

1) Sylle Arvidieu, I am fine with competitors for the IAM, however, I know of no other sport democracy and so we are unique. Since when do all athletes, organizers and volunteers of anywhere of any sport can directly vote for their leaders in their chosen sport? I think the current concept of IAM is awesome and it bodes well for the future of our sport. It was my ambition to establish such a democracy in Canada for a long time but the lack of interest here made that impractical. I would like the IAM to prosper to the point where its size and dynamism will dwarf other memory organizations. In fact, I think we should see as our real competitors some much bigger democratic organizations. Toastmasters, for instance, crown a world champion of public speaking in a very democratic way every year. We should aim to grow bigger than they are. The new democratic foundation of IAM is the ideal instrument to help achieve this goal.

2) My answer to question 7 gives my first idea: Having 6 regional memory world championships will get more people into the sport.

My second idea would be to start working on a manual to make memory tutorials more effective. I think that getting together to help each other with memorization is key to getting more participants in competitions. I say this from having learned this the hard way, as a memory competition organizer. The IAM need to produce this educational material.

3) Lynne Kelly, yes, I think the IAM should promote the benefits of memory training. If you don't promote the benefits then people don't show up any more to memory meetups. In the Official IAM manual, we would instruct members as to how to communicate this most effectively.

4) At my last Memory Championship, we had a different and more lenient correction method when with the normal correction method, the results fell beneath a certain threshold. I think this can really help protect the fragile egos of newcomers. They will be more likely to come back this way, as there will be the challenge of trying to reach the level where they are no longer in need of the special, more lenient beginner correction.

5) Kelly Knight, attracting young people is key to the future of the sport. Unfortunately, the vast majority of teachers don't teach children how to use memory techniques because they either aren't good with them or they don't know about these memory techniques and how to apply them. I know of only 3 teachers in Canada who have tried to teach memory techniques to young students and have them participate in memory competitions. So, the way should be to have more teachers learn about memory techniques and become good at it.

In some countries, with the support of the government, this is already happening. But making changes in government isn't the IAM's responsibility. Children typically want to do what they see grown up doing. But memory is a skill more comparable to reading where you can't see a person reading. And the skill is a challenge to acquire. So, I would suggest to strive to associate memory training with success training. As a group, I think the Board would need to identify what success means to us and strive to fulfill this image, helping one another. I can tell you how my memory training has made me a more successful person, and IAM needs to highlight more this aspect of memory techniques and how memory techniques and training are key to achieving this success.

6) Florian, the digitalization of memory competitions is something that leaves me ambivalent. Memory sport have this reputation of being a nerdy thing and with plenty of laptops appearing in our competitions, the nerdy appearance remains. But I appreciate the obvious benefits of going

digital, (instant error free correction). My main concern is affordability. If digitalization will make the sport more affordable, then I am all for it. I may change my mind on this subject.

7) I think that in the current format, it would not be a wise decision to try and have the World Memory Championship in Canada for 2019, or even in the near future. The majority of memory competitors in America are located in only 2 countries and everyone else would need to fly in and that means the event would not be as big as it should be.

However, I do think that the current format for the world memory championship needs to be changed to allow the participation of more contestants. Since we will have Board Members from all 6 regions of the world, I feel that it would be more productive and logical to have 6 world memory championships, one in each region and obtain 6 regional world memory champions. After that, there could be a play off, or a decision made by the Board as to whom among the 6 is the New World Champion based on the results from the competition and perhaps also based on other factors as well. With such a format for our World Memory Championship, then, by all means I would be very eager to run this competition here in Canada in 2019.

8) Josh Cohen, from California USA, is the guy I would mention as an awesome volunteer. He has a great website artofmemory.com check it out! There is no ad there. He has done it all to try and help spread the use of memory techniques everywhere. When I first tried to find info on a WMSC page or forum, he promptly replied to my question and directed me to the right resources I needed to achieve my goals. That was back in 2011, I think, and he is still working tirelessly at it.

9) Florian's list member question: Anonymous, I have been a Toastmaster for several years, being a club President for 2 years, and my experience there has opened my eyes to the potential for an organization like IAM to grow. I am excited at the thought of joining this Board. The other world memory organizations came across as much less approachable. IAM has a great future and I feel I know this better than anyone else, except maybe for Simon Reinhard.