

## **Minutes of the GM of the IFMGA of 7<sup>th</sup> May 09 in Engelberg.**

### **Welcome**

**Scrutineer** Peter Schmid, Switzerland. 65 votes, absolute majority 33 votes.

### **Minutes of the meeting of Stockholm**

No remarks. Therefore unanimously approved.

### **Report of the president:**

Bruno Pellicier: A good work was done yesterday during the TC meeting. Bolivia shall be definitively admitted. Spain is going to reach our standard again, a very good work has been done in this country.

There are bigger problems with Greece, its membership will be suspended.

There were several contacts during the winter with eastern countries: China, Bulgaria, Romania, Russia and Kyrgyzstan. The politics concerning the admission of new countries have to be adapted. Hermann Biner proposes to organize a work day concerning this subject. We are going to take a vote concerning the standard.

We have an expert who has been already working for 20 years with the standard and who is going to overwork it again, so that it is also sufficient for Europe.

In fall in Chambéry we are going to give the leading of the association to Switzerland and to the Austrians who represent the vice-president. I promise that Alexis and I try to pass the association on in a good condition.

### **Report of the secretary:**

Armin Oehli: The secretary speaks about the renewing of the logo protection. The logo has been protected in all the member countries and in all the future countries. It may not be changed and in brochures and on websites it has to be shown clearly who is an IFMGA mountain guide. It may not be copied from websites.

All the pins, badges and stickers have to be bought at the secretary's office of the IFMGA. The info-booklet has not been sold the way the French colleagues imagined it. The booklets can now be taken by the secretary for free for the new mountain guides and also for huts, mountaineering offices etc.

The secretary thanks for the good collaboration.

### **Report about the annual accounts 2008:**

The financial statements show a loss of CHF 104'000.-, whereas CHF 36'000.- have been drawn up in the budget. A big part, CHF 30'000.-, has been caused by the info-booklet. CHF 20'000.- have been caused by the adjustment of the value of the EURO. CHF 15'000.- of the loss have been caused by the additional expenditure and the higher salaries of the logo protection.

Further the treasurer reminds of the fund for the training in developing countries which can anytime be added with new sponsors. The money comes from Switzerland, all the associations are asked to contact their governments or to talk to other sponsors, so that this fund can exist also in the future. Besides Switzerland, at the moment only France is supporting the mountain guide trainings in foreign countries.

The accounts are unanimously approved, there are no questions.

**Report of the TC:**

Alexis Mallon informs about the TC's work and relies on the minutes of the TC meeting of the day before. The ENSA and the IFMGA have invited jurists and mountain guides for a meeting which takes place on 10<sup>th</sup> May in Chamonix. The subject will be the self responsibility of the guest.

The standard / platform will be adapted.

The countries Spain and Peru are on the good way to bring the training in the right direction. Bolivia who is a member under condition, is going to organize an aspirant course in spring. Bolivia is ready to invite observers to a mountain guides course in fall, in order to get the full admission.

Nothing is going on in Greece. There are 2 aspirants who are waiting for a course. We have to look for a solution for them, so that they can finish their training in the Alps. Greece itself is not able to organize this on its own.

For this reason we have to decide to suspend Greece's membership.

Aldo Riveros concerning Bolivia:

As it was reported yesterday on the occasion of the TC meeting, we had a good development in the last 5 years. We are ready for an observation in fall, in order to get the full admission.

We have spoken to Chile with the aim to set up a common training concerning skiing. The collaboration in South America is productive.

Peter Geyer: If there shall be a common training in South America concerning skiing, this has to be elaborated very precisely. The standard has in any case to be kept on the same level as in the other skiing countries. We cannot have three different member categories!

Aldo Riveros: In Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador there are people who make ski-tours, in Argentina and Chile there are many ski instructors.

We would fulfil the demands of the standard!

Bruno Pellicier: The possibilities for skiing are different in South America.

There has to be a homogeneous standard in skiing in South America.

Argentina and Chile have difficulties in establishing a continuous training system. We have to clear precisely the question of skiing. It's a project and we have to check the concerns.

Aldo, you can act freely to elaborate this and to present us a proposition.

Camille Bournissen: I think the guides have to be interested in it. It doesn't make any sense if we push the people!

In Peru it is not yet cleared how it goes on for those who have been trained in skiing until 2003.

Bruno Pellicier: In fall, Hermann and I are going to visit the countries in South America and we will have a look at the politics.

We will visit the GM of South America in Santiago. In all the countries, we are getting in touch with the departments and organizations which are responsible for the mountain guides and for mountaineering tourism.

Gilles Claret-Tournier concerning Nepal:

In January there was a mountain guides course with 15 guides, 11 passed the course.

Next year there will be organized another course. The people over there start to practice mountaineering in their leisure time which is a new development.

This means that there are good climbers and in the future there will be many good mountaineers who want to become a mountain guide.

Dave Scott: Is there a special training for high altitude mountaineering in Nepal?

Alexis Mallon: Besides this training with logistics, fixed ropes, camp organization also classical mountaineering is taught.

Bruno Pellicier: We come to Greece. Unfortunately I could not see many positive things since the admission. We told them our opinion clearly. The IFMGA is a serious thing, that's why I propose to suspend their membership.

Scott Davis: What do the statutes say, what happens to the Greeks?

Statutes: A country can be suspended if it doesn't fulfil its duty. It's not definite, we still let the doors open.

The certified mountain guides stay with us. But they cannot continue the association and do trainings.

The future Greeks have to do their trainings in a foreign country.

It comes to a vote, Bolivia and Peru abstain the vote, all the others follow the proposition of the managing committee.

Peter Geyer: I think it's good, if a membership is suspended and if the time period for this suspension is limited. I think, if nothing happens in Greece within the next 5 years, then nothing won't happen anymore.

Bruno Pellicier: Shall we think about this or shall we decide about it today?

Sepp Gloggnier: I think it would be good for the Greeks to know how the time limit looks like.

Bruno Pellicier: Spain has come out of the crisis in short time, it strongly depends on the capacities of the country.

Alexis Mallon: Spain has started in 2006 to handle its problems, next year they will be ready for a new assessment.

Terry Ralphs: Why can't we talk to the Greeks and find a time limit with them?

Alexis Mallon: We have been discussing for a long time, but everything was ignored. We have made different offers.

### **Report of the sponsor countries:**

We were in contact with Bulgaria, Romania, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and China.

Georg Flepp: There is a demand of Kyrgyzstan by Wladimir Kommissarov to become sponsor country together with England. We are going to discuss this in the managing committee of the Swiss association and will take a decision about this on the occasion of the GM in Switzerland in November.

Mammut Switzerland supports this training. One of our instructors, Adolf Schlunegger and Terry Ralphs, GB work in this country in training.

Terry Ralphs: In Kyrgyzstan there exists a mountain guides association since 2007 which is acknowledged, the training still has to be acknowledged. We have organized entry exams in skiing and mountaineering. It is planned to organize an aspirants course in fall. Mammut will be a supporter until 2011. We are looking for sponsors for the continuation of the project.

There are 25 members in the association. At the moment there are 20 people in the training.

Bruno Pellicier: There are many parties participating. It is important that everything is well organized and discussed in order to be able to work efficiently.

We are ready to support the project, but we need a precise description of the project and a plan.

In Russia there shall be established a mountain guides training, they have an existing mountaineering culture. Mountaineering was started there in the 30ies. The aim now is to get together the different persons and regions, including the places where heli-skiing is practiced. A mountain guides association has to be founded with which we can collaborate.

Bulgaria, Romania

There are several mountain guides, their problem is that they have no glaciers. This makes the training more difficult.

In China we are trying to get information about the facts and the possibilities.

**Report of the Subcommittee Canyoning:**

Unfortunately the French translation of the manual does not yet exist. Henri Vincens is very busy.

**Report of the Commission Expeditions and Trekking:**

Walter Zörer is excused. The training shall be integrated in the national associations.

**Report of the Commission Alpine Accidents:**

Peter Geyer reports: Unfortunately there have been numerous accidents with mountain guides involved this winter and in some I am involved as a consultant or expert. The involved mountain guides mostly acted and worked in a professional way. But often it was worked in an absolute risk limit sector. The reasons for this have to be found out, this is for sure one of the tasks of this commission.

For next Monday we have prepared the judicial symposium in Chamonix. Already now I would like to thank Alexis for the great support and I also would like to thank the ENSA. The mountain guides have a big responsibility to give their guests the biggest safety possible. We all know that the reduction of the risk is only possible, if we can give a part of the responsibility to the guest. Risk reduction is a common work.

Seen from the judicial part this is an existing problem and that's why we have organized this symposium.

There will be experts from several countries. Judges, jurists, public prosecutors who will explain us their point of view.

Another reason is that the mountain guides and the judicial people get to know each other better and get closer. At the moment we have about 70 participants.

The aim is to find a sector in which we can move and where we can demand self responsibility. This shall be sent to our members as soon as possible, on Tuesday the working group will write a report about it. We want to keep the contacts with the judicial world.

**Age limit of the free members:**

Mountain guides are getting older and often they still work when they are much older than 60. In Stockholm Nils Faarlund made the proposition to the secretary to rise the age to 75.

Peter Geyer fears that, after a rising of the annual subscription, one could get the impression that the IFMGA only wants money.

Camille Bournissen: What about the ones who have not paid now for 2 years for example and now suddenly have to pay again?

We are going to get in touch with the countries and we'll see how many it concerns in each association. And we'll see how we treat the ones who are 62 years old.

**Standard:**

The new standard will have 12 articles with 5 appendixes which describe the duties and rights.

There have been no modifications since Stockholm and yesterday there were no comments during the TC meeting. We are going to rewrite the standard new, translate it in the necessary languages and let it be signed by all in fall.

Alexis Mallon thanks everyone who has collaborated and especially the English who have adapted and controlled the English language.

The standard is unanimously approved.

**Climbing Championships:**

23<sup>rd</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Dornbirn. Manfred Lorenz thanks for this task. Vorarlberg is one of the 7 regional associations. It's all ready.

We are looking forward to welcoming a big number of participants.

**GM and Skiing Championships 2010:**

That the skiing championships would take place in Garmisch had to be denied after the meeting. The IFMGA is at the moment negotiating with Zillertal.

**GM in fall 2009 in Chambéry, FR 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> Nov.**

Gilles Claret-Tournier: We have a document, we are organizing a supporting programme for people who want to come at the beginning of the week.

**Miscellaneous:**

Hermann Biner: I think I already see the tasks which I'm going to take on in fall. A first goal is the working day in Chambéry concerning the politics with and in the new countries. I hope that I can continue the good work of the French colleagues.

I would like to say some words concerning the future President of the TC, Peter Kimmig. He is 51 years old, mountain guide for almost 30 years. For 20 years he works in the training of the Swiss mountain guides, for 5 years as head. For 8 years he was responsible for the IFMGA canyoning training. The Swiss association has nominated him to become the IFMGA TC president. He has already proved that he can do a good work. We are happy to have him in our team.

Manfred Lorenz: Unfortunately we have no concrete proposition up to now for the IFMGA vice-president. Next week, on the occasion of our meeting, we will elect a person. We are aware of the importance of this job.

Hermann: At the managing committee we have the feeling that it was invested a lot in the subject of technique, also with the new countries. The associations are built on two pillars: technique and structure. Maybe the structures of the associations and the politics have been forgotten in favour of the technique.

Therefore we will treat the questions of politics and structure in Chambéry in a workshop. This is described in the appendix E of the standard. According to the experiences of the last years it is time for a discussion.

I ask you to reserve one day for this in Chambéry (Wednesday).

Camille Bournissen: Peru has a history. There were more than 2000 guides. A law was established and the training was introduced. This was the base for the IFMGA mountain guides.

Hermann: Also in Greece there are many "mountain guides". Maybe they have the same problems.

Wednesday, 25.11.09 working group. The TC working group will have a meeting at the same time.

TC meeting, 26.11.09, 27.11.09 GM IFMGA, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> GM SNGM (French mountain guides)

2010 USA: Climbing takes place from 8<sup>th</sup> until 12<sup>th</sup> November and the meetings take place on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010, on 15<sup>th</sup> again climbing.

2011 Prague, November.

Margret Wheeler: International insurances in the USA. Jana Blättler will get a text and translate the regulations.

They shall be accessible for all mountain guides on the internet.

Roger Payne: He reminds that in Stockholm it was offered to organize the GM in 2012.

12:35 o'clock end of the meeting.

Gstaad, May 2009, the Secretary IFMGA  
Armin Oehrli