

International Front Runners  
Minutes of the  
Annual General Meeting  
2 August 2013  
Antwerp, Belgium

- 1) Meeting called to order at 1:10PM
  - a) Roll call and introductions
    - i) Alden Clark, Front Runners Boston
    - ii) Gary Fracassi, Orlando Front Runners & Walkers
    - iii) Nick Eaton, Front Runners Manchester
    - iv) John Gazo, Ottawa Front Runners
    - v) Wayne Morgan, Syndey Front Runners
  - b) Election of meeting chair
    - i) Alden Clark was elected chair of the meeting
- 2) Summary of prior year actions
  - a) Chair Clark summarized the activities of IFR the last AGM
  - b) The steering committee temporarily filled a vacancy in the position of GLISA delegate by the election of Greg Larocque. Due to timing and election deadlines of GLISA, we needed to act on Larocque's approval prior to the AGM.
  - c) Translations of the various IFR website pages into languages other than English continues. Currently, there are translations available in French, Spanish and German. These are not yet published, however, being worked on by the webmaster (see additional information below).
- 3) Regional reports
- 4) Officer reports
  - a) Treasurer Fracassi presented the financial summary for 2012 and for the period through July 31, 2013. The treasurer's reports are presented as separate attachments. A question was raised as to the financial position of the organization and the future budget. Essentially, what is the relation between the treasury, the budget and the goals of the organization. It was reported that in the past few years the budget has been approved that would result in expenses being approximately equal to revenues. However, our representatives to FGG and GLISA have attended electronic meeting in the past few years, therefore, no expense reimbursements have been required. The report was approved.
    - i) There was additional discussion about how our funds could be used in the future. In general items such as video production, YouTube and related, on-target messages could be produced that further the mission statement of IFR – particularly in the area of promoting gender parity and development of new clubs.
  - b) Federation delegate report. Delegate Morgan updated the group on the current status of several items.
    - i) FYI – there are currently 144 Facebook members
    - ii) The Rainbow Run – the passing of the Rainbow Flag from Gay Games host city to host city
      - (1) The flag will move and the runs will be held a little out of sequence.
      - (2) At present there is a problem with Amsterdam and the lack of an organization there to host the run.
      - (3) The flag will end in Cleveland
    - iii) The next FGG meeting will be held in Cleveland in October. At that time technical aspects of the site will be checked out – like transportation between venues, timing, etc. Also at the

meeting, a vote will be held on the 2018 host city, currently voting between London, Paris and Limerick.

- iv) A question was raised as to the likelihood of the shift to 1QE (one quadrennial event). Wayne said it was likely, however, the main issues appear to be the human rights conference and the voting process.
  - c) Reggie Snowden – the GLISA delegate sent a report that is a separate attachment.
  - d) There was discussion of issues that need to be constantly emphasized with the Federation and with GLISA. The areas of concern are
    - i) Events being held (potentially before) and after the closing ceremonies. It was agreed that all events must be concluded prior to the closing ceremonies
    - ii) Age brackets must continue to be in 5-year groupings
    - iii) Last minute changes and non-compliance with the rule book by the host city should get approval of IFR as the changes relate to road race and track and field events.
- 5) Discussion of new proposal
- a) It was suggested for a new event to be included – marathon/half-marathon relay
    - i) Consideration of team size - to be made up of teams of 4.
    - ii) How the hand-off would work
    - iii) Use of chips to be sure there designated runner runs the correct portion of the race
  - b) Approved and recommended that the delegates move this event forward with the appropriate committee
- 6) Elections – the following elections were held
- a) Regional reps – two-year terms
    - i) Region 2 – South/Central US – Gary Fracassi
    - ii) Region 3 – Northeast US – Alden Clark
    - iii) Region 5 – Europe – Nick Eaton
    - iv) Region 7 – Central & South America – currently vacant
  - b) Organization delegates – two-year terms
    - i) GLISA Delegate 1 – Greg Larocque
    - ii) Federation Delegate 1 – Wayne Morgan
  - c) Webmaster – one-year term
    - i) Brad Miyasato was re-elected, subject to his acceptance
  - d) Communications
    - i) Currently vacant.
  - e) Other discussions
    - i) Vacant positions
      - (1) Considerations for communications position – John will discuss with Jose and other people will be contacted subsequently
      - (2) Considerations for Federation delegate 2 – Nick will talk to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ii) Webmaster
      - (1) Current status of website and potential for how we can provide assistance to Brad
      - (2) Integration and use of Facebook
        - (a) Consider regional Facebook pages
        - (b) Use for inter-club communications, runs, events as well as local
      - (3) Facebook can be used for contemporary information that can be disseminated quickly
      - (4) The website used as a starting point for information and direction to Facebook
- 7) Discussion of upcoming Annual General Meetings

- a) The 2014 AGM will be held in conjunction with the Gay Games. For various reasons, many of the running events have been moved to Akron (near-by city). The Akron club had been in contact with Alden about hosting the meeting and co-ordination.
    - i) The AGM considered that we might draw more attendance if the AGM were held mid-week during the games, rather than before the events start. Also, that being the case it might result in higher attendance to have the meeting in Cleveland, rather than Akron. Consideration was given that most people would stay in Cleveland and go out to Akron only for their events. Therefore, greater participation would be more likely in Cleveland. Alden should express our concerns and discussions with the Akron club and update the steering committee.
    - ii) We also talked about combining the AGM with a party event similar to the event IFR hosted in Montreal.
  - b) There were no bids to be considered for the 2015 AGM so it was discussed that this could be an electronic meeting. The steering committee will also put out the word to all clubs in the event one would like to host the 2015 or 2016 meeting.
  - c) We discussed the need for better use of technology in the AGM given some difficulties and limitations with Skype. Some members use Go To Meeting, others use WebX. The steering committee will test these various applications during their next few steering meetings to determine the best fit.
  - d) We also recommended that the steering committee meet more regularly and it was suggested that a quarterly meeting would be sufficient. This will allow the testing of technology as well.
    - i) The timing of the next steering committee was discussed as well as the timing of the day so that the meeting takes place at a reasonable hour for all delegates. Since Wayne will be in Cleveland for the Federation meeting, it was suggested we coordinate a meeting in October. In the future we considered Saturday afternoon Eastern time might be the best.
- 8) New business
- a) The New Zealand club requested an agenda item to recognize the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Front Runners. We discussed how IFR might recognize this and participate. Obviously, this represents the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for San Francisco Front Runners as well.
    - i) This could be an opportunity to further the IFR mission
      - (1) Funds could be used for trading pins at the Gay Games
      - (2) A press release for all clubs to use with the media in their area to bring awareness to their club
      - (3) A logo/design would be developed and share with all clubs for their promotional use
      - (4) Several banners would be made for use at regional games
  - b) Other new business we touched on and as discussed in various places above
    - i) Marathon – when to hold – BEFORE the event end
    - ii) Use of Facebook
    - iii) New clubs – start-up process and how they can more easily get information from IFR
    - iv) Bidding process for host cities for Gay Games and Out Games – assuring that we as IFR have direct input to our delegates to vote as we recommend
    - v) Website – subsequent to the meeting Brad provided update as to direction of updates to website, changes in process including a mobile-friendly version.