

2020 IAM Board Election Answers - Corinna Draschl

Question for European candidates from Gordon Cowell:

Numbers at competitions are often very small. What would you do to try to increase the popularity of memory competitions in Europe?

If the competition is IAM approved, than we can help with PR on social media and through our mailing list. Furthermore, we work closely with the organizer to help them reach the people they want to reach.

Questions for all candidates from Sylvain Arvidieu:

What can be done and is it in your opinion necessary to make it possible for athletes from different continents to compete together? It happens too seldom at the moment, possibly because of travel costs and lack of incentives (financial or others). What do you think?

I think it is great if athletes from different continents compete together against each other. Costs and time commitment needed to travel to another continent are probably the biggest hurdles to overcome. We are working hard to ensure that international competitions hosted by IAM do have financial incentives. I also think that online competitions can play a role in the future but they cannot be the sole way of people from different continents competing against each other.

Is it the IAM's goal to help spread the memory techniques to the masses (i.e. making resources available for free, I guess) ? How is it then possible to coexist and collaborate with professional memory trainers?

Our goal is to bring memory sports to everybody and not necessarily the techniques. We are currently working on spreading awareness of the sport and our competitions. So, currently our focus is not with spreading memory techniques.

Should the current 10-event formats be kept? Why?

I like the current 10-event format and that's why I think it should be kept 😊. However, I think that more innovative concepts can also attract more competitors and should, therefore, be reviewed and approved by IAM.

Questions for all candidates from Boris Konrad:

How would you like to see the IAM interact with other memory sports organizations in the (near) future?

I would like to see IAM collaborating with other organizations in a professional manner.

Is it a goal for you that memory sports gets an official sport?

In terms of an Olympic discipline? Currently no (and not for the upcoming term, either). Although, I can see that being a goal in the future.

How will you help making memory sports more appealing for beginners and media?

Beginners: Have more online tests where you can show your skills and test yourself against others and possibly have more and smaller competitions for beginners.

Media: keep coverage about our events up, try to cooperate with media outlets in the respective countries.

Questions for all candidates from Florian Minges:

In your opinion, what are the two most important things the IAM has to work on in the next two years (so basically during your mandate, if you should get elected)?

- Ensure that competitions are run smoothly and adhere to IAM standards.
- PR

What is something that the IAM could learn from AMSA/GAMA (ie what is something they are doing very well)?

I like the idea of a “World Memory Tour” and I would like to see something similar at IAM.

There are many things and projects that volunteers within the IAM need to work on to operate, manage and develop the organisation. If you had to pick one thing among all of these that you were the most passionate about, which one would it be? (For example: maintaining the website/database, developing the competition software,

working on an arbiting certification system, establishing national organisations, developing new competition formats etc)

Further developing the rulebook.

This is kind of an expansion on a question by Sylvain: AMSA/GAMA have developed and proposed some new potential memory disciplines (spoken flash numbers, fantasy map, flight plan). At the same time, we also have the Memory League format. How do you think the IAM should go about integrating new disciplines and competition formats into memory sports, or is that something that you think should be avoided?

I like the current format but I am open to new disciplines and/or formats. The way of integration needs to be discussed.

Same question as last year: The IAM is currently looking for a host for the next World Memory Championship (application deadline is 15th of January, 2020). What do you think about the feasibility of organising a World Memory Championship in your country, either next year or sometime in the future? What are the biggest obstacles? Is there anything that could be done or changed to make it easier / more convenient in order for someone to host it in your country?

WMC was already hosted in Austria in 2018 and I think, there were no big obstacles to it.

Same question as last year: The memory sports community has many dedicated volunteers who are contributing to it in many different ways, both internationally and nationally. If you could highlight one such person today (who is not also running for the IAM International Board right now), who would it be, and why?

I'd have to say Katie Kermode. Although I haven't worked with her personally, I know she made huge contributions to the WMC (together with Akash) by working hard on the software and making sure everything is available at the time needed.

Question for all previous board members (Simon, Mohamed, Charifa, Sanchit, Nathalie, Akash, Corinna) from Florian Minges:

Working in a volunteer organisation with people from many different time zones and backgrounds is bound to be tricky. In terms of working together, what is something that didn't work quite as well as you expected, and what would you suggest to the next Board to make it better?

By the time I joined the board, we were still working mostly with WhatsApp. I found it quite difficult to keep up with all the different topics in one channel. Once we moved our conversations and communications to Slack, it was much easier to keep track of things. For the future, I suggest to arrange calls once in a while to discuss some topics. This has proven to be a fast and efficient way to find a solution for some challenges. Finding a time slot that is suitable for all members (despite of time differences) has proven to be difficult but I think with sufficient planning ahead that should be manageable as well.