

/ASIBA
Association des Sections Internationales Britanniques et Anglophones
Association régie par le Loi du 1^{er} juillet 1901
Siège social : 36 rue du Président Wilson, 78230 Le Pecq sur Seine

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Lycée International de SEVRES

Monday MAY 26th 2003

Active members (voting)

Represented by :

Peter Woodburn (Ferney-Voltaire)
Association ALA-ELP

Peter Woodburn

Glenys Kennedy (Fontainebleau)
APEL Section Anglophone
Collège International Fontainebleau

Glenys Kennedy

Ivan Karaivanov (EAB Etoile)

Philip Shaw-Latimer (St Germain)
APEL Section Britannique Lycée d'Etat
International à St Germain

Magdalena Martin

Patrick Salmon (Sèvres)
Sections Internationales de Sèvres

Philippe Krafft

Donna Philip (Lyon)
APPEL Section Anglophone Cité Scolaire
Internationale de Lyon

Donna Philip

Absent excused :

David Gage (Honorary member non-voting)
Perri Piens , Parents' Association Honoré de BALZAC (Participating member non-voting)
Neil Joyce, Parents' Association REIMS (non member)

The President opened the meeting at 10.30 am.

In the name of the Association, he thanked **Mme ZANARET**, Proviseur, for her generosity in hosting the ASIBA General Assembly at the Lycée de Sèvres and for providing lunch to its members.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

2. PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT's REPORT

The President addressed the meeting:

- a) ASIBA's preoccupation has evolved into that of channelling funds to improve the quality of the OIB examination.

The meeting recalled the successful TEACHER TRAINING DAY which had been held in Sèvres for teacher/examiners new to the Language/Literature course. ASIBA had funded the participation by the Cambridge Inspector/Trainer and had offered financial assistance to any State Sector schools which might have been unable to find the necessary funding to send their teachers to participate in this very useful training session. In fact, this offer proved to be unnecessary for the majority of participating schools.

The meeting expressed its hope that in the 2003/2003 academic year, training sessions would be organised for both Language/Literature and History/Geography teacher/examiners.

The Vice-President later picked up this point, explaining that, in a simulation made at St Germain in order to have a clearer idea of the costs which would be incurred in the organisation of two Training Sessions, the conclusion had been reached that the sum of 5000 € would be required to cover the TOTAL costs of both the Inspector/Trainer and ALL participating teachers. By funding the totality of these costs, ASIBA would ensure complete fairness for all participating schools.

It was agreed that the annual meetings of Language/Literature and History/Geography teachers would be maintained, in addition to these two Training Sessions.

The President recalled that ASIBA had agreed that the Association should not be involved in direct funding of the OIB examination itself, but raised the following question:

Should the Association invest in improving the quality of the exam by continuing to support teacher training?

Should ASIBA seek to enhance the exam by channelling money to extend the stay of the Cambridge Inspectors?

Should the objective be a combination of both these actions?

The meeting agreed that it will be essential to undertake a careful review of the operations for the 2003 examination session in order to draw conclusions for actions necessary in subsequent years.

b) Communications

- The President outlined progress made on the ASIBA NEWSLETTER, an essential tool in helping to promote the Association and its objectives. This will soon be sent electronically to the Schools, who will then print it out and diffuse as widely as possible.

The meeting expressed a vote of thanks to the parent volunteer at Ferney-Voltaire, Simon de Nicola, who has kindly given of his time and efforts to produce this first edition.

- The web-site will require regular up-dating and the Association should look for a different host in order to obtain an address more recognisable as being that of the Association (such as asiba.org).
- Contacts have been initiated with all of the relevant partners: Cambridge, DRIC, DESCO and British Council. It is essential that these contacts be maintained.
- Regrettably, there have been no further contacts with those State Sector schools who are not yet members of ASIBA.

c) PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

The President listed the priorities he felt should be set:

- Establish further contacts with State Sector schools and ensure they are fully informed of the activities and projects of the Association, including via the Newsletter
- Place, cost and organise the Training Sessions for the 2003/2004 academic year
- Prepare further meetings with the DRIC and DESCO, one objective being to establish a comprehensive set of figures for the OIB world-wide
- Prepare the celebrations for 2005 (20th anniversary of first OIB examination session and 100th anniversary of the work of language assistants in France). This should be done in collaboration with other International Sections.
- Define what the schools would wish to see included on the OIB/Cambridge web-site. Sue RANDALL has said that work could be done and paid for by ASIBA this summer, but has indicated that she does not wish to be involved in writing and editing the site. She wishes the schools themselves, led by the Schools Chair, to provide the material for the site.

- Look at the issue of payment for teacher/examiners. This could not be funded by the Association and the Vice-President informed the meeting that written examiners will receive no payment for their work in the 2003 session.
- Establish a full list of the Parents' Associations of member schools in order to facilitate communication and the realisation of future projects.

The Vice-President drew the attention of the meeting to the costs incurred in the running of the OIB. For the Paris Centre in 2003, these costs are estimated at 3900€ A part of this amount would be recovered when teachers received payments from the Ministry. Costs include secretarial expenses, costs of photocopying, courier service etc. These costs work out as 20€per candidate, a cost which should be shared among the schools participating in the Centre, but certain schools are unable to pay for this. The costs of Inspector accommodation and subsistence account for 210€ Philip SHAW-LATIMER regretted that the Inspector who will be visiting the St Germain centre is unable to stay for longer than three days.

The question was raised of ASIBA help in funding Inspectors' accommodation costs: the Association already pays cost for the Inspector/Trainer at training sessions, could this not also be the case for accommodation costs for the exam itself? This would, of course, apply only to the Cambridge Inspector, not to teacher examiners.

Two issues arise from this : could the length of stay of the Inspectors be extended?

: could there be more Inspectors present?

The President reminded the meeting that Cambridge have rejected the idea of ASIBA funding the stay of Cambridge moderators, this objection being based on the principle that the examination requires an organisational structure in which funding is guaranteed and would not be in danger of collapse should private initiative fail.

Peter WOODBURN further recalled the very patchy nature of Rectorat participation in moderator accommodation costs. The Académie de Versailles has so far refused to participate and, given the current climate, with DHG being reduced, is unlikely to be in a position to participate in the near future.

The meeting agreed that, although it could be possible to extend the length of stay of the Inspectors, there would be serious difficulties in trying to have more Inspector coverage : payment has to be made not just for accommodation and expenses, but also for the work done during the examination session.

The members voted unanimously that ASIBA would settle the costs of Inspector accommodation and expenses up to an amount of 250€per centre.

The Vice-President informed the meeting about the issue of FUND RAISING.

The BRED bank in St Germain has generously agreed to make a donation to ASIBA of 1500€ ASIBA will be opening a specific Sponsorship Account with that bank.

Thus the Association will, after the opening of the second account, keep its original account for membership fees and its new BRED account for sponsorship monies.

The members gave a vote of thanks to the BRED for this generous donation. Philip SHAW-LATIMER was also thanked for facilitating the matter.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, having previously circulated the relevant documents to the Association members, pointed out that, taking into account Membership Fees and the BRED donation, Association funds now amounted to 3767,75 €

It was pointed out that the Inspector/Trainer's airfare for the Training Day had been paid by credit card by the Parents' Association at Ferney-Voltaire and subsequently reimbursed by ASIBA.

The Treasurer indicated that one expense connected with the teacher examiner Training Day in Sèvres had not been taken into account in the financial report. She circulated amended figures and the meeting agreed unanimously that the AGM would accept the distribution of an amended report with these minutes.

The members unanimously voted a change to the Association accounting year so that it will, in future, run from September to August. David GAGE will be asked to advise on the correct procedure to follow in order to implement this change. Schools and Associations will, in future, be billed by the Association in November and must pay fees by the beginning of January.

It was noted that the State Sector schools at Reims and Honoré de Balzac have not yet paid their Associate Membership fees. The Treasurer will contact them to discuss the matter and to ask for the payment of the associate membership as soon as possible.

4. ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FEE

- the conversion from francs to euros has already been applied, making full membership of the Association 85€
- The question of possibly reducing the current fee level for State Sector schools was discussed. It was agreed that the Associate Membership fee (voted unanimously as 10€) was not excessive. It would be helpful to remind State Sector schools of the notable achievements of the Association and that the benefits to members, including the Teacher Training Day, were available to ALL participants.

5. REQUEST FROM AMERICAN OPTION SCHOOLS TO JOIN ASIBA

Donna PHILIP (Lyon) pointed out that this year is very difficult for these schools in the light of the imminent retirement of NANCY MAGAUD, who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the American Option.

It was noted that the structure of the two Options is very different and that activities such as Teacher Training would be extremely difficult to organise if it were to meet the needs of teachers of both the American and British Options.

It was felt that the American Option schools should be encouraged to create their own specific support Association.

The meeting unanimously agreed to furnish any help and advice it was possible to offer. Moreover, the members agreed to pursue much closer contacts with American Option schools, possibly incorporating this within a joint Heads of Section meeting in the near future.

6. MEETING WITH DRIC & DESCO REPRESENTATIVES MARCH 2003

Thanks were expressed to David KIRWAN at the British Council for his help in arranging this meeting.

A correction was made to the report from this meeting: the school named as expressing interest in the OIB is in RENNES (not Rouen).

Philip SHAW-LATIMER expressed the difficulties which could arise in monitoring the OIB since there is little advance information of new schools wishing to enter candidates.

7. ELECTION OF CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION

All members present were re-elected to serve for a further term of one year.

It was noted that Judy CELLIER (Sèvres) might subsequently take up the mandate of Paddy SALMON.

The meeting expressed the wish to re-elect David GAGE, Perri PIENS and Neil JOYCE. They will be asked for their formal agreement.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting at 12.30.

Peter Woodburn, President

Glenys Kennedy, Secretary