



Dear members of IGFR International,

I trust this note finds you all well and in good health despite the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions and worries. But as we approach the end of the year and enter the festive season, I wanted to reach out to you to inform you of a number of items that I think will be of interest.

Results of the Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On Sunday, 29 November 2020, we held our first ever AGM via Zoom. Needless to say, with all the events that got cancelled this year, it was a great pleasure to see so many friends from our fellowship well and in good spirit. I really think we have found something interesting and inspiring in this online AGM version, but more about that a little later. In total, we had 59 friends joining us for the AGM from Australia, Canada, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, south-east Asia, Italy, United States and the United Kingdom, just to name a few.

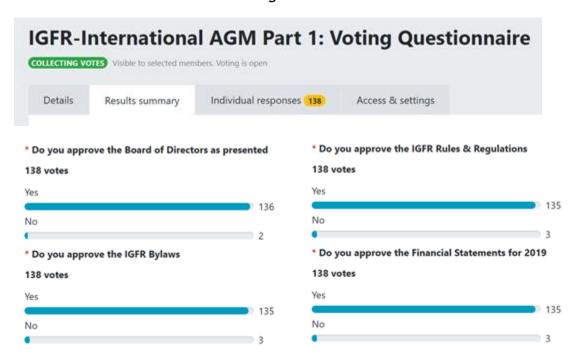
As to the promised AGM results update – most importantly, I am so pleased to announce that my designated board of directors has now been fully approved by our members and will work going forward in all of our names. Your board,

consisting of Secretary Lynn Lewis, Treasurer Jean-Paul Rey, Incoming President Andrea Oddi as well as Peter Anderson, Bob Blum, Luc Salens, Carl-Heinz Duisberg, Trevor Johnson, Hakim Tahri and myself, will now get to work with a full mandate, fully elected by all of you. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their hard work and dedication, especially through some challenging times in order to get us where we are today.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank my predecessor, Gerhard Resch, for his many years of dedication and commitment to IGFR as he leaves the board of directors. My thanks also extend to former board members in IGFR International, who built the foundations of our fellowship over recent years and helped to shape where we stand today.

Lastly, I would also like to take the opportunity to wish, in all our names, a speedy recovery to treasurer Jean Paul Rey, who rests at home after a difficult surgery.

Please find below the full AGM voting results:



Fostering board diversity

During the AGM, we spoke about a topic very close to my heart: diversity. I feel it is very important that we open up our board of directors in the future and become more diverse to include more women to direct the future of IGFR International. We have already built a board that represents many nationalities, in line with the global nature of our fellowship, but the next step must be to increase female representation on the board, too. I would therefore like to encourage especially female members of our fellowship to reach out to me, or secretary Lynn Lewis, to discuss an opportunity to help us in reaching this goal.

Update on 2021 World championship in Marrakech

During the AGM, our friend Hakim Tahri updated us on the world championship 2021 in Marrakech. Due to the ongoing uncertainties across the world, Hakim and his team have asked the Board of Directors to accept a proposal to once again push back the tournament to October or November 2021. Based on all available information, and the situation worldwide, we have naturally agreed to the proposal in the hope that in late 2021 we can all meet again in beautiful Morocco, and most importantly, under safe circumstances. Hakim and his team will keep us all updated once exact dates have been finalized.

In other news

The newly founded communications committee chaired by Christian Pickel will be in touch soon. Christian presented initial ideas at the AGM and he and his team consisting of Lynn Lewis and Nourdin Rhaleb are working on a communications plan for 2021 and beyond to ensure that we as members receive the news and updates we want and need, but moreover, the team will ensure that IGFR International will also be seen and heard outside of the membership group, in order to attract new members, make potential candidates curious about our fellowship and represent our activities to the outside world. And don't worry, as Christian pointed out, it will not mean daily emails, or a move into social media. But things like holding future AGMs via Zoom are certainly on the cards!

At the AGM, we were also able to announce 31 new members from 10 countries who joined our fellowship during 2019. During 2020, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, we were still able to count 9 new members from 4 countries. In addition, we have 8 new Lifetime Members since the AGM in November. We will recognize all of the new members at the end of the year. I am convinced, that as soon as things normalize again, we will welcome more new members in our wonderful fellowship.

Seasons greetings

Let me close by wishing all of you a wonderful Christmas time, and a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, hopefully filled with many hours of fellowship within our IGFR setting, and most of all, on the golf course.

With best Rotary greetings



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