

Belgium 30 october 2021

Today we arrive at the first General Assembly Meeting for our Presidium, 2 years ago we set out on a road with high spirits and hope to lead Naviga further, Unfortunately pretty soon we were hit by circumstances beyond anyone's control and life came as to say to a complete stand-still. Let us first of all have a moment of reflection for those who are no longer among us, those who passed away due to Covid or other circumstances. They will always be remembered for their efforts and the passion they put towards our beloved pass-time.

Needles to say the Pandemic that hit us early 2020 made life very complicated and even upto today we do not know if life will ever return to like it was before Covid-19. Plenty of restrictions made it near impossible to even plan events and or Championships, so we had to make a very hard decision by cancelling all the events that were planned for 2020 hoping that soon this horrible pandemic would pass. Unfortunately even today as most of our countrys are hit by new rising numbers we still struggle with some decisions towards the future because we do not know if things will be possible or not, Off course we need to plan ahead , but the dissapointment when planned events have to be cancelled weighs down very hard on those who have to take that decision. Needless to say that having to cancel planned Continental and World championships in our different classes was a decision not taken lightly, but looking back i think it was the only correct decision we could take given the circumstances.

Not being able to have major events also had a quite negative effect on our community,. Not being able to meet eachother at major Championships, or even local events in some cases has lead to a loss in interest in our model sports and given the opportunity, we must do our outmost best to revive that interest. In my personal opinion the only way to do so is by offering, providing we can do so, the possibility for people to meet again and share the passion we all have.

By nature i tend to be a rather optimistic person, so i try to look on the brighter side of things. However i am also realistic enough to see that this Pandemic will change our lives forever and maybe we will never go back to life as it was before all of this. There is light at the end of the tunnel but only by pulling the rope in the same direction we will get through this.

This Presidium made the promise to all to be more accessible and open towards our community, and by looking at the number of e mails, phonecalls and other ways of communication i received over the last 2 years there is a huge need for info and there is still is a void to fill here. Through social media it is much easier to reach people then by simply having to depend on “word of mouth” to pass on important information. However a question not asked cannot be answered either! By being more accesible i mean that direct dialogue is the best way to share information, not the old way where information is shared with 1 contact and then expect that information to be shared with all concerned. In some Sections there is a very good form of communication between the people in regard of matters that concern the daily work of the Section and the sharing of ideas that are in everyone's interest but this does not happen in all Sections unfortunately. Good communication is not a one-way conversation that works from the top down, it only works if there is feedback and suggestions also comming from the basis of all our members. In this digital era of mass communication more use of digital platforms should be used to interact trough all levels of Naviga. Only that way the Naviga Presidium knows what is happening on daily basis and where things need to be steered in a certain direction should there be the need to. A 2 year period of silence till the next Assembly General Meeting where all greivances saved up over the last 2 years are outed in whatever way are not the ideal form of communication!

One of the major points of interest of this Presidium has been from the start to make it financially more attractive to host Championships for those who organize such events, and we feel that this can only be achieved by drastically revising the financial plan of requirements and obligations between Naviga and the Organizers and vice versa. In the suggestions and ideas of the Naviga Presidium you will find our suggestions to reform the current General Competition Rules to make it more interesting and far more profitable to host such an event. They will be put forward to all of you as we agreed and we want you to consider these and vote upon so the General Competition Rules can be updated accordingly should they be accepted. We feel that what we propose will lead to a much healthier financial situation for both Naviga and its members. Also on the financial side of things the Pandemic has had an effect on Naviga. It is obviously incorrect to say that the financial situation of Naviga is healthy or not. The membership fee for 2020 and 2021 was lowered to an absolute minimum for obvious reasons, but then again so were the expenses. So due to this the financial balance for 2020 and 2021 does not really reflect reality and only when we return to a somewhat more normal life we will be able to have a more realistic view on the situation, In many ways this Pandemic has interfered with the daily work of the Presidium, and it almost feels like 2 years were lost because of that. Nevertheless i still have high hopes towards the future and hopefully be able to help and guide Naviga in the right direction. When i took over the Presidency 2 years ago no one could predict what was about to hit us, and i surely did not envision my first Assembly General Meeting to take place under these circumstances. However this is how it turned out, and all i can say is that my intentions to lead Naviga have not been tempered by this and i will always try my utmost best to do so.

Walter Geens
Naviga President