

ICF Board of Directors, Cape Town, South Africa,
9 – 12 December 2015

Name: **Jorn CRONBERG**

ICF Position: **Chair Canoe Marathon Committee**

1. Visits and Meetings since last Board Meeting

- Committee meeting in Győr/Hungary on 14 September 2015
- Inspecting venue in Pontevedra, Spain
- Working meeting in Brandenburg during the World Cup August 2015
- Inspecting the preparations for the World Cup 2017 in Shaoxing, China
- Inspecting venues in Oslo, Norway

2. Tasks undertaken for this period

- Preparations for the 2015 World Cup in Brandenburg, Germany.
- Preparations for the 2015 World Championships in Győr, Hungary.
- Collaboration with ECA for the preparations and running of the 2015 European Championships in Bohinj, Slovenia.
- Communicating with ICF event organisers on their preparations.
- Communicating with bidding federations concerning the technical aspects of their bid.
- Doing studies and making analyses concerning the competition program and rules for World Cup, World Championships and the Classic Series.
- Making a presentation document concerning Canoe Marathon as an Olympic discipline as requested by the ICF Commission.
- Making a program for Canoe Marathon in the 2017 World Games.
- Working on the improvement of Sports Presentation including the function of the Time Track system.
- Working on producing a promotional video for Canoe Marathon.
- Made status on the CAM Strategic Operation Plan.

For further details I refer to the minutes of our recent committee meeting in Győr, Hungary.

3. Issues and Main Points of Report

A. THE CAM STRATEGIC OPERATION PLAN

The committee is working in line with the **Strategic Operation Plan**. Status of the plan was discussed and for the main issues the following was agreed:

DEVELOPMENT OF CAM COMPETITIONS

Quality of events

The new **competition time schedule** used in the 2015 World Championships is considered to be the best possible for a three day programme, and for 2016 the three day time schedule will continue unchanged.

A four day time schedule will be considered to try and improve the overall presentation and general arrangements. A proposal for a time schedule will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

The committee has discussed the issue on **boats that have been lapped** and has come to the conclusion that more thought needs to be given to this. It will be added to the next meeting agenda and possibly raised as a discussion item at the next World Championships team leaders meeting.

Sports Presentation is an important focus point. We have gained important experience during the events in 2015, but also seen that there are improvements that can be made with the current knowledge advance communication with the TV company will enable without further cost and give even greater flexibility.

The use of **Time Track** is an important part, and we are working hard to improve the use of the view lap system including updated the system for flexibility.

View lap shall be used at the 2016 World Championships in Brandenburg/GER, the 2016 European Championships in Pontevedra/ESP, if possible at the 2016 World Cup in Vila Verde/POR (2018 World Championships organizer).

To support improvements a manual for CAM has been drafted for use when defining requirements for event organisers, and check lists for producers/organisers shall be created including a time schedule.

The **CAM Competition Operational Requirements Document** which is continuously being improved is an important key tool in our collaboration with organisers.

Help develop Continental Championships

The committee has asked the Continental Associations in Asia, Oceania and America to appoint persons who could have an **advisory function** concerning the development of Canoe Marathon in their continent. This group of persons will be kept informed of the work of the committee and will be invited to take part in discussions related this development area.

So far we have had positive replies from Asia and Oceania.

Develop the Classic Series

The intention to introduce the Classic Series was that we believe it is an important offer to those of our paddlers who prefer the traditional Canoe Marathon racing different to the lap course style we are using for World Cup and World Championships.

- We have experienced that organisers are not seriously promoting their events, but unfortunately our appeal to them to improve this has not been successful.
- Adjustments like making results from the series count into the World Ranking was hoped to increase the interest for the series, but we have not been able to make any conclusion yet.
- The same applies with our intention to have continuous and immediate updating of the ranking table on the ICF website as another important step for increasing the interest due to the lack of fast reporting of results from organisers.

The conclusion is that we have not yet been able to break the code for how we can make the series work in a satisfactory way, but we have not given up the hope and will continue our search for the answers.

B. THE 2015 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was very exciting to realize that **42 countries from all 5 continents** in the World Championships had entered for the World Championships competitions, and even if a few countries pulled out in the last minute the attendance is great.

We had nearly 400 entered for Masters and Para Canoe, more than 500 team members in the World Championships which is a new participation record, of which we are very proud.

The Hungarian organisers had created a fantastic venue on the bank of river in the centre of the highly sport friendly town of Győr close to Budapest and Vienna in the centre of Europe. Big crowds of spectators followed the races along the river bank and from the grand stand at the start, finish and portage area. Hungarian television transmitted live using 16 cameras along the course, and live streaming made it possible for our followers all over the world to follow the exciting competitions.

And exciting it was with fantastic fights all along the course, incredible performances in the portages and with many amazing sprint finishes. You would not have believed that these paddlers had been fighting with each other for hours and then being able to also sprint.

What we witnessed in several classes was the very highest level of competition.

C. CANOE MARATHON AND THE OLYMPIC PROGRAM

The committee has been requested by the Olympic Program Commission set up by the Board to make a presentation of how we see Canoe Marathon could possibly be part of the Olympic Program for canoeing taking into account gender equality, diversity, universality and sustainable competition format.

The committee has made a report as you will see enclosed in which we have described how we suggest meeting the parameters.

D. CANOE MARATHON IN THE 2017 WORLD GAMES

With the help of our President an opening for Canoe Marathon to somehow be part of the 2017 World Games in Poland had appeared.

The very positive help from the Polish Canoe Federation and their President made a technical visit and meetings with local authorities promising for a positive outcome, however at this stage the situation is not finally clarified.

We have suggested the same program which we presented for the Olympic Program as you will see from the enclosed World Games presentation.

E. RESIGNATION OF A COMMITTEE MEMBER

Adriana Gnocchi from Italy has decided to resign from the committee. She had not attended any committee activity – meetings or competitions – since 2013, and recently informed me that due to her job commitments she could not also commit herself to the work of the committee.

4. Future Initiatives and Tasks

Our future initiatives and tasks are defined in the **Strategic Operation Plan** and status of it according to the report presented above:

- Development of committee operations
- Development of Canoe Marathon competitions
- Development ITO conditions and performance

In trying to achieve this we are working close with competition organisers, technical officials and team leaders.

The committee has been working on having a **promotional video about Canoe Marathon** produced.

This work is still ongoing when this report is being written, but may be ready for the Board meeting.

5. Items for Resolution by Board of Directors

- Recommend that the Board approve and support the report and initiatives presented.
- Due to the resignation of Adriana Gnocchi from the committee I wish to present a candidate to replace her. **The candidate is Jose Carlos Sousa from Portugal.** The nomination by his National Federation and his CV is enclosed. I recommend that the Board approve the candidate as new member of the committee.