

2020 IAM Board Election Answers - Sven Wetzel

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?

I suggest to plan more social media events.

Another thing is to look after classic media (for example television/newspaper) that can be interested in events.

How about a Mind Coin, that can be earned for reaching a specific goal? Or to have long term events where the goal is to beat a highscore?

One thing is to bring the people not yet in this sport to understand that it is a reachable goal and not only for those who are born with this talent (something that is a common believe) .

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?

This has many aspects:

a) in person combats (face 2 face in the same room):

It can be done, but some can not afford it - or - do not want to fly because it is not so good for the environment.

So it is one thing to keep the competitions like they are done for now, but to force the people to have more flights is not a good idea.

b) online combats:

This is a thing that can indeed help spread the word. It can be done like the Memory League format for competition: At home. Or to have more local studio/game center, where people can watch the competitors that everything goes like the rules say.

c) encourage potential candidates

For a beginner it can be difficult to combat, because of a fear of losing the combat and that the reaction of the people are negative. And that a beginner do an official combat against someone who is in the top 10 is packed with this fear.

So I would try to find ways how to get in the direction of giving the believe that everyone can fight against better person. This can help to decide what I need to better in my training.

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?

Yes the IAM should have a resource library that someone can get access to it. Some of this resources can be free, some not.

Professional memory trainer are needed with or without this library. Because only to know something and to be able to use are two different things.

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

In the future the event formats can be changed or not that depends on the disciplines that are used in the future.

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 like to see that we interact with other organizations with respect and honesty. And to set borders that are open but clear.

When someone or another organization is against the rules or attack us, it exist ways to defend us without to get down to this level.

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

Yes it is a goal. This can help us to have better cards with potential sponsors.

And it underlines the importance of training the mind for this century.

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

I help to create a resource library (like wikipedia ?) and a resource list where to find what.

Question for Sven Wetzel from Akash Rupela:

Can you provide a Bio in English before the actual voting? It might be more helpful to everyone voting.

See attached file.

Please delete the german one. It was meant for another mail. Sorry for that.

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)?

a)

That the memory sport goes digital. Not only the competition, but also the opponents.

I saw in the last memory league competitions that the communication is not clear enough. Misunderstandings what timezone was meant are the main problem. The problem was not that the software had a good timetable that calculated the right timezone, but the user did not understand how to use it - or when to use it.

b)

The subject of cheating need to be get better handled. When is a result a cheat and else only a good result?

And to teach that cheating is bad, in many ways.

- someone can get the impression that this is only a joke
- the person cheat on him/herself.

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

I do not know this organizations. But what we can learn is this:

They exist and the world is big enough that they exist beside of us.

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)

Actually I work in the software team, so I am happy then I can help in the future to write software for the IAM.

I work as IT Administrator so this is a perfect match for me.

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?

New disciplines mean new ways to demonstrate what the brain is able to reach.

This means also that we need to think how to integrate them in a competition.

And that we need to say the opponents when this is part of competition x.

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?

I have not yet done such work, so I can think of some points:

- find sponsors and get them more integrated in the process
- to team up with other organization/s in my country.

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?

This is James Smith.

I know him from the yahoo brainclub.

At one time yahoo stopped the service of blogging he gave me the address from artofmemory.com website.

Also we chatted about memory techniques books.