



Dear IGFR members and friends,

Newsletters are intended to inform about current activities. And despite the challenging situation due to the worldwide pandemic, there are lots of activities ongoing within IGFR-International that I would like to keep you informed about. Your Board of Directors (designate) have remained very busy throughout recent months, and today I would like to take the opportunity to provide you with an update on some of the recent activities.

Navigating a new normal

Thanks to great personal commitment of our acting Secretary General Lynn Lewis, the Board as well as other committees and interested parties have remained closely connected by adopting online meetings, which have been taken place since early on during the pandemic. It ensured that important planning has continued. Now a monthly ZOOM conference takes place with the designated members of the Board of Directors, where important decisions are discussed and confirmed. Currently, the updated Bylaws and the revised Rules and Regulations are important issues addressed at those meetings. Needless to say, these items will have a decisive influence on the future orientation of IGFRinternational.

Update on our first virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Nothing is the same this year, and as a result, we won't hold our AGM in the usual form. Instead, we will go online for our first virtual AGM, all in accordance with the requirements of Swiss law, under which our Fellowship falls, in order to ensure compliance desired by all parties. At the AGM it will be the task of the General Assembly to discuss and adopt the proposals made by the President and the designated members of the Board of Directors. According to the statutes, the agenda will be sent to all members of IGFR-international in a timely manner so that each individual can inform himself or herself in detail about the proposals. Watch out for the invitation in the coming weeks!

Update on the World Championship, Marrakesh, 2021

I sometimes wish I had a crystal ball, but the situation across the globe remains very fluid. Over in Morocco, Hakim Tahri and his team are working with great determination and are progressing well to prepare what promises to be a great World Championship in 2021. However whilst we all sincerely hope that the Corona Pandemic will make it possible to meet in May 2021, we are currently not able to confirm this. Of course, both Hakim, his team as well as I will keep you posted on any developments.

Website and sponsor update

Our website, currently maintained by acting General Secretary Lynn Lewis, gains more functionality and popularity amongst our members and sponsors.

Collectively as members of IGFR-International, we should all promote our website further: it is our "business card" to all non-members and holds all information about the activities of IGFR-international. Point this out to your friends - all they need to do is to register as a "contact" free of charge.

I am also pleased to announce that we have been able to add a new sponsor to our roster: Swiss-owned company *Golf Buddies* are experts in compiling unique golfing holiday packages in South Africa. Please have a look on the website and check our sponsors out -we couldn't do without them!



Watch this space as we are actively working on new sponsorship agreements.

Update on new Communications Committee

Especially during the pandemic, at a time when we haven't been able to meet and enjoy our fellowship, communication is key for all of us to stay informed and connected. I have therefore asked for a new committee to be formed that addresses how we engage proactively and efficiently with members. It is probably fair to say that there is no right or wrong answer when it comes to membership communications: what is the right medium? E-Mail? Social Media? A combination of both? To make sure we are getting this right, and to be as inclusive as we possibly can, I have asked lifetime member Christian Pickel to chair this committee. Nourdin Rhaleb from Morocco and acting secretary Lynn Lewis have agreed to support Christian, something I want to thank them for.

Covid-19 will pass and Fellowship will prevail

It really gives me great pleasure to witness how IGFR-international is currently developing due to the interest of so many Rotarian golfers. The intensive cooperation and the feeling of excitement and determination of the designated Board of Directors can be felt vividly and gives me great confidence that we are definitely on the right track. Post the AGM, namely after the confirmation and implementation of the revised Bylaws during 2021, we will be able to concentrate again on what IGFR-International really is about: the international fellowship and the joy of golfing together.

With best Rotary greetings

Friedhelm Zanella

President IGFR-International