
Participate! The Official Newsletter of the FGG. January 2021 Edition

1 message

Federation of Gay Games <contact@gaygames.org>
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To: Douglas Litwin <doug.litwin@gaygames.net>

Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 9:39 AM

Welcome to the January 2021 Edition of Participate!

Join us for Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022, 11-19 November!

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Joanie Evans, co-president



Sean Fitzgerald, co-president



Welcome to 2021!

We made it. And we don't say that lightly.

2020 was, without doubt, one of the most challenging years for the world that many of us have ever witnessed in our lifetime. However, there are always two sides to extremes. With injustice comes a renewed and stronger fight for justice; with disease comes a deep collaborative, commitment to cure; and when reduced to nothing, a situation many people find themselves in after a harrowing 12 months, something must arise.

When our ways of life and, in fact, our very lives are threatened with extinction, we find a strength, a fervor, a dogged determination to protect it. This has never been more explicit than in what we have faced globally this past year. It has surfaced not just in conquering Covid but in social justice, politics, expression and marginalization. These principles are what the FGG has always stood by and for.

Our hope is that out of the onslaught we continue to act with the knowledge that, simply, we are better when working together collectively.

Participate goes monthly from now until Gay Games 11 in Hong Kong in November 2022. First up in the January issue is information about our upcoming Annual General Assembly. AGA 2020, deferred to January 23 and 24, 2021. We encourage you to register and enjoy the fold of a collective that continues to work to make our world more inclusive through sport and culture.

#FGG #gaygames. #gaygameshk2022 #lgbtq #love

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Franie" with a stylized flourish underneath.A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sun" in a cursive style.

AGA 2020 Update



We are excited to see you virtually at the 2020 FGG Annual General Assembly live from London on January 23 and 24, 2021. If you haven't already registered you can do so [here](#). We have two content packed days to review the past year and plan for the future.

Once you register for the AGA you will have access to the Business Objectives, Agenda, Board Nominations, the 2026 Annual Report, 2019 AGA minutes, and the 2020-2026 Strategic Plan.

On day two, we will begin with the Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2026 team before tackling the bulk of our agenda which will include three sessions reserved to discuss the bids for 2026 Gay Games XII.

It is going to be an informative, fun and fruitful two days and we encourage you to join us.

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Open Positions

Are you interested in getting more involved with the Federation of Gay Games?

If so, and you think you have the time to commit and the necessary skills to carry out one of the below 4 roles, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Viv at aga2020@gaygames.net for a full role description and an application form.

Officer of Technology

Leading the Technology Committee, the Officer of Technology will be responsible for implementation and maintenance of all technology assets and tools of the FGG in conducting its business. The Officer of Technology will also be responsible to lead efforts to ensure information security and protect the FGG from unauthorized use of information, theft, or damage to their hardware, software, and data.

Officer of Human Resources

The FGG needs someone who will guide and manage the provision of HR (volunteering) advice, support, policies and programs for the Federation, ensuring the development of an inclusive, safe and productive culture. You will:

- Oversee the volunteering program to ensure appropriate support, training, and induction for all volunteers in FGG
- Develop and administer human resources plans and procedures that relate to FGG volunteers

Officer of Diversity & Inclusion

Through the D&I Committee, you will provide leadership in the development of Federation Diversity and Inclusion practices and activities, and those of Member Organizations and Gay Games Host organizations to ensure the widest representation and to improve the experience of all those who work in or take part in Gay Games events. You will

- work with other Board members, Committees and Member Organizations to lead implementation of a work program
- assist Member Organizations to develop their Diversity & Inclusion
- develop Diversity & Inclusion strategies, policies and guidance for the FGG
- oversee the analysis and use of data to inform FGG current thinking and future focus on Diversity & Inclusion.

Officer of Communications

As the Officer of Communications, you will be responsible for managing the Federation's Communications strategy to ensure visibility, adherence to FGG communications brand, and responsiveness to our audience, and to assist all Committees as necessary in the creation, editing and dissemination of Committee communications. You will

- lead the Communications Committee
- lead the Communications Committee
- work in collaboration with the Board to oversee the development and execution of the external communications strategy of the organization, via print, internet and other media to the general public, other organizations and FGG constituencies
- write and publish press releases
- manage Press and PR related enquiries
- manage FGG social media platforms to ensure consistency of posting adherent to FGG voice and brand

For more information or to apply contact Viv at aga2020@gaygames.net

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Welcome our 4 new members!



FAST FACTS

Membership Category: Full Member

Established since: 2017

Organization Type: International and Single Sports

Core Activities: Powerlifting

Location: International

[Website](#)

[facebook](#)



FAST FACTS

Membership Category: Full Member

Established since: 2002

Organization Type: International and Multi-sports

Core Activities: Badminton, Bowling, Indoor & Beach Volleyball, Running, TableTennis, Swimming.

Location: Asia

[facebook](#)

[Event Group](#)



FAST FACTS

Membership Category: Full Member

Established since: 2017

Organization Type: National and Multi-sports

Core Activities: Obstacle Course Running, Annual Adventure Race, Trail / Ultra Run

Location: Philippines

[facebook](#)

[instagram](#)



FAST FACTS

Membership Category: Associate Member

Established since: 2014

Organization Type: National and Single Sports

Core Activities: Running

Location: Singapore

[facebook](#)

FGG Remembers Robby Browne



During Q3 of 2020, the FGG was notified that Robby Browne had listed the Federation of Gay Games Inc as a beneficiary in his trust. Robby was a Real Estate Broker and Philanthropist. He passed away after a two-week bout with coronavirus in April 2020.

Here is a link to [New York Times](#) article about the life of Robby Browne.

Robby participated in 1994 New York Gay Games IV and 1998 Amsterdam Gay Games V.

Gay Games IV

- 50 meter backstroke; finished in 7th place
- 1 meter springboard diving: gold medal in age group
- 3 meter springboard diving: gold medal in age group

Gay Games V

- 1 meter springboard diving: gold medal in age group
- 3 meter springboard diving: bronze medal in Open division

Robby bequeathed \$100,000 to the FGG for which we are forever thankful. His bequest will allow the FGG to continue its work to Change the World through LGBTQ+ sports and culture. To honor Robby Browne, the FGG will be creating a scholarship fund in his name for springboard diving participants.

If you would like to learn more on adding the Federation of Gay Games Inc to your will or trust, please contact treasurer@gaygames.net.

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Remembering Celebration '90 Gay Games III, Vancouver

An Online Exhibit with never before seen footage of Celebration '90 Gay Games III, Vancouver is available now.





The FGG's mission is to promote equality, diversity and inclusion through sport and culture. A new online exhibit documenting footage from the Vancouver Games, Celebration '90 Gay Games III, at [Virtual Museum Canada](#) showcases this mission and the impact the Games can have on a host city, in spades.

Virtual Museum Canada hosts small to large exhibits from all museums and institutions across Canada, and Celebration '90 Gay Games III is its first LGBTQ+ focused exhibit.

It came about when footage of the Gay Games III, shot by born and bred Vancouverite, Mary Anne McEwan, was donated upon her passing to Vivo Media Arts Center. McEwan, who ran Forward Focus Productions Ltd with her partner Cherene Shea, had a talent for using her camera to seize a moment in time that showcased a movement.

McEwan donated 143 tapes of material of Celebration '90 which was digitized under the direction of Archive Manager, Karen Knights.

"Mary Anne was hired to film the opening and closing ceremonies of the Games and she agreed to do it if she could also shoot at all venues to make a documentary," Knights said. "She was interested in a behind-the-scenes look at the group of people - volunteers, staff, board members - who worked to, successfully, bid for the Games, bring it to Vancouver and bring it to life. She wanted to know what motivated them to do so." Although McEwan, who interviewed Gay Games founder Dr Tom Waddell in 1984, was unable to secure funding to make such a documentary, her astuteness of seeing a motivational story and a movement through a seminal event was not wrong. Celebration '90 was the first time that World's Master Records allowed times to be recorded at the Games and to be recognized against world records. At that Games, Michael Mealiffe set world records in swimming in both the Men's 100 meters butterfly and 50 meters butterfly in the 50-54 age category.

"This exhibit is important because it gives insight into the thinking of everyone in 1990 in Vancouver. Aids was at its peak, Act Up had just started, we had a conservative government opposed to this event, Evangelicals were protesting it... so many obstacles were in the way of making this event happen," says Knights. "Yet, it did happen and this is a good story about how LGBTQ+ communities came together and, despite disagreements, worked together to make a meaningful event - and a strong statement - that changed the city forever by making it more inclusive and open to diversity. It really shows how the Gay Games united many different communities and left an impact."

When looking at this exhibit you're looking at a pivotal moment in time that enabled a city and its multiple communities to enjoy positive and lasting change.

Vivo Media Arts Center, an artist run center that has been around since 1973, works as an exhibitor and distributor of a variety of work. As well as media they have print material too. You can donate [here](#). The Center has an archive site with a plethora of LGBTQ footage including the unedited material of Celebration '90 Gay Games III. So if you participated in Gay Games III and are looking for some footage of your event, you might just find it [here](#). Alternatively you can contact the archivists via the site for help.

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FGG Ambassador Profiles

We have refreshed our Ambassador Program! Going forward we will have a host of new faces whose passion and dedication to supporting our communities through FGG's work.

In this month's newsletter, we are excited and honored to introduce you to two new FGG Ambassadors: Shelley Holroyd, a former Olympic Javelin thrower, and Raif Derrazi a pro natural competitive physique bodybuilder,.

Meet Shelley Holroyd



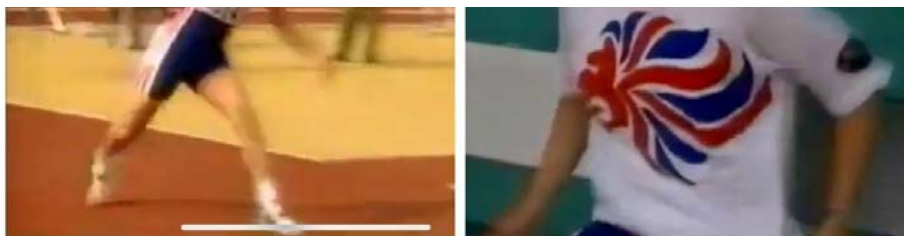
What's your sporting story?

I'm Shelley from Salford, England. I started athletics at school and moved to a club called Salford Met when I was 11. I started off as a sprinter and competed in the 100m & 200m for a couple of years. It was only when I was caught throwing stones over some conifer trees, trying to beat the boys of course, that I was introduced to Javelin. Unfortunately for me there happened to be glass greenhouses on the other side of the conifers! I was given a Javelin and told to try it. A year later I won the 1986 English Schools competition with a throw of 37m58. 10 years after winning the English Schools I was selected to compete at the Olympic Games in Atlanta. I had competed in every major championship by the time I was 23.



Shelley at 13 after winning English Schools





At 23 at the Olympics

I've competed in 1 Olympic Games, 2 World Championships, 1 European Championships and 3 Commonwealth Games. For the GB Junior team, I competed in 1 World Juniors and 2 European Juniors. My first Senior GB vest was when I was 16.

What does sport give you that nothing else does?

Peace. When I was competing, it was my way to escape the rest of the world.

What negative experiences did you have and how did you deal with them?

At the 1998 Commonwealth Games there was an occasion where 3 athletes from the England Team refused to get in lift because I was in it. I used the experience and channelled my anger in to competing. From then on it helped me to channel my energy in keeping my life and my personality full of positivity.

As an athlete, who had many sponsors, I was also advised to keep my private life quiet. Like I was being put into a closet that I'd never been in in the first place. It was a big eye opener for me. The implications my lifestyle would have on my sport wasn't something I had ever thought about but being told that sponsors would probably shy away from me I took the advice and kept my private and athletics lives separate.

What advice would you give to any LGBTQ+ athletes either professional or not?

Enjoy yourselves! We have one life so live it! Be proud! Don't be a what if person. Regret is a horrible place to put yourself in and all it will do is torment you. Take that chance and if it goes wrong at least you will know!

Why do you want to be a Gay Games Ambassador?

I have an abundance of experience as an athlete and to share that experience with others is important and also why I chose to work in Athletics. I have taken so much from the sport that I love, and I simply want to give something back. It doesn't matter what level the athletes are, what matters is that they are participating and doing something they clearly love.

What else do you want us to know about you?

I'm getting married in March 2021 to the most amazing person. We have 2 dogs, Jake & Puggy Bear, 6 cats, Barney, Red, Mitten, Minx, Dotty & Mia and two fish. I love the outdoors, the beach, Movies, music, travelling etc all the usual stuff.

I'm a level 3 Performance coach, Massage Therapist and Personal Trainer.

I retired from competing in 2006 after a training accident in Melbourne. I went over on my ankle and bent my Tibia. I had to have a High Tibial Osteotomy in 2009 which left me with Chronic Pain Syndrome in both legs. I'm also a Sepsis survivor from 2019 too. As you can probably tell I'm a survivor!!!

Meet Raif Derrazi***What's your sporting story?***

I'm Raif Derrazi from Los Angeles. In 2012, at the age of 27, I was diagnosed with HIV. Today I am a pro natural competitive physique bodybuilder, HIV advocate and influencer, creating content to de-stigmatize, educate and uplift.

What does sport give you that nothing else does?

It gave me my life back and a purpose. My greatest fear came to life when I was diagnosed with AIDS. But looking back I now consider that stomach-dropping AIDS diagnosis a blessing. It forced me to get out of my 'victim mindset' and made me

determined to change and regain control of my life. Seven years later, I'm now a competitive athlete and I love it!

What negative experiences did you have and how did you deal with them?

There are lots of answers to this question. Starting early in childhood, I became very accustomed to dealing with large amounts of trauma. My father would beat my mother and then get hauled off to jail; I was taken from my family in the Netherlands and transplanted to California, with my mother, living in hiding and using a fake name (Timmy Zimmer); I watched the man who would become my step-father spiral into depression and drinking. I've been cheated on by my partner, fractured my fibula which put me out of commission for 6 months, I've lived on food stamps, the AIDS diagnosis, obviously...Lots more too! At first, I very quickly embraced victimhood in order to survive. I was the weak, unfortunate, down-trodden kid who was always pitied. It worked really well and, frankly, provided lots of opportunities where there otherwise would have been none. But in reality, when I got the news about AIDS, the true diagnosis was that my spirit was starving, mistreated and under-valued. I confronted that and moved through it. I've also had musical theater training and in a way that has helped me deal with a lot of experiences.

What advice would you give to any LGBTQ+ athletes either professional or not?

To truly be yourself and if you don't see a role model, become one! When I started competing, I found role models for the HIV community - particularly athletes - were hard to come by so I decided to start talking about my HIV status on social media in hopes of providing guidance and inspiration to others. Through YouTube and Instagram, I share my life and journey living with HIV and embracing a fitness lifestyle. What was originally my worst fear has now become my biggest blessing in disguise. I'm happier and healthier than ever with a new found purpose and passion for helping others.

Why do you want to be a Gay Games Ambassador?

Until recently I wasn't aware that FGG existed! That should be illegal! Everyone should know FGG and the amazing impact it has on the LGBTQ+ community worldwide. I'll do everything I can to bring visibility to an event that celebrates diversity, inclusion and inspirational figures while encouraging us all to claim our health and power.

What else do you want us to know about you?

I'm the type of person who makes lemonade out of the lemons and enjoys drinking it...or, if nothing else, a shot of finely-aged bourbon. I have recently partnered with AHF (AIDS Healthcare Foundation) to take content creation to the next level. I live with passion and hope to inspire and motivate others to do the same.





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Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 Update



GAY GAMES 11

HONG KONG 2022

UNITY IN DIVERSITY
在多元中團結



Gay Games 11 Hong Kong 2022 will take place 11th-19th November 2022. This will be the first time a Gay Games has taken place in Asia, and it will feature 36 sports, 14 cultural events and a rich calendar of cultural events for 12,000 participants and 75,000 spectators. Registration will open in Q1/Q2 of 2021. For more information go [here](#).

Important dates for your diary:

- Pre-registration opening March 2011

- Registration opening June 2021
- GGHK 11-19th November 2022

Become a GGHK Champion! Apply [here](#).



Join GGHK's Webinar on 28th January: Update and plans for 2021

The first of our monthly webinars of 2021 will take place on Thursday 28th of January at 7pm Hong Kong time (6am Friday New York time / 11am Friday London time).

The GGHK team will give an update on the GGHK program and details on the plans for 2021 including registration, sponsorship and contingency. This webinar is in English and a recording will be uploaded on [GGHK's YouTube channel](#).

Please [register](#) yourself to join the online Zoom webinar.

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Get involved now and become a Champion of GGHK

We are looking for Champions (volunteer role) to promote GGHK within your LGBTQ+/sports communities, city, country or region. Read more [here](#) about this role and how you can apply.

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Meet [Natalie Truong](#) - Strategic Marketing Director of GGHK





"I've been aware of the Gay Games for a while, having known people who have participated or attended over the games over the years. I learnt more about the games through meeting Greg Morley and Dennis Philipse and once Dennis shared with me the story of the [Lotus Sports Club](#) [the Queer football team from Cambodia], I just wanted to be part of GGHK2022.

My partner and I moved to Hong Kong in June 2020 and have fallen in love with this vibrant city. Now that Hong Kong is my home and with the Gay Games 2022 being hosted right here in Hong Kong - a first for Asia! - I didn't want to miss the opportunity to be part of what will be one of the greatest arts, cultural and sporting events Asia has ever hosted. To be even a small part of the Gay Games Hong Kong 2022 legacy would be an honour, and an awesome responsibility.

We are spending our days exploring the city. We love to hike, run and play tennis and badminton. Hong Kong is ideal for us because there is a real sporting culture here; it's not unusual to find soccer fields, basketball, tennis and badminton courts all full of people on a Friday and Saturday night. This is helpful, given we are also both foodies, so having lots of access to sporting facilities means we can eat more of the food! And there is always something happening here; it's a melting pot of people and cultures, it has the perfect mix of urban and natural landscapes and the food options are endless and really, really good!"

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Get to know Hong Kong



Did you know...

1. **75% of Hong Kong is country parks and nature reserves.** Although Hong Kong is known for its urban jungle with 4,000 skyscrapers, out of the total 1,108 square kilometres of land, 75% of Hong Kong is countryside with 250 islands, sandy beaches, woodlands, stunning mountains with heights of almost 1,000 metres covered by open grassland and a variety of scenic vistas rarely, if ever, matched in so small a territorial unit. There are 24 country parks to explore which are great for hiking, camping and trail running. GGHK will bring you a new sport for those who want to explore this great outdoors: Trail running with multiple races and distances. More information will follow on our website from March.

2. **Multiple languages are spoken in Hong Kong.** For those of you who will be visiting Hong Kong for the first time, don't worry about the language. Chinese (Cantonese and Putonghua) and English are the official languages of Hong Kong, and English is widely spoken.
3. **Homosexuality is legal in Hong Kong.** While homosexuality is legal, there is no marriage equality and discrimination against homosexuals is not illegal. The Hong Kong Government holds a relatively neutral attitude towards LGBTQ+ affairs. Larger scale events such as HK Pride, HK Lesbian & Gay Film Festival and Pink Dot are organized annually in a festive way, without significant problems or objections. Hong Kong has a small, lively and welcoming gay community as well as an active nightlife with several bars and clubs. Hong Kong is generally not a violent society, and anti-gay violence is uncommon. Beyond a greeting kiss or hug (gay or straight alike) and in line with Asian culture, public displays of affection are less common. However, hand-holding between gay couples is becoming more common.

Next time we will tell you all about the beaches, food and transport in Hong Kong!

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Hello from GGHK's Customer Service Experience team

Our Customer Service Experience team is positioned globally from Mexico to London, Lisbon, Singapore and Hong Kong. We are a team of dedicated volunteers who take care of the questions you submit to hello@gghk2022.com.

The team is excited to support you to make your GGHK event an unforgettable experience, please keep your questions coming, we look forward to hearing from you.

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Site Selection

Apply to be a Site Selection Inspector for Gay Games XII, 2026

There is still time to apply to be a FGG Site Inspector for the 2026 Gay Games XII!

Applications are due January 31, 2021. We are looking for diverse individuals who believe they have what it takes to perform this challenging but fulfilling role. If that's you, please complete the application form [here](#)!

Key responsibilities of site inspectors include traveling with the site inspection team to the 3 finalist cities to review the venues in June/July 2021 (ultimately depending on the status of COVID-19), infrastructure and all other aspects of the bid organization, having a complete understanding of FGG history, processes and quality standards, attending meetings, understanding complexities of sports and cultural events, and assisting with the final report once inspections are complete. Applications are being accepted for three (3) site inspectors and one (1) social media representative.

If you require any additional information please contact David Killian, Officer of Site Selection, at David.Killian@GayGames.net. Inspector interviews will take place March 2021, and the final selections will be made April 2021.

The eight (8) cities continuing the bid process for 2026 Gay Games XII are Auckland (NZ)

The Federation of Gay Games Mail - Participate! The Official Newsletter of the FGG. January 2021 Edition
The eight (8) cities continuing the bid process for 2028 Gay Games XII are Auckland (NZ),
Brisbane (AU), Guadalajara (MX), Munich (GER), San Diego (USA), Taipei (TW), Toronto
(CAN), Valencia (SP).

The 8 bidding cities will provide presentations January 1, 2021 and will be discussed at
the upcoming Annual General Assembly, 23-24 January 2021, in London, UK. Due to
Covid-19 restrictions this AGA will be attended remotely. Register for the AGA [here](#). The
FGG General Assembly will select the 3 finalists on January 31, 2021. Final Bid Books are
due 30 April 2021. The vote for the host of Gay Games XII from three finalist candidate
cities will take place in November 2021 at the FGG Annual General Assembly meeting in
Hong Kong.

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Share your stories of Participation, Inclusion and Personal Best™ with the hashtag #gaygames

Since the first Gay Games in 1982, the Federation of Gay Games mission promotes equality in and through sport and culture
and ensures that the Gay Games, the world's largest sports and culture festival open to all, take place every four years under
the founding principles of *Participation, Inclusion, and Personal Best™*.

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