

# Questions

## To: All Candidates

*From: Boris*

### **1. What is your highest priority for the IAM for the next few months?**

My highest priority is to make the transition from the old board to the new one as smooth as possible by continuing with our weekly meetings to get all new members on board. In these meetings we should define our urgent tasks as well as long term goals. I would like to establish a working system where everyone can bring in their strength and do things they like to do even if they are not on the board.

### **2. How much time do you plan to dedicate to this volunteer role?**

It is not a matter of pure time to me. It's rather a matter of doing things consistently and ongoing in order to get a good rhythm.

### **3. How much time do you expect from other board members to commit?**

I expect from all of us in the board that we get this one hour meeting each week running. This plus what it needs to do specific tasks.

### **4. Whom would you give your vote for chairperson of the board?**

Running the IAM is a huge responsibility and a hard job and I know that it was often not visible to people outside the board what is going on and what everyone was contributing. Simon has done a great job to keep things running and without him there wouldn't have been much at all. Someone who has the overview and always keeps pushing himself back to the track even when things seem to stand still is needed for this position. I would vote for Simon again.

## To: those who compete themselves as memory athletes

*From: Boris*

### **5. Do you see a possible conflict of interest if you are a board member and decide/discuss on rules of the sport or details such as prize money distribution? If yes, how do you plan to deal with that?**

In a rather small organization with a few people constantly trying to work things out it is not possible to exclude anyone who is willing to help. So competitors will organize competitions in the future as well. So from this point of view there might be always a potential conflict of interests. However with guidelines and keeping in mind the main interest of the IAM, namely bringing the sport forward, everyone should be able to decide if he/she might have this conflict and if he/she therefore takes him/her self a bit back in a specific situation. Beside

this we should continue by asking a wider range of people for their opinion on crucial topics.

On a personal note: As being a competitor, organizer, supervisor and broadcaster for such a long time I feel quite confident about separating between an objective or a personal perspective. I have, can and will make decisions against my personal interest if it fits the main purpose of the IAM and the sport better. I encourage everyone out there to remind me of that if I'm not doing this.

**To: all previous board members (Charifa, Mohamed, Nathalie, Johannes, Simon)**

***From: Boris***

**6. Thank you for being on our previous board. As for the whole World, it certainly have been tough two years. In your opinion, how did the IAM board perform? What went well and what not so much? What did you learn?**

I think that everyone was affected hard by the pandemic. It was not clear how championships would work at all and how we could still run them. The World was a bit "frozen" and I think so was the board too. In the last 6-12 month things were taking off more and more and with the digital World Tour the IAM and its members implemented a totally new concept that gave people from around the World the chance to compete again and even produced a World Champion with Alex Mullen. More regular meetings as we have done them in the last couple of month will help the next board to work on our vision in a more consequent way.

**7. In its first post the previous board promised: "The board continues to prioritise transparency in our work and resolves to share regular updates with the memory community." Do you think this promise to the community was kept with one update from the board and four tournament related posts in those two years?**

Dear Boris, thank you for simulating a wider range of possible kind of press questions. First of all I think that the phrase "but you promised" might work better in a more private or let's say family based context. I'm pretty sure you have heard or will hear these words more often in the next 1-2 decades. However in a more professional context I think it's rather that we set our self goals and announce them to show people what we are aiming for. So let me rephrase your question before answering it in a way I would like to communicate with people when I would be on the next board again:

"In its first post the previous board set the following goal: "The board continues to prioritise transparency in our work and resolves to share regular updates with the memory community." This morning I carefully checked your website: I just found one board and four tournament related posts there and I feel it is obvious that you didn't quite achieve your self set goal to share regular updates with the memory community What do you think about this and how do you think you can improve on this in the future?"

Dear Boris, thank you for this question. I think you are right and I'm not happy that we didn't do more in this regard. I think this is a good reminder that we need to improve on our communication channels. However please also take into account that we are all volunteers who were also facing consequences of the last two years pandemic in our jobs and our private lives. I would like to add that on our FB page there have been several updates on competitions from organizers and the community. By moderating the page I feel that the board contributed to these updates even though it didn't post them by itself. However more visible communication activity is something we should work on. For this but also other things not only board members but everyone is welcome to offer their help.

One idea that came to my mind would be a regular Zoom session which people from the community can attend asking their questions directly to 1-2 board members. Maybe once a month would be possible.

## To: All Candidates

*From: Sylle*

**8. What do you think would be ways of going from the covid-time PR drought (having competitions results and even new World Records not being reported) to having a more efficient way of informing members of memory-related news and reaching for new audiences?**

The IAM website should be more up to date and of course we should play our current social media channels better. For that we need motivated people who are enjoying writing stuff or creating material. Furthermore I think creating a list of all possible resources we have in the memory sports community could help us to find new ways to reach more people. We are many people from around the World and many of us have contacts to the media or other resources. Why not bringing these together? Also having more coverage from live competitions could help to raise the awareness for the sport.

On a personal side note: I will try to contribute to this by myself by growing my own channels on YT and Twitch.

**9. What would you strive for the most: having high-participation competitions, having a lot more live competitions every year or having a high density of high-performing athletes at selected competitions (continental and world events)?**

To spread the word more we need both. We need more live and regional competitions to give more people the chance to start and experience the sport. On the other hand we need high achievers and super stars to attract people to go to these competitions in the first place. As long as we have the capacities in terms of venue space, arbiters etc. I'm fine with having many people in a World Championship. However I believe that quality is needed as

well to grow the sport.

In addition I think online competitions like we had them in the last year have the biggest potential to go viral at some point.