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# WETNOTES

The Official Newsletter of International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics

March 2000

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## Countdown to IGLA Paris 2000!

**John Peller, Secretary, Chicago Smelts**

The countdown on the IGLA web site says that we're less than 25 days away from IGLA Paris 2000, or IP2K, as it's become affectionately known. We're all looking forward to a stellar event. The Paris organizing committee has been working very hard over the past two years to put together a fantastic Championship. As of March 22, about 715 athletes were registered (with more still coming in the mail every day), so this Championship will be about as big as past events.

IP2K has already made history in two ways: it is the first IGLA Championship held in Europe, and the first to feature registration on the Internet. Judging by the number of participants who are attending, holding the Champs in Europe is working well, and will allow IGLA to reach a large group of potential members. On-line registration was very popular, with hundreds of athletes and friends using the service. And I know we're all looking forward to the return of synchronized swimming to the Championships!

So we want to recognize the Paris organizers for their hard work. IGLA wouldn't be anything without the Championships. So see you in Paris – and then in Toronto! ✦

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** IGLA Team Series Meet
- 2** Orca Splash & Ski Roundup
- 3** IGLA Board Positions Open
- 4** FGG Report: Six Year's Review
- 5** 2003, Ya Gotta Be Kidding!
- 5** So Long, Secretary
- 6** IGLA Calendar

## ATLANTIC CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Philip Collins, Out to Swim**

Time does fly when you're enjoying yourself, and the two years since Gay games in Amsterdam when I was elected onto the IGLA Board have certainly flown. As my period of office runs out at the meeting in Paris it is time to look forward to what may happen over the next two years.

Well first of all, I should include the Championships in Paris in April. I remember voting for Paris in San Diego in 1997 and have spent the intervening time watching their preparations and having my high expectations being

*See Collins, page 2*

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In preparation for the Paris General Meeting, this mailing Wetnotes contains a number of important items. You will find the draft minutes of last year's General Meeting in Atlanta (for your approval), and the proposed Championship Rules (rules for IGLA Championships and Gay Games) amendments, which will be voted on at the meeting. Finally, there is an agenda for the meeting. Note that there are no Policy and Procedures amendments at this time. **Please make sure the IGLA Team Representative who will attend the General Meeting gets these documents. Copies will not be available at the meeting; you must bring these materials with you.**

- Any team rep has the right to request that a CR or item be pulled for discussion and a separate vote. In this case reps should notify John Peller, IGLA Secretary, at [John@IGLA.org](mailto:John@IGLA.org) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- Committee co-chairs or others may request to have all the items that were not pulled for discussion voted in toto and without discussion.

You can download the current CR and P&P books from <http://www.igla.org/publications.htm>.

In addition, we will elect new officers (see page 3). Finally, remember that any member of your team can serve as the team rep at the General Meeting. They must check in with a member of the board when they arrive. If you have any questions, please contact John Peller at [John@IGLA.org](mailto:John@IGLA.org). ✦

## **IGLA Team Series Meet: Coming Soon to Your Team**

**Priscilla Kawakami**

**Atlantic Co-Chair**

Priscilla: If your team is like mine, it might be hard to get people motivated about workout and swimming when the next few championships are so far away. While Paris is a lovely destination and Paris Aquatique has already proven that they will do a remarkable job hosting the championships, it is very far away from Utah. Some of my teammates had never even been on an airplane before when they went to Atlanta, so flying to Paris just isn't happening for them. Others would love to go to Paris and stroll the boulevards, but not go to a swimming meet. If this sounds familiar, take heart – the IGLA Team Series meets are on the horizon.

While our chairman, Jim Lasersohn has done the lion's share of the work, the rest of the committee has been giving him feedback and information. A document describing the series is being finalized for board approval and after that it will be presented to the IGLA community. Keep in mind that our mission was twofold. We were to put together guidelines for bidding on meets to be called the IGLA Series, a sort of mini-championships; and we were to draft a document to be shared with all IGLA teams filled with suggestions, ideas, timelines, etc. to make hosting a meet, any meet, easier. While some teams are old hands at hosting meets, some teams are hesitant to do so because of the months of planning and work that are involved. Although the committee cannot help each team personally, the information that has been gathered from around the world will make the job infinitely easier. Soon your team might be bidding on an IGLA Series meet. ✦

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*Collins, Continued from Page One*

exceeded.

Paris must be one of the most organized clubs in Europe. They have led on the sanctioning debate for many years. The annual meet they run has become a regular fixture that my club, Out To Swim, always looks forward to. Each year it gets better. The championships will certainly be run in style.

I particularly look forward to the Pink Flamingo. Paris always takes this seriously and after a few near misses the team's entry for Atlanta just blew everyone away. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us, though I'm sure the other teams will give them a run for their money.

Next year we can look forward to the championships returning to Canada. Toronto will be looking to match and no

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## **ORCA QUEEN CITY SPLASH & SKI A BIG SUCCESS, RECORD BROKEN**

**Jim Laserson, Seattle Orca**

Over 150 swimmers ages 22-91, attended the annual Seattle Orca Swim Team's Queen City Splash & Ski events over the weekend of Jan 14-16th, 2000. Swimmers from Washington state and from all over the western United States and Canada, including, Albuquerque, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Portland, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and Vancouver were in attendance at the meet. In the midst of some exciting swims and comic announcements by Orca announcer John Horman, a new national masters swimming record was broken. Jim Penfield, a 91-year old local masters swimmer from Fort Stillocom broke the national record for the Mens 90-94 age group 100-yard breast with a time of 2:27.59.

During the lunch break, the Original Pink Flamingo Relay, themed after the Seattle WTO convention/riots, brought the audience to tears of laughter, complete with simulated tear gas smoke! The ORCAs provided the props for 3 relay teams consisting of either WTO delegates, Raging Grannies (peaceful protester contingent), and of course the Anarchists complete with bandanas. The relay was a progressive dress relay. The first swimmer started with one piece of the costume and each successive swimmer had to put on all item(s) from the previous swimmer and then add one more item before navigating 50 yards with a large inflatable ORCA whale. The English Bay team from Vancouver, competing as the Raging Grannies, triumphed in the competition, in a very close race. Orca souvenir awards were provided to all participants.

Some swimmers, volunteers, and members of Ski Buddies managed to get up on Sunday morning for the organized ski and snowboard day at Alpental and Summit Central. There was lots of fresh powder snow for everyone and the group managed to escape the windstorm that occurred in Seattle and surrounding ski areas on the same day.

This summer, the ORCAs will be hosting the annual summer meet as part of the Team Seattle Summer Sports Festival on Saturday, July 1st, 2000. Details will be available in May on the ORCA website at [www.teamseattle.org/orca](http://www.teamseattle.org/orca). ✦

## 1999-2000 IGLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Atlantic Co-President**

Philip Collins (London): Phil@IGLA.org

### **Atlantic Co-Chair**

Vacant

### **Pacific Co-President**

Kevin Brauer (Denver): Kevin@IGLA.org

### **Pacific Co-Chair**

Priscilla Kawakami (Utah), Priscilla@IGLA.org

### **IGLA Secretary & Webmaster**

John Peller (Chicago): John@IGLA.org

### **IGLA Treasurer**

Sean Fitzgerald (Atlanta): Sean@IGLA.org

### **IGLA FGG Delegate**

Roberto Mantaci (Paris): Roberto@IGLA.org

### **Ex Officio**

Charles Carson (New York): Charlie@IGLA.org

### **IGLA COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

#### **IGLA Water Polo Chair:**

Patrick Riordan, (New York): Patrick@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Women's Development Co-Chairs**

Ellen Birsch (Minnesota): Ellen@IGLA.org

Anna Diegnan (London): Anna@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Marketing Committee Chairs**

Dan MacGregor (Calgary): Dan@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Championship Rules Committee Co-Chairs**

Robert Stofferson(Wash., DC): Robert@IGLA.org

Kyle Treadway (SLC, Utah): Kyle@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Policies and Procedures Committee Co-Chairs**

Ralph Doore (San Francisco): Ralph@IGLA.org

Brad Palmer (Seattle): Brad@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Records & Top Ten Committee Chair**

Rick Windes (San Francisco): Rick@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Outreach Committee Chair:**

Germano Gasparini (Milan): Germano@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Team Meets Task Force Co-Chairs:**

Priscilla Kawakami (SLC, Utah): Priscilla@IGLA.org

Jim Lasersohn (Seattle): Jim@IGLA.org

#### **IGLA Synchronized Swimming Task Force:**

Frank Lahanque: Synchro.pf@igla2000.org

#### **IGLA Internet Services Task Force**

John Peller, (Chicago): John@IGLA.org

doubt top the standards of recent years. Toronto is one of my favorite cities. I visited it for the first time in 1994 and found it a refreshing change after New York and San Francisco. The locals were certainly very friendly.

And then it's off to Sydney for the next Gay Games. We will find out much more in Paris, as there will be a contingent from Sydney giving presentations and spreading the word. Start saving for Sydney now, if you haven't already, as this promises to be one not to miss.

As for further in the future, you should ensure your club's delegates attend the general meeting. There should be a good debate on new rules about alternating the venue for the Championships.

That's all from me. Thank you to all who have served on the IGLA Board with me over the last two years. Things would have been much more difficult without the support and commitment of all the Board, but I should single out the Secretary John Peller and Charlie Carson FGG representative for particular thanks. ✦

## IGLA BOARD

### POSITIONS OPEN

This article lists the positions that will be up for election at the IGLA general meeting in Paris. Please distribute this note as widely as possible to everyone who is going to Paris and talk them into standing for a position!

- **Atlantic Co-Chair:** Co-Chairs are responsible for making sure IGLA functions properly internally, for assisting teams in his or her basin to develop and grow, and other duties. After one year, becomes Co-President. Two year position.
- **Pacific Co-Chair:** Co-Chairs are responsible for making sure IGLA functions properly internally, for assisting teams in his or her basin to develop and grow, and other duties. After one year, becomes Co-President. Two year position
- **Atlantic Co-President** (one-year position): This position fills a vacancy caused by the resignation of the Atlantic Co-Chair. The Co-President is responsible for working with the Pacific Co-President to lead IGLA, to take charge of its growth and development, and to build and strengthen the organization. The ideal candidate has a strong knowledge of IGLA, a history of involvement in the organization, and strong leadership skills. One year position.

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## IGLA GENERAL MEETING APRIL 21, PARIS, FRANCE

The most lively and interesting part of an IGLA championship is always the IGLA General Meeting, right? Intrigue fills the air as teams battle against each other to pass IGLA rule changes or change internal operating procedures. The pages fly in Robert's Rules as board members try to figure out how to out-procedure each other.

OK, maybe the IGLA General Meeting you attended wasn't like that, but we can tell you that the 2000 meeting will be as brief as possible, fun and interesting, and worth your while to attend. What better way is there to meet and get to know other team leaders and IGLA enthusiasts from around the globe? **Please join us on Friday, April 21, from 2 PM to 6 PM.**

**Directions to General Meeting:** The General Meeting will take place at the "Mairie du 11ème (Onzième) Arrondissement" (City Hall of the 11th Arrondissement). This is a public building located on the Place Leon Blum at the Métro Station "Voltaire - Leon Blum" (line 9). From the station, follow the exit signs : "Mairie du XI Arrondissement" Once you get out of the Métro you cannot miss the building. Ask to the guard at the door where the "Réunion IGLA" (IGLA Meeting) is or follow the signs.

The General Meeting will start at 2pm and last for about 4 hours. Paris Aquatique will offer light refreshments to the participants. At the end of the meeting, all the participants will be able to go together to the registration point.

We invite all teams to make all efforts to have a delegate present in Paris on the afternoon of Friday April 21st in order to be represented at the Meeting.

business. After two years, the alternate delegate becomes the Delegate. Note: four year position.

In addition to these duties, candidates should be prepared to attend all IGLA Championships.

If you like long nights hunched over your e-mail building the future of queer aquatics, this is the job for you. We are particularly looking for women to fill these positions. Become a part of the IGLA board and help make aquatic history!

In addition, we will be looking for dedicated volunteers to serve as committee co-chairs. See the list of committees at <http://www.igla.org/board.htm>. And we look forward to working with all of you!

Please contact John Peller at [John@IGLA.org](mailto:John@IGLA.org) if you need more information. If you're interested in running, please send John a quick e-mail or let Priscilla Kawakami, Pacific Co-Chair, know by sending her e-mail at [Priscilla@IGLA.org](mailto:Priscilla@IGLA.org)

See you in Paris! ✦

## Federation of Gay Games Report - Six Years' Review

### Charlie Carson, ex-IGLA Voting Delegate

The Federation of Gay Games, Inc., exists to ensure that the Gay Games will be produced every four years. When I was elected IGLA's Voting Delegate to the Federation in 1994, the Federation was itself just five years old and somewhat split as to how much control it should have over each Games in comparison with the host city's organizing committee.

Suzanne Shriner and I realized at our first meeting that there were weaknesses in the Federation's contract with Amsterdam regarding how to conduct the sports in 1998. In fact, the contract language with New York was even weaker. The difference was that New York in '94 viewed the Gay Games as a sporting event rather than a community festival, so the various sports clubs were not compelled to monitor their events very closely in the first place. (Let's acknowledge that New York in '94 didn't have to worry about "festival" so much anyway because there was a separate Stonewall Committee handling "community" events for the Stonewall 25th Anniversary celebration.)

At some point in 1994 it became clear that Amsterdam organizers were actively looking for different ways to conduct sports events as a way to set some kind of example to

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- **Secretary:** The Secretary manages IGLA communications and record keeping. The secretary takes minutes at meetings and conference calls (glamorous!), edits and produces the newsletter, takes care of IGLA mailings, tracks team membership and publishes up-to-date rosters. The Secretary will also oversee the IGLA website (but the current webmaster will continue to run it). Be prepared to work hard! Two year position.
- **-Alternate Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games:** Attends all FGG meetings to represent IGLA, serves as principle contact between FGG and IGLA, serves on FGG committees, and participates in FGG and IGLA

the straight world. The rules that govern sports were viewed as being somehow "discriminatory" themselves. Charitably, the Amsterdam organizers meant well, but this demonstrated that we'd signed a host contract with non-athletes. Complicating matters, there were Federation Board members whose belief in a host's prerogative to run its own Games took precedence over the wishes of the athletes themselves. In other words, the host had the right to determine what was good for the athletes, whether the athletes liked it or not.

This dispute became the hallmark of my tenure as a Federation delegate and, as many of you know, resulted in seemingly endless discussions. Little by little, however, IGLA's perseverance succeeded about the common sense behind FINA's Masters rules. Swimming and diving were only two of the sports affected for Gay Games V, of course. IGLA and many sports groups' delegates advocated for more Federation control over the sports events in its contract with a host. That push resulted in a thick document outlining the minimum standards for each of the 22 sports.

These standards name the international governing bodies whose rules must be followed - governing bodies whom some had viewed as part of an evil ruling patriarchy rather than organizations comprised of typical human beings trying to ensure fairness in their respective sports. Sydney is the first host contractually required to honor the Federation standards, and in fact Sydney and the Federation are working together to ensure that Sydney's additional discretionary sports are also conducted in mutually acceptable fashions.

Change was needed not only in the relationship the Federation conducted with its hosts but within the Federation itself. One way to do that was through the committee that oversaw the Federation's Bylaws and Policies & Procedures, which I joined. Just one example -- it took five years of patient lobbying on the part of several of us to convince a majority that the word "noncompetitive" in the Federation's Bylaws was nonsensical for a group founded to promote sports. Utopian buzzwords like that not only look illogical to the outside world but send misleading signals to prospective hosts as to what the Federation is looking for.

IGLA also lobbied for open sharing of information between the Federation's officers and the rest of the Board. Various officers have had different ideas about what the word "share" means and it fell to those of us on the Policies & Procedures Committee to start writing language requiring openness on the Board. Interestingly, IGLA's own P&P project has run concurrently with the Federation's, but IGLA's Policies & Procedures have been preemptive rather than reactive. The Federation's problems in this area resulted in the mass resignation of last year's executive committee when it became clear that they had lost

## **2003? YA GOTTA BE KIDDING!**

We're not! It's time to start thinking about bidding for the 2003 Championships. Bids will be accepted early in 2001, and teams must present to the IGLA Membership during the IGLA Toronto 2001 Championships in July 2001, when a winner will be selected. Please talk to any board member if you'd like more information on the bid process. Start by consulting the Championship Rules book, which is available in the publications section of [www.igla.org](http://www.igla.org).

the confidence of the majority of the Board. As it turned out, several of those officers were among the ones who had advocated a host's prerogative during most of the lead-up to Gay Games V.

So now I'm a Federation officer myself trying to be among those showing how to do things differently. We still have many challenges, particularly the relative balance of sports and culture. IGLA's advice and expertise will always be needed - we can best fulfill the role as our sports' Gay Games arbiters by remaining on the Board, and the Gay Games' goals are worthy of our administrative and financial support. I look forward to working with Roberto and IGLA's new delegate to advance the Federation's programs during the next several years. ✦

## **So Long, Secretary!**

**John Peller, IGLA Secretary**

My term as Secretary has come to a close (sigh). Serving on the IGLA Board has been a remarkable experience in every way. I have learned and grown tremendously from my involvement in IGLA.

It all started in 1996, when I was just coming out. My straight friend Scott McGaraghan, who was coaching the Washington (D.C.) Wetskins water polo at the time, talked me into coming to practice. I balked, since I had never played water polo before, and wasn't a strong swimmer, but Scott won out. I was intimidated at first, but Eric Lieberman was kind of cute, and it looked like fun. I stuck to it, and played my first game at IGLA '96 in D.C. I had to cover Jim Ballard from West Hollywood in my first minute in my first real game - it was a sight to see, and some Wetskins are still laughing at me (and so is Jim) but I stuck with it.

By December, I was elected Secretary of the Wetskins, and a year later, became Captain - not for my water polo skills, but because I was the only one that would put up with organizing

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those queens. We raised lots of money with our famous rug sales, took almost 30 people to Amsterdam, had a great time, and one of our two teams got a medal (it was by default, but who cares?). Somewhere along the way, I started swimming with DCAC, which has brought me into swimming also.

And then I landed on the IGLA Board. I am proud of my accomplishments: Enhancing IGLA's Internet presence by building our website at IGLA.org; improving communications with more readable newsletter; helping to increase our membership; and strengthening the organization's internal governance. I was on the IGLA board when the organization achieved two phenomenal accomplishments: helping the Brussels Starfish overcome discrimination from their National Governing Body, and eventually becoming a member; and convincing United States Masters Swimming to extend non-discrimination protections to gays and lesbians.

Despite these improvements, IGLA faces a number of challenges. European teams don't see the need to join IGLA. We want more women and people of color to participate in IGLA, and to swim on our teams. We want to find corporate sponsors, but aren't sure how to do it. And there are others.

IGLA's best resource, however, is its volunteers – the board members who write hundreds of e-mail messages to each other every month, the committee chairs and members, the leaders who host championships and meets around the world. With all these volunteers, I think we can overcome any and all challenges we face.

As my term as Secretary ends, I'll be graduating from the University of Chicago with a Masters in Public Policy, and starting a new job here in Chicago with the Chicago Children's Advocacy Center. I look forward to moving closer to the Smelts' home pool and seeing them more often for workouts.

IGLA, and its member teams, have given me close friends, taken me to new parts of the world, and pushed me to challenge myself. I have found swimming, a sport that I find immensely difficult and rewarding, and hope to continue to do for the rest of my life. I look forward to continuing to be involved in IGLA in the future. ✦

## IGLA Calendar

### **IGLA 2000 Championships**

Paris, France, April 21-25, 2000  
Web@IGLA2000.org  
First IGLA Championship in Europe!

### **Wett Ones/Australian Gaymes**

Sydney, Australia, April 22, 2000  
bmcinnes@marcnet.net

### **Eurogames VII**

Zurich, Switzerland, June 1-4, 2000  
info@gaysport.org (non-sanctioned)

### **Rainbow Trout Freedom Swim 2000**

Atlanta, GA, June 16-18, 2000  
FS2K@atlantarainbowtrout.com

### **Team New York Aquatics NY Swimillennium 2000**

New York, NY, June 24, 2000  
Webmaster@TNYA.org

### **Seattle Orca July 4 Weekend Meet**

Seattle, WA, USA, July 1, 2000  
JLasersoCo@aol.com

### **Downtown Swim Club Proud T.O. Swim '00**

Toronto, Canada, July 8, 2000  
jwearing@interlog.com

### **2000 World Masters Swimming Championship**

Munich, Germany, July 27 - Aug. 5, 2000  
<http://www.fina.org/mastersnews.html>

### **Tsunami Swim SF '00**

San Francisco, CA, USA, August 12, 2000  
NUderry@aol.com

### **2nd Annual Bapala Gala**

TOGS Masters Swimming Club  
Johannesburg, South Africa, August 12, 2000  
gjcoet@mweb.co.za

### **Ohio Splash S.O.S. (Sink or Swim)**

Columbus, OH, USA, Sept. 2-4, 2000  
joedaubel@earthlink.net

### **2001 and Beyond Calendar**

#### **IGLA 2001**

Toronto, Canada  
Early Summer, 2001  
beadie@interlog.com

#### **Gay Games VI**

Sydney, Australia  
November, 2-9, 2002  
contacts@gaygamesVI.org.au