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Bamberg, 27. February 2007

Meeting of the Technical Committee of 02nd – 04th February 2007 minutes

Venue: Poli Hotel, San Vittore Olona, Italy

Date: 02nd – 04th February 2007

Participants: Dr. Gerhard Zimmermann (chairman) (GZ), Pasi Aho (PA), Reinhard Neitzke (RN), Jon Stanwyck (JoS), Jan Strandberg (JaS)

Start of meeting: Friday, 02nd February 2007, 3 pm (in the absence of RN and JoS, who join the meeting at 4 pm)

End of meeting: Sunday, 04th February 2007, 3 pm

Official address: World Minigolf Sport Federation, Dr. Roger Cadosch, Steinerstrasse 17, CH-3006 Bern, Switzerland

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1 Greetings, establishment of the quorum, voting rights

GZ declares the meeting for opened and states, that two members are missing, but will join the meeting little later.

2 Minutes of the last meeting of TC 27th – 29th January 2006

Open motions to the Delegates Conference 2007 (later DC)

- a **Motion** of awarding TC the responsibility for deciding over the mode of upcoming championships. WMF board has already agreed with this, but wants it to be confirmed by DC 2007.
- b **Motion** of changing the border line rule at middle hill on felt and miniaturegolf to correspond with the general border line rule. This means, that on miniaturegolf there will be a border line 50 cm from the tee-off area, and on felt 50 cm from the end of the tee-off plate. The rule is to be valid from 01.01.2008 in case of approval by the DC.
- c Discussion about changing the repositioning line on felt behind the obstacles (currently 50 cm towards the target hole, to allow more backswing for faster shots) to follow the current general rule (30 cm). After discussion it is decided, that here TC makes **no motion**, the 50 cm repositioning rule remains valid on felt.
- d **Motion** of moving the border line at German block (lane 4, option 2) on felt to be placed 50 cm from the end of the tee-off plate, if there is a flat part before the uphill section. Current rule places the border line to the end of the uphill section.
- e **Motion** of changing the composition of TC. Followed by the further discussion on Sunday, TC decides to motion that an Asian sport representative should be included in TC. TC is aware, that this will cause more costs, but sees it as an important step in the integration of other continental federations to the work of WMF. The person in question would have to be able to communicate in English without an interpreter. Included in TC should also be the sport representatives of American and European federations, further WMF sport director, WMF youth officer as well as one person without any mandate by position.

Other open topics from the meeting 2006

- o Discussion on organising a competition in USA together with a golf organisation, something like Ryder Cup. According to the information from JoS this plan doesn't seem to be possible in near future.
- o Publishing of current rulebook, delayed but in process.
- o Substitution rules, will be discussed in topic 22.
- o General update of regulations of the international championships (handbook 4.2 – 4.7) based on the regulations followed currently.
 - o Especially to be updated are the regulations about possible combinations of the course systems.
 - o Chapter 4.6 (Nations Cup) will be divided into different chapters for youth, general class and seniors due to differences in current practices. GZ starts by drafting the regulations for NC of general class according to the language update by Peter Parr and delivers it on to PA and RN for updates of youth and senior chapters. Then GZ continues with WC/EC regulations and delivers them on to PA and RN for youth and seniors' update. Then GZ updates the regulations for ECup and passes on to RN for check.

- Update WMF referee list, discussed in topic 15
- Update lane drawings, delayed but to be finished in 2007
- WADA correspondence, discussed in topic 20

3 Summary of the WMF board meetings

The minutes of the meetings have been spread to members during the year. No further questions arise here.

4 Report of the WMF Youth Committee meeting

The minutes have been spread to TC-members and all topics to be discussed by TC have been sent to sport director. They are now included in the agenda of this meeting.

5 Reviews of the international championships 2006

The reviews of NC, EC and ECup have been spread via e-mail by RN. The reviews of the YNC and YWC have been spread in the minutes of the YC meeting. No further discussion.

6 TC as umbrella for adjustment between WMF and EMF championships

There has been previously some e-mail communication between EMF and WMF about defining the responsibilities exactly. A meeting between WMF and EMF will take place next week to discuss this issue in detail.

TC agrees, that all members of TC forward their ideas and requests for sport topics to TC, including those representing the sport interests of continental federations or WMF Youth Committee. The proposals are then discussed and decided in TC meeting. All TC members should follow these decisions, even when they are members in organs of other legal bodies like EMF. If any TC member is not prepared to follow the common decisions, he has to declare it in the meeting directly, so that it can be added to the minutes of TC.

7 Knock-out system for single finals of YEC, SEC and WC 2007

Following guidelines are decided:

- in 2007 all categories play with an identical system
- team competition ends at Friday evening in any case, all full team rounds count for its results, not only full double rounds
- best 32 males and 16 females qualify for the single finals in all categories
- lanes to be played are chosen as follows:
 - minigolf: lanes 1, 2, 4, 5, 12, 13, 14, 17, 18
 - miniaturegolf: 9 most difficult lanes based on the lane averages from the first two days of the respective competition
 - felt: 9 easiest lanes based on the lane averages from the first two days of the respective competition

- MOS: 9 easiest lanes based on the lane averages from the first two days of the respective competition
- in case of severe course problems the responsible competition director has the right to change some lanes. The changes have to be made as soon as possible.
- the lanes are confirmed after the second competition day and published as soon as possible at tournament info board and in the teams' info boxes
- lanes which are not played are to be marked by closing their tee-off areas with a colourful tape
- the course on which the semi-finals and finals are started, is defined in the invitation
- in quarter-finals the eight groups are spread to the whole course. They don't start at consecutive lanes
- the optics of the scorecards remain as they are proposed by Dieter Helmke. Only points in the last column count for the result. Players are responsible for the correctness of the results with their signatures.
- the current time rules are applied, but referees are told to enforce them keeping in mind, that scorekeeping in a group of two causes little more preparation time than usually
- penalty system in the k.o.-finals is as follows:
 - all players have clean accounts at the beginning of the first k.o.-round, possible penalties from the team competition are not carried forward
 - first step is a written pre-warning, which has no consequences to the player
 - every violation after the pre-warning means the player loses the next lane, which isn't finished by the pair. Finishing means here that the lane has a winner.
 - Referees have the possibility to skip the pre-warning level in case of severe violations
 - Pre-warnings and lost lane-warnings are announced via loudspeakers
- two coaches per nation per course are allowed in the k.o.-finals regardless of the number of the players participating from one nation
- Referees for k.o.-rounds with 16 and 8 groups: 4 referees, each of them has an own "station" of few lanes. Semi-finals and finals: each match has an "own referee", here the match referee also does the scorekeeping.
- As soon as a lane is lost by one player, he has to stop playing immediately and move to the next lane. As soon as a match is decided, the pair has to stop playing and leave the course.
- in case of final interruption before the completion of the k.o.-finals the winner is the remaining player with the best score in preliminary rounds. This rule is also applied in case of an interruption in the middle of a k.o.-round (meaning one or more matches of a category are not finished); further rules for interruptions see invitation.

8 Final approval of the invitations of international championships 2007

Some minor changes are made to the contents of the invitations. Invitations to Nations Cups will be sent out in the next days.

GZ prepares the text for the k.o.-mode and the play-off sheets, and forwards them to PA and RN. PA and Dieter Helmke prepare for the championships an instruction sheet on how to fill scorecards at the tournaments. These instructions will be published at tournament info board and teams' info boxes. Invitations to YEC, SEC and WC will be sent out, when GZ has written and delivered the text for k.o.-mode to PA and RN.

Discussion about the number of rounds played at ECup 2007. There is some doubt, that 3+3+3 rounds are possible on felt. TC decides to play 3+2+2 rounds with play no longer than 20.00 on day 1 and shotgun start on day 2, in case that the first three rounds are not finished on day 1.

Finally all invitations are approved with the discussed amendments.

9 NC / WC 2007

9.1 Meeting with organizer

A meeting with Eo ipso staff (organizer) and FIGSP representative Max Ciceri takes place at Sunday at the courses in Canegrate. The main issues discussed are the responsible persons for the sports affairs and computer systems, the significance of NC as a presentation platform for media to awake interest for WC, hotel situation during NC due to activities in Milan Expo Center and possibility to organise leisure programme for players, officials and quests during the competitions. Further some open questions regarding the checklist are presented by Eo ipso. TC wishes that FIGSP organises two referees for NC, better of which is invited to the WC as well. Other issues discussed are board-related and will be continued during the board meeting in March.

9.2 Software

GZ has contacted Lars Isberg, who has informed, that the program Bangolf Arena may be used at NC and WC. The properties requested by the organizer and/or TC will be provided by Lars.

9.3 Contact person in Italian federation

The new board of the Italian federation will hold a meeting next week, after which the persons responsible for different posts are nominated.

9.4 Course inspection

Course pre-inspection is done on Sunday. TC discusses, if the generally chosen nine minigolf lanes can be played in k.o.-finals. The decision is made by the sport director and is integrated in the invitation. Further TC decides, that additional wooden plates are not allowed for equalling the height differences from the ground on minigolf. GZ and PA prepared an internal report, which will be handed out to the organizer.

9.5 Support by TC

An equipment box as a support for the organizer is discussed in topic 18.

10 YNC / YEC 2007

TC expresses its thanks to Swedish federation and Södertälje BGK for taking this job at critical moment, when much time was not left. The marketing contract is signed by all parties. Info package about accommodations and city of Södertälje has been sent to all nations before Christmas 2006. Youth Officer visited Södertälje in December and had a meeting with the organizers. Support from the city council and other minigolf clubs in the region is strong. Next step is to publish the invitations and to adjust open details to it. Organizer can also now contact media, as the details of the k.o.-system are known.

11 NC / WC 2009

11.1 Decision about NC 2009

GZ explains to TC the background of the WC 2009 project in Odense. An organisation called Sport Event Fyn, who also supported YWC 2006 financially and in other ways, is behind this project too and gives big support to DMGU.

The organizer is checking the option of installing the lanes for NC and keeping them installed till WC. WMF board has recommended to cancel the NC 2009, if the courses can't stay there the whole time between NC and WC, because re-installing of the courses would mean, that there would be no advantage from practising at NC. If the courses can stand there unchanged, NC should be played. TC follows the recommendation of the board.

11.2 Location of championships courses

The tournament location is planned to be in a central park in Odense, which is already given by the city administration. The WC 2009 will be played on two temporary courses.

12 Recommendations for awarding championships

A link should be created between EMF and WMF websites. Currently they are updated separately, which may cause differences in the contents of the championships' organizer table.

12.1 Open fields in the international championships calendar

For SEC 2008 there is an application from Dutch federation for Appelscha (felt / miniaturegolf) or Geldrop (minigolf / miniaturegolf). EMF board will decide on this application in their meeting next week. The Dutch federation must first decide, if Appelscha or Geldrop shall be the location. There are no applications for YWC or EC general class 2008.

For 2009 WC is awarded to Odense. There are no applications for juniors. There is an application from the Portuguese federation for SEC in Lamego (minigolf / miniaturegolf). There is also an application for ECup Liechtenstein for Vaduz (minigolf).

For 2010 there are no official applications until now.

For WC 2011 there are applications from Sweden and Austria, see 12.2.

Further discussion based on the question from Slovenia, who have a MOS course (minigolf with fantasy obstacles), if the ECup can be played on one MOS course only. Decision of TC is that it can be played on one MOS course only. Same should be possible, if there is an application for SEC on one course only. Further TC decides, that any combination of four existing systems is allowed for international championships. **Motion to DC.**

12.2 WC 2011

TC discusses very thoroughly the applications from Sweden/Stockholm or Gothenburg and Austria/Vienna. Both applications seem to be acceptable, but have many open issues and questions. GZ will ask the Swedish federation for a clear application with one of the different options and then prepare an official TC statement around NC and send it to TC members for comments. Then it will be forwarded to WMF board and the active members of WMF.

13 Continental championships 2008, 2010

13.1 Name confusion in America

Lively discussion about the terminology of “continental championships”, which is understood differently in US (meaning 48 lower US states). No measures are taken.

13.2 General plan for supporting Asia and America

JoS will discuss with Bob Detwiler, that WMF wants to promote the Americas championships stronger (played every second year, 2008, 2010...). These championships should have the bigger importance than US championships played in odd years.

14 Dates for international championships in the next years

14.1 Clarification of 4th weekend in August

TC confirms, that youth and senior championships are played at 2nd and the championships of general class at 4th weekend in August. The definition of a weekend is here a full weekend (Sat + Sun). If 1st August is Sunday, this weekend does not count as the first weekend in August.

14.2 European Cup 1st + 4th weekend in October

Issue already decided last year

15 Referees

15.1 Referee reports 2006

Referee reports of the different championships in 2006 have been spread out by the responsible sport director during the year.

15.2 Current list of international referees

List of international referees for 2007: Erwin Hansen / BEL, Ari Ahrenberg / FIN, Dieter Helmke / AUT, Günter Schwarz / GER, Kari Kuneinen / SWE, Staffan Lundblad / SWE, Markus Jaago / EST, Marcus Wüthrich / SUI, Anja Richter / GER, Wim van Disseldorp / NED, Harry Grönlund / FIN

15.3 Nominations for 2007

Referee nominations for international championships in 2007

WC 2007 Günter Schwarz / GER head referee (HR)

NC 2007 no nominations until now, Italian federation has been asked for support of two referees

EYC 2007 Ari Ahrenberg / FIN, Dieter Helmke / AUT, 1 referee from Sweden, 2 assisting referees from team officials

YNC Dieter Helmke HR / AUT, 2 referees from Sweden

SEC Marcus Wüthrich HR / SUI, Wim van Disseldorp / NED, Anja Richter / GER, 2 referees from Austria

SNC Marcus Wüthrich HR / SUI, Wim van Disseldorp / NED, 1 referee from Austria

ECup Kari Kuneinen HR / SWE, Harry Grönlund / FIN, 1 referee from Sweden

TC decides that the best referee team has to be nominated for WC, some changes are still possible.

15.4 Education system

GZ will receive the documents of the education programme of Swedish federation (for new nations, used in Russia in October 2006). Additionally TC has to try to find new potential international referees in order to make the group bigger and so enable more choice at the nominations.

15.5 Referees' duties at championships

Licensed balls

WMF Secretary General (SG) asks TC/referees for support in controlling not allowed balls at championships. Better control against not allowed balls can be used as an argument in negotiations with WMF sponsors. Discussion what could be done by TC. TC agrees with the basic idea of SG and promises to support this plan. TC asks for the championships a list of not allowed balls (companies) four weeks before the competition and makes an announcement at the tournament info board, that these balls (of the companies in question) are not allowed. Random tests will be made.

Sponsor contracts (no referee issue)

During the tournament the responsible tournament director is asked to pick up one piece of the official tournament leaflet and to make a list of sponsors visible at the course. These informations are to be sent to SG.

15.6 Control of misconduct in different languages

The problem exists. The big issue in general is however, that referees must act, if they see/hear any misbehaviour and understand it as such. The only thing TC can do, is to try to form a referee team, which consists of as many different nations and languages as possible.

15.7 Time problem / slow play

Discussion on the proposal of RN for new penalty system concerning slow play. The idea is interesting, but the problem is including single players in the system. Some details are to be improved, but TC decides for a test run at all three NC's in 2007.

The main points of the system are.

- penalty points just affect the team score
- every team has four free points (fouls) before penalties are given (teams with three players have three free points)
- when a team has collected four (three) team fouls, the next violation causes one penalty point for the team
- every further violation causes two penalty points for the team
- the fouls are cancelled after preliminary rounds, play-offs begin with clean accounts
- team fouls are shown on a big board at the courses
- referees have the possibility to skip some levels in case of severe violations (e.g. two free points for a severe violation)

TC is aware that this system doesn't fit into the existing rules, but feels forced to try something in order to handle the problems with slow play.

16 Update of the fair play guide

TC decides, that each tournament director updates his version of the guide, and at the end of the season 2007 the updated versions are collected by GZ and one master guide will be written.

17 National clothing during official practising

In the junior category the use of national clothing during the official practice times has been obligatory already for some years. TC decides to implement this procedure in the other categories as well.

18 WMF equipment boxes

The situation of WMF equipment for general class is:

- National flags are available
- WMF flags with new logo have to be ordered by GZ
- Tournament software is available at Lars Isberg and is implemented for NC / WC 2007
- Mobile scoreboards for finals; first to be discussed with organizer in Canegrade, what they should buy so that the boards can be used in future as well. The preferred option is whiteboard + felt pens / responsible JS
- Sponsor wall; SG Cadosch is in charge of providing all categories with updated sponsor walls

Discussion about if WMF should arrange for a beamer for showing the results from Bangolf Arena. Result of the discussion: beamer must be organised by the organizer, because storing and transporting such an expensive item is too risky.

18.1 Referee clothes

Discussion about new referee jerseys. JoS proposes to purchase vests instead of shirts. This would solve the size problem, and vests are easier to keep clean. The word "referee" will be printed in the back, vests should have bright colours in two different sizes, order size is 30 pieces. Vests are organized by JS.

18.2 Permanent connection between referees

No need for permanent WMF equipment here.

19 Checklists of international championships

19.1 General proposals for updates

Any changes or proposals by TC members are to be sent to GZ.

19.2 Cleaning of the courses before tournament days

TC states, that the organizer should clean the lanes 1,5 hours before the start of each tournament day. Currently this job is being done by the first teams, which arrives to the courses. Further should be included in the checklist, that the course must be opened for practising 1,5 hours before first start on tournament days.

20 Doping

20.1 WADA situation

GZ has been in touch with WADA, but changes proposed by TC after the 2006 meeting are not implemented. Currently WADA wants to have the anti-doping systems of WMF approved, which would cost quite a lot. Thus WMF doesn't want to hurry with any process before checking the requirements and costs.

20.2 Renewal of WMF anti-doping guidelines

The guidelines are under construction, but should be completed until WC 2007.

21 Homologation of new materials

21.1 New material for miniaturegolf (plastic plates / Ruff)

Discussion about the motion of German federation. GZ will prepare a list of properties, which are relevant for plate materials. List will be supplemented by JoS. GZ will compare metrics of different products including the StaboSlab plates. Afterwards discussion and decision via e-mail will be taken as soon as possible.

22 Update of sport rules

An updated version of the general sport rules and regulations made by Günter Schwarz was handed out to TC before meeting. Due to its large and very detailed contents their handling is not possible in the meeting. Therefore TC decides to proceed as follows: GZ updates the old rules in terms of English language as obtained from Peter Parr. Then PA adapts the updated language as well as the required MOS adaptations to Günter's rule package. TC wants hereby express its deepest thanks to both Günter and Peter for their immense work and aid with the rules.

22.1 Penalties

Use of cards in different colours is not implemented at this point. TC first wants to wait for feedback of the new penalty system tested at Nations Cup. TC wants to see how referees are acting in the new system and if the cards would be helpful in communicating the penalties to the players.

22.2 Rules for substitutes

The decision from TC 2006 meeting about additional points for re-substitution is to be added to the updated rule package.

22.3 Wrong notation of scores

TC decides to follow precisely Günter's proposal, according to which changing written scores is possible until the score cards are signed. Additionally it is stated, that the signing of score cards by each player must be done first after the check of green house crew at the championships. Currently some players sign their cards already before going to the green house.

22.4 Changing to another country

Not discussed.

22.5 Tournaments held in regions close to borders

Due to very different practices and national rules problems appear in many countries with registration of tournaments. German federation will make a motion regarding this issue to the next TC meeting or to DC with e-mail check by TC, because problems seem to be biggest just in Germany.

22.6 Rebounding ball on lane 18 minigolf

TC decides not to change the current rule. The ball must stay in the target box. The organizer should look for most effective possible solutions to prevent the ball returning out from the target box, if this problem appears.

22.7 Official colour codes for round results

Following colour codes are decided by TC:

miniaturegolf: 18-19 blue, 20-24 green, 25-29 red, 30-126 black

minigolf: 18-24 blue, 25-29 green, 30-35 red, 36-126 black

felt: 18-29 blue, 30-35 green, 36-39 red, 40-126 black

23 Comparison of USPMGA and BMGA rules for MOS

PA has prepared a comparison, which wasn't discussed in detail for time reasons. This comparison will be a basis for the MOS update of the rule package, which was discussed in topic 22.

24 Minigolf Open Standard (MOS)

24.1 Classification of courses with one or more obstacles from outside the rulebook

TC decides, that if a course has one or more obstacles, which are not included in the current rules, the course is internationally treated as a MOS course. If more obstacles should be approved, active members can send proposals to WMF.

24.2 Update of the definition of MOS courses and their properties

The list of properties, which was made in last year's TC meeting, is still OK. At the moment there is nothing to add, but TC will follow the development and is prepared to complete the list anytime in future.

25 New obstacles

25.1 Felt

Following discussion was based on the motion of Swedish federation

Letterbox with three entrances and ace box in the middle entrance: approved, but an exception to the general rule must be made. At this lane two targets are allowed (ace box and target hole in the green). The exception is allowed, because this hole requires clever tactical play.

Right angle special: approved

Cross: approved

Möllberg-plateau: approved

Vertical hole in the hill: approved. The triangle obstacle must leave openings of 15-20 cm on both sides. The distance of the triangle from the back frame is to be defined by Swedish federation.

Horseshoe: approved

Parallel gates: approved. Here the two lanes from the motion of Sweden are combined to one new lane, where there are two entrances parallel in one obstacle. Distance of the entrances from the frame must be 5 – 28 cm, size of the gates 12 – 18 cm, and there must be a closed area of at least 10 cm in the middle of the lane.

TC had also received a question from Danish federation concerning the total length of a felt course. WMF has decided some years ago, that only a minimum length per hole is defined, but not a minimum length for a complete course. JS takes care, that this decision is implemented in the “Swedish rules”.

25.2 Miniaturegolf

There was no clear motion for new miniaturegolf lanes, only a mixed set of pictures sent by the German federation. These all can't be discussed lane by lane. Therefore Germany is asked to make a clear motion for the next TC meeting, which lanes should be approved. All other federations are kindly asked to do so, if they wish to have new lane types approved.

TC also decides to change the definition of lane 22 (plateau) in the handbook. The target plate can also be rectangular (or circular like until now).

26 Situation with course approvals

GZ has registered 210 approvals from 5 or 6 countries. 500 plates and the plastic labels for all WMF-approved courses have been ordered.

26.1 Classification of approved courses

The classification is defined in topic 24.

26.2 MOS acceptance in different countries

Some national federations have approached TC in this issue, and they all seem to want to keep all existing courses approved, on which regular play takes place currently. It is also not the goal of TC to forbid any old, irregular courses, because there are often clubs and many activities on these old courses. In the future all active members of WMF should take care that the courses for tournaments are built respecting the rules.

27 Golden League correspondence

No recent correspondence exists. Obviously the Golden League organisation is not happy with the answers given earlier to their questions by WMF officials. WMF is not supporting any organisation, league or tournament, which is not approved by the national federations of participating countries.

28 Tournament names

28.1 XIV Master Europe Italy

The name Masters in combination with not international names (European, World...) shouldn't be forbidden by the rules as it is currently. If TC is allowed to change this rule, it decides to do so. If not, GZ will motion the change to DC. However the word "Europe" mustn't be used in the names of national tournaments, which are not official international championships. GZ will contact the organizers regarding this issue.

28.2 World Crazy Golf Championships in Hastings

Discussion if crazy golf is generally to be seen as a different game than minigolf. No actions now.

29 European Tour

The idea of a European Minigolf Tour comes from EMF president. It is supposed to be a tour for single players, played on MOS courses. RN informs TC about the discussion in EMF board meeting. The tour is currently on planning stage. TC states, that such projects should not have a big focus inside world or continental federations, when we should first concentrate on making our current international championships and other events work better.

30 The name of European Cup

The idea of renaming this competition to World Cup comes from Austria, where it obviously would be possible to obtain more public subsidies for a world event. TC finds that ECup has a long traditions and the name should not be changed.

31 Preperation DC August 2007

31.1 motions DC

right for changes regarding chapters 4.2 – 4.7 of the handbook (motion by WMF board)
including mode of championships
red line middle hill feltgolf and miniaturegolf
red line feltgolf German block
option of rectangular plateau at miniaturegolf lane 22
composition TC
complete sport rules

31.2 candidates for elections

All current TC members candidate for elections again. GZ contacts the AMF to work for an adequate candidate.

32 Participation at universiades

Topic cancelled.

Bamberg, 27th February 2007

Pasi Aho
for the minutes

Dr. Gerhard Zimmermann
chairman of the meeting