

## **Minutes of the GM IFMGA, La Grave, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

### **Call to order:**

Greece and New Zealand are not present. The ballots are distributed for 69 votes, the absolute majority is 35 votes.

Erminio Sertorelli and Terry Ralphs **count the votes**.

All the decisions and votes of the meeting have been unanimously approved without any abstentions!

### **One minute silence:**

**Maurice d'Allèves:** The honorary president and foundation member of the IFMGA has passed away in December at the age of 88. As „father“ of the IFMGA he was always ready to listen to the representatives of the IFMGA and his house was always open. Thank you Maurice!

**Othmar Zingerle:** Othmar was in charge of the training in South Tyrol. Toni Stocker, President of South Tyrol, pays tribute to Othmar Zingerle's services. He died in an avalanche on a ski tour in Switzerland.

**Abdou Martin** welcomes us on behalf of the Guides d'Oisans.

**Françoise Gendarme**, President of the SNGM, welcomes the assembly to France and is proud that we are in La Grave, where she grew up and became a mountain guide.

**The minutes** of Matsumoto are approved without any remarks.

**Report of the President:** Is read by Bruno Pellicier and approved.

**Report of the Secretary:** Armin Oehrli thanks again the Japanese for their hospitality in Matsumoto. He informs that the contracts for the trademark protection have been renewed and asks all to use the logo only in the original version.

The documents concerning the membership of the IFMGA have been sent to several interested countries.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Armin Oehrli presents the accounts. Every delegate has them also in written. The assets have been reduced by CHF 40'000.- down to CHF 300'000.-. Sepp Gloggnier reads the auditor's report. The accounts are unanimously approved. Also the reports of the Secretary and of the Treasurer are unanimously approved.

The annual subscriptions will be discussed at point 7, report of the President of the TC!

All the associations are again asked to support the fund for the training in developing countries. In South Tyrol the mountain guides pay a solidarity amount of 2 Euros each. It can also be financial supports of private persons or government organizations.

**Report of the President of the TC:** Alexis Mallon reports about the commission, the general work and the meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> May. He presents the future proceeding. Code of professional practice, experts exchange, guidelines for the applicant countries and communication.

Trainings in the different countries: Bolivia: Financial and personal support. Greece: Support in word and deed. Spain: The structures are renewed with the support of the IFMGA.

Alexis Mallon presents the possible new model for the IFMGA managing committee. The period of office is prolonged, new there will be 7 persons in the managing committee.

Erich Gutsell asks how the right to vote will be in the managing committee. Alexis explains that there is never taken a vote within the managing committee. The solutions are always found after discussions.

Bruno Pellicier thinks that all should have the same rights, if it should come to a vote.

Marko Prezelj: Is this valid for two years? What is going on later?

Alexis: After the period of office the President remains for another 2 years. Over all he will be a member of the managing committee for 10 years. The same goes for the President of the TC.

Dick Jackson asks if it would in the future be possible that someone of outside the Alps could be elected as a member of the managing committee.

Bruno Pellicier: This makes everything immediately more complicated.

Alexis: The working team meets four times a year and we have seen that it's even difficult to get together all the people of the alpine region.

Richard Mansfield: The committee does a very good job, aren't 10 years too much?

Alexis Mallon: There are some people who have already been active for a very long time period, Sepp Gloggnier and Hans Bergmann. From 10 up to 12 years.

Camille Bournissen: Is a young mountain guide ready to commit himself for 10 years?

Sepp Gloggnier: We want to reach two things: We have seen that not everything can be finished within 4 years. We have to achieve a better constant work. When I was President of the TC I was very happy that I had already been a part of it before. Whoever totally commits himself to this job, is able to execute this kind of job and then it doesn't make any difference if you do the job for 2 or 3 more years. Good preconditions have to be established, so that the work can be accepted.

Hermann Biner: At the moment the President of the TC has the problem that he comes for 4 years and then he's gone. His work is actually the most important. In order to guarantee the quality, he has to start two years before his time of office and be introduced to his job.

The Vice-President is already now doing 8 years, that's long already now.

Concerning Dick's question: Already now that we live close to each other, we need half a day of travelling for every meeting. We are open for democratic ideas.

The proposals of Alexis Mallon are unanimously approved.

In order to finance the whole thing, it is proposed to **increase the annual subscription**: From 12 up to 20 Euros for 2009 and 30 Euros for 2010. From CHF 20.- up to 32.- and 2010 up to CHF 50.-. There are no comments, the increase is unanimously approved.

Internal and external communication:

The internet site should be better used. Also the information booklet contributes to our mutual understanding.

Scott Davis: The internet site is an important instrument for an international federation and it's important to use it in a better way!

Marcin Kacperk: The internet site is very important, it has to be alive, this is the way we can inform everybody.

South America: Aldo Riveros, President of SA, informs about the collaboration of Chile and Argentina.

In September 2007 we had a meeting and we decided, that Argentina and Chile work together. Both countries have the discipline of skiing.

The collaboration plans an entry test and a training course in 2008.

From 2010 Chile should organize own courses with the support of Argentina. This proposal is approved by all.

Nepal: Sunar Gurung: There will be another aspirant training in fall 2008 and the first mountain guides shall be trained in 2009.

It's also worked on the structures of Nepal. Slovenia supports a basic course and France the mountain guide training. Goal: admission into the IFMGA in 2011.

Camille Bournissen: A training course was organized in Peru.

Armin Oehrli informs about the project Peru – Switzerland.

Experts exchange and improvement of tourism in general with the collaboration of the SAC (Swiss Alpine Club) and SBV (Swiss Mountain Guides Association) and Mrs Fierz, politician from Zurich. Bruno Pellicier asks about the problems, the expulsion of several members and permit to the parks. Camille is going to inform himself and is going to keep us up to date. For the park permits one has to contact the Casa de Guias in Huaraz.

**Canyoning:** No news. The French translation is still missing!

**Expeditions and trekking:** In Oct. 2007 there was a further education course at Silvretta. From 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2008 this course will be repeated in Chamonix in English / French.

**Alpine accidents:** Unfortunately Peter Geyer is sick. He proposes that the working team is concentrating on the subjects of prevention and risk management.

An index shall be set up of all the mountain guides who can help and give support in the case of an accident.

The name of the working team is not everywhere well accepted. It could also be called commission for safety and risk management.

Mac Mackay: In England we have a system based on war. There are 12 mountain guides who are specifically trained to give help.

Scott Davis: In Canada we also have a list of people who can give help. There is a debriefing form for mountain guides.

**Candidates from foreign countries (non member countries):** Hermann Biner:

After the proposal of Leo Caminada in Matsumoto we propose the following solution:

There are different trainings about which we don't have much knowledge.

The first mountain guides of a country carry the responsibility for the following guides. Mostly their number is too small for being able to set up and keep alive a working association.

Interested persons shall be allowed to attend the training in an established country and to become members there. Only when the conditions of the guidelines are fulfilled, they'll be allowed to found their own association. Like this we can avoid that countries with no right structure become members.

Scott Davis: I think that's a good idea. In Canada we have a mountain guide from Iceland. We had to change our statutes in order to admit him into our association.

This proposal is unanimously approved.

Aldo Riveros: Venezuela wants to become a member. There are good rock climbers in Brazil, what shall we do with them?

For South America this principles are possible, but it has to be cleared first by the managing committee and the TC. Like this we want to avoid that uncontrolled trainings are taking place.

Lunch time:

**Rules for the climbing championships:** Andrea Sarchi thinks that this is a good opportunity to meet colleagues. The rules have to be clear and have to be the same for all. It could be very interesting to organize also ski touring races, ice fall climbing and climbing together. The country that has to organize this, should get the corresponding standards.

The Secretary, Armin Oehrli answers that we could just immediately sign up in China and enrol for the Olympic Games. (ironic)

There is only one remark concerning the rules: also if there are only a few participants in a certain category they should all be classified in their age group.

On Friday we have seen that we all enjoyed a day with a common ski tour, skiing or other activities without measurement of time and that this shall be offered also in the future.

Urs Wellauer: Our badge is very similar to the one of the Swiss Alpine Club. Creating a new badge is very complicated.

We have the following idea: The well-known and often used badge of the IFMGA could be supplemented with the flags of the countries. We would give the order to a company that would elaborate a sketch of it. I want this proposal to be discussed.

Mac Mackay: This could help us to present ourselves as a unity also in Europe.

Hans Bergmann: It's an interesting idea about which we should keep on thinking.

Sepp Gloggner: It's a good idea and the international badge is often worn.

Toni Stocker: We have to stand in for the international federation and no badges have to be changed.

Ola Einang: I think it's an interesting idea. The international family is a good principle. Our badges differ very much. The aspirants are allowed to carry the national badge and the mountain guides the international one.

Scott Davis: I would like to leave it the way it is. If we change it, we'll lose a lot. It becomes more difficult to protect it.

Bruno Pellicier: Both directions can be good. We aren't under pressure, I ask all of you to think about this. The Swiss can design a sketch. It will be easier to decide if we have a sample.

Urs Wellauer: The decision will be taken later, but we'll keep on working on it.

Armin Oehrl: The trademark protection is fixed for the next years. It's important that we wear the badge and that we reveal ourselves to be mountain guides, that we talk to each other and that we behave with respect.

#### **Information booklet:**

Everyone should try to find a distributor in his/her country where the booklet can be sold. For the distributors the brochure costs 5 Euros and shall be sold for 14 Euros (CHF: 8.-/ 20.-).

#### **Climbing Championships:**

The next championships take place from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Torino, Italy.

In 2009 it's Austria's turn to organize the Climbing Championships.

#### **Skiing Championships:**

The next Championships take place in Engelberg in the central part of Switzerland on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2009. 2010 Austria?

Hanspeter Stettler: 33 years ago Canada was admitted into the IFMGA in Briançon. All the old and wise mountain guide personalities were present at that day, especially Xavier Kalt. We are here now thanks to him. I want to invite all of you to a meeting in Canada. We can offer everything for 6 to 7 days: helicopter skiing, white water rafting, horse, canoe or foot trekking etc. The IFMGA meeting can take place in May 2011 or 2012 in Canada!

**The fall meeting 2008** takes place from 25<sup>th</sup> until 30<sup>th</sup> November in Sweden. Talking from experience it's absolutely worth doing the whole program!

There are no **applications**.

**Miscellaneous:** Dick Jackson: Once again it's a pleasure for me to be here.

This is a special spot for us. Here we've lost 2 friends.

Mountain guides need a permit in the USA. The „Certified Guides Federation“ can help us. The AMGA provided the finances for this federation.

We have permits and insurances that we can offer to the mountain guides.

At the moment we have some permits. We keep on working to get more of them. The insurance should be a possible thing for all the mountain guides.

I want to encourage all to make an international insurance which includes also the USA.

It's a progress that individual mountain guides are also allowed to work. There are 2 to 3 US agencies which are well represented in the parks. The goal is to achieve the most as possible for the IFMGA mountain guides.

Concerning 2010, Boulder: What is better for you, doing the additional program such as climbing etc. before or after the meetings? We have decided to organize everything in Boulder because the conditions in November are better there.

The additional activities shall take place before the meetings.

Bruno Pellicier: Is there a list of the parks for which the permits are valid?

It's the best to visit the internet site of the AMGA. We are always keeping it up to date.

[www.amga.com/about/cgf](http://www.amga.com/about/cgf)

There is also something moving at Denali park. We don't know exactly everything yet.

The meeting is closed at 15:45 o'clock.

The common skiing day with the stop at St. Christoph and the ski race were perfectly organized. It was a good opportunity to discuss with old and new friends. Many thanks to the mountain guides of the region, headed by Eric Durdan and to Oisans Tourism with Caroline Sillon and to all the people who helped. Thanks for the big and nice work.

Gstaad, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008, the Secretary: Armin Oehrli