

# **International Front Runners**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (Part I) – 3 May 2008**

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The 2008 IFR Annual General Meeting will be held in two parts. The first will be conducted as a conference call. The second part will be a physical meeting to take place on 23 May in New York. Alden Clark, president of IFR, called Part I of the Meeting to order at 9:10 AM (Eastern) on Saturday, 3 May 2008.

Participants:

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|----------------------|---|
| <b>Alden Clark</b>   | <b>Boston, IFR President</b>            |
| <b>Brad Miyasato</b> | <b>Long Beach, IFR Communications</b>   |
| <b>David Short</b>   | <b>Memphis, FGG Delegate</b>            |
| <b>Brad Bostock</b>  | <b>Calgary, Canadian Representative</b> |
| <b>Gael MacLeod</b>  | <b>Calgary, GLISA Delegate</b>          |
| <b>David Cohen</b>   | <b>Albany</b>                           |
| <b>Don Diltz</b>     | <b>BayLands</b>                         |

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**Saturday, 3 May 2008**

### **I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Alden Clark, president of International Front Runners, opened the meeting by explaining that at the last AGM in Calgary, it was decided to have two meetings. One -- an electronic/dial-in meeting and the second -- a face to face meeting. This is the first time trying the new format.

### **II. ROLL CALL AND REVIEW OF AGENDA**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Alden Clark   | Boston, IFR President, Eastern US Representative |
| Brad Miyasato | Long Beach, IFR Communications                   |
| David Short   | Memphis, FGG Delegate                            |
| David Cohen   | Albany   |
| Don Diltz     | BayLands   |
| Brad Bostock  | Calgary, Canadian Representative                 |
| Gael MacLeod  | Calgary, GLISA Delegate                          |

Alden introduced the members of the Steering Committee. In addition to the members on the conference call, the following members were not able to join the meeting:

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Gary Fracassi      | South Central US Representative, IFR Treasurer  |
| Jon Nicholson      | Western US Representative                       |
| Per Horn Rasmussen | European Representative                         |
| Said Pulido        | Mexico, Central & South American Representative |
| Wayne Morgan       | FGG Delegate                                    |
| Greg Larocque      | GLISA Delegate                                  |

Alden went over the agenda for the meeting.

### **III. 2007 AGM MEETING MINUTES**

Alden noted that the minutes from last year's meeting was posted on the website and was also distributed by email to registrants prior to the meeting. One outcome of the meeting was the proposal of the new format for the AGM and the creating of a preliminary action plan for

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International Front Runners. He noted that the final version of the action plan discussed at the meeting was still not available.

There was also a discussion of increased outreach to form new clubs as well as greater participation from existing clubs. Alden noted that IFR has starter kits available -- a CD with sample documents, IFR history, and other promotional items. In the past year, starter kits have been sent to Hartford, Connecticut, USA as well as Richmond, Virginia, USA. Currently new clubs fill out a form on the website for membership in IFR and regional representatives approve membership. In the last year, new clubs have formed in Kerry, Ireland, New Delhi, India, Austin, Texas and Asbury Park, New Jersey in the US. Brad M noted that New Delhi had privacy concerns but they were assured that contact information was kept private. Over last year, Alden reported that a new region was formed: Mexico-Central-South America and that a European representative -- Per Horn Rasmussen -- was elected. Alden also went over the different regions.

One of the goals suggested at last year's AGM was having at least one club on each continent. There still needs to be discussion on how to achieve that goal.

#### **IV. IFR GAMES**

Update on IFR Games. Alden has been in contact with Kelsie Louie of Front Runners New York. They may be changing the format of the IFR Games to reduce fees because of low participation, particularly in some of the track events. About 100 people have signed up (mainly from New York).

Alden reported that over the past year he has been working with FR New York on the IFR games. There have been concerns about low participation in the upcoming IFR Games and there have been questions about whether IFR has current contact information for the clubs.

Some comments: need to get information for events such as the IFR Games out early especially for those traveling; events may need higher profile on the website. It was also suggested that regional representatives may need to have more contact with clubs in their region to promote events like the IFR Games. Other suggestions were to make sure information gets into club newsletters and emails to club members. Host clubs also need to take responsibility to promote the event and contact other clubs. Alden said he would do more followup with New York.

#### **V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Alden presented 2007 Treasurer's Report prepared by IFR Treasurer, Gary Fracassi. *See attachment 1.*

*Question:* What are the AGM Fees mentioned in the report?

*Answer:* Fees collected from AGM held last year in Calgary.

*Question:* Does GLISA have dues?

*Answer:* No. Although it was expected that GLISA would have similar dues as FGG and was budgeted for, there currently are no dues.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **VI. FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES DELEGATES REPORT**

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The 2007 FGG Annual Meeting summary was submitted by Richard Newman and distributed to meeting participants. *See attachment 2.*

David Short further reported:

- A) The Federation had a successful 25th dinner
- B) This was the first year working under a new structure and that is more effective
- C) 13 new sports organizations have joined the Federation
- D) 2010 Games is on track. Cologne has been able to recruit quality people to organize the event.
- E) There has been interest by several city to host the 2014 Gay Games: Johannesburg, London, Antwerp, Miami, Boston, and Hershey (Pennsylvania USA). Selection to be made in 2009.

### **VII. GLISA DELEGATES REPORT**

Alden Clark presented the GLISA Delegates Report submitted by Greg Larocque (who is in Copenhagen for meetings in preparation for OutGames in 2009). *See attachment 3.*

In the report:

- A) Venues for the track and field and road events have been confirmed. There is also some description of the facilities.
- B) Accommodation info.
- C) Registration for the 2009 OutGames is open.
- D) GLISA Delegate Congress will be held in the fall in the US where they will likely announce the 2013 host city.
- E) GLISA has a new website.
- F) GLISA North America has made available the bid guidelines for 2nd North American OutGames in 2013.

Brad Bostock reported that Melbourne hosted the first Asian OutGames event and that it was a very successful event. They had anticipated about a thousand registrants but had about 1300 participants.

Alden noted that Greg Larocque's GLISA delegate position is subject to vote this year but that Greg will be happy to continue as GLISA delegate.

### **VIII. 2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2009 IFR Annual General Meeting will take place in Copenhagen and will be hosted by the Copenhagen Front Runners in conjunction with the OutGames. Alden Clark said IFR will review the format of this year's meetings to see how the AGM in Copenhagen will be structured.

### **IX. IFR ACTION PLAN**

Most of the points were already touched upon, but some of the topics brought up in Calgary:

- A) Membership. What services does IFR provide for its member clubs?
- B) Finance. How to increase revenue? Have sponsorship? Get funding through other organizations?
- C) Other goals for communication.
- D) Roles of officers of club and governance.

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Alden will send out a note saying that subcommittees will be formed for Outreach and Finance asking for volunteers to help. The subcommittee participants and goals would be decided at meeting in New York.

### **X. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A) Future of IFR**

Comments:

- 1) Alden noted that several clubs have commented that they do not have a good idea of what IFR does; that when new officers/leaders are selected, the relationships with other organizations are sometimes lost. How do we insure continuity? He noted that in Boston, they have a transition meeting - to pass on information about the club including information on ties to other organizations.
- 2) Alden also said that when people think "international" -- they only think of large athletic events like the Gay Games or the OutGames.
- 3) From club perspective, what is the benefit of having an international organization? IFR has been able to provide information to runners on how to connect with other clubs when traveling, but how can it do more?
- 4) There seems to be a trend in some clubs to be less competitive, so there is less willingness to participate in events.
- 5) David Cohen said that in Albany it is hard to attract new people even though they try to get the word out.
- 6) David Short said that because of greater acceptance, many gay runners in Memphis are joining the straight running clubs.
- 7) There may be less need.

Alden suggested making this a topic for physical meeting in New York and to make it part of the IFR action plan.

#### **B) Wikipedia**

Brad Miyasato communicated an email from Richard Ervais about updating the Wikipedia entry on International Front Runners to include more history about the organization and what it is doing. Alden and Brad will look into this.

#### **C) IFR Games**

Alden asked if there needs to be a reconsideration of the IFR Games structure. He noted that the IFR Games (formerly called the International Frontrunners Invitational) was scheduled in between Gay Games events to offer ongoing competition opportunities and to promote

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continued camaraderie between the clubs. With the Gay Games, OutGames and other athletic events, have things evolved that IFR Games is not necessary?

Gael MacLeod suggested that instead of hosting new events (which requires a large commitment from the host club) that IFR may want to focus on supporting existing events.

Don Diltz suggested that IFR come up with a survey on the IFR Games. Meeting participants were asked to submit questions for the survey. This would be finalized at the meeting in New York and would be sent out after the New York event.

### **D) 2010 AGM Location Bid**

David Short reported that he had been contacted by both Frontrunners Cologne and Sports Club Janus -- an umbrella sport organization in Copenhagen -- expressing interest in hosting the IFR annual meeting in 2010 in conjunction with the 2010 Gay Games.

Motion to hold 2010 AGM in Cologne. All in favor. Motion carried.

David will advise both organizations and put them in touch with Alden who will provide them with further details in due course.

### **E) Election of FGG Delegate**

Alden explained that IFR delegates to both the Federation of Gay Games and GLISA are two year positions elected on alternate years to insure continuity. The Federation of Gay Games position to be voted on this year is currently held by David Short. David said he would encourage someone else to take on this position, as he has now been serving in this role since 2004, but also that he would be willing to continue to be a Federation of Gay Games delegate for another term, if no other qualified candidate comes forward.

It was suggested that further nominations for the position be taken up to the meeting in New York and a vote be taken at the physical meeting. If meeting participation is low in New York then other voting methods (such as an online vote) can be investigated.

### **F) Election of GLISA Delegate**

As with the Federation of Gay Games delegates, one of the GLISA delegate positions is up for election. This is Greg Larocque's current position. Greg is also willing to continue.

Other nominations will be solicited and the New York meeting will be targeted for a final vote.

Although Gael MacLeod was appointed as an interim delegate pending acceptance of the Delegate position by a Manchester member, that still has not happened and Gael will continue as the other GLISA Delegate.

### **G) Election of Communications Officer**

Alden explained that this was an annual position created last year at the Calgary AGM. Brad Miyasato expressed interest in continuing. As with the FGG and GLISA delegate positions, other nominations will be accepted, with a vote to be taken at the New York meeting.

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### **H) Election of Regional Representatives: Canada, Southern Hemisphere, Western USA.**

Alden explained that like the organizational delegates, elections of regional representatives are staggered. This year, elections for the representatives for Canada, the Southern Hemisphere and Western US are to be held.

**Canada:** Brad Bostock said that **Craig Lewington** has expressed interest in being the Canadian Regional Rep. He will solicit other nominations and follow up the election of the representative.

**Southern Hemisphere:** Because there were no participants from a Southern Hemisphere region club, Alden said he will follow up with the clubs to elect a representative.

**Western US:** It was suggested that Jon Nicholson (the current representative) be contacted. Alden will follow up with Jon.

### **I) Final Comments**

David Cohen urged New York to get info out about the IFR Games. Alden will follow up.

## **III. ADJOURNMENT**

Alden Clark closed the meeting at 11:35 am (Eastern).

These minutes were submitted by Brad Miyasato.