



The Newsletter of
**The International Association of
 Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists**

Spring 2002

Gay Games VI Martial Arts Update

—Teresa Galetti,
 Competition Manager
 Gay Games VI Martial Arts

We left cold, dank 0 degree C winter in Pennsylvania and arrived in sunny, warm 30 degree C autumn in Sydney. The Sydney 2002 offices, where the whole Games production is headquartered, was a hive of activity. During the two weeks we were there, departments were expanded, offices reconstructed to accommodate the groups of new staff and volunteers, new computers, phones and electric lines proliferated. In the midst of the hurly burly, five new Sport Managers came on board. The five will assist Sports Director, Stuart Borrie, and the sports working group volunteers by directing the 31 sports that make up the Gay Games sports program. All of this was evidence that the Gay Games organizers had moved from the planning to the production stage—and that stage is in full swing. The sports working groups, many of whom have been working for three plus years, are in the “Lets put on the Games” mode.

After completing the Federation of Gay Games site visit, I put on my hat as the newly appointed competition manager for Martial Arts at GGVI. While in Sydney, I met Director of Sports, Stuart Borrie; the new Sport Manager for Martial Arts, Denise Cox; Australian Customs representatives -- and I visited the new venue for the GGVI Martial Arts Tournament and Events.



Martial Arts Events

The Gay Games VI martial arts events will run from 5-8 November 2002 in Sydney, Australia. The events will include the traditional IAGLMA Judging Clinic and Competitors’ Workshop for Gay Games VI; an all-styles martial arts tournament and seminars for martial artists of all styles and abilities. The tournament will have empty hand forms, weapons forms, musical form (black belts only), sparring, and self defense competitive divisions.

Venue

The venue for the Martial Arts is the Ann Clarke Centre located in the Sydney suburbs. You get there by taking the same train as that for the Olympic venues at Homebush. However, you get off one stop earlier at Lidcombe. The Anne Clark Centre is approximately a five minute walk from the train station. The Anne

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Statement of Financial Activity

For The
International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists
 For The Twelve Months Ending December 31, 2001

	Membership Fees		720
	Contributions from Sponsors		3,700
	Donations from shirts & pins		0
	Corporate Sponsors		0
	Refunds		0
	Total Receipts.....		4,420
Expenditures:			
	Start-up Costs & Admin		0
	Dues/Contributions		100
	News Letter		601
	Inter-net services		60
	Promotions		0
	Seminar Costs		872
	Insurance (D&O)		1,325
	Telephone		0
	Banking Fees		152
	Total Expenditures.....		3,109
Net Change in Financial Position			
			1,311
	12/31/00 Cash Balance		994
	2001 Activity (above)		1,311
	10/31/01 Cash Balance		2,305

Looking Back to Gay Games III in Vancouver and the Start of IAGLMA

—Darl Schaaff

In 1990 a group of us traveled to Vancouver BC to compete in the first Gay Games Martial Arts tournament. On day one, we began by watching the competition; day two we started training together; day three we spent the entire day training, sharing and being amazed at the common experiences we had. By the competition, we were friends—and by the closing ceremonies, we had made a pact to start a group dedicated to making this event happen again.

Twelve years later, some of us are still in that original group—though more sophisticated, better trained and definitely more experienced in tournament production. The one thing that has never changed is our belief that the Gay Games Martial Arts event is a life changing experience. Our wish is that every gay or lesbian martial artist can have the opportunity to experience the power and joy of the Gay Games. The International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists is working every year to insure this opportunity continues.

What Effect Did the Amsterdam Games Have on Me?

—Rachael Booth

The Opening Ceremonies for the Amsterdam Gay Games V were held in what was billed as the largest soccer stadium in Europe (and quite possibly the world). I was part of the Team Philadelphia contingent walking into the stadium with all the other participants from around the world. Upon entering the stadium, I was amazed by the sheer size of the stadium and awed by the number of people filling it. There were so many participants from so many countries that it took almost an hour for all of us to file in, and we were entering from both ends of the stadium! The seats looked to be at least 75% full of partners, friends, family and spectators.

I remember thinking that these were people like ME who had come from all parts of the world to be part of the greatest “family” event the world had ever seen. There were even Gay and Lesbian people from countries where just being gay is punishable by death. And still they came to be seen and to be part of a history that is still being written.

The colors! The pageantry! The celebration! It gave me goose-bumps. I truly felt for the first time in my life that I was part of the world – that WE were part of the world. I have never been more proud. And I will never forget that moment.

**We Want To Hear Your
 Gay Games Personal Story!**

Please share a 200-400 word account of your experience at a past Gay Games with other members. We will be publishing these inspirational stories in the next two newsletters leading up to Sydney!
 Email it to: newsletter@iaglma.org

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!



—Rachael Booth, Membership Director

MEMBERS INFORMATION UPDATES NEEDED:

In March, I sent out a notice to everyone who has supplied me with an email address to remind you all of the Gay Games VI in Sydney that is coming up this November and our fervent hope that you can all come to participate. (I apologize for the two typos in the notice – the proofreader has been sacked.) This was my first real attempt at sending out email to our members. I found that a good number of the email addresses I have are no longer valid so a lot of the mailings were returned to me.

So, if you have an email address, please send it to me at membership@iaglma.org and I will update my records and email address lists so that you can get any other emailings that we do – including the newsletters.

Gay Games VI Martial Arts Update

(Continued from page 1)

Clark Centre was the site of an “all styles” (or multistyle) competition the week before my visit to Sydney and the centre manager was well aware of many of the needs of a martial arts event.

For four exciting days in Sydney from 5 to 8 November 2002, the Anne Clark Centre will be the martial arts dojo, dojang, and kwan of the Gay Games. The facility features high ceilings, wood-sprung floors, enough space for six competition rings – and plenty of room for spectators. There is an officials area, weigh-in area, space for medical examination and treatment, should that be necessary.

The tentative schedule for the GGVI Martial Arts Events is:

- **IAGLMA Judging Clinic and Competitors' Workshop for Gay Games VI on 5 November 2002.**
For more information about the rules, please see the IAGLMA Rules at www.iaglma.org.
- **Gay Games VI Martial Arts Tournament** on 6-7 November 2002.
- **Multi-Style Martial Arts and Self-Defense Seminars** for all on 7-8 November 2002.



Registration

Sydney expects 200 martial artists to participate at our Gay Games VI Martial Arts Events. Currently 150 are registered. This number includes paid, partial paid, and expressions of interest. There are 82 men and 68 women registered. Given the especially strong history of the women's participation in the martial arts in the Games, we encourage women to take the plunge and register so that we can assist Sydney in reaching its goal of 50% women registered across all sports. Unlike most martial arts events, there is parity in the divisions for women, in the number of women who will be represented in the corps of judges/referees, and parity in the number of seminar leaders. As always, if the numbers permit, we will have divisions for men and women over 50 years of age.

Self Defense

The official self defense attacks for the Self Defense competition will be posted on the Gay Games VI Web Site. Self Defense competition is open to all registrants and we encourage aikidoka (who compete), jujitsu practitioners, self-defense teachers and students, and Judoka to enter the self defense-competition.

Bringing Martial Arts Weapons into Australia



Australia (and many other countries since September 2001) has increasingly strict rules and procedures for the importation of martial arts weapons into the country.

Sydney is working closely with the Australian Customs office and details of the required procedures will be posted on the S2002 web site shortly at www.Sydney2002.org.au.

Officials and Competitors

The Judging Clinic is required for all black belts who wish to judge/referee for the Gay Games Tournament. We encourage and invite all competitors to volunteer to practice your forms, sparring and self-defense for the judges so that you may gain experience under the IAGLMA Rules and also receive feedback and tips from many experienced black belt competitors.

If you are a credentialed black belt and you wish to officiate, please go to your registration on the Gay Games VI website and make sure you also sign up as an “official” so that we can contact you via email with more information as it becomes available.

Seminar Leaders

The Gay Games VI Multi-Style Martial Arts and Self-Defense Seminars will feature a range of topics and teachers for students of all styles and abilities. As with the Self-Defense division of the Gay Games VI Martial Arts Tournament, the seminars include all martial arts and self-defense practitioners. The parameters and procedures for applying to be a seminar leader will be posted on the Gay Games VI Sydney 2002 web site. If you wish to lead a seminar, please apply.

A Final Word

The Gay Games and the Gay Games Martial Arts events have transformed the lives of many of our participants. The Martial Arts Events and the Gay Games are self empowering and a celebration.

If you have not registered -- do so now. If you have registered and have yet to pay -- secure your position by paying now. If you have paid – thanks for supporting the Martial Arts Events at the Sydney 2002 Gay Games – and I look forward to seeing you all “down under.”

Looking Into the Stands of Yankee Stadium

—Scott Weston



Attending and preparing for the Gay Games in 1994 was my first exposures to other gay and lesbian martial artists. The experience was also my first taste of the grandeur and power that comes from thousands of people coming together in this kind of show of personal best and spirit.

After a long week of competing and interacting with so many incredibly talented martial artists, I wasn't expecting to have such a great finale to my experience. Gathering in groups by our sports before the closing ceremonies began, we waited outside of Yankee Stadium together, watching an endless stream of spectators flow past us and on inside.

Sitting with our city teams at the opening ceremonies the prior weekend had been incredible, but somehow this seemed much more meaningful to me. I felt very close with the other martial artists. I now had some history with them. We were, in a way, connected.

The groups from each sport moved in an orderly fashion as we were brought in through a gate at the back of left field. Nothing in my life has compared to the experience of walking into the stadium at that moment. To look upon a full stadium and see it from a television set does not compare to the actual experience of looking at it from an athlete's perspective. And like a professional athlete stepping onto the field, we could feel the excitement from the crowd and the love—for these were truly our fans. We were gay and lesbian athletes and we had fans. They were cheering and waving. The sun had just set and the flash of thousands of cameras sparkled through the bleachers in an endless random circuit.

It was invigorating and overwhelming at the same time. The stands were packed, except for the athletes' sections, which were quickly being filled by the ribbon of competitors parading down the baseline and past home plate. The number of people in the stands was reported to be around fifty thousand. We waved and smiled, making eye contact with some of the faces in the crowd who were close enough to make out.

As I neared home plate, I paused for a moment, stopped and looked up to take it all in. It was one of the most incredible moments of my life.



Martial Arts Demonstration at Aussie Bodies Physique Event as Part of Team Sydney's Mardi Gras Sports Festival

MARDI GRAS MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT IN AUSTRALIA

The annual Mardi Gras Martial Arts Tournament took place this past 16 February in Sydney. The Tournament started with an inspiring display of Judo organised by Shane Alvisio from the University of Western Sydney Judo Club. The two Judo demonstrators, Angela Deacon and Angela Raguz, were both past and present National Women's Champions.

Competitors strutted their stuff to an enthusiastic audience in a wide range of divisions from beginners right through to the black belt level, with some participants representing State and National Teams from the various Martial Arts styles in attendance.

Tournament Director Penny Gulliver said: "The level of competition in both the Forms and the Non-Contact Sparring was the best yet—which is exciting, considering the Gay Games is less than ten months away. If this quality of participation continues from the Australians, then we're sure to make a huge impact in the medal tally at the Games".

Tying in with Sydney's massive Mardi Gras festival and promoting the upcoming Gay Games, a martial arts exhibition also took place in February, demonstrating the high level of Australian talent preparing for November.

Federation of Gay Games



IAGLMA is a
Director
Organization of the
Federation



IAGLMA is a Member
Organization of the
International Lesbian and
Gay Association.

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