

# WPF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 Sep 2025 | Eger, Hungary

## Attendance

### Voting members

#	Country	Representatives	Absent
1	Bulgaria	Deyan Razsadov	Argentina
2	China	Zhang Haijun, Zhang Mei	Bangladesh
3	Croatia	Sanda Reić Tomaš	Brazil
4	Czechia	Jan Vondruška	Chinese Taipei
5	Estonia	Jaanus Laidna	Greece
6	Finland	Ulla Elsilä	Hong Kong, China
7	France	Olivier Lignon	Indonesia
8	Germany	Jörg Schneider, Christian König, Katharina Bauernschmitt	Latvia
9	Hungary	György István	Malaysia
10	India	Prasanna Seshadri	Philippines
11	Italy	Alida Cernogoraz, Stefano Forcolin	Romania
12	Japan	Yuki Kajihara	
13	Mongolia	Ulzii Erdene	
14	Netherlands	Chiel Beenhakker	
15	Poland	Agnieszka Buczma	
16	Serbia	Nikola Živanović	
17	Slovakia	Blanka Lehotská, Matúš Demiger	
18	Switzerland	Markus Roth	
19	Thailand	Tawan Sunathvanichkul	
20	Turkey	Salih Alan	
21	United Kingdom	Alan O'Donnell (proxy Helen Arnold)	
22	USA	Thomas Snyder, Wei-Hwa Huang, Will Shortz	

### Other attendees

#	Country	Representatives
--	Australia	Helen Arnold
--	Canada	David Jones

### WPF Board

**Board members:** Will Shortz, Olivier Lignon, Tawan Sunathvanichkul, Helen Arnold, Chiel Beenhakker

**Director:** Matúš Demiger

## 1. Board elections

- There were two vacancies for Board positions, arising from the completion of 3-year terms for Will Shortz and Olivier Lignon. The Board and Director thanked Will Shortz for his long service to the WPF and dedication to the puzzles and sudoku community.
- There were four candidates for the two vacant positions:
  - Katharina Bauernschmitt (Germany)
  - Olivier Lignon (France)
  - Thomas Snyder (USA)
  - Wei-Hwa Huang (USA)
- Voting proceeded in accordance with WPF statutes. As no majority vote was obtained in the first vote, voting proceeded to a second round vote between the top two candidates and then to a third round vote between the remaining three candidates.

➤ **Olivier Lignon and Thomas Snyder were each elected to a 3-year term effective from the close of this GA. Their terms will expire in 2028.**

Vote 1		Vote 2		Vote 3	
Katharina	3	Olivier	12	Katharina	9
Olivier	10	Thomas	11	Thomas	13
Thomas	7			Wei-Hwa	1
Wei-Hwa	3				
<b>No outcome</b>		<b>Olivier elected</b>		<b>Thomas elected</b>	

## 2. Finances

- Treasurer Olivier Lignon presented the annual financial report, which had been circulated to members before the meeting.
- Net debt stands at €5008, including late membership fees from Argentina and Indonesia of €1200 each. Olivier noted that these late fees may not be recoverable in the cases of countries that have been inactive for some time. Members who have not paid their fees may have their membership suspended.
- Cash in Paypal remains low at €1804. The €19,221 in the Wise account is in the process of being released to the new WPF bank account.
- Finance audit committee member Katharina Bauernschmitt reminded members that Paypal requires a small fee if members make a transaction without selecting the 'family and friends' option. Katharina also noted that the individual membership fee is a participation fee, and requested the WPF reframe this.
- Both audit committee members, Markus Roth and Katharina Bauernschmitt, recommended that invoices for country and individual membership fees should be sent earlier in the year, and reminded members that the 2026 budget would need to be approved in the next GA.
- Katharina Bauernschmitt suggested that the GP participation should have a fee. Olivier Lignon said the Board would consider fee structures and GP fees.
- Chiel Beenhakker updated members on the WPF's new bank account with Go Dutch, a fintech company covered by the Dutch government's financial guarantee and with funds held in BNP Paribas.

### 3. WJSC 2026

- Haijun Zhang presented on the proposed venue and dates for the 2026 WJSC and answered some brief questions about the structure. China is proposing to move the WJSC to May and potentially offer prizes in each category. Approximately 8 countries are expected to send participants.
- There was discussion about the relative difficulties of the puzzles set for competition in the 8/10/12 age groups, and whether the competition could be filmed or live streamed to show people for promotional purposes and increase interest in participating.

### 4. IT and website

- Olivier talked about IT and website priorities for the WPF in the coming years. The GP competition engine requires an update and overhaul to modernise the infrastructure and fix issues encountered by players when trying to compete in a GP.
- The WPF Board are looking at options to rebuild the new host engine ready for 2027, with options like membership logins, automatic grading and automatic archive purchasing available. New website will have to be compliant with GDPR regulations. If required, the Board may have to host GPs on another website for one year during development.
- Publishing rights will be re-tabled as an item by the Board in the next GA.

### 5. Other business

- There was a brief discussion about publishing rights, with members wanting greater clarity on publishing rights and ownership attribution in digital platforms. Discussion on this will continue at the next GA.
- Jörg Schneider from Germany noted that the deadlines for registration at the Eger championship conflicted with national selection dates. The Board will work with future hosts on ensuring that registration dates do not lie before national championships are held in future years.
- György István also requested that the Board review and update the WSPC hosting guidelines where the current guidelines did not have sufficient information in order to make it easier for future hosts.