

## **Team Sydney Inc – Board Paper**

This board paper is submitted by: Kate Rowe & Wayne Morgan

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

Date: 15 August 06

Title: FGG delegates Gay Games Report

Portfolios involved:

Proposed duration: 10 minutes

Estimated financial impact: Nil

Proposed activity or matter for discussion:

The seventh Gay Games held in Chicago had 11800 participants, had unprecedented media coverage (both Geoff Radford and Kate were interviewed on television – Kate on NBC5 the local TV station and sponsor of the games), several masters records were broken in swimming and track running, the ballroom dancing was bigger and better than at Sydney (no mean feat) and once again the magic happened for those who took part in such a special event

Kate arrived in Chicago 8 days before the opening ceremony as a volunteer to sports manage the cycling event. This was done as part of her role on the FGG sports committee. This role turned to be more expansive than had been expected and meant that she needed to focus almost her entire time in Chicago in this role. The cycling was a great success with 260 very happy cyclists who will return in 2010.

### **Kate's role in précis consisted of:**

Visit the cycling venues (mostly an hour out of Chicago) several times

Plan and execute the compulsory cyclist briefing meeting

Co-ordinate the volunteers

Plan and execute the bussing and trucking of cyclists and bikes for the week

Attend meetings with Chicago city authorities (state and forest police, reps from Major Daley's office, Cook County officials, Cycling officials, road authorities etc).

Answer participant enquires, write communiqués for website

Be administration manager at the events

Debrief on a daily basis with CGI at the hub

Whilst this does not sound like a lot, it took up my entire time and apart from me participating in the triathlon on the first day, I spent my whole time with the cycling events. My days were regularly 15 hours long and on one occasion 18 hours.

### **Wayne's role in précis consisted of:**

Attend the International Front Runners conference annual meeting – Thursday & Friday prior to Games.

Assist the large group of Frontrunners (and a few others) with accommodation problems – the University Centre was not at all it was advertised and marketed as..... many meetings with management have now resolved this problem financially.

Assist with management and logistics for International Memorial Rainbow Flag Run held early on Saturday 15 July – day of the Opening ceremony.

**PLEASE SAVE THIS BOARD PAPER WITH A UNIQUE FILENAME AND  
ATTACH IT TO AN EMAIL ADDRESSED TO ALL CURRENT TEAM SYDNEY DIRECTORS  
AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING.**

## **Other events during the Games.....**

### **Team DC informal meet and great**

Due to working on the cycling until 8-9 pm Kate was unable to attend this event. Wayne was still at the IFR conference and had previously spoken to Brent Minor from team DC about his whereabouts.

### **Consulate reception**

This was a great success no small thanks to Melissa Robins, the Cultural Officer of the Australian Consulate. Kate was asked by Melissa to introduce CG Bob Charles to the relevant people at the reception. This event was co managed by Kate along with Richard Hogan.

### **FGG reception**

Kate was asked to attend this event and be part of the welcoming group by the FGG board. This function was attended by over 120 people with representatives of local sponsors, media, FGG, CGI, Cologne delegates and was held in a beautiful art gallery in downtown Chicago. There were flags from every games represented and Sydney was well mentioned by many of those who had attended. Sydney was represented by current and past FGG supporters and delegates.

### **Scholarship reception**

Kate is a member of the Scholarship committee and thus attended the reception and press conference held for all the scholarship recipients. There were over 150 from all over the world including an entire black lesbian soccer team from South Africa, 3 Papua New Guineans, Thai's, Malays, Indian and three Aborigines - two from WA and one from NSW. This was a truly emotional experience as one saw the look of glee and energy on all the faces who for some, were experiencing not only their first Gay Games, but their first trip from their country of origin. All of them will go back to their communities and carry on the work of Tom Waddell. Kate was a support person for the two Perth aborigines for the nine month journey from application to reception.

### **FGG meetings**

Both Kate and Wayne attended a long meeting on the morning of the opening ceremony 9-12. Meeting was mainly to discuss FGG events through the week, protocols etc and to discuss financial business with CGI (in camera) Both also attended another meeting on final day of games for debriefing and discussion with CGI.

### **Flag raising ceremony**

Kate was honoured to be selected to be part of the FGG flag ceremony only one week before she left for Chicago. This was not in her role as TS FGG delegate but as an individual in recognition of her work over three Gay Games as cycling co-coordinator, her work for the Sydney Gay Games and her commitment to gay and lesbian sport. Kate also attended two rehearsals.

### **TS meeting spot**

This activity whilst a good idea did not eventuate. There were no reported negative comments about this site occurring.

Three days before the opening ceremony when Kate still had internet access (she was offline due to being out in the field from 13 July until returning to Sydney on the 25 July), Kate was asked if she could identify a meeting spot for Sydney participants. Kate replied that she would see what she could do but made no promises knowing that she had very limited time. Seeking local assistance Kate made calls to Melissa Robbins who put me her in touch with an Aussie owner of one of the Café Baci's. There were a few in town. Kate called and he agreed to help us out. Kate said she would pass that information on and that someone would be in contact.

Kate has since found out that there was a miscommunication between three people and that unfortunately this didn't happen. There is no apportioning of blame for this, but more a case of lack of technology, assumptions and inability to contact people. It didn't help that Kate was unable to access emails for so long.

It is recommended that for future games, that if we want a designated spot for Aussies, that it be well planned beforehand.

### **Cologne 2010**

Kate met with Jochan Farber and Annette Wachter, two principles of Cologne 2010 regarding ongoing support for them over the next four years to promote, market and help organise the next Australian team

### **Sports Coordinators**

Already Kate and Wayne are sports coordinators for the FGG. Due to problems at Chicago games a number of Sydney folk have been identified to fill spots with the FGG as sports coordinators for the next four years. The Sydney Games were for most events a template for future Games and we should be proud that an important legacy we can offer is our sports logistics and management capacity.