



Dear members of IGFR International

With this first newsletter in 2020, I would like to wish you as President of IGFR International a successful and happy new year 2020.

The sporting highlight for Rotarian golfers in 2020 will be the World Championship in November in Marrakech. Our board member Hakim Tahri published the registration forms on our website ([igfr.ma](http://igfr.ma)) a few days ago and we all hope for a lively participation in this Rotarian highlight. This year, however, in addition to the Fellowship of Rotarian golfers, the future structure of IGFR International will also be in the spotlight. In addition to a wonderful World Championship in Hamburg, the year 2019 was unfortunately also marked by considerable discussions, which ultimately led to the appointment of an Independent Committee (IC), the results and recommendations of which you all received in September 2019.

As expected, these recommendations had considerable consequences for the further structures of IGFR International, which ultimately led to the fact that I, in my function as President, had to make decisions to avert dangers for the entire Fellowship, all of which will be discussed at the General Assembly (AGM) in Marrakech. I would also like to use this newsletter to inform you, as members of IGFR International, of the conclusions drawn and actions taken so far from the recommendations of the IC. It is certainly understandable that a certain amount of time has passed, simply because of the complexity of the situation.

- 1) I have appointed Lynn Lewis to succeed Ömer Yalkin as Acting Secretary General. Lynn Lewis is a Board Member of GFR USA and Canada and was a Board Member of IGFR International for many years. I would like to thank Ömer Yalkin for his

extraordinary work as acting *Secretary General* in these difficult times and for the help I had asked him for.

- 2) I dissolved the *excom* because of lack of an official approval in the past, and according to the recommendation of the *IC*, I dismissed Mrs. Francine Kruyt as a member of the designated Board of Directors.
- 3) Carl-Heinz Duisberg from South Africa chairs the *Bylaws Modernization Committee* and is supported by the Board Members Trevor Johnson and Peter Anderson. The revised *Bylaws* will be discussed in detail at the *AGM* of the members of *IGFR International* in Marrakech. The revised *bylaws* will be made available to the members of *IGFR International* prior to the *AGM*.
- 4) I have formed a committee to revise the *Rules and Regulations* for the *World Championships* in accordance with the proposals of the *IC*, because in recent years there has been a lot of frictions between the local organising committees (*HOCs*) and *IGFR International*, mainly due to poor communication. Board members in this committee are Hakim Tahri as one of the members of the *HOC* in Marrakech and Trevor Johnson, to relieve Hakim due to the time constraints of organizing this year's *World Championship*. I am very grateful that Bruno Meissner as one of the *HOC* in Hamburg and Frank Dean as a member of the *HOC* in Ashville, the venue of the 2021 *World Championship*, are participating in this committee.
- 5) In close cooperation with incoming *President-elect* Andrea Oddi and *Treasurer* Jean Paul Rey, we are intensively addressing the financial challenges, which are extremely important, particularly in view of the unsatisfactory financial results of 2018 and 2019. As one of the first steps, we have decided to increase the membership fees for a *Life Time Membership* and a one-time annual fee to the same level as in other countries.  
In addition, we are reviewing our *IT* activities, because the hourly billing by the *IT* specialist Werner Luidolt is not compatible with our current financial possibilities. I thank Werner Luidolt already now for his excellent work with the development of the website. At this time, the maintenance of the membership list will be taken over by the *Acting General Secretary*.
- 6) In accordance with the recommendations of the *IC*, our *Treasurer* has opened an account in Switzerland for the donation of Mr. Delvaux (and to a lesser extent Carl Miller). The *AGM* will regularly decide on the use of these funds on the basis of proposals from the Board of Directors.

- 7) We urgently need professional support in raising sponsorship funds and a better system for public information in the modern media. We are also considering whether the financial situation of IGFR International could be improved by managing the trade in golf products for the Rotarian golfers. While it is primarily the responsibility of the members of the Board of Directors to take care of these difficult tasks, we also ask all members of IGFR International to consider whether and how they can support us.
  
- 8) I have planned an informal meeting of the members of the designated Board of Directors participating in the European Championship in Kitzbühel. As part of our aim to get new blood and fresh ideas into our Board we are looking for new Board members and I would like to invite any of you who would like to be part of this exciting new phase in our organization to apply for membership of the Board of Directors. To this effect please send me a letter of application with a curriculum vitae by March 31, 2020 detailing your previous Rotarian activities and your particular areas of interest including possible ambitions to take up positions as Treasurer or General Secretary.

As already mentioned at the beginning, the AGM will play a decisive role in the future design of our esteemed Fellowship. All the decisions that I had to take as President in the difficult situation of 2019 and 2020 will be presented, discussed and voted on at the AGM. Amongst other items to be discussed at this meeting will be in particular the revision of the Bylaws, the composition of the future Board of Directors of IGFR International and the necessary financial readjustment.

I would therefore like to ask all members of the IGFR to attend this year's World Championship in Marrakech. In addition to the friendly fight for golf trophies, we ask you to attend the AGM because your vote this will decide the future direction of IGFR International. The agenda for the meeting will be sent to you at least 28 days prior to the date of the meeting in accordance with our Bylaws.

In future, newsletters will be published at shorter intervals by either the acting Secretary General or the President to keep you up to date with the latest developments of the fellowship and provide you with timely information so that you can make the right decisions in Marrakech in November. You can find more information on the Championship in Marrakech at [igfr.ma](http://igfr.ma).

I remain with this first newsletter of the year 2020 with the best Rotary greetings and wishes.

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