

## **Minutes of the GM IFMGA in Chamonix, 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2005**

The president Peter Geyer opens the meeting. He welcomes especially the honorary members André Bertrand, Nils Faarlund, Alois Pirpamer, Antonio Carrel, Mario Senoner and Leo Blättler. He underlines that this is a special meeting, that's also the reason why delegations from the Oberland, Grindelwald and Zermatt are present. There will be the change in the managing committee and two new members will be admitted. For 20 years Peter is collaborating with this association and today he is going to be the head of his last meeting.

Excused are: honorary president Maurice d'Allèves, USA, Slovenia, NZ, Peter Tomko and Manfred Lorenz.

Othmar Prinoth is the scrutineer. 64 votes are present, the absolute majority is 33. 55 persons are present.

The minutes have been sent in June and are approved.

The president starts his report with one minute's silence in memory of our deceased colleagues. Then Peter reports about the most important subjects during his period of office. The possibility to admit also countries without the discipline of skiing is certainly a good step to bring our association forward.

The by-laws and the regulation for the admission are the works which could be executed and which are most worth mentioning. But also the different view of risk management and a sensitive handling of safety are important issues. Splitting up the risk should make us more credible.

The competences have been shared as well as possible between the countries and the IFMGA. The community that Peter could lead, shall be acknowledged by our clients and partners. He thanks everyone for the confidence and the loyalty that he felt during all that time.

Report of the secretary: The secretary visited different events in Switzerland. The canyoning manual is available in German and the English translation will be available in May. The mountain guide backpacks can also be bought at the secretary's office from now, they cost CHF 110.- or € 70.-.

Report of the treasurer and budget: The budget is explained and unanimously accepted with a surplus of the account of CHF 5'800.-.

Reimbursement of the managing committee: At least 10 days have to be worked in an honorary capacity. All the additional work can be rewarded with a daily rate. CHF 7'000.- are calculated for this (20 days of work). This application is unanimously accepted with 64 votes.

Sepp Gloggner reads the report of the TC. When he took over the work from Othmar Prinoth the TC worked very well. Not everything could be cleared and finished yet, but he hopes that his successor will continue the work concerning the issues which have been started but not finished yet. This is above all: InfoPoint, experts exchange and the status of the aspirants.

Aosta – Greece

Guido Azzalea reports. This summer they spent 15 days with the Greeks in the area of Montblanc. There was 1 expert from the Fassa Valley and 2 from Aosta. The weather was not very good and therefore they also had to go to Grand Paradiso.

The Greeks learned very fast and were industrious. It's clear that Aosta will support the Greeks also in the future.

Peter Geyer: As it was discussed yesterday on the occasion of the meeting of the TC Greece can be admitted. We know that they are not fulfilling the current by-laws. But we know that Greece became an applicant country before that and that they were promised to be allowed to continue according to the old by-laws and that they don't have to fulfill the new regulations. Greece has although to continue with the demanded standards. According to the special regulations they have to do at least 2 weeks of their trainings in summer in the Alps and 2 weeks in winter in the Alps. This training has to take place parallel to a course of a country of the Alps. One instructor of the corresponding country has to be present at the course. The members of the Greek association agree to these regulations.

Italy – Argentina: Alberto Bianchi thanks the managing committee of the IFMGA for the good collaboration during the last years.

The last training course has been concluded in Argentina. All the instructors have got high technical skills and work in a motivated way. All of them also have experience in expeditions. Their skills are more than sufficient. Also the aspirants have a lot of experience. Alberto hopes that Argentina can therefore be admitted.

Peter asks if there are any questions or objections, it should be discussed now and not during the procedure of admission.

Othmar Prinoth would like to know who else was present during training courses etc.

Concerning Greece: F, CH, GER and different persons from Aosta.

Concerning Argentina: F, GER, A and of course Italy as sponsor country. Ralf Tenbrück was present from the beginning and got a general impression. His observations correspond to Italy's report, a great improvement could be observed.

Sepp Gloggner: He could observe the big efforts of the Greek instructors and the results that he could see at the Monterosa area were very interesting.

Othmar thanks Sepp for the explications and he does not doubt to admit these countries.

Canada – Chile: There is no formal contact and nothing is going on.

Austria – Czech Republic: Hans Bergmann reports about a second training rotation that has been started.

The work is going on well. Also foreign observers should now visit the future courses.

Claude Rey makes a short report about the meeting of the mountain guides of South America that was organized by Aldo Riveros from Bolivia. Six countries - B, P, AR, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela - participated at the meeting. He had the chance to inform about the IFMGA as association and about the way to become a member of it. Probably there will be more collaboration between the countries and the problems will therefore be treated together. He thinks that it's also positive for the IFMGA if they collaborate.

Concerning canyoning everything is going on well and the collaboration in the trainings is international.

Walter Zörer, "Expeditions and trekking": In winter there will be a meeting in Innsbruck. There were some inputs from different Alp countries. He asks everybody to inform about their experiences so that everybody can make a profit of it. It is planned to organize a training

course, this has although to be told our young colleagues. Marketing is going on well, there was an article in the magazine "Berg & Ski". Articles should be published in different languages.

The collaboration with the Governments of the corresponding countries should also be improved.

The concept for the course will be distributed in spring to all the member countries. The documents should be given to all the persons who are interested in it.

Othmar Prinoth presents an e-mail letter by Annegret Vescoli from the commission of accidents: She excuses herself for the meeting of Chamonix. There is no new knowledge in the commission. It seems that time is not ready yet to give this work to outside persons. She wants to relinquish from this job and she thinks that Peter Geyer would be the best person to continue this work. This is also what two delegates told her.

Peter Geyer: Annegret presented a concept which was accepted by us. We all know that Annegret is not able to do this on her own. Therefore she wrote these lines. I would rather not comment on that letter right now and here. It's up to the new managing committee to decide about the future of this sub-commission.

Claude Rey: The last time I have spoken to Annegret I asked her how many countries sent her the documents and where there is support in case of an accident. It is often a nightmare to have an accident in a foreign country. Therefore we need to set up a list so that we can help each other. She only got the answer of two countries. Maybe we pretended something impossible of you. Therefore I want to ask you individually if this kind of support exists also in other countries. In France for example we have around 12 mountain guides who can be contacted for psychological support in case of an accident.

All those who have a similar organization in their country should rise their hands.

F, A, South Tyrol, GER, GB, I, AR, Pol, Slov. So gentlemen, the organizations exist and it's up to you to send us the information and the documents! M. Mackay explains that in GB it's always the police who does the rescue. Next week, on the occasion of the general meeting, they will collect the necessary information and send it to the IFMGA.

This list should be published in the new Info booklet IFMGA.

Prinoth says that he has spoken to Annegret and she emphasized once more that Peter Geyer should be proposed for this job. She is not the president of this sub-commission, but the coordinator. And in this sense she probably would continue her work with us.

Patrick Hilber: In Switzerland we have a group that is responsible for expert reports about mountain accidents. Armin Oehrli is in charge of it. Switzerland is just building such a group. It's normal that international politics take more time than politics in a small village.

Annegret has started to work in the right direction, it only needs a certain time to get going.

Admission of new countries, Peter Geyer.

We have an addition to our family and I think it's the highlight of this meeting.

Greece decided to take the more difficult way and the association was more important to them than the personal promotion to become a mountain guide. I respect and praise these individualists from Greece. The conditions are clear and known.

We come to the vote: Greece is admitted unanimously with 64 votes.

The Greeks thank for the admission. They propose to organize the GM of the IFMGA next year in Greece. They explain how mountaineering developed in Greece. Skiing has for example been neglected. It was a shock when they all failed at the skiing exam. But it's clear that a high standard is demanded in skiing and that this has to be followed. The Greeks also thank Aosta and the IFMGA. Guido Azzalea from Aosta accepts the thankful words and he thinks that their work goes without saying, that every country would have done it the same way.

The second child that we can admit to our family is Argentina, a fantastic country for mountaineering.

The Argentinian set themselves high standards and also had obstacles to take. They worked hard and with perseverance. They are for sure good colleagues and they have a good association.

The vote is unanimous, Argentina is admitted with 64 votes.

Peter is convinced that also Argentina is going to support the IFMGA and the common spirit.

Nicolas de la Cruz: Many thanks to Alberto Bianchi, Maurizio Giarolli, Italy and to all those who supported us in our work.

Thanks to the IFMGA and its members. Thanks for the confidence in our association. It was a long way that started 13 years ago with Leo Caminada.

As Christos mentioned before a lot of knowledge came to us and we really could make a profit of it. This is a 200 year old knowledge. I think that the mountain guides love the mountains and like to share their experiences with guests and colleagues. We are a young association and we try to pass on our love to the mountains and to live it. The IFMGA is a large institution and it was not only my personal goal to become a member of it. We are ready to take the responsibility and to work in the Andes according to the spirit of the IFMGA.

Peter Geyer thanks the sponsor country, Alberto Bianchi and Italy for the great work they have done. He also wants to thank for the gift to take always the right decisions and he hopes that this will always happen in the IFMGA, many thanks to all of you.

Elections: The secretary is taking the word and presents the candidates with a short curriculum vitae. With a big applause and without votes against all the three candidates are unanimously elected.

Claude Rey, F – 73230 Verel Pragnonran, France as president of the IFMGA.

Edi Bohren, CH – 3818 Grindelwald, Switzerland as vice-president of the IFMGA.

Alexis Mallon, F – 74700 Sallanches, France as president of the TC of the IFMGA.

They all accept the election and thank for the confidence.

Appointment as honorary members:

Peter Geyer and Sepp Gloggner are appointed as honorary members of the IFMGA as it is usual for retiring members of the managing committee. Not the time that they spent in the managing committee, but their work and their actions speak for this honor.

Sepp is honored by Edi Bohren for his work as president of the TC. The InfoPoint, the experts' exchanges and the interesting meetings of the TC are especially mentioned.

Armin Oehrli is holding a short speech about Peter Geyer. He mentions above all Peter's reliability and his honesty. The lectures about risk management and Peter's long-sighted and great work are especially mentioned. With a very long applause both of them are unanimously appointed as honorary members.

They both thank for this honor and also for the confidence and the collaboration within the managing committee and within the whole IFMGA.

The next meeting of the TC, the GM and the Skiing Championships take place in the first week of May in Neustift at Stubaital. The Skiing Championships 2007 will take place in Lombardia, I.

The Climbing Competition takes place in Bad Tölz, Bavaria on the 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2006.

The General Meeting in fall 2006 takes place on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November in Greece. Japan invites and applies for the spring meeting of 2007.

There are no applications.

Varia: There is the question if one should introduce an ice fall climbing competition. The associations are asked to discuss this in their countries.

Antonio Carrel makes the same question as South Tyrol. What do the associations think about organizing the Skiing Championships at the beginning of December? The presidents of the different associations should also discuss this question among their members and find out what the general opinion is.

Othmar Prinoth talks about the work of the candidates. He fears for the clients who go to a mountaineering school and get a candidate as guide who is not trained, who has got no experience and who has for sure neither got an insurance. The guest is going on the rope with this guide and gets probably only to know in the evening that his guide is still in the middle of education. I suggest that the IFMGA is distancing itself from this kind of work. I fear that one day this could be a boomerang for us.

Claude Rey: I also asked myself what that is supposed to be. We will in any case think about this once more, because the possibility of working should really be very restricted.

Alexis says that the most important concerning the standards is that safety is correct.

We will think about the question how we can regulate the training so that we have a progressive work where the highest safety as possible is guaranteed. Nothing is fixed until now. It's important to hear votes like these.

Alberto Bianchi thinks that this risk does not exist in Italy. They have a law that says that it can be a mountain guide or an aspirant. The difference is that the aspirant is restricted in his work. This is legally defined.

Othmar Prinoth says that this is fraud on the client in favor of the own wallet.

Sepp Gloggner: The initial proposition was that the candidate only has an observing and supporting role and is not taking clients on his own rope.

Marco Bomio: We heard that the IFMGA is celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary next year. The ceremony takes place the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2006 in Grindelwald.

Claude Rey closes the meeting at 3:30 pm and thanks everyone for the collaboration. Especially he thanks the interpreters for their work.

CH – 3780 Gstaad, November 2005, the secretary: Armin Oehrl