Minutes General Assembly IFMGA

November 25th 2022, 9h – 12h

Stary Smokovec, Slovakia

1. Welcome, Apologies

The IFMGA President Peter Cliff welcomed all delegates in attendance and thanked the NAHVSR for their outstanding work they did for organizing the General Assembly (GA). Especially Jozef Janiga, Michal Gerčak and Miki Kniza. But also the PSPW for taking care of the transits.

21 out of the 27 member associations were physically present, 5 virtual with proxies. Proxies:

- AGMTB (Bolivia) was represented by ASEGUIM (Ecuador)
- AAGM (Argentina) was represented by AMGA (USA)
- UVGAM (Val d'Aosta) was represented by CONEGAI (Italy)
- VDBS (Germany) was represented by VÖBS (Austria)
- NNMGA (Nepal) was represented by SNGM (France)

No excuse from South Tyrol. **26 members were therefore represented.**

The President welcomed the following Honorary Members:

Nils Faarlund, Sepp Gloggner, Cesare Cesa Bianchi, Hanno Dönz, Alexis Mallon, and Christian Trommsdorff.

Apologies from Honorary Members: Hans Bergmann, Hermann Biner, Camille Bournissen, Peter Habeler, Peter Kimmig, Mani Wassermann.

Other apologies: Urs Tinner (internal auditor)

Guests: Mark Charlton (BMG and internal auditor), Christoph Lenz and Claudio Lohs from Lenz (new sponsor of the IFMGA).

2. Appointment of Election Committee as Scrutineers

Leif Magnussen stepped down from the Election Committee for this meeting.

Elected as Election Board and Scrutineers:

- Martin Doyle (BMG)
- Mike Wright (SBO)
- Christoph Schaub (Secretary IFMGA)

80 member votes were present and 26 member associations.

Simple majority: 14 or more member associations votes AND 41 or more votes corresponding voting cards.

2/3 majority: 18 or more member associations votes AND 54 or more votes corresponding voting cards.

3. Minutes of General Assembly, Chamonix 24th November 2021

At the General Assembly in Chamonix there were four Motions from the VDBS (Germany):

Motion 1: Development Fund. The delegates had agreed the text at Chamonix, the President informed that the changes to the Procedures have been made.

Motion 2: Partner. This was an instruction to the Board, the President informed that the board had followed it and found a new partner with Lenz

Motion 3: Communications. The President informed, that the offers of three different content creators had been compared. The current one, María Elisa Laso, working very well at a competitive rate, will continue to work for the IFMGA.

Motion 4: Board Motions. The delegates at Chamonix agreed this Motion, which required a change to the Procedures. The Delegates ratified the changes made to the Procedures under Matters Arising.

Mike Adolph (ACMG) requested one amendment:

7.3 Technical Committee: Snowboarding

- Original Text: No support from MA's as a « new » discipline during training
- Suggestion: The majority of MA's didn't support Snowboarding as a new discipline during training

The version of Mike Adolph was accepted and the Minutes will be changed accordingly.

With this amendment the delegates accepted the Minutes as an accurate record.

4. Annual Report 2021/2022

The President lead through the Annual report 2021/2022, without the financial part (see 5. Accounts 2021/2022). The annual report had been sent out beforehand.

Special thanks to Lenz, the new sponsor of the IFMGA.

One question concerning the status of the Russia (RMGA). The candidacy of the RMGA is still on hold until further notice.

Hampi Schoop gave an update regarding the Mountain Guides Meetings:

- Ski competition 2023: 28.4./29.4.2023 in Bernese Oberland (CH)

- Climbing competition 2023: date tbd in Cortina d'Ampezzo (I)
- Ski competition 2024: date tbd in Gstaad (CH)
- Climbing competition 2024: date tbd near Prague (CZ)
- Ski competition 2025: date tbd in Kitzsteinhorn (AT)

One correction concerning the members of the ESAC subcommittee: Mark Charlton is also a member of the subcommittee.

The Delegates accepted this first part of the Annual Report 2021/2022.

5. Accounts 2021/2022

The Treasurer Hampi Schoop led through the Balance Sheets and Development Fund and gave an overview on the Accounts 2021/2022. A detailed annual financial statement was sent out beforehand with the Annual Report.

The Delegates accepted the Accounts 2021/2022 and therefore accepted the whole Annual Report 2021/2022.

6. Discharge of the Board's financial responsibilities 2021/2

The Reports of both the External and the Internal Auditors had been sent out in advance, with both recommending that the GA discharge the Board of its financial responsibilities. Mark Charlton spoke to the Internal Auditors' Report.

The delegates voted unanimously to discharge the Board for its financial responsibilities 2021/2022.

7. Summary of the Workshops 23rd + 24th November 2022

Juliana Garcia, Member of the Management Committee ("Board") gave an overview of the workshops of the previous days:

Climate Change: Presentation from Angela Hawse. Collecting Input from MA, should become part of platform and CPDs, we need to change our mind set. Guides should lead with a good example, e.g. reducing their personal carbon footprint by 10-15%.

Future of Mountain Guiding: Presentation by Hervé Qualizza and Urs Wellauer. Strength in numbers, join forces. Cooperation with other professions (e.g. UIMLA) to be able to have more influence and negotiation power. Definition of the scope of practice in each profession.

Canyoning: Presentation from Marco Heltai showed the possibility of work beside classical guiding. And showing that Canyoning is an important touchpoint to younger generations.

Database: Update from Walter with the strong ask to the MA to finalize the process.

Communication: Presentation of current work by Juliana Garcia and request to collaborate (survey).

SIM-case: Update from Peter Cliff.

Illegal guiding: Cosmin Andron (EEMGA) went through different aspects, not only concerning non-guides, but also concerning IFMGA guides working without the necessary permissions.

Mobility: Hanno Dönz presented the work situation in different countries. It stays one of the most crucial topics for the IFMGA. New person on EU side is in charge in Brussels, contact has to been re-established. Insurance for UK and US guides could be solved thanks to Vienna association.

Rope Acces: Urs Wellauer showed the history but also his future vision for Rope Access. Huge potential in the future for Mountain Guides to work together with geologist, engineers in the field of Natural Hazards. But we ned now to start in this direction.

Briefings GA: Budget, Process for elections at GA and Motions (from Board and one from Norway).

Sponsorship: Angela Hawse introduced our new title Sponsor Lenz products. Claudio Lohs from Lenz gave a short presentation about the enterprise but also how the sponsorship agreement came into place and spoke about possibilities for our joint work.

2025 GA Assembly in New Zealand: Andy Cole, President NZMGA, gave a presentation and invited to hold the GA 2025 in New Zealand. Cosmin Andron and Carl Lundberg gave a presentation with on one side all arguments that speak for going to New Zealand and on the other side arguments against it.

8. Budget, Projects and Membership Fee 2022/2023

The budget 2022/2023 had been explained during the workshops. One question regarding the planned Journal (Motion from Norway): Should there not be a designated budget for it? Answer President: There's no designated budget for it, but Norway could apply for money from the Development Fund.

Another question regarding TC budget and the CHF 4000.- under Responsible Professional Practice (RPP): What is planned with this? Answer: RPP stays under the main budget of the TC. The new board will look into it how it should be spent.

The Delegates approved the Membership Fee 2022/2023 of CHF 50.- and unanimously approved the presented budget.

9. Board Motions: Bylaw 4.9, Bylaw 5.2, Bylaw 5.4

9.1 Bylaw 4.9.

Existing text: *If a Member Association is unable to send its own delegate(s) to a General Assembly or Extraordinary General Meeting, it may appoint the delegate of another Member Association to act as a proxy. Proxies must be notified in writing, before the meeting, to the Secretary.*

Motion: The Board proposes adding the following sentence to 4.9: *Due to a potential conflict of interest, a person may not simultaneously be a Board Member and delegate with voting rights at a General Assembly.*

The motion was adopted.

9.2 Bylaw 5.2.

Existing text: *One year before the current President's term of office is due to end, the General Assembly elects a President Elect, who serves as a Management Committee member for I year before ratification as President by the General Assembly.*

Motion: The Board proposes changing Bylaw 5.2 to*: One year before the current President's term of office is due to end, the General Assembly elects a President Elect, who joins the Management Committee as a non-voting participant for 1 year, before ratification by a General Assembly to serve for 3 years as President*.

Originally the Board had used the term "non-voting observer". After a discussion it was decided to change this to "non-voting participant" and the Delegates accepted the change unanimously.

9.3 Bylaw 5.4.

Everything written above about Bylaw 5.2 applies equally to 5.4.

Motion: The Board proposes changing Bylaw 5.4 to: *One year before the current President TC's term of office is due to end, the General Assembly elects a President TC Elect, who joins the Management Committee as a non-voting participant for l year, before ratification by a General Assembly to serve for 3 years as President TC.*

With the change from "observer" to "participant" the Delegates accepted the change unanimously.

10. Motions from Member Associations:

Norway's motion to establish an IFMGA Journal of Mountain Guide Research and Practice was adopted.

11. Election of new Board Members

Board Motion: Walter Zörer having served 3 years as a Board Member and this being extendable under the Bylaws for a second period of 3 years, the Board proposes that Walter's period is so extended for a second period.

The Delegates unanimously adopted the motion.

Nominations: Javier Garrido and Leif Magnussen: Leif announced that he decided to withdraw his application, leaving Javier to the election. The election was held secretly.

The Delegates elected Javier Garrido for 3 years into the IFMGA Board.

12. Appointment of Professional Auditors and Internal Auditors

The appointment of professional Auditors T&R Oberland, Gstaad, Switzerland was unanimously accepted.

The appointment of internal Auditors Urs Tinner, SBV and Mark Charlton, BMG was unanimously accepted.

13. Information about Spring Meeting

The President TC informed that the next TC Spring Meeting is planned in Spitzbergen on 22.05. – 27.05.2023. In addition to the TC Meeting a CPD about Guiding in the Arctic and a meeting with the local authorities is planned to secure the access for IFMGA guides.

14. Information about Competitions

This point was covered in 4. Annual Report

15. Future General Assemblies: 2023 Kyrgyzstan, 2024 Prague

Presentation by Mikhail Danichkin, President KMGA: Short film and information about the planned GA in Kyrgyzstan. Dates are 20.11. – 22.11.2023 in Bishkek.

Josef Simunek, President CMGA, signaled that they are ready to hold the 2024 GA in Prague (CZ). Dates 18.11. – 20.11.2024.

The President asked the Delegates to confirm the locations for the next two General Assemblies, which they did.

Andy Cole, President NZMGA, requested, that in the future all applicants should be evaluated the way it was done during the workshops in the case of New Zealand's offer. The President assured, that the Board was already currently doing this and that it will continuing doing so, the Carbon Footprint of the organization is a very important topic. The Board will decide within the next 4 months (until End of March 2023), if it accepts the invitation from New Zealand.

Nick Erkomaishvili, President GMGA, invited the IFMGA to hold the GA either in 2025 or 2026.

Leif Magnussen, President NORTIND, invited the IFMGA to hold the GA in 2028.

16. Ratification of Presidents Elect

Board Motion: The Board proposes that Urs Wellauer, having been elected as President Elect in 2021, is now ratified as `President for 3 years.

Board Motion: the Board proposes that Herve Qualizza, having been elected as President TC Elect in 2021, is now ratified as President TC for 3 years.

Both Board Motions were accepted unanimously.

17. Board Motion re Honorary Member

Board Motion: The Board proposes that Reiner Taglinger, having given outstanding services to the IFMGA, is elected Honorary Member.

The Delegates accepted this unanimously and gave Reiner a standing ovation.

18. AOB

none

19. Closing Words

The President, coming to an end of his three-year term, thanked everyone for the great collaboration over the many years he has been involved with the IFMGA. Urs Wellauer, new President IFMGA, thanked him very much, standing ovation and handover of presents to him and to Reiner.

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm and was followed by a lunch.

For the Minutes: Christoph Schaub, 25.11.2022