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Since 1990

**Results and Photos from Atlanta:**  
[www.igla2005.org](http://www.igla2005.org)

## RECORDS FALL AS ALWAYS, INCLUDING A WORLD MARK, AT IGLA'S 2005 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN ATLANTA

*District of Columbia Aquatics Club and West Hollywood Aquatics maintain their positions as the world's top LGBT swimming and water polo teams*

*From IGLA's post-championships press release, by **Charlie Carson***

The pool competition was as hot as the Atlanta weather during the 15th International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Championships, where short course 25-metre swimming records fell by the dozens and the top LGBT aquatics clubs maintained their dominance.



The Atlanta Rainbow Trout hosted this year's Championships from 21-25 July in the Olympic pools at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center. The Trout previously hosted the 1999 IGLA Championships.

The record-setting swimming was in keeping with the "Reflections" theme chosen by the Trout to pay tribute to past IGLA championships. From IGLA's beginning in 1987, the fastest swimmers have set mark after mark, making the IGLA championships the world's premiere annual LGBT aquatics event.

Women participants broke 32 IGLA records and the men set 52 new IGLA marks. Another 15 IGLA records were set in relays. Equally important, countless personal bests were achieved in all age groups and ability levels.

"We had 11 IGLA records set in the 18-24 age group this year," said Sean Fitzgerald, outgoing IGLA  
*(continued on page 4)*

### UPCOMING MEETS

**D.C. Aquatics Club Fall Swim Ball**  
15 October 2005 - Registration ends 10 October  
[www.swimdcac.org](http://www.swimdcac.org) *(see page 8 for more)*

**Coupe de Montréal**  
26 November 2005  
[www.acontrecourant.qc.ca](http://www.acontrecourant.qc.ca)

**Upstream Amsterdam 10 Year Anniversary**  
11 February 2006  
[www.upstreamamsterdam.nl/valen10](http://www.upstreamamsterdam.nl/valen10)

**QUAC Ski and Swim Weekend**  
17-20 February 2006  
[www.quacquac.org](http://www.quacquac.org)

### Building and Maintaining a Healthy Team

By **Erik Scollon** of the Long Beach Grunions and **Doug Fadel** of Queer Utah Aquatic Club (QUAC)

While teams are each unique in experiencing cycles of growth or decline, there are a number of factors (such as pool availability, coaches, team leaders, etc.) that help extend growth cycles and minimize periods of stagnation or decline. The Long Beach Grunions are experiencing an extremely successful growth phase. Formed in the third quarter of 2002, they now boast 100 active members, and each of the six practices a weeks has 25-35 people in attendance. Queer Utah Aquatic Club (QUAC) has been around since 1995. During that time QUAC has gone through  
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International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics

# WetNotes

The official newsletter of International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics



WetNotes

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**Profile: Phoenix Sunfish**

IGLA welcomes the Phoenix Sunfish as the newest member of our aquatics family.

The Sunfish got started by Rick Shaffer, a former swimmer on the Kansas City Wave. After moving to Phoenix, he noticed the lack of an LGBT swim team in the area and decided to get one started. In the Fall of 2003, Rick met Marty Sarussi, a former coach of the Chicago Smelts. Once they met it was just a matter of pulling people in from Phoenix they knew who had previous swimming experience and finding a pool.

In December 2003, the Sunfish started swimming with seven members, one night a week in three very small lanes at a local gym. Since then, they have grown to 37 members and now practice 3 days a week at two different pools. Practices are at the Phoenix Downtown YMCA on Monday and Thursday nights at 7 p.m., and the ASU Student Recreation Center on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m.

The Denver SQUID Invitational in July 2004 was their first team competition. They were surprised to find that they were the second largest team at the meet behind the SQUID themselves. With six team members at the meet, they were proud to place 1st at their first meet ever!

In less than one year since the team started, nine Sunfish competed at IGLA 2004 in Fort Lauderdale. Just a week before IGLA 2005, on July 10th, the Sunfish staged a fundraising car wash at Friends Bar in Phoenix. Fifteen Sunfish washed about 40 cars, and earned nearly \$600! Twelve team members competed this year in Atlanta. Currently, the Sunfish are co-captained by Ron Houston and Fred Bryan and are coached by Marty Sarussi.

For more information, visit the team website at <http://www.phxsunfish.org>

**Building and Maintaining a Healthy Team**

(from page 1)

multiple growth spurts and has added a water polo team to compliment their successful swim team. At present QUAC has over 100 active swimmers and 30 active water polo players. Each of the three swimming practices has around 50 people in attendance.

The following are some ideas that have, in the case of these teams, helped them to thrive.

**Recruit non-swimmers as actively as you recruit good swimmers.** Most areas have an established Masters team with many veteran swimmers. This environment tends to be intimidating to new swimmers. Making space for "newbies" and taking the time to teach stroke mechanics is worth every minute spent. The enthusiasm of beginners is often contagious to those "burnt out" due to years of practicing and competing. Enthusiastic beginners often take part in team administration; thereby, the extra investment in new swimmers is often returned on multiple levels.

The heart and soul of the Grunions is really their beginning swimmers. Affectionately, they are referred to as "The Cocktail Lane" due to an impression that many show up at practice just so they can go out for drinks with the other members after practice. This is really a misnomer. These members tend to be the most dedicated. The past president of the Grunions was a "non-swimmer" when he joined the team two years ago. Besides, who said that cocktails and swimming don't mix?

More than fifty percent of the swimmers on QUAC had no swimming background when they joined. Coach Priscilla Kawakami (former IGLA co-president) has a knack for retaining beginners and challenging them to move out of the beginner lanes. She praises swimmers. She encourages swimmers to have reasonable expectations about their progress. She provides each swimmer with individual instruction. This is often not easy when she has as many as 20 beginners in the pool at one time.

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## Building and Maintaining a Healthy Team

(from page 2)

**Veterans can learn just as much as the beginners.** A seasoned Grunion swimmer once remarked that “all of the great things that swimming can teach you such as self confidence, interpersonal skills, dedication and reward we learned long ago in high school and college. It’s the new guys that are getting a lot more out of this than we are.” I was almost inclined to agree with him until I thought about the rewards of volunteerism. Being the swimming evangelist that I am, I was delighted in sharing my passion with others. I might not have been learning much as a student, but as a coach and mentor, the life lessons were piling high. Volunteering my time as coach and board member helped me find another swimming arena in which to grow.

**Having fun is more important than getting a hard workout.** Some may want to believe that the workout is what it’s all about, but if that were true IGLA wouldn’t even exist. The social part of the aquatic experience is more important than many realize. IGLA was founded in 1987 partially due to the fact that swimmers at the 1986 Gay Games did not want to wait another four years to see one another again. IGLA has witnessed its fair share of outstanding swimming performances and records set. IGLA record holders are as much motivated to attend practice to see friends as to get a tough workout. Coaches, both volunteer and paid, sometimes lose track of this. It’s OK to remind them. Retaining a social element and providing a good workout are not mutually exclusive. We bet that nobody has ever quit a team because they didn’t bring home a trophy, but members might leave if practice stops being fun.

**Build tomorrow’s leaders.** When the Grunions were founded, they were lucky enough to have three volunteer coaches with collegiate coaching experience. Now, they have eight volunteer coaches. By taking the time to mentor willing but inexperienced members, they helped create some great coaches over time. The same goes for board members. If you strive for half “experienced” and half “new” team leaders at any given time, you can ensure steady leadership without threat of your whole core of leaders burning out simultaneously.

**Make a personal connection with every single swimmer.** At QUAC, Coach Doug tries to talk to every person at every workout. As a team leader, he sends 10-15 personal e-mails (in addition to team e-mails) to individuals each week. Make your members feel welcome, involved and noticed. Investment in individuals is often returned with their investment of time and energy to the team. When a team member has missed several practices and social events, contact that person and let her know she is missed.

**Stop drama before it starts.** Encourage members to talk directly with others when problems arise, rather than going behind backs. Most misunderstanding can be cleared up with one face-to-face meeting. In the pool, this means that swimmers should be encouraged to engage in open communications about issues of lane etiquette. In their personal lives, this means that the interests of the team must take priority over the interests of individuals. Swimmers must understand that they may “date” whomever they like, but no one quits the team.

**Be Social.** Team bonds form both in and out of the pool. Try to hold at least one social function every month. Make sure that it is well planned and fun. Some suggestions are theme parties, group outings to shows, road rallies/scavenger hunts, trips to theme parks, and team trips - anything that doesn’t include a swim meet. Find activities that build new connections between teammates and provide ways to share in each other’s lives. Try to push members to get to know people beyond those with whom they share a lane. It may take a little extra work to plan “memorable” events, but the planning work can also be an excellent team builder as well.

**Performance Art.** It isn’t always about swimming. QUAC has recruited new swimmers and built team camaraderie through various performances it has been asked to do. In 2004, QUAC danced in Speedos in the Utah Gay pride parade, performed synchronized swimming in backyard pools as fundraisers for local charities, and participated in a duct tape swimming suit competition at the Utah Gay Men’s Health Summit.

**Don’t Forget the Meets.** Besides giving your workouts a more meaningful focus than washboard abs, competitions provide direction. More team bonding and strengthening of ties between members will occur at a simple afternoon Masters meet or water polo tournament than any board meeting or series of practices could hope to provide. Go to meets and share in each other’s victories and accomplishments. Spend time with the members who usually attend different workout or swim in different lanes. After the meet, go to dinner together and talk about who swam like a stud, and the stud or “studette” you wanted to pick up.

In short, emphasize the people over the process. Teach as well as learn as you go. Value the team by investing in the individual. And think outside of the pool. Give members a reason to come to practice, which will give them reasons to participate and invest and ultimately promote the continued growth and success of your team.

For even more ideas, check out:

<http://www.igla.org/clubdev.htm>



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## IGLA 2005 - A HOT TIME IN ATLANTA

(from page 1)

Co-President and 2005 IGLA Championships Meet Director. "Breaking records is nothing new at the IGLA Championships, and it's always great to see the emergence of youth carrying on the tradition."

Showing, however, that age is not a barrier to achievement, this year's world Masters record was swum by Cav Cavanaugh, 70, competing for Nadadores de South Florida. Cavanaugh set a new mark of 1:04.58 for the Men's 70-74 age group in the 100 m. freestyle.

Along with 559 swimmers, 147 people from 10 teams contested water polo. Twelve divers and 13 synchronised swimmers kept the action going in all corners of the Olympic facility.



Team New York Aquatics won the Pink Flamingo<sup>SM</sup> entertainment

event for the first time since 1992. TNYA's "Britney Spears Through the Years" used the "Reflections" theme to pay tribute to West Hollywood's 1996 winning Pink Flamingo<sup>SM</sup> entry, "Madonna Through the Ages." Ten "pregnant" TNYA swimmers danced hip-hop in outfits such as Schoolgirl Britney, Catsuit Britney and Flight Attendant Britney. A squadron of doctors helped deliver the babies after which the Britneys performed a synchronised swimming routine. The popular runner-up entry was from Long Beach, "Snow White and the Seven Grunions."

**Photo: Yvette J. Marthells**

Out to Swim London had wanted to host the IGLA Championships this year but the one appropriate facility was torn down as part of the city's Olympic bid plans. The Atlanta Rainbow Trout volunteered to host IGLA again and lived up to their 1999 reputation for excellent logistics. Out to Swim London now hopes to host IGLA in the city's new Olympic aquatic facility, perhaps in 2009.

"Atlanta stepped forward to host this year and it was great to be able to rely on my teammates, who never knew how to say 'no'," said Fitzgerald. "I think we're all a little tired now but it definitely gave our team a boost."

IGLA's board praised Atlanta's efforts and the Olympic facility, including the Georgia Tech staff led by Debbie Dorsey, and the numerous volunteers and sponsors of the 2005 IGLA Championships.

"Once again, the Atlanta Rainbow Trout showed us what southern hospitality is all about," said Bruce Hopson, incoming IGLA Co-President. "Summertime in Atlanta has been a great suc-

cess for IGLA two times now and we look forward to returning someday."

In the meantime, IGLA is the governing body for aquatics at Gay Games VII in Chicago from 15-22 July 2006. An open water swim has already been added to the schedule thanks in part to IGLA's efforts. IGLA returns to Europe when Paris Aquatique hosts the 16th IGLA Championships from 23-28 May 2007.

### Highlights - Swimming:

During some years IGLA's swimming competition is conducted 25 metres short course, as it was in Atlanta, and other years 50 metres long course, such as the 2004 meet in Fort Lauderdale. But the course length hasn't mattered much lately in the battle for the top team award.

For the fourth time in a row and eighth total, the District of Columbia Aquatics Club won the large team category (25 or more participants). DCAC's 2279 points easily outdistanced the runner-up Long Beach Grunions with 1249.5. Swimming competitions occur at other predominantly LGBT competitions such as the Eurogames but other teams have yet to match the talent and number of swimmers across all age categories that swim for DCAC.

KY Liquid-Swim Kentucky won the small team category (8 or fewer) with 281.5 points over Minnesota ICE with 207. The FINS Aquatic Club from Philadelphia was particularly delighted to capture a division title for the first time. They took the medium team category (9-24 swimmers) with 655 points over Ohio Splash with 496.

"We've come to this for years and years and years and never won a thing, so it's very gratifying after working so hard," said Joan Buehler of the FINS. "It means the most to our coach, Jim Robles, who founded the team in 1988."



**Photo: Charlie Carson**

ago at Stanford, longtime USMS stalwarts and world record holders Laura Val and Tod Spieker took part.

Cav Cavanaugh decided to participate this year after his wife Debbie competed in the 2004 IGLA Championships at the Fort

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As the IGLA Championships' reputation has grown for fast swimming, excellent organisation and a fun atmosphere, a number of "guest" competitors have chosen to make it one of their main competitions in any given year. Two years

Cav Cavanaugh decided to participate this year after his wife Debbie competed in the 2004 IGLA Championships at the Fort



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### IGLA 2005 - A HOT TIME IN ATLANTA

(from page 4)

Lauderdale Aquatic Complex. Cav made the most of an opportunity to swim in the Olympic pool with a world Masters record in the 100 m. freestyle for Men 70-74 (1:04.58). He also won the 50 m. freestyle, 200 m. freestyle, and 100 m. individual medley.

Last year's world record setter, Brian Jacobson of Minnesota ICE, won all five of his events in Atlanta (30-34 age group). Other men winning their five maximum allowed events were: Win Chesson (San Francisco Tsunami, 18-24); Craig Pickering (KY Liquid-Swim Kentucky, 25-29); Audy Oktavian (Liquid Assets-New England Swim Team, 25-29); Lorenzo Benucci (Atlanta Water Jocks, 35-39); Steven Czekala (San Francisco Tsunami, 45-49); Kieran Kelleher (DCAC, 55-59); John Zeigler (Georgia, 60-64); Herbert Lugert (Paris Aquatique, 65-69); and John Kiley (Team New York Aquatics, 75-79).

Among the more outstanding relay swims was a new IGLA record set by the Philadelphia FINS Aquatic Club women in the 4 x 200 m. freestyle relay in the 160-199 age group, breaking a mark held by West Hollywood Aquatics since Gay Games IV in 1994. The FINS quartet was Joan Buehler, Jill Burke, Merrill Hilf and Michele Huyette.

While the top swimmers earn the most attention, inspiring stories occurred throughout all abilities and age groups. As an example, in remarks at the championships' closing banquet, Chicago's Gay Games organisers recognised Steve Padgett of Team Detroit Aquatics, who has been swimming just three years. Steve was competing at the 2005 IGLA Championships in honor of Alan Speer, a 1994 Gay Games participant who helped Steve learn to swim and who died of a heart attack on deck at a swimming meet earlier this year.

#### Water Polo

West Hollywood Aquatics continued its dominance in water polo, winning for the fourth consecutive time and tenth overall. West Hollywood was the only undefeated team in the both the qualifying and championship rounds. However, the final over the San Francisco Tsunami was close, 11-9. In the bronze medal game, Team New York Aquatics won by 9-7 over QUAC. QUAC had an excellent result in what was only their second IGLA Championships water polo participation.

Other teams in the water polo tournament were from the Atlanta Rainbow Trout (A & B), Chicago Riptide, San Francisco Tsunami (A & B), Toronto Triggerfish, and the Washington (D.C.) Wetskins.

#### Diving

R. Scott Smith of Minneapolis was the outstanding diver of the meet, not only taking first place in the 40-44 age group in the 1- and 3-metre springboard and 10-metre platform events, but also scoring the highest point totals among all divers. For the first time at an IGLA Championships, divers performed in 1- and 3-metre synchronised diving competition. Andrew Kasney of Philadelphia and Paul Reynolds of Salt Lake City won at both heights.

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Photo: Andrew Qui

Women who won five individual events were: Tanya Hanson (Nadadores de South Florida, 40-44); Debbie Cavanaugh (Nadadores de South Florida, 45-49); Merrill Hilf (FINS Aquatic Club, 45-49); Michelle Martin (Atlanta Rainbow Trout, 55-59); Karen Klisch (DCAC, 60-64); and Patricia Nielson (Long Beach Grunions, 70-74).

After a successful open water swim at the 2004 IGLA Championships in Fort Lauderdale, competitors were disappointed when this year's event was cancelled following a breakdown of the truck carrying equipment to the course, the one logistical problem marring this year's event. Participants will now reset their sights for the open water swim race in Lake Michigan at Chicago's 2006 Gay Games.

The Rick Windes Memorial Award for Outstanding Male and Female Long Distance Swimmers went to Steven Czekala (San Francisco Tsunami) and Karen Klisch (DCAC).



Photo: Andrew Qui



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## **IGLA TEAMS AND PHILANTHROPY**

*Contributing to IGLA - and our communities*

There are many good causes out there and a number of IGLA teams have found ways to make some of these causes their own. In this issue of Wetnotes, we highlight examples from our board members' teams.

This is by no means all the great philanthropy work being done by the many members of IGLA. In future issues we will profile great work such as the Swim for Life events hosted by the Brussels Starfish and Gruppo Pesce Milano, and Team New York Aquatics' Annual Hour Swim. Send information about your team's philanthropic efforts to: [secretary@igla.org](mailto:secretary@igla.org).

### **Disaster Relief: Turning the Tide Swim-a-Thon**

Following news of the tsunami disaster in Asia in December, several members of Tsunami decided that merely donating to disaster relief efforts as individuals wasn't enough. Inspired by Tsunami's Swim Against Hate in response to the murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998, an event which raised more than US\$15,000 for anti-violence organizations in California and Wyoming, Tsunami members Peter Chou, Michael Shinn, Steven Wu and Al Liu organized the Turning the Tide Swim-a-Thon in response to the tragedy. The University of San Francisco's Koret Center donated pool time, Clif Bar provided sustenance, and a dozen Tsunamis volunteered their time to ensure that the event went off without a hitch. Most importantly, 32 swimmers from Tsunami and other Bay Area masters teams gathered pledges from family and friends and swam a total of 5,532 lengths of the pool during the 90-minute event. After all of the pledges were gathered, Tsunami's efforts resulted in a US\$20,300 contribution to the American Red Cross South Asia Relief Fund. For Tsunami's disaster relief efforts, the team received the 2005 Distinguished Service Award from Pacific Masters Swimming (PMS), the second time that PMS has recognized Tsunami's community service. All told, Tsunami has raised more than US\$76,000 for charitable causes since 1998.

- Brad Hise

### **Tsunami Tsynchro**

As one of the few IGLA teams to have a full-fledged synchronized swimming team, Tsunami takes a special interest in the development of synchro as a discipline with equal status at IGLA championships and, we hope, future Gay Games. To that end, Tsunami has pledged to contribute up to US\$2,000 toward the expense of a synchronized swimming competition at Chicago Gay Games, should synchro be added to the schedule of events.

- Brad Hise

### **US\$1 for IGLA**

In December 2004, the Long Beach Grunions hosted the Southern Pacific Masters/Southwest Zone Championships at Belmont Olympic Plaza in Long Beach, California. Three hundred swimmers from across the United States came to compete in one of the year's only SCM championships. The Grunions revived the often forgotten "\$1 for IGLA" tradition, whereby a dollar from each entry is donated to IGLA. After seeing the decline in par-

ticipation by women at IGLA 2004, the Grunions asked that this money be specifically earmarked for Women's Development.

- Erik Scollon

### **Southern California Charity Classic (SC3)**

Having sister IGLA teams only a few miles apart has been beneficial for both West Hollywood Aquatics and the Long Beach Grunions. In 2005, the teams joined forces to host two events, a swim meet and a charity dance, collectively dubbed the "Southern California Charity Classic." These events were undertaken to build bridges between IGLA teams and to raise money for worthy organizations.

At the swim meet in May, 200 swimmers from WH2O, LBG, Tsunami, QUAC, Phoenix Sunfish, and DCAC competed in an afternoon of individual events and relays. A social at Club Riples followed the meet, with a portion of the entry fee being donated to the charities. In June, the two teams co-hosted "The Prom You Never Had" at UltraSuede Lounge in West Hollywood. The event featured Coco Peru as the "Chaperone"/MC, a DJ spinning 80's dance music, Prom Pictures, as well as a Prom King and Queen.

The two events raised over US\$4500 for The Trevor Project, a help line for at-risk teens; the Chicago Gay Games; and IGLA.

- Erik Scollon with Bernie LaFianza

### **Maryland Swim for Life**

For the last four years, the District of Columbia Aquatics Club (DCAC) has hosted the Maryland Swim for Life fundraiser benefiting various charities in Maryland and D.C. that assist individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. The swim also benefits the Chester River Association, which monitors the environmental health of the Chester River, the location of the swim. Participants are asked to raise a minimum US\$100 and have the option of swimming 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 miles in the river.

Maryland Swim for Life founder, Joe Stewart, began the event 14 years ago and modeled it after the Provincetown Swim for Life. Joe is a regular swimmer of the Provincetown Swim for Life and started the Maryland version in memory of his many friends who have died of AIDS or related illnesses. A number of DCAC swimmers participated in the swim during the 10 years Joe coordinated it.

After the first decade, Joe decided to embark on other activities and approached DCAC to continue the event. DCAC was honored to take on this responsibility and, fortunately, the event is flourishing. During any one of the past four years, 85-120 swimmers have raised between US\$19,000-27,000. All participants are treated to a memorable event benefiting charities doing excellent work in the D.C. metro area.

- Chris Politan

These teams lead and inspire by their example. There is an unspoken challenge to other IGLA teams to go out and get involved in your community. You can combine your love of aquatics to raise money and help a worthy organization.

- Bernie LaFianza



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## **THE COMEBACK KIDS**

*A Paris Aquatique Story, by John Fay*

This may be one for the history books, folks. The French Swimming Federation (FFN) now allows all-male swimming teams to compete in sanctioned competitions in France. There are no sanctioned Masters synchronised swimming competitions, so Paris Aquatique bit the bullet and registered for the 2005 Inter-Regional Open competition. This is the competition that determines who will qualify for Nationals. We'd be swimming against women whose average age is around 20 and who have been competing since they were 8 or 10. What better challenge?

We never expected to qualify for Nationals, but we did want to show that men could be competitive in this sport. This meant learning a new and more complicated set of figures for the technical routine and increasing the difficulty of the free routine in order to compete at the level of the pros. On top of this, we had to learn two entire routines by the beginning of February. In previous years, we've been able to learn the free routine by March. This was not going to be easy.

France has a system of exams that one must pass in order to compete in synchronised swimming. It's similar to the belt system used in martial arts. To compete at the Inter-Regionals, a swimmer must have the equivalent of a black belt of the 6th Marsouin (porpoise). Over the last two years, five of our team members have managed to pass the exams for the highest level. For this two-day competition, we entered a solo, a duet, and a team of four swimmers.

Saturday was a nail-biting, anxious day of learning to cope with our first major competition. We presented the technical routines for the solo and duet and free routine for the team. It was a catastrophe. Both the duet and the team ended up dead last. The duet seemed to have invented a new sport: de-synchronised swimming. The team didn't do much better. Their music began with a huge "BOOM!" followed by some fairly discreet ticks. The organiser of the competition, however, decided to start the music softly and increase the volume as needed. We heard neither boom nor ticks. After what seemed like several agonising minutes, one swimmer pushed the others into the water, desperately hoping we would hear the music under water. It worked, but we were so shaken that we had a hard time recovering. The only bright point was that our soloist, Frank Lahanque, finished the first day in 3rd place. At least the day wasn't a total loss.

The nice thing about being in last is that you don't have to worry about being overtaken. Our fellow competitors were great. They explained that it's normal to finish last in your first competition. We looked at it as a learning experience - how to deal with the stress and how to compete at this level. We decided to just go out there and do our best. What a difference a day makes!

The duet of Christian Frigerio and Nicolas Speranza was terrific. They climbed two positions to finish 7th out of nine duets. The team did even better. They rocketed an amazing five positions to finish 6th out of 11 teams. This, despite the fact that they

were penalised two points for swimming with four swimmers instead of eight. Frank Lahanque finished third in the solo competition and thus qualified for Nationals. At 40 years old, Frank is twice the age of the first and second place swimmers.

I don't know if any other all-male synchronised swimming teams have ever competed in a sanctioned meet, but this is a great start for the future of male synchronised swimming.

### **Building Bridges Conference Starts a Dialogue**

*By Neill Williams*

Your two Federation of Gay Games representatives, Jon Bauer and I, traveled to London representing IGLA at the conference entitled "Building Bridges for the Future of LGBT Sports." The two-day conference, held on February 12-13, was initiated by the FGG ([www.gaygames.com/en/](http://www.gaygames.com/en/)) and hosted by London's LGBT sports group, Out for Sport. Fifty representatives of various sports groups around the world attended, to explore ways to work together in the face of two international multi-sport organizations, both intent on putting on quadrennial games in 2006 and beyond. The conference was moderated by Mr. Roger Winfield from UK's Sports Disputes Resolution Panel.

For those of you who have not been keeping up (what rock have you been under?), the FGG and Montreal 2006 could not agree to a contract in 2003 and Montreal decided to host its own event. The FGG reopened the bidding process and selected Chicago to host Gay Games VII in 2006. Montreal hosted a meeting in January 2004 at which a new organization, the Gay & Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA; "Glee-sah"), was formed ([www.glisa.org/](http://www.glisa.org/)). Montreal 2006 renamed its event GLISA's first Outgames. As it is accepted that both organizations will be putting on games in their respective cities in 2006, the Building Bridges conference intended to examine what is in the best interests of LGBT sports in the future.

The conference operated on two levels. On one level, Mr. Winfield had all of the participants work and talk in small groups on projects related to the games and the roles of international LGBT organizations. In doing so, it became evident that the involved parties had much more in common than was thought. Also, it served to establish relationships between the groups and make it much more difficult to demonize each other as had been done in the past.

The other level of the conference dealt more specifically with the issue at hand, namely how these two organizations could work collaboratively in the future. This task proved to be much harder than the first. The organizations agreed that they would stop the negative talk and only mention each other in a positive way. Instead, they were going to focus on their respective goals and allow the worldwide LGBT community to decide if two organizations can co-exist by attending their events. The co-presidents of the two organizations agreed to continue the dialogue no later than two months from the conference, and they realized that the world would be watching. The two groups' leaders have had one follow-up conference call to date. IGLA as well as the other sports organizations will be anxiously observing how the two organizations work together in the future.



WetNotes

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# IGLA 2005 - A HOT TIME IN ATLANTA

(continued from page 5)



Photos above and below: **Andrew Qui**

TNYA's 2005 winning *Pink Flamingo<sup>SM</sup>* entry, "Britney Spears Through the Years"

## Synchronised Swimming

Solo, duo, trio and team competition took place this year in Atlanta. In solo competition, John Fay of Paris won in the 40-49 age group and Kasaia Luckel of San Francisco took gold for 30-39. Betsy McCall & Wayne Rodgers of San Francisco took the duo title for 30-39, and Richard Pacheco & Bob Wheeler of San Francisco won for 40-49. Betsy McCall, Stephen Houghton and Stuart Hills of San Francisco won the trio event, and the team title also went to San Francisco.

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Atlanta's "Reflections" programme book/heat sheet featured photos from past IGLA championships, including logos, souvenir t-shirts, caps and medals, and statistics showed the growth in participant numbers in each of the four sports since 1987. Social events were the popular hosted dinners, a Saturday night party at the Jungle nightclub, the Sunday awards banquet at the Sheraton Midtown Hotel at Colony Square, and a final dance at the Red Chair club. Thanks, ART, for another job well done!



## DCAC's Fall Swim Ball - Next on the IGLA Calendar

The First Ladies of the District of Columbia Aquatics Club cordially invite you to attend our fabulous Fall Swim Ball to be held on **October 15, 2005**. The aquatics festivities will take place at the newly constructed Takoma Park Aquatics Center, a deep, 50-meter pool located close to public transportation in the city and only a hop, skip, and jump away from Dupont Circle - the center of gay Washington. In addition to your standard events, participants will have the chance to compete in a freestyle-pyramid relay, the First Lady's relays, and vie for high point awards as well as team awards.



After getting wet and working up a sweat, we invite you to dine elegantly at a State dinner hosted by the DCAC ladies of Washington at various exotic locales around the city. Afterwards, celebrate your achievements by joining all the First Ladies for drinks and dessert at the headquarters of the Human Rights Campaign. Hosted by "Miss" Barbara Bush, mingle with fellow swimmers and congratulate those awarded team and individual honors. After getting drunker than Betty Ford, continue celebrating at the many bars and clubs on 17th Street and in Dupont Circle, blocks from the HRC.

For more information or to download a registration packet, visit our website at <http://www.swimdcac.org>. For other questions or comments, e-mail [meet@swimdcac.org](mailto:meet@swimdcac.org). Online registration ends October 10. We hope you will join the First Ladies for our Fall Ball on a beautiful fall weekend in - as we say in the U.S. - "Our Nation's Capital." As a former First Lady who shall remain nameless once said, "Everyone loves a good ball or two."



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