

Minutes of the Annual Congress of the IWWF Confederation E&A

29th of January, 2011

commencing at 09.00 hrs

Helnan Marselis Hotel, Århus, Denmark

Welcome by the Danish president

Frank Tengberg-Hansen, president of the Danish Water Ski Federation, welcomes us all and hopes we have a pleasant stay at the Århus hotel, and presents to help with anything. He thanks all the volunteers and says that the Danish Federation could not have organised this Congress without the help, finance and support of Sport Event Denmark and of the Danish National Olympic Committee (NOC). He then introduces Niels Nygård, President of the Danish NOC to the Congress.

Niels Nygård greets and welcomes us all on behalf of the NOC. He is happy to have us here and he is proud that Denmark was chosen as host for our annual Congress. The Danish people are very involved in sport and they are very proud of their two female water skiers, June Fladborg and Mae Jepsen who are doing very well and are getting the Danish colours on top. They are also proud to be hosting many events, including the European Water Ski Championships that were held in Copenhagen two years ago. They will try to keep hosting big events and Mr Nygård hopes to have the water ski family again in Denmark in the future.

At the International Olympic Congress in Copenhagen two years ago, waterskiing was present as a recognised sport. His NOC would like to see water skiing a part of the Olympic Games. He believes that with the way we are working internationally, we should be one of the members.

The European OC (Olympic Committee), a continental association like E&A, is working to have European Games every four years, such as are being held very successfully in PanAmerica and Asia. Africa is also working to have such continental games, and we may have them also in Europe some years from now. Water skiing could be a part of those games, like we see in the other continents, and we will have to work together on that in the future.

Niels Nygård will join us tonight at our gala dinner. He thanks us once more for coming to Denmark and wishes us a successful congress.

1. Welcome by the President of the E&A Confederation

Alain Amade says that it's always a great pleasure for him to have us, the family of his heart, around him at a Congress and to spend a great weekend together.

He thanks the President of the Danish OC for joining us and for showing interest in water skiing. He was a member of the French OC in the past, and was replaced by Patrice Martin. He knows how important it is for us to be part of the family of sport, in water ski, but also to share all the values of Olympic spirit.

The European Games are new to us and it will be a great opportunity for us to be part of them. Because of his position in the French OC, Alain Amade has been at many multisport games, such as the World Games and the Winter Olympic Games. He feels that athletes of different sports and from different countries being together at these games is very important, and something all water ski athletes should experience once in their life. So if there are European Games, water ski is candidate to be in them – *now* !

Alain Amade welcomes the members of the IWWF that are present today and who are all part of our Confederation: Kuno Ritschard (SUI), the President, Franz Kuhn (AUT), the Vice President, and Gill Hill (GBR), the Secretary General. He says it is a great honour to have them here and he especially thanks Kuno Ritschard for always having our confederation in his heart, even though he is President of IWWF.

Our sport is organised in three Confederations: PanAmerica, Australasia, and the biggest one, Europe and Africa, which represents about 50 percent of the IWWF members. There are about 80 members in IWWF and the number is growing every year. We have several disciplines, with or without ski, and pulled by boat or cable. Every year ten titled events are run in our Confederation and in 2010 we ran five World Championships. This means we have the knowledge, the capacity, the technology and the high level performance to organise all this. All countries in our area are very active, and Alain Amade thanks them for receiving all those skiers from all over the world.

Because we have minima for participation, there were about 25 countries participating at the E&A Championships last year. Every year new countries join. We are developing the Mediterranean and African area at the moment. We were accepted as an official sport for the next Mediterranean Games in 2013, as one of the three non-Olympic sports.

This year the World Tournament Championships in Dubna, Russia, will be the biggest event in the world. To M. Nygård : since Denmark is also interested in organising the World Championships : these Tournament World Championships are held every two years!

We know that Denmark is very high-level in water skiing and in 2010, June Fladborg from Denmark beat the World Jump Record in Tournament. He congratulates her and says that unfortunately she is recovering from a crash at the moment.

Alain Amade spoke to prince Frederik from Denmark at the E&A Championships two years ago, and he learned that the prince enjoys water skiing, especially jumps, and that he is a good supporter for our sport in the Olympic Committee.

He concludes that he wanted to explain to Mr Nygård that we are a healthy, active sport, with very good results at the top level, and with Denmark in the top ten.

Alain Amade then officially opens the Congress and welcomes the Honorary Members that are present: Hans Otte (GER), Andy Harris (GBR), and of course also Kuno Ritschard and Franz Kuhn, who are still very active, and Bruno Rixen (GER), a patron member.

We received apologies from some Honorary Members : Aubrey Sheena, Lill Fitzpatrick, Hugo Engelen and Paul Jensch.

He heard that for some it was difficult to get to Århus, but that we got a good and warm welcome.

2. Verification of attendances and voting powers

Sid Adriaensen (BEL) reads out the list of attendances and comments that the list of voting powers were posted on the website.

No remarks.

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Alain Amade has the pleasure to announce that the Admincom unanimously proposed Alan Goggin (GBR) as Congress Chairman once more.

Accepted by acclamation.

Alan Goggin thanks for the honour and privilege and will do his utmost to complete the Congress legally and on time.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Alan Goggin announces that Louise Zernickov and Jesper Schmidt from Denmark will be the Scrutineers at this Congress, if there are no objections. (*none*)

He then explains the house rules.

Alain Amade now says a few words about the good friends who disappeared in the last year. These people are for life in our sport, water skiing. Last year we lost Pierre Jaeger (SUI), who was the President of the Swiss Federation and a team member in the 50's, at the beginning of the World Championships in water ski. He was very well known in our sport and a friend to all. Alan Taylor (GBR) also was an Honorary Member and a Judge in Racing. David Howells (GBR) was a Driver in Racing. The President asks the Congress to stand in silence for a minute in honour of these persons.

5. Opening of Congress by Chairperson and confirmation properly convened in accordance with Statutes Art 16

Alan Goggin confirms that the paperwork to make this Congress legal was sent out on 26 November and therefore, in accordance with our Statutes, the meeting is legal and is commencing.

6. Approval of Minutes of 2010 Annual Congress (Brussels, Belgium)

Alan Goggin comments that the Minutes of the 2010 Annual Congress in Brussels, Belgium were circulated and requests if they can be signed as a true and accurate record.

Passed unanimously.

Sid Adriaensen remarks that there is a mistake in the heading: it says 2009 and this should be 2010.

7. Note items for AOB

Alan Goggin asks if there are any items for AOB.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) thinks we should have an item for "matters arising from the Minutes" on the agenda. Regarding last year's minutes, he would like an update on the list of countries that could be possible new members. Alan Goggin: we will go into that later.

Des Burke-Kennedy: regarding the report that Dr Mayer made last year on the environment, is waterskiing now included in the yearly brochure of the European Boat Industry? Alain Amade: so far no, there were two different associations that became one, so a lot of administrative work went into that. But they are still in contact and they know we are still interested to be included in their research.

Des Burke-Kennedy: regarding last year's report by Uwe Goldstein, what is the situation with new Cable parks in China? Alain Amade suggests that Uwe Goldstein and Kuno Ritschard can address this later on.

8. Discussion and approval of Reports

Alan Goggin confirms that all reports have been circulated and invites the creators of each report to add any remarks that they feel relevant.

8.1. The President

Alain Amade especially thanks the countries that organised World and E&A Titled Events. He is very proud about this, because it means that we all working for the development of the sport, and he hopes we will always be able to find a hosting country in our Confederation. He realises that this is difficult, especially now, because it's not easy to find the money and to do such an organisation.

He thanks all volunteers and officials for going to the events and for spending time and money to do this: without them no event can be run. He also thanks our skiers and riders, and he is very proud that we are in the top level of the world.

He feels that it is very important to be a member of the NOC in your country, or to work closely with them if your NOC does not recognize non-Olympic sports. We need to show them that we are part of the family of sport. Some NOC are taking care of non-Olympic sports also: they are interested in the results, in the medals of their athletes, because it is good for the image of their country.

Alain Amade wonders if the best system is sending the top ten skiers/riders to the World Games, because we know they belong to the top ten Federations. For some of these countries, taking part in the World Games is of no interest at all and they send their skiers B or C. Or is it better to send skiers/riders from countries where these Games are as important and as representative as the Olympics, because they mean more money and development for these countries? The policy of the IWWF and E&A is to improve the level and the number of skiers/riders in *all* countries, not just to select the top athletes. So it is important to have a discussion about this, also because the level of the World Games is becoming higher and higher every time.

Alain Amade then thanks Franz Kuhn, who discontinues as IWWF Vice President, for all his work. He adds that he has known Franz Kuhn for a long time now, ever since he was team captain of the Austrian team, and that everyone asked him to continue, and he is sure that he will stay around.

No questions.

8.2. The Secretary General

Sid Adriaensen: last year we produced pins, stickers, badges and ties/scarves with the new logo and they were distributed to all here at the Congress.

There no longer was a fax at the office last year, and no-one complained, so we will continue like this since everything is sent by e-mail nowadays.

The formal convocation for Congress was sent by e-mail two months before Congress to the Federations, the Admincom, the Councils and the Honorary Members, and then again by registered mail to the Federations, because that is in our Statutes. From there on, all was put on the website and everyone was informed three times where everything could be found. Sid Adriaensen asks if this is a satisfying way of handling things, and if we should continue like this.

No remarks.

Sid Adriaensen then explains that anyone who wants to make a presentation to the Congress should first ask the Chairman if and when this can be done. He/she should then give a USB-stick with his/her presentation to the technical person at the Congress.

8.3. The President of the Barefoot Council

Rob Molenkamp (NED) greets the Congress and comments that they are losing people and they plan to build it up again. That is their issue for this year: to fight for survival. Alan Goggin congratulates them on having a World Champion in Barefoot.

No questions.

8.4. The President of the Cableski Council

Marie-Anne Persoons (BEL) adds to her report that the try-out competition for the three event Cable Ski in Antalya, Turkey, was a big success. So they signed the LOA this weekend with the Turkish Federation to have the E&A Cableski Open Championships in the second weekend of September in Antalya. She invites everyone to send skiers there and to have training sessions. The rates are very good and there is a slalom course and a jump run.

For the Cableski Juniors and Seniors Championships, the date for Lublin is close to Antalya so they are still working on that.

No questions.

8.5. The President of the Council for Disabled

Philippe Turchet (FRA) thanks all organising countries in 2010: Germany, Belgium and especially Italy, who organised three Euro Stops. He informs the countries that have never done any competition for Disabled that these are very close to a Tournament competition, and that everyone should feel free to come to the Council to ask about this. He also invites everyone to please come to their seminar, which is rather similar to Tournament.

No questions.

8.6. The President of the Racing Council, Mike Waterman

Mike Waterman (GBR) has no remarks to his report.

No questions.

8.7. The President of the Tournament Council

Stefan Rauchenwald (AUT) urgently asks all Federations to be more concrete about the right spelling of the names and the dates of births of their athletes. Otherwise it is not possible to have correct standing lists! The E&A ranking list program is excellent, but it doesn't work if a wrongly spelled name or date of birth is entered.

Candido Moz (GRE) sent out a circular letter about this to all Federations, but up to now, 19 countries still did not reply.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if it is correct that there will be a $\frac{3}{4}$ buoy in slalom? Stefan Rauchenwald replies that the Athletes' Commission and the World Tournament Council are discussing this.

Alain Amade takes the opportunity to present the 2009 Trophy for Athlete of the Year to Ageliki Andriopoulou (GRE) from Tournament. This normally happens at the E&A Championships, but she was injured last year.

8.8. The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Florian Butty (SUI) requests all Federations to please send in their results so the Ranking List can be made for Wakeboard Boat.

Their seminar will be held in Kiev, Ukraine this year, for the development of Eastern Europe. They have organised this seminar for 13 years now, all over Europe and Africa, and he asks everyone to please attend.

Des Burke-Kennedy: the E&A Wakeskate Championships had to be cancelled, will Wakeskate survive? Florian Butty hopes it will survive, but they do not have enough riders now.

8.9. The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Varna Laco (CRO) is concerned that no organiser has yet been found for the 2011 E&A Championships. This competition is open for bids for 2012 and beyond also.

All reports are accepted unanimously by show of cards, no abstentions.

9. Financial Report

9.1. Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2010

Dominique Lakens Douwes (NED) thanks everyone that helped her last year. She spent a lot of time with our bookkeeper, Sven Van De Velde (BEL), and with Brit Horemans (BEL) who does the invoices, and with Sid Adriaensen who gives a lot of advice.

She explains that there is a profit of 13.000 EURO. On the other hand, the amount of money owed to E&A is very high. But this information dates from November 30th, and most invoices are sent out in November, so they are not yet paid by that date. We try to reduce the amount that is due to E&A by sending out more reminders when we feel an invoice takes too long to be paid. The biggest debtors on the list are ID+MA and the French Federation, but the latter has paid a lot by now.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if we really need seven bank accounts? Dominique explains that the Antwerp accounts are for Sid Adriaensen for running the office and the other for when he is left with cash after competitions etc. The other savings' accounts were created by Congress decision for safety reasons, after the banking crisis.

Des Burke-Kennedy: why is the amount for accrued charges (under liabilities) 1.850 EURO this year, while last year is was 23.500 EURO? Dominique: mainly because more things were paid before November 30th last year.

On the Profit and Loss account, Dominique comments that the income from subscription fees has not decreased, even after we lost a few countries because we are now E&A, and no longer EAME. This is mainly because of the new voting system. The Racing Council sold more licenses and there was a bit less income from entry fees, because there were less competitors at Titled Events. We now put in the actual income from interests, not the expected rates. There is a two years' income from IWWF, and they also contributed for the Cableski brochure, so that is more, The archive was digitalised, which explains the higher cost in personnel costs. More money was spent on software. All councils stayed on or under budget.

No questions.

The accounts are unanimously accepted by show of cards.

Alan Goggin takes the opportunity to thank Brit Horemans for taking the Minutes.

9.2. Professional Auditor's Report

Dominique Lakens Douwes has no comments.

The report is accepted unanimously by show of cards.

9.3. Honorary Auditor's Report

Andy Harris has no comments.

The report is accepted unanimously by show of cards.

9.4. Appointment of Professional Auditors

Dominique Lakens Douwes explains that Willem Freen, our professional auditor, has retired. No other professional auditor was found in time. So our bookkeeper, Sven Van De Velde - who is a registered accountant - did it this year, but Dominique realises that this isn't a good combination.

She spent a lot of time with our bookkeeper and with Brit and Sid going over everything. They all check on each other and then the Honorary Auditor checks on them again. She thinks this a pretty secure system, and that it would be good to just have an honorary auditor only, and not have to pay some professional auditor a lot of money to flip through our books every year.

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

9.5. Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Alan Goggin: last year Lill Fitzpatrick (IRL) was appointed, but she could not attend this Congress. The Admincom would now like to appoint Andy Harris (GBR).

Unanimously accepted by show of cards.

10. Other reports

10.1. The Development Commission

John Wood explains that the Development Commission has evolved and it will now be under the Admincom. He looks forward to working with them in the future and thanks the Tournament Council for setting them up, building their work and helping them run.

Their next seminar will be held in Beirut, Lebanon, 6-9 May. It will be an introductory seminar for judges and coaches. He invites all Federations that are not doing their own coaches' training to send their coaches and their judges, or prospective judges, to the seminar.

Alain Amade confirms that the Admincom has accepted their project for welcoming and offering our help to new Federations, or Federations who have changed their team.

John Wood adds that all the resources to this end are on the E&A and the IWWF web pages.

No questions.

10.2. Other presentations

Alain Amade says Dr Benassa (ITA) is here if anyone has any questions on the report of the medical commission.

No questions.

11. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Alain Amade announces that two IWWF members, Romania and Soudan, now also want to be part of the Confederation E&A. Another possible member is Mauritius, as it seems that there is new Federation evolving there. Nigeria and Ghana are also in contact. This is a good thing if we want to expand our sport in Africa. Tunisia and Morocco are also in favour of our sport, but right now many changes are happening in that region of course, so maybe there is a possibility in the future.

12. Election of the E&A candidate for IWWF Vice-President

Alan Goggin announces that three persons are standing for election, and that they can make a short presentation if they wish. Sid Adriaensen reads out the numbers of votes for each country and the voting slips are distributed.

Mahmoud Ramadan (EGY), representing the Egyptian Waterski Federation, speaks on behalf of Emile Wazzan (EGY). He thanks the Danish Federation for all their efforts. Their main reason for nominating Emile Wazzan for this position is that they feel our sport needs a lot of support in the Arab world. They have talked it over with Alain Amade and with the rest of the team, and they feel that Egypt would like to step down, as they will have a representation in E&A for the Arab World in some form anyway. He concludes with saying that Egypt has made a lot of effort for the sport: it organised one of the first Mediterranean Championships. They would like to keep supporting the sport in co-operation with E&A.

Alain Amade confirms that Africa is very important for developing our sport now. Even though this position is not in our Statutes, we decided to nominate Samy Abu Shaikha (QAT) as the EAME representative in the Arab world, because we are moving in this part of the world now with the Mediterranean Games. But as the Middle East no longer is part of E&A, we have asked Emile Wazzan to take this role. Alain Amade hopes Emile can help us in developing new Federations in this area, since he speaks the same language and comes from the same culture. Emile Wazzan agrees and stands down as candidate for IWWF Vice President.

Silvio Falcioni (ITA) thanks Franz Kuhn, the resigning IWWF Vice President, for his efforts. He thinks anyone who will take this job will have a lot of work!

Andy Harris (GBR) greets everyone. He explains that he has experience on World level as a member of the World Executive Board, as Chairman of the World Barefoot Council for 4 years, and before that as a direct link to his predecessor. He has been on the Barefoot Board for 7 years. On the Confederation level, he has been BWS President for the last five years. He knows how the IWWF and the Confederation work. He sees the role of an IWWF Vice President as supporting the IWWF President, the Secretary General and the Executive Board in the promotion, development and growth, and raising the profile of the water ski sport across all its divisions and dimensions across the globe. He thinks the Olympic dream is something that we all must aspire and he would make sure that the E&A Confederation interest is looked after like it was under Franz Kuhn.

Alan Goggin informs the Congress that any vote for Emile Wazzan will now be invalid, since he has stepped down. Anyone who wants to change their vote for this reason can get a new voting slip now.

After the election, Alan Goggin announces that the result is that Silvio Falcioni will be the next IWWF Vice President. Silvio Falcioni promises to improve his English (*laughter*) and thanks everyone from his heart.

Franz Kuhn, who is stepping down, says it is not easy to say goodbye. He congratulates Silvio Falcioni with his election and wishes him good luck. He will have to be formally elected in Dubna, at the World Congress. Franz Kuhn says he had a wonderful time with the help of everyone to hold his positions in the past. He thanks Andy Harris and Emile Wazzan.

Alain Amade adds that he has known Franz Kuhn for a long time, and he stresses that we need him and that we want him to stay close. (*long applause – standing ovation to Franz*).

13. Statutes changes - as circulated

There are none proposed this year.

14. Bye-Law Changes - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen: the proposed changes were posted on the website.

- Art. 3.6. Divisional Councils - third paragraph: *“Each Divisional Council will be composed of a minimum of three members and a maximum of seven, not including an optional athlete’s representative.”* Proposal to add the following text: *“In a non election year the Councils may apply to the Congress for more members, but only for the next election period.”*

Sid Adriaensen: This means that if a council thinks they need more members, then they can apply to the Congress for more members a year before the next elections.

Accepted unanimously by show of cards, no abstentions.

- Art. 4.4. Calendar - Fines for late notification - Paragraph after 4.4. (7): *“Full information on the event must be sent to all appointed officials no later than 60 days before the event to enable them to purchase APEX rate air fares. Should the information not be sent in time and the officials be unable to obtain the APEX rate, then the organiser shall be responsible for the excess.”* Proposal to delete “APEX”, put “most economical”.

Accepted unanimously by show of cards, no abstentions.

- Art. 4.4.2. Blocked dates for National Championships. Sid Adriaensen: no council uses this still, so we propose to leave it out.
- Art. 4.4.3. Intention to Enter Form : proposal to renumber to 4.4.2. if this article gets deleted.

Both accepted unanimously by show of cards, no abstentions.

15. List of Obligations - as circulated

- Sid Adriaensen explains that information bulletins have been sent out by organisers, but sometimes they contained wrong information. So we want them to be checked by the relevant council. Art. VIII. Bulletins and information - add new paragraph to this end : *“The information bulletins first have to be approved by the relevant Council before being distributed to the Federations or being put on a website.”*

Accepted unanimously by show of cards, no abstentions.

- Art. XII. Press, TV, Publicity and Results - Second paragraph: *“Adequate facilities should be provided to access the internet easily, preferably via wireless network on site.”*

Sid Adriaensen: sometimes there were so many users that the Calculator no longer had network access. Proposal to add the following text: *“It is a requirement that adequate internet access for the calculators and scorer area must be provided.”*

Lucien Gerkau (GER) thinks public access is also very important.

Sid Adriaensen : of course ; this provision still stays in art. XII.

Accepted unanimously by show of cards, no abstentions.

16. Guidelines

Sid Adriaensen reminds the Congress that the Guidelines are approved by the Admincom, they are not voted upon by Congress.

This year there are four new things:

- Guideline 1 on organising an annual congress: here it was added that the Admincom has to approve any bids.
- Guideline 2: Congress guidelines: paragraph 2.2 added
- Guideline 12: the championship status has been updated.
- Guideline 16 is a new guideline on perpetual trophies, which the Councils are now in charge of.

Alain Amade: the live results on our website iwwfed-ea made by Emanuel Lion are very popular. We got many hits from all over the world. We bought new names of websites: waterskiresults.org, waterskiresults.com, wakeboardresults.org and wakeboardresults.com etc., to be higher in the list when doing a search in Google.

At this point Alan Goggin welcomes Mr and Mrs Rixen, who are patron members that have now joined us.

17. Report from the IWWF

17.1. The President

Kuno Ritschard thanks Franz Kuhn and says he enjoyed working with him and that he did a great job. He is glad to know Franz will continue working with the Cable Development Committee, because it is important that he stays with us to develop our sport. Kuno Ritschard then congratulates Silvio Falcioni. He looks forward to working with him, and says he will have much to do.

Max Kirwan (AUS) will also step down as IWWF Vice President from AAO and Thomas Lin (TAI) replaces him. Kuno Ritschard announces that he himself will resign in two years' time as President. Not only can he not take another term, he also personally feels that it is time that new people take over in IWWF.

The World Championships will be held 18-24 July in Dubna, Russia. He hopes to see us all there. The Championships will be held on a river. This is not like an artificial lake, but it is a good site. We had excellent results there during our 6th World Cup Stop there. Normally there will be 20.000-24.000 spectators, which is quite spectacular! The event will start with a great Russian musical show on Monday. A lot of publicity is in place now already and they are working very hard on the promotion of this event. There are not many hotel rooms, as Dubna is a small city. But there is a cruise ship where the athletes will stay and the World Congress will be held in a new hotel nearby. At the moment it seems that no training in Dubna will be possible, as there is only one site.

The World Cup calendar is not complete yet. There is a lot of interest, also from India and Thailand, but when it comes to the money, the difficulties begin and it is hard to get a quick decision. Kuno Ritschard believes the World Cup is an important promotional event for our sport worldwide. It is good for the countries where the Cup is held, and the cash prizes are nice for our athletes too: nearly 50 percent go to E&A athletes.

They are promoting Cable Wakeboard in the IOC to be part of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games. For 2014, there will be no program change. The IOC is very supportive, but nothing has been decided yet. A lot will also depend on the city that will be selected to host this event. In 2013 Jacques Rogge (BEL), the IOC President, has to resign, and the most likely candidate, Thomas Bach (GER), the IOC Vice President, will not make many changes as he is rather conservative. There also is a lot of pressure on the IOC to make the events more interesting for television broadcasting. But instead of adding new sports, they put pressure on the sports to change their rules to create more attractive events.

As was mentioned before by the Danish NOC President, the European OC is discussing European Games. The final decision to continue looking into this will be made next week. There is a lot of interest, and we should also see what we can do to be added as a non-Olympic sport.

Kuno Ritschard stresses the need to find a way to promote our sport in Africa, and also to have more contacts with the African NOCs and with the African Olympic Congress, that is held very four years. He hopes Egypt can help us with that. He knows that there are African countries that are interested to join us, but someone needs to go there and help them, as we are trying to do in South-America.

Unfortunately, Barefoot will not be included in the next World Games, because an investigating marketing company concluded that the public would not understand the sport, and it is not spectacular enough, so it would not attract any spectators. Kuno Ritschard explains that at the World Games, it's not the water ski public that shows up. They are a showcase of all the sports involved to the citizens of the place where they are held. Fortunately the door is not closed: the sport director of the World Games promised to look into a new proposal from Barefoot for 2017.

Kuno Ritschard has insisted with the World Games Committee that we should still have nearly the same number of athletes at the World Games, even after losing Barefoot. So a new format was accepted for Tournament: we will be allowed to have 54 Tournament athletes, and there will be medals in slalom, trick and jump, but not in the overall. The rule in the World Games is that the top athletes should compete, so we should be careful what we do with the selection. The intention is to have the 12 best men and 8 best women in each discipline participating. The professional skiers might not show up, but our intention is to have as many countries involved as possible. Perhaps having the 12 best athletes from 12 different countries is a possibility, we need to discuss this.

In Wakeboard we will have 30 riders, which up to now meant enough place for everyone who wanted to be there. There still is a discussion to add Cable Wakeboard to the future World Games.

Alain Amade thanks Kuno Ritschard for all his work, travel and efforts for communication and development of water ski and wakeboarding in Asia and in South America. He agrees that we need the World Cup because it's the image of our sport, and because we need the amateur and the professional side. Also, more and more countries are taking care of the World Games now, and they are good to bring more money to the sport and the athletes. In the Olympic Games there also is a limited number of athletes. We must have more countries in the World Games.

17.2. The Vice-President from E&A

Franz Kuhn feels our sport is a passion, and that it makes us happy to have good results and good friends world-wide. The IWWF President goes from east to west and from north to south, bringing the connection to our sport in these countries.

The promotion of our sport takes many years. In 2010, we had five World Championships in Europe and this is great. With every competition we promote our sport to the political people, interested parties and sponsors who are there. We can do more and more, but it takes time to get results.

The World Trophy Cable Wakeboard makes a total of 6 World competitions. In 2011 there are also many E&A Championships in all the disciplines, and this needs a lot of work. He knows that the Councils work very hard to have good competitions. He apologises for sending information about the 2010 Cable Wakeboard European Championships very late, because the organiser was found only very late in the year.

His interest in the near future will be more with Cable Wakeboard. He has seen a strong growth in cableways, and he hopes that Bruno Rixen (GER) will produce even more cableways!

The 2010 World Cable Wakeboard Championships in Neubrandenburg were held thanks to the family Schipner, who worked day and night and saved the event with their own money, because the original sponsor quit.

Money goes in and out in the sport, and in Cable Wakeboard there is a big problem now with ID+MA agency. They have been working with us for eight years, but now they have financial problems and they have not paid the riders. We are fighting for this and hope to have a solution shortly.

In Cable Wakeboard the riders are more interested in the monetary aspect, it's very different from the other disciplines. Franz Kuhn talked to the riders about this, and he thinks it's similar in Wakeboard Boat.

At the EB and Bureau meeting in November, Milan, the 2009 finances of IWWF showed a surplus. In 2008 we still had a deficit, so this is positive, because whenever Kuno or Franz talk to people, it seems what everyone mostly needs is more money.

The 2012 the Cable Wakeboard World Championships will be held in Manila, and Franz thanks Uwe Goldstein for paving the way there. He hopes the riders will not have a problem with going there in November. In 2013 the Championships might be held in Chile, also in the autumn.

No questions.

18. Calendar of Titled Events

Sid Adriaensen checks the dates with the Federations and Councils and asks for any new proposals. The calendar is constantly updated – see the www.iwwf-ea.eu website.

Des Burke-Kennedy wonders if BWS will take advantage of the 2012 Olympic Games in Great Britain to promote waterskiing. John Wood replies that he went to several briefings by UK Sports on the Olympics, and he thinks we would be wasting our time and money because there will be so much focus on the Olympic sports. Andy Harris says they are trying to negotiate with the Olympic Delivery Authority to get a straight line cable or a cable tow itself on the Olympic village lake, for recreational use of the athletes, to promote water skiing.

19. Budget 2011 (01/12/2010 - 30/11/2011)

A copy of the budget has been distributed. It shows a loss of 8.000 EURO because we have been very conservative regarding the income. Dominique Lakens Douwes comments that there are not many changes to last year's budget. The only real difference is in the meeting allowances, because the Admincom decided to raise these every year with 25 EURO, because of inflation and higher costs for our volunteers, up to a maximum of 250 EURO. So it will be 175 EURO in 2011.

Accepted unanimously by show of cards.

20. Distribution of Certificates & Awards

20.1. Announcement of the Athlete of the year awards

Alain Amade explains that every year each council selects their own athlete of the year, and the Admincom then chooses the top athlete of the year from those nominations. The female athlete of the year 2010 is Natallia Berndnikava (BLR) from Tournament. The male athlete of the year 2010 is David Small (GBR) from Barefoot.

20.2. By the divisional councils

Rob Molenkamp: in Barefoot, the female athlete of the year is Kim Rowswell (GBR), who won several World medals. Their male athlete of the year is David Small (GBR), the World champion with a World record on the jump event.

Marie-Anne Persoons: in Cableski, no records were broken this year. Their female athlete of the year is Bianca Schall (AUT) and their male athlete of the year is Moshe Tzdaka (ISR). The Harry de Laat Trophy goes to the best (based on overall score) participating skier in the Juniors under 15 category of the Confederation E&A Junior Championships, and for 2010 this is Katsiarina Kisialiova (BLR).

Philippe Turchet: in Disabled about 15 records were beaten or equalled by five skiers: Adaline Fahey (GBR), Delphine Le Sausse (FRA), Sven Van De Velde (BEL), Christian Lanthaler (ITA) and Daniele Cassioli (ITA). Daniele Cassioli (ITA) is also the male athlete of the year for Disabled, and their female athlete 2010 is Delphine Le Sausse (FRA).

Mike Waterman: we have no records in Racing, but we like to acknowledge the performance of the racers. This year, we are presenting certificates to each of the category winners in the European Championships. Euro-Kids A: Samantha Clark (GBR). Euro-Kids B: Marvyn Praschinger (AUT). Juniors: Robin Mariën (BEL). Formula 3: Gitte Van Gool (BEL) and Neil Coppens (BEL). Formula 2: Katharina Hebenstreit (AUT) and Dave Van Steelant (BEL). Formula 1: Lena Feringa (BEL) and Darren Kirkland (GBR), who now won the Formula 1 Men 20 years after he won it for the first time. He now retired at 40 something and after 33 years in competitive water skiing. Seniors: Gerrit Pontzele (BEL). Rather unsurprisingly, Belgium also won the Team Trophy. Female athlete 2010: Lena Feringa (BEL) and male athlete of the year: Darren Kirkland (GBR).

Stephan Rauchenwald, Tournament, says it's always a pleasure to stand here and tell us about new records. The first certificate is for Clementine Lucine (FRA), who broke the E&A Trick record. Three records were broken by Natallia Berndnikava (BLR), who is also elected the Tournament female athlete of the year 2010. She broke the Trick record twice, and also set an Overall record. June Fladborg (DEN) set a new E&A Jump record, which was also adopted as a World record. There was a new E&A record in Slalom for Nicole Arthur (GBR) and in Jump for Jason Seels (GBR), who was selected as male Tournament skier 2010.

Florian Butty, Wakeboard Boat: no records this year. Their female rider of the year is Giorgia Gregorio (ITA), and the male rider of the year is Dan Nott (GBR).

Varna Laco: for Wakeboard Cable, the male athlete of the year is Nick Davies (GBR) and the female athlete 2010 is Sophia Marie Reimers (GER).

21. Future Congresses

21.1. January 28th, 2012 - Athens, Vougliameni, Greece

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) makes a short presentation. He jokes that there is no sound to his PowerPoint presentation due to the economical situation in Greece. (*laughter*) He thanks the delegates of the last Congress for choosing Greece for the next E&A Congress and welcomes us all there. There are taxis to the hotel, which is about 22 kilometres from Athens national airport, or you can take the bus of the Hellenic Federation. The Margi House is a 5-star hotel in Vougliameni bay, close to the sea, with many meeting rooms and very nice congress hall. The Admincom will negotiate with the Greek waterski federation in order to have the lowest prices as possible.

21.2. January 26th, 2013 (open to bids)

Bedri Sincar, the President of the Water Ski Federation in Turkey, is here for the first time at the Congress, and he told Alain Amade that he would be happy to organise the 2013 Congress in Istanbul. (*applauded to enthusiastically*) The procedure is that the Admincom will first review the prices of the hotel, the location and the transport information. Other bids are still welcome.

21.3. January 25th, 2014 (open to bids)

Alain Amade: for 2014 there is a bid from Monaco, but the prices there are much too high right now. Other bids are still welcome.

22. A.O.B.

• Results of national championships

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) wonders who watches the results of national championships. It seems that more and more non-national competitors compete here, and visitors take places on the podium. He thinks this is dreadful, because this means that the persons from the organising country get their places taken off the podium. So he suggests not taking the points of these visitors on the official results. He thinks you have to know the top skiers of a

country, without any visitors, and that there should be a common rule for this, like in other sports.

Allesandro Vanoi (ITA) suggests having two lists of results, like in alpine ski, one with and one without the non-nationals.

Alain Amade and Kuno Ritschard feel IWWF or E&A cannot interfere with a national championship or with national rules. Every country can make its own rules for a national event. In snow skiing for example, the FIS does not make the rules, the different national Federations make the rules for their national championships.

Patrice Martin (FRA): do you mean that a person should have a membership of that Federation or should he have a passport of the country to be a national? And are you allowed to ask for a passport at a national level? Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) thinks this already is a rule.

Alan Goggin: in the UK, at the Barefoot Championships, anyone could ski to give visitors a chance. But this meant that British skiers could lose their medals to a non-UK athlete. He thinks we should encourage any visitor to ski, to raise the level, but the question is what to do with the medals etc.

Depy Papadimitrou (GRE): in Greece, non-nationals are just guests. They will not stand on the podium and take a medal. We also have two lists of results. Otherwise, she would not want any guests at their national competitions. Andy Harris agrees with Depy, but he also thinks the Federations have to regulate this themselves, because these are national titles and the Federations have full jurisdiction over those titles.

Colin Hart (GBR) says that in the Wakeboard Nationals it adds a lot to the sport and the sponsors to have visitors competing, and he thinks it's up to the management of the event itself how the results are posted.

Christian Antos (AUT): Italy, for example, has Nationals and Open Nationals, with two different prize giving ceremonies. As there are not so many competitions in our sport, especially in Barefoot, it is important to let people ski at our Nationals. But he agrees visitors should not take the places of nationals, because that gives a bad picture of the Federation as well. He thinks the councils should give guidelines to the Federations with our vision of what we think is best for our sport.

Sid Adriaensen: in the Benelux countries, which are Belgium, Netherlands and Luxemburg, we obviously have small numbers, so in Barefoot or Racing for instance, we have Benelux Championships. Afterwards, there are two sets of results out of one competition: the Benelux results and the national results.

Des Burke-Kennedy: applying the IWWF rule makes it possible that ten visitors, who are on vacation, can compete with nationals who have qualified to be on those nationals, and the visitors can take the podium places. Des thinks this is not right. He agrees with the IWWF rules, but he thinks that we should make a strong E&A recommendation for the system of two sets of results. That also makes it easier for the person in the commentary box to say who the national champion is!

John Wood concludes that Des is actually asking for a rule on the way the results are presented and that the presentation of the results should be clear, not that visitors should be banned.

Gill Hill doesn't think we can make a proposal on this, because it's not the business of IWWF or of E&A to interfere. We could publish a recommendation, but countries don't like it if you interfere with the way they run their National Championships.

Dimos Alexopoulos: most of the countries have two sets of results, but only the complete list is sent to E&A so the skiers' ranking list is complete. The list with the national skiers only stays in the country. It is impossible to include this in the international list. Depy disagrees: if there are two different names of the competition, both lists can be sent to E&A.

Des Burke-Kennedy concludes that we should have an IWWF and E&A recommendation on having two sets of results, so that we can present this recommendation to our own Federation members. Alan Goggin agrees that Des puts this recommendation into words and circulates it, so it can be discussed later in the Admincom.

The wording of Des :

It is recommended that for National Championships the official published results include only those who are qualified to compete in the Championships of that country.

It is also recommended that a second set of results be created for all athletes who competes, including visitors from other countries.

- **On-line registration of Tournament events**

Gill Hill: the Tournament Council has had to put a new system in place for 2011, because competitions now have a competition code, a site code, and the results have to be submitted in a certain format for Bob Corson (USA) and for the E&A ranking list's website. In 2010 there were 180 homologated competitions and Candido Moz (ITA) had to manually put in 60 of those onto those databases, because somebody messed with the codes. So from now on, not the Organiser, but the Tournament Council, will choose the codes for the competition.

The international events are already on the website. An e-mail will be send asking each Federation to put every Tournament competition being run in their country that has to be homologated - normal, rankings list or record capability - on the Tournament Council website. This should be done at least two weeks before the event by the Federation, *not* the Organiser, and it is password protected so only the Federation controls it. The on-line form for this is very simple to complete and saves on paperwork. Hannu Rintanen (FIN) will give competition codes and site codes to the competitions.

It's a little more work right now, but it will save a lot of paperwork in the future if all competition registrations are done this way. The website is www.waterskitournament.eu, which is handled by Hannu. And he has done a lovely job, because as you open that page, it says "Register your competition here", and you push the button and go to it.

So this all really is a fundamental change. The passwords will be same ones as for the E&A website. If you don't know them, contact Sid Adriaensen or Brit!

National ranking list events should be entered approximately two weeks before the event happens. There will be no fines for late entries, but you do need to put it on, and then the competition code to be used will be printed on the calendar.

Lakis Anastasiou (CYP): do we have to registrate before March, before the competition ?

Gill Hill: the registration has to be done before. After the competition, the Homologator, the Calculator and the Chief Judge will make sure that the results go to the right place. And the E&A ranking list system should be very simple this year.

Paul Airey (GBR): the site codes will be on what website? Gill Hill: the calendar with the codes will be on www.waterskitournament.eu, not on the E&A site anymore.

Lucien Gerkau: so this system also uploads all the results and makes the ranking list: how will we know that all skiers are licensed and are official members of the clubs? Gill Hill: at the end of the year, we check with all Federations if everyone on the ranking list is correctly listed and a member of their Federation. We don't have an on-line system for registration of licenses in Tournament. Gill agrees that the end of the year is a bit late, and that it would be better to know this beforehand.

Allesandro Vanoi: why not only give a code for the system to the Federations, and not to every skier? Gill Hill: that is what will probably happen. What we would like, in an ideal world, is that the Federations would put or validate all their skiers in a database, probably with drop-down lists because most of them are there already. And then we would like the skiers to be able to edit their own information. Such a system could come in a couple of years.

- **List of scheduled meetings in 2011**

Sid reads out the list of scheduled meetings in 2011.

- **Ray Stokes**

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) announces that Ray Stokes (IRL), a very respected coach, who put several champions on the podium, has discovered 10 days ago that he has terminal cancer. Des wants to put on record that all of us here are all thinking about him and wish him well.

- **Ukraine**

Mariya Bulgakova (UKR), the Secretary General of the Ukrainian Water Ski and Wakeboard Federation, thanks Kuno Ritschard, Franz Kuhn, Alain Amade and Varna Laco for supporting her Federation during the problems in their country these last three years. Their Federation is recognised by their NOC and has been a member of IWWF (IWSF) since 1992. As a result of the support and of their own work, they had a big success in developing our sport in the last three years. In 2009 they organised the European Wakeboard Masters, which is a major cash prize event, with 20 riders from our region. In 2009 and 2010, they organised the Ukraine Open, a cash prize event for top skiers. The organisers made a wonderful book of photos and a DVD. She invites everyone to have a look at them and she offers to organise a copy of the DVD for anyone who wants one.

This year she will organise the Wakeboard Boat seminar for judges and drivers in Kiev, and she requests all Federations to please send their officials. She promises it will be a very good and useful seminar!

The 2011 E&A Youth Championships will also be held in Ukraine. She cannot show us the presentation now, because the organisers had a baby who came a bit too early, and they had no time to put the presentation together. They asked her to tell all the Federations that the organisation will be on the highest level, so please do not hesitate to send your young skiers to Ukraine.

23. Closing of the Congress

Alan Goggin thanks for the honour of letting him be chairperson once more. He jokes that being chairman of this Congress is a bit like making love to his wife. It is something to look forward to once a year, it is a great honour, he is extremely grateful, and it doesn't matter how many times he does it, he still enjoys it. (*laughter*)

Alain Amade thanks Alan Goggin and comments that he likes the way he runs the Congress, very professionally, and with "a fist of iron in a velvet glove". He thanks Brit for taking the minutes, and the technicians and Frank Tengberg-Hansen, Dorte Andreasen and the team of the Danish Water Ski Federation for their organisation.

Frank Tengberg-Hansen concludes that it was a pleasure to have us here, because we behaved well and he hopes to see us all again in Greece.