

## General Assembly 2023

# Presidents Report

## European Championships

With the European Championships being held in 2023 (Open/Juniors in Tallinn and Masters in Szarvas) this year was again very busy for our organization in general and especially for all of us, who were directly involved in the preparations before and the execution at the two event sites.

The most important, most complicated and most time consuming task preliminary to the actual events is the distribution of spots. National spots, individual spots, substitute players all need to be assigned, the Team Captains contacted and informed and all changes have to be tracked. This process starts many months before the first tee off and is extremely critical, because failures made would cause serious troubles on all levels.

Thanks to the excellent work of Richard, all this went well and when the events started all players that had earned their spots could start the ECs. Besides his work before the events, he also did immense valuable work at the ECs directly.

During the event Paul Francz and myself were on the ground in Tallinn from day one to the finals and Tapani was in Szarvas for even more time. This presence on the events showed to be extremely important and valuable. For all of us, who in addition to this were, worked as Team Captains for our respective teams, this was strenuous but also rewarding.

The events themselves went exceptionally well. Szarvas, held in a beautiful arboretum, brought top players in the 40+ divisions showing top disc golf. Tallinn, held in the almost „holy" Tallinn song festival grounds, brought excellent sport and in addition lifted the European Disc Golf Championships on a completely new organizational level. The president of Estonia attended the final round and consigned the trophy. It can't get better.

That some of the best players in Europe are from Estonia and of course that the best and most popular female player in our sport Kristin was the absolute favorite was a combination that allowed the Estonian organizers to made a statement on how such a event can be organized and that they are one their way to the absolute elite class of Disc Golf Events in the World.

Paul as the designated representative of the EDGF and I were on the ground for the whole week in Tallinn- and believe me those were very busy days for all of us. The same holds true for Tapani in Szarvas.

Besides a lot of organizational work with the local organizers, there were actual problems on different levels to solve, talks with everyone from individual players, over team captains, representatives from NDGAs and to all kinds of stakeholders in our sport.

The balance of this EC for our organization is absolutely clear: It's extreme hard work for our small organization on all levels. With the realistic hope that our sport is growing and our top events are growing too, it's obvious that we need more resources to cope with this growth.

We must find ways for the EDGF to grow with this and to keep up with those in our sport who go more professional and keep us on the forefront of this development. This extends to our financial and our personal situation.

### **General work**

Besides the dominating ECs there were a lot of other topics that the Board took care of over this year. The Board met regularly at least once a month for the regular meetings. The minutes of those meetings got published on our homepage for everybody to follow our activities.

Topics discussed were among others: The actions of the PDGA and the PDGA Europe, e.g. in context with the scheduling of PDGA Major events in Europe, the role of PDGA Europe during the season and with the prospectus of the upcoming year. The overall relationships with both of those associations. Possible collaborations e.g. in a kind of virtual European Master event.

Especially over the last months there were bigger changes on the side of the PDGAE on the personal and structural level and we are in first contact with the persons in charge (esp. Zoe Woodward, Christer Christianson from the board and Joust Nieminen and Callisto Garcia from the staff).

With two Finnish members of the Board - Laura, Tapani) we are in the good position that there is always a chance for more private, unofficial communications on short notice.

We are optimistic that with the new free resources on the financial and personal side the PDGAE will develop new strategies and hopefully this will lead to a closer cooperation between them and us.

### **Liaison with the EFDF/WFDF**

With me being part of the Board of the EFDF the flow of information is very good. The Board of the EFDF is highly motivated, led very professionally by Haude Herman and works very effectively.

Together with this Board we tried for the bigger part of 2023 to get in contact with the WFDF, especially those parts who are interested and in charge of Disc Golf. Two scheduled meetings

to start the discussion about the role of the EDGF within the WFDF-framework got canceled on very short notice. Actually we are about to schedule the third meeting.

The position of our organization is clear. We see ourselves as the disc golf representatives of our 29 member countries within the WFDF. We would like to play a bigger role not only in the organization of the individual European Championships but also in the organization of all European Disc Golf events. Within the framework of the WFDF and the EFDF we think the EDGF is exactly the organization for these tasks.

With the support of the EFDF we hope to find common ground with the WFDF in the upcoming year about this topic. We also hope to get the necessary recognition and hopefully the support by the WFDF that is coupled to these tasks. We are optimistic to be on the right track and are looking forward to the upcoming talks.

Outlook 2024 ff

2024 is supposed to be an off year when it comes to the ECs. Nevertheless the preparations for these upcoming events will be one of our main tasks. The deadline for the sending in of the bidding docs for the ECs 2025 is the 20th of December.

Asap the committee in charge of evaluating those docs will start his work and we are trying to get to the final decisions about who and where the ECs 2025 will be held can be made and published in January.

When the decision is made, the whole process of working with the local organizers and the communication with the members about the players who will be able to take part will start.

As already mentioned, we will try to establish the role of the EDGF together with the WFDF. We also want to strengthen or newly establish a solid basis for cooperation or collaboration with the PDGA and the PDGA Europe. Especially the scheduling of the biggest events in our sport are one point where more coordination is obviously needed. Within our own organization we hope that we find at least some more people who are motivated to support our work and strengthen our organization. We are sure that the future role of the EDGF can be and has to be bigger - we are also sure that this will only be manageable with more manpower and with a broader financial basis.

## **Conclusion**

To make a long story short: 2023 was a busy and successful year and we are optimistic that 2024 will be another year of growth for the EDGF. With the help of our member countries and individual disc golf enthusiasts we will be able to get better.