

**Minutes of 100th Meeting held on 13/14th November, 2021
held in Best Western Plus Hotel Paris Orly Airport, France**

Present Marie-Anne Persoons (MAP)
Martin Graw (MG)
Maoz Tal (MT)
Nigel Talamo (NT)
Nicky Caine (NCC)

Invited Michal Mos (MM)

Apologies Joost de Leyer (JDL) – His daughter’s 20th birthday
Elena Kunert (EK) – Work Commitments
Alexander Isayeu (AI) – Visa problems!!

However, it noted that everyone who was not able to attend in person – JDL, EK and AI all managed to join the meeting via Zoom so the whole Council took part in this meeting.

MAP welcomed everyone who had travelled safely to Paris for our 100th meeting (which after all this time we had eventually managed to achieve in person with most of us in attendance - we don’t actually have a birthday cake but we do have the candles!!)

Approval of minutes - 99 “O” Meeting

MG had a query regarding the date quoted on 99”K” minutes as on the version he had received this was shown incorrectly but we checked the E&A webpage and the date was correct . Then MAP and NCC signed all minutes raised from 99th to 99th “O” but then we had a discussion whether we need to actually sign them? Maybe only Electronic signatures are required. Brit can upload as usual and then we can amend anything that is needed on the website.

Competitions 2021

World Championships - was a lovely event held in Sosnowiec, Poland and we were all very well looked after. We wish to thank Patrice Martin for coming to this event to represent IWWF.

There had been some amazing performances in the jump event with both the Ladies and Men’s World Records being broken Iryna Tourets 51.6m and Alexander Vasco 70.3m

There had been some very exciting runs in the Slalom Finals but unfortunately the end of the event was eventually cancelled, with only 2 skiers left battling for the top medal positions, due to a horrible accident at the exit buoys which involved Or Shinuk from Israel. We are pleased to advise that Or is now recovering well and we all look forward to seeing him competing again in the near future.

However, this incident did raise some questions as to the exact “protocol” of the Safety Director and what they are supposed to do and when. It was agreed that their responsibilities should be clearly discussed between them and the Chief Judge before the start of the event.

It is believed that the Safety Director should be a “local”.

After a long discussion on what is needed and how to proceed with this in the future, we think that we should receive guidance from Patrice/AdminCom as we believe this is a problem for the sport as a whole. Also, there are concerns as to the possible legal aspect surrounding this.

We talked to Patrice and Sid regarding accident/insurance etc and we requested that we be advised exactly who is ultimately responsible. One of the things that was agreed was that a check list of what is required could be a good idea.

It was confirmed that all E&A officials are covered by insurance.

It is thought that Tournament/Waterski have paperwork in connection with the Safety Directors' role, but we have never used it and therefore we are unclear as to whose overall responsibility it is.

Before the commencement of the event we now think that the declaration form, the skiers sign before the competition, should include that the skiers sign that they are happy with the conditions/site. So the Declaration and Waiver forms will need to be updated.

Discussion as to whose responsibility it would be to check the forms are duly signed. Maybe in the first instance it should be the Calculator but ultimately it should be the Chief Judge. Also there are concerns regarding the Junior skiers as at the moment we have no way to check that any forms have been signed by guardian/parent (as opposed to the Coach) but maybe this could be achieved via either EMS or the local Federation.

The signed forms should be easily available at all times during the competition to be checked out.

We need clarification in our rules within the safety section – G2.

This incident had given everyone food for thought so that a discussion followed regarding trying to ensure that to the best of our ability we check that all sites are as safe as possible. It is noted that things have changed recently and that due to shorter sites (maybe for titled events we should stick to 300m in future) the skiers are being lifted up at the exit gates. Also maybe we should consider using Mode B whereby the skiers can let go having passed the end of the course and not have to go around the corner.

The decision that was reached was that in future there would be no "exit gate" with a 7th buoy situated in the middle at 41m. The skier has to cross the line before attempting the corner but if they do not then they are finished and cannot continue.

Another possibility was that we should consider changing the rope lengths - we don't have to always follow Tournament/Waterski so this option is available to us. It was decided not to go with that change for now.

MG also has concerns regarding the Tricks event with skiers trying flips at the end of the run/on the corner. Maybe we should drop a buoy to demonstrate where the end of the course is. Last flip to the inside should be at 7th slalom middle line buoy (or say +/- 25-30m before the corner) and after that, for safety reasons, no flips or other tricks cutting to the inside are anymore allowed. They should also have a "brake" person if they are going to the end of the cable. Should the skier attempt to cut into the inside then the whole run will be cancelled so it will be a zero score. As this then would be seen as unsafe behaviour.

Although it is not officially written it is believed for practical reasons the operator should always be able to stop the machine for safety issues.

Age Categories held in Friedberg, Germany - This was another well-organized event, and we were very lucky with the weather. The competition had been organized with passion. It was lovely to see some younger officials taking responsibility and being an integral part of the competition.

We agreed that we need to find more "good class" Chief Judges and we need to give our younger officials more experience.

The extra Wild cards that were allowed we believe had been a good decision for the Juniors.

It was also very nice to see both Cable Wakeboard and Cable 3 event working together on the same lake. This was also seen in Sosnowiec.

Other events – An International event took place at Kosice, the competition at Kosice was well run by Alexander Vasko. There are new Houses being built and the problem with the water level has now been resolved!

In total there were 15 competitions held during the season per the homologation dossiers, most were WBW competitions.

New Site in France

Patrice Martin then took us to “Le Kable” in Parc des Sports de Choisy, Paris, Val de Marne to see a potential site for Cable 3 events Worlds. However, there are some safety issues that have been identified with the length of the lake/position of jump ramp, especially since the cable runs clockwise etc.

These issues will need to be resolved before any decision can be reached as to whether a bid to host a major event at this site would be accepted.

Discussion whether over the winter period a couple of members of the Cable Council should go to the site and try and experiment placing the “courses” in various locations to see if there is any chance that a solution can be found.

JDL will help MG to put in the course and jump ramp in Paris. Once it has been checked then we can go ahead.

Congress Meeting in Monaco

It is an election Congress so during the Congress on Saturday the Council will meet to agree various official positions such as President/Secretary/Treasurer/AdminCom/World Council Representatives but there will only be one official meeting on Sunday February 6th.

NT to confirm with Patrick Donovan of British Waterski that he wishes to stand (at the moment he is a co-opted member of the Council) and NCC will re-stand. (done)

MG confirmed that he was going to stand down from both Worlds and European Councils which we were disappointed about as we will all miss him!! MG will try and find another person from Germany to replace him on the Council as we all believe that it is important that one of largest countries involved with Cable 3 event should have representation.

All other members will re-stand with both EK and JDL confirming that they are happy to stay for at least 2 years.

MM will still be available as an advisor.

As we had not heard back from Robin Senge regarding who the skiers had voted as their representative we presume that AI was duly re-elected.

The Congress will be “run” under the old statutes and if successfully voted for then the new statutes will come in possibly March 2022.

22nd December is the end date for confirmation of the candidates for the council.

Finance

The invoice that has been sent to Germany in connection with entry fees at Age Categories is under query. It was agreed that it should show 1175 euros still outstanding for payment. 2690 euros was taken with 1535 euros being paid out in Officials fees leaving the balance due.

There is an Invoice needed for website from MT in the sum of about 700 euro. (duly received).

NCC will work on the budget and send her updated spreadsheet showing income and expenditure for the financial year ended 30th November, 2021.

MG still needs to charge to the IWWF in connection with flowers for Bruno Rixen's funeral.

2 Pylon Cable

MG advised that they had tried to find a place in South Germany for the prototype of 2 pylon system but at the moment they could not find a suitable location.

MG will ask Rixen to contact Patrice regarding possibly putting in a 2 pylon prototype in the lake where the Tournament Worlds were held. This is opposite the French Federation new offices.

World University Games

FISU are being assisted by Maryia Bulgakova in connection with the event in Minsk, Belarus being held on 22nd – 27th August, 2022. Country Borders at the moment are still closed but it is hoped that will all have changed by the summer. NT thinks Cable 3 event will only be a demonstration event at the competition.

Competitions 2022

MAP will not be sending out invitations for sites to apply for events to be held in 2022 as now all bids for competitions should be made via EMS. MT will put an article on the website to remind everyone of this for the 2022 season.

The potential dates for the World Championships will be in September with either 2/3/ 4 or 9/10/11 are identified as possible weekends. We hope the Paris site can have their competition site safely set up for a Worlds.

As the Tournament/Waterski "Under 21" competition will be held on the weekend after World University Championships, end of August – early September, the second weekend of September would be better to avoid clashes for skiers who ski in both disciplines.

The Israel Nationals will be held on 21/22 October 2022

JDL is meeting with the owners of Weert again in 2 weeks' time to see if a competition can be held and he will come back to us. The second weekend of September 8/9/10 has been discussed but Joost can find out whether it is possible to move and as he cannot have a competition in August so then maybe 3/4 September would be better.

EK has tried to contact Alexander Vasko, but she will see him at the National meeting next week. He is still worried about the bacteria in the lake, so he needs to solve this. However, MT met with a skier from Kosice, who seemed to think that this problem had been resolved. We would love them to have the Age Categories.

There might be some interest from Schloss Dankern but we do need an organizer. Benny, Alexander and Nicolas are happy to help but not prepared to actually organize the event.

It is always difficult to find organisers, but as in previous years Poland have kindly offered to take over if necessary.

Competitions in 2023

Israel is thinking of hosting the "Open" European Championships in Tel Aviv probably on 12th – 14th October, 2023. MT is hoping to get a target of at least 20 countries entering.

Sascha (AI) will try and bring competitors from Georgia and Latvia.

Entry Fees

We decided that we would keep the entry fees the same as previous years although we are aware that we have not increased for several years. Some of the other disciplines, however, do wish to change.

We wish to keep 120 euros for “Juniors” and 160 euros for Open and Seniors

The suggestion is that the fees increase in small steps or even directly to 150 and 200 euros. Most countries’ entry fees are paid by their government. To increase by 10 euros a year is the proposal to be considered for the moment.

However, we note that everyone is paying extra now due to EMS and we are trying to encourage skiers by not increasing too much the entry fees.

Officials’ Seminar 2022

This will possibly be held in Bratislava. EK is just waiting to see when Tournament (waterski) Seminar is scheduled for and then she will propose a date. Therefore, at the moment no final decision will be made.

One idea is that the Council should have their meeting in Bratislava anyway and offer an “online seminar” for those who want to join remotely.

Technical Rules

First of all thanks to MAP for all her hard work on the “revised” World rules which appear to have been well accepted.

There appears not to have been any feedback on our new rules although we had expected there might have been regarding the new Trick “consecutive flips”

As discussed earlier, maybe we should consider changing the Slalom rope lengths.

Mode 2 (whereby everyone runs each rope length once at a time as opposed to skiers running all the speeds together until shortening is due) was utilized at the Juniors. At the beginning, there had been opposition but by the end of the competition everyone had actually enjoyed it and the feedback had been positive.

We are trying to make it easier for the public to understand/follow the competition but if there a good speaker then this should be much easier.

Discussion regarding the Senior Age categories took place as it thought that a group of skiers in Friedberg had decided that they would retire as they did not want to have to compete against people much younger than themselves.

With this in thought, therefore, it was agreed to split the Senior category into 2 age brackets 35 – 50 (Senior 1) and 50+ (Senior 2) on 31st December of previous year. However, for the 2 categories to take place there needs to be at least 5 participants in each group. This was agreed by all.

There needs to be a change made to rule G4.2 regarding Senior 1 and Senior 2. MAP will duly amend.

Homologation Fees

All homologation dossiers show the competitions to be WBW except Kosice.

The following homologation fees were agreed for their 2021 competitions:

Poland	300.00 euros
Belarus	50 euros
Austria	50 euros

Officials List

This was reviewed and any inactive officials taken off. MT will go into system and duly amend.

EK to be copied in case she has any amendments that she believes should be made.

Athletes of the Year and Presidents Award

Several names were put forward for both Female and Male Athletes of the Year and after all the members of the Council voted it was very close result.

It was agreed that the skiers would be awarded both the World and European Athlete of the Year Title. The names will be announced at the EC Congress.

We then discussed the Presidents' award and agreed that we should not name someone just for the sake of it!!

We moved onto to discuss the Hall of Fame and it was agreed that at the moment we did not wish to name any skiers – we are still quite a new disciple and the honor of being the first ever named we felt was important. However, maybe there are some "Pioneers" that we should consider putting forward.

Several names were put forward and the Council would give it some more thought and start raising the necessary in-depth paperwork to justify the awards we believe are deserved.

EMS

MT has sent an email to Peter Frei asking how it is possible to amend officials' status to show that they are now no longer active.

The system is working well. Most of the work is now done and the new system should be up and running properly in 2022.

There is a problem with a competition in Holland which needs to be uploaded. The original competition was cancelled due to change of name which is causing problems on the system as it appears that you cannot back date a competition so MT will contact Peter Frei to try and resolve this.

Poland still has a problem with their "trainee judge" which is not possible as the lowest status is Level 3 and therefore a lower qualification cannot be entered.

As discussed, MT will add to our website that if there are any bids for events then in future it has to go via EMS.

Report of Chairman

MAP had circulated her report and everyone approved with thanks.

Records

There are only co-holders in a record if it is held by different skiers!

The new pending Trick records were then reviewed and the following was approved.

Hanna Stralsova (BLR) 6080 points.

However, unfortunately the score for Aliaksandr Mikhailou (BLR) was downgraded so no new record in Mens Tricks was approved.

Confirmation of the 2 new Jump Records both performed at the Worlds:

Iryna Tourets	51.6m
Alexander Vasco	70.3m

Although there are no “Records” in the Age Categories the following were confirmed as best performances:

Under 15	Men Slalom	2@10.75	Kay Strohmeyer
Under 19	Men Slalom	1@9.75	Samuel Saxa

Maybe we should consider, for the future, no longer having records?

Proposed New Sites

Russ Dixon from Canada has written to MG about setting up a joint Cable/Waterski site.

The proposal is that it will be a 5 pylon and MG sent him some recommendations. MG will send copies of the paperwork to the Council, so we all have it on files if we are asked.

Other Business

There has been a Cable Wakeboard Tour announced that is being sponsored by the Hurricane Group. It is believed to be scheduled to be a 3-stop tour using a 2 pylon cable.

Our website still has photos from 2019. The information is updated regularly but we do need some new photos.

MAP closed the meeting at 12.09 and thanked everyone for all their hard work.