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GER-Bamberg, January 6, 2008

Minutes of the WMF Youth Committee Meeting December 1st 2007 in Budapest, Budai Sportokkató Akadémia

Present:

Pasi Aho (WMF Youth Officer) (**PA**), Dieter Helmke (**DH**), Verners Kiršs (**VK**), Martin Tománek (**MT**), Matthias Reiche (**MR**)

The meeting commenced at 9.30 and was conducted according to the approved agenda.

1. Approval of the last meeting's (Prague, Czech Republic, November 2006) minutes

The minutes are approved and open topics will be discussed later under the current agenda.

2. YEC 2007 Södertälje - review

2.1. Organisation - some feedback received from teams. Mentioned by YC members: tents for players - there were only two available at the beginning of the competition, which was not quite sufficient, the third one appeared later.

The welcome party - good idea of team competition in different games. Future of these welcome parties was discussed - whether to organize them as an obligatory event every time and if the organizers can eventually collect some money from nations/players for it. General agreement of YC members is that these events are a good idea and should definitely continue in some form. It is not necessary but recommended to have food there. If there is no food, the event should end soon enough to allow nations having a dinner afterwards. The basic idea should always be making the youth from various nations to socialize.

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The opening ceremony - everything flowed smoothly except the slow photo session, the experiences were positive, so this possibility of altered time schedule for opening ceremony should be available as an option for organisers in the future again.

The closing ceremony - well-organized event with fine food, maybe the place was just a bit too small for that event

There was **no press conference** - organizers arranged the event properly but the press did not attend. The YC feels it can't do much in this issue; the success of the press conference is mostly dependent on the organizer's effort.

There was a problem with rooms left in unsatisfactory condition at the **Täljegården youth hostel**; Pasi will ask the Swedish federation if the case is still open or it is already solved. (follow-up: case closed)

2.2. The tournament:

- **rain delays** - the problems were handled very well by the organizers; entire tournament course was covered by party tents, which secured even the felt lanes on final day!
- **misconduct on the courses** was not a problem in Södertälje, behaviour was generally on a good level
- no problems with **slow play** this time (also due to relatively small number of participants), even the last competition day ended quite early
- the committee especially appreciates the idea of **live web-TV** which attracted a lot of attention
- **presentation of results** - the committee recommends to alter the Bangolf Arena software so that it also shows the team results on the big screen in the same way like on the internet during the incomplete rounds, i.e. with all the players included. The general solution for Nations Cup must be improved in the same way too, it is a must-have for the future
- **the new K. O. system experiences** - the feedback is generally very positive and the system will surely be continued in the following years. The following issues should however be discussed:
 - *selection of lanes for KO system* - the selection just according to the statistics does not seem to work in an optimal way. Discussion whether or not the lanes for KO should be selected by the jury (or some other body). The prevalent opinion is that the jury (or other body) should have the right to exclude some lanes from the statistical selection before the beginning of official training, especially those that are too much luck-based, **too easy** or too distant from the rest of lanes. In any case, any decision or alteration has to be made very early and in our opinion there is enough experience from NC to make the decision before the beginning of official training. This will be put as a **motion** to the Technical Committee.
 - *the number of KO system participants* - while not optimal for girls (16 places for 21 participants), it is however considered best to leave it as it is
 - *who plays against who* - there are some ideas (the best 16/8 players will choose their opponents for round 1; if a match in round 1 ends in a tie, the player with better seeding wins). The committee recommends to the TC to further discuss the idea of giving a 0.5 point advantage for the first round to the better ranked player - in case that the idea is to project the results of qualification rounds to the KO system somehow. The same for the idea of the best 16 players choosing their opponents.
 - *the mobile scoreboards* at the course do not work very well in the first rounds of the KO-system. The 8 pieces can be used only from quarter-finals, this should be improved in the future
 - 16 new mobile scoreboards (whiteboard) should be bought by WMF for the "championship toolbox" to make the system work at in best possible way, the current plastic boards are not ideal.

2.3 The pre-payment system and its problems - no practical problems were observed this year but the treatment was not equal for all, some nations were allowed to pay later or first at location; there may also appear practical problems with a last minute cancellation of a team or a player

3. Organisation YNC and YWC in Budapest in 2008

3.1. Invitation and financial support of nations - the same support system as in previous years will be applied. 1.000 € for a non-European nation participating, 400 € for a nation with a team for the first time ever, 250 € for nation with at least one more participating player than ever before

3.2. postponed

3.3. Preparation of the meeting with the organizers - according to the invitation **the accommodation for both events has to be booked very early** - in January 2008. The reason is concurrence of another big events in Budapest, especially Formula One Grand Prix Hungary in August but also a major rock festival, which will make the city and its accommodation capacities overcrowded. For this reason, YC considers to **book some rooms in advance** on its own behalf and at its own risk; this must however be discussed with WMF board first and depends on cancellation conditions of the rooms too. PA will address the national youth contacts about this issue, asking them to a) book the accommodation early, b) contact him by Jan 5, if they have problems to fulfil this request.

The list of available accommodations will be (according to the organizers) published during the first December week on the championship website.

Interjected: **5. Meeting with the local organizers**

The meeting then continued with the presence of organizers (GBR Agency represented by Tamás Gabor - TG, plus representatives of the Hungarian minigolf federation).

5.1. General organization

5.1.1. Felt course location - the sport premises were inspected and the planned area for felt course was shown (located at the opposite side of the football pitch, connected with the miniature course by dedicated path, which will be closed area for players and at which also the tents and the tournament office are located). The felt lanes are planned to be set on concrete stones in order to save costs for groundwork and they will be surrounded by some kind of sidewalks (where necessary for putting and walking) made of appropriate material.

5.1.2. Accommodation offers - currently there are 9 hotels/hostels available but especially those cheaper ones have to be confirmed by the organizer really soon. All of them can be reached from the minigolf premises within 15 mins of walking/tram ride. The prices start at approx. €10 / person / night. The organizer will set a online-form to the homepage for pre-bookings, which allows the organizer to control the difficult situation better

5.1.3. Players party, opening, closing - the venues are still undetermined at the moment. The essentials of these events were explained thoroughly to the organizers. A players' party will be organized.

5.2. YNC 2008

5.2.1. Organizer will study *the tournament mode*, PA is ready to answer further questions about the mode via e-mail

5.3. YWC 2008

5.3.1. Press conference - discussed, GBR Agency has enough experience with publicity issues and will propose further options of attracting the attention of media. The press conference will however remain in the tournament schedule.

5.3.2. *Tournament software* - PA will provide TG with the latest version of Bangolf Arena as soon as possible. (follow-up: done)

5.4. Preliminary course-check - for eternit course it was done under 5.1.1., the course seems to be in a good condition with only some minor issues to fix. PA will make a final check in March-April after which possible defects are repaired by the supplier.

5.5. Open questions and the to-do-list

Organization structure - TG will be the contact person from the organizers side. There will also be one person responsible for running the IT. PA expressed how important it is, that the person responsible for IT starts learning Bangolf Arena right away and that test runs are made in national competitions. TG will provide a scheme of the complete organization team structure.

The organizers plan to provide **one guide** (= contact person and assistant) for every team or every group of approx. 20 players.

The championship **website** - will partly work from the 2nd week of December (accommodation), full version should be available by the end of January 2008. The website will be protected by a username/password available after a simple registration (some information, especially discounted hotel prices, may be sensitive).

There will be an **internet kiosk** available for all participants; organizers also plan a live web-TV at the courses.

An **offer of rental cars** for discounted prices will be available.

Toilets will be mostly mobile, with sufficient capacity, also available in the proximity of felt course. The importance of a sufficient capacity of **tournament staff** was discussed, enough helpers for surprising situations must be available.

Parking places will be available only on the nearby streets.

The organizer tries to obtain some **refrigerators** for the team tents, since high temperatures can be expected especially in August.

WMF will provide the organizer with an updated master-file with all the **logos of WMF-sponsors**. (follow-up: done by secretary general)

After the meeting with organizers and a lunch break, the YC WMF meeting continued according to the approved agenda again.

3.2. Referees and presence of committee members at 2008 events - for NC: PA, DH, MT will be present; for YWC: all committee members will be present.

For NC, DH will act as the head referee, supported by two referees from Hungary (if available). PA will not be coaching the Finnish team during Nations Cup and can thus concentrate 100 % on the supervising of the tournament. For YWC, DH will act as the head referee, additionally one (better of NC) Hungarian referee plus one other international referee are invited.

3.3. - the meeting with organizers has already run past.

4. Invitation YWC 2008

DH notified about an error in the KO-system structure table. Also, the name of the person responsible for substituting should be included in the last registration form (final nomination) rather than the first form sent out in May.

4.1. Jeans as sports clothing - in the fair play guide it should be remarked that the jeans are not considered as sport clothing and also other non-sports clothing is prohibited. PA will put this as a

motion to the TC. A doctor's attest should be required from the player also in the case he is using the exception for the shoes - PA will put this for discussion to the TC.

4.2. Photo rights and WADA-code acceptance signature in the registration form - PA informed about the decision of the WMF board to include a signature from each player to the registration form, others welcomed the idea. There was however quite correctly a remark made, that a signature of a young person under 18 (or 15 years?) may not be valid.

4.3. Starting course for K. O. finals - will not be decided at the moment, the jury of YWC 2008 will have the right to select the starting course (will be added into the invitation). It must be considered, which course offer a better finish in the final rounds. Motion to the TC.

4.4. K. O. lanes - already discussed under 2.2

6. Invitation YNC 2008

6.1. Penalty system tested at 2007 Nations Cups - the idea is generally good, but needs some improvements to make it work (one player gets too many opportunities to make a foul before anyone [either himself or the team] is punished). The YC's opinion is that the old system is good enough, considering the problems involved in implementing the new system.

7. YEC and YWC 2009 ff.

7.1. Awarded championships according to the WMF championships calendar - For 2009, the YEC was already awarded to Waldshut, Germany (Baden-Württemberg)

7.2 Open applications: Moscow 2010 - application was signed and sent in March 2007. PA asked for details about a week prior to the YC meeting, until now there was no answer, investigations will continue. VK informed about the discussion with Alexander Yershov in Canegrate, that the options are to organize the tournament at Moscow University premises or somewhere outside Moscow but not far from there.

YC needs more information to process the Moscow application until the next meeting. The Russian federation will be informed about what has to be fulfilled if Moscow should be awarded the championships. Especially acceptable accommodation on reasonable price level must be guaranteed.

The championships can't be awarded if there are no existing courses. On the other hand the organizer may need e.g. a letter of intent for receiving subsidies for building the courses. One person from the committee must visit Moscow to see how the things are going. If the development is positive, YC can recommend Moscow for YWC 2010 for the TC meeting 2009. (follow-up: Russian federation wants to decide by the end of the year, which sport organization will be the organizer and where the courses will be constructed. AY intends to bring the signed contract to the WMF-office while visiting Switzerland in February)

7.3. Future planning - Bad Mündler 2012 as interested candidate (no application yet). No more interested candidates are known at the moment.

7.4. General discussion - pros and cons of the current organizer contract were discussed by the YC members without any particular conclusion.

8. WMF Youth Toolbox

8.1. Inventory list - The toolbox is currently in Eskilstuna, an inventory list is needed and should be made by Peter Gyllhag, Until now it was not provided. As mentioned before, 16 whiteboards for KO-finals should be bought and added to the toolbox (PA will arrange).

The YC will also suggest to add some transparent wind shelters to the toolbox since the new rule about wind shelters is in power.

8.2. Board of honour update for 2007 - PA will ask Victor Condeço to arrange the production again, DH will collect the necessary photos. (follow-up: VC promised to take care of the update again, thanks for that!)

9. Update fair-play guide

9. 1. The master file was updated.

The new rule about wind shelters is now in power. Cancelling the rule “allowing only referees to change the position of wind shelters” should be also considered by TC (time saving reason); at least the jury (or refereeing committee) should have the right to postpone this rule temporarily in special situation as during extreme wind conditions.

Discussion about the rule for electronical devices. Mobile phones must be switched off on or in the proximity of the courses. The question was, if it is e.g. allowed to listen to a MP3-player while playing. For discussion to TC.

10. Budget 2007

10. 1. Status – PA informed about the figures of running budget period. YC seems to be staying well inside the set frames.

10.2. Evaluation of received project support application – there was only one application, from Portugal. The Portuguese project will be supported as long as the Portuguese federation will specify some details; currently the application only asks for support in general, no amounts or spent amounts are specified.

The support will be provided according to the same two-step principle which was used for France in 2006; basic support plus extra support in case of a participation at YWC or YNC 2008.

10.3. Decision on support for applications – decision will be made in an e-mail discussion after having received the requested information from Portugal.

11. Budget 2008

Budgets for 2008 and 2009 have been already approved by the Delegates' Conference 2007 and the YC is satisfied with the received frames.

12. Youth World Ranking List

12.1. Current status - the final 2007 version will be released as soon as possible. It was remarked that Denmark did not provide any results for national championships 2007. The results of the indoor competition between Germany and Switzerland will be also integrated.

12.2. Integration of K. O. results - TC decided how to integrate the KO-results into the World Ranking lists. These new rules will be published together with the next ranking list.

13. Media work

13.1. WMF-homepage – it was decided to provide only official information for the homepage due to its current nature.

13.2. WMF-newsletter

MR will prepare a short report from the YC meeting for the next issue of WMF newsletter. In the future, reports from Nations Cup and YWC as well as other important occasions will be also supplied. (follow-up: MR provided the report, the newsletter wasn't released until now)

13.3. Official list of e-mail addresses for the youth network - DH and PA will compile an updated version. The official WMF-contact addresses are not sufficient, because they don't always reach the responsible persons quickly enough or at all.

14. International youth meetings and competitions in the following year

None known at present; A competition between Germany and Switzerland will probably take place again in 2008. A U23-competition will be organized in Salzburg in February, some junior players will surely be included in the teams. Nordic Championships 2008 were postponed and will be played 2009 in Latvia.

15. Next YC meeting

Next meeting will take place in Waldshut, Germany, preferably in November 2008.

The meeting was closed at 19:30.

For the minutes

Martin Tománek, secretary

Pasi Aho, chairman