

CPISTRA
**2021 GENERAL
ASSEMBLY**
11TH JANUARY - 8TH FEBRUARY

Minutes of 31st General Assembly

Held online between 11th January and 8th February 2021

Welcome & Opening

- Welcome

Roll call of Members

Craig Carscadden CPISTRA President, formally welcomed the delegates to the GA by email on 11th January.

Delegates

Australia

Murray Elbourn, Richard Keith

Austria

Bettina Mössenböck, Bernhard Schalk

Brazil

Artus Cruz Gomes, Leonardo Josgrilberg

Canada

Peter Leyser, Jennifer Larson

Chinese Taipei

Jocy Chai, Katherine Chiu

Czech Republic

Ondrej Sejпка

Denmark

John Peterson, Tine Teilmann

Egypt

Ahmed Mohamed Ali Adam, Mohamed Desouky Abdelaaty Sabiha

England

Adi Fawcett

Finland

Rikka Juntunen

France

Mai-Ang NGO

Iran

Dr Yahya Sokhanguei

Korea

Jae Jin Park, Yesuel Lee

Lithuania

Anatolijus Cupkovas, Ausra Kriskoviciene

Mexico

Liliana Suarez Carreon, Emanuel Franco Garibay Gomez

Morocco

Hamid El Aouni, Ibtissame Moulahhine

Netherlands

Raymon Blondel, Frank Slooten

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Members • Observers • Executive Committee 	<p><u>Poland</u> Lukasz Szeliga</p> <p><u>Portugal</u> Maria Helena Bastos, Ana Barradas</p> <p><u>Russia</u> Ivan Potekhin, Izolda Chkoniya</p> <p><u>Scotland</u> Gavin Macleod</p> <p><u>Singapore</u> Dr Teo-Koh Sock Miang, Yip Pin Xiu</p> <p><u>Spain</u> Julian Rebollo, Antonio Ranchal</p> <p><u>Sweden</u> Vicki Skure Ericsson, Thomas Wilhelm</p> <p><u>India</u> Rajesh Tomar, Kavita Suresh</p> <p><u>Malta</u> Marco Tomasini, Anita Pariani</p> <p><u>Kuwait</u> Shareefah Alghanian, Mohammed Talaat</p> <p>Craig Carscadden Interim President Brett Copper Secretary General Lauren Milstead Development Manager Claire Buckle Development Manager</p>
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Adoption of Agenda	
	<p>The agenda was circulated to members on 11th January. No amendments were proposed, and on that basis the agenda was adopted.</p>

Appointment of Scrutineer	
	<p>CPIIRA proposed Harry Cootes and Charmaine Hooper as scrutineers. Voting took place online between 12th and 14th January. The membership was informed of the result of this vote by email on 15th January, and Harry Cootes and Charmaine Hooper were duly appointed.</p>

Adoption of 30th General Assembly Minutes, Sant Cugat, Spain, 2018

The minutes of the 30th General Assembly were available for review on the GA website page from 11th January. A vote took place between 25th and 29th January. The result was announced on 1st February and the minutes were formally adopted.

Operational Reports

- **Biennial Report**
Craig Carscadden Interim President prepared a biennial President's Report. This report along with an accompanying video was made available to delegates on the GA webpage from 11th January. A vote to accept this report took place between 25th and 29th January. The result was announced on 1st February.

As a result, the report was **formally accepted**.
- **Finance Report**
The audited accounts for the years ending 31st December 2018, and 2019, along with the accompanying report and video were presented to the delegates via the GA webpage on 11th January. A vote to accept these took place between 25th and 29th January. The result was announced on 1st February.

As a result, the accounts were **formally accepted**.

Budgets for the years ending 31st December 2021, and 2022, along with the accompanying report and video were presented to the delegates via the GA webpage on 11th January. A vote to accept these took place between 25th and 29th January. The result was announced on 1st February.

As a result, the budgets were **formally accepted**.

In addition, unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 were also presented to delegates.

These accounts were not the subject of a vote
- **RaceRunning**
A report prepared by Mansoor Siddiqi, Chair of the CPISRA RaceRunning Committee on the work of this committee over the last 2 years. This was made available to members via the GA webpage.

This report was not the subject of a vote
- **Recreation**
A recreational report was prepared by Dr Julie McElroy and presented to the delegates via the GA webpage.

This report was not the subject of a vote

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan 	<p>A strategic plan was presented to the delegates on 11th January via the GA webpage.</p> <p>This report was not the subject of a vote</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A Session 	<p>A series of Question-and-Answer sessions took place on 22 January. A summary of these Q&A sessions can be found at appendix A of these minutes. Any question relating to the above reports are contained within that summary.</p>

Termination of Members	
	<p>During a vote that took place between 25th and 29th January, the following organisation's membership was terminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebral Palsy Sports Association of India.

Ratification of New Members	
	<p>During a vote that took place between 25th and 29th January, the following organisation's memberships were ratified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport for All Malta. • Cerebral Palsy Sports Federation of India.

New Constitution	
	<p>The new constitution was circulated to members on 7th September 2020, and was again made available for download from the GA webpage from 11th January 2021. Any questions arising from the new constitution can be found at appendix 1.</p> <p>Delegates had the opportunity to vote on the new constitution between 1st -5th February. As a result of this vote the new Constitution was ratified.</p>

Motions	
	<p>Motion Submitted by CPISRA Executive Committee</p> <p>Over recent months, Cerebral Palsy International Sport and Recreation Association (CPISRA) and International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports Federation (IWAS) have, using due process, been in joint exploratory discussions to evaluate the case for bringing the two organisations together and the linked benefits that might be derived from this.</p> <p>The Executive Committee of CPISRA seeks the support and approval of members to continue these discussions with a view that each Board will, should the outcome support a merger proposition, revert to their</p>

respective members at duly convened meetings with firm proposals.

The provisional roadmap for proposal to the membership is outlined in the attached PDF document, should the outcome support a merger proposition

Rationale behind motion:

CPISTRA and IWAS contribute to an annual calendar of events through their individual games, recreation and related programmes. It is our joint belief that our client groups having a single organising body for these events will be both cost effective for the organisations, benefitting both members and supported target populations, and make logistical sense offering a wider platform for competition and events, whilst maintaining specific focus on individual disability groups to ensure consistent and sustained delivery and provision. Members representing multi disability groups would more readily and easily be able to send all participants to single events.

CPISTRA has a strong culture of research, an area not currently actively delivered by IWAS. Our research ambitions, together with IWAS' past experience in this area, should benefit from the regularity of the current IWAS competition programme, including a rebranded World Games.

CPISTRA places great emphasis on the recreation side of sport. The amalgamated organisation would work to bring our client groups together at recreational as well as competitive events.

Many of our CPISTRA members are also members of IWAS – a combined organisation would optimise stakeholder engagement and communication as well as potentially offering reduced running costs and freeing up delivery resources.

Aside from savings and other economies of scale associated with any merger, the main focus of our evaluation and the basis of our future proposal will be to create a new organisation that is fit for purpose in a challenging 21st century world, delivers more for less, increases client representation and has a deeper and wider reach with key stakeholders, including the International Paralympic Committee. It will be based and focused on the ethos that the sum of the whole must be greater than that of the current constituent parts

Voting on this motion took place between 1st -5thFebruary, and the results announced on 8th February 2021.

Result. The motion was approved

Voting	
	Voting for the following board positions was conducted between 1st -5th February, and the results announced on 8th February 2021.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President 	No nominations were received for the position of President, therefore as previously indicated, CEO Craig Carscadden who has been Interim President will remain as President, and lead the organisation through

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President 	the IWAS negotiations. One nomination was received , Julian Rebollo (ESP) Result of Vote: Julian Rebollo was elected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary General 	One nomination was received, Brett Cooper (ENG) Result of Vote: Brett Cooper was elected
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer 	No nominations were received for this post and this position remains open.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members at Large 	Three nominations were received for 2 position. The nominations were Dr. Yahya Sokhangouei (IRN), Harry Jan Keiser (NED), and Cathie Sherrington (AUS) Result of Vote: Harry Jan Keiser and Cathie Sherrington were elected

Other Relevant Business	
	There was no other relevant business received from the members.

Close	
	The meeting was closed by Craig Carscadden CPISRA CEO and President, emailing his closing remarks to delegates on 8 th February, and making available to members a closing address video on the GA webpage on the same date.

Appendix 1

Summary of Member Q&A Sessions *Held via Zoom on 22nd January*

Pre-submitted Questions

Governance

Question

The new constitution makes CPISRA a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). Will that affect the possibilities for CPISRA to apply for Erasmus funding in the future, as Scotland/UK no longer is a member of the European Union?

Answer

CPISRA is already registered with the Scottish Charities Commission as an unincorporated association and has been for several years. As a consequence, the ability of CPISRA to apply for Erasmus funding in the future will be impacted by the UK leaving the EU whether the new constitution is adopted or not.

CPISRA has been the beneficiary of Erasmus funding in the past which was very welcome. CPISRA have looked at potential ways of how we could continue to apply for this funding stream including creating a CPISRA (Europe). However, the challenges of pursuing such options outweighed the benefits Erasmus funding would bring.

Question

Can CPISRA confirm what constitution the voting at the GA will be conducted under?

Answer

Voting will be conducted under the current constitution up to the point where Members vote for the new constitution. If the new constitution is ratified, the voting will then take place under the new constitution. If the new constitution is rejected, only the positions of Vice President and Secretary General will be ratified.

Question

Why is there no vote for President?

Answer

No nominations were received for President. As the organisation needs a President, Craig Carscadden (CPISRA CEO) who has been acting in the capacity of Interim President, will be appointed President.

As the GA is now in session and the point has been raised, the CPISRA President would consider and welcome a motion regarding confirmation of his appointment. As required by the current constitution, this motion must be upheld by at least 3 national members.

Potential Merger with IWAS

Question

Today, the membership fee for CPISRA is 800 GBP. For IWAS there is a range of membership fees from 500-1500 GBP. Will countries be willing to pay the same amount of membership fees if two organisations merge into one?

Answer

The membership fee of the new organisation has not been set, but we will not be expecting members to pay the equivalent of the combined current CPISRA and IWAS subscriptions.

Many of CPISRA's members are also IWAS members, therefore under the new organisation many members are likely to save money on membership subscriptions.

CPISRA and IWAS appreciate that initially the income generated by the new organisation will be less than the combined membership of the independent organisation. The hope is that the new organisation will attract new National Members.

Question

If the two organisations merge (which could be positive when organizing larger competitions and world games) what are the guarantees that athletes with CP will not be outnumbered by athletes with other disabilities? For example, less track and field events for CPs in order to squeeze in all types of disabilities such as amputees, T54s etc?

Answer

IWAS's experience of providing international competitions on an annual basis will increase the competition opportunities for CP Athletes. The prospect of larger numbers competing, and the economies of scale that it would bring would make it a more attractive prospect for any potential host country.

The track and field schedule for either an IWAS or CPISRA games are relatively light in comparison to WPA World or Regional Championships, and I would be confident that all viable CP events could be accommodated on any combined programme.

Question

How will we ensure that the proposed merged organization will still have development of sports opportunities for CP athletes as it's core mission?

There is a genuine concern about loss of identity, the new bigger organization could lose focus on CP athletes in the long run?

Answer

As someone born with CP, I understand the importance of maintaining the CP identity, and developing sporting opportunities for those with CP within the new organisation. How we address this question will be fundamental to the agreement that will be discussed with IWAS.

As we enter into these negotiations, it is also important that we maintain a strong board, and I believe that the elections taking place during this General Assembly will deliver this.

Question

How will the new organization be represented at IPC General Assembly? Currently both CPISRA and IWAS are members of IPC with the right to one vote each at the IPC GA. Will the new organization have 2 votes, as it represents 2 organizations, or just 1 vote?

Answer

As founding members of the IPC, both IWAS and CPISRA have a vote at the IPC General Assembly, and during the ongoing IPC governance review both organisations have successfully campaigned to retain this vote for IOSDs. If a merger does take place, the new organisation can only expect to have one vote. CPISRA and IWAS agree that the benefits of the merger make this change worthwhile.

Question

Will the current members of CPISRA be automatically also members of the new organization, or will members have to apply for the membership?

Answer

I refer you to the roadmap produced by IWAS and CPISRA under the section 'Membership Structure':

"All Full Members of IWAS and Members of CPISRA will all have the same rights within the new Organisation. The rights of these Members will be protected by the new constitution. However, if a

founding Member ceases to exist or resigns, their Membership is non-transferrable to another organisation. A new organisation will have to apply in their own right. Secondary and Developing IWAS Members will remain in Membership as per their rights that are in place at the time of the merge”

Development

Question

Can we have an update on the next CPISRA World Games?

Answer

The bid process for the next World Games has been significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. One country remains in the bid process and a site visit should have taken place in late spring or early summer of 2020, but because of the pandemic this could not happen. CPISRA now hope to hold the site visit in May-June 2021 and make an announcement in August 2021. As a result of the delays in holding the site visits and the general shifting back of the sports calendar, the next CPISRA World Games will take place in 2023.

Also, as part of the ongoing discussions with IWAS, CPISRA hope that an agreement can be reached for CP athletes to compete at the IWAS World Games in 2021 and 2022.

Question

In terms of the 2021-2023 Strategic Plan, where will CPISRA’s main focus be?

Answer

The CPISRA strategic plan outlines 6 priorities for the organisation, and we will be focused on these going forward. However, the number one priority must be to regain the momentum we lost as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially around competition development, recreational activity, and the physical activity conference.

Question

What is CPISRA’s view on potentially setting up an African Sports Federation for Cerebral Palsy?

Answer

CPISRA would support the setting up of such an organisation to support the development of CP athletes in Africa. However, this would have to be done in consultation with existing stakeholders

in the region, including the African Paralympic Committee. Any such organisation created must have clear aims and objectives, proper governance and be self-financing.

Question

Why are the CPISRA tournaments not qualified for the Paralympics?

Answer

CPISRA is not the Governing Body for any sports, so we have no direct competition pathway to the Paralympics.

At the 2018 World Games the athletics and swimming events were sanctioned by World Para Athletics, and World Para Swimming, respectively. This meant that the results achieved by any athlete who was licenced with either organisation would then appear on the world rankings. This would then allow an athlete to be potentially selected, if they met the necessary standard of their respective country.

Question

What are CPISRA's plans to increase the number of tournaments organised at the international and continental levels?

Answer

It is CPISRA's desire to develop a portfolio of events that together provide a broad spectrum of opportunity across sports (IPC and non IPC), classes, disciplines, and geographies. Since the last General Assembly, the first development games were held in Portugal, and later this year we hope to announce another similar event that will take place in spring 2022. This event will again be in Europe and we appreciate that we need to do more in other regions. CPISRA cannot do this alone, and we need to work with our members and other stakeholders to make this happen. In the next couple of months CPISRA will be seeking expression of interests to host development games in all regions.

Question

There is a very reduced number of African Countries which are members of the CPISRA Organisation, what is the action plan which will be used to encourage African Countries to be members of the CPISRA Organisation? And how it will help to develop Sports adapted by CPISRA in Africa?

Answer

CPISRA is aware that our membership footprint in Africa is not very extensive, and we would like to work with our members in the continent to improve this. In the early part of 2020, we were in discussions with some of our members in Africa about holding a regional development games. These discussions were curtailed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, but as the world emerges out of this pandemic we would like to return to these discussions.

The Agitos funded CP Awareness Project that CPISRA is currently delivering in Africa will undoubtedly raise the awareness of CP sports in the region, and the profile of CPISRA, which in turn may increase the desire for potential members to join.

Question

Will CPISRA be adopting the name Frame Running for the event currently known as RaceRunning?

Answer

CPISRA will follow the lead of World Para Athletics when it comes to renaming RaceRunning. The new name is likely to be Frame Running, but this will not be finalised until the consultations process is completed for both the Paris 2024 Schedule, and the new classification system. This is likely to be towards the end of February.

Supplementary Questions from Session 1

Question

Further questions were raised about what constitution the General Assembly would be conducted under.

Answer

The General Assembly will be conducted under the current constitution up to the point where Members vote for the new constitution. If the new constitution is ratified, the voting will then take place under the new constitution. If the new constitution is rejected, only the positions of Vice President and Secretary General will be ratified.

Question

Further questions were raised on the election of a new President.

Answers

No nominations were received for President. As the organisation needs a President, Craig Carscadden (CPISRA CEO) who has been acting in the capacity of Interim President, will be appointed President.

As the GA is now in session and the point has been raised, the CPISRA President would consider and welcome a motion regarding confirmation of his appointment. As required by the current constitution, this motion must be upheld by at least 3 national members

Additional Questions

There were no additional questions

Supplementary Question from Session 2

Question

Would CPISRA prefer a vote to take place to confirm Craig Carscadden as President or not.

Answer

As stated previously. As the GA is now in session and the point has been raised, the CPISRA President would consider and welcome a motion regarding confirmation of his appointment. As required by the current constitution, this motion must be upheld by at least 3 national members.

Question

CPISRA currently has members from 2 of the UKs' home nations whereas IWAS has a UK member. How will this be dealt with within the new organisation.

Answer

Again CPISRA would refer you to the previous question on membership and the roadmap produced by IWAS and CPISRA under the section 'Membership Structure':

"All Full Members of IWAS and Members of CPISRA will all have the same rights within the new Organisation. The rights of these Members will be protected by the new constitution. However, if a founding Member ceases to exist or resigns, their Membership is non-transferrable to another organisation. A new organisation will have to apply in their own right. Secondary and Developing IWAS Members will remain in Membership as per their rights that are in place at the time of the merge"

New Questions

Question

Can CPISRA confirm the time frame for the potential merger with IWAS?

Answer

CPISRA would refer the members to the roadmap previously circulated by CPISRA and IWAS. This indicates that if the merger discussion goes to plan the earliest the new organisation could be formed is 1st January 2023.

Question

If the potential merger does take place take based on the Road map will the 2023 World Games be organised by CPISRA or the new organisation

Answer

It is too early to say whether the 2023 World Games will be the last CPISRA Games or the first to be run by the new organisation. There are too many variables at this stage including how quickly the world emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic.

It will form part of CPISRA's negotiating that any contracts signed by either CPISRA or IWAS prior to the merger must be honoured.

Q&A Session 3

There were no supplementary or additional questions from this session.