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## 39<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WMRA CONGRESS – MINUTES

Chiang Mai – Thailand; Thursday, 3 November 2022

Called to order - 9:20AM

1. Opening of 39<sup>th</sup> WMRA Congress by the President - welcome by Tomo Sarf. Expression of welcome to Alessio Punzi (WA), and Kobkiat Sangwanich from the Local Organizing Committee (Tom)
2. Roll Call – in the time of the Congress, WMRA has 37 members; present to vote: 23 MF. Visitors from Indonesia and Mauritius.

	MF	present	delegate
1.	AND		Not present
2.	ARG		Not present
3.	AUS	1.	Aaron KNIGHT
4.	AUT	2.	Helmut SCHMUCK
5.	BEL	3.	Nierry DIRITRI
6.	CAN	4.	Adrian LAMBERT
7.	CZE	5.	Tomáš TAUBR
8.	DEN		Not present
9.	ESP	6.	Juan Manuel MOLINA MOROTE
10.	FRA	7.	Alain MARTRES
11.	GBR	8.	Angela MUDGE
12.	GER	9.	Meike BILLIG
13.	GRE		Not present
14.	HKG	10.	Paul HING
15.	HON		Not present
16.	HUN	11.	Eszter CSILLAG
17.	IRL	12.	Leo MAHON
18.	ITA	13.	Gianfranco LUCCHI

19.	IND	14.	Abu MEHTA
20.	JPN	15.	Ricka TORAH
21.	KEN		Not present
22.	LUX		Not present
23.	MLT		Not present
24.	MEX	16.	Pedro FLETES
25.	NED	17.	Jasper BOOT
26.	NZL	18.	John BOWDEN
27.	NOR		Not present
28.	POL		Not present
29.	POR	19.	Fernando FERNANDES
30.	ROU	20.	Valentina COROJA
31.	SLO		Not present (ST)
32.	SMR		Not present
33.	SUI	21.	Frederic DUMAS
34.	SVK	22.	Pavel KOVAC
35.	SWE		Not present
36.	UGA		Not present
37.	USA	23.	Richard BOLT

3. Minutes of 2021 Congress (MS Teams virtual e-meeting); there were no comments in 30 days. Motion to approve by AUT and second by GER - unanimous approval.
4. Appointment of three scrutinizers – Richard Bolt (USA), Abu Mehta (IND), Meike Billig (GER).
5. Report by WA - Alessio Punzi on behalf of WA thanked the WMRA Council for all their work over the year, noting their passion, energy, and drive, particularly regarding this first edition of the World Mountain and Trail Running Championships. He noted that the steering committee - IAU, ITRA, WMRA with the support of WA has worked well together. The hosting fee from the WMTRC will be used to support the range of activities from the various organizations - ITRA, WMRA, and IAU. The WMTRC is not yet an official WA championships, however AP confirmed that WA see much value in the event for commercial and promotional reasons. He noted that the anticipated success of the WMTRC21(22) and WMTRC23 will lend to further discussions on the events future within WA. Trail running and mountain running combined provide elevation for off-road disciplines.
6. Report by the Council - Sarf provided an overview of the past nine months since our last meeting in February which was a virtual meeting. Our last face-to-face Congress meeting was in 2019 followed by

two virtual Congress meetings. As well as introducing the new Council members to the Congress ST reported on a successful World Cup, for the first time ever with sponsorship from Valsir, for which TS formally recorded many thanks. Other points of note were successful U18 and Masters' competitions. ST noted he was happy to report that WMRA former secretary and longtime friend, Pierre Weiss, had a health scare this year and is well on the mend, however we have sadly lost two former council members - Andy Puchacz and Adrian Woods.

7. Report by the Treasurer and by the Auditors - report by treasurer Sarah Rowell of the 2022 budget. SR noted with funding support from WA now confirmed for alternate years aligned to the WMTRC it was important to create a surplus during those years to offset lower income in the other ones. All monies linked to the World Cup will be spent on delivery of the World Cup. Other funds are used in the general fund. We plan to have a net surplus this year and next year. Estimate the surplus in 2022 to be 25,000 euro.
8. Approval of the 2021 Audited accounts - Motion by Richard Bolt (USA) and a second Angela Mudge (GBR) - motion carries.
9. Appointment of the Auditor for 2022 accounts - David Dunham, Sandra Hegmann – both already confirmed for 2022 (see Congress minutes Feb. 2022)
10. Proposals by the Council
  - a) proposed changes to the WMRA Constitution put forward by the Council – The individual changes were read out one by one by the Secretary and voted on by the Congress, all proposed changes were approved (attachment 1)
  - b) An additional proposal to approve Wolfgang Muenzel as Honorary Council member for his many years of service to the WMRA as council member. Motion to approve by Meike Billig (GER) and second by Leo Mahon (IRL), unanimous approval.
11. 2022 Mountain Running competition program – summary

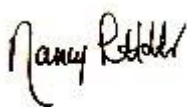
ST talked through the 2022 competition programme, which had been a great success:

  - 21<sup>st</sup> WMRA/WMA Masters World Championships: Clonmel / IRL, 2 – 4 Sept.2022
  - 15<sup>th</sup> WMRA U18 International Cup; Saluzzo / ITA, 26 June 2022
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> WMRA World Cup – 17 race and 14 different venues in 8 nations. Results were very interesting to follow. WMRA had a great sponsor in Valsir this year. Implemented travel support for runners, prize money, and media support.
  - Continental competitions - the European Championships were the most high-profile event and this year was the first combined mountain and trail running championships – the EA Off Road Running Championships.  
NACAC had not been held for two years.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> World Mountain and Trail Running Championships, Thailand, November 2022 - welcome Sarochinee Chanvanichborikarn from the LOC. Shared excitement of hosting the event.
12. ST reported on the 2023 Mountain Running competition program:
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> World Mountain and Trail Running Championships, Innsbruck/AUT – June 7-11 - representatives from Austria are here on site and there will be time while in Thailand to meet with the delegates to share information.
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> WMRA/WMA Masters World MR Championships – Madeira/POR; September 16-17 – for the first time the Championships will include classic and long distances. Delegate Marcel Matanin will go in the end of November to check the courses etc. A representative from Madeira is also here in Thailand – Policarpo Gouveia, president of the Madeira Athletic Federation.
  - 16<sup>th</sup> WMRA U18 International MR Cup – Annecy/FRA – May 27-28. This is not our traditional date; the LOC wants to pair the event with the traditional Maxi Race. TS visited the venue and expects a great event. Delegate to be named. Webpage basic information is available now.

- World Cup 2023 - Jonathan Wyatt has been appointed World Cup manager. The World Cup rules and regulations were just announced. The prize money is slightly increased as level of 2022, and increased travel stipend to athletes, increased anti-doping budget. April/May will be very busy with nations organizing selection races and anticipated that the first WCup race would be at the end of June/beginning of July. Just after the Congress it was confirmed that Valsir will continue as headline sponsor for the World Cup in 2023.
13. 2024 Mountain Running competition program
    - 23<sup>rd</sup> WMRA/WMA Masters World MR Championships – interest from Spain two candidates - Canfranc, Grand Canaria. Canfranc was confirmed by the Spanish federation on a day after the Congress (date: Sept 7-8)
    - 17<sup>th</sup> WMRA U18 International MR Cup – TBD (no candidates to date); member federations are invited to contact WMRA
    - Continental competitions – Annecy/FRA will host the European off-road running championships.
  14. World Ranking - report - introduced a few years ago. More than 150 races are included. Rules for scoring located on the website. Welcome comments from delegates.
  15. Relationships among mountain running, ultra-distance and trail - a very popular item some years ago. Now with the partnership that has developed, the relations are much better. It would be good to join together in off-road running.
  16. WMRA promotion tools: Ally Beavan is the media manager. Updates are regular on the web site, social networks; e-Newsletter sent about 6 times per year. Our members are national federations, but our associate members are races and can join the WMRA family. There is a form on our website for any races wishing to join.
  17. Athletes Commission - an elected body which enables athletes to have a direct voice to the Council and vice versa. Sarah Rowell was the liaison for a few years and John Bowden will take on the role as liaison. There will be elections in Innsbruck, with further details as to how to apply to be published by WMRA soon. Take note - an athlete must have represented their federation in mountain running in the recent past.
  18. GBR requested that any nations wishing to support a formal proposal to the Council regarding increasing the age limit for the World Masters Championships to beyond the current limit of 79 to get in touch with them (Angela Mudge). TS relayed that an informal request was sent to the WMRA a year ago by IRL mountain runners and was discussed with WMA and refused (minutes of the Congress Feb 2022, item 12).
  19. Date and venue of the 2023 Congress – Thursday June 8, 2023 – Innsbruck/AUT.

Adjourned at 10:30AM

WMRA secretary  
Nancy Hobbs



WMRA president  
Tomo ŠARF



Attachment: Updated Constitution