



Dear members and friends of IGFR International,

On Sunday, 25 April 2021, we held our Annual General Meeting (“AGM”), in line with the rules and regulations of our fellowship. For the second time, we resolved to meet online, using Zoom as our platform. And let me say one thing upfront: it was so nice to see so many of you again, virtually! Covid 19 still restricts our fellowship, but at least we were able to meet and greet online.

But now to the details of the AGM. Meeting Chair and Board member Trevor Johnson had picked a very fitting theme for our AGM: “More good news”. And indeed there was plenty of good news to report. First of all, on behalf of the Board, I’d like to thank our members for approving the minutes of the 2020 AGM, the financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 as well as the election of our newest Board member, Rotarian Parag Sheth from India. Parag briefly introduced himself to all members present and we wish him well during his Board tenure, but also as the host of our 2022 World Championship – more on that later.

Christian Pickel, the Chair of our Communications Committee gave a brief overview of the changes that he and his team implemented over recent months. For me, the good news was that we launched a Facebook Group, which as of today has over 165 members, and already many positive interactions between people. And I am a member of the group, having joined Facebook for the first time to experience our fellowship on this platform, too. Videos will also soon be launched across newsletters, our website and Facebook. I would like to thank

Christian and his committee members Lynn Lewis (Canada), Nourdin Rhaleb (Morocco), and Eduardo Baena (Rotaract Colombia).

Secretary Lynn Lewis then gave us an update as to the membership and new country development of IGFR International. Whilst last year was challenging due to Covid-19, our membership grew by 28 new members. More importantly, our new board member Parag Sheth is working tirelessly recruiting members from India and beyond. Lynn and myself have also held extensive conversations with friends in Nigeria, Colombia and Russia to expand the reach of IGFR International to new countries – watch this space, more news on this soon!

Secretary Lynn also reported on the successful launch of our new Finance committee, chaired by Deb Knowles (USA), supported by Ton Houben (South Africa /The Netherlands) and Bruno Eltgen (Germany). Bruno has also agreed to be our new Treasurer from January 1st, 2022. I want to thank Deb, Ton and Bruno already now for their work and dedication to IGFR International.

But now onto the really good news, and something that I am sure everyone is looking forward to: upcoming tournaments. Parag Sheth presented us with his ideas and plans for the World Championship in New Deli in 2022. What a country, what an honor to be invited to play golf there. Next up, Incoming President Andrea Oddi gave us an overview of the 2023 venue – Rome, Italy. Not only that Italy is always worth visiting, but as a special treat, we will be playing the same course where the Ryder Cup takes place just a few weeks after our event. We should certainly think about a pre-match when we are there! Most importantly, our friend Hakim Tahri from Morocco gave us another great preview of what can expect us in late October this year for the World Championship in Marrakech. Hakim informed us that the pandemic situation, whilst of course also present in Morocco, is expected to improve drastically as vaccinations are rolled out – much so for the rest of the world also, we hope.

At the AGM, we also observed a moment of silence for Gaston Barras, who passed away to higher service on March 7. Gaston was one of the founders of IGFR during a 1964 meeting in St Andrews, Scotland. Later on, in 1975, Gaston founded the European branch within IGFR, the GFR Europe. We wouldn't be in this fellowship if it hadn't been for Gaston and a few others.

Friends and members, as you can see, we had an excellent AGM. And this is thanks to my team and the sub-committees and their hard work and dedication. So I will say a sincere thanks to everyone who helps behind the scenes to make IGFR International the beautiful fellowship that it is.

Let's hope the we can soon leave the pandemic behind us, and meet again on the golf course.



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