmark to accept the IWAS income & expenditure statement to September 2009. Unanimously accepted.
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. September 09 I&E statement to be circulated with minutes. 2. EB & Nations to receive quarterly statements (CH) as standard procedure. 3. HQ to pursue reinstatement of UK Sport Council (or equivalent) grant (CH)

5.3 Approval Budgets 2010 to 2011

Discussion	BP advised it is currently difficult to look into the future in the current financial climate. IWAS has had to consider the people they deal with and how will they be affected. Although the World Financial crisis doesn't have a huge impact it does make us more cautious.
Decision	BP moved for budgets 2010, 2011 to be accepted, seconded by Great Britain Approved
Action	Budgets to be monitored regularly by SG/ED and/or Executive Management Committee for quarterly review recommendations to EB and subsequent information to nations

5.4 Approval Independent Accountants

Discussion	MOTION: The IWAS Executive Board recommends the appointment of Rachael Andrews BSc FCMA as examiner of IWAS Accounts for 2009 and 2010,
Decision	Moved by BP seconded by Malaysia Motion approved
Action	

6. IWAS Games Programme

6.1 Update to Nations

Discussion	<p>MS advised that there are diverse opportunities within the four year calendar ahead. IWAS are currently in active talks with potential organisers for the 2011 and 2013 World Games. The information will begin to filter through onto the IWAS website as more information becomes available. MS advised she is aware that by forward planning it facilitates the funding for nations to be able to attend the events.</p> <p>IWAS are also currently in active talks with the U.A.E to hold the 2011 Juniors Games, and although only in the early stage more information will be available after the site visit in February 2010.</p> <p>MS asked the nations that if they are interested in bidding for an event to contact the IWAS staff.</p> <p>MS open floor to questions and comments No questions or comments</p>
Decision	
Action	IWAS HQ to pursue progression of bids & bring forward for EB approval.

6.2 Presentation by LOC of IWAS Junior Games 2010

Discussion	Presentation DVD by Organising Committee for the 2010 Junior World Games to be held in Olomouc, Czech Republic.
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	<p>Radka Kucirkova advised that the organisers are well experienced in running this type of event, especially for athletics. The swimming will be run by Kontakt BB who have been running international event known as EuroWaves competition since 2003.</p> <p>The LOC are currently negotiating the inclusion of Wheelchair Fencing, but have confirmed they will be including exhibition sports of EWH and orienteering.</p>
Decision	
Action	All information will be up-dated on the IWAS website before the end of the year.

7. Motions submitted by the IWAS Executive Board and by IWAS Member Organisations

7.1 Motion IWRF

MS asks nations to address the Motion for IWRF independency as the first motion since it is a constitutional matter & will require a two third majority.

Discussion	<p>Motion: The IWAS Executive Board recommends the General Assembly of Nations 2009 to approve the Transfer of Governance of IWAS Wheelchair Rugby from IWAS to the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation effective January 1st 2010</p> <p>Eron Main from the IWRF (Secretary General & Competition Commissioner) made a presentation to the nations, regarding the action taken in concert with IWAS to justify the recommendation from IWAS EB to the GA. Eron Main asks the floor for any comments or questions – No comments or questions arose</p> <p>Germany ask IWAS EB for their opinion of the transfer of governance, KVN states the EB supports the Motion</p>
Decision	<p>Moved by EB seconded by Switzerland</p> <p>Yes 24 Opposed 0 Abstentions 3 Motion is carried</p>
Action	<p>Brad Nikkelson (Chairman) from IWRF signs transfer of governance MS spoke to nations that this is a great sign of development of the sport. Reconciliation & transfer of finances & documentation (HQ)</p>

7.2 Motion IWRF

Discussion	<p>Canada request to add a motion from the floor Motion: Would like to thank IWAS for the instrumental assistance and support for IWRF</p>
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	KVN accept it as a motion Moved by Canada and seconded by Brazil
Decision	Motion carried
Action	

7.3

Discussion	Motion from Hong Kong: IWAS to support the inclusion of Team Events in Wheelchair Fencing in the 2012 London Paralympic Games and do necessary measure to reach fruition.
Decision	Moved by Hong Kong seconded by Denmark MS states that there has been discussion with IPC in respect to justifying the reinstatement of team events in the PG programme since it is IPC Governing Board authority and responsibility to approve the programme. IWAS has been advised that the programme for 2012 will include two extra medal events for teams, one male and one female (weapon undecided) HK extend gratitude to IWAS for assistance. Team events in fencing are as important as relays in athletics. HK have full confidence in IWAS Hungary expressed strong support for the motion. Yes 16 No 0 Abstentions 2 Motion passed
Action	IWAS SG/ED & Chairman of sport to continue progressing this with IPC firstly with a team qualification criteria

7.4

Discussion	Motion from U.A.E: Work to provide appropriate climate for athletes with disabilities to achieve the best results and excellence in many aspects and superiority with non-disabled in their accomplishments. Moved by U.A.E seconded by Saudi Arabia MS advised that this was a general recommendation & nations will have seen that at the previous day's development summit she asked Nations to signify support as a general statement, bearing in mind the discussion and recommendation from the summit.
Decision	Recommendation agreed
Action	EB to review & consider Development Summit Declaration at its next meeting & include in strategic planning, policies & organisational action points.

7.5

Discussion	Motion from U.A.E: Clarification of the letter of the noble goals of sports organizations for the disabled and to have it published in most countries
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	<p>and between different communities.</p> <p>Moved by U.A.E seconded by Germany</p> <p>Canada asked for U.A.E to clarify 'Noble Goals' what are they trying to achieve?</p> <p>U.A.E advise they are talking about level of awareness in their regions. Address the cause of problems to attain facilities and ability. Raise public awareness. The first paralympic medals U.A.E won in Sydney changed the lives of disabled in their country.</p> <p>MS advised this should be voted on in principle to show governments what IWAS goals and declaration are.</p>
Decision	<p>Yes 18 No 0 Abstentions 8 Motion Passed</p>
Action	<p>EB to review & consider Development Summit Declaration at its next meeting & include in strategic planning, policies & organisational action points.</p>

7.6

Discussion	<p>Motion from EB: The IWAS Executive Board presents the IWAS Anti Doping Code and recommends ratification and signed acceptance by the IWAS member nations at the General Assembly 2009</p> <p>Moved by EB and seconded by Croatia</p> <p>MS advised in principle that WADA have approved the IADC code. Motion is for Nations to work in compliance with WADA & IADC. It is mandatory for IWAS to have an Anti Doping Code.</p> <p>No comments or questions</p>
Decision	<p>Motion passed unanimously</p>
Action	<p>HQ to progress subsequent actions as signatory to WADA code and with their own Code compliance</p>

7.7

Discussion	<p>Motion from EB: The IWAS Executive Board recommends that the General Assembly of Nations mandates the IWAS EB to provide support to the Sport of Amputee Football to regularise the international situation in respect to governance and assist the sport in its international objectives on behalf of the IWAS member nations participating in the sport.</p> <p>Moved by EB seconded by Denmark</p>
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	Canada (DR) asks for clarification on support, financial or technical provisions. MS advised provisionally at sport level, access to advice and administrative support to build appropriate infrastructure, not necessarily financial support at this stage.
Decision	Motion passed
Action	SG/ED to progress relationship with sport to this objective

7.8

Discussion	<p>Motion from EB: The IWAS Executive Board recommends to the General Assembly 2009 the principle that IWAS Executive Management is entitled to offer service packages to various organisations, without impacting on the constitutional rights of a full national member organisation in order to create awareness and a wider base in development of opportunity in the changing climate of the paralympic movement.</p> <p>Moved by EB seconded by Hong Kong MS gives presentation, reason why thinking about membership and services to widen the net. Full national membership still remains with our present nations.</p> <p>Great Britain – Does IWAS know how great the demand is and can IWAS support this? MS advised yes there is interest, will probably start slowly and it will be resourced via slowly increased staff levels. IT and computer based activities are allowing more time at HQ to be able to prioritise this.</p> <p>Iran – Ideas reflected in the presentation are good ones and agrees they should be carried out. Although would like to suggest that the internal weaknesses and external organization problems should be analyzed.</p> <p>Hungary - Would like to clarify that some other organization would like to apply to join the IWAS games they need to apply to IWAS. MS clarified that Developing Nations will be able to enter the Games on a specified number basis (but still at same cost.) There will never more than one full member in any one IWAS country. The constitution has not changed in regards to member nations.</p> <p>IWRF thanks IWAS for recognising that sports can avail themselves a service pack. Part of their plan as moving forward as an independent IPSF would be to continue their support of this motion which would allow IWRF to continue their participation with IWAS</p>
Decision	Motion passed
Action	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation to be transposed into regulations and information packs to be available from HQ and on website (MS) 2. IWAS Executive Board Members to put in place and promote availability of service relationships with a variety of different organisations, whilst maintaining regular full national membership service entitlements.

Following the break for lunch a presentation by Pieter Badenhorst from South Africa was given about the previous days Development Summit

Discussion	IWAS Development Summit Declaration in Bangalore, India 2009
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	<p>The importance of IWAS as a key strategic partner in the Paralympic movement is hereby acknowledged and recognized and the key role that the IWAS Federation holds in the development of athletes, countries, regions and sports should be further strengthened and reinforced.</p> <p>The summit identified the following keys areas on which the Federation should focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to Nations • Strengthening of IWAS Brand • Development of Sports • Expansion and growth of membership with focus on developing nations • Attract top athletes • Provide more competition opportunities • Develop and manage a knowledge centre • Improve communication • Champion clear athlete pathways in the paralympic movement (calendar, competition and sanctioning) <p>The Summit acknowledges the lack of resources and capacity as a prohibitive factor to success with the implementation of these key areas. The summit proposes the establishment of a task team to develop strategies to give effect to the issues raised by nations. A clear detailed action plan must be developed with regular feedback to the membership.</p>
Decision	<p>Support and Adoption for the Declaration from Canada seconded by Portugal</p> <p>Adopted</p>
Action	See item 7.4

Presentation by Maura Strange to advise the succession strategy for ED/SG position.

Discussion	<p>The initial part was to consider the roles and responsibilities to be filled by 2012. To identify skills, consider the budgeting and understand the key leadership needs.</p> <p>An important factor was to keep the link between EB and administration, identify the weakness and react accordingly. The recommendations discussed in 2007-2008 were to recruit and transfer knowledge to a new job position of Head of Operations, which Charmaine Hooper will move to from her current position as Games Operations/Development Manager in May 2010.</p> <p>We have also taken on two new part time staff to fill the roles of Membership Services and support to the Executive Director, and an additional role to support games/event management and sports administrator.</p> <p>An EB management committee will be put into place to reinforce and sustain the</p>
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	<p>connection between Head of Operations. This will include SG/ED and will establish regular skype conferences for review & discussion.</p> <p>Following May 2010, MS will work part-time as ED/SG and phase into full retirement post London 2012. During the part time hours, MS will remain to provide support and guidance to operations. Also to provide continuity in membership and international relations & strategic planning policies.</p>
Decision	
Action	EB to review & approve final job descriptions, terms & conditions (EMC, Head of Ops ED/SG) at next meeting for organisational/operational interface function, as presented by ED/SG.

Presentation by Dr Oriol Martinez

Discussion	Presentation regarding the important International Programme on Anti Doping. Gives thanks for the unanimous approval of the IWAS Anti Doping Code.
Decision	
Action	

Election of the IWAS Executive Board

KVN hands over chair to BP as standing for re-election

Discussion	Election of Executive Board President Only one nomination Mr Paul DePace
Decision	21 yes Mr Paul DePace re-elected
Action	

Discussion	Election of Executive Board Vice President Only one nomination Mr Karl Vilhelm Nielsen
Decision	24 yes Mr Karl Vilhelm Nielsen re-elected
Action	

BP passes chair back to KVN

Discussion	<p>Discussion to advise Nations could vote for up to seven delegates, if each of them receive 50% +1 then they will be elected onto EB.</p> <p>In clarification MS advises that the constitution states a minimum of ML only. The GA through the voting process will define the members to be elected .</p> <p>EB can have as many members as required to run the federation.</p>
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	It was confirmed 50% +1 of nations present in the room at the time would require the nominee to receive 15 votes to be elected.
Decision	Tariq Sultan Almansouri received 18 votes Pieter Badenhorst received 22 votes Seyed Amir Hosseini received 18 votes Jose Oriol Martinez Ferrer received 19 votes Juan Palau Francas received 16 votes Konstantina Sotiriadi received 17 votes Rudi Van Den Abbeele received 21 votes All nominees were elected onto the Executive Board as Members at Large.
Action	Portfolios to be addressed at next EB meeting & advise to Nations. All voting papers were destroyed as no objections made.

8. Any Other Business

Discussion	KVN asks for any of business from the floor
Decision	No comments or questions
Action	

Closing Remarks by Karl Vilhelm Nielsen

KVN concluded that he felt that it had been a productive GA, and all of the business had been completed. Including hearing the reports, approving the budgets and the ratification of new member countries.

He advised that although Wheelchair Rugby had moved away from home it was still a member of the IWAS family.

He welcomed new members to the IWAS EB, and said a thank-you and good-bye to departing member Radka Kucirkova.

Radka thanked the board members and stated it had been a great pleasure and hoped she would be able to join the IWAS EB again.

MS asked that all Nations advise their team managers that the Athletics Sport Assembly would not be going ahead as planned the following day as the required quorum of mandates had not been received to conduct official business. She asked for all Nation to please check that their countries had returned a mandate or contact IWAS staff if they felt they could provide a mandate.

MS confirmed the required amount of mandates had been received for the Wheelchair Fencing assembly, so that would go ahead as planned.

Discussion	Canada asked for meeting to be finalised not 'closed' KVN accepted the motion Denmark seconded
Decision	Motion passed
Action	

Abbreviation	Name
PDP	Paul DePace
KVN	Karl Vilhelm Nielsen
MS	Maura Strange
BP	Bob Patterson
CH	Charmaine Hooper
EB	Executive Board
IOSD	International Organisations Sport for the Disabled
GA	General Assembly
HQ	Head Quarters
IF	International Federations
NDSO	National Disability Sport Organisation