

Minutes of the GM IFMGA 13th November 2007 in Matsumoto, Japan

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Scrutineers: Urs Wellauer, CH and Hans Bergmann, A

Present: Representatives of 19 associations with totally 67 votes

Not present: Argentina, Bolivia, Greece and Peru.

The minutes of the delegates meeting of 8th May 2007 in Bormio are unanimously approved.

The vice-president, Hermann Biner reads his annual report. It is unanimously approved.

The secretary, Armin Oehrli reads his annual report. The report is unanimously approved.

The treasurer, Armin Oehrli reads the annual report and presents the budget.

The annual fee is not increased, it remains on CHF 20.- or EUR 12.-. The budget is unanimously approved.

Alexis Mallon, president TC, reads his annual report and thanks the members of

the enlarged TC for the good collaboration.

He emphasizes that it is very important that the work goes on and that his

successor will be well informed.

His report is unanimously approved. The report will be sent to the members

together with the documents of the TC.

Hermann Biner adds that the costs for the work of the TC will increase.

Applicant countries:

Nepal:

A new mountain guides course is starting in 2008 in Nepal. The situation has

been cleared with Slovenia and France. The Nepali are going to structure their training.

South America:

Pierre Pisano: It is about the two applicant countries Chile and Ecuador which

are coached by Bolivia and France.

A preparation course (Vorkurs) has been organized in April. At the moment there

takes place an aspirants course in Bolivia with 8 Bolivians, 4 Ecuadorians and 1

Venezuelan.

It is planned that the training can take place in Bolivia from 2008.

Chileans are going to attend a skiing course in Argentina.

Herman Biner: The ENSA supports us very much. Also Claude Rey has done a lot and

for the future we have to look for solutions for being able to finance all this.

Greece: The Greeks have given a negative answer concerning the conditions of the

IFMGA. They don't want the IFMGA to interfere in their training. It would be possible to downgrade the Greeks, but considering the 5 years they have time and respecting the 5 mountain guides we try to make a constructive proposition to them. They still have 3 years time.

2 weeks of summer training and 2 weeks of winter training have to be done in the

Alps. The IFMGA instructors have to be paid by the Greeks.

It should be understood as a support and not as an interference. This proposition is unanimously approved.

Who can admit foreigners? GB, GER, AUT, FR, PL, USA, CH, SE and NZ.

Erich Gutgsell talks about a movie that shows how mountain guides are trained in

Tibet. Bruno Pellicier: In China there exists a training by the ENSA. It seems

that the Tibetans have been quickly adapted to this training. The state of

France is striving for a good collaboration with China.

Leo Caminada: Is it possible to offer a training where people from different

countries can participate?

Hermann Biner: We will think about this proposition.

Aron Halstead: 4 years ago China has contacted New Zealand and has sent a delegation to observe the training. It seems that there exists a Chinese mountain guides association. Avalanches, orientation and meteorology were the

topics of the training. The training of the Tibetans organized by the French

seems to work very well. I would appreciate if France and New Zealand could work

together with the Chinese.

Bruno Pellicier: I think it's good if several countries collaborate.

Dick Jackson: What is going on in Bhutan? Does Leo Caminada know anything? Leo

Caminada: It's a very interesting country and there are guides. But they haven't

understood yet what it means to guide tourists (taking care of guests). Leo

knows the country very well. Hermann Biner can underline this, he was in Bhutan

in May 2007.

Leo knows 2 to 3 people in Bhutan who would be able to do the training. They

would exactly fit or belong to this training system that he has mentioned before.

Marko Prezelj: Mountain guides from Bulgaria are also showing interest. Armin

Oerhrli: They have got the documents and information from the secretary's office.

Canyoning

Peter Kimmig: There are not many news. The training in canyoning is compulsory

only in France.

There are trainings in AUT, IT, CH and GER. An experts exchange takes place.

NZ, GB and SE are interested in canyoning education.

I can imagine that a course in English language could be organized in May 2008,

right after the delegates meeting of the IFMGA.

Henri Vincens, FR will be my successor as president of the canyoning sub-commission. He has good connections to the ENSA and is involved to the

European Commission for Canyoning.

Peter thanks everybody who supported him for years in his work, especially the

president of the IFMGA and the secretaries Leo Blättler and Armin Oehrli.

Hermann Biner: Are there other propositions for the election of the president of this commission?

Bruno Pellicier: Henri Vincens is one of the specialists in France. He has

headed many courses and he made many canyoning topos / maps. We have big confidence in him.

Wolfgang Meier, GER, secretary, Reinhard Sperger AUT, Marco Degani, IT and Henri

Vincens, FR are the members of this commission. Representatives from countries

like Spain, Norway, Sweden or NZ are also very welcome.

Henri Vincens is unanimously elected as president of the sub-commission of

canyoning.

We hope that the manual in French can finally be finished.

Hermann Biner: If training courses take place in the countries, the IFMGA should

always be informed with a short final report.

Expeditions and trekking.

Walter Zörer, AUT is happy to present a positive report. The further education

course in high altitude mountaineering has been attended by 33 participants.

This event took place from October 19th to 21st 2007 in Galtür, AUT.

The participants were from GER, AUT, CH and South Tyrol. The course language was

German.

The echo was very good. .

Besides several instructors Kari Kobler, CH and Martin Botschr, AUT, high altitude doctor, were the main speakers.

It was asked to offer this course again, but also in different languages like E

/ F, maybe this can happen at the ENSA in Chamonix.

For sure there are also experts in other countries who can be integrated. Many thanks to the IFMGA that supported the course financially.

Leo Caminada: I was the oldest participant attending this course. It was all

very well organized and the content was very interesting. I can really recommend

this course.

Alpine accidents

Peter Geyer makes a presentation.

He describes an accident, the subject is known: the self-responsibility of the guests!

On a ski tour in Switzerland a guest falls between the ski depot and the peak.

The mountain guide guides this guest for 15 years. The conditions are good.

Until now these kinds of tours were always done without being roped up.

The

papers came to Germany. Due to an expert's report the case was abandoned.

All

the family members are mountaineers and are aware of the risk of mountaineering.

Now, it shall be investigated how the different countries handle the self-responsibility. Are there any verdicts that have to do with self-responsibility?

Is it possible to find a common denominator in this sector? It's up to us mountain guides to show the way, to explain that we are a risk or danger community where the risk has to be shared.

Remark by Armin Oehrli: In Switzerland it's still valid that if there is a

danger of sliding or falling it has to be roped up! Would the guest still be

alive like this?

Election of the president of the IFMGA:

After the tragic death of Claude Rey we unfortunately had to look for a successor. We are glad that we could find a worthy successor for this

job, this

is Bruno Pellicier, FR.

Gilles Claret-Tournier: Bruno was Claude Rey's successor as president of the

SNGM. He has been working at the SNGM for 15 years and he has our full confidence and support.

Herman Biner gets along well with Bruno Pellicier and is happy that he is ready

to take this job. Bruno is unanimously elected.

Bruno thanks the managing committee and the assembly. He is looking forward to

taking the responsibility together with Hermann Biner, Alexis Mallon and Armin

Oehrli. He thinks that the IFMGA is a great organization and he wishes that this

federation is going to bear the stamp of the mountain guide spirit for a long

time.

Leo Caminada wishes all the best to Bruno Pellicier and is glad with the election. He hopes that the works of the IFMGA are going on well also in the

the

future.

Leo informs: When I was president of the IFMGA, Hermann Biner was the president of the Swiss mountain guides association. At that time he asked me to admit Japan. Now we are here in Japan, for sure this is a highlight, the cooperation shall continue.

Hermann: The dialogue is for sure the way that we have to keep on going. Quality of the training.

Hermann Biner: The idea to found the IFMGA was born in 1965 in Zermatt. Gottlieb

Perren, CH Felix Julen, CH and Maurice d'Allève, CH are still alive. The federation has been founded with 4 countries. The goal was to cultivate the relationship among friends.

Unfortunately this is not enough anymore. At the beginning it would not have

been possible to give advices to partners.

Our profession is strongly perceived in the public. Safety, but also accidents

are connected to our profession.

We are a professional federation and our work is a product that is perceived in

the public, such as other trademarks. Our reputation and our badge are a guarantee for quality.

Inside a family you can talk open about mistakes. I want this to be possible

also in our case. We are criticizing, but at the same time it should also be an

offer of advice and support.

But besides the family we are also a company that has to stand for quality.

The TC has worked in advance and we keep on working on the principles about

which we will have to vote. This means that we have a task to fulfil and that we

can continue our work in this direction.

Yesterday during the meeting of the TC it was worked on the code of honour (see appendix).

This code can be used as a base for single countries. We want to have an instrument with which we can continue the work in certain cases.

Mac Mackay: He thanks for the work and says that it will for sure be helpful for

our profession. Additionally it can also be used in connection with different offices.

Dick: We are certainly bringing this home and there it will be helpful for us.

This is exactly the line that we are striving for.

The code of honour is unanimously approved.

Guidelines that have been elaborated in France are presented to the assembly.

This can also be an instrument for all the other associations. It talks about how mountain guides and other organizations that are open to a wide public should behave. It should be worked according to the uses and traditions of the local mountain guides (number of guests).

Mac Mackay: How is this text handled?

Hermann Biner: It could be an appendix to the code of honour. This text, that will be the appendix of the code of honour, is unanimously approved.

Hermann Biner:

The managing committee and the TC will work actively together in order to support member countries. We will get in touch with Greece.

We need an official order for being authorized to put through the rules. For

this the delegates have to give the order to the managing committee. It should

be possible to work with an enlarged managing committee. Members of the alpine

countries and the former president of the IFMGA should be integrated.

These ideas are above all the ones of Claude Rey.

With Spain we are on the way to solve the problem they had with the different

trainings. It shall be a help and not an insult.

Everyone agrees that the managing committee can continue its work in this sense.

Claude Rey has presented the IFMGA on a A4 paper. I would like to present this

here. The documents will be sent to all of you.

These are Claude Rey's last works for the IFMGA. For us it is a legacy to the IFMGA.

Trademark protection:

The secretary presents the paper concerning the trademark protection. All the

paying members get one cotton badge to iron-on for free.

Marcin Kacperek: I agree with trademark protection, but the badges are still

different. Medal, cotton badge and stickers.

This is true, the managing committee is taking care of this problem.

„Posthumous“ honorary member Claude Rey

Directly after the meeting Claude Rey is posthumously elected as an honorary

member by all the present delegates and accompanying persons. Alexis Mallon,

Armin Oehrli and Bruno Pellicier appreciate the valuable work that Claude has

done for the IFMGA and for all the mountain guides. Michèle Rey and Olivier Rey

(son) get the golden sign and the certificate of honour.

Michèle thanks for the honour and especially for the support that she could feel

during the difficult time after Claude's death.

Climbing competition:

Turin, Italy 24th/26th October 2008

2009 it's France's turn

Skiing championships and DM 2008:

La Grave 8th/10th May 2008. On Friday there will be a ski-mountaineering competition and off-piste skiing. The meetings take probably place on Wednesday

and Thursday.

2009 Switzerland: Engelberg or Disentis. Switzerland is going to decide on this.

The GM 2008 takes place from 25th to 30th November in Sweden. Palle Frobe presents the program. There are some activities in Stockholm. Before we will

travel to Kiruna. The meetings take place on a boat in Stockholm. It's easy to

reach. Meeting and accommodation are on the same place.

Dick invites us to do a three-day program in the North before the meeting: ice

hotel, dog sled and northern lights will be the highlights.

In 2009 the fall meeting will take place in France at the Pyrenees.

2010: Dick Jackson would like to organize the meeting in Aspen, USA. The date

has to be checked.

There are no applications.

Miscellaneous:

The website is renewed. A "receptacle" for all guides shall be installed so that

the interested persons can serve themselves with the principles of our work and

that the base gets better information.

The info-booklet will be printed in January 2008 and will probably be handed out

in La Grave.

Bruno Pellicier: This year there have been two court cases in France. One Polish

guy has been sentenced to 1000.- EUR, because he was working at Mt. Blanc without permission. He also had to pay a fee to the SNGM.

Marcin Kacperek: We are happy about this case, because we cannot do much in

Poland. We've also had accidents with this kind of people at Matterhorn and at

the Caucasus.

Mac Mackay: Companions from England have been sentenced in the same way because

they were guiding "illicitly".

In England we have mountain guides and also other organizations who offer everything from hiking to mountaineering. They think that they also have the

right to guide via ferrata in the Alps and rock climbing tours.

It would help us if all the countries could send their laws to us. There are 1000 people in this organization who want to work.

Dick Jackson: Many thanks to the Japanese for the good organization. The CGF „certified guide federation“ helps for the future. Everyone can become a member and it will be possible for all to work in the USA. 25'000 US \$ have been invested and we are working hard in order to get the permits. The question of insurance is complex.

It has to be assessed how the insurances are taken out. It's much easier to get a permit with insurances of 2'000'000.- US \$ where the US are included. A certain number of permits should be ready to distribute in 2009. Partially the land managers work together with the mountain guides. Dick is going to set up a list that shows where and how the mountain guides can work.

The meeting can be closed at 2:30 pm.

A French movie that also shows the difficult parts of the mountain guide profession is shown at 2:45 pm.

The secretary of the IFMGA: Armin Oehrli