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Since 1990

International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics

WetNotes

The official newsletter of the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics

IGLA 2004... We're expecting you!

Doug Fadel

October 6 , 2004...Fort Lauderdale, FL



Each year the IGLA competitions are preceded by a General Meeting of all IGLA team representatives. The representatives meet to establish IGLA committees, vote on amendments to the IGLA policies and procedures and Championship Rules and Regulations, vote for new board members, and select host cities for future IGLA competitions. Usually, the General Meeting is held on the Thursday prior to competitions. This year, with an extended five day competition, the General Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 2004 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.** at the Sheraton Yankee Clipper Hotel (one of the host hotels). We hope that the late afternoon time slot and a shortened agenda for the meeting will help accommodate your travel schedules.

While everyone is invited to attend the General Meeting, the number of team representatives corresponds to the 2004 IGLA registered team size. The largest teams are allocated four votes and the smallest teams are allocated one vote. Your official team representatives for the meeting are those you specified on your 2004 registration. However, if your designated team representatives are unable to attend the meeting, you may substitute other members of your team who are able to attend the meeting.

The General Meeting this year will be unusual in a couple of respects. First, because 2006 is a Gay Games year, we will not be selecting a host for a future IGLA competition. Second, the current IGLA board (and probably most of you) has concluded that the committee system that IGLA has been operating is ineffective. In turn, we plan to forego the traditional committee breakout sessions and conduct a needs assessment to determine a more effective way to conduct IGLA business.

Nevertheless, there are urgent matters which require your team representative to attend this important meeting. In order to adopt changes to the IGLA Policies and Procedures and elect new IGLA officers, we must have a quorum. There are a few proposed changes to the IGLA Policies and Procedures that require approval. We will be electing a new IGLA Pacific Basin Co-chair, IGLA Atlantic Basin Co-chair, IGLA Secretary, IGLA Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games. If you plan to run for the IGLA Board or if you plan to nominate someone to run for the IGLA Board, please make sure the candidate is present at the General Meeting.

You CAN Be Super Efficient

Bernie LaFianza

This year you have a unique opportunity. You have the opportunity to be efficient without even really trying. With IGLA 2005 being only 9 months away and 2005 being a mere 2 and a half months after the 2004 IGLA Championships why not get one of those beginning of the year tasks out of the way? We'd like to suggest, humbly, that you come to the annual meeting with a blank check. 2005 registration packets will be available for you to complete and submit.

Hopefully this will make your lives a bit easier. It will make the lives of the IGLA board a bit easier. Then with 2006 being a Gay Games year and no dues being owed to IGLA for that year, your team is financially "good" for 2 plus years. Now that is something every Treasurer will love – one less line item for the next couple of years.

IGLA Water Polo Format

Sean Fitzgerald

The format has been set for the 2004 IGLA Water Polo tournament. If 16 or fewer teams enter, a similar format to last year will be used. The teams will be ranked from 1-16 based upon their finish in San Francisco, with new teams getting the lowest seeds. The teams will then be divided into 4 divisions, with each team playing the other three teams in their division. The first place team in each division will then play for places 1-4, second for places 5-8, third for places 9-12 and fourth for places 13-16. Depending on the size of the women's tournament, first and second in each division may play for 1st through 8th place.

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Bernie LaFianza

BLafianza@IGLA.org**Get Involved in IGLA***The IGLA board is looking for dedicated volunteers to run the organization.*

If you want to make a difference in the management of IGLA, here's your chance. There will be a big changeover this year with five board positions opening up for election in Oct 2004 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida:

1. Atlantic Co Chair (2 year term)
2. Pacific Co Chair (2 year term)
3. Secretary (1 year balance of John Fay's term)
4. FGG Delegate (4 year term)
5. FGG Delegate (2 year balance of Priscilla's term).

All candidates for election are to be from teams of good standing, who's membership dues are fully paid.

If you're interested in running for one of these positions or you know a good candidate, please contact me at ibussens@igla.org or any other board member should you be interested in serving or if you would like more information.

Learn to Dive, Polo and Synchro*John Fay*

You may not be an expert when you leave, but you'll at least get a feel for the three sports when you attend the diving, synchronized swimming and water polo clinics to be held on Thursday, 7 October at the Aquatics Center.



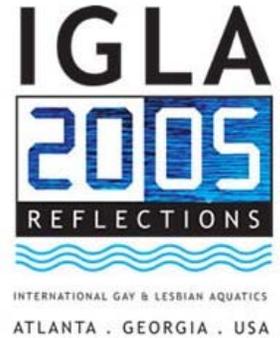
Rumor has it that the US Olympic Diving coach, Tim O'Brien, will be on hand for the diving clinic. This should attract beginners and veterans alike. The clinic will be held in the diving well from 2 to 3 p.m.

An egg beater isn't just for making omelets, it's also the name given to the leg movement used for water polo. and is the most efficient means of staying upright in the water. This is just one of the lessons you'll learn at the water polo clinic along with ball handling and game tactics. Come and rub elbows (shoulders, arms and legs) with other wannabe polo players from all over the world for a 60 minute introduction to the sport of water polo. The clinic will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. in the east pool.

If you've tried diving and water polo, why not combine your skills from both sports to learn about synchronized swimming. Jump into the diving well and find out what it's about. The clinic promises to be fun and you just may get some ideas for your next Pink Flamingo. The synchro clinic will be held in the diving well from 4 to 5 p.m.

IGLA 2005: Reflections*Sean Fitzgerald*

In July 2005, Atlanta will be hosting the 15th IGLA Championships. 2005 also marks the 10th anniversary of the Atlanta Rainbow Trout. To mark these milestones, we are planning a historical display of IGLA and the Atlanta Rainbow Trout. The display will follow our theme,



IGLA 2005: Reflections. These reflections will premiere at the registration party at the Sheraton Colony Square Hotel and be moved to the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center during the competition. This will give everyone the opportunity to visit between events during the weekend.

In order to have the biggest impact, we need your help. Have you attended an IGLA Championships? Has your city hosted an IGLA Championships? Has your team hosted another aquatic event? Have you taken any pictures at these events? If so, we need those pictures. Electronic copies are best, but we can scan photos as well. Bring your photos to Fort Lauderdale where we can scan them while you swim and return them to you. Or you can email them to history@igla2005.org.

We will also have video cameras on deck in Fort Lauderdale. We will be asking people questions about their IGLA experiences. How many times have you attended IGLA? Why do you continue to return? What are some of your favorite memories? What do you see as the future of IGLA?

Finally we will be sending out a questionnaire to each team. Questions will include: When was your team founded? How many members do you have? What community service work has your team done? Have event proceeds been donated to charity? If so, which charities and how much. Do you have T-shirts or other items you want to be displayed?

We hope that the display will show that we do more than just swim laps. By reflecting on our past, we can see how we have grown, and where we can continue to thrive. Please help us to make the display a success.



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IGLA in Good Hands

Ivan Bussens

IGLA continues to be strong. The IGLA leadership board continues to be effective. Maintenance of this level of strength and effectiveness, requires more of you to support the organization, and join the board. Dozens of strong women and men I wager are out there. Dozens with all the basic attributes to fulfill some of the leadership roles on offer.



Volunteer for the IGLA board

Attributes that may be useful are: commitment to stay the course, commitment to champion the IGLA mission, self confidence to express your life skills, the desire to bring these qualities together, the capacity to work as part of a board and, of course (often daily) email access. (We all have life skills which are appreciated, fellow board members too appreciate good old fashioned common sense, and the ease with which we can smile at our own misfortunes and, occasional mistakes).

Queen Elizabeth II famously said when Windsor Castle burned down, that she'd had an, "Annus horribilus". Don't get too excited, Latin scholars advise me she meant she'd had a horrible year. For Queenie, so much had gone pear-shaped that year. At least if not completely pear-shaped, then not according to any plan. The dev-

astation caused by a fire in one of her homes, and the loss of significant historical artifacts - capped her year off badly.

Being English too... I'd like to borrow her phrase. Once again, no need for excitement, her phrase is what I'm borrowing, not tiara. This last year has been an annus horribilus for the organization and leadership board as well. Starting with the old, old story of many peoples' favorite Gay Games VII hosts, Montreal. Montreal, who sadly went their own way, (even giving the trusty finger in the process) to the Federation of Gay Games (FGG).

What a disaster, what a new opportunity for an exciting challenge?

As if that wasn't bad enough, this dramatic volte face became the green light to a rag tag bag of emails from all and sundry critics with a half-baked idea. Critics eager to jump onto a bandwagon and begin sniping. Which rare and endangered bird species were targeted soon became clear. The FGG, the Gay Games movement, and, any supporters of the long tradition - IGLA too for instance. I imagine good snipers and hunters of legal game value accuracy. From what I could see, from this side of the pond - the whiff of European cordite lingering, most were way below the hip and missed. FGG and I/g sports volunteer experience has taught me to value only those who I see acting with transparency, always to look to where the money comes from, and to make certain if there's any shroud of mist that conflicts of interest aren't hidden.

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Water Polo Format *(cont. from page 1)*

The format changes dramatically if there are more than 16 teams entered. Currently, 19 teams have expressed interest. The top 12 teams will play in one bracket. They will be split into 4 divisions, each team playing the other two teams in their division. The four first place teams will then play for places 1-4, second for places 5-8 and third for places 9-12.



The rest of the teams will be split into two divisions. After playing three preliminary games, teams with similar records will play for placement.

This format will serve two purposes. First, there is limited pool time available in Fort Lauderdale. We have time slots available for only 50 total games, which includes the women's games. If we have greater than 16 mixed teams, each team will only be guaranteed four games each. It is impossible to determine a champion in only 4 games with more than 16 teams. This format will allow us to crown a champion in our allotted time. Second, we want to eliminate some of the lopsided games in the tournament. Teams don't like to play a game that ends with a score of 20 -1. Nobody likes to watch that game, and I am sure the referees are not too excited about calling the game either. By placing the top 12 teams in one bracket and the rest in a separate bracket, it should give each team more competitive games. Better games will help everyone improve at a faster rate.

For this format to work, we need some help from you. If more than 16 teams enter the tournament, we would like to get volunteer teams to play in the second bracket. For instance, Atlanta is bring-

ing two teams, and we will want one of our teams in each bracket, so that our newer players can get experience against teams of similar ability. If we cannot get enough teams to voluntarily play in the second bracket, we will have a couple play-in games on Thursday. We will seed the teams in the first bracket according to the above. If, for example, 14 teams want to play in the first bracket, then the top 10 teams would be in automatically. Seed 11 would play seed 14 and seed 12 would play seed 13. The winner of those two games would play in the first bracket, while the losers would play in the second bracket.

In 2005, Atlanta is planning the same format. Under this format, the top 10 teams from 2004 would be guaranteed a spot in the top bracket. The winner of the second bracket would also be given the option of moving to the first bracket. The final team would be an at large berth, given to a returning team, a new team, or the 11th place team from 2004. The at large berth gives us some leeway.

If you have any thoughts on these formats, please let me know. You can reach me at SeanFitzgerald@mindspring.com. You can also post comments or other ideas to the igla-waterpolo@yahoogroups.com email group. This year we have eliminated the breakout sessions at the IGLA Annual meeting. However, I think it is important for water polo to sit down and discuss our future plans. We are planning on holding a **water polo meeting at the pool on Thursday October 7, at 12:00 noon**. This meeting could run up to 90 minutes, still leaving 30 minutes for the first teams to warm up for the tournament. Topics of discussion for the meeting will include the above plan, future IGLA tournament fees, and water polo plans for 2006. Please try to attend or send someone from your team. Note, that we still need water polo teams and players at the IGLA general meeting on Wednesday. We just need extra time for water polo and this seemed to be the best time. See you in Fort Lauderdale.



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IGLA in Good Hands (cont. from page 2)

One of the wilder potshots I dealt with, was an email from someone trying to justify their attack with an argument linking two different facts - to me absurd because there was no way they could be related.



The facts being: firstly HIV visitor restrictions to the USA, and, the second that the FGG had grown over very many years alongside a traditionally strong and mainly all American network. The aggravation of travel to the USA especially for HIV positive gay men is real enough. It is the main reason why the USA hosts no truly internationally subscribed conferences on AIDS. HIV visitor restriction, is not however as that potty sniper supposed the fault of the Gay Games. Neither is it the fault of the FGG, nor the fault of the FGG's supporters. If anything, the long tradition of the Gay Games movement has over very many years, helped raise awareness of the issues of minority groups like ours. Especially too of the issues of people around the world living in dignity or not, with HIV.

HIV visitor restriction to the USA may disappear by Gay Games VII Chicago 2006. I heard US Presidential candidate, John Kerry wants to get rid of it. IGLA is not allowed to make political statements - suffice to say I personally wish luck (if that were possible), to the Voting Cards - may their "chads" all end up hanging the best way.

If you suffer from annus horribilus, it never stops for a whole year. The shock resignation of one IGLA FGG Delegate added injury to the already emailed insults. For personal reasons, the only woman on the board left us, Priscilla Kawakami from QUAC, Salt Lake City. Trust me telling you how working for four years with her, she earned my profound respect. Priscilla is the only (straight) woman, and medal winning grandmother I know, who consistently championed L/G sports participation -- for ALL of us. Priscilla's shining example, single minded no nonsense approach and laser guided vision, helped this organization time and again to strike the target bull's eye.

More recently our Secretary, John Fay - the equally unique diving, synchro, French connection has wanted to step down. Luckily for us he remains as Web Master (call him sir), flexing his considerable web authoring skills to keep the web site looking tip top.

During an attack of the annus horribilus, it would be easy to cut your losses. Why the heck need we bother? We're only volunteers for goodness sakes. The opposite happened, the board resolved to flap our little wings a little harder, and to strive to fly a little higher. The example of our remaining FGG Delegate Philip Hayman, from Weho, LA has been legendary. He is a tribute to his team. Philip continues to amaze with his stamina and tenacity for problem solving.

Not wishing to get bogged down in board business - I don't think it indiscreet to share that a few of you weren't happy that Nadadores' web site was subject to a delay. But it's up and running now and the board will join me in congratulating the extremely hardworking Nadadores Co Chairs, Jonathan Olsen and Sean Frampton, on the great job they've done so far. Not long now guys, stay focused.

I'm confident the Fort Lauderdale 2004 Championships are in good hands. The board is excited as the Nadadores beckon us all to enjoy, "Fun in the Sun 2004", right there at the International Swimming Hall of Fame. Register on-line now at

<http://www.igla2004.com>

Atlanta 2005 will be an equally hard act to follow. The Georgia Tech Aquatics Center is totally refurbished, in the process they added walls around the roof. What better way to enjoy famous Southern hospitality than in newly air conditioned comfort under sultry Georgia skies? Y'all don't forget to mark your calendars for Atlanta July 2005.

After Atlanta 2005, Chicago 2006 will follow. For those fortunate enough with deep pockets and plenty of vacation time - Chicago Gay Games and the alternative new Montreal event are scheduled close enough together in 2006. Conceivably attendance of both events is a possibility.

Gay Games VII Chicago 2006 - will be the seventh celebration of the Gay Games movement's signature event. A return in a way to the traditional roots of Gay Games. A celebration of the sports, unashamedly focused on the sports and a warm affirmation of the women and men taking part.

Alternatively Montreal, as the new kid on the block backed with finances from tourism bodies and gay businesses, coincides its sporting events with the city of Montreal's annual pride along with well known gay men's circuit parties. Since the sports participants are one component of a much, much bigger jamboree - when I'm asked my personal view I suppose the feel will probably be different, and more suited to party animals who will be guaranteed a good time!

Some time ago, IGLA board members visited Chicago's aquatics facilities, and began a mutually beneficial and ongoing dialogue with Chicago and the FGG. With two years to go, we look back at our positive experience of Sydney 2002, and rise to the challenge of helping deliver the Aquatics element of Gay Games VII Chicago 2006. As with all previous challenges we shall do so to the best of our abilities.

Together the IGLA board with the help from new volunteer commitment, shall keep IGLA in good hands.

Thank you.
Ivan Bussens
IGLA Co President



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