

Team Sydney Inc – Board Paper

This board paper is submitted by: Geoffrey Radford

For acceptance as an agenda item in the meeting to be held on:

Date: 15 August 06

Title: report on visit to Chicago Gay Games

Portfolios involved:

Proposed duration: 5 minutes

Estimated financial impact: Nil

Proposed activity or matter for discussion:

As many of you know my visit to Chicago had to be shortened due to problems back here in Sydney. Unfortunately this meant that I was now unable to compete as a competitor as originally planned.

Due to a very co-operative member of the registration staff I was still able to keep my accreditation thus enabling me to take part in the Opening Ceremony.

When I was in Chicago for the Federation annual meeting last November I had met up with many from the staff from CGI. As a result I had originally planned to work as a volunteer for the week prior to Games.

I had already been in contact with Kyle Chang, the director of volunteers and when I arrived on Thursday arrangements had already been made for me to join the accreditation staff at the hub headquarters. What a way to get over jet lag. I had to report at 7am on the following morning for training for an hour and eventually finished the day at 12.30am on the Saturday - seventeen and a half hours later. I did manage to get away for an hour to the Washington Reception mentioned below. The same happened on the day of the Opening except we started at 6am and Dave and GJ rescued me at 4.30 to get ready for the Opening Ceremony.

This was certainly a way of getting to meet many of the competitors .

I did return to accreditation once more on the Sunday ...so many late arrivals...then had a stint on the telephone bank for three hours trying to recruit more volunteers to help out with the hydration problems.

Opening Ceremony

We nearly had a major upset with our banner. Having cleared everything with CGI we were suddenly told just before we set off that no poles were allowed. Fortunately I had been in touch with the director of the parade and he agreed that TS could in fact have poles as we had not been told of their decision to ban them from the parade. Must admit the banner looked great when we entered the stadium.

Team DC reception for Team Sydney, Team Paris, Team Johannesburg & Team Toronto.

There was a fair turn out of Team Sydney people and it was good to meet up with members of the other teams present. Also present were representatives from Cologne, the next host city. Then it was back to the volunteer brigade.

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ATTACH IT TO AN EMAIL ADDRESSED TO ALL CURRENT TEAM SYDNEY DIRECTORS
AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.**

Team Sydney meeting point in Chicago

I had been in touch with Kate before leaving Sydney by email several times and this was left in her hands. On arrival I tried to contact her by email as well as to call her on the number she advised. Unfortunately there was an error in the number provided by her and I got the correct number for the Consulate. I had arranged with CGI that I could get away if needed to finalise this if need be and had already set up a handout to be given to TS members at the Opening Ceremony. However, as nothing was heard back from Kate despite my making myself available this all fell through. Not even any comment when she was at the meeting point for the Opening Ceremony. This was all very odd as the Consulate were under the impression that it had all been organised.

Australian Consulate Reception

There was a good turn out of Australians at this event. Melissa was told by Richard Hogan that Wayne and I would be there in his place. There were several very unfortunate incidents caused by Kate including her accusing Dave and myself of bad behaviour at the reception. I immediately wrote to Melissa asking about this and she of course knew nothing about it and said that everything had been great. I was then tackled by Kate as to why I had contacted them at all. I am very glad that I did as there was no justification for her comments at all. I have a print out of the emails between Kate and myself for anyone that wished to read of this embarrassing behaviour by one of our Directors.

It was good that I was able to get Dave and GJ to meet with Kathleen Webster from FGG and discuss Team Sydney's position. I also had a fruitful meeting with Manuel Picaud from FGG who understands our internal problems and when they are resolved he will facilitate any late attendance at the next federation Annual meeting.

Summary.

I was glad that I was able to work with CGI and help in the way that I did. I did manage to get to some of the sporting events on Tues and Wed once my work with them was finished. From the events that I got to Volleyball, Bowling, Darts, Beach Volley Ball and choirs they all seemed to be very successful.

I have tried to put together a list of medal winners and this is still growing.