

INTERNATIONAL BALINT FEDERATION

www.balintinternational.com

B	President: Dr Henry Jablonski (Sweden) Vice Presidents: Dr Kristiina Toivola (Finland) Dr Donald Nease (United States) General Secretary: Dr Paul Sackin (UK) Email: paulsackin@waitrose.com	
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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY MAY 4TH 2013 AT 09.00 AT SOEDERSJUKHUSET, STOCKHOLM

PRESENT

Belgium

Jean Flechet
Christian Linclau
Michele Parea

Denmark

Tove Mathieson

Finland

Irmeli Laurila
Martina Torppa

Germany

Guenther Bergmann
Heide Otten

Israel

Mark Budow

Andre Matalon

Netherlands

Marieke van Schie

Sweden

Anders Birr

Juanita Forsell

Anita Haeggmark

Henry Jablonski

Elsa-Lena Ryding

United Kingdom

Andrew Elder

Paul Sackin

John Salinsky

David Watt

United States

Don Nease

- **Welcome** Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting
- **Apologies** These were received from Australia & New Zealand, France, Hungary and Poland
- **Minutes of the previous Council meeting** These were accepted as a true record. Warm thanks were given to the Belgian Society for a highly successful leadership conference in Charleroi
- **Matters arising** Heide Otten and Guenther Bergmann wished to talk about the Ascona prize under 'any other business'. Paul confirmed that China were now IBF members. He apologised for the delay in notifying them.
- **Report from the Board** This will mainly be dealt with elsewhere but just to report here that we sent best wishes to Romania and Hungary for their conferences taking place later this month. We were delighted to hear that Nina Guy is going to the Romanian conference. We also sent congratulations to Poland for all their activities
- **Treasurer's Report** This was presented by Henry as interim treasurer. He

explained that Michel had closed all Belgian accounts and the Association du fait. All the money was transferred to Swedish accounts. The IBF is now an international non-profit organisation registered in Sweden. The accounts were transferred to Sweden in May and September 2012. Hence it was not possible to present a complete account for the full fiscal year of 2012. The one presented was from June 2012 to April 22nd 2013. The new Board will decide the on best accounts for investments. The budget for 2013 was presented and accepted (attached). Henry explained that the Board had agreed to offer reduced rates on a diminishing scale for Hungary for two years but not for Poland or Romania. Only half of Poland's fees and Croatia's fee are outstanding. All other countries have paid. Paul will try and contact the Croatian Society to see if they can or need to pay. China was not asked to pay because of the delay in notifying them of membership. Heide proposed that the accounts should be approved and this was carried unanimously. The revisors, Tove Mathiesen and Juanita Forsell, presented the following: *“In our function as revisors 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 IBF accounts at the Nordea Bank and the Avanza Bank, and checked the financial accounts of the Federation. We found everything in good order and well managed. We approve of the management and recommend the Council meeting to approve the accounts for the period May 1st 2012 to April 22nd 2013. (The discharge resolution at the spring Council meeting in 2014 will comprise the full calendar year of 2013)”*.

- **Board elections** The Council confirmed the results of the elections for the new Board to take office for a two-year term from The Heidelberg International Balint Congress September 7, 2013:

President: Don Nease (new), USA, General Secretary: Paul Sackin, UK (re-elected), Treasurer: Mark Budow, Israel (new) (these three nominations and elections were unopposed), Vice Presidents: Kristiina Toivola (re-elected) and Marieke van Schie (new)

Revisors: Juanita Forsell, Sweden (re-elected), Henry Jablonski, Sweden (new) (these two nominations and elections were unopposed)

The Council confirmed the Board decision that the signatories of the IBF are either the entire Board OR two of its members in union

Henry Jablonski (interim Treasurer) was given the mandate to submit documents and information about the composition of the new Board so that the Treasurer elect would be authorized by the Nordea Bank in good time before September 2013.

The Council congratulated the new Board and thanked Michèle Parée for standing for Vice President.

17 member societies had cast their votes. It was agreed for future elections to consider for formal reasons, to appoint two independent and trusted persons to receive the voting papers rather than the General Secretary. However, since Paul

was standing un-opposed for re-election the present election procedure was not considered problematic as all votes could be checked and accounted for.

- **Reports from National Societies** These were received and Paul said that some late ones would be included on the website. It was suggested that there should be a structure for annual reports to include the officers, number of members, conferences held etc.
- **Report of the Leadership Task Force** The Council thanked the Task Force for the successful Charleroi conference. Andrew reported that there were 56 participants; the subject was role of theory. Michel was no longer part of task force but Tove is and Michèle remains on for another year. Don stands down now. The Task Force had met yesterday to review Charleroi and think about the future. There will also be a presentation in Heidelberg on the work of the task force. A rolling document will describe the conferences and work of the task force. The next formal meeting will be with the spring Council meeting. Thanks from Andrew to fellow members. It may be sensible to consider a Board member to fill the vacancy on the task force. Thanks from Henry on behalf of the Board for the excellent work of the task force
- **WONCA** Don submitted a workshop proposal for WONCA Prague and this was accepted. Mark has also had a workshop accepted on burnout and Balint. Andrew will also be there, supported by IBF (Mark and Don are supported by their own organisations). Hopefully Clare Gerada (UK Royal College of GPs Chair) will also be involved. The Board will continue dialogue with Portuguese Society re Lisbon WONCA 2014.
- **Translation Board** Helene Oppenheim is working with Routledge and the Board has agreed to give extra support of 1700 Euros after the translation of her book on Balint's writings has been published. We are waiting for the second chapter of Bohdan's book to be submitted so that we can consider his proposal. Heide's book is translated into English by Kai Neumann but no request for support has been received. Heide will submit a request straight away.
- **Website** a) Paul pointed out that the deadline for submissions is 15th June. He agreed to circulate the password and user name again and also the deadline for website updates. The webmaster is happy to do minor updates at any time. b) Don is looking for colleagues to review his reference list before the link is put on the website. Andre said that Stanley Rabin is interested, as are David Watt and Christian Linclau. c) It was agreed that the website was looking rather 'tired'. The new Board would consider its purpose.
- **International Balint Phototheque** We had a discussion as to whether there are films in existence and what the ethics are. We will ask Marie-Anne and Jean Pierre about their activities. Is it possible to show the essence of Balint groups on film?
- **Heidelberg Congress** Guenther reported that few have registered so far but some have already booked hotels. 21 papers were submitted and, after two evaluations, nine papers were recommended for oral presentation but, after a further round, three more were accepted. It was agreed that these could be presented in parallel sessions. The others will be presented as posters. There were to be three invited

speakers. Guenther proposes session on Wednesday starting with a talk from Andrew about the leadership task force followed by open discussion for 90 minutes session in total. Andrew proposes resending his questionnaire to national societies re leadership and presenting that. This was agreed. There will be a psychodrama group in English as well. There may be German speaking small groups but it was felt better to try and offer support for those with limited English rather than having different language groups. David suggests we contact the French group to see if this is OK with them. Also to explain the nature of the congress and desire to interact. Proceedings have an ISBN number. As the Ascona entries were so good, 12 submissions will be included as a second part of the Proceedings. There are reduced fees for students but some are asking for even less, as are some national societies. It was suggested that sponsors, e.g. national Societies, should be sought for students who have written papers and want to attend. A post-congress visit is being planned. It needs to be made clear that accompanying people can come to the Congress and take part in social activities/ meals etc. Guenther will decide whether accompanying people can register now or whether delegates should be asked later if they are bringing accompanying persons.

- **Council meeting first half of 2014** Offers were invited for this
- **Leadership Conference in second half of 2014** Offers had been received from Austria and from Israel. It was felt that the proposal from Austria was more appropriate for a short conference and it was proposed that this should be with the Council meeting in the first half of 2015 (Austria cannot accommodate us in the first half of 2014). The 2014 leadership conference will therefore be in Israel, probably by the Sea of Galilee on 11th -13th September. This was agreed unanimously.
- **Any other business** a) Ascona Prize. There were 26 entries. The winner is from New Zealand, the second prize from Brazil, third prize from England though he will be in Botswana in September. They are all invited but the travel costs will be substantial. At the moment the winners are entitled to a maximum of 350 euros from IBF and the same from the Ascona Foundation. Heide proposed that each party raises it to 550 euros and students get the rest of their fares from their prize money. Agreed that IBF will give 550 euros provided that Ascona does as well and that students stay for the whole congress. b) Mark informed us that Benjamin Maoz has translated 'The Doctor, his Patient and the Illness' into Hebrew and including a commentary. The Council wished to offer its congratulations for this achievement.
- **Next meeting** The General Assembly will meet on September 10th 2013 at Heidelberg
- Henry ended the meeting by thanking everyone for a lively and constructive Council meeting. As he is ending his third term as President he wished also to thank previous and present Board and Council members for six inspiring and formative years. He wished the future Board the best of luck and was convinced that they would form a good team.