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**MINUTES OF THE IBF COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE AERZTEKAMMER SALZBURG, AUSTRIA ON SATURDAY MAY 14TH 2016 AT 13.30**

**PRESENT**

**AUSTRIA**

Hans-Peter Edlhaimb

**BELGIUM**

Jean Flechet

Christian Linclau

Michele Paree

**FINLAND**

Martina Torppa

**FRANCE**

Jean-Daniel Gradeler

Isabelle Martinot Nouet

**GERMANY**

Guenther Bergmann

Friederike Ludwig-Eckelmann

Heide Otten

Doris Salmen

**ISRAEL**

Mark Budow

**ITALY**

Anna Della Casa

Federica Menaldo

Tiziana Pistol

**POLAND**

Bohdan Wasilewski

**PORTUGAL**

Jorge Brandao

Antonia Lavinha

**SERBIA**

Rosa Sapic

**SWEDEN**

Henry Jablonski

Pia Soderberg

**SWITZERLAND**

Kathrin Bichsel

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Andrew Elder

Paul Sackin

Davis Watt

**UNITED STATES**

Don Nease

1. **Welcome** Don welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. **Apologies** Russia (St Petersburg)
3. **Minutes of the GA meeting in Metz 8th September 2015** David Watt proposed and Heide Otten seconded that these were a true record. All agreed.
4. **Matters of information not otherwise on the agenda** None
5. **Accounts 2015** Mark presented the summary accounts for 2015. The surplus of 2285 Euros was slightly more than budget. Summary is not exact because of varying exchange rates, Swedish Krone has done well this year. The fiscal report for the Swedish authorities gives a full and accurate account. The other reason for profit is Metz. All societies paid their subscriptions this year, many after several reminders. Good we have had funds to spend on useful projects.
6. **Auditors’ report.** Pia presented this on behalf of the auditors, Janet Walker and Pia Soderberg. ‘In our function as revisers appointed by the IBF to check the accountancy of the Federation managed by the Treasurer and the Board as a whole, we give the following report: We have checked the financial records and verifications of the Federation. We found everything in good order and well conscientiously managed. We approve of the management and recommend the Council to approve the accounts for the period January 1st to December 31st in year 2015 and approve of the economic management of IBF affairs by the Board by granting Board members discharge of responsibility for this period’. Council unanimously adopted the auditors’ report and thanked Pia and Janet for all their hard work.
7. **Budget 2016** Mark presented the 2016 budget, showing a predicted loss of 1550 Euros. There is likely to be a loss in future years because of increased travel expenses. In view of our assets we are comfortable with a loss of about 3000 euro per year so that we can continue with useful projects.
8. **Reports from National Societies** These were received. Michele then introduced her analysis of them. In Germany Balint membership is needed for leadership training and 60% keep it up after qualification, hence the large number of members. Website helps people find groups, also membership list on website, trainees in psychosomatic medicine become members. Now 500 plus leaders. In France try and avoid the word Balint! Martina is keen that we continue with summary reports to include additions to the literature so as to provide evidence to others re Balint work and practical ideas. Suggestion for societies to give the IBF their plans for the year in advance. Don reminded us of the Balint Group Literature on Mendeley. Paul will organise a link on the IBF website. The Board will work on a new template for Reports
9. **Communication with national societies** Members were reminded that anyone with items to distribute to IBF members should send them to Paul, rather than use old mailing lists. Societies should make sure that mailings from Paul to the IBF membership list get distributed to individual members of national societies.
10. **Task force report** Andrew gave this. Leadership network being established as Google group mainly by Tove and with help from Albert. The plan is that it will provide a forum to share practical ideas. Warsaw Conference now has 53 registered (maximum 56), 16 countries, Boguslaw Stelcer is the Polish organiser and he has joined the task force. Guenther, Esti and Albert are on the staff team in addition to Task Force members. The Task Force has submitted guidelines on leadership training and accreditation (to go on the IBF website). Andrew is stepping down after Warsaw - a replacement will be needed. Task Force members (Christian and Andrew) helped to organise groups before and during the Metz congress – very successful. Bohdan added that he is happy to welcome accompanying persons to Warsaw and pre and post conference tours are possible. Possibility of French group at future conferences as perceived language difficulties can put people off attending.
11. **Council meeting first half of 2017** This will be in Belgrade, Serbia, probably on 12-14 May 2017. Rosa Sapic gave an excellent presentation on the proposed conference and on Belgrade. It was agreed that Balint groups at Council meetings would be in English with one or more in the language of the host country. **NB The date is now confirmed as 19-21 May 2017 at the Hotel Palace, Belgrade**
12. **International Congress Oxford, UK, September 2017** David Watt spoke to this. The theme is diversity. It will be on 6-10 September at Keble College. The cost will be about £650 inclusive of all meals and accommodation with a reduced rate for delegates from poorer countries. A day for students on the Saturday is being considered and there was discussion on students attending the whole conference. Various ideas such as workshops and themed Balint groups are being worked on. The German speaking members present felt that there was no need for groups in German at the Congress but it was felt that French speaking groups would be useful and may attract delegates from various countries
13. **International Congress 2019** The Portuguese Society has offered Oporto. Further offers will be invited and a decision made in Warsaw.
14. **Website** Don demonstrated the proposed new website. The domain has now been transferred to Denver and the newly designed site should be up and running before long. It is proposed to include a calendar of national society events.
15. **WONCA** Jorge, Don and Luis are awaiting the outcome of their submissions to WONCA Rio later this year. They will not require funding from the IBF.
16. **Ascona** The Board has supported the book of student essays 2015. Any future requests for support for a book will be considered by the Board in the light of the current budget. In answer to the questions raised last time, the Ascona foundation is not well off mainly due to low interest rates. The Foundation is investigating an ebook. Winning essays will be on the IBF and Foundation websites**.**
17. **Future projects including development of the 2.0 group** Don reported that there is a survey of the 2.0 group after each session. It will be presented in July. Might be the possibility of other similar groups. Agreed important that WONCA promulgates ordinary Balint groups as well. May need to charge for hosting video conferencing. We wondered if video conferencing could be used also for leader supervision.
18. **Leadership accreditation between IBF member countries** It was felt to be important that leaders working in other countries integrate with the national society. The Task force gives general guidance on leadership accreditation but maybe national societies decide their own, so leaders moving country would need to apply in the new country
19. **Next Council meeting** Warsaw 18th September 2016