



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Seattle, Washington, USA
July 22-23, 2004

I. Day One – Thursday, July 23, 2004

A. Attendance

Sean O'Hogan	Seattle Front Runners
Dave Caraway	Front Runners New York
Kelsey Louie	Front Runners New York
Len Tristel	Seattle Front Runners
Ed Karas	San Diego Front Runners
Eurika Otto	San Diego Front Runners
Greg LaRocque	Running Moose Squad
Brian Craig	Portland Front Runners
James Gordon Stevens	Chicago Front Runners/Walkers
Jon Borset	San Francisco Frontrunners
Garrett Hayashida	San Francisco Frontrunners
Eileen Murphy	San Francisco Frontrunners
Denver Duffer	San Francisco Frontrunners
Mike Spencer	Atlanta Front Runners
Warren Snaider	DC Front Runners
Ray Duggan	Vancouver Front Runners
Andrew Hind	Vancouver Front Runners
Brian Dill	Nashville Front Runners
David McConkey	Toronto Front Runners
Alden Clark	Boston Front Runners
Gary Fracassi	Orlando Front Runners
Brian Eggert	Shoreline Front Runners
Niv Ben-Yehuda	London Front Runners
David Short	Honolulu Front Runners
Wayne Morgan	Sydney Front Runners (via phone)

The following clubs were represented by proxy: Baylands, Los Angeles, Memphis, Montreal, Ottawa, and Palm Springs.

B. Call to Order

President Alden Clark called the meeting to order and made introductions of the officers and members of the steering committee.

C. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the last annual meeting were approved with a correction noted to one club.

D. Meeting Agenda

President Clark gave an overview of the agenda, the plan for the two days and the speakers who will be making presentations during the meetings.

E. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Fracassi presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ended December 31, 2003 and a year-to-date for the first six months ended June 30, 2004. He identified the sources of revenue for IFR and explained each of the expense line items. A question was asked as to what clubs made up the >250 category (Baylands, Palm Springs, New York, Seattle, San Francisco).

It was noted that there was a significant increase in the number of clubs, particularly those in the 1-25 bracket. It was felt that in the past the clubs in this category did not understand the need to send in registration and renewal information since there was no money due.

The total number of clubs was acknowledged as 57. This raised the question of the current "universe" of viable clubs and that was estimated at 80.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented (Attachment #1).

F. Steering Committee Report

President Clark then reported to the membership of the activities of the steering committee during the past year.

1. The group has been active in establishing operating procedures for approving new clubs, for sharing newsletters and streamlining the email process.
2. He pointed to the minutes of the last annual general meeting for list of email addresses for club use.
3. He also identified the policy and constitution item requesting clubs to disseminate information, particularly emails, to their members. The current filter is through the club contact list. He reminded the delegates that there is the opportunity for clubs to have more than one contact listed and requested clubs check their info listing in this area.

A suggestion was made that a separate list or designator flag be added to those clubs that are active in track.

4. Website changes were noted in the presentation of information and some "behind the scenes" areas for use by the steering committee. Also the maps have been updated to more easily identify regions and clubs.

5. New club starter kits were sent to the following - Manchester, Knoxville, Richland, Shasta Lakes, Jacksonville, Richmond and Toulouse.

It was noted that we are currently in the process of uploading this information to the website for possible download. In addition to the traditional paper copies, the starter kit is now available on CD.

All clubs were invited to send their current documents such as charters, applications, advertising info, etc. to share with other clubs.

6. Eurika Otto has been elected recorder of the Federation and resigned her position as one of our delegates. In the interim, David Short temporarily filled the position.

G. New Clubs

A discussion followed as to a system to track and follow up with these potential new clubs. This led to the suggestion that IFR become more proactive and find areas to start new clubs rather than wait for groups to contact us.

President Clark reminded us that in the past there was a suggestion to develop some advertising to be used in this regard.

It was also noted that several of the cities that were sent starter kits had requested them in the past and in some instances are now on their second and third attempt to form a club.

Opportunities for IFR to promote new clubs formation are regional and rotating events (such as Eurogames). Pride runs are also an excellent opportunity for FR to be visible.

A key ingredient for success is that the city must have a large gay population and runners. One source of leads might be the registration database from the Gay Games.

A motion was made to form an outreach committee to identify new markets and promote the formation of front runner clubs. The motion passed.

Warren Snaider was selected to chair this committee and the other committee members are: Greg LaRocque, Eurika Otto, Wayne Morgan, Ed Karas and Alden Clark.

We discussed Paris and other European clubs and noted that while there are many euro clubs, most are not members of IFR. For the benefit of recruiting clubs, there is a list of reasons why a club should be a member of IFR.

Also in many euro clubs, running is often a part of a gay sports group. We welcome those groups to be members of IFR and strongly suggest that they use the FR designator at least to identify the running portion of the club and on their website.

H. Newsletter

There was a discussion about an IFR newsletter. Discussion points included the format, frequency, content and distribution. Also discussed was the issue of language and the need to identify translators.

It was agreed that there is some value to a newsletter to disseminate information from IFR to member clubs; there is also the question of how much of this needs to be shared with all club members.

One possibility was to have, in addition, an executive summary type of condensed information that club newsletter editors could cut and paste into their newsletters.

I. Gay Sports

President Clark reported that he attended a gay and lesbian athletic conference in Boston in March. The most exciting news that came from the conference is that the number of gay and lesbian athletes is increasing. Also noted was that this leads into the formation and discussion of GLISA to be addressed later in the meeting.

J. AGM 2005

Garret Hayashida, president of San Francisco Front Runners, presented the plans the San Francisco clubs has for the 2005 annual meeting. The dates are set for June 23 - June 26. The materials handed out are presented as Attachment #2.

K. Euro Games

An inquiry was made to see if anyone in attendance was planning to attend the Euro Games and whether IFR would have a delegate there.

L. Renewal Notices

A new procedure was instituted this year for payment of annual IFR membership fees. Each club was emailed a formatted letter that contained all of their club information as it currently appears in the IFR database. The clubs were provided with a link to the maintenance section of the IFR website along with a password to make any changes and an automated bill. The clubs could pay online with a credit or debit card or mail a check to the treasurer.

M. Participation

A question was raised to open a general discussion as to how we can engage clubs and increase participation at IFR annual meetings and other club events.

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1. Minutes – prepare and send as early as possible
2. Find ways to target and communicate more effectively with the European clubs
3. Hold the events in tangent with signature runs, have a regional club host a reception
4. Tie into, create and publish a race circuit, have a calendar on the web
5. Create a race series for IFR
6. Publish on the website and make it downloadable for inclusion in club newsletters
7. In essence create a centralized resource for “what’s going on”
8. This raised a question and discussion as to whether we (IFR) can direct or require clubs to disseminate information to their members. President Clark points to page 2-3 of last year’s minutes and the request from members.
9. Another way to increase club membership is to develop a track & field program. T&F is an untapped market as there are only a few organized clubs for this. There are plenty of opportunities for people to transition from high school and college running to road races, yet, particularly in the US, there are very few track clubs.

A suggestion was made to create broadcast lists whether at IFR or club level, e.g. races@FrontRunners.org. It was also suggested to adjust the role of the regional reps to include contacting clubs and asking them for race information. Have clubs decide what their signature race is. (Action item for steering to develop the appropriate procedures.)

N. GLISA

1. Thomas Dolan made a presentation about the background and future goals of the organization. The documents that were handed out are presented as Attachment #3.
 - a) Outgames 2006 – the idea to hold a quadrennial event and the opportunity to affiliate with Montreal’s Rendezvous 2006.
 - b) Affiliation with Euro/continental games
 - c) Centralized calendar for all gay sports.
 - d) With respect to the quadrennial events: Will the model be inclusive or competitive? All are welcome, the goal is to be inclusive and encourage personal best. What events will be held? It is anticipated that the selection of events will be at the discretion of the locality. There are no required sports.
 - e) What is the difference between GLISA and FGG? GLISA is intended to be an umbrella organization for all gay/lesbian sports organizations and sort of a clearinghouse of information and organization. The quadrennial event is only one aspect of GLISA whereas FGG’s sole focus is the staging of the gay games. Why not improve FGG rather than create a new organization? GLISA believes this to be

an evolution, not a revolution. They believe the Federation will remain true to its purpose and present the gay games every four years. GLISA's goal is to be involved in the promotion of all gay/lesbian sport and to provide more voice to the sports. GLISA intends to have a paid staff working year-round to achieve its goals.

f) Calendar issues – they want to be all-inclusive and create a huge calendar of all gay/lesbian sporting events worldwide.

g) What is the funding source? The primary fuel for GLISA will be corporate sponsorships. GLISA will not rely solely on membership fees.

h) Note that the next quadrennial event for the Outgames will be held in 2009 to honor the current schedule that the gay games has.

i) The Canadian government is considering staff to help at least through 2006. Copenhagen has also offered help. Also, ongoing corporate sponsorship will be planned for the long term.

j) How does GLISA use the IOC model? Consider IFR and how they integrate into mainstream.

k) Why were some people not invited to the think tank? It was felt that it was best not to have board members from the Federation of Gay Games so as to allow free and open dialog.

l) Are there any endorsements yet? Country dance will be and many more are just waiting.

m) What is the basis of membership cost in GLISA? Most likely will be based on the size of the organization. Currently will be 0 through 2005.

n) What does GLISA want from us now? Is it possible to still have input to sport events if IFR is not a member? Yes.

o) In the future of Gay Games and Out Games, what are the differences? No red book issues. Current international organization rules will govern the sport (such as those already in place for sports such as swimming, running, gymnastics, etc.) and the events that are presented may be very different depending on the country.

p) Who currently decides who gets accepted for GLISA membership? Is there an appeal process? How much say does a member have in the operation of GLISA? Guidelines are currently being developed for membership in GLISA. At present there is no appeal process or procedure in place. It is expected that there will be different levels of membership for International organizations and individual club members.

q) Are memberships currently being accepted? Yes.

r) Will city team memberships be accepted? Yes.

2. David McConkey shared his experience with GLISA and his attendance at the think tank.

O. Out Games 2006 – Montreal

1. Mark Tewksbury gave a presentation on the upcoming event being held in Montreal in July of 2006. He presented the dates, schedules, venues and other plans for the various events. There were comments, questions and suggestions offered. Most of the comments and suggestions were based on the recent gay games in Sydney and how this next event could be improved. The materials handed out are presented as Attachment #4.
2. There were questions and suggestions.
 - a) Suggest some tightening with regard to scratches and age brackets. Perhaps making a cost for multiple events so as to eliminate unlimited checking off of events at registration.
 - b) Suggest that the 3000-meter for women be eliminated.
 - c) How flexible will the committee be to particular needs on the day of the event?
 - d) Implement a system to record new records being set for events and keep for posterity.
 - e) Suggest a duathlon for 2009.
 - f) Question as why there was a hiatus on marathon.
 - g) Are they intent on doing all the events that the Olympics does?
 - h) The sporting organizations will guide
 - i) There will be opportunities to do new things
 - j) There are some inherited lists

P. Federation Delegate Report

David Short gave a report on the status of the Federation of Gay Games and highlighted the following. His report is presented as Attachment #5.

1. The issues with Montreal at the November meeting
2. He shared a copy of Chicago's proposal
3. He shared some information on running events at the upcoming Gay Games
 - a) There will be option to compete in a younger age group
4. Registrations are now open on the website
5. A Request for Proposal is now out for the 2010 Gay Games

Q. Update on Gay Games

President Clark gave a report on the progress that was made since the last AGM in the efforts of communicating to the Federation about the various running events at the Gay Games. This was the result of discussions at the AGM in Boston and the efforts to solicit input from all FR club members. Some of the highlights are:

1. Track and field and Marathon would be combined under one umbrella similar to the umbrella identifier of aquatics. Also, how could we identifying road races (off track) versus on-track running events.
2. Discussed the past issues of simultaneously running the marathon & 10K. Our overall recommendation would be to have the 10k at another time in the event someone wanted to run both.
3. Discussion to allow separate entry for just marathon to encourage non-games participants to run the event. However, would they get GG medals if they won? Would they be entitled to GG medals. Should there be a participation/finisher medal?

II. Day Two – Friday, July 24, 2004

A. Role call

Treasurer Fracassi called the roll and identified the voting members of each club. Des Sullivan joins via phone from Sydney.

B. Gay Games 2006

Suzi Arnold gave a presentation on the upcoming Gay Games that will be held in Chicago. She outlined some of the venues and the various sports that will be held at each. In addition she discussed the subject of transportation to the venues. She also pointed out the creation of the “Olympic Village” area and the idea of medal presentation ceremonies each night. From the tentative schedule presented, it appears that most of the issues we discussed at the last AGM and presented to the federation were incorporated into Chicago’s plans.

C. 2004 IFR Games

Len Trisch of Seattle Front Runners outlines some of the procedures that will be in place tomorrow for the track and field events.

D. New Business

1. GLISA Membership

- a) President Clark points out that IFR will not take a position choose one upcoming event (RV2006 or GGVII) over the other. It is up to each club to decide if they are going to encourage their members to participate in one or the other. He recognizes that it is great we have the opportunity to participate and give input to both. The following are questions and comments presented by most members in the group.
- b) A question was raised as to what other clubs have been approached to join GLISA. No one club was identified.
- c) A question was raised as to how our joining GLISA will affect our membership in the Federation. Eurika Otto reports that the FGG views this as a conflict of interests. Des Sullivan points out that our membership as a director organization is up for renewal this year and membership in GLISA may be looked on unfavorably.
- d) There is an opportunity to be part of the formation of a new organization and help it be well-formed and well organized.
- e) Is there a downside risk and will there be “retaliation” by FGG if we join? Will we not be taken seriously or will the not listen to our intent?

- f) Since so many of our member clubs are going to Montreal, should we not be there to “protect” and present our members’ interests?
- g) There may be a double work commitment on the part of volunteers to represent us in two places.
- h) There is a certain rigidity in thinking that we can only be members of one or the other that diminishes us rather than enhancing us as out runners.
- i) Why create another dysfunctional organization that duplicates the work? Is the FGG democratic and can we work in that organization to improve it?
- j) It is tragic that we have to work inside two organizations but it has shown a lot of creativity.
- k) A motion was made and seconded to informally liaise with GLISA without formally joining at this time. After discussion the motion was withdrawn.
- l) **A motion was made to request an answer from the FGG as to what will happen if we join GLISA.** There was discussion and further details concerning the request and response were presented.

(1) We request that they answer in four months.

(2) Based on the response, the steering committee will decide whether to call a special meeting or defer to the next AGM.

(3) The owner of the brown dog should please go to the front desk.

(4) After further discussion and much discussion regarding whether we should vote now to join GLISA or take a wait-and-see approach, it was decided to take a straw ballot to determine the group’s intention. There was overwhelming support in favor of joining GLISA.

The motion to send a letter passed 21-2.

2. Regional Elections

- a) West region elected Denver Duffer of San Francisco
- b) Canada elected David McConkey
- c) Elections for the European delegate will be held later.

3. Budget

Treasurer Fracassi presented a budget for 2005. Based on our current cash position, revenues and authorized expenses, he suggests no change in the fee structure. The budget was approved as presented. See Attachment #6.

4. Future Meeting Location

The next AGM will be held in San Francisco, June 23-26, 2005. The 2006 AGM will be held in Chicago in conjunction with the Gay Games. There was some consideration to holding the meeting during the week between GGVIII and RV2006, however a poll of the members indicated a preference for the Thursday and Friday before the games. The Chicago club will coordinate with the steering committee as to dates and locations.

5. Election of Federation Delegates

Due to the resignation of Eurika Otto, the remaining year of her term needs to be filled. Richard Newman of Seattle and Honolulu Front Runners is elected to this position on voice vote.

David Short is nominated to fill the vacancy of Des Sullivan who has chosen not to stand for reelection. Warren Snaider is also nominated but declines. David is elected to a two-year term on voice vote with 3 abstentions.

6. Note of Appreciation

It is noted that Des Sullivan has served the interests of IFR well at the Federation. His leadership and dedication has been most gratefully appreciated.

7. IFR Games 2008

While not making a formal bid at this time, New York Front Runners announces their desire to host the 2008 games event.

By Gary Fracassi, Treasurer
Acting Secretary

Alden Clark
President