

*These Minutes are from the 2022 WWR General Assembly (GA). The GA was held on 26 November 2022. Due to WWR By-laws, the GA was adjourned at 22:45 UTC and reconvened at 18:00 UTC on 17 January 2023. The WWR GA Agenda was unchanged.*

Date:	26 November 2022; 19:00 – 22:45 UTC (meeting - adjourned) 17 January 2023; 18:00 – 19:20 (reconvened meeting)
Subject:	Minutes of the 2022 General Assembly
WWR Board Directors:	Richard Allcroft [President] (RA), <i>Chair of the 2022 GA</i> Ken Sowden [Vice President] (KS), Jens Sauerbier (JS), Athlete Representative Gail Hamamoto (GH), Member at large Steve Loader (SL), Member at large Martin Richard (MR), Member at large Seong Sin Han (SSH), Independent Appointed Director, Jen Braem (JB), Director for finance and risk management
Apologies / Absent:	None received from Member Nations.
WWR Staff	Kathy Newman – Head of Competitions and Development John Timms - Head of Administration Tim Johnson - Head of Competitions Alison Bridge – WWR Office Claire Ellicott – WWR Office Marija Backovic – WWR Office Sam Hotchin – WWR Office

## 1. Welcome and Call to Order (26 November 2022)

- The President welcomed everyone to the WWR General Assembly (GA) and recognised the Board Directors on the call.
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- The President recognised the following individuals from the WWR Office: John Timms, Alison Bridge, Marija Backovic, Claire Ellicott and Sam Hotchin.
- The GA was held via video conference call with the President and WWR office staff present in Sheffield, England.
- The President thanked the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sheffield for providing the facilities to host the 2022 WWR General Assembly on a complimentary basis.
- Where required and to meet the formalities of the GA, John Timms (JT) was appointed to act as Secretary-General.
- JT provided an outline of the GA and general housekeeping.

The President noted that the Minutes will reflect WWR's current domicile and administration set up. World Wheelchair Rugby is domiciled in Switzerland and regarded as an "Association" under Swiss law, with its address being:

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*World Wheelchair Rugby*  
*c/o World Academy of Sport*  
*Switzerland Sàrl, Route Suisse 8A, 1163 Etoy*

The WWR operate an administration service which is based in the UK with its address and contact details being:

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*WWR Office*  
*4 Park Square, Newton Chambers Road*  
*Sheffield, S35 2PH, England*

## 2. Roll Call (26 November 2022)

There are thirty Full Members of the WWR and a quorum requires the attendance of sixteen Full Members (50% +1). The Roll Call was taken and there were twenty (20) Full Members of WWR present allowing the GA to continue.

### Full Members:

1. Great Britain - Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby – Jason Brisbane (Official Delegate)
2. Colombia - Federacion Colombiana Deportiva De rugby en silla de ruedas – Adriana Natali Rincon Gonzalez (Official Delegate)
3. Germany - NPC Germany – Svenja Pohl (Official Delegate)
4. Netherlands - Gehandicaptensport Nederland – Joep Pelsser (Official Delegate)
5. Poland - Polish Wheelchair Rugby Federation – Peter (Piotr) Kaluba (official) & Bartosz Zielski (second)
6. Russia - Russian Federation of Sports for Persons with Physical Impairments – Andrey Strokin (official) & Mikhail Simakin (second)
7. Sweden - Swedish Parasport Federation – Magnus Krossen (official delegate)
8. Australia - Disability Sports Australia – Chris Nay (official delegate)
9. Japan - Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation – Ryuji Nakatake (official) & Kevin Orr (second)
10. Italy – FISPEs – Nicola Carabba (official delegate)
11. Norway – Norges Rugbyforbund – Erik Baret (official delegate)
12. New Zealand – New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby – Cherie Harris (official delegate)
13. South Africa – South Africa Wheelchair Rugby – Victor Buitendag (second)
14. Canada - Wheelchair Rugby Canada – Catherine Cadieux (official) & Laurel Crosby (second)
15. USA – United States Wheelchair Rugby Association and USA Wheelchair Rugby – Jen Allred (official delegate)
16. Czech Republic – Czech Wheelchair Rugby Association – David Lukes (second)
17. Switzerland – Swiss Paraplegic Association/Wheelchair Sport Switzerland – Martin Wenger (Official) & Adrian Moser (second)
18. Brazil – Associacao Brasileira de Rugby em Cadiera de Rodas – Jose Higino Oliveria Souza (official) & Mateus Betanho Campana (second)
19. France – Federation Francaise Handisport – William Ybert (official) & Cedric Dubord (second)
20. Finland - Wheelchair Rugby – Risto Mort (official)

### Affiliate Members:

Chinese Taipei – Chinese Taipei Wheelchair Rugby Association – LIN, Chin-Cheng (official)

## Associate Members:

Nil

The President and appointed scrutineers ensure the validity of all voting at the GA including: procedures, motions and elections.

## MOTION TO APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

*To appoint John Timms, Alison Bridge and Marija Backovic as scrutineers for all voting at this General Assembly.*

Proposer: Brazil

Seconder: Great Britain

In favour: 20

Against: None

The motion was passed

## 3. Approval of the Agenda (amended)

The Agenda was presented and the President noted an amendment to Item 6 "Board Motion – amend Statutes (section 14.1)". The amendment allows the General Assembly to discuss Item 6.

### MOTION

*That the amended Agenda, as circulated, be approved. The order of business will follow the amended Agenda.*

Proposer: Canada

Seconder: Norway

In favour: 19

Against: 1

The motion was passed

## 4. Minutes of the 2021 General Assembly

Poland noted that questions were not permitted for candidates seeking election and requested that they should be allowed. The President noted that this was stated in the Bylaws and couldn't be changed.

Poland formally objected to questions not being permitted and requested that the governing documents be changed.

The President noted that this related to Agenda item 7 and that this would be dealt with at that point.

The 2021 WWR GA Minutes dated 17 July 2021 were circulated to Members within 10 days after the 2021 GA in accordance with the Swiss Civil Code. Members had a 10-day period from the date of circulation of the Minutes to raise any objections.

The President asked for any matters arising from the 2021 WWR GA Minutes, that are not covered by any other item on the Agenda, to be raised. No objections or points of issue were raised.

### MOTION

*That the 2021 WWR GA Minutes be accepted.*

Proposer: Norway

Seconder: Brazil

In favour: 20

Against: None

The motion was passed

## 5. The Annual Review

### a. Annual Review 2021

*in addition - Coaching/Education report for 2021/2022*

The President noted the Annual Review covers 2021 calendar year and provides an overview of activities that have taken place. Any questions regarding the Annual Review were sought.

Poland asked for clarification whether a coaching course had taken place or not. The President stated that a course had taken place in Africa. Cherie Harris, WWR Head of Development, advised that the course had taken place in Ghana, Africa in 2021.

### b. Financial Statements 2020 and 2021

Jen Braem, Director for finance and risk management affairs presented the statements.

The WWR 2020 & 2021 reviewed financial statements were prepared by the company McCay Duff LLP and presented noting:

- The engagement of McCay Duff LLP covered two years and was completed as a review engagement as opposed to an audit engagement.
- The engagement resulted in a clean review opinion, meaning they are presented fairly in all material respects.
- WWR is in a healthy and sustainable fiscal position with sufficient net assets, revenue and cash
- The only significant variances between 2020 and 2021 was the deferred revenue balance due to reductions in competition and membership fees over the course of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and an increase in competition revenue and corresponding expenses between 2020 and 2021 as competitions resumed.
- JB thanked the 2020 finance team of Christine Roberts and Cathy Cadieux from Canada, and the 2021 team of John Timms and his team at MLS for their work in maintaining the financial records and throughout the review period.

Poland asked a question about what commercial activity has taken place.

- JB confirmed that the majority of revenue is comprised of competition revenues, grants / fundraising, and membership fees.

The President then requested the following motions to be considered by the GA.

### MOTION

*To accept the reports and financial statements as presented. This motion is only to acknowledge receipt of the reports and does not imply agreement with or acceptance of any comments or recommendations contained in any of the reports and does not bind the Board or the WWR to any course of action suggested in any of the reports.*

Proposer: Canada  
Seconder: Brazil  
In favour: 20  
Against: None  
The motion was passed.

## **MOTION**

*That the firm of McKay Duff LLP be appointed as auditors for the WWR to review financial statements for the financial years of 2022 and 2023.*

Proposer: Poland  
Seconder: Brazil  
In favour: 20  
Against: None  
The motion was passed.

## **MOTION**

*The GA grant authority to the WWR Board and to the auditors to carry out duties with regard to financial statements and reports for financial years of 2022 and 2023.*

Proposer: Great Britain  
Seconder: Netherlands  
In favour: 20  
Against: None  
The motion was passed.

## **6. Motions from the Board and National Member Organisations**

John Timms provided explanatory notes about the process for voting online.

The President provided a further outline of the formalities:

- For a motion to be discussed, the proposer will confirm their intention to submit a motion. A seconder will then be required before the motion can be discussed.
- The proposer will then have the opportunity to speak.
- On completion, the position of the Board will be presented if required.
- As the first motion is to suspend the rights of a current member, the member in this motion, Russia, will have the opportunity to respond.
- The General Assembly will then have the opportunity to comment.
- On completion, the proposer will then have the opportunity to comment should they wish to do so.
- A vote on the motion will then take place.
- Discussion should take place respecting WWR's values particularly in relation to integrity and respect.

### **MEMBER MOTION 1 (from Poland)**

*Motion to the WWR General Assembly to suspend in the rights of the member of the World Wheelchair Rugby - WWR, the National Member Organization of the Russian Federation until the end of the war and the complete withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukraine, and at least until the end of the current Paralympic cycle - Paris 2024, if the war ceases sooner.*

Poland stated that Russia was not allowed to speak in relation to the Motion.

The President clarified that under Swiss law and specific legal advice, it was appropriate that Russia were allowed to respond to the Motion. However, they would not be allowed to vote on the Motion.

Should the Motion be passed, the Russian member organisation would be asked to leave the GA and a letter of clarification would be sent from the WWR Board outlining the outcome of the General Assembly's decision.

Poland presented their rationale to the General Assembly in particular noting that this was not personal. Unfortunately, politics were involved and that this was a complex matter.

The Board position was summarised by the President.

Russia provided their position in particular noting that previous conflicts and wars had taken place historically which had not led to sporting organisations being suspended.

- They referenced that WWR Statute 2.2 (L) states "promote Wheelchair Rugby without favour or discrimination due to racial, gender, religious, political, economic or disability reasons".
- Suspension can only be made for three justifiable reasons (WWR Statutes 4.8) stating no evidence has been provided showing the Russian Federation has violated any of the WWR obligations.
- Reference was made to the G20 summit on November 18. The Olympic / Paralympic Games are about bringing the whole world together without discrimination.
- Based on the information provided there is no tenable reason why WWR would suspend the Russian Federation membership.
- The Russian Federation asked that the WWR membership takes all of their comments into consideration.

Poland concluded with:

- They understood what the Russian Federation had presented.
- It is significant that during discussions about sport that we are discussing war issues.
- Bringing previous wars into the discussion does not justify the war in Ukraine.
- Ukrainian athletes are training in Poland and their families have been directly affected by the war.

There were no further comments from the GA.

Russia asked if they could take the floor and speak. The President had noted that discussions were now concluded.

The President then moved the Motion for election. The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Poland

Seconder: Brazil

In favour: 13

Against: 3

Abstentions: 4

The motion was passed as a simple majority of more than 50% +1 was obtained.

## **MEMBER MOTION 2 (from Poland)**

An amendment to the original Motion was submitted and subsequently agreed by the Proposer and Seconder so that "mobile contacts" were not required. The Motion put to the GA includes the amendment.

*Motion to WWR General Assembly to prepare and make available to member countries a complete list of contacts to all board members and representatives representing their countries as members of World Wheelchair Rugby - WWR, including e-mail and mobile contacts. All to be done in accordance with the regulations in force and with the consent of the member states, which will be expressed by the approval of this motion by the end of the year 2022.*

Poland presented their rationale to the General Assembly.

The Board position was summarised by the President.

There were no further comments from the GA.

The President then moved the motion for election. The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Poland

Seconder: Japan

In favour: 14

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1

The motion was passed as a simple majority of more than 50% +1 was obtained.

### **MEMBER MOTION 3 (from Poland)**

*Motion to the WWR General Assembly to submit to all National Member Organizations a complete list of development programs and activities dedicated to National Member Organizations including detailed revenues and costs of delivering these programs and the purposes for which these funds were spent during the past 4 years of the board's term of office - to be presented at the general assembly.*

Poland presented their rationale to the General Assembly.

The Board position was summarised by the President.

There were no further comments from the GA.

The President then moved the motion for election. The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Poland

Seconder: France

In favour: 12

Against: 6

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed as a simple majority of more than 50% +1 was obtained.

### **BOARD MOTION 1**

To amend the WWR Statutes Section 14.1.

The final text in English if approved is:

*14.1. Authorisation of Documents*

*Contracts, documents and any other instruments in writing requiring the signature of WWR, shall*

*be signed in principle by two directors (the WWR Board of Directors may delegate powers or grant a proxy to any other person or company) and all contracts, documents and instruments in writing so signed shall be binding upon WWR without any further authorization or formality.*

The Board rationale was summarised by the President.

The Vice President noted the text displayed on the conference call was different from the motion presented. The text was clarified prior to voting.

The President then moved the motion for election. The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Brazil

Secunder: Sweden

In favour: 15

Against: 1

Abstentions: 1

The motion was passed as more than a two-thirds majority was obtained.

Czech Republic representative left the meeting

## 7. Elections

Poland made a request for questions to nominees be permitted and that the governing documents should be changed by the General Assembly.

The President said he required advice from the Board and informed the GA that he would take a few minutes to discuss this separately with the WWR Board. A separate breakout room was initiated, on completion the Board returned to the GA. It was decided that on this occasion, questions would be permitted and restricted to only two with a time limit to ensure the meeting could be run efficiently.

As the elections included the current President, the current Vice President, Ken Sowden, who is not standing for re-election was nominated as Elections Chair.

### MOTION

*That Ken Sowden be appointed Elections Chair and Chair of the GA while the election for President is held.*

The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Brazil

Secunder: Great Britain

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed as a simple majority of more than 50% +1 was obtained.

Ken Sowden, Chaired Agenda item 7 – elections.

There are four positions on the WWR Board for election – President, Vice President, a Member at Large and an Athlete Representative.

Proxy voting will not be permitted during elections.



All nominations received were from Members in good standing and the Nominations Committee have not raised any comments for the General Assembly.

No applications were received for the position of Athlete Representative and therefore no election will take place. The Board may appoint a member of the Athlete's Council to fill the position until the next General Assembly.

**Candidate: Richard Allcroft for the position of President.**

RA spoke to the GA. The following is a summary of the presentation.

- It had been an honour to be in the role for the last four years.
- Being in position during a pandemic was unexpected but provided an opportunity to review the organisation.
- Key successes were an organisational rebrand, name change, update/review of the Statutes, low point game in The World Games, inclusion in France 2023, establishing the WWR Office and initiating a coaching course.
- there was more to do particularly regards being more financially stable, less reliance on membership revenue and more direct benefits for members.

The Vice President opened the floor to questions.

Poland asked why the President had not accepted \$50,000 of sponsorship and that it should have been just for WWR and none of the money should be paid to a marketing company.

- The President responded that this had been discussed before and that an exclusive contract was in place with a marketing company. Additionally, when dealing with a sponsor there would always be additional activation and partnership management which would be required. This requires capacity and resource to manage which would be part of the responsibility of the marketing company.

Brazil asked how development in South America would be dealt with.

- The President responded that the introduction of a Regional General Manager was a useful role for engaging in South America. Additionally, the introduction of a coaching course is designed to help develop nations particularly at the club/grassroots level.

The Vice President then moved to a vote.

The scrutineers determined that a number of Member Nations had left the GA, resulting in less than sixteen Full Members remaining. Therefore the GA no longer had a quorum.

Ken Sowden relinquished Chairing the GA back to the President.

**With thanks** - The President noted Ken Sowden's contribution to the sport and thanked him for his commitment and passion.

Ken Sowden stated it was a pleasure to be involved and thanked everyone for their kind comments.

**Adjournment**

Due to a quorum no longer being maintained, the President adjourned the GA, and advised that a communication would follow regarding recovering.

## WWR General Assembly 2022



Note – following the adjournment, a poll was distributed on 30 November 2022 outlining several dates for the reconvening of the General Assembly and 17 January 2023 was selected. Formal confirmation of the date was sent to WWR Members on 19 December 2022.

## 17th of January 2023

The 2022 WWR General Assembly reconvened on 17 January 2023 under the guidance of Bylaw Three, section 10.11.3.

### Welcome and Call to Order

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting.

John Timms (JT) was appointed to the role of the Secretary-General where required. JT went through any housekeeping and how voting will take place.

In order to formally reconvene the General Assembly in accordance with the Statutes and Bylaws, the approved Agenda was continued.

## 2. Roll Call 17 January 2023

### Members in attendance

Full Members		
Great Britain	Great Britain Wheelchair Rugby	Jason Brisbane
Colombia	Federacion Colombiana Deportiva De rugby en silla de ruedas	Adriana Natali Rincon Gonzalez
Colombia	Federacion Colombiana Deportiva De rugby en silla de ruedas	Gloria Milena Munoz Rojas (second delegate)
Germany	NPC Germany	Svenja Pohl
Netherlands	Gehandicaptensport Nederland	Joep Pelsser
Poland	Polish Wheelchair Rugby Federation	Peter (Piotr) Kaluba
Sweden	Swedish Paraspport Federation	Magnus Krossen
Japan	Japan Wheelchair Rugby Federation	Kevin Orr
Norway	Norges Rugbyforbund	Erik Baret
New Zealand	New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby	Cherie Harris
South Africa	South Africa Wheelchair Rugby	Clyde Holland
Ireland	Irish Wheelchair Association Sport	Nicky Hamill
Canada	Wheelchair Rugby Canada	Laurel Crosby
Canada	Wheelchair Rugby Canada	Cathy Cadieux (second delegate)
Canada	Wheelchair Rugby Canada	Paul Hunter (observer)
USA	United States Wheelchair Rugby Association and USA Wheelchair Rugby	Jen Allred
Switzerland	Swiss Paraplegic Association/ Wheelchair Sport Switzerland	Martin Wenger
Brazil	Associacao Brasileira de Rugby em Cadeira de Rodas	Jose Higino Oliveria Souza

Brazil	Associacao Brasileira de Rugby em Cadeira de Rodas	Mateus Betanho Campana (second delegate)
France	Federation Francaise Handisport	William YBERT
Finland	Finnish Parlympic Committee	Risto Mort
Austria	Austrian Sport Federation of the Disabeld/ Osterreichischer Behindertensportverband (OBSV)	Rene Hermesz
<b>Affiliated Members</b>		
Chinese Taipei	Chinese Taipei Wheerchair Rugby Association (CTWRA)	LIN, Chin-Cheng
Ghana	National Wheelchair Rugby of Ghana (Para Rugby Ghana)	Francis Asare
Ghana	National Wheelchair Rugby of Ghana (Para Rugby Ghana)	Elvis Kosi Alipui (second delegate)
Mexico	Federacion Mexicana de Deportes Sobre Silla de Ruedas	Octavio Sergio Durand Alcantara
Uganda	Uganda Wheelchair Rugby Federation	Jairus Wanyera Mukoota
<b>Other Attendees</b>		
Richard Allcroft		WWR – President
Ken Sowden		WWR – Vice President
Jens Sauerbier		Board Member
Han Seong Sin		Board Member
John Timms		WWR Head of Administration
Alison Bridge		WWR office staff
Marija Backovic		WWR office staff
Joe Elliott		WWR office staff
Sam Hotchin		WWR office staff

The WWR Membership at the date of the reconvened GA is 28 Full Members, requiring a quorum of fifteen Members (being 50% plus one).

John Timms confirmed that the meeting had 18 Full Members with mandated representatives attending and could continue.

## Approve scrutineers

### MOTION

*To appoint John Timms, Alison Bridge and Marija Backovic as scrutineers for all voting at this General Assembly.*

Proposer: Canada

Seconder: Brazil

In favour: 17

Against: 1

The motion was passed.

Reconvening

The President noted that as the meeting is quorum, the Membership is in favour of the elections taking place. However, in the interest of ensuring adherence to the governing documents, I will propose a motion to continue with the WWR elections and ask for vote

## **MOTION**

*In accordance with Bylaw Three, section 5. That the members agree that the reconvened General Assembly can proceed recognising that four weeks written formal notice was provided.*

Proposer: USA

Seconder: Great Britain

In favour: 17

Against: 1

The motion was passed.

With the meeting formally reconvened, the President noted that business will resume at the agreed agenda item 7 – Elections.

## **7. Elections**

As the elections included the current President, the current Vice President, Ken Sowden, who is not standing for re-election was nominated as Elections Chair.

## **MOTION**

*That Ken Sowden be appointed Elections Chair and Chair of the GA while the elections take place.*

The results are recorded as follows.

Proposer: Canada

Seconder: Sweden

In favour: 18

Abstentions: 0

The motion was passed.

Ken Sowden, Chaired Agenda item 7 – elections.

The President of the Polish Wheelchair Rugby Federation, stated that his Federation's point of view is that the reconvened GA is being held illegally. He requested that the WWR state where in the governing documents it allows for the GA to be reconvened.

The Vice President replied that the WWR Board had received legal advice supporting the appropriate reconvening of the General Assembly.

There are four positions on the board due for election – President, Vice President, a Member at Large and an Athlete Representative.

Proxy voting will not be permitted during elections.

In accordance with Bylaw 4, Section 4, as there is only one candidate, a vote shall still be taken, and the position awarded on a vote of 50% plus 1.

All nominations received were from Members in good standing and the Nominations Committee have not raised any comments for the General Assembly.

No applications were received for the position of Athlete Representative and therefore no election will take place. The Board may appoint a member of the Athlete's Council to fill the position until the next General Assembly.

As questions had previously been allowed on 27 November, the Vice President informed all that two questions will be allowed but a short time limit will be placed on them to ensure a quorum remains.

**Candidate: Richard Allcroft for the position of President.**

RA spoke to the GA. The following is a summary of the presentation.

- It had been an honour to be in the role for the last four years.
- Being in position during a pandemic was unexpected but provided an opportunity to review the organisation.
- Key successes were an organisational rebrand, name change, update/review of the Statutes, low point game in The World Games, inclusion in France 2023, establishing the WWR Office and initiating a coaching course.
- there was more to do particularly regards being more financially stable, less reliance on membership revenue and more direct benefits for members.

The Vice President opened the floor to questions.

Poland asked two questions.

1. "Could the WWR President please explain to the Members how we want to secure the rights to free speech and to freely exchange information?"

- The WWR President replied to the previous question as follows. "As an individual you are being allowed to speak, as is the whole Membership. Also, over the previous few years membership conference calls have taken place. The results of the election will show whether there is support."

2. "How does the WWR President wish to support Tier 2 European nations to grow and participate in competitions. I refer to the competition and qualification system which is different to other continents. What is this going to look like?"

- The WWR President replied: to help clarify the question for those Members outside of Europe, because of the number of member nations in Europe, a league style system is used based on promotion and relegation. This takes place in other zones although on a lesser scale through regional competitions that qualify nations for zonal championships. I recognise that Poland doesn't agree with the promotion and relegation concept. WWR have run open discussions including an independent facilitated session in France whereby all other WWR Member European Nations supported the promotion and relegation concept.
- The next membership conference is provisionally scheduled for March. At this session, we will take you through the competition structure which will look very similar to the previous Paralympic cycle. I know that we had considered changing the international competition structure, but it is unlikely this will happen.

The Vice President then asked if any other Member has a question.

The President of the Ugandan Federation asked a question, as follows "Firstly, thank you very much for the time you have spent leading the organisation and I applaud you on the recent rebrand, it's a great move. When looking at the IPC, it states that sports should be developed in all continents and according to the time the WWR President has been in position we have seen very little in relation to development and promotion of wheelchair rugby in Africa. What is your target and plan for developing and promoting wheelchair rugby in Africa in the next four years?"

The WWR President replied

- Prior to being in position only a few countries had been engaged informally in Africa. I recognise the challenges of developing wheelchair rugby in Africa. A coaching course was run in Africa which was the first ever held by WWR. I put a lot of emphasis on a coaching course in the hope that it will help countries such as Uganda in their development.
- The hope is that by bringing in more revenue this can be used for development purposes.
- I would like to ask that we discuss this after the meeting as well to hear the views of Uganda."

Poland attempted to ask another question but was denied as the Poland quota had been used.

As no more questions were raised, the Vice President then requested that the GA move to a vote.

### **MOTION**

*That Richard Allcroft is appointed as President of WWR for a four year term.*

Yes. 15

No. 2

No abstentions.

Richard Allcroft was successfully voted in for the next four years as WWR President.

The Vice President congratulated Richard and requested that we move onto the next vote.

### **Candidate: Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca for the position of Vice President**

The election for this position will be for a two-year term. This is to meet the requirements of the WWR Statutes in relation to director rotations (6.2.2). This does not affect an individual's ability to serve any maximum term laid out in the statutes.

The Vice President noted that Gail Hamamoto has removed herself from consideration for the position of Vice President. Therefore, there is only one candidate seeking election.

Juan Pablo presented to the GA.

- Welcome everyone and it is good to see some friendly faces. I am an expert in human rights for people with disabilities. I've been working for two decades with a Non-Governmental Organisation and then as an adviser to the President of Colombia.
- I'm currently working with a development bank of Latin America leading the portfolio for people with disabilities. This is to help countries develop policies in line with the United Nations Charter for people with disabilities.
- I also have a parallel career in sports, previously developing the Maximus project which helped develop wheelchair rugby in several South American countries.
- I was Chef de Mission for the Colombian delegation in Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Paralympic Games.

- I served on the IPC Board advising the IPC President on the human rights strategy.
- Taking a full circle back to wheelchair rugby which I feel are my roots, I was a wheelchair rugby athlete.
- I hope I can gain your support in developing wheelchair rugby.

Poland asked:

How do you want to improve the WWR business development as well as opportunities for all Members?

Juan Pablo replied:

- The backbone to the organisation is its strategic plan, you need to combine the fund-raising efforts with the technical efforts. How do we ensure that our sport is making a change to those people with disabilities.
- I will take time to learn the business and then help shape future strategies with clear Key Performance Indicators.

The Vice President then moved to a vote.

## MOTION

*That Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca is appointed as Vice President of WWR for a two year term.*  
(Note the position will take place following the formal closing of the meeting)

Yes. 17

No. 0

Abstentions. 1

Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca was successfully voted in for the next two years as WWR Vice President.

The Vice President, Ken Sowden congratulated Juan Pablo on his successful election.

## **Candidate: Gail Hamamoto for the position of "Member at large"**

Due to previous commitments, GH was unable to attend the reconvened GA, therefore a video presentation was played for the Members in attendance.

A summary of the points made in the video follow:

- Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the WWR board of directors.
- It has been a period of unprecedented uncertainty and WWR took the opportunity to complete essential work.
- In particular, the return to competitions post-pandemic and a huge congratulations to Denmark in hosting an amazing and successful World Championship.
- WWR are in a good position to sustain and grow.
- I am a skilled executive and administrative working at both grassroots and international level. Especially in areas of, event delivery, athlete/coach/officials' development, international event hosting,
- I also serve on the Canadian Paralympic Committee as Vice President.
- There are many challenges ahead but at the recent strategic planning review, I saw the passion and commitment of our volunteers.
- I'm excited and dedicated to the task of Board Director if re-elected.

Poland asked how we can proceed to elections if the candidate is not present. This is extraordinary and we cannot vote. How can we do this legally?



The Vice President responded that the Membership area offered the opportunity to vote and it's Poland's right not to vote.

John Timms advised the Vice President of the following section from the governing documents. *Bylaw 4. Section 4.2.1. Each candidate may make a short presentation (2 minutes maximum), in person or by electronic means, prior to the relevant position to be elected. No questions will be permitted.*

The Vice President moved to a vote.

Note – Norway apologised as they had to leave the Meeting (19:06 UTC)

## **MOTION**

*That Gail Hamamoto is appointed as Member at Large for a four year term.*

Yes. 15

No. 2

Abstentions. 0

Gail Hamamoto was successfully voted in for the next four years as a "Member at large".

The Vice President congratulated Gail on a successful election.

It is noted for the Minutes that the President of the Polish Wheelchair Rugby Federation verbalised four points at various stages throughout the election process:

1. How many Members are able to vote?

- The response was confirmed as 18 at the beginning of the meeting. Based on 18, the simple majority was therefore 50% plus one which equals 10.

2. Poland alleged, there were unauthorised people in the conference call "voting room". and stated - This is based on law, and I was asked not to be a lawyer. I want the organisation to be democratic, if someone is upset then I'm sorry but I won't apologise. I've been criticised by a few members.

- John Timms confirmed on behalf of the scrutineers that no unauthorised people were allowed to vote.
- The Vice President stated he was happy with the processes and recognised sometimes there is a stalemate with discussions and welcomes healthy conversations. Sometimes discussions can go round in a circle if it's not the answer that someone likes. This can be frustrating.

3. Unauthorised participation in the voting room according to the "Swiss code of communications", article 691, points 2 & 3.

4. The organisation should change and not just be a voting machine.

The Vice President called for a motion to destroy the ballot papers at the conclusion of the elections.

## **MOTION**

*To destroy all ballot papers.*

Proposer: Canada

Seconder: Netherlands

In favour: 16

Against: 1

The motion was passed.

The Vice President handed the Chair over to Richard Allcroft, WWR President.

## 8. Closing

The WWR President once again thanked Ken for his commitment to the sport, recognising he was stepping down from the board after 12 years.

Also, a big thank you to the Membership for giving their time again to reconvene this important meeting and being able to conclude business.

The WWR President then formally closed the meeting.

	Richard Allcroft [President] (RA), GBR
	Juan Pablo Salazar Salamanca [Vice President] (KS), COL
The WWR Board	Gail Hamamoto (GH), Member at large, CAN
Directors in	Steve Loader (SL), Member at large, AUS
position following	Martin Richard (MR), Member at large, CAN
conclusion of the	Seong Sin Han (SSH), Independent Appointed Director, SUI
meeting.	Jen Braem (JB), Appointed Director for finance and risk management, CAN
	Athlete Representative - Position vacant
Meeting closed:	17 January 2023 at 19.20 UTC



WWR President  
26th January 2023