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Annual General Assembly, Eurogames, IGLFA, Connect Sports Marketplace,  
Out to Win, Guest Column by Shamey Cramer, Paris 2018**September 2015****Welcome to Participate!, the newsletter of the Federation of Gay Games.**

On behalf of the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) Board and Honorary Life Members, we extend our greetings and appreciation for your continued support of our mission of promoting equality through the organization of the premiere international LGBT and gay-friendly sports and cultural event known as the Gay Games.

We hope to see you in Limerick, Ireland for the 2015 Annual General Assembly, and if not, it is our desire for all of our allies, participants, supporters, member organizations, partners and volunteers to join us in the journey to Paris 2018 and beyond.

**Joanie Evans**, Female co-president**Kurt Dahl**, Male co-presidentPARTICIPATION • INCLUSION • PERSONAL BEST 

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**Annual General Assembly: Limerick, Ireland: 16-18 October, 2015**

The FGG is excited for the 2015 Annual General Assembly (AGA) in [Limerick, Ireland](#), 16-18 October 2015. Attendees are encouraged to secure travel for this exciting meeting and to officially register here: <http://fggaga2015.eventbrite.ie>

The AGA brings together delegates from its full members, associate members and board members to discuss the activities of the past year, plan future activities and elect the FGG board members for the next year. The Board of Directors for Paris 2018, host city of Gay Games 10, will also be present to discuss their plans for the 2018 event. Complete 2015 AGA information is available at <https://gaygames.org>.

**FGG at [Eurogames Stockholm](#), 5-9 August 2015**

While at the Stockholm EuroGames some of our Board took the opportunity to meet up with a few members of the GLISA Board over coffee. While this was an unofficial meeting, the conversation included discussing ways our two organisations could work together moving forward in the One World Event process – including what kind of things could happen at the Miami Outgames in 2017 to help promote the Paris 2018 Gay Games.

The previous morning (7 August), the two organisations hosted an Open Forum in Stockholm's Kulturhuset (City Theatre) to provide an update to attendees on the 1WE process, listen to feedback, and answer questions. A similar town hall-style event was recently held in Washington, DC.



L to R: Joanie Evans, Victor Elkins (GLISA), Shamey Cramer, Armin Lohrmann, Carl Schultz, Leviathen Hendricks, Martin Iversen Christensen (GLISA), Ivan Cano (World OutGames Miami), and Dave Killian

## IGLFA North American Championships medals presented by FGG Co-President

IGLFA (The International Gay & Lesbian Football Association) held its 2015 IGLFA North American Championship II in Madison, WI USA 9-15 August, 2015. Presented by the Madison Area Sports Commission at Reddan Soccer Park, the event was very successful. The event finished with the annual Madison Pride Fest week.

Attending the event was Federation of Gay Games Co-President Kurt Dahl. He was invited to help present the medals at the conclusion of the tournament, and was honored to do so.



The International Gay & Lesbian Football Association (IGLFA) was founded in 1992 in order to help promote and foster the growth of LGBTQ football world wide. Since IGLFA's creation, more than 100 teams/clubs representing over 30 countries have joined and participated at IGLFA competitions. Each of these teams/clubs have played a vital role in helping IGLFA accomplish its goals and uphold its mission. Visit [HERE](#) for more information.

**Connect SPORTS  
MARKETPLACE**



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SPORTSLINK**

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## FGG participates in Connect Sports Marketplace / Olympic SportsLink event

On 26 – 29 August 2015, the annual Connect Sports Marketplace / Olympic SportsLink event took place in Pittsburgh, PA USA, and for the second consecutive year, the Federation of Gay Games was highly visible at the event. Representing the FGG were Dave Killian (Officer of Site Selection) and Les Johnson (VP of External Affairs). They staffed a booth during the entire event, interacting with hundreds of sports industry professionals and holding more than 45 meetings with various Convention and Visitors Bureau representatives.

Said Dave Killian, "Connect Sports has been amazing. Have met many cities interested in the Gay Games movement. Looking forward to next year!!"



One of the highlights of the event was meeting Abby Wambach, FIFA Women's World Cup hero time Olympic gold medalist (see photo). Among the other keynote speakers at this event was President Bill Clinton.

Connect Sports Marketplace / Olympic SportsLink event is an annual sports tourism conference that is a highly respected event, bringing together NGBs, sports planners and rights holders, suppliers and experts in sports events. They gather for three days of general sessions, best practice breakouts, roundtables, workshops, pre-set appointments, and networking. The appointment-only sports tourism marketplace, is where RFPs are placed, dates are secured, and relationships are developed for future business. The focus on education at Connect Sports Marketplace | Olympic SportsLink allows participants to brush up on their skills, learn about trending topics, get great business advice from speakers, and enjoy networking with other industry professionals.



## FGG assists with Continental European premiere of LGBT sports documentary "[OUT TO WIN](#)" in Lausanne, Switzerland

In the "Olympic Capital" 3 September 2015, the FGG helped arrange the continental European premiere of LGBT sports documentary [Out to Win](#). Following the screening the FGG's Officer for International Development, Leviathen Hendricks, was part of a panel discussion in front of a crowd full of master's degree students, researchers, and many international sports federations and organisations including the IOC. Joining him on the panel were Olympic decathlete [Slaven Dizdarević](#) and former Israeli Women's Basketball Captain Tamar Maoz.

Prior to the main event, a short video montage of the 2014 Gay Games in Cleveland + Akron was shown to the audience who were therefore able to get a great flavor of what the Gay Games is all about. And everyone was given promo material and an invitation to take part in Gay Games 10 in Paris 2018.

Our thanks go to [AISTS - Mastering Sport](#) for putting this event together and including the [Gay Games](#).



At the Suisse premiere of documentary [Out to Win \(2015 film\)](#).  
L to R: Panel moderator John Zimmer, Tamar Maoz, Leviathen Hendricks, Slaven Dizdarevic. — at [Swiss Film Archive](#).

### What Would Tom Waddell Say?

*Archival documents allow Gay Games founder to add his voice to the current One World Event discussions*

By Shamey Cramer

A recent Memo of Understanding signed by the Federation of Gay Games (FGG) and Gay & Lesbian International Sport Association (GLISA) considers the possibility for a partnership between the two governing bodies to produce a single, quadrennial LGBTIQ sport and culture festival with human rights components in 2022. The next step in the process known as One World Event (1WE) will be to clarify the event name and its Site Selection process, among other things.

As founder of Team Los Angeles, I worked with the late Gay Games founder Dr. Thomas F. Waddell and ten others from May 1982 – June 1985 to create the International Gay Olympic Association (IGOA), the first international governing body created to perpetuate the Gay Games.

Being the archivist I am, I retrieved my copy of transcripts from a meeting hosted by Dr. Waddell in San Francisco on April 9, 1983. Interestingly, the issues we are dealing with today were the same issues we dealt with then.

The lawsuit by the United States Olympic Committee to prevent us from using the word "Olympic" was underway. A healthy discussion ensued including Dr. Waddell, Peter Todd, representing the Free Australian Athletic Association; Jean-Nickolaus Tretter representing Minnesota Lesbian/Gay Committee of the International Gay Olympic Association, whose membership was 65% female; and others about whether or not it should remain being called simply the Gay Games.

In his pitch for supporting the work of the IGOA and an equitable Site Selection procedure, Dr. Waddell called for equal representation by continent during the voting process.

In 1983, all these issues were internal discussions, long before the massive growth of the LGBTIQ sports world spurred by the inaugural Gay Games - a world that now includes international governing bodies, annual multi-sport events with 5,000-6,000 participants, and multiple sport teams and activities in most urban centres. How do we bring a sense of order to all of this uncontrolled growth so that participation remains the primary focus?

In the transcripts, Dr. Waddell states:

"I would hope that the Gay Games would continue to be not an event of becoming the best but to provide equal opportunity for everyone to do their best, for the sheer joy and hell of it. That's what makes these Games different from any other."

Regardless what the future holds, the words of our founder still guide the FGG in our mission – a mission that provides an equal opportunity for everyone to address the issues of homophobia, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination. A mission of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™.

*Shamey Cramer was founder/Co-Chair of Team Los Angeles (1982-1985, 2002), President of the Los Angeles 2006 Gay Games VII bid finalist (2000-2004), captured a Bronze Medal at Gay Games VIII – Cologne 2010 as a member of West Hollywood Aquatics water polo and serves as Officer of Ceremonies for the Federation of Gay Games (2011-present).*



**We are looking forward to seeing you in Paris!**

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1/12/2020

Participate! Email News update for the Federation of Gay Games supporters

Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games has promoted equality in and by sport and culture and ensured that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under the founding principles of Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best.

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