

4th

**INFORMATIVE
BULLETIN
OF THE
WORLD
PUZZLE
FEDERATION,
1999**



WORLD PUZZLE *newsletter*

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SUMMARY

Dear puzzle friends,

since that enthusiastic day when we launched the first "Newsletter", time grew older with four long years. Many things changed ever since in the world, unfortunately not all of them towards happier life and better understanding among nations - so that it may be more than just a pathetic self-encouragement to emphasize the noble, fun-giving and peace-sowing role of our puzzle wars.

The officialization of the World Puzzle Federation represents, therefore, an historic event. Let's hope - and fight with all our heart for it - that from now on there will be no more major barriers on the way towards complete and definite consecration of our international puzzle culture as the sweetest arena for the world's brain battles.

Things could turn simple now. All we have to do is not to overlook the huge potential of this miraculous universe and to hurry. Time and opportunities don't return.

Ovidiu Sperlea

WORLD PUZZLE newsletter 4

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The 7th
World Puzzle
Championship,
Istanbul,
Turkey,
September 22-27,
1998:



TURKISH DELIGHTS

by Zack Butler, USA
(from the Internet)

Yes, folks, it was that time of year again. When geeks the world over gather in some exotic European locale to solve puzzles, drink beer, and wander around trying not to get fleeced by locals. And when I come home and write about it.

This year, the World Puzzle Championship was contested in Istanbul, although with the Japanese, not Turks, setting the stage with a grand suite of puzzles - numerous rounds of standard (excellent) pencil-and-paper logic puzzles, but also a few mechanicals (a nice change, even for those of us fairly inept at solving them) and a few short time-bonus rounds. And when the dust had settled and the scoring finally complete, the U.S. team once again came out on top, with the Japanese making their best showing ever, finishing in second. On the individual side, American Wei-Hwa Huang won for the third time, while I managed to overcome a first-day stumble to finish second. (Sort of. More on that later.) Meaning we regain possession of the Puzzle Star. (I think. I'm not sure I actually saw anyone take it with them, and it is awfully heavy...)

The week began (after the long series of flights and meeting up with the Dutch and Germans in the Istanbul airport and the Finns on the bus outside it) with a grand dinner overlooking the Bosphorus, which included the opening ceremonies. (Peter Ritmeester was particularly amusing when, pressed in to service as the Hungarian captain, had to take their name badges to the front of the room for the introductions.) After dinner we got to watch a belly dancer, during which we tried to decide if her, shall we say, more-Vegas- than-traditional child Jesus now shares a wall with Arabic-



lettered stained glass). Then dinner in Kumkapi (no dot on the "i"; we got some pronunciation lessons from our hosts), home of many seafood restaurants and kids selling overpriced items to tourists. Two days of puzzles followed, both very long days capped off by long bus rides to Asia. Apparently, even though Asia and Europe

are very close in Istanbul, in order to make the trip seem worthy of the "intercontinental" adjective, a severe traffic jam is put in place over the only two bridges across the Bosphorus. Which meant a 2+ hour ride to dinner. Except for those of us who took trolley, ferry and taxi to dinner Friday, about which I will only say that drivers in Istanbul are everything they're said to be.

And on Friday, the bug hit. Or at least, Ron says it was a bug, and he seems to know these sorts of things. Could have been food poisoning, I suppose. Nonetheless, many competitors were a bit incapacitated on Friday (I was lucky enough to have the worst hit only after competition, although I didn't eat at all Friday.) The Finns had it the worst - I won't describe Erkki's plight in detail, only to say that he brought back memories of Pete Sampras at Wimbledon. Playing through the pain, indeed. Results were slow in coming, but we felt we had a moderate lead heading in to the final team round, and hoped to avoid an incident like last year's group choke. Which we did, it turned out - while we solved the final puzzle (thanks mostly to Wei-Hwa), our close competitors did not, and the victory was presumably sealed.

(continued on page 4)

RESULTS

Scores of the national teams

1	USA	4508	(2)
2	Japan	3967	(7)
3	Hungary	3670	(3)
4	Netherlands	3591	(9)
5	Czech Republic	3532	(1)
6	Germany	3314	(4)
7	Turkey	3179	(5)
8	Russia & Ukraine	2585	(11)
9	Romania	2508	(8)
10	Poland	2270	(10)
11	Croatia	2082	(12)
12	Finland	1600	(14)
13	United Nations	1087	(13)
14	YU/Kosovo	571	(-)

TURKISH DELIGHTS

(continued from page 3)

Which left the last day for carefree sightseeing, including a fairly long ("OK. Now only another 20 minutes!") ferry ride to the Prince's Islands for horse-drawn carriage rides and lunch along the water (not that most of us ate anything). We wandered around the town and took the ferry back, ending up at the (in)famous Covered Bazaar. Truly covered, and truly bizarre. The main street really looks like a covered-over street, wide with real storefronts and numbers on the shops. But back a bit, it was more like some underground warren full of leather, rugs, and turkish delight. Every store selling the exact same set of items as every other store of the same type. Somewhat interesting, but it would have also been nice to see something a bit less tourist-oriented. We came back

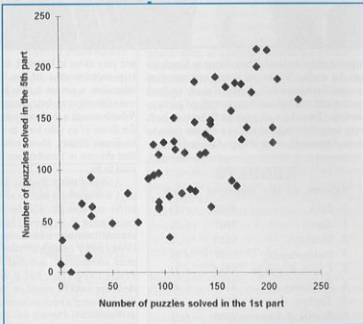
("Quickly to the bus now") to the hotel to get ready for dinner, at which we were again entertained by a variety of folk and belly dancing (perhaps a bit too much) and a three-piece lounge music band in which the guitar player never moved anything besides his hands (and occasionally his eyes). Even when playing a polka. When the busloads of other tourists showed up (after the speech by the Turkish Minister

of Culture), it became clear that the awards would not be given out there. So we returned to the hotel for that, with the ceremony beginning about midnight. So, after a single celebratory beer (taking it easy on the road to recovery), I headed off to bed for a two-hour nap before the long trip home. I think I made it.

IS STATISTICS OF PUZZLING PUZZLING?

by **OLGA LEONTYEVA**, Russia

Consolidated results of all participants of the 7th World Puzzle Championship provide a gratifying material for statistical analysis. Apparently, the most representative are the results of the four "Mix Parts" (the 1st, 5th, 7th and 10th): they are less dependent on personal likes and dislikes of competitors (with respect to particular problem types) and statistical regularities manifest themselves here more visually.



The correlation coefficient between pairs of tours ranges from 0.73 to 0.84. This fact confirms that the results of most participants are rather stable and do not vary between tours significantly. However, some competitors show less stable results.

WP Champions 1998: once again the US team. Does anybody know an antidote?



The enclosed diagram illustrates the dependence between the results shown in part 1 and part 5 of the competition. Each dot represents one competitor: its coordinates are the numbers of puzzles solved by the competitor in the first and in the fifth part, respectively. In particular, we see that the upper left and bottom right parts of the diagram are blank, that is, none of the competitors had a high score in one of the two parts and low in the other.

Also, the analysis shows that some competitors could occasionally perform considerably below their average capabilities. But the opposite is unlikely. That is, accidental failures in solving puzzles occur much more often than accidental successes. And so it is in our life.

Also from Moskow we received one of the recent editions of "Шарада", the bulletin of the Russian "Diogenes" Puzzle Lovers Club. Its editor in chief, Vladimir Ribinski, can be contacted at the phone number (087-2)25-90-00.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES (TOP 25)

			1998
1	Wei-Hwa Huang	USA	1224 (1)
2	Akira Nakai	JPN	1192 (-)
3	Zack Butler	USA	1128 (9)
4	Michael Ley	GER	1127 (4)
5	Shiniki Aoki	JPN	1087 (-)
6	Niels Roest	NED	1076 (-)
7	Robert Babilon	CZE	1036 (3)
8	Norikazu Shibata	JPN	1005 (-)
9	György Istvan	HUN	912 (8)
10	Miklos Mocsy	HUN	908 (6)
11	Pavel Kalhous	CZE	902 (7)
12	Ron Osher	USA	901 (2)
13	Delia Keetman	NED	891 (-)
14	Karoly Kresz	HUN	885 (15)
15	Metyn Balci	TUR	867 (12)
16	Nick Baxter	USA	807 (19)
17	Petr Nepovim	CZE	791 (5)
18	Jeroen Meewisse	NED	789 (-)
19	Ede Markos	HUN	778 (-)
20	Krzysztof Ligienza	POL	767 (17)
21	M.Gegenheimer	GER	762 (10)
22	Kamer Alyanakyam	TUR	735 (28)
23	Metyn Örsel	TUR	719 (-)
24	Volkan Dylber	TUR	670 (-)
25	Ivan Grichtchenko	RUS	652 (30)

REPORT ON THE CAPTAINS' MEETINGS, ISTANBUL, 1998

by Helene Hovanec, USA

The first captains' meeting of the 7th World Puzzle Championship, held in Istanbul, Turkey, was called to order by Nevzat Erkmen (Turkey) at 9.35 a.m. on September 24, 1998. After a welcome and instructions, he turned the meeting over to chairwomen Helene Hovanec (USA). Several sessions were held over the course of two days.

● **Attendees.** The countries represented were: Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United States. Also, Kosovo, which was not represented at the captains' meeting, took part in the competition.

● **Gifts.** Several participants shared new books or magazines with the attendees. Ovidiu Șperlea (Romania) distributed copies of the "World Puzzle Newsletter" #3. Stanley Newman (USA) distributed the book "Brain Twisters from the World Puzzle Championships", Volume 3. Hans Eendebak (Netherlands) handed out some new "Breinbrekers" and the Dutch version of the Japanese "Paint by Numbers" book. Yumiko Doi (Japan) handed out "Puzzler" magazines and other publications. Other people also presented gifts.

● **Greetings.** Vitezslav Koudelka (Czech Republic) read a letter from Vladimir Dubrovsky, captain of the Russian team at previous WPC's, expressing his regrets at being unable to attend this year and sending his best wishes to all the captains and contestants.

● **Scoring considerations.** Peter Ritmeester (Netherlands) proposed that if there is a problem of fairness (or otherwise) with a WPC puzzle that affects only a small number of contestants, it will be handled in the following manner: The disputed puzzle will not be eliminated from the competition and scoring; instead, the affected contestants will receive the average score achieved by the other contestants for this puzzle. For example, if out of ten contestants eight of them solve a particular puzzle worth 5 points, then 40 points would be scored on it in total - or an average of 4 points per solver. So contestant #11, who couldn't solve this puzzle because, for instance, he was given the wrong clues, would score 4 points for it. This proposal was agreed upon.

● **Puzzle maker's award.** This award for the best puzzle published between championships had been approved at the 1997 captains' meeting in Croatia. The details, though, had not been decided upon. After discussion, the following procedure was accepted for future WPC's: The captain or a national team representative can nominate up to three puzzles for the country. Any type of puzzle is eligible for the prize, but it must have been "published" during the previous 12 months. (In future meetings, the definition of "published" will be clarified as to whether it will include electronic and mechanical puzzles, which are "produced" but not "published", or only ones printed on paper.) These puzzles should be brought to the WPC and submitted to a panel of judges, which will be headed by Adam Sumera (Poland) or another person named by the captains. Puzzles will be judged on originality and cleverness. The winner will be announced at the end of the event. Since only one country, Romania, brought puzzles to the 1998 meeting, Peter Ritmeester suggested that the captains themselves consider the three entries overnight and vote on the winner the next day. (This was a puzzle using card symbols.)

● **WPC costs.** There were discussions about the cost of the WPC event, especially regarding the desire for good food, private accommodations, and extensive sightseeing programs versus the desire to keep participants' costs as low as possible. Serhiy Grabarchuk (Ukraine), urging lower costs, said that he would prefer a no-frills hotel, simple meals, and optional excursions. Adam Sumera suggested that future hosts try to keep the per person cost to a maximum of \$400. He added that if the cost were to exceed this figure, the hosts should eliminate items from the program until the \$400 figure is reached. Charlie Worthen (interpreter for Japan) suggested that future WPC's be held in October when airline costs are usually cheaper.

● **Formation of the World Puzzle Federation.** The following countries agreed to contribute \$1000/year to provide a financial basis for the World Puzzle Federation, to be founded during the coming 12 months: Czech Republic, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Turkey, and the USA.



- **1999 WPC.** György Istvan, president of the Hungarian Puzzle Federation, presented details of the 1999 WPC in Budapest, Hungary, to take place between October 5 and 10. All events, the competition, meals, and accommodations will be held in the same hotel. The tentative schedule includes: a welcoming party on Tuesday evening; sightseeing on Wednesday morning; team competitions on Wednesday afternoon; individual competitions all day Thursday and Friday morning; sightseeing and farewell parties from Friday afternoon through Saturday night. György added that he intends to mail complete puzzle instructions to all teams one week prior to the start of the WPC.

- **General secretary.** The captains unanimously voted Peter Ritmeester to be the General Secretary of the WPC. In this capacity, he will set up a web site, post puzzles, handle correspondence, and take care of organizational and secretarial matters between the annual meetings.

- **WPC board.** Between championships, an executive board, consisting of Andreas Franz (Germany), Rob Geensen (Netherlands), Vitezslav Koudelka (Czech Republic), Will Shortz (USA), and Peter Ritmeester (Netherlands) is empowered to make executive decisions.

- **Forum site.** Andreas reminded the captains of the forum he has set up for the WPC on the Bastei-Verlag web site. The password is: abc.

- **Public relations:** Stanley Newman suggested that the WPC/WPF should hire a public relations company to look for worldwide sponsors.

- **Other competitions.** Ovidiu encouraged the captains to hold inter-city puzzle competitions in their countries. He suggested leagues of 5 to 6 teams, from both Eastern and Western Europe. He asked members to publish notices in their respective publications.

- **Newsletter.** Ovidiu requested materials for the "World Puzzle Newsletter" #4 by January 31, 1999. These can be sent by mail, fax, or computer disk (for PC). Ovidiu and Cristea Ioniță (from the publishing house "Ecran Magazin") were praised and thanked for their work and for assuming substantial expenses on past newsletters.

- **Expressions of appreciation.** The captains warmly thanked Nevzat Erkmen and his assistants for an enjoyable, memorable, and superbly run WPC. The captains also applauded Tetsuya Nishio and his team of contributors from Japan for a brilliant and innovative set of WPC puzzles; also Serhiy Grabarchuk and Ali Erkmen (Turkey) for their important contributions to the competition.

WPC 1998:

**PHOTO-
CHRONICLE
OF A
TURKISH
WEEK**



The proof: all puzzlers of the world are in the same boat



Sharpness conjugated at past tense



Cherchez la femme: Helene



Efendi Ulysses & Co.



A Japanese neologism: "aferim!"

PUZZLES FOR CHILDREN

by Helene Hovanec, USA

Although it's fashionable to blame mothers for our assorted hang-ups, I can only thank mine for leading me down the path of passionate puzzling, for it was she who unknowingly started me on my way to my puzzle career.

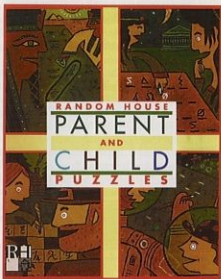
To encourage my mental stimulation, my mother would buy puzzle magazines for me. There were pictures to color, mazes to wander through, and, most important, word puzzles to solve. I devoured every puzzle magazine I got. And when I finished one, I'd ask for another. I'm sure I owned every single puzzle magazine available when I was a child. I never forgot how thrilled I was to discover that I had found the right answer to a puzzle in a book or magazine.

So, when I switched careers from teaching to puzzling, I searched out the children's puzzle magazines and books that were then on the market. I was disappointed to find that children's puzzle books fell into two categories: They were so easy that there was no challenge for the child; or they were so difficult that children could not possibly solve them without adult help. I vowed that I'd write books that children could solve and enjoy by themselves.

I'm happy to say that I've succeeded in that goal. I've written 27 children's puzzle books and, at this writing, I'm working on my 28th and 29th books. I'm proudest of two of my books, *Riddled With Puzzles* and *Punchline Puzzles*. In these books, each puzzle page starts out with a riddle. To find the answer, the child

has to solve a puzzle. This combination seems to be irresistible because each book sold more than 350,000 copies.

I've also produced a slide show about puzzles that I've taken around to schools. First, I explain and show pictures of different types of puzzles - crosswords, word searches, fill-ins, anagrams, mazes, rebuses, etc. Then the children solve puzzles (as a group) that I flash on to the screen. Finally, we have some competitive games. I always leave a little puzzle brochure for each child to take home.



I know that puzzle solving can be a lifetime activity. It's good to start children on this hobby when they're eager to master their world by learning new skills. What better way to make them feel proud of their abilities than by teaching them how to solve puzzles!

Because of the ample texts concerning the officialization of the World Puzzle Federation and its statutes, the chapter traditionally dedicated in this bulletin to the puzzle correspondences from all around the world is missing this time. We plead for the understanding of our correspondents from the Netherlands, Japan, Russia and the Ukraine, Serbia and Kosovo, Croatia, Italy, the United States, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Romania etc., promising to resume the practice in our next edition, detailed and complex. At the same time, we thank all our friends for their effort and kindness, asking for further consignments.

A PUZZLING OCCUPATION: Enigmatologist

What's an enigmatologist? It's Will Shortz, puzzle editor of The New York Times since 1993. He's the only academically accredited one in the world, having designed his own major program at Indiana University, which in 1974 led to his one-of-a-kind degree in enigmatology.

Mr. Shortz also received a law degree from the University of Virginia. When he entered law school, he said, "my plan was to practice law for 10 years, make a lot of money, and then retire to do what I really wanted - create puzzles." However, law was not creative enough for him, and after graduating, he skipped the bar exam and began his career in puzzles immediately.

Before joining The Times, Mr. Shortz spent 15 years as editor of Games magazine, a bimonthly devoted to puzzles and games of many kinds. "What I especially like about being at The Times is the audience. The Times undoubtedly has the most intelligent, best educated group of solvers in the country, so I can presume a level of culture and solving skill that I couldn't anywhere else." Succeeding the late Eugene T. Maleska, Mr. Shortz made modest modifications to the crossword, "but nothing radical." Constructor bylines were added to the daily puzzles; previously the contributors had labored anonymously. Also, the cultural references were broadened, with such modern subjects as movies, television and rock and roll being added to the classic puzzle vocabulary. "And I do like riddles, so there are more tricks and ambiguities in the clues now," he said.

Margaret Farrar, the first crossword editor of The Times (from 1942 to 1969), instituted the idea of having the puzzles become more difficult as the week went on.



MY PUZZLE ADDICTION

by Will Shortz, USA

At last year's WPC in Istanbul, I arrived a few days early with Helene Hovanec to see the sites, get adjusted to the time change, and visit with Turkish friends.

I also shopped, of course. No matter where I go, I'm always on the lookout for antiquarian bookstores, so I can add to my puzzle library. Over the years I've managed to acquire more than 18,000 puzzle books and magazines of all sorts, in over 30 languages, dating back to 1545.

Last year, for example, late in the afternoon, after nearly a full day of walking, Helene and I stumbled across a shopping arcade with a section of used bookstores. I was excited. One narrow shop, crammed with volumes from floor to ceiling, looked especially promising. Unfortunately, I don't speak Turkish, and the proprietor didn't speak English. But I showed him the word "puzzle" in my English/Turkish dictionary, and he brought out a small stack of possible volumes.

Monday's was the easiest, and Saturday's was, as she said, "a two-cups-of-coffee puzzle." Mr. Shortz believes he has "increased the slope of difficulty further, with Monday's puzzle now perhaps a bit easier than before, and the Friday and Saturday puzzles more difficult than they used to be. The goal is to have something for everyone, both beginners and veterans." "Readers write in all the time," Mr. Shortz said, "mostly to tell me that they think they've caught a mistake." Rarely is there one. An exception several years ago involved the clue "mountain in sight of Darjeeling," for which the answer was EVEREST. Shortz had found in a reference book that Darjeeling was the nearest major city to the world's tallest mountain. But after the puzzle appeared, one person wrote to say he had been to Darjeeling and you couldn't see Mount Everest from there, as several other mountains intervened.

In addition to editing the weekday and Sunday puzzles for The Times, Mr. Shortz creates a weekly puzzle segment for "Weekend Edition Sunday" on National Public Radio. He is the author or editor of 23 puzzle books.

In 1978 Mr. Shortz founded, and remains director of, the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, which will be held next in Stamford, Conn., April 3-5. He also founded the World Puzzle Championship in 1992. He remains captain of the U.S. team, which finished No. 1 in 1992, 1995 and 1996, and 1998, and second in 1993, 1994 and 1997.

I selected three that I wanted - all with illustrations and diagrams, so that I didn't actually have to read Turkish in order to understand them. I got out my wallet, which, of course, is the universal sign meaning "How much?" The proprietor wrote down "1,200,000 liras", which is about US\$4. This seemed quite reasonable, so that's what I promptly paid him.

The proprietor looked startled, but pleased. Only later did I remember reading in my travel guide that shoppers in Turkey always bargain. Oh well. I still think \$4 was a good deal.

At the 1996 WPC in the Netherlands, I went early to visit Peter and Ellen Ritmeester in Amsterdam. They took me around to the used

bookstores in the city. Also, astonishingly, they let me borrow their car for a day so I could visit a fine rare bookstore in a village in the country. This is where I found "De Nederlandsche Raadselvriend", an important 1829 volume of Dutch enigmas, and four other volumes of similar vintage. I've never spent so much money on puzzle books at one time, but these are treasures that I would probably never have a chance to buy again.

I also have fond memories of Vitezslav Koudelka showing me the used book marts of Prague and Brno during my several visits to the Czech Republic, and Marek Penszko showing me all around Warsaw on a similar mission. My suitcases are always heavier returning from trips than going.

Another
"Puzzle
Newsletter" -
the one of the
Puzzle
Federation
from former
Yugoslavia.
The rest is
History.



Puzzle book collecting is a sort of addiction. I do love the chase, and it's a thrill to find something nice that I've never seen before. But it's a worthwhile addiction, I think. Puzzle books take you into almost every field of human knowledge. I read - or at least skim - every book I buy, and I try to take time to solve at least some of the puzzles. Besides the joy I get from solving, they give me ideas for my own work. Occasionally, I'll use classic puzzles from my library on my weekly radio program in the U.S. Someday I hope to write an encyclopedia of puzzling, which will have articles about all the major puzzle varieties and the most important puzzle inventors in the world.

For the WPC in Budapest this fall, I again plan to arrive early. Before then I'll be practicing the Hungarian expression for "Do you have any puzzle books?" for use all around town.

GALLERY OF PUZZLING PROFILES

Peter Ritmeester was born in Amsterdam, on February 12, 1961. He began tormenting his schoolmates with homemade riddles and puzzles in elementary school and his pastime grew even more fiendish in high school. Not having realized at the age of 18 that he could earn a living creating puzzles and games, he entered the University of Amsterdam to study historical sciences for the next nine years. During his academic career he took part in marathon board games, played and studied a lot of chess, checkers, bridge and table tennis, and in his spare time dabbled in historical sciences.

Peter and Tim making the Rummikub-puzzle for the Utrecht WPC

PETER RITMEESTER

-THE GENERAL

In 1985, Peter met his wife Ellen Gouldsmit after she joined both his table tennis and bridge club in the same week. It turned out she was also a game fanatic and just as weird as Peter, and they soon became a couple in early 1986. The next year Ellen went to work testing board games for "Jumbo", a Dutch game manufacturer.

Only then and thanks to her did Peter realize that there were actually real live people who made board games! Peter started inventing board games in early 1987 and made his first money in the games business freelancing for "Jumbo". He also made some money as a professional table tennis trainer and coach. Not completely satisfied, in the following year he applied for and got the job of puzzle editor for "Puzzelsport".

During his tense as editor, he specialized in logical puzzles and cryptic crosswords. After the first WPC in New York in 1992, he became particularly interested in language neutral puzzles and their potential international market. As a result, in 1993 he developed the magazine "Eureka!" (now called "Breinbrekers") with the hope of starting some sort of international puzzle exchange, not only out of idealism, but also with a nose for business. Peter was closely involved with organization and puzzle design for the 1996 Utrecht WPC and especially enjoyed transforming board games into extremely difficult, yet still logically solvable puzzles for a team event. Not to mention the fun he had watching competitors in the hotel late at night still discussing those "impossible" puzzles.



In 1997, both Ellen, who was employed as an econometrician and computer programmer, and Peter quit their jobs to start their own company to design, program and produce puzzles, board games, puzzle software, and CD-ROMs. And guess what? One really can earn a living making puzzles and games! It may not be healthy for your children, though: Ellen and Peter's kids Jos and Tim (2 and 4 years old) are already getting a little weird and constantly ask their Dad to make Lego mazes for them.

In 1998 in Istanbul, Peter was appointed General Secretary of the World Puzzle Federation. One of his tasks will be to promote the exchange and syndication of language neutral puzzles, the one thing he has been eager to do ever since the WPC in New York.

On the foundation of the World Puzzle Federation

by Peter Ritmeester, Netherlands

On May 19, 1999 the *World Puzzle Federation* (WPF) was officially founded. From that date on, the WPF officially has its seat and office in Amsterdam. The office is managed by Peter Ritmeester, who during the WPC in Istanbul was appointed the WPF's General Secretary. Besides managing WPF business and handling communications in general, the General Secretary's tasks will be to:

1. Manage the WPF office.
2. Generally take care of the executive duties of the WPF between championships.
3. Be a clearinghouse for the WPF. Answer questions, handle referrals.
4. Contact puzzlers from countries not yet represented.
5. Publicize the WPF.
6. Set up and oversee a WPF website.
7. Contact new potential sponsors for the WPF.
8. Manage and archive formal WPF discussions.
9. Report to the board quarterly.

In order to be able to found the WPF, provisional statutes were written according to Dutch law. On August 3-4, these statutes were discussed at a board meeting, with the following text as a result. During the upcoming World Puzzle Championship (WPC) in Budapest, the General Assembly of the WPF will have to approve the text of these statutes to make them official.

Once approved by the assembly, the statutes cannot be altered easily, because to do so will require a two-thirds majority of a general assembly and then certification of the change(s) by an official notary. Therefore, the WPF also needs a set of easily alterable *Rules and Regulations*. Whereas the statutes are put in general terms, these *Rules and Regulations* can contain specifics like criteria for WPF membership or criteria for hosting a WPC.

These *Rules and Regulations* are not yet written in full, but the board already discussed some of the most important issues. An overview of the board's decisions is published on the pages 20-21 of this "Newsletter". Before the upcoming General Assembly in Budapest, a draft of these *Rules and Regulations* will be handed out.

This upcoming General Assembly will be vital to the future of the WPF. We hope and expect it to be a big success.

The World Puzzle Federation

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THE WORLD PUZZLE FEDERATION (WPF)

- STATUTES -

15. 5. 1999

Today, nineteen hundred and ninety nine appeared before me, *Willem Mathieu van Grafhorst*, notary in Utrecht:

...

They declared:

Today, we are forming a federation, which association will have full legal capacity; its articles of association run as follows:

the name of the federation

1. The federation is known as *World Puzzle Federation*; abbreviated as: *WPF*.

seat of the federation

2. The federation will have its seat in Amsterdam.

the time for which the federation is formed

3. The federation is formed for an indefinite period.

the object of the federation

4. The object of the federation is:
 - to provide means for an international exchange of puzzle ideas;
 - to stimulate innovations in the field of puzzles;
 - to supervise the annual World Puzzle Championship (WPC);
 - to foster friendship among puzzle fans world-wide.

the funds of the federation

5. The funds of the federation comprise:
 - a members' contributions;
 - b income from capital;
 - c the profits gained from events organised by the federation;
 - d subsidies, donations, property acquired by testamentary succession and legacies;
 - e other possible revenues.

the association year

6. The association year is the same as the calendar year.

members

7. a. Only legal entities – including those formed according to foreign law – can be representative members of the federation. With the exception of article 7b, the term ‘member’ in these statutes always refers to a representative member that is a legal body as described in this article.
- b. An individual can be a personal member under the conditions described in the Rules and Regulations of the federation. With the exception of this article, the term ‘member’ in these statutes always refers to a representative member that is a legal body as described in article 7a.

membership application

- 8.1. The legal entity wishing to join the federation must apply in writing to the federation board.
- 8.2. The board decides on the admittance of a member.
- 8.3. If the board decides not to admit a legal entity as member, it must give the rejected party written notification of the reasons within four weeks after the board’s decision.

obligations and rights of the members

- 9.1. The members must pay a contribution each year; the general assembly determines each year how much this contribution will be.
- 9.2. The members must meet the stipulations of the articles and rules, the decisions of the board and the general assembly.
- 9.3. The members must promote the interests of the federation in their own country.
- 9.4. All members are entitled to attend and to speak at the general assemblies of the federation.

termination of membership

10. Membership terminates:
- a. when terminated by a member;
 - b. when terminated by the board on behalf of the federation;
 - c. with removal from membership by the general assembly;
 - d. with the bankruptcy or liquidation of the member.

on termination by the member

11. If a member wishes to terminate its membership, it must give the federation written notice of the same at least thirty days before the end of the association year; in that case, membership will last until the start of the new association year.

on termination of membership by the federation

- 12.1 The federation can terminate a membership if the member fails to pay its contribution, fails to meet other obligations to the federation or if, for whatever reason, the federation cannot reasonably be expected to allow the membership to continue.
- 12.2 Termination of the membership on behalf of the federation is done by the board; the board must give the member written notice of the same, stating the reasons for the termination.

on removal from membership by the general assembly

- 13.1 The general assembly can decide to remove a member from membership; it can take such a decision only if the member acts in conflict with the articles, rules or decisions of the federation or if the member unreasonably injures the federation.
- 13.2 Immediately after the general assembly has taken such a decision, the board gives the member written notice of the same, stating the reasons for the removal.

on the federation board

- 14.1 The federation has a board comprising at least *three* natural persons, but even if the number of board members is less than three, the board continues to be authorised.
- 14.2 The general assembly selects the board members on the recommendation of the members; each member of the federation can nominate a candidate; such a recommendation must take place in writing at least thirty days before the general assembly; the nominated candidate must have stated his willingness to stand in writing before then.
- 14.3 The board itself decides which of its members will be chairman, secretary and treasurer; the chairman cannot hold any other board position.

on suspending and dismissing board members

- 15.1 The general assembly can at any time suspend or dismiss board members.
- 15.2 If the suspension of a board member is not followed by dismissal within three months, the suspension is terminated.

on the duration and termination of the board membership

- 16.1 The general assembly appoints the members of the board for a period of three years; after the expiration of a term, a member is immediately re-electable.
- 16.2 Board membership terminates:
- a with the termination of the period for which the board member was appointed;
 - b with dismissal by the general assembly;
 - c with the resignation of the board member.

on convening and decision-making by the board

- 17.1. The board convenes as often as the chairman or two other board members wish, but at least once a year.
- 17.2. The board can take decisions only if a majority of the board members is present or represented.
- 17.3. The board takes its decisions based on a simple majority vote.
- 17.4. If the votes are equally divided, the chairman reopens the discussion; if the votes are equally divided again, the chairman decides.
- 17.5. The board can also take decisions outside assemblies if no board members object and if all the board members participate.
- 17.6. The board must take minutes of all its meetings; in its next meeting, the board must adopt the minutes.

restricting the powers of the board

18. Without the consent of the general assembly, the board cannot enter into agreements concerning the purchase, alienation or objections to registered properties, conclude agreements whereby the federation binds itself as surety or principal joint debtor, support a third party or obligate itself to providing security for the debts of another or whereby the association provides or receives monies in loan.

on the general assembly of the members of the federation

- 19.1. The board convenes the members for a general assembly as often as it sees fit but at least once a year.
- 19.2. Notice for each assembly must be given in writing at least twenty-eight days prior to the assembly (not counting the day of notice or the first day of the meeting); the board must include the agenda with the invitation.
- 19.3. Each member has a right to put forward an agenda point for an assembly; but this can only take place if the member has presented the topics in writing to the secretary of the board prior to the assembly.
- 19.4. The chairman and secretary of the board also act as chairman and secretary of the general assembly; if the chairman or secretary is absent, one of the other board members acts as chairman or secretary; if no chairman or secretary can be found in this way, the general assembly will name a person to fill the position.
- 19.5. If requested by at least one third of the members, the board must convene a general assembly; the members must do this in writing, stating the reasons for the assembly; the board must convene such an assembly within twenty-eight days after that request; if the board fails to meet this request within the set period, the applicants themselves can convene the assembly in the way stated in this article; if necessary, the assembly will provide its own chairman and make its own minutes of the assembly.
- 19.6. The chairman of the assembly must ensure that the minutes of the assembly are transcribed; the minutes must be forwarded to the members and must be adopted in the next subsequent general assembly.

on voting and quorum during the general assemblies

- 20.1 Only members have the right to vote.
- 20.2 Each member is represented at the general assemblies by no more than three persons indicated for this function in writing by the board, who jointly have one vote.
- 20.3 If these articles do not stipulate otherwise, the general assembly bases its decisions on a simple majority vote.
- 20.4 A special general assembly (as described in article 19.5) can take decisions only if a majority of members is present or represented.
- 20.5 On matters involving individuals, the assembly must vote by ballot, but if none of the members objects, the vote may also be done orally.
- 20.6 On matters involving individuals, other than elections, if the votes are equally divided, there will be a second ballot; if the votes are equally divided again, the proposal is dismissed.
- 20.7 Elections are decided by absolute majority vote; if no candidate receives an absolute majority, a second ballot must be held between the two persons who acquired the most votes; in this second ballot, a simple majority vote is decisive.
- 20.8 The assembly votes orally on matters of business unless the board or the assembly wishes to vote by ballot.
- 20.9 If the votes are equally divided on matters of business, the proposal is dismissed.
- 20.10 Abstentions and invalid votes are not included in the decision-making process.
- 20.11 All votes by ballot must be made by means of unsigned, closed slips.

on the annual report and accounts

- 21.1 During the annual meeting the following will at the least be dealt with:
- a the annual report and accounts;
 - b the report of the financial audit committee and the appointment of a new financial audit committee;
 - c the filling of any vacancies;
 - d the setting of the annual membership fee.
- 21.2 The annual report and accounts must contain: the board's annual report, the financial balance, an overview of revenues and expenditure and an explanation of the annual report and accounts.
- 21.3 The treasurer renders an account of his financial management; if the general assembly has adopted the annual report and accounts, the treasurer is discharged.

on the representation of the federation

22. The board represents the federation, but two board members acting jointly can also represent the federation.

on amendments to the articles and dissolution of the federation

- 23.1 The general assembly can decide to amend these articles or to dissolve the federation by a two-thirds majority vote; it can take such a decision only in a general assembly at which the majority of its members are present or represented.
- 23.2 Such an assembly must be convened by the board at least twenty-eight days in advance with the notification of any amendments to the articles or dissolution of the federation to be put forward in the assembly.
- 23.3 The board must forward the text of any proposed amendments to the articles to the members at least fourteen days prior to the assembly.

on the liquidation of the capital of the federation

- 24.1 After the decision to dissolve the federation as liquidator, the board must liquidate the capital of the federation unless the general assembly has appointed another party to do so.
- 24.2 Liquidation must take place taking consideration of the requirements laid down in 2:23 of the Dutch Civil Code.
- 24.3 Should there be any liquidation surplus after the liquidation, the general assembly must designate a purpose that tallies as far as possible with the goal of the federation.
- 24.4 Once liquidation has taken place, the annual report and accounts and other documents of the dissolved federation must be retained for at least ten years by the individual appointed for this purpose by the general assembly; within eight days after liquidation, the keeper of the documents must report this obligation to the commercial register of the Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam.

the first board of the federation

...

the conclusion of this document

This document whereof deed executed in single copy in Amsterdam on the date I stated at the beginning of this document.

The parties known to me because of their identification papers stated that they have already read a draft of this document and do not require me to read the document now in its entirety I have again explained the purport of this document to them at which time I also read the document in part; after which we signed this document.

DECISIONS OF THE BOARD MEETING AUGUST 3-4, 1999

by Will Shortz (U.S.A.), Peter Ritmeester (Netherlands)

August 3-4, 1999, the board of the WPF met in Hoofddorp, Netherlands. Present were Will Shortz (U.S.A.), Vitezslav Koudelka (Czech Republic), Andreas Franz (Germany), Catrin Lucht (Germany), Rob Geensen (Netherlands) and Peter Ritmeester (Netherlands). The main item was discussing the WPF statutes as printed on pages 14-19. Following is a brief summary of the other points that were discussed. Of course, these decisions will be open to discussion and change during the upcoming general assembly in Budapest.

1. The official bodies of the WPF are:

- General assembly (the WPF's main decision-making body);
- Board of directors;
- Committees (as named by the general assembly);
- Captains' panel (to deal only with technical issues of an ongoing WPC).

2. The members/officers of the first board of directors are:

Will Shortz	Chairman
Vitezslav Koudelka	Vice-chairman
Andreas Franz	Vice-chairman
Rob Geensen	Treasurer
Peter Ritmeester	Secretary (who is also general secretary of the WPF)

3. The general secretary is a paid position; the board members are not paid.

4. The annual membership fee will be 1000 euro's. Exceptions can be made by the board.

5. The benefits of membership include:

- Right to use the WPF logo;
- Right to publish WPF puzzles (beginning in 2000), including those from WPC's and qualifying tournaments of other WPF members;
- Right to send a team to the World Puzzle Championship;
- Right to vote on WPF matters during a general assembly.

New membership will cover the remainder of 1999 and all of 2000.

6. The criteria for WPF membership are:

- Conducting open, national qualifying tournaments to select members of a WPC team;
- Promoting and publicizing these tournaments;
- Encouraging quality and innovation in puzzling;
- Representing the interests of the WPF in the member's country.

Membership can be possible without meeting these criteria, but only as long as there are no applicants from the same country meeting all these criteria.

7. If a country is already represented in the WPF and a second group would also like to represent that country, the board will first encourage the two groups to work together. If that is not possible, then the second group should apply for membership in writing, explaining why it would be a better representative for the country than the existing member. The board should study the proposal and make a decision, carefully considering the criteria outlined above.

9. Personal memberships will also be available to individuals. The fee will be 50 euro's/year. The benefits of personal membership include:

- Subscription to the WPF newsletter;
- Right to visit all parts of the WPF website and to participate in on-line activities;
- Right to participate in the WPC if the person's country is not already represented by a national team.

10. Individuals who are active in the WPF and who contribute to its success should have to pay only the lowest amount to attend the WPC. (Any higher rate should apply only to nonessential guests.)

11. The newsletter should be published at least twice a year; once within a month or two after a championship, and again a month or two before the next championship. Andreas Franz suggested that the newsletter be published only electronically; members can print it out and distribute it themselves within their own countries. (Members and subscribers without electronic access should receive the newsletter by mail.)

12. Vitezslav Koudelka proposed six standing committees:

- Legislative – rules and statutes and other legal matters of the WPF
- Marketing/finance
- Auditing
- WPC & other competitions
- Classification and naming of puzzles
- Publicity and media

13. Bidders for future WPC's are encouraged to discuss their bids with the board before presentation to the general assembly. The WPF assembly should always vote on sites two years in advance.

14. The criteria for hosting a WPC include:

- Agreeing to create the puzzles according to the approved rules of variety and fairness;
- Ensuring that the rules of the competition and the scoring system are clear to all competitors before the event begins;
- Ensuring that the judging is subject to review and challenge;
- Making the cost of the event no more than \$400/person (for the first five people from a country);
- Providing good puzzles, decent hotel and food, and a competition site that's quiet and well-lit.

15. WPC puzzles will be checked beforehand for fairness by a person named by the board. The puzzle checker should receive the puzzles at least 30 days before the start of the WPC. (Some flexibility, though, should be given for last-minute puzzles.) During the competition, challenges to either the puzzles or the scoring may be made to the captains' panel.

16. Rob Geensen, together with other board members, will provide criteria for a WPF logo. (The logo should be simple and strong; it should capture the essence of WPF-style puzzles; and it should be reproducible in various sizes and in either color or black-and-white). After the criteria are announced, there will be an international design competition to create the logo. Once a logo is accepted, it will be the permanent logo of the WPC/WPF.

17. The WPF will seek international sponsorship for the WPC, while for the time being trying not to alter the fundamental nature of the event or endangering or compromising the achievements that have been made so far.

PUZZLES & GOULASH

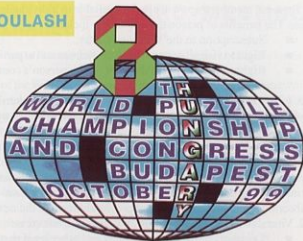
FOREWORD TO THE 1999 WORLD PUZZLE CHAMPIONSHIP

by **GYÖRGY ISTVÁN**,
Hungary

The event will be held between the 5th and the 10th of October, 1999, at Budapest. You will have the opportunity to spend a week in the 4-starred Hotel "Rubin", to taste the traditional and famous Hungarian foods, to dance with folk dancers, to admire the beautiful town, and, on Saturday, to visit one more region of our country ... And, of course, to solve many tempting puzzles!

The fund of puzzles for this championship is due to the members of the former Hungarian WPC teams. There will be a little bit more crosswords than at previous editions, as well as some screen-tests for the teams competition. Since last spring, the website of the Hungarian Puzzlers Federation (ROE, Rejtvenyfejtők Országos Egyesülete) has also an English version, so that anybody can get there any desired information about this year's WPC. Oh, of course, excepting the puzzles ... Any questions? Then please contact us by one of the following means:

**György István, 1752
Budapest, Pf.13,
Hungary; tel/fax
0036.1.3885946, or
Istvangy@mail.matav.hu.**

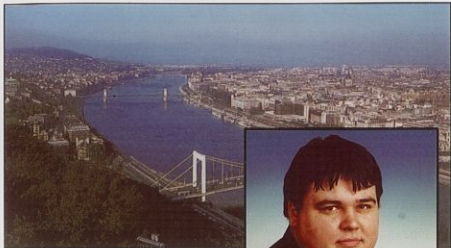


Info:

REJTVENYFEJTŐK ORSZAGOS EGYESÜLETE

In Hungary the first puzzle club was formed in 1968, at Pécs, with the help of the wellknown "Füles" puzzle magazine, after which similar clubs started in several other points of the country, too. Within each of these clubs were organized contests between the members, soon also puzzle matches between the different clubs, and finally an official national championship at both individual and teams level. Then an organizing committee built up the Hungarian Puzzlers Federation (MRE), which worked ever since under the leadership of Mr.Zoltán Pálfalvi. After the political changes of 1990, the MRE proved unable to comply with the questions of the new age, and soon it lost its influence. The number of members decreased and there were held less and less competitions.

In 1992, when the "Füles" publishing house was taken over by the VNU (which is the owner of the Dutch "Puzzelsport" as well), Zoltán Pálfalvi failed to rebuild the broken connections with the new leaders and the new editor-in-chief. In 1995, after 20 years of enthusiastic work, he officially resigned and asked István György to accept the presidency of the MRE, but in the meantime it got clear that it would be better to start a new, blank federation instead. So, after six months of preparations, the ROE was born on 23rd May, 1996. Today the association counts nearly 20 member clubs with more than 250 individual members. The main aim of ROE is to find and honour the best Hungarian puzzlers, by means which, as we believe, made every year little steps forward. In this context, the WPC&C 1999 will be, of course, our biggest event so far. (ROE)



Self-portrait:

ISTVÁN GYÖRGY

I was born on August 30, 1973, at Miskolc. Since I learned writing, I'm solving puzzles. An that time in Hungary we had only one weekly puzzle-magazine, the "Füles". (I thank God that today I can say that the editors from that era, including the former editor-in-chief, Mr. László Tiszai, are my friends.)

I was 11 or 12 years old when I started to make crosswords, first for my classmates and my family. In the secondary grammar school I met my best friend, Viktor Barna, and we started working together. Really working! We began solving systematically every puzzle in "Füles" and in other magazines, especially puzzles made by János Schmidt and László Mérő. We learned lots about their work. Then we joined the puzzle club from our town and every year we climbed higher and higher in the skill of puzzle solving, so that in the last few years our tandem (plus two other solvers) won the most of the national team competitions. In course of time, when the puzzles from the magazines got to easy for us, we started making ones to each other, then to publish them first in the regional newspaper, afterwards in the "Nova" puzzle magazine, edited by the today's "Füles"-editor Csaba Gecse.

After graduating from high school, we went to the Budapest University, where we succeeded to compose and publish more and more, so that one day arrived *the* biggest moment in my life - the day when I published my first crossword in "Füles"! It was a puzzle about a country music festival, and maybe that's why I keep liking so much this kind of music... I was 20 when I got to be the youngest (puzzle-)editor at "Füles", and since that time I'm working uninterrupted for this company. In 1995, at the Braşov World Puzzle Championship, I was second in the individually ranking list, and three times (1995, 1997, 1998) third with the Hungarian team. In 1996, when the National Federation of Puzzlesolvers (ROE) was built up, I was elected president, a responsibility according to which I'm now heading also the organizing committee of the 1999 WPC.

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