

Questions

To: All Candidates

From: Boris

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

The highest priorities I see are:

- world championship organization
- getting more volunteers for all the areas we are working on (Arbiting, PR, IT, ML supervisors etc...)
- getting more tournaments running after those long pandemic years
- increasing the number of national associations in order to have more organizers and to reach more people
- improving the digital aspects of our competition software (automated result gathering and uploading would be great)

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

As much as necessary to get things done. Sometimes that can be quite significant, e.g. regarding the world championship, but things need to be done and we must bring things forward.

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

Everybody has their own commitments and responsibilities, of course. I will be happy if they invest time to advance things and if some cannot do this because of private or job reasons, even for longer stretches of time, then this is simply the way things are and everybody will accept that.

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

I have been chairperson during the current term and I would have the intention to stand again if I am elected and if the newly elected members would be in favor of that. But I am sure that everybody else would do a great job in that position.

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?

That is of course not easy question to answer. When there was no IAM, there was the old

federation. A lot of things were bad there. People discussed among themselves, nobody from the athlete community was part of it. Then the athletes managed to pressurize the old leadership into adding an athlete representative to their gremium. I was very happy that Boris, who is asking this question, proposed me for the role when he was still president of MemoryXL, thank you for your trust back then. What I learned in that role was that it is vital to have the athlete perspective heard during discussions. Arbiters and organizers focus on completely different matters which might at times be impractical or even harmful to competitors because they do not take crucial things into account.

In the IAM Board, we have organizers, arbiters and competitors. everybody is providing their unique perspective. Not having competitors allowed during rule discussions would leave an important aspect out. For larger rule changes, the Board is consulting the memory community about their opinion. We did that for example before the introduction of the new Images discipline and for the IAM Level system and much valuable feedback was given.

In the end, it will always be about trust: if a voter trusts a person to have their best interests in mind, then they should vote for them. We are all doing this as volunteers, without payment, and are investing large amounts of our spare time because we wanted to create and want to maintain something better than what came before.

Regarding prize money distribution, in the discussions that I recall, every athlete was in favor of a flatter prize money distribution, even though that would maybe reduce the share they might get, because a flatter distribution is better for all athletes. We have also regularly mentioned to organizers that travel packages (not necessarily for the best athletes, but e.g. for a number of persons per region) would be a good thing. Prize money should allow as many people as feasible to attend an event. It would be a good thing to treat prize money distributions similar to significant rule changes in the future and involve the memory community in that topic and ask them what kind of distribution they prefer, in particular with regards to the World Championship.

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?

It definitely have been two very hard years for everybody and I think it is a testament to the potential of mankind that we have managed to develop vaccines and that people have managed to stay mostly rational and patient during this marathon of a pandemic.

The Board consists, not very surprisingly, of human beings. We are all impacted by the negative effects of the pandemic. That lead to a decrease in activity. Fewer meetings, fewer updates. I am not proud of that because we had intended to inform the memory community more often about what we are doing. We always wanted to be an open association and not

something were everything happens behind closed doors. Since a few weeks, we are meeting again and we are also publishing updates and summaries about those meetings in the News section of our homepage iam-memory.org. It feels like, just in time for Spring, things are moving again :).

What I am proud of is that we, despite it feeling harder to get things done in the current global environment, managed to realize Hannes' great idea of the Memory League World Tour. In additions to the few memory tournaments that were possible to hold during the pandemic, this online cooperation with our friends of Memory League (Simon Orton, Josh Cohen, Issa Cohen) gave the exciting Memory League format a whole new structure with a world ranking, a League and four big tournaments that everybody had a chance to qualify for. It was much work and I have personally, like many other members, invested much time to make this happen and we are all very happy how it turned out.

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?

I would like to refer to my answer to question 6 on that one. Already before this question was asked, we had started to hold weekly meetings again and are providing summaries. We have all the intention to do better in the future :).

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?

That is true. We need a larger PR team with more people shouldering tasks, so that if a few have problems to handle tasks due to own obligations, others can help out. Expanding the circle of helpers will be crucial in the coming weeks to enable the new Board to hit the ground running.

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)?

All of these are desirable goals: high participation and a high density of high-performing athletes will make it easier to attract media interest and thus maybe also sponsorship for organizers, in turn again allowing better competitions for everybody. And having more live competitions would mean more opportunities for people to get to know the sport and to develop their own passion for it, like us. I think all those goals are interconnected, and

coupled with an expansion of the capabilities of our competition software, we should strive for all of them to provide athletes around the world with a great way to experience memory sports.