



International Rafting Federation  
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# International Rafting Federation

## IRF 1999 CONGRESS

MEETING HELD 17 AUGUST 1999, AT AUGRABIES NATIONAL PARK, SOUTH AFRICA.

- 1) Peter Micheler opened the meeting, took the roll call and established a quorum.

PRESENT:

Peter Micheler	Germany (BOD)
Rafael Gallo	Costa Rica (BOD)
Oleg Grigoriev	Russia
Sergei Trofimenko	Russia
Roberto Schifferle	Italy
Shigeto Asano	Japan
Robert Gornik	Slovenia
Piet van Schijndel	Netherlands
Waldo van Schalkwyk	South Africa
Andrew Kellett	South Africa
Steve Nomchong	Ecuador
Gary Archer	Zimbabwe
Peter Simpson	Welsh/Scottish
Claire Lovell	English / Britain
Otto Hassler	Brazil
Robert Kazik	Czech Rep
Zeljko Kelemen	Croatia (BOD)
Willy Baxter	Britain (BOD)
Sue Liell-Cock	South Africa (BOD)
Tony Hansen	South Africa (BOD)
Mark Joffe	USA (BOD)

APOLOGIES:

Belgium  
New Zealand  
Peru

- 2) Sue Liell-Cock ran through her report briefly and gave the full list of members. Robert Gornik queried whether all the members have proper organisations. Sue confirmed that all had established organisations and sent through required paperwork. All new members were then accepted.

- 3) a) Guide Education & Training - Steve Nomchong summarised what has been done so far:

- This has mostly been towards establishing an internationally recognised certification for guides, instructors and examiners.
- A workshop has been scheduled for this from the 23 - 25 August here in Augrabies with approximately 17 people attending.
- At this workshop guide, instructor and examiner minimum requirements will be established as well as how the system will be run.
- It is hoped that most of the people at the workshop will leave as certified IRF Examiners or Instructors and the international system will be started.
- A second workshop is being proposed for after the Euro Champs.
- This would be concentrating on getting as many relevant people together to look at a strategy to unifying the certification in Europe under the IRF, working with everyone on how to satisfy all the varying governmental requirements throughout Europe.
- Steve is going to hold a separate meeting to discuss any of these issues further.
- A huge thanks was given to Steve for the tremendous amount of work he has already done.

b) TOURISM - Mark Joffe summarised the auditing project that is being put together:

- This will be aimed at commercial companies
- An IRF Auditor comes in and audits the company according to a standard audit which is busy being defined.
- The auditors look at every single aspect of the company - client liaison, equipment, guide training, emergency rescues, etc.
- The company is then graded according to a system and this can be used in their international marketing.

c) GUIDE DATABASES - Sue explained how this will work.

- As guides complete their IRF certification they will be added to the guide database which will be kept on the IRF website.
- Anyone anywhere in the world can then ascertain the qualification of the guide when they apply for work.
- The website will also be used to advertise guides looking for work or companies looking for guides.
- a river database is also being created where all rivers and their details will be made available on the website. Everyone is asked to send in their river details, in the format requested, to Sue so she can add it in.

d) RIVER RUNNING STATISTICS - Sue raised the point of the need to collect statistics for a variety of reasons.

- Peter explained how handy statistics would have been recently when attention was focused on rafting and weirs due to drownings.
- Zeljko mentioned how handy statistics would be when applying for commercial rafting insurance.
- Tony explained how important statistics can be in persuading sponsors.
- Sue requested that all national organisations start collecting river running statistics in their countries and forward them to the Administration for collation. These would then be available for everyone.

e) Event Management & Sponsorship - Tony related what has been happening on this side.

- Sponsorship is continually being sought for a stand alone IRF World Championship.
- Without sponsorship our events collapse.
- This can often stem from local interest in National selections or through personal contacts, so he asks that everyone brush up their contacts and if anyone needs assistance in approaching a sponsor for the World Champs please to contact him.

f) REGISTERING RACE OFFICIALS

- Rafael has taken those interested through a preview of becoming an IRF judge.
- Those wishing to qualify will complete the questionnaire and return it to him.
- By the end of the event we should have about 10 IRF Race Judges.

g) CONTINENTAL SELECTIONS

AUSTRALASIA - Andi Uhl in Australia has sent a proposal through for an Australasian Championship which looks good. Japan is definitely interested and other relevant countries will be pushed. The proposal is

available from Sue if anyone is interested and Andi would welcome direct contact. The top team from this event will go through to the CWWC in Chile in Feb 2000.

LATIN AMERICA - Rafael gave us the details of this. 29 - 31 October, on the Pacuare in Costa Rica. Ecuador, Peru and Costa Rica are definites. Brazil, Columbia and Mexico are possibles. The top two countries go through to the CWWC in Chile.

EUROCHAMPS - Robert Kazik explained how the Czech's came to bid for the Euro Champs.

- He feels it is very necessary that bids are made a year ahead and not so late. All agreed.
- The Czechs adapted their own programme and sponsors as much as possible and compromised where they had to so that an European Champs could happen.
- The event will be held in Prague from the 25-26 September. All European countries are encouraged to contact the Czech rafting association if they wish to enter teams.
- The top five countries (men's), top one (women's) go through to the CWWC in Chile.

i) ICF, GAISF and IOC

- Sue explained that the IRF had approached GAISF fro membership.
- GAISF had in turn approached the ICF on their opinion on rafting.
- The latter have stated that they feel rafting is under their banner.
- Peter said he has spoken to Feldhoff, who is President of the ICF and of the GCF and they are wanting co-operation and have shown recognition of the IRF by creating a rafting section under the German Canoe Federation, making him the head of it and then joining the IRF.
- Everyone voiced that they felt working with the ICF would be beneficial but that rafting should stay separate as there are far more issues under the IRF than what the ICF appreciate (eg guiding training, tourism, conservation, etc).
- Sue pointed out that most of the organisations that are members of the IRF are rafting organisations that are completely separate from their canoe federations, some having existed for a long time already, and have no intention of becoming part of them in the future as their needs are completely different.
- Discussions ensued on how rafting can be taken towards an Olympic Sport.
- In taking it towards the Olympics, Robert Gornik explained some of the requirements of members of the IRF and of the IRF itself with regard to proving membership numbers, competitions, results, official judges, rules, etc,etc. In other words, a lot of work needs to be done to take this along the road to the Olympics.
- It was agreed that a separate meeting needs to be held on this and a strategy developed for exactly how the next steps towards the Olympics need to be taken. Robert Gornik would steer this separate meeting.

j) MEMBERSHIP FEES

- would be kept at US\$500 per year and would be from month paid for 1 year.

k) CORRECTIONS TO STATUTES

A second meeting will be held to go through this. Everyone is to keep an eye on the board for details of time and place for the meeting.

4) ELECTION OF BOARD

- Although there are 10 nominees and 10 places on the Board a final decision could not be made. Robert Gornik proposed that a second meeting, together with Correction of Statutes, would be held to finalise the elections.
- Names of persons for the Committees are also to be handed in to Sue.

Section 1 of the Congress was closed.

Section 2 of the Congress opened

**1. PRESENT:**

Peter Micheler	Germany (BOD)
Rafael Gallo	Costa Rica (BOD)
Sue Liell-Cock	South Africa (BOD)
Zeljko Kelemen	Croatia (BOD)
Sergei Trofimenco	Russia
Robert Gornik	Slovenia
Shigeto Asano	Japan
Otto Hassler	Brasil
Robert Kazik	Czech Republic
Piet van Schijndel	Netherlands
Mark Joffe	USA

A quorum was established.

**2. CORRECTIONS TO THE STATUTES**

The statutes were gone through in detail and corrections and changes were made. A copy of these corrections will be put onto the website in the near future for all to access.

**3. ELECTION FOR BOD**

President - Peter Micheler  
1st Vice President - Rafael Gallo  
2nd Vice President - Tony Hansen  
Treasurer - Glenn Lewman  
Secretary - Sue Liell-Cock  
Head of Tourism - Mark Joffe  
Head of Guide Education and Training - Steve Nomchong  
Head of Conservation - Zeljko Kelemen

After protracted discussions and drawn votes it was decided that Robert Gornik and Robert Kazik are both wanted on the Board in the position of Sport and Competition as they can both contribute a huge amount. As this section is such a huge one at the moment within the IRF it was decided that the Statutes would be altered to include two persons under this section, one being Sport / Competitions, the other being Sport / Competition Development. The first would be headed by Robert Kazik and would be centering on handling competitions on the national, continental and world championship level and the latter position would be taken on by Robert Gornik and it would be looking at taking rafting forwards to the Olympics by establishing it in the relevant manner. The statutes would be suitable altered by Robert Gornik and Rafael Gallo and presented for BOD approval.

Head of Sport and Competition - Robert Kazik

Head of Sport and Competition Development – Robert Gornik

Sergei Trofimenco was then voted into the position of Head of Funding and Sponsorship.

Congratulations to everyone!

**4. ELECTIONS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

It was decided that numbers on the committees are not at a stage of restriction and Heads of Committees will be inviting persons to join their committee as opposed to electing them on. A number of names have been given in for various committees and have been given to the Head of Committees, anyone else wishing to join one of these committees is encouraged to contact the Head directly or through the Administrator.

5. As Congresses will now be held once every two years, it was decided that the BOD would try and meet once next year. It was also decided that having it on top of the CWWC was too much for many of the BOD

members as they were already strung out with commitments on the CWWC. BOD meetings therefore need to be separate from the CWWC.

6. The key to the workings of the IRF is email and everyone was asked to please respond promptly to any issues. Even if it is only to say you are unable to respond right now!

1999 IRF Congress was closed.