

International Front Runners

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting - August 2000

The 2000 IFR Annual General Meeting was hosted by Berlin Frontrunners and held in Berlin, GERMANY. Alden Clark, president of IFR, called the Meeting to order at 9:45 AM on Thursday, 24 August 2000.

A total of 35 participants representing 24 clubs (incl. proxy) were in attendance.

Club Name: Delegate and Observers

Ann Arbor: Rick Jensen

Berlin: Stefan Huch, Wolfgang Klare

Boston: Alden Clark (Proxy for: Toronto, Halifax, Buffalo)

Chicago: Bob Hostettler, Carl Petry

Cologne: Martin Spruhs

Grand Rapids: Dave Morris

Honolulu: David Short

Indianapolis: Jeffery Mounts

London: Antonio Irranca, Chris Drake, Andrew Thornton, Steve Boyd

Los Angeles: Brian Eggert

New York: John Kiley

Orlando: Gary Fracassi

Paris: Pascal Rossignol, Alain Macé, Stuart Smith

Philadelphia: Bill Biskup, Amy Sonstein, Rick Van Tassell, Mike ZuZu

Pittsburgh: Joe Hom

Rochester: Phil Amato, Alan Curle

San Francisco: Jon Borset

San Diego: David Cohen, Jerry Hicks, John Lockhart

Shoreline: Brad Miyasato, Brad Duerre

Sydney: John Kiley (Observer, Reporter)

Washington DC: Ernie Worden, Warren Snaider, Chris Rogers

Thursday, 24 August 2000

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

IFR President, Alden Clark opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to Berlin and saying how excited he was to move forward with IFR.

Clark began by summarizing what happened in the 1999 Forum in Philadelphia and outlining the objectives of IFR as stated in the IFR constitution. These were to 1) encourage Front Runner activities, 2) oversee relevant sports (including the Gay Games), 3) affiliate widely, 4) encourage gender parity, and 5) encourage membership.

Clark then introduced Stefan Huch of Berlin Frontrunners -- host of the Annual General Meeting and the Frontrunner Invitational and secretary of IFR.

II. OPENING REMARKS BY STEFAN HUCH

Stefan Huch, on behalf of Berlin Frontrunners welcomed Front Runner delegates from the United States, England, South Africa, France and Germany. Huch announced that there were about 20 clubs represented at the Meeting.

Huch noted that when he and Wolfgang Klare made their presentation in Orlando in 1997 to host the International FrontRunner Invitational, he wasn't sure that Berlin would be selected to host the event. He was especially proud to be hosting the first IFR sponsored Meeting/Invitational held outside the North American continent.

Before continuing, Huch covered some housekeeping items: 1) the lunch menu was announced and meeting participants were asked to make menu selections, 2) registration for the Gay & Lesbian Run would take place after the meeting. He also thanked Olaf Preuss for helping with Meeting registration.

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III. ROLL CALL and REVIEW OF AGENDA

Alden Clark first introduced the IFR steering committee members in attendance: President and Eastern United States representative: Alden Clark, Secretary and European representative: Stefan Huch, Treasurer and Central United States representative: Gary Fracassi, Western United States representative and webmaster: Brad Miyasato. Clark also noted there were several steering committee members not able to attend: Canadian representative: Peter Taylor, Southern Hemisphere representative Wayne Morgan, and Federation of Gay Games delegate Des Sullivan.

Gary Fracassi then took the Roll Call for the meeting. Fracassi mentioned that forms were available for clubs wishing to update their club information for IFR membership and the FR club directory. Brad Miyasato added that clubs are requested to provide numbers of male and female members; this are required for our application to the Federation of Gay Games.

Alden Clark then reviewed the agenda for the day's meeting.

IV. IFR STEERING COMMITTEE ACTIONS REVIEW - Alden Clark

Alden Clark reviewed activities of the IFR Steering Committee since the Philadelphia Meeting:

- One of the most important tasks was publication of the Constitution ratified in Philadelphia and sending this information to all the clubs.
- Talked to Canadian clubs and got Peter Taylor of Toronto to represent the Canadian clubs.
- Clarified that new clubs would be included into the current six existing regions. As was agreed to in Philadelphia, new regions of representation would be discussed and voted on in the future as necessary.
- Set up IFR fiscal year to be the calendar year from January to December. This would require that membership invoices would be going out to the clubs at the end of the year. Details on membership would be provided in the treasurer's report.
- Application to the Federation of Gay Games was submitted. In a report prepared by Des Sullivan, the IFR Gay Games delegate, and read by Stefan Huch, Sullivan noted that:

As a requirement for membership, the Federation requires that applicants participate in Federation activities as observers and that he had attended the 1999 Federation meeting held in Berlin in this capacity. He was also working on the Sports and Outreach Committees. The application was submitted to the Federation in San Francisco on August 3. Sullivan will also be attending the Federation Meeting to be held November 5-11 in Sydney on behalf of IFR.

Sullivan's report is included as Appendix A.

V. AMENDMENT TO IFR CONSTITUTION

Brad Miyasato explained that one point discussed and agreed upon in Philadelphia unfortunately did not make it into the final version of the Constitution that was voted on. To formally add the clause to the Constitution, the following Amendment is proposed:

Bylaws 11.10 - Official Language

The official language of International Front Runners is English. All business meetings shall be conducted in and all correspondence shall be written in the official language.

Discussion: No discussion.

Called to a vote: Motion passed unanimously.

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VI. TREASURER'S REPORT - Gary Fracassi

Income: Gary Fracassi reported that \$1775 in IFR club membership dues was collected this year. He noted that 37 clubs submitted forms to become IFR members -- of those 11 had 1-25 members, 7 had 26-50 members, 7 had 51-150 members, 4 had 151-250 members and 8 had 250+ members. He also noted that although the membership dues was based on the number of members a club had, several clubs contributed more than they were asked to in support of IFR.

Expenses: totaled \$453.80. This was broken down as follows: printing and mailing: \$113.80, website costs: \$240.00, application to Federation of Gay Games: \$100.00

Fracassi noted that this leaves the current balance as \$1321.20.

Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Discussion: No discussion.

Called to a vote: Motion passed unanimously.

VII. IFR AND CLUB MEMBERSHIP DISCUSSION

Following Fracassi's report, there were several questions and comments about IFR membership.

- John Lockhart of San Diego asked about the dues structure and Fracassi explained that the structure agreed upon in Philadelphia was: 1-25 members: \$0, 26-50 members: \$25, 51-150 members: \$50, 151-250 members: \$75, 250+ members: \$100.
- Joe Hom of Pittsburgh inquired about how was a "member" defined as some clubs had membership dues and applications and others were more informal. Fracassi reported that basically clubs defined their own membership numbers and not the Steering Committee.
- Pascal Rossignol of Paris asked if there were any non-American clubs that became members and Fracassi reported that Sydney and Berlin became members.
- David Cohen of San Diego asked how many times clubs were pursued to join IFR. Clark reported that he first sent out a letter in February to all clubs, then followed up with an email to those clubs with email contacts in March. Regional representatives then contacted clubs about joining.
- Phil Amato of Rochester asked if those clubs not joining IFR or those not having their own websites would not have information about them on the IFR website. Brad Miyasato reported that information on clubs would be on the IFR website in all cases. He asked the club representatives to encourage their clubs to actualize their club dates.
- Ernie Worden of DC asked if clubs could do anything to help support the application of IFR to the Federation of Gay Games. David Cohen suggested that becoming a member club of IFR would show support of the organization and this should reflect favorably on IFR as a representative body for all Front Runner clubs.

This was followed by a discussion of club membership. David Cohen of San Diego suggested that clubs may want to transfer memberships when members move from one location to another. David Short of Honolulu agreed that clubs should honor memberships to other clubs. Jerry Hicks of San Diego noted that there were other implications of membership such as possible newsletter costs, etc. and Alden Clark said that it would not be wise for IFR to dictate club membership policy. Warren Snaider of DC suggested however that recommendations could be made to encourage membership and inter-club cooperation. Clark suggested that a committee be formed to encourage inter-club cooperation. Warren Snaider of Washington, D.C., John Kiley of New

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York, David Short of Honolulu, Bill Biskup of Philadelphia, David Cohen of San Diego, Joe Hom of Pittsburgh volunteered to be on the committee.

VIII. IFR WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS REPORT - Brad Miyasato

Brad Miyasato briefly described what is on the IFR website at <http://www.frontrunners.org>: a list of clubs and links to club information; past General Meeting ("Forums") minutes; the IFR constitution, a list of club events and announcements. He also noted that the Club Directory is available on the website in a password protected area and that there is an email list for all the club contacts with email addresses. Currently there are 102 clubs listed. He reported that there is the opportunity for clubs generating their own individual website as well. If a club is interested people should contact Brad. There are no profit aims.

IX. IFR 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT - Jerry Hicks, David Cohen, John Lockhart

David Cohen began by providing information on the City of San Diego, "America's Finest City" and pointed out that San Diego has numerous attractions such as Sea World, the San Diego Zoo and Wild Animal Park, etc. Cohen also noted that 2001 will mark the 20th anniversary for FRSD and that the International Softball Organization will be holding a competition the same weekend as the Annual General Meeting. John Lockhart then gave a brief history of FRSD noting that the club has always had co-gender leadership and that women comprise 20-25% of the membership. Lockhart also noted that FRSD has won an award for their water station at the Rock 'N Roll Marathon.

Jerry Hicks reported that Annual General Meeting will be held Thursday-Sunday, October 4-7, 2001. FRSD will provide hosted housing and some of the events include: an opening reception, a banquet and "hosted dinners" -- smaller dinner parties for participants. Transportation should not be a problem as there is a good public transportation system to take participants to the meetings and events. There will be several running event options: 1) the Mission Bay Triathlon, 2) the San Diego AIDS Walk and 10K run, 3) the Over the Bridge Run over Coronado Bridge. A video was shown showcasing the City of San Diego.

Questions and Comments:

- Ernie Worden of DC asked if only delegates were invited. Answer: no, events were also being planned for those not attending the meetings.
- Mike Zuzu of Philadelphia asked how many days were being devoted to meetings and it was answered that 2 days had been planned at previous meetings but it would depend on the items to be discussed.
- Brad Miyasato suggested that to encourage participation, clubs, especially the non-American clubs, provide suggestions on what would make it more appealing for them to attend to the Steering Committee or FRSD.

X. SYDNEY 2002 GAY GAMES UPDATE - John Kiley

John Kiley sent greetings from Sydney 2001 and Sydney Frontrunners and presented a report on Gay Games VI to be held November 2-9, 2002. 11,000 athletes (from over 80 countries) are expected to participate in 31 sports and will be using the Sydney Olympics facilities in Olympic Park. There will be a Cultural Festival, headed by Robyn Archer, that will feature artists and performers and will be held with easy access to other events. The Cultural Festival will be unique in that some of the cultural events will take place between sports events. Kiley also described Sydney as a city with many attractions, including beautiful beaches, having a strong Community,

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and which boasts the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras each year. The Gay Games are strongly supported by both the gay and straight communities. He noted also that Sydney Frontrunners will be manning water stations for the Marathon and Triathlon events in the Summer Olympic Games. Kiley followed this with a video promoting Gay Games IV and the city of Sydney.

Questions and Comments

- Bob Hostettler from Chicago asked if copies of the video were available to help promote participation in the Games. Kiley answered that many copies had been distributed to various sports organizations but will inquire about how to obtain more copies.
- David Cohen of San Diego asked when the Annual General Meeting was going to be held in conjunction with the Games. Alden Clark replied that Wayne Morgan of Sydney was suggesting that the AGM be held prior to the start of the Games.
- John Lockhart of San Diego asked what safeguards were being taken regarding finances to prevent losses of previous Gay Games. Kiley reported that every effort was being made to prevent the problems of previous Games but didn't have specifics.
- Pascal Rossignol of Paris noted that it should be emphasized that the Cultural Festival will begin a week before the Games begin.
- Chris Drake of London asked if IFR will be involved in track & field events or just the marathon. Jerry Hicks of San Diego replied that Front Runners San Diego usually starts up a track and field to help train for the Games. Mike Zuzu of Philadelphia noted that the Games provides a good opportunity to try something new and that many long distance runners participate in the track events.
- Ernie Worden of DC asked if there will be hosted housing for participants. Kiley replied there would be.

XI. FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES SPORTS COMMITTEE REPORT - Mike Zuzu

Mike Zuzu, Sports Committee co-chair to the Federation of Gay Games gave a report on the Sydney Games. He noted that financial contracts were signed in 1998. He also reported that Sydney is required to meet certain minimum standards for each event and that IFR has until January 15, 2001 to provide input for changes to the marathon, triathlon and track and field events. Although the Federation of Gay Games has Sports Coordinators to make sure Sydney is complying with standards, ZuZu noted that there currently is no one for the Marathon, Triathlon and Track & Field events, so this is a good opportunity for IFR to provide input.

XII. NEW GROUP TO FOCUS ON OLDER ATHLETES -John Lockhart

John Lockhart of San Diego reported that he was talking to the Gay Games organizers about a group that focuses on older athletes. His proposal includes holding workshops and information tables at the Games. The group would be self-supporting financially. His suggestion for the name of the group be: 50 PLUS (People Like US). Lockhart will be providing more information after hearing from the Games organizers.

XIII. ELECTION OF DELEGATES

At the Meeting in Philadelphia, it was decided that Steering Committee members would be elected for two year terms. The Steering Committee further decided that to ensure continuity, that half of the Steering Committee would be elected every year. Steering Committee positions to be

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filled at this AGM are: Federation of Gay Games representative, Canadian regional representative, Southern Hemisphere representative, and Western US representative.

Alden Clark of Boston nominated Des Sullivan of Sydney to a second term as Gay Games representative; seconded by John Kiley of Sydney. By voice vote, Des Sullivan was elected as representative to the Federation of Gay Games.

Delegates were asked to meet in respective groups to select Regional representatives for Canada, Southern Hemisphere, and Western United States.

The following persons were named Regional Representatives for the IFR Steering Committee:

Southern Hemisphere: Wayne Morgan of Sydney Frontrunners

Canada: Peter Taylor of Toronto Frontrunners

Western USA: Brad Miyasato of Shoreline Frontrunners of Long Beach

XIV. IFR NAMING OF EVENTS - Alden Clark

Alden Clark noted that until Philadelphia, International Frontrunner Invitationals (IFI) were held every four years, between Gay Games. He noted that although it was decided that IFR hold Annual General Meetings, many people still wanted the IFI events continued and it was the Steering Committee's proposal that IFI continue every four years and that in IFI years, the AGM and IFI would take place together. In addition, in Gay Games years, the AGM would take place at the Gay Games.

There was a lot of discussion on the topic of IFR events.

- Ernie Worden of DC (and others) said that it would be desirable to have running and cultural events along with each Annual Meeting.
- Warren Snaider of DC noted that there might be concerns that if the host club had to organize running and social events for all Front Runners in addition to hosting the AGM, smaller clubs would not be able to stage such event.
- Stefan Huch of Berlin suggested that while the AGM needed to be held every year and events can take place along with the AGM, the focus of the events may alternate: for example the focus in Gay Games and IFI years may be on the sports events, and the focus in alternate years could be the conference. Alden Clark agreed, noting that Berlin had bid for hosting an IFI, but had to host an AGM as well. Brian Eggert of Long Beach/Los Angeles noted that having an event focused on the AGM allows smaller clubs to host the event.
- Bill Biskup of Philadelphia made a motion based on recommendations made in Philadelphia for Front Runner events -- that there be a four year rotation events: Gay Games, charitable event, road race, and track event. After more discussion and a short break, the motion was withdrawn.
- John Kiley of Sydney made a motion: The IFR meeting format shall be such that the annual meeting coincident with Gay Games and IFI in the even years and will focus on the sporting event. In the odd years the AGM will be held with other events as proposed by the bidding club with the focus on the business meeting. The steering committee will establish the minimum requirements of an AGM. In discussion however, there were concerns that the motion needed to allow more flexibility for the host club.
- Gary Fracassi suggested that IFR should continue with Gay Games and IFI events in alternate years with General Meetings every year.
- Bill Biskup of Philadelphia made a motion that a subcommittee be formed to develop minimum requirements for IFR events. The motion was seconded by Ernie Worden of DC and carried on a vote by the delegates. Alden Clark will take volunteers for the subcommittee.

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XV. ELECTRONIC GENERAL MEETINGS - Stefan Huch

Stefan Huch of Berlin reported that a few people had inquired about participating in the AGM electronically and Huch asked for any discussion on the desirability of holding the AGM electronically. Ric Van Tassel of Philadelphia noted that not everyone has the same technology and there is a disadvantage to not being able to see others. Joe Hom of Pittsburgh noted that setting up a conference call was also possible. Van Tassel noted that the Federation does sometimes hold small committee meetings electronically, but many noted that e-meetings and conference calls do not work well with large numbers of participants in a forum-type setting. Huch added that the different time zones are also a problem for holding electronic meetings. Warren Snaider of DC suggested that IFR may survey clubs and ask if clubs would attend an electronic meeting. Alden Clark summarized by saying that although the general feeling is that the technology is not there yet, IFR should investigate having electronic meetings in the future. Huch mentioned that an important thing for the AGM is that people from all over the world get together and change their minds.

XVI. FRONT RUNNER ANNUAL EVENTS - Bill Biskup

Bill Biskup reported that he had been soliciting lists of events from the Front Runner clubs to help promote and plan FR club events and activities. Events include Pride Weekends, Anniversary Weekends, special runs, etc. Biskup also reported that Todd Henry of Boston is working on a list of race circuits for the different regions.

XVII. OTHER BUSINESS

David Cohen of San Diego made a presentation to Berlin Frontrunners to thank them for hosting the AGM and IFI events.

Wolfgang Klare of Berlin gave directions to the Berlin Run registration location where participants could pick up their race numbers and other information.

Brad Miyasato of Shoreline mentioned that IFR had a signature book that participants to the various IFR events would sign. This was last seen at the Gay Games in Amsterdam. He asked that clubs ask their members if they might know where it is.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

These minutes were submitted by: Brad Miyasato (Shoreline) and Stefan Huch (Berlin).

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Appendix A

International Front Runners Annual General Meeting

Berlin 23 – 24 August 2000

Report by Des Sullivan, Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games

Dear Fellow Front Runners,

It is with much pleasure that I submit a report of my activities for the 1999/2000 year as the International Front Runners delegate to the Federation of Gay Games.

After being elected at the 7th International Front Runners Forum in Philadelphia in September 1999, I have concentrated all my efforts on preparing for our membership of the Federation.

I attended the Federation's 1999 Annual General Meeting in Berlin, Germany, in October 1999 and registered as an official observer for IFR. One of the requirements for organizations seeking membership is that they should be represented at two consecutive Federation annual meetings.

Attached is a detailed report of the Berlin meeting and some of the key outcomes.

Throughout this year, I have been receiving reports of discussions by the Federation Executive Committee and activities of the Sports Committee and the Outreach Committee – I am a member of both groups.

With the help of the IFR Steering Committee, I compiled the information required by the Federation to accompany our application for membership and submitted the formal document to San Francisco by mail from Sydney on Thursday 3 August.

The Membership Committee is currently studying our submission and will advise any further information which may be required.

From 5 to 11 November, I will attend the Federation AGM in Sydney as the IFR delegate and will go before the Membership Committee to speak in support of our application and answer questions.

I believe we have a compelling case for membership of the Federation and am confident that we will be successful.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent a wonderful group of women and men in the past year. I look forward to taking this representation to the Federation of Gay Games.

Des Sullivan, Sydney Australia. Sunday 6 August 2000