

Report from 2008 IVV Congress of Delegates York, England.

The IVV Congress of Delegates was held in York, England on July 3 -5, 2008. AVA was represented by delegates Shirley Lindberg, Becky Forsythe, Martha Myron and AVA President Curt Myron. The following is my own highlights of the Congress meeting. Official minutes will be distributed to AVA clubs when received.

1. Background. IVV has 29 voting members, with the addition of Turkey and China at the 2007 Congress, and 20 non-voting countries, called direct member clubs, as they have not yet reached the minimum five clubs needed to apply for full IVV membership. Although at least nine members were not present this year, a majority of voting members were present.

2. Revisions of IVV Statutes. A day-long workshop was held the day prior to the Congress in order to review and allow comments from members as to the proposed revisions to IVV statutes. The Congress addressed only the statute changes, even though five documents were sent to IVV members for consideration. The four documents not considered were deferred until the next Congress in Japan (Routine Orders and rules related to the IVV Disciplinary Board, the Arbitration Court and Finance). Of the seven motions AVA submitted pertaining to rule changes, five were officially withdrawn in the Congress meeting when they were incorporated into the revisions and approved by delegates. Two other AVA motions, which pertained to applications for IVV Direct Member clubs, were referred to the Rules Committee for further review and presentation to the 2009 Congress in Japan.

3. Proposed IVV Statutes approved. The proposed statutes were considered article by article. The article that pertained to allocation of votes to IVV member countries did not get two-thirds approval. AVA was opposed to the proposal as it reduced the authorized votes for 18 member countries by one vote while increasing the votes of the larger IVV countries. Approval of the initial proposal would also have given nine of the 27 member countries a majority of the total votes. A recess was allowed to consider a compromise proposal and AVA, Canada, Great Britain, Denmark, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland and others presented a compromise (through the Czech delegate) that was approved. As a result, no country loses votes while some gain votes for the next Congress. And a majority of votes held by only nine members was avoided. AVA's votes will increase from four to six.

4. Rules Committee. The rules committee, formerly three members from Luxembourg, Austria and Germany was expanded to include representatives from AVA (Curt Myron) and the Canadian Volkssport Federation (Graham Fawcett). Graham and I will participate in forming future policy proposals.

5. Elections. Elections were held for positions on the IVV Disciplinary Board (3 members) and the IVV Arbitration Court (3 members) and the Audit Committee (2 members). Graham Fawcett and AVA Liaison Hans Dieter Fuhr were elected to the Disciplinary Board; Curt Myron was elected to the Arbitration Court and Brian Tilbury of

Great Britain was elected to the Audit Committee. All positions were formerly held by Europeans.

6. New IVV Members. Brazil was approved for full IVV membership and Argentina was admitted to IVV as a direct member club. The American and Canadian delegations met with Ana Beatriz, the delegate from Brazil, and supported her application for full membership. Brazil is the third voting member of IVV in the western hemisphere.

7. AVA motion on boating as an IVV venue. The motion to make boating an approved venue for IVV was approved.

8. IVV Treasurer Resigns. Karl-Heinz Beckmann resigned as IVV Treasurer. He stated that he had an opportunity to serve an association that supported elderly people and had chosen to pursue that opportunity instead of continuing as IVV Treasurer. IVV did not know of the resignation until the announcement at the Congress. IVV leadership will appoint an interim Treasurer, and the position will be filled officially at the next Congress.

9. Summary. The Congress closed as a positive experience for all. The success was due in large part to advance preparation by the leadership of the USA and Canada. Your AVA officers did their homework, and one can see the beginnings of more effective cooperation with our colleagues. The smaller countries and the English-speaking countries were pleased with the results and appreciative of AVA and CVF leadership and organization. All parties appeared satisfied with the results.

Questions should be addressed to Curt Myron, AVA President. president@ava.org.