



The  
International  
Balint  
Federation

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(Portugal)

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**MINUTES OF THE IBF COUNCIL HELD AT CIS DE CHAMPAGNE, REIMS, FRANCE ON  
SATURDAY MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2018 AT 13.30**

**PRESENT**

**BELGIUM**

Jean Flechet  
Christiane Linclau  
Michele Parea

**FRANCE**

Jean-Daniel Gradeler  
Isabelle Martinot Nouet

**GERMANY**

Guido Flatten

**HUNGARY**

Katalin Dobo

**ISRAEL**

Mark Budow  
Shai Krontal

**LUXEMBOURG**

Monique Aubart  
Kevin Prohaska

**POLAND**

Joanna Pazik  
Anna Rudecka

**PORTUGAL**

Jorge Brandao

**RUSSIA**

Anzhela Avagimyan

**SERBIA**

Rosa Sopic

**UNITED KINGDOM**

Andrew Elder  
Penny Elder  
Caroline Palmer  
Esti Rimmer  
Paul Sackin  
David Watt

**UNITED STATES**

Albert Lichtenstein  
Don Nease

1. **Welcome** Don welcomed everyone to the meeting. We marked the sad passing of Roger van Laethem. Michele Paree told us that he first contributed to the IBF in 1972; he was both secretary and treasurer for long periods. He marked everyone he met. Many colleagues had paid tributes to him. Roger had a great unifying skill and was able to keep the IBF alive through some difficult years. Jorge Brandao described Roger's great help in founding the Portuguese Society.
2. **Apologies** AIPB
3. **Minutes of the General Assembly, Oxford, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017.** David Watt proposed and Albert Lichtenstein seconded that the Minutes were an accurate record. All agreed.
4. **Matters of information not elsewhere on the agenda** a) *GDPR/website.* Don Nease informed us that there had been a good response to our request for confirmation of members to stay on the subscription list. Also all traffic with the website is now on a secure link. b) *Brazil* - Jorge Brandao informed us that Michael Balint led a conference in Rio in 1968/9. There had been interest in Balint work and some activity since. Alice Polomeni and Jorge ran leadership workshops in Brazil this year and last. The Brazilians had agreed plans to form a society. We hope to welcome them in Porto. c) *Prior Ascona winners' survey.* Michele Paree and Mark Budow have prepared a short questionnaire to send to Ascona prize winners to see how the award has influenced them. d) *Moving the IBF's registration and banking* The Board proposes to investigate moving registration from Sweden to a Eurozone country. If a national society offers their country and assistance that would be good. The move would reduce banking fees and make communication easier.
5. **Treasurer's report** Mark Budow first showed us the full fiscal report for 2017, illustrating the complications of multiple banks and accounts. The simpler version in Euros showed a surplus of 1222 Euros but this was reduced by the fall in value of the Krone. There were some complications of different currencies in Societies paying fees. We remain happy to spend up to 3000 Euros per year in promoting Balint work.
6. **Auditors' report** Jean-Daniel Gradeler read the report: '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 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> in Year 2017 and approve of the economic management of IBF affairs by the Board by granting the Board members discharge of responsibility for this period. Signed on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 in Colbert and Metz by Janet Walker and Jean-Daniel Gradeler.' Mark Budow proposed grateful thanks on behalf of all of us to Janet Walker and Jean-Daniel Gradeler for all their hard work as auditors.
7. **Budget 2018** Mark presented this. It suggests a loss of about 3000 euros, as intended. Thanks from Don Nease on behalf of all to Mark. Caroline Palmer proposed approval of budget, Esti Rimmer seconded, all agreed.
8. **Reports from National Societies** Michele presented a summary of the 16 reports received. Jean-Daniel Gradeler apologised for lack of a report from France. France is now a stable Society and keen to promote Balint for caring professionals. Guido Flatten apologised for the lack of a report from Germany. Their Society has about 850 members, about 200+ active leaders and

500 accredited leaders. Five research papers have been published, in the course of large survey of group interventions. Controls from other countries are welcome. The Aachen conference is happening in two weeks; it includes 17 Russians and David Watt offering an English group. Don Nease suggested that it would be good if international work done by societies could be shared in some way with the IBF. We need to avoid clashes with the IBF and key national meetings, and work together.

9. **Reims conference** The Council proposed thanks to Jean-Daniel Gradeler and his colleagues for an excellent conference.
10. **Proposal of Moldova to join the IBF** The Board proposes acceptance. David Watt proposed agreement and Jean-Daniel Gradeler seconded. All agreed
11. **Proposal of Moscow to join the IBF** The Board proposes acceptance. Anzhela Avagimyan explained that the Society was created July 2017 and has 221 members. Anzhela described its activities. She explained that 43 states need to have Societies if they are to be called Russian. The Board offers discussion with Anzhela and Vladimir Vinokur, President of the St Petersburg Society, in Helsinki, to try and reconcile differences. Caroline Palmer proposed agreement and Guido Flatten seconded. All agreed
12. **Proposal of Armenia to join the IBF** The Board proposes acceptance. Guido Flatten proposed agreement and David Watt seconded. All agreed.
13. **Helsinki leadership conference** Esti Rimmer, on behalf of the Task Force, informed us that the Task Force had a productive meeting in Finland in January including a day with the Finnish society. The venue for the conference is like a retreat some way out of the city centre, though transport links are good. The conference is fully residential and the theme is boundaries and bridges in Balint leadership. The aim is to promote wellbeing, reflection etc. as well as group work. The Task Force is having a videoconference on 3rd June to finalise numbers etc. Three bursaries are available but only one applicant so far. The Board would like offers to host the 2020 conference by September 2018.
14. **Council meeting first half of 2018** The Hungarian Society offered to host this in Budapest. Kati Dobo said that they were keen to involve Hungarian doctors so they are looking at an alternative venue to the hotel originally proposed that is quite pricey. May 24-26 are the provisional dates. The UK Society has a day celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society on 17 May. The Aachen conference is also fixed for 24/26 May but can probably change. Kati will liaise with all concerned to finalise the dates and venue.
15. **International Congress in Porto September 2019** Jorge Brandao reported that full details are on the Congress website which can be accessed through the IBF website.
16. **International Congress 2021** We need expressions of interest to host this by the September 2018 Council meeting in Helsinki.
17. **Internet Group** A working group of Don Nease, Albert Lichtenstein, Luis de Pinho-Costa and Kyle Hoedebecke is organising the next group. The group has 11 members and leaders are being finalised. A proposal for an Internet leaders' group has come from Shameel Khan of Pakistan in conjunction with the UK Society. The Board will discuss this. Guido Flatten reported that he has been running such a group for Russian colleagues for some time.
18. **Board elections 2019** All Board positions are up for election in 2019. Some Board members may stand again but Don Nease will have reached the end of his maximum 6-year term as President. Nominations will be sought early in 2019 and voting will take place in time for the



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results to be declared at the Budapest Council meeting. Expressions of interest are invited.  
Please discuss them with any Board member.

19. **Next Council meeting** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in Helsinki.