

WETNOTES

Newsletter of International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics

IGLA

by Jessica Seaton, IGLA
Pacific Co-President

Gay Games V in Amsterdam provides all lesbian and gay athletes and their friends with a wonderful opportunity to make new friends from around the world. Since Gay Games IV in New York, gay and lesbian aquatics teams and clubs have grown in Europe, North America, Australia, and Africa. While the Gay Games are staged every four years, the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships are held each

year in the three intervening years. IGLA is the thread that keeps gay and lesbian aquatics participants in touch throughout the world. IGLA is also our link to the tradition of Masters swimming, water polo, diving, and synchronized swimming as organized sports under the FINA banner.

IGLA teams range in size from large, rather cohesive teams such as Paris Aquatique or Queer Utah Aquatic Club, to smaller, fledgling teams such as Team Dallas. Other teams started out as smaller teams at an IGLA Championship, only to become a large team to be reckoned with, such as Atlanta Rainbow Trout. We have teams who have consistency sent swimmers to IGLA Championships, regardless of how much travel was involved, such as London's Out to Swim or Australia's Wett Ones Swimming Club.

Most of the aquatics participants in the IGLA Championships associate IGLA with an exciting and fun, long weekend with excellent competition and the chance to make friends from around

the world. In the years since I've been swimming with West Hollywood Aquatics, I've traveled to Seattle, Montreal, Washington, D.C., and San Diego for IGLA Championships. Each meet was memorable, not only for the swimming, but the parties, the sightseeing, and most of all, the people that I met. IGLA Championships is not "just another meet." Instead, it is an experience.

There are a handful of us who, over the years, have chosen to help make IGLA what it is today. Early on I learned that in order to influence an all-volunteer organization, you have to be willing to give it your time and energy. At the IGLA General Meeting in New York City in 1994, Philip Hayman and I volunteered to organize some of the scattered existing material and create new material into a cohesive form, resulting in the Rules and Recommendations for IGLA Championships and Gay Games. In 1995 we presented it to the General Meeting in Montreal for approval. In 1996 we changed the numbering system and added several

CONTENTS

IGLA	1
WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY.....	2
1997-98 YEAR IN REVIEW -- THE ROAD KEEPS GETTING WIDER....	3
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR TWO YEARS? IGLA Secretary's Report....	4
IGLA BY THE NUMBERS.....	5
FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES DELEGATES' REPORT	6
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT	7
WOMEN AND IGLA.....	8
IT'S ATLANTA, AGAIN! 1999 IGLA CHAMPIONSHIPS ...	8
WATERPOLO IS DOING GREAT!	8

amendments. In 1997 we polished the booklet further. The new chairs of the Championship Rules Committee, Roberto Mantaci and Rex Toltschin, together with the rest of the committee have added further clarifications, as you've probably noticed in your most recent mailing. A committee such as the Championship Rules Committee allows each new IGLA host city to learn from the previous host cities. The booklet provides a "how to run a championship" based on the experiences of all the previous meet hosts. IGLA provides the common thread.

During 1996 and 1997 Jon Bauer and Roberto Mantaci headed up the Policies and Procedures Committee. They combed through ten years of policies and notes to come up with the booklet we know as IGLA Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Manual. The current IGLA Board has only to look at this booklet for any questions regarding policies and procedures, rather than track down ex-Board members and try and reconstruct what was done in the past. The current Policies and Procedures Committee is building on the work that has already been done, and rising to meet IGLA's needs as both the organization grows and circumstances change.

Products and Promotions Committee has been looking into ways in which IGLA as an organization can meet its financial needs by marketing its name or logo. This is a whole area that can be developed, which would allow both IGLA and host cities to tap into sponsorship and other creative ways to raise money.

The Women's Development Committee is faced with the task of dealing with women's issues as they pertain to IGLA as an organization and IGLA at the Championships. Over the past year, under the leadership of Jan Suchomski, this committee has provided the Board with constructive input.

This overview is a long-winded way of saying: IGLA is your organization and by simply participating in a committee or on the Board, you can have a big effect. Most of our interaction takes place over the Internet via e-mail. It doesn't matter whether you're in Paris, Atlanta, Sydney, or Los Angeles. The communication is all via e-mail.

For the future of IGLA I would like to see: (1) more active involvement by European team reps. I am hoping that having our General Meeting in

Amsterdam this year, many of the European aquatics participants will choose to attend the General Meeting. I am also hoping that we get more Europeans as members of the Executive Committee (Board of Directors and Committee (co)-Chairs). (2) a close working relationship between IGLA, the Australian teams, and the organizers of Gay Games VI in Sydney. The outlook at this point is excellent. (3) outreach to Asian, South American, and African swimmers, water polo players, divers, and synchronized swimmers. (4) increased recognition for all IGLA teams within the international Masters aquatics community and their FINA recognized bodies.

In closing, I'd like to wish all of you a good time in Amsterdam at Gay Games VI!

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY BABY

By John Brown, IGLA Atlantic Co-President

It's time again to try to find something profound to say for Wetnotes. There is so much I could comment on but will keep it short and sweet, for this is most likely my last Wetnotes entry.

Let me step back and take a look at the big picture, the overall health of our

organization. Let me look back three years to my first organization that had its fair share of bickering and infighting. I remember great confusion over rules, especially those concerning the Championships. I remember great anticipation for the upcoming Gay Games in Amsterdam. I remember Charlie Carson dazzling the crowd with his Esther Williams-esque prowess. I remember an 800m Freestyle that almost killed me. I remember new friends and fresh faces. But mostly, I remember knowing nothing about this organization or how it worked.

My how times change! For the most part, the committees, committee chairs, Co-Chairs and Co-Presidents work extremely well in an E-mail-centered, virtual environment. Reports are timely. Opinions are shared and respected. Healthy, democratic debate prevails. We are almost incorporated as a non-profit. There are clear Championship rules in place. We know FINA and Masters rules backwards and forwards, inside and out. We have taken Stichting to task regarding international standards of Masters competition. We have earned the respect of national and

contact with IGLA. It was the 1995 Championships in international governing bodies for our pursuit of fair and standard competition. Charlie still dazzles us, but in many other ways. I have switched to the 400 in hopes of newfound glory. The new friends from 1995 are now the comfortable kind of friends that only time brings.

There are, thankfully, still fresh faces in the crowd and more new friends to make. Most importantly, I have first-hand perspective on how this organization works: it works because a group of committed athletes makes it work. It all comes down to people. Plain and simple. People who are proud of what they are and what they represent. Let me say that it's been an honor to be associated with IGLA. It's been quite a ride and I look forward to even more fun in the coming years.

See Y'all next year in Atlanta!

1997-98 YEAR IN REVIEW -- THE ROAD KEEPS GETTING WIDER

By Jason Klugman, IGLA Atlantic Co-Chair

I have spent the past year being overwhelmed by

Montreal. I remember an the intense commitment to fairness and equality being put forth by my fellow board members regarding the upcoming Gay Games V competition in Amsterdam. I must say, it has been my distinct pleasure to serve with such a talented group of international board members.

Beyond this summer's Games, the IGLA board has tried to maintain a balanced focus on moving IGLA to new heights in both team membership and organizational status. Here are some highlights from the past 12 months:

We have begun a process of incorporation that will lead us to non-profit status in the United States. This status will open up new avenues for local business and local and international corporate support of IGLA's annual championships and our outreach activities to aquatic athletes world wide.

Our Championship Rules Committee has once again taken the IGLA championship rules handbook to new levels of clarity and relevance.

Our Women's Development Committee has reviewed the participation of women at IGLA X and made substantial recommendations to help increase the inclusion

and participation of women in IGLA championships.

We have witnessed a renewed interest by a wide

Our outgoing secretary, Doug Fadel, has not only been a leader in our filing for incorporation, but has been instrumental in maintaining the IGLA directories and communication among IGLA representatives around the world.

Our numbers continue to increase. Currently we have thirty-seven teams, in ten countries, representing some two thousand swimmers, divers, and water polo players.

IGLA has been well served not only by its outgoing Board members, John Brown (Atlantic Co-President); Jessica Seaton (Pacific Co-President), and Doug Fadel (Secretary), but by the dozens of teams around the world who hosted competitions.

A sampling of meets looks like a wonderful yearly travel itinere: Seattle, Washington (the Otters) Martin Luther King, Jr. meet in January; West Hollywood, California hosted its annual relay meet in February; Salt Lake City, Utah for Queer Utah Aquatics Club's Ski and Swim Weekend; Ottawa presented Swimmers in

range of individuals in helping IGLA spread its message of inclusion and support for gay and lesbian aquatics on the Heats in February; Sydney Australia (Wett Ones) in March for Mardi Gras followed by; the Trophée Paris Aquatique also in March; April saw the return of gay and lesbian swimming in Boston with; the emergence of Liquid Assets New England and their spring meet; the FINS in Philadelphia hosted 200 swimmers at their 3rd annual meet in May; Ann Arbor honored our Canadian friends with a Queen's Birthday weekend meet in the middle of May; Atlanta brought us back to the site of the 1996 Olympics with Freedom Swim '98 in June; and Toronto also hosted its annual meet in June.

I only wish that I had the time and resources to travel to all of these meets each year--even if my doctor says I can't swim until my shoulder gets better... whenever that will be!

IGLA still has a long way to go. Over the next year our teams will once again host hundreds of swimmers, gay and straight at local and national competitions. This past year, Au Conte Courant (Montreal) hosted the state Masters championships for Quebec.

internet and hope in the next year to use this energy to revise our current presence on the world wide web.

Last year, Ann Arbor, MI hosted the United States Masters Nationals. Our teams will also be expanding their membership and visibility among the Masters swimming community around the world.

It is my hope that the next year, starting with the Games in Amsterdam, will bring increased participation from European, African and Asian teams in both the IGLA Executive Committee and in next year's IGLA Championship in Atlanta.

Though the months (years, really) leading up to the Games have been bittersweet in struggle and success, I look forward to seeing many of you on the pool deck in Amersfoort. I'll be the one with the FINS t-shirt and the ice pack on my right shoulder!

WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING FOR TWO YEARS? IGLA Secretary's Report

By Doug Fadel, IGLA Secretary

In the long tradition of all good things that must come to an end, my tour of duty as IGLA's international ambassador of the aquatic

arts nears its end. As I make my final lap down the runway, my tiara cemented in place with bobbies, my sequined suit slightly faded

I have done great service to my people, which not even my greatest critics can deny. But now, faced with the reality that there are younger, prettier, more talented swimmers out there, I am resigned to embrace the greener pastures, knowing that I leave behind a small legacy that will be tossed about by the fates of hearsay and gossip for years to come.

When I began this job, I was given a giant stack of IGLA history. I took that stack and made it into two stacks! Now perk your eyes to this my fellow chlorine breathers. I have published eight newsletters, nine IGLA directories, seven sets of mailing labels, minutes from the IGLA meetings in San Diego, two sets of IGLA Team registration forms, IGLA's Articles of Incorporation, IGLA's by-laws, and IGLA's voting representatives lists. I have kept updated lists of information regarding IGLA teams, prospective IGLA teams, and IGLA enemies. I have received over 15,000 e-mail messages, and I have sent-out over 25,000 e-mail messages. I have corresponded by phone with over two hundred members

from the countless swimming suit competitions that have been my meaning, my goggles leaking from both sides and from on top, my of IGLA, and I was just as sweet and friendly as I could possibly be. I also took-on the daunting task of obtaining approval for the Montreal meeting minutes.

This is probably more detail than you ever bargained for, but be grateful you only had to hear about it and not live it. In all honesty, I have loved "being IGLA." Swimming is who I am! Gay is who I am! Adding the mystique of the international is simply gravy. How fulfilling it is when your whole world comes together so nicely.

I love you. I will miss you. Don't cry for me Argentina!

IGLA BY THE NUMBERS

By Sean Fitzgerald, IGLA Treasurer

IGLA is currently having one of its best financial years ever. Increased revenues, combined with decreased expenses has proven to be a great combination. Now for the exciting task of explaining our finances.

IGLA revenue comes from three sources. The

smile artificially real -- the product of rehearsal after rehearsal after rehearsal, I can't help but become full of myself with selfish pride.

primary source is from IGLA dues collected each year. Dues range from an individual membership fee of \$15 to a large team fee of \$250. Unfortunately the number of IGLA teams has remained constant over the past few years. We still have the challenge of attracting European IGLA teams. Fortunately, the size of IGLA teams continues to grow.

Of the IGLA members this year, 10 are large teams, 6 medium teams, 10 small teams, 6 very small teams, and 4 individual members. This amounts to over \$4,000, the highest dues income ever. The second source of income is the IGLA Championships. We received nearly \$2500 from a very successful IGLA Championships in San Diego. The last source of income is donations. Donation totals, again coming mainly from the San Diego Championships was over \$600 last year.

IGLA has two major sources of expense. Traditionally, sending our representatives to the Federation of Gay Games meetings is our number 1 expense. With the Gay Games forthcoming, there are no more meetings, so we save

on this expense. However, this will be an annual expense in the future.

Our second largest expense is printing and postage. As more of IGLA's in Amsterdam should take some time and talk to European teammates about the benefits of IGLA. We have a perfect opportunity for accelerating our growth as we enter the 21st century. Please help us continue to grow.

FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES DELEGATES' REPORT

by Charlie Carson and Suzanne Shriner

Successful Contract Negotiations with Sydney 2002

Here's one measure of how the contract with Sydney is different from the one with Amsterdam: The 1998 contract was 36 double-spaced typed pages. The 2002 contract is 56 double-spaced typed pages with an additional 22 pages of schedules and another 30 or so single-spaced pages of guidelines broken down for each of 22 required sports. Every duty by either the Federation or the host has much more explicit language than ever before to guide us through the next

communications move from snail mail to E-mail, these expenses are leveling off.

Overall, IGLA has achieved it's best financial status. By continuing to several years.

Sydney 2002 inherits amazing facilities in the 2000 Olympic Games venues. Its gay and lesbian community is remarkably cohesive in its desire -- like all previous hosts -- to produce the best Gay Games yet. In their cultural plans they promise a new idea, bringing cultural events to the various sports venues. And we can count on Australia's reputation as a country of true sports people to produce well-planned and well-run athletic events.

Still, Sydney, like the other four 2002 bidding cities, pledged to raise an incredible, new amount of money for the Federation as a license fee. The final agreed-upon figure was US\$1 million. It remains to be seen whether this figure will be an appropriate fee, but Sydney in fact bid on the high side of that amount whereas some other bidders pledged slightly lower amounts. The figure is so high, in fact, that despite the Federation's clear need for a permanent office and full-time staff, no one yet knows how such money can best be invested to further the

increase the number of IGLA teams, and the size of existing teams, we can assure the ongoing financial health of IGLA. Everyone attending the Gay Games
Gay Games' goals.

By all accounts from both the Federation Executive Committee and Sydney personnel, the contract negotiations were businesslike and productive. If the next four years of working together are as good as the beginning relationship, we will have a true partnership for Gay Games VI.

Delegate Elections

Suzanne will shortly be moving to Guam. (Guam!) Charlie had previously announced that he would not stand for reelection. Suzanne had planned to run for, preferably, the two-year Federation position to enable IGLA to make a transition of staggered delegate terms. We both feel strongly that experience within the Federation makes for a more effective IGLA delegate. Although Charlie even attended two previous Federation meetings prior to representing IGLA, it still took both of us two years to understand fully the way the Federation functions and to develop reciprocal, respectful relationships with other

Federation Directors.

While trips to Federation meetings can take the delegates around the world, the positions demand serious time and work not only to represent their constituents but also be active on committees that further the Federation's own operations. This work continues throughout every year.

The work can be very rewarding, however. Delegates create friendships with people from many nations. The discussions touch on many, many issues of importance to the gay and lesbian community. There are times you are struck with the realization that the time spent in the conference rooms is making a difference in thousands of peoples' lives throughout the world.

Suzanne will have decided by Amsterdam whether she can continue to honor her IGLA responsibilities in this capacity. Regardless, one of us will stand for reelection as a pledge of continuity with IGLA and the Federation. We acknowledge that IGLA can elect whomever it chooses for each position, but whichever of us runs would be honored to continue service as an IGLA delegate.

POLICIES AND

commitments. The delegates must spend a week of their vacation time each November attending long days (and sometimes nights) of meetings in hotel conference

PROCEDURES COMMITTEE REPORT

by Jon Bauer, Co-Chair

This has been an off year for the Policy and Procedures Committee. Few volunteers including the co-chairs were able to devote great amounts of time to IGLA matters for numerous reasons. Fortunately much of the committee's most vital work had been set in motion from the previous year.

The Policies and Procedures Committee will report to the Board soon regarding a Bylaws change regarding the positions of the Federation of Gay Games Representative and Alternate Representative. These positions are vote on by the General Membership in the same election year, and the positions are for four year terms. Current rep., Charlie Carson and alternate rep., Suzanne Shriner have asked the P & P Committee to consider that these positions be staggered by two years. That way one person will have at least two years experience with the FGG at all times. This will provide

rooms that could essentially be in the middle of nowhere. The Federation expects organization delegates

IGLA better potential of consistency. The Board will soon be asked to vote on this change.

The committee is having ongoing discussions about other IGLA policies and will mostly likely continue these discussions up to the General Meeting in Amsterdam.

I would like to thank Charley Sullivan, Phil Hayman, Roberto Mantaci, and Jessica Seaton for their contributions to the P & P committee.

I would also like to announce at this time that I plan to retire from this committee after the General Meeting in Amsterdam. This will complete my IGLA volunteer efforts for the time being. I have truly enjoyed participating in this very fun organization as a two term co-chair and P & P committee member.

I am so proud of the level of professionalism and accomplishments that have been developed in IGLA. I urge new participation and leadership to shore up the fine existing leadership.

Best wishes to all. I look forward to seeing many of

you in Amsterdam for Gay Games and at the next IGLA Championships.

WOMEN AND IGLA

by Jan Suchomski,

simple, yet very valuable - consistently communicate your team's desire to increase women's participation and initiate a Women's Development board position on your team.

Women's participation must also extend to participation in IGLA Championships. It is essential that these competitions be fair and equal to all competitors, and rest assured this is a high priority during IGLA '99 in Atlanta.

If you consistently communicate your desire to have more women participants, I guarantee you will attract more women swimmers. Then take the next step and initiate a women's development position on your team. The teams who have already taken this initiative are already benefiting. Are you?

IT'S ATLANTA, AGAIN! 1999 IGLA CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Jan Suchomski,
President Atlanta Rainbow Trout

Women's Development Chair

In my past two years of involvement with IGLA, one trend remains. A disproportionate number of female swimmers. Increasing

On behalf of the Atlanta Rainbow Trout, we would like to invite you to attend the 1999 IGLA Championships in Atlanta June 18-20, 1999.

Atlanta is the self-proclaimed "Capital of the New South" and is a center for civil rights, high-tech industry, and most importantly, southern hospitality.

The 1999 Championship will indeed be spectacular. The entire competition will take place in the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center, the site of the 1996 Olympic swimming, water polo, and diving competition.

The Aquatic Center is conveniently located in downtown/midtown Atlanta and is within 10 minute drive of the hotel and entertainment district. Most if not all IGLA '99 related events will occur within this 10-15 minute distance from the pool.

Our goal is to offer the best run, most diverse IGLA championship ever. With your attendance, you can

the number of IGLA swimmers benefits us all. Although we don't yet have a complete road map on how to attract women swimmers, two recommendations are very

help make this a reality. More details in upcoming months. See you in Atlanta!

WATERPOLO IS DOING GREAT!

by Evans Fowler, IGLA Waterpolo Chair

Around the United States, many of the IGLA teams and/or players are playing in summer city leagues, helping spread the word about polo and, more specifically, helping to get IGLA recognition out there in places we have yet to create teams.

Hopefully, Guam will be there shortly...ok, so maybe a lame segue, but I definitely wanted to take a moment to say good luck to Suzanne Shriner, IGLA's waterpolo spokesperson for the Gay Games, who is heading to Guam with her partner. Suzanne has been such an amazing force behind IGLA and polo, that even though she hopes to stay involved at a lower level, we will have huge shoes to fill (could it be the loss in San Diego was just

too hard to bear?)!

We have recently been given an update for water polo at Gay Games. It appears about 8-9 teams will be participating; over half are IGLA members from the USA and Canada, with the other teams rumored to be coming from Australia, Britain, and the Netherlands. I hope that all who make it to Amsterdam find it to be a great tournament and experience.

In closing, I urge anyone in polo who is setting up Fall/Winter tournament schedules to let us know about it. It would be great to get more of us playing more often. I know San Diego has kicked around a tourney in September, but they haven't received any support from other yet. If you are interested, let myself, or Brian Thompson know (Brian is at *tigerboy1@aol.com*). Thank you, and I'll be looking forward to seeing as many polo players as possible at IGLA '99, here in Atlanta!

