

WETNOTES

Newsletter of International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics

IGLA 1997, San Diego, California

On behalf of Different Strokes Swim Team and San Diego Cygnets Water Polo Team, we'd like to invite you to join us for the Ten Year Anniversary Celebration of the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championship - IGLA '97. San Diego is expecting over 1,000 swimmers, divers, and water polo players to compete this year.

Only a year before Gay Games V in Amsterdam, now is the time to gear up, and that means competition. Combine the unparalleled attraction of San Diego's sun, fun, and miles of beaches with the excitement of a ten year anniversary celebration, fantastic social events and

CONTENTS

IGLA 1997, San Diego, California 1

IGLA Meetings and Elections . . . 1

Wanted: Hot and sexy marketing rep to hustle up donations for good cause. Wanted: Hot hand to draw new logo for wet, scantily clad non-profit org. . . . 2

Gay Games V Update 2

Europe: More on Games, Strategies and Alliances (But, is it Swimming or Risk Ya Talkin' About?) 4

Championship Rules Committee Update 5

LOOKING FOR A HOST CITY FOR IGLA 1999 5

IGLA Roster 6

1997 IGLA Registration 6

A Wonderful Farewell 6

IGLA Welcomes New Teams . . . 7

Meet Results 7

1998 Calendar 8

parties (including IGLA's very own Dance Party '97), and you've got a lot of people having a lot of fun.

IGLA '97 covers a five day period: October 16-20, 1997. Athletes should arrive for registration at the America's Finest City Welcome party the night of the 16th at the Park Manor Hotel, overlooking downtown San Diego. Competition dates are October 17, 18, and 19. The swimming competition will be held at the Coronado Municipal Pool and will be a short course yards meet. The water polo competition will be held at the Allied Gardens Municipal Pool. The diving competition will be held at the UCSD Canyonview Pool. Hosted housing is available upon request.

All entries are due August 29, 1997. For more information or to obtain a registration packet, contact Different Strokes Swim Team by calling (619) 525-SWIM, e-mailing IGLA97@QSpec.com, or visiting the IGLA 1997 website <http://www.qspec.com>.

IGLA Meetings and Elections

by **Jon Bauer** (hwcoyote@aol.com) & **Roberto Mantaci** (mantaci@litp.ibp.fr)

The IGLA Board of Directors meeting, the IGLA General Meeting, IGLA Committee Meetings, and the election of the IGLA Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, October 16, 1997 at the Ramada Inn. The Board of Directors will meet from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The General Meeting, Committee Meetings, and Board elections will run from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

All IGLA officers and committee chair persons are expected to attend the Board of Directors Meeting. Officers and chair persons unable to attend the Board of Directors

Meeting should inform Roberto Mantaci (mantaci@litp.ibp.fr) or Jon Bauer (hwcoyote@aol.com) in writing as soon as possible. For efficiency at the meeting, those planning to bring new business to the Board of Directors Meeting should submit a written agenda to Roberto, Jon, or another current board member at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

All IGLA team representatives should plan to attend the General Meeting. Representatives who are unable to attend the General Meeting should inform their team's president, captain, or chair person immediately so that a new representative from the team can be appointed to vote instead. No proxy votes will be permitted. Therefore, teams wishing to utilize all the votes they are entitled to should make sure that all team representatives attend the General Meeting or that team representatives who are unable to attend the General Meeting are replaced by team members who can attend the meeting. To change team representatives, e-mail Doug Fadel, IGLA Secretary, (chrisndoug@sisna.com) at least fifteen (15) days prior to the IGLA

General Meeting and inform him of your representative change. Active participation by all team representatives is vital to the effective operation of IGLA. Teams intending to discuss new business at the General Meeting should submit a written agenda to a Board Member at least thirty (30) days prior to the General Meeting. Please do not wait until the General Meeting to raise new issues. Issues spontaneously sprung upon the general assembly cannot be adequately dealt with.

The IGLA Board will be holding elections for the positions of one (1) Atlantic co-chair, one (1) Pacific co-chair, and treasurer at the IGLA General Meeting. Those interested in running for a Board position are encouraged to speak at the

General Meeting for one (1) minute, present a resume to team representatives present at the general meeting, have at least two years experience as an IGLA team representative, and be a member of a team that is currently a dues paying member of IGLA. All Board Members must plan to attend the IGLA meetings at the Gay Games and the IGLA championships.

The duties of the co-chairs are as follows: 1) Serve for two consecutive years; 2) Oversee and coordinate the activities of the Board of Directors and Committees; 3) Serve as the Co-President of IGLA during the second year of the two-year term; 4) Run the IGLA general meeting when serving as the Co-President; and 5) Manage the affairs of IGLA within the limits set by the IGLA Bylaws.

The duties of the treasurer are as follows: 1) Serve for a period of two years, elected in odd-numbered years; 2) Be responsible for the collection of dues and fees; 3) Maintain accurate records of IGLA's finances; and 4) Prepare an annual financial report and annual budget for the Board of Directors and general membership.

The Board of Directors will also be looking for people to fill positions on several committees. Positions are available on the following committees: Water Polo, Championship Rules, Policies and Procedures, Fundraising, Products and Promotions, Women's Development Outreach, and Records and Top Times.

Please consider running for one of the offices and/or participating on a committee. Also, please plan on staying in the General Meeting until its completion at 5:00 p.m. These meetings sometimes run-over so avoid making any immediate plans afterwards. The Board will do its best to prevent an extended meeting. Thank you for your attention to these matters. We look forward to your participation in the IGLA meetings.

Wanted: Hot and sexy marketing rep to hustle up

donations for good cause. Wanted: Hot hand to draw new logo for wet, scantily clad non-profit org.

by Suzanne Shriner, IGLA
Alternate Delegate to FGG
(pcssls@is.arco.com)

Are you the one to fill this need? The Financial, Products and Promotions committee is looking for help. See our proposals below and contact us through Doug Neal at [DouglassN@juno.com](mailto:DouglasN@juno.com), (404) 815-4707 or Suzanne Shriner at pcssls@is.arco.com, (562) 433-7894.

We will be voting on the following items at the San Diego meeting. Please review them ahead of time as our time will be limited. We welcome any other suggestions or comments you may have to offer.

Goals/items targeted for action:

- 1) The creation of a copyrighted or registered logo. Reasoning: The only product IGLA has to sell is its name. The logo represents the name and should be marketable and eye-catching. The current logo can be utilized but is somewhat outdated. **Ramifications:** Will require a graphic designer or submissions from members. Membership will vote on the final options. Copyrighting the logo may require an attorney's assistance for paperwork.
- 2) Raise the merchandising profit percentage in IGLA Rules Section 2.8.4.2 from 5% to 15%. The new IGLA policy would read: "IGR 2.8.4.2 Any entity selling merchandise with the IGLA name and/or logo on it will submit, as part of the Financial Summary, profit and loss statements for that merchandise to the executive Board and the IGLA treasurer within 60 days of the event at which the merchandise was sold. The selling entity will submit to the IGLA treasurer a check equal to 15% of the gross proceeds, also within 60 days of the event at which the

merchandise was sold."

Ramifications: Proposal of 15% was discussed as fair at the 1996 Meeting, with this number having the potential to be raised (or lowered) upon future review. The burden to the selling team will be minimal.

3) Creation of an up-front, per-event "licensing fee" for non-championship meets/events. IGLA would allow the use of the name and logo for a minimal (\$100 proposed) cost. **Ramifications:** A Merchandising Plan would have to be drafted to prevent the logo from being connected to products or parties that are not consistent with the IGLA Bylaws. Volunteers are needed to assist in drafting this plan.

Gay Games V Update

by Charles Carson
IGLA Delegate to FGG
(ccarsonjr@aol.com)

Those of you on the IGLA "purple" e-mail address list know that since the May newsletter there have been some significant additions to the aquatics program in Amsterdam next year. Here's a brief rundown:

1) **Diving:** Plans are underway to add a night of diving to the schedule, probably on the Tuesday of Gay Games week. Final details are being worked out, but there will probably be both 1-meter and 3-meter contests. Medals will not be awarded; it is an exhibition contest. The divers who have been working for inclusion on the program are not concerned with that fact, and most of all are happy to have a place in the Games.

Divers who would like to participate in the Games should contact the following: Tim Ramacciotti (617-442-1568; ramaccio@sdac.harvard.edu); Todd Mulzet (213-932-6447; mulzet@geffen.com); or Jim Whalen (714-495-9555; musclust@aol.com). Also those interested in diving may contact the Gay Games office directly at 31-20-620-1998 -- ask to speak to someone in the Sports Department (sports@gaygames.nl).

2) **Swimming:** More positive news here. The meet organizers have agreed to add a distance event -- the 800 meter freestyle -- and mixed relays to the program. Many people within IGLA and the Federation of Gay Games successfully made the case that these events are an integral part of masters competitions.

The addition of the 800 means adding an extra day to the schedule, which will be Saturday morning, 8 August (the day of the Closing Ceremony). The 200 and 400 mixed freestyle and medley relays will be offered. Oddly, however, the meet provides a mens 200 freestyle relay but not a womens 200 freestyle relay and a womens 200 medley relay but not a mens 200 medley relay.

Each participant may swim two individual events and one relay each day. There will be more than one relay permitted from each team, but the organizers have yet to determine that number.

The meet organizers still intend to hold a "finals for fun" format, along the lines of the Olympics rather than adhering to the format provided for FINA's Masters World Championships. The top 16 swimmers in each event, regardless of age group, will be invited to swim the events again in "A" and "B" finals each day from 1700 to 1900 hours (5-7 p.m.). The idea has been presented to IGLA as "a chance to see if the 39 year-old can beat the 27 year-old," and prizes such as t-shirts and swimming suits will be awarded to the winners. Swimmers must scratch their names if they do not intend to swim these finals so that swimmers with lower rankings may compete. Medals for the top three finishers within each age group will be awarded on the basis of the heats held earlier in the day.

IGLA's officers have expressed their concerns to the meet organizers that, given the unusual nature of the finals format and the distance of the Amersfoort pool from Amsterdam, the "finals for fun" is likely to be noninclusive and, in general, a disappointment. At Gay Games IV, more than 75% of the top 16 in each event came from just two

age groups among the men and three groups among the women. A number of IGLA's fastest swimmers have already indicated their reluctance to swim their events more than once each day because they wish to enjoy other aspects of the Games. Equally striking is that the format is at odds with FINA's international masters rules which prohibit pre-preliminary and finals meets.

Most important, however, is that KNZB, the Dutch swimming federation aligned with FINA, has not sanctioned the meet. The Gay Games V organizing committee (Stichting) made a mistake in requesting the sanction from KNZB when the only groups allowed to receive FINA-approved sanctions are aquatics groups that already belong to FINA federations. Correspondence was exchanged between Stichting, KNZB and FINA officials that was not clearly translated between Dutch and English and that resulted in confusion regarding the correct sanction application procedure.

As Roberto Mantaci, IGLA Atlantic Co-President, states in his article in this edition of *Wetnotes*, in June Stichting officials finally agreed to provide copies of this correspondence to IGLA. I have since been in contact with one of the FINA officials with whom I worked at the Olympics last summer, and he has agreed to help if, after a Dutch swim team applies for the sanction, there is still confusion. One of the new gay and lesbian Amsterdam teams is in the process of applying for the sanction, and it may be secured by the time you receive this newsletter.

Also, the registration books should begin arriving about the time this newsletter comes out. The draft registration material sent to me by Stichting earlier this summer had incorrect age groups and was requiring women to swim breaststroke and freestyle on the mixed medley relays. I have varying feelings about sharing this with you. On the one hand, the books may come out with the corrected information and thus it will have been only a "behind the scenes" problem. But, on the other hand, your officers have spent many months advising

Stichting as to FINA rules, and I want you to know that we have been watching out for your interests.

It was a serious disappointment to me to see that the proposed swimming registration material was still at odds with FINA standards. Thus I urge you to note the caveat in the registration book that plans are "subject to change."

3) **Water Polo:** There is very little new to add here except that we think that if the swimming competition is not sanctioned then water polo will probably not be approved by KNZB either. We will be working on both as the discussions continue.

4) **Registration Information:** Preregistration continued until August, when the regular registration for all sports began. Swimming has not been in any danger of being full, largely because many swimmers have been waiting to see if the meet is sanctioned.

Preregistration was designed to generate some cash for the organizers as well as gauge relative popularity among some sports. The \$50 preregistration fee counts toward the overall fee. If you preregistered and later decide not to attend, however, that money is nonrefundable. (Consider it a contribution to the Games.) The one area where it may be important to secure a place is the 800 meter freestyle, which may be limited to the first 120 who sign up. My understanding is that those who have preregistered will have first chance to be among those 120. As of August 1, 1997 the full registration fees apply.

If you have been looking at the Gay Games V website, the sports information was not updated on May 1, 1997 as originally scheduled. Minor changes have been made to swimming's introductory paragraph, but even as I write the age groups are still wrong.

In fact, the website has been a constant source of confusion among all sports. Stichting's e-mail list has been full of messages lately from volleyball players, cyclists and rowers who have been unable to get more information than what's on the Internet. Stichting has been unwilling

to provide contact information for its sports chairs, whereas in 1994 we gladly took telephone calls from participants. I think the centralized information process has been a bad public relations move by Stichting, and it will be interesting to see what recommendations come out of this for 2002. Your IGLA officers will continue to post important news on the Internet as soon as we learn it, and in most cases that will be quicker than you could find it out yourself.

It is possible, however, that direct questions from you will get more timely answers than in the past. IGLA members who would like to subscribe to the Gay Games V e-mail list can do so by going to this Internet address and following the instructions: <http://www.gaygames.nl/anders/maillist/us/>

Please contact me with questions or comments at (212) 226-1573; cacarsonjr@aol.com. Suzanne Shriner, IGLA's Alternate Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games, can be phoned at (310) 433-7894 and e-mailed at pcssls@is.arco.com.

Europe: More on Games, Strategies and Alliances (But, is it Swimming or Risk Ya Talkin' About?)

by **Roberto Mantaci, Atlantic Co-President** (mantaci@ltp.ibp.fr)

The 5th EuroGames were held in Paris on June 20-23, 1997. This European championship was the first sanctioned swim meet ever organized by a mostly gay and lesbian European swim team. It was also the largest mostly gay and lesbian swimming meet ever held in Europe, with 452 swimmers. Those who think that sanctioning can be a barrier to participation should keep these numbers in mind. It is fair to report that IGLA helped obtain USMS licences for those individuals or teams who had trouble obtaining a FINA-recognized licence in

their own countries. Specifically, members of the Brussels, Milan, Utrecht and Zurich teams were assisted in licencing. Your Pacific Co-chair, Jessica Seaton, played a fundamental role in coordinating this, and I would like to thank her again and recognize her efforts.

The swimming meet ran smoothly and on schedule. The Best Team Trophy was awarded to Paris Aquatique. The Best Female Swimmer Trophy was awarded to Erika deGaillande, member of a straight Parisian team. The Best Male Swimmer Trophy was awarded to Robert Weyhenke from Havana Thermos Amsterdam, who set three European Master records at the meet. Two German records and one Austrian record were also set.

The social events were fun and well attended. The highlight was a reception for about 100 of the swimming meet participants at the town hall of the 19th Arrondissement of Paris. Our host was the Mayor of the 19th, Roger Madec. He received us in the imposing room used for civil wedding ceremonies. This was a highly symbolic venue since, as Mr. Madec reminded us in his speech, the French Parliament is currently debating a bill put forward by the Minister of Justice, Elisabeth Guigou, to create a 'Contract of Civil Union'. This contract would constitute formal and legal recognition of same-sex couples and would give them new civil rights. Same-sex unions are already recognized by some local government administrations such as the 19th Arrondissement of Paris of Mr. Madec. It was interesting for the EuroGames participants from different countries to hear how the same battles to abolish prejudice and injustice are being fought beyond their own countries' boundaries.

As the barrier of sanctioning had been torn down, Paris Aquatique expected greater participation by non-European swimmers. It is understandable, however, that the travel costs may have dissuaded some. It is also understandable that most of the IGLA swimmers from the eastern United States were attracted by the first meet ever organized by Atlanta

Rainbow Trout at the stunning Georgia Tech Olympic Swimming Pool which was held on the same weekend. Nevertheless, we had one swimmer from DCAC, one from Seattle Orcas, one from San Diego DSST, two from A Contre Courant, Montreal, two from West Hollywood Aquatics, two from Team New York Aquatics, and two from Wett Ones, Sydney. Your Pacific Co-President, Jon Bauer, took part in the meet, which gave him the opportunity to participate in the team officers' meeting held on the Saturday afternoon. This put him in touch with the reality of gay swimming in Europe and helped him to realize how complex it is.

In Europe, we have a true mosaic of sometimes incompatible needs and tendencies. It is a real jungle of teams governed by the rules of their respective national Federations, and the differences in these rules can be slight or fundamental. The path toward affiliation and sanctioning can be more difficult for some teams than for others. It can often be expensive (for example, it costs about US\$ 1,000 to affiliate a team in Italy). These issues have never really been raised before because, in the national straight swimming communities, and masters swimming in particular, activities, including participation in meets, are still mostly limited by national boundaries. IGLA may well find that it has a future role to play in convincing FINA that a policy for harmonization between the different national Federations is needed.

It is sad to realize how very absent IGLA remains in Germany and the Netherlands, the two European countries where gay swimming is most developed. We have only two IGLA teams in the Netherlands and only one in Germany. It is not easy to explain why teams in these countries do not join IGLA. In the case of Germany, the reason is historical. The Germans are to be thanked for giving a strong push to start gay sports in Europe. They have, however, always advocated gay sport for fun, with its own rules, if necessary, and totally detached from the straight sport community. This position is inconsistent with IGLA's policy of inclusiveness, and yet it is

still strongly defended by some German gay sport groups. It will be hard to overcome as long as the Germans maintain their overwhelming majority within the European Gay and Lesbian Sport Federation, whose role is to coordinate gay sport in Europe. The case is slightly different in Holland, where the gay sport community isn't as old nor as large as the German one. Gay swimming, however, has really taken off in the last three or four years, fed, of course, by the enthusiasm for the organization of Gay Games in Amsterdam. The desire to give the Gay Games a special Dutch flavor is behind the bizarre innovations that the organizers of GGV seem willing to bring to the swim meet. These are the same innovations that have caused concerns and given rise to comments from IGLA and its members. It is understandable that the Dutch teams have formed a common front that will last at least until 1998 and that they support each other in the path they have decided to follow. So, ultimately, the Dutch and the Germans seem to have found a common denominator: let's do things our own way, which has led to a subtle game of alliances. We can only hope that the winner of all this will be the gay sport and its principles of fairness, participation and inclusion.

During the European Championships weekend, Jon and I had a meeting with Jip van Leeuwen, the Director of Sports for GGV, and Joop van Eijk, the Chair of the Swimming Committee for GGV. You can guess what we talked about: the format of the swim meet at GGV and sanctioning. Jon and I expressed once again IGLA's concern about the format of the swim meet (in particular about the "finals for fun"). When we brought up the subject of the sanctioning, we were told that KNZB, the Dutch National Swimming Federation, still refuses to sanction the swim meet although this issue is still a top priority for Jip and Joop. At this point, we felt that we had accomplished a small step forward since Jip and Joop proposed to let IGLA step into the process and assist them in obtaining the sanctioning. As the first step in this collaboration, Jip and Joop have

forwarded to IGLA the correspondence promised regarding the sanctioning of Gay Games V. At this time we are encouraged by this spirit of cooperation, and by the contacts Charlie Carson and Jessica Seaton have made with FINA regarding the sanctioning of the aquatics events at the Gay Games. We also understand that a FINA affiliated team from the Netherlands will make a new request for sanctioning from FINA. This is a requirement by FINA that was not met in the initial sanctioning request. We will keep you updated on the results of this action.

Also interesting to note, the boards of two European IGLA teams, Paris Aquatique and Out To Swim London, have decided to write directly to the organizers of Gay Games V to state that their teams will not take part in the Games if the meet is not sanctioned. While the IGLA Board does not encourage such initiatives by individual teams and we urge you to channel your concerns through us, we can't help feeling that these spontaneous demonstrations are very important, because they show that IGLA's concerns come from the grass roots and not just from North American athletes as some believe. You can be sure that your Board is working daily on these issues. Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you in large numbers in San Diego.

Championship Rules Committee Update

by Jessica Seaton (jseaton@aol.com)
and Phil Hayman
(hibidibi@loop.com)

The Committee has been working all year on updates to the Rules and Recommendations booklet. Proposals for amendments and changes have been forwarded to the Executive Board and will be submitted to the IGLA representatives in September. Please take time to look over these proposals carefully, and if you have any concerns please contact the Championship Rules Committee to place them on the agenda for

discussion. If no items are pulled for discussion, we will ask that all the proposals be approved en bloc. We would like to point out that it is helpful to have a current copy of the Rules and Recommendations booklet in front of you as you go over the proposals. The most recent edition is available by contacting Brigitte Bassac, IGLA Treasurer, (biba@altern.com) and submitting US \$ 5 to her.

LOOKING FOR A HOST CITY FOR IGLA 1999

The IGLA Board is looking for a host city for the 1999 IGLA Championships. For details on how to submit a bid please see the section below. It is reprinted from the Rules and Recommendations booklet.

IGR 3.1. How to bid for the IGLA Championships

IGR 3.1.1 Two years prior to the event, file an intent to bid (see attached form) for the IGLA Championships with the IGLA Executive Board two months prior to the current IGLA Championships or Gay Games. The Board will then send a sample bid package.

IGR 3.1.2 If no "Intent to Bids" are filed, the Executive Board shall actively solicit bids prior to the IGLA Championships.

IGR 3.1.3 The formal bid to IGLA should be in writing and should include: team experience and background; facilities; dates of competitions; proposed schedule of events; proposed social activities; local/tourist attractions; gay and lesbian community history and support letters from local authorities offering support; transportation information; hosted housing information.

IGR 3.2. How a bid is awarded by IGLA: At the annual IGLA Championships or Gay Games, after a presentation of the bids, a vote shall be taken by the IGLA membership to choose the site of the IGLA Championships. It is recommended that this process take place two years prior to the

competition being bid upon (i.e., presentations for 1999 will be chosen at the 1997 IGLA Championships meeting). If no formal bids are received by this deadline, the Executive Board shall select a deadline date and actively solicit bids from interested cities. After reviewing the bids, the Executive Board shall decide which city shall be awarded the meet.

IGLA Roster

by Doug Fadel, IGLA Secretary
(chrisndoug@sisna.com)

It has taken almost a year, but the IGLA Roster is relatively accurate. The roster is designed as a resource for IGLA teams to communicate with gay and lesbian swimming groups in other cities. The roster contains the names, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of IGLA representatives from all registered IGLA teams. In addition, as a service to registered IGLA teams, the roster contains contacts from non-registered IGLA teams and individuals, to assist those traveling to other cities to have access to gay and lesbian swimming in those cities.

The roster will be updated quarterly and will be distributed to all representative via e-mail. Additionally, IGLA representatives will receive a copy of the roster with their *Wetnotes* twice yearly. It is important to notify me as soon as possible of all changes to the IGLA roster (chrisndoug@sisna.com). I understand that representatives change, addresses change, and numbers change. I, myself, have gone through three address and two phone numbers since I have been IGLA Secretary.

1997 IGLA Registration

by Doug Fadel, IGLA Secretary
(chrisndoug@sisna.com)

Most teams have registered for IGLA this year. There are some teams, however, that have not. Teams wishing to compete as a team in San

Diego, must register for 1997. Otherwise, swimmers from unregistered teams will have to swim unattached. Additionally, teams must be registered for 1997 to vote at the IGLA General Meeting. Teams that are uncertain of their registration status or teams wishing to register for 1997, should e-mail me (chrisndoug@sisna.com) as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

A Wonderful Farewell

by Jon Bauer, Pacific Co-President
(hwcocoyote@aol.com)

The 1997 IGLA Championships are just what I need before I retire to the lane lines. I am excited about the IGLA Championships moving west again. I am proud of Southern California, and I am looking forward to seeing all of you enjoying what I enjoy daily.

We are about to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the IGLA Championships in the city that gave us these championships-San Diego. I know our friends in San Diego were apprehensive about hosting an IGLA Championship. They felt they could not give us facilities as fine as those we enjoyed in Montreal. Nor did they believe they had the resources to create the operations we have experienced in Vancouver, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington D.C. Well, somewhere along the way they became convinced that an IGLA championship could be successful if the hosts would simply organize themselves and give the championships their unique qualities. History has proven that each host has done so.

I have met and spoken on a few occasions with meet director, Cherry Robinson, and I have been introduced to DSST's organizational diagrams. They are creative, thorough, and corporate- operating under "PODS." That is their name for their committees, and I can tell you that they are true perfectionists and will give us the best championships possible. They will honor us and themselves by

hosting IGLA's tenth annual championships.

Those new to the area must make plans to visit San Diego's wonderful beaches. Black's beach is my favorite, possibly one of the most beautiful in the world. The Mexican restaurants are the best. And, the Gay community is friendly and Californian "laid back."

I am happy to have had the opportunity to participate on IGLA's board these past four years, and I am looking forward to IGLA Board retirement. I have experienced all of the highs and lows that such an organization has to offer. I will miss the daily reports, discussions, arguments, and aquatics threatening events. I will enjoy a more regular swim-gym routine and early evening naps. I will forever enjoy the friendships I have made. I look forward to more of the friendly happy times with those friends and the IGLA friends I have yet to meet. I apologize to all I have offended. I hope I have made an honest effort to direct from my heart and mind and to the best of my abilities. I have great respect for the board and committee members. I am forever impressed by the energy I have observed from IGLA's teams, old and new. And, I am awe struck by the individual performances, whether by the most talented or the novice athletes. I am grateful to have discovered West Hollywood Aquatics and IGLA in 1988.

I believe IGLA, though not perfect, is a healthy, viable, well run organization that serves as a role model for the Gay, Straight, and aquatics communities. I have seen IGLA grow up these past nine years. I know IGLA will continue this process. I believe IGLA must support the growth of women's participation worldwide, and IGLA must move its championships out of North America if IGLA is to be truly international. I have experienced IGLA swimming in Australia and Europe, and I know they can create great IGLA experiences for us.

Remember as we are heading into San Diego's IGLA Championships 1997, to have fun training, traveling and participating. Keep your wits.

Our hosts and the IGLA Board will be doing their best to provide for you and your fellow athletes. I wish you well and look forward to seeing you once again as we gather in San Diego, California.

IGLA Welcomes New Teams

GALA of Santa Barbara

After six months of tentatively meeting and swimming together, Gay and Lesbian Aquatics (GALA) of Santa Barbara is ready to come out into the open and announce itself. At present GALA has about twenty people per practice. They work-out together on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. at the Los Banos pool in Santa Barbara. GALA wants to invite you to join them if you are visiting Santa Barbara.

TOGS, Johannesburg, South Africa

TOGS is a confederation of different sports interests in Johannesburg, made up of tennis, squash, backpacking, road running, rugby, korfbal etc. Representatives of each sport meet as a committee, once a month to deal with marketing a sport ethic in the lesbigay collective in Southern Africa. They support similar endeavours in other cities, like COGS in Cape Town, JOCS in Pretoria and GALZ in Zimbabwe. TOGS means THE ORGANIZATION of lesbiGay SPORT. They have their own club house with tennis courts in a suburb called Brixton, and any visitor is welcome to participate in the club house activities of pool, darts, volleyball, chess, line-dancing, bar, and barbeques.

TOGS also organises the African Gay Games BAPALA (Bapala means "to play" in the seSotho language, which is one of South Africa's 11 official languages).

Swimming and aquatic disciplines have now become the fad at TOGS. TOGS is now a member of IGLA thanks to the sponsorship of

their swimming sisters across the equator, Queer Utah Aquatics Club (QUAC) who paid the necessary fees for TOGS's membership.

Other Cities

There are gay and lesbian swimming teams forming in various cities around the world, including Austin, New Orleans, Richmond VT, Tampa, Hawaii, and Buenos Aires. Please encourage these teams and other teams in their quest to establish a gay and lesbian swimming force in their respective cities. Please give them advice and information, and promote IGLA.

Meet Results

Swim Your Heart Out 7

Chicago's annual Swim-a-thon and Pool Party rocked Northwestern University on February 15, 1997, raising more than \$34,000 for AIDS service organizations and women's health programs in Chicago, Ann Arbor, and Detroit. The Chicago Smelts presented the event in association with Tri-Women Chicago, Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago, and Ann Arbor Queer Aquatics.

Swim Your Heart Out 7 was jam-packed with events including lap swimming, water volleyball, water aerobics, scenic SCUBA lessons (under the lap swimmers). To date, the Swim Your Heart Out program has raised more than \$160,000.

For information on how your team can participate in next year's Swim-a-thon to raise money for organizations in your own community, call the Smeltsline at 312-409-4974 or e-mail sjyoung@frankel.com.

FINS Second Annual Invitational

On Saturday, May 10, 1997, the FINS Aquatics Club held its second annual invitational meet at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

The event, called "The meet Formerly Known as ABFAB," attracted almost 170 swimmers from around the United States and Canada.

The large-team competition was won by the DC Aquatics Club, with the newly formed South Beach (Miami) Nadadores winning the small team division. The host FINS won the coveted Pink Flamingo relay, edging-out the Atlanta Rainbow Trout. The meet was held during the annual PRIDEFEST celebration, a four-day long gay and lesbian cultural, social, athletic, and just plain fun event. In addition to the many activities of PRIDEFEST, the FINS offered a Friday evening welcoming party at an historic home in Center City, Philadelphia, and a Sunday brunch at a high rise overlooking the city's impressive skyline.

The FINS tentatively plan to hold the third annual meet--and the team is already wracking its collective brain to think up yet another clever sobriquet for the event--on Saturday, May 2, 1998. The team is in search of a long course (or at least metric) venue for the competition and has hopes to make the weekend the official pre-Games event.

Freedom Swim '97

by Doug Fadel, QUAC Coach

Atlanta Rainbow Trout, ART, held their first invitational June 18-20, 1997 at the Georgia Tech Olympic Swimming Pool. 194 swimmers participated in the swimming meet, about half were IGLA swimmers, the rest were straight swimmers from the Georgia Masters Swim Committee and neighboring states. More than just a swimming meet, the Freedom Swim '97 was an event.

The event began on Thursday evening with an ART practice in the Olympic Pool. The trout are fortunate to be able to workout at such a fantastic facility. A ten-lane, deepwater, coolwater, 50 meter swimming pool with wakeless gutters, the Georgia Tech pool provides the ideal conditions for working-out and competing. The facility is covered but there are no

walls. The roof is high enough above the pool to give the effect of being out of doors, but provides protection from the sun's harmful rays (this is not the '80s anymore).

On Friday evening, the Trout welcomed meet participants with a reception at a lovely historical hotel in Atlanta.

The swimming meet on Saturday could not have been run more smoothly. The meet staff, clerk of course, timers, officials, could not have been more friendly. I was fortunate to swim three of my events in lane three. The timers in lane three told me that I was their favorite swimmer. Of course this motivated me to try harder because I didn't want to let them down. And those nice men at the check-in table, they couldn't have been more complimentary about my eyes. Southern hospitality is not overrated.

On Saturday night, several members of ART hosted dinner parties. The gatherings were intimate and entertaining. The dinner parties enabled meet participants to get to know one another outside of the swimming pool. After dinner, swimmers dispersed throughout Atlanta to experience Atlanta's nightlife. Many of us went to a taudry, elaborate dance club called Backstreet. I am unable to recount details of my experience there at this time because I am prone to exaggeration and *Wetnotes* can't afford a lawsuit. Suffice it to say that this young, naive, innocent, impressionable, and extremely attractive Utah boy learned a thing or two about Souther Hospitality.

On Sunday, the Trout threw an outstanding Awards Banquet. The food and service sucked (it was beyond the control of our gracious hosts), but the entertainment was incredible. First, we laughed at and with a lesbian comedian. My word, she had a mouth on her. Don't think for a moment that men corner the market on crudeness. I kept wondering if she kisses her mother with that mouth. In truth, she was hysterical. After the comedian, Maytag and Corretta Scott Queen, two irreverent cross dressing performers, presented humorous awards to meet participants. Following the awards

banquet, we gathered in the park for roller-blading.

The weekend could not have been more enjoyable. Plan to attend Freedom Swim '98 in June next year.

Connecticut Open-Water Swim

On Saturday, July 19, 1997, swimmers from Team New York Aquatic Club and Queer Utah Aquatic Club swam in the one-mile Greenwich open-water competition. QUAC's Priscilla Kawakami won the womens 45-49 division.

1998 Calendar

Tentative: Please send changes and meet information to Doug Fadel, IGLA Secretary
(chrisndoug@sisna.com)

January: Team New York Aquatics/Red Tide One Hour Swim at River State Park Pool

January: Miami Nadadores Swim-athon.

January: Grupo Pesce Milano

February 7, 1998: West Hollywood Aquatics' Annual Rafael Montijo Relay Meet at Belmont Plaza, Long Beach, California.

February 14, 1998: In Heats Allo-a-l'eau VIII. Ottawa Rideau Speedeaus' Swimmers at Nepean Sportsplex.

February 13-16, 1998: 2nd Annual QUAC Ski and Swim Weekend at the University of Utah Nadatorium.

February 14, 1998: Chicago Smelts' Swim Your Heart Out 8 at Northwestern University.

February: Team Sydney Mardi Gras Meet.

February: Team Auckland Hero Swim Meet at The Teps. Customs Street West (non-sanctioned).

March: Paris Aquatique.

March: Berlin.

March: Frankfurt.

March: Different Strokes East, Boston.

May 2, 1998: Philadelphia FINS' Annual Swimming Meet.

May: Ann Arbor Queer Aquatics Queen's Birthday Meet at University of Michigan.

June 27, 1998: Toronto Downtown Swim Club's Annual Swimming Meet.

June: Freedom Swim '98, Atlanta Rainbow Trout at Georgia Tech Olympic Pool.

July: Seattle Orca's Annual Swimming Meet.

August 1-8, 1998: Gay Games V, Amsterdam.

August: Team Portland Summer's End Swimming Meet.

September 5, 1998: Montreal's A-Contre Courant's Annual Labor Day Swimming Meet.

October 10-11, 1998: Columbus Day Classic, D.C. Aquatic Club at Fairland Aquatics Center.