



Minutes of the Region EAME Congress

27th of January, 2007

Salone d'Onore at the CONI Headquarters, Roma, Italy

1. Welcome by the President of Region EAME

Alain Amade opens the Congress and introduces Silvio Falcioni, President of the Italian Water Ski Federation.

Mr Silvio Falcioni welcomes everyone and says it's a pleasure to host this 60th anniversary Congress. He announces that the cooperation with CONI resulted in having water skiing among the sports taking part in the Mediterranean Games in Pescara, Italy, in 2009. He extends special greetings to Alain Amade, the President of Region EAME, for his great devotion and enthusiasm and also welcomes Kuno Ritschard, the President of the International Water Ski Federation, and all delegates from the Federations and all Council members, and wishes everyone well for the meetings today and tomorrow. He announces there will be a gala dinner tonight, hosted by the Italian Federation in honour of the EAME 60th Anniversary Celebrations. He also hopes everyone will find some time to appreciate the Italian hospitality.

2. Verification of attendances and voting powers

Sid Adriaensen says there were no queries regarding the voting powers after they were sent out. There are no remarks from the Federations at the Congress.

Alain Amade points out a lot of Honorary Members are present at this Congress and he says it's a great honor to have them here and asks them to stand up :

Paul Jensch (NED), Guy Leprince (FRA), Simon Khoury (JOR), Lluís Mussach (ESP), Peter Pearl (GBR), Kuno Ritschard (SUI), Aubrey Sheena (GBR) and Rob Tuin (NED).

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of attendances (see attachment).

3. Appointment of Congress Chairperson

Alan Goggin is proposed by the Admincom and this is accepted by the Congress.

The Chairman says it's wonderful to be here, this probably being the best room we ever had, and gives a big thank you to the Italian Federation.

He then explains the house rules.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Alan Goggin announces Aubrey Sheena, Guy Leprince and Paul Jensch are appointed as scrutineers.

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

Alan Goggin confirms the official convocation was issued in time (no remarks).

Alain Amade remembers the people that passed on in the previous year:

Charles Ramsey (NED), who was very well known in waterskiing.

Claude Malusky (FRA) who was the director of the French National training center.

James O'Connell (IRL), a tournament skier who died in a tragic jump accident.

Angelikos (GRE) also died very young.

And of course there was Harry De Laat, who was not only an international judge, but who was also our current EAME treasurer. Marie-Anne Persoons, who knew Harry very well, says a few words in commemoration. Alain Amade asks for a minute of silence. Afterwards, he adds that it's the first time someone in active duty has passed on. Yesterday the Admincom has decided to co-opt Dominique Lakens Douwens (NED) to help out with the administrative financial issues for this year.

6. Approval of Minutes of the 2006 Annual Congress (Doha, Qatar)

One modification: under item 25 - marketing and promotion : the 50/50 split should be between the Organiser and the promotion company (not EAME).

Accepted as a true and accurate record.

7. Note items for AOB

None.

8. Discussion and approval of Reports

The reports have been circulated in advance, so Alan Goggin asks to please limit the comments to any changes or additions.

8.01 The President

Alain Amade has nothing to add.

No questions.

8.02 The Secretary General, Sid Adriaensen

Sid Adriaensen has nothing to add.

No questions.

8.03 The President of the Barefoot Council

Alain Legac would like to congratulate Heinrich Sam who won three gold medals last years. He hopes to have a new training center in the South of France this year. He thanks the German Federation for hosting the first combined EAME Championships, and also the French Federation and the Italian Federation for hosting the 2007 and 2008 Championships.

No questions.

8.04 The President of the Cableski Council, Marie-Anne Persoons

Marie-Anne Persoons announces the Cableski Seminar will be held in Heidelberg this year, on March 23-25. There will be a small model of the cableski installation to show how it works. Also, last year the Cableski Council was asked to make a promotional brochure about Cable and Wakeboard Cable. This is now almost finished, just some nice summer type pictures are needed to complete it.

No questions.

8.05 The President of the Council for Disabled, Philippe Turchet

Philippe Turchet announces the old website is disappearing for Disabled, and the new site will be www.waterskidisabled.eu

No questions.

8.06 The President of the Racing Council

Mike Waterman says they worked very hard within budget.

No questions.

8.07 The President of the Tournament Council

Stefan Rauchenwald has nothing to add to his report.

Steve Sopp (GBR) questions the fairness of using World Cup results where not all skiers can attend because of the problem of clashing dates, and asks what the TC intends to do about this.

Stefan Rauchenwald replies he is aware of the situation and a lot of discussion about this is going on. The World President is to give some answers later on. He thinks there will always be clashes, because for example you only have to announce the dates of the competitions 30 days in advance in the States. Another problem is posed by the different ranking lists. Emmanuel Lion and Candido Moz are both working on a 'who beats who' ranking list, but very differently from the World Ranking list. The TC thinks having different lists is not the right way to go.

Steve Sopp asks the committees not to give up on this and try and persuade the World Council to understand this. He thinks excluding some skiers and still allowing the results of late entries on the Calendar to count for the Ranking List is a very bad situation indeed.

8.08 The President of the Wakeboard Boat Council

Colin Hart observes that it's disappointing to have had a positive doping test at a competition. His Council feels very strongly about this and also about the issue of the medals that should be recovered.

He says the Wakeboard Council promotes obtaining Wakeboard Licenses, which can still be done from the www.eame.be website.

He announces the Wakeboard Championships 2007 are still open for bids and that they are running a number of development programs, such as the one in the Middle East, and he invites anyone interested.

No questions.

8.09 The President of the Wakeboard Cable Council

Varna Laco (for Gyuri Kirsch) announces there now is a fixed date for the Wakeboard Cable Championships 2007 in the Netherlands, Almere and that the Seminar will be held in Vienna, Austria, April 21-22.

No questions.

8.10 The President of the Medical Commission

Dr Benassa presents his report on the psychological aspect of water skiing.

Louis Polome asks if the drug testing procedure can be speeded up, as there was a four month delay in a particular case. Kuno Ritschard, the IWSF President replies there might have been some misunderstanding in that particular case, and that it won't happen anymore.

8.11 The President of the Environmental Commission

Henrik Kielland was unable to come to the Congress because of his illness and he has given his resignation. Alain Amade considers environment a very important issue for water skiing. The European Confederation of Nautical Industries is now working on the impact of water skiing on sites.

He thinks the work Henrik Kielland started doing on this subject should be continued.

8.12 The Representative of the Coaches Commission

John Wood is glad to have held a very successful seminar in Greece. For 2007 some final arrangements have to be made by Croatia. For the 2009 Mediterranean Games there will be grant money from IWSF: the next Mediterranean Games will be held in 2013. There will be a meeting this evening after the Congress for all the Mediterranean countries informing them how to get involved.

The Coaches Commission is still looking for a venue for the 2008 Coaching Seminar.

All reports are accepted "en bloc".

9. Financial Report

The Financial Report will be commented on by Sid Adriaensen, who has taken this from Harry De Laat at the last minute.

9.1 Presentation of Accounts up to 30.11.2006

Sid Adriaensen explains there is a surplus of about 7.000 € over the financial year 2005-2006, and that the professional auditor (Willem Freen) and the honorary auditor (Paul Jensch) have checked the report and made some remarks.

In the left column on the balance sheet, next to 'liabilities', there is a typing error and "30 nov 2005" should be changed to "30 nov 2006".

The outstanding money concerns debts that are not long standing, as it is decided at the Admincom and Council meetings in November which Homologation fees

are to be invoiced. These invoices are made on November 30th so those debts are recent and will surely be collected.

The promotional costs are about 13.000 € higher than budgeted because the Cableski brochure was booked there. This brochure is meant to promote Cableski as a cheap way to our sport and money will be coming in from sponsors for this brochure in 2007.

Peter Frei wonders why no member of Admincom will take responsibility for the Treasurer's job as he thinks this is mandatory. Alain Amade explains we need someone in the Netherlands because the Federation is registered in the Netherlands, and no other Admincom member lives there. The Admincom and the Bureau will take all the decisions and control the expenses, this co-opted Treasurer from the Netherlands will have no power to decide on his/her own: the Bureau will be responsible.

Alan Goggin explains that even moving the correspondence address from Harry De Laat's address was impossible unless it's in the Netherlands, and that all correspondence from the bank is still sent to his address. Sid Adriaensen now has to physically go to the Netherlands for any bank documents. Next year a new Treasurer can be appointed at the EAME Congress.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks to comment on the insurance and promotion. Sid Adriaensen explains the amount in "promotion" concerns the cableski brochure: the expenses there were made in 2006, and the income will be for 2007. Regarding the insurance, the former insurance company never really produced any contract stating what we were insured for, so we cancelled it and now there is a proposal for a new insurance.

The accounts are accepted as a true record and carried.

9.2 Professional Auditor's Report

As distributed.

9.3 Honorary Auditor's Report

As distributed.

9.4 Appointment of Professional Auditors

Alan Goggin announces the Admincom is happy to continue with the existing Professional Auditors, Willem Freen (NL).
Accepted.

9.5 Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Last year it was Paul Jensch who looked at the Financial Report from a Water Skiing point of view, and for this year Lill Fitzpatrick is accepted as Honorary Auditor.

10. Admission of new members and resignation of members

Alain Amade announces Palestine now is a recognized Federation. Countries like Tunisia, Malta and Morocco might join next year as a result of the Mediterranean Games contacts.

11. Statutes changes - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen explains the numbering was corrected.

Up to now a President, a Secretary General and four members for the Admincom had to be elected. After the proposed change the IWSF Vice President from EAME also should be elected by the EAME Congress.

Another proposal is to have the Treasurer as a separate function and not as an extra function for one of the four elected Admincom members.

Also, the Admincom considers two years a very short span to work into these jobs. Therefore they propose a four-year cycle, coinciding with the year of the summer Olympics. The divisional councils have more rotation so they would keep their two-year cycle, in the even years as it is now. The IWSF Congress is in the odd years, so the IWSF Vice-President from EAME should be elected in the odd years.

Sami Abu Shaikha asks if the number of Admincom members will be increased by having a separate Treasurer's function, to which the answer is yes.

Louis Polome wonders if people can be re-elected after these four years, which is confirmed.

Alan Goggin stresses that a 2/3 majority is needed to make a Statutes' change.

All vote in favour, no abstentions.

The Statutes now say that a proxy needs to be given 24 hours before the start of the Congress to the Secretary General, but as he or she is already travelling at that point, a five day limit is suggested so a correct list can be made. If another person of the same Federation will come, that poses no problem of course. Sami Abu Shaikha wonders what happens if the delegate of the country the proxy was given to cannot make it to the Congress by force majeure. Colin Hart suggests adding the wording "unless there are exceptional circumstances" and this is accepted.

The change is accepted, no abstentions.

Sid Adriaensen comments on article 20 - Composition of the Admincom. Following the decisions just made, that article now has to be changed to include the new way of choosing the Treasurer as a separate function.

The change is carried, no abstentions.

12. Bye-Law Changes - as circulated

Sid Adriaensen remarks that for the Voting Powers, the text in Appendix A is rather negative: "*Reduction for not ..., reduction for not ..., redcution for not ...*".

The Admincom would prefer a more positive approach. The total amount of votes would stay the same with a maximum of four votes for each Federation for general business and with a maximum of three votes for each Divisional issue.

Associate Members and Recognised Federations have no voting powers.

Instead of reductions, in order to have up to three votes in a Division the Federation has to fulfil the following criteria in at least one of the four years preceding the date of the Congress :

- 1) Having organised a Qualified Titled Event, an International Competition or a National Championship with accepted homologation by the relevant EAME Council.
- 2) Having had an athlete participate at a Qualified Titled Event.
- 3) Having had an official participate at a Qualified Titled Event.

The list of the Qualified Titled Events staying the same.

The change is carried, no abstentions.

Sid Adriaensen explains a sentence should be added in Art 4.1.- Descriptions - to avoid a possible wrong interpretation :

“Article 4.10.1. applies to those competitions as to the fees to be paid to EAME in accordance with Appendix-A to the Letter of Agreement and Obligations for Titled Events (split to EAME)”.

The change is carried, no abstentions.

4.5.2. - Cash Price competitions -

The amount of 2.000 € should be raised to 2.500 €, as was asked by the Wakeboard Cable Council, because some organisers deliberately keep the Cash Price just below 2.000 € now to avoid cash price fees.

The change is carried, no abstentions.

Cash prize fees: at the moment they are at 10%, with a minimum of 400 € and a maximum of 2.500 €. This means 10% of 2.500 € would result in the minimum of 400 € and the proposal is to drop this to the actual 10%.

The change is carried, no abstentions.

13. List of Obligations - as circulated

The proposal is to raise the entry fee of 135 €, an amount that has not been raised for several years, to 140 € to make the 50/50 split easier.

The change is carried, no abstentions.

The Admincom would like to have Racing in the same system, but this still needs to be discussed. Lluís Mussach believes the same system cannot be applied for Racing. It might mean collecting five times more, but the skiers or the Federation would have to pay for this. Alain Amade agrees this will have to be discussed, but since the next EAME Racing Championships occur only in 2008, we still have time for discussion.

14. Guidelines

Sid Adriaensen explains they have not been circulated because a document will be sent to everyone in May when it's finalised.

Des Burke-Kennedy asks if the Guidelines can be put on the website, which is confirmed.

15. Report from the IWSF

15.1 The President

Alan Goggin thinks it's a great advantage to have both the IWSF President and IWSF Secretary from EAME, and asks for an applause for Kuno Ritschard. Kuno Ritschard thinks we are in very special room today and he thanks the Italian Federation and CONI.

? No changes in the programme of the 2012 Olympic Games are foreseen by the International Olympic Committee, and the decision was made to keep the number of sports as it is, in spite of strong efforts made to raise this number. So it will be very difficult for new sports to enter. In the future two or three

sports could be added, so it's worth to keep fighting for waterskiing to be one of them.

- ? Last year a few publications were published, one of them being the anniversary brochure containing all that IWSF represents today. This brochure can be used for the next years, as there is nothing in there that will be out of date later on. Kuno Ritschard distributes the brochure himself to spare huge postal costs. Another brochure about the World Cup is aimed at possible sponsors and organisers. There are also CD's and flyers for promotional purposes that can be obtained from Kuno Ritschard.
- ? The World Congress will be held during the World Championships in Linz, on Thursday afternoon, the 30th of August 2007.
- ? The IWSF President then lists the World Championships that are planned for the future, and he confirms the Wakeboard World Championships 2007 will be held together with the World Cup in Qatar. The World U21 will be held in Chili at the beginning 2008 but will qualify for 2007. The same applies for the Junior Championships held in Peru in January 2009. Quite recently it was decided to hold the 2008 World University Water Ski Championships in China, Beijing at the end of the Olympic Games. The 2009 World Games will be held at the end of July in Kaujung, Taiwan, and the IWSF is still trying to get a good site.
- ? Kuno Ritschard congratulates the EAME President and the Italian President for succeeding in having Water Ski as a demonstration sport at the Mediterranean Games.
- ? He announces the World Cup preparations are going well. The intention is having five wakeboard and five water ski stops, and it's not easy to find organisers for this sort of events, but he's confident they'll be able to arrive at this number. In Dubna the World Cup is part of a city Festival, so there is no way they will change the date. Unfortunately this clashes with the protected date for the nationals. Several Federations are using this protected date and this poses problems for the IWSF. Kuno Ritschard is sorry if some athletes cannot be there, but these situations can always occur.
- ? Steve Sopp (GB) asks what will be done about the unfairness of these date clashes, even if promoting the World Cup is important too. He thinks it does matter if a World Champion cannot attend because of these problems. Kuno Ritschard replies he cannot change this situation and that he would be happy to forward any e-mails to the people responsible. Alain Amade would like to speak about this at point 17 on the Agenda this afternoon, when Jeremy Newby-Ricci is joining the Congress. He is concerned about the Ranking List problem where those who have the money to go to certain championships get a better chance to obtain a good ranking. Now the rule to be a part of the Masters has been changed and it seems EAME skiers are not so welcome there anymore, so he thinks this issue of inequality needs to be addressed. Steve Sopp thinks this problem is 2-3 years old and the answers they get don't show any real solutions. He believes our competitions are arranged very well and that we should put our trust in those that manage our sport here, as in a family, and would like to see that moved up to World level and that we should all work together. If the dates don't clash, there will be support from ALL skiers, and it does matter if a few skiers are missing, because one of them could be a World Champion. Alain Amade says we struggled a lot last year with Bob Corson regarding elite points because of the clash. The EAME Championships are probably the most important Cash Prize if you add all the expenses and the money the Federations give. The elite points should therefore go to the EAME championships.
- ? Alan Goggin thanks Kuno Ritschard for the work he does.

15.2 The Vice-President from EAME

- ? Franz Kuhn thanks the new EAME President and thinks he is doing a very good job. He enjoys their friendly relationship and mutual help.
- ? This year was the first year as IWSF Vice President for Franz Kuhn. There were some highlights, but also some things he wasn't happy about. He thinks there should be a better balance between sports and business.
- ? He says 400 hours of world wide television broadcasting is a fantastic result.
- ? There was one doping situation from RSA at the World Wakeboard Cable Championships. Nokia was sponsoring that championship: they were enthusiastic, but only wanted to sponsor for a limited period.
- ? He thanks Harry De Laat for arranging to hold the Cable Championships in Schloss Dankern (GER) instead of the Netherlands in a short six weeks time. There was television coverage and a lot of positive reports in the papers.
- ? In 2008 the Cable Wake World Championships will be held in the Philippines and it looks like we will have a good site there.
- ? Franz Kuhn feels it's always good to speak to friends everywhere.
- ? In 2007 there will be in Austria the World Championships, the World Congress and the IWSF Hall of Fame. This organisation is headed by a hard working Kurt Fenzl.
- ? Franz Kuhn will organise this year's World Congress with the help of Engelberta and Claudia Kuhn in the Mariott in the centre of Linz, which will be turned into a "waterski hotel" that week. The Hall of Fame will be held at a renovated castle that has the right feeling for our sport because you can look out on the water. He hopes a lot of people will come. The homepage is to be www.waterskiwm.com. For the teams there will be a very special price of 39 € including breakfast, for single or a double room, which is less than half of the normal price.
- ? Franz Kuhn thanks Kuno Ritschard for all his work and wonders how he handles the pressure of travelling all the time and asks to give him an applause.

No questions, applause.

Mr Petrucci, President of the Italian NOC, joins the Congress and is presented by the President of the Italian Federation. He says they are proud to host an outstanding event like this Congress, and congratulates all present.

Alain Amade thanks Mr Petrucci for his support to the Mediterranean Games, for supporting the dream of being a part of the Olympics, and for hosting this meeting. He presents him with pennants and a tie, and a commemoration plaque for 60 years of Water Skiing.

16. Calendar of Titled Events

Sid Adriaensen announces a few changes to the Calendar.

Norway and Denmark make their presentation for the 2009 EAME Championships. Denmark proposes Copenhagen as their location, where an excellent lake already hosted a successful 1996 European Championship (Vallensbaek Waterski Club), with hotels close to the site. Norway wants to host the 2009 Championships in Skarnes, at a new lake in the mid of August, one hour from Oslo and from the airport, and close to the centre of Skarnes. The lake is protected on every side with excellent views for all.

Des Burke-Kennedy would like to use both sites, each one at a different year. Stefan Rauchenwald agrees they are both good sites and that it will be a shame one of them won't make it.

The president of the Danish Federation adds that a special reason for their bid for 2009 is that the IOC has their major conference in Copenhagen that year.

Sid Adriaensen says the Voting Powers for Tournament will apply here, as it's a Tournament matter. He reads out the Voting Powers and the delegates give their vote.

Result: Denmark is chosen for the 2009 Championships venue.

Italy shows a presentation for the EAME U21 to be held in San Gervasio, Brescia at a lake made especially for water skiing. Des Burke-Kennedy points out that China also plans an indoor lake just like Italy and he hopes Europe will be first!

Alain Amade confirms that for 2008 the LOB was signed for U21 in Finland, Tampere, and a site inspection will be done in July by the Tournament Council. There has also been a bid for the 2008 EAME Wakeboard Boat Champs from France.

Louis Polome announces that South Africa is to make a bid for the 2007 EAME Wakeboard Champs in Jan-Feb 2008 in Johannesburg to get far away from any possible clashing dates, still applying 2007 rules. This site has all the facilities needed. Colin Hart comments he's happy to get this interest, but he feels both Qatar and South Africa in the same year is rather expensive.

17. Proposals by the Federations

17.1 EAME Nationals weekend clash with World Cup Dubna Event (GBR) and EAME Championships date clash with a Cash Prize event in the USA.

Steve Sopp explains the protected weekend of the EAME Nationals was on the Calendar for several months. Now the World Cup Stop has been put on the same weekend, so he would like to know what happened.

Alain Amade replies this was discussed at the Admincom and the general feeling is that this is an IWSF decision. In France, for example, the Nationals were moved to a week before so as not to clash, as it's easier for a Federation to change the blocked date for the nationals. Steve Sopp would have preferred if the blocked date would have been moved a lot earlier then. Gill Hill reacts that Steve is quite right, such a clash is a bad thing. By listing all the main events it should be possible to arrange this more efficiently. At the World Congress this issue should be raised, so that the other Regions see the EAME concern in this matter.

Steve Sopp agrees the year's calendar has to be planned a lot better. He thinks not giving elite points to any competitions put in at a later date would be the biggest sanction.

Jeremy Newby-Ricci comments that athletes don't want these conflicts either. They don't want to miss out on cash prizes or have disappointed organisers. This problem also occurred last year and it would be good to push onto some positive action.

Alain Amade thanks the Italian Fed for avoiding a clash this year, even if it was a last minute thing. As the dates for the 2008-2010 EAME Championships are already known it's easier for EAME to deal with IWSF and not move these dates. Alain Amade agrees this has to be discussed at IWSF World Congress, not here, and that it really is a concern of just four or five Federations. He asked Bob Corson to do something about this last year and he agreed that the EAME Championships should get more elite points.

Dimos Alexopoulos (GRE) remarks another clash has now been created: the EAME Championships and the EAME U21 will be held at the same date in 2008. The Tournament Council will contact the Finnish Federation about this.

John Wood asks about the 2009 Championships. He would prefer the World Games to be at fixed dates so a proper preparation is possible. Kuno Ritchard

says there are clear obligations for protecting the dates and he doesn't think this is the right place to discuss this matter.

Alain Amade thinks putting pressure on skiers by making them perform two weekends in a row will stimulate drug use.

Alan Goggin concludes everyone's points are noted but that nothing can be achieved here.

18. Budget 2007 (01/12/2006 – 30/11/2007)

Sid Adriaensen points out that the format in which the budget is presented, is slightly different this year from the previous years.

Last year there was a one time 10% reduction from the Subscription Fees, that will not be the case this year. Also, the World Voting Powers is an income we collect but that we have to pass on to the IWSF (about 16.000 € for 2006).

The amounts for the Homologation Fees and Licenses remain the same. There will be less income from Entry Fees because there will be less EAME Championships in this year of the two year cycle.

Sponsor money: the amount there is what will be received re. the Cableski brochure.

Money from third parties: this concerns the RSA development project and the Mediterranean Games development plan.

Expenditures: the office costs go down as there will only be e-mailings from 2007 on, which constitutes a huge saving.

A special cost for this year's Congress were the ties and scarves.

There is an increase in the budget for Environment as we'll have to get outside help from a lobbyist for this very important issue.

Des Burke-Kennedy (IRL) wonders where the 8.000 € for non office related administrative expenses like bookkeeping was situated in previous years. Sid Adriaensen supposes it was in the general office costs before and will check this.

Alain Amade comments re. the budget for Development that he is very concerned about the Environment. Aubrey Sheena and Henrik Kielland worked hard on this and Alain Amade had many meetings with people in Brussels and he now thinks professional people should handle this issue. He suggests starting with a student who can define the situation regarding water skiing. Some research in universities could also help to really get figures etc. He contacted the European Boat Association, who are also considering granting money.

Alain Amade contacted countries like Tunisia where there are good sites and a good infrastructure, and he thinks EAME should help them get started: that is were the Coaching Commission does a good job and where the IWSF helps with funds. The goal for the Mediterranean games 2013 is to have somebody from the developing countries on the podium, and hard work will have to be done to achieve this.

Aubrey Sheena knows EAME shares its advances in environmental matters with IWSF and wonders if the IWSF would consider funding the Environment's case. Alain Amade thinks this is a very good idea. Kuno Ritschard asks to come back to this later, as it's not his decision.

Carried – no abstentions.

19. Honorary Membership

Alan Goggin stresses that this is the highest award that can be given to a person in EAME. Alain Amade announces that there are two proposals.

Marie-Anne Persoons presents the first one, which is Louis Polome (RSA). She does this because Louis also has the Belgian nationality, along with the South African nationality. She tells about his enormous work for waterski, not only in South-Africa, but in the entire region there and even in all of the continent.

Alain Amade hands Louis Polome his certificate with a standing applause of the Congress. Louis Polome says he really enjoys helping others in the sport, even if it's not easy in his part of the world, and thanks everyone for this recognition.

Stefan Rauchenwald announces with great pleasure that the next proposal is for Franz Kuhn. He explains that Franz was a very good sportsman himself and became national champion. He can only ask him to please go on and stay with us, forget about the business, and wishes him all the best for the future.

Alain Amade hands Franz Kuhn his certificate with a standing applause of the Congress. Franz Kuhn says it's not a matter of age and he hopes he can continue for a long time, as he loves the skiers, and also the riders which are a new world for him.

20. Distribution of Certificates & Awards

20.1 Announcement of the Athlete of the year awards

Alain Amade explains that the procedure is that each Council proposes two names, and then the Admincom votes for one man and one woman.

This year's Athletes of the year are Clementine Lucine (FRA), a Tournament skier and record holder, and Heinrich Sam (RSA) from Barefoot.

A delegate from their countries is handed the certificate by Alain Amade.

20.2 By the divisional councils

Barefoot: Alain Legac announces the female skier of the year, Emilie Goldie (GBR) and the male skier of the year, Heinrich Sam (RSA). A Barefoot Woman of the Year certificate is presented to Alexandra Vigoureux (FRA) for her dedication and personality.

Cableski: female skier of the year is Joulia Meier-Gromyko (BLR) and the male skier of the year, who is also the overall champion at the World, is Andreas Pape (GER).

Disabled: female skier of the year: Gerda Pamler (GER); male skier of the year Giancarlo Cosio (ITA).

Racing: female skier of the year: Kim Lumley (GBR) and male skier of the year: Karl Brooks (GBR). A life time award is also presented to Dalton Spinola (GBR).

Tournament: the female skier of the year is Clementine Lucine (FRA) and the male skier of the year is Oleg Deviatovski (BLR). There are also record certificates for Clementine Lucine (FRA) for new World Records in Tricks and Overall.

Wakeboard Boat: certificates are handed out to the representatives of the Federations: 10 for Belgium, 2 for France, 2 for Switzerland. The female rider of the year is Denise de Haan (NED) and the male rider of the year is Andy Meyenberg (SUI).

Wakeboard Cable: female rider of the year: Maxine Sapulette (NED) and male rider of the year: Emile Tzolov (BUL).

For the 60th anniversary, the Admincom members, the Councils, the Honorary Members and the Federations' delegates are given a commemorative plaque by the Italian Water Ski Federation and a tie or scarf by Alain Amade.

Alan Goggin asks the Congress to thank the Italian Fed and closes the morning part of the Congress.

21. Future Congresses

21.1 January 26th 2008 - Belgrade, Serbia (presentation of bid)

Alain Amade explains the November Admincom meeting gives a yes or no to any bids for future Congresses, following certain recommendations, so all bids have to be run by the Admincom first.

Bruno Fekete presents the Serbian bid. He thanks the Croatian Federation for their co-operation. The proposed hotels are in the city centre or up to max. 3 km from the city centre.

The bid is accepted by a show of hands.

21.2 January 31st 2009 - Zagreb, Croatia (presentation of bid)

Varna Laco explains the hotel is a four star Sheraton, close to the city centre with all Congress facilities, located across from the Croatian Olympic Committee.

Special price: 92 € for double and 84 € for a single room.

The bid is accepted by a show of hands.

21.3 January 30th 2010 - Brussels, Belgium (intention to bid)

Marie-Anne Persoons announces Belgium would like to host the 2010 Congress in Brussels and that a more proper presentation will be made next year. Sid Adriaensen adds it will be the same hotel as for the 2007 EAME Wakeboard and Under-21 Championships.

Alan Goggin asks if any other Federation would like to make a bid – *none*.

The bid is accepted by a show of hands.

21.4 Later years

Greece makes an intention to bid for 2012.

22. Meeting dates for the year

Sid Adriaensen reads out the list of meeting dates.

23. A.O.B.

Alan Goggin asks if there are any other points of business - *none*.

A meeting for the Mediterranean countries will take place at 7 pm.

A meeting at 6 pm will be held for the Middle East development.

24. Closing of the Congress

Alan Goggin thanks the Italian Federation for arranging this beautiful room. He felt privileged to be Chairman and is happy they finished in time.

The EAME President, Alain Amade, thanks everyone, especially CONI and their technical staff, and the Italian Federation and their team, and Brit Horemans.

At 16.00h Alain Amade declares the Congress officially closed.

Attachment

? List of Countries present and their delegates;