

ASIBA

Association des Sections Internationales Britanniques et Anglophones

Association governed by the Law of 1st July 1901
Association régie par le Loi du 1er juillet 1901

Registered address: / *Siège social*:
21 allée de Bourrienne, 92500 Rueil-Malmaison

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 4th May 2007

**Procès-verbal de l'Assemblée Générale Ordinaire
du 4 mai 2007**

DATE: 4 May 2007 at 10:15 a.m.

PLACE: Lycée François 1er, 48 rue Guérin, 77300 FONTAINEBLEAU

PRESENT:

Active members (voting)

Represented by:

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. Peter Woodburn (Ferney-Voltaire) | |
| 2. Association ALA-ELP (Ferney-Voltaire) | Peter Woodburn |
| 3. Glenys Kennedy (Fontainebleau) | |
| 4. APE Section Anglophone
Collège International, Fontainebleau | Paul Shelton |
| 5. Ivan Karaïvanov (EAB Etoile) | |
| 6. Section Anglophone (EAB Étoile) | Ivan Karaïvanov |
| 7. Donna Philip (Lyon) | |
| 8. APESA Section Anglophone Cité Scolaire
Internationale de Lyon | Donna Philip |
| 9. Philip Shaw-Latimer (St. Germain-en-Laye) | |
| 10. APE Section Britannique Lycée d'Etat
International à St. Germain-en-Laye | David Gage |
| 11. Paddy Salmon (Sèvres) | |

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| 12. | Sections Internationales de Sèvres | Paddy Salmon
(proxy for B.Devillers) |
| 13. | APESA (Balzac) | Debbie Ford |
| 14. | APE de la Section Britannique
du Lycée Grand Air (La Baule) | Ronald Silver |
| 15. | Lycée Franco-Allemand (Buc) | Patricia Comolet
(proxy for K. Thomas) |
| 16. | Parents de la Section Anglophone de Buc (PSAB) | Patricia Comolet &
Anne Sargeant |

MEETING

After a preliminary address by the *Provisieur* of the Lycée François 1^{er} with an up-date on the position regarding the *Décret* and some discussion on European Sections ("mention européenne" for the Baccalauréat) the President opened the meeting formally at 10:15 a.m.

1. Agenda

1.1 The agenda was taken as read.

2. President's Report

2.1 Donna Philip, the President, reminded the meeting that she would not be standing for re-election as President as she is taking up a new position in another school which does not offer the OIB. She then read her report (a copy of which is annexed to these minutes).

2.2 Peter Woodburn commented that ASIBA had achieved one of the main goals it had set itself namely to extend membership to nearly all the schools offering the British (Cambridge) version of the *Option Internationale du Baccalauréat* (OIB). David Gage went through the list of members, which includes representatives of 16 schools offering the OIB, including private schools, state schools and private sections within state schools.

3. Role of ASIBA

3.1 A discussion took place on the role of ASIBA. Patricia Comolet commented that it was not always clear to outsiders, what ASIBA does and what its objects are.

3.2 Paul Shelton (Parent's association Fontainebleau) suggested that ASIBA should try to get parents more involved and there was general consensus on this point.

3.3 Peter Woodburn recapped on the history of ASIBA, reminding the meeting that it had been created at a time when the very existence of the British option of the OIB was

threatened. He noted that its role had evolved to one of generally supporting the OIB, in particular, helping to maintain standards through the bi-annual teacher-examiner training sessions.

- 3.4 Patricia Comlet raised the question of the difference between an International Section (OIB) and a European Section ("*mention européenne*"). Glenys Kennedy added that in seeking to maintain the excellence of the OIB it is essential to differentiate it from other programmes; it remains a French exam so ASIBA's role has its limits, but it can play an important role in maintaining quality.
- 3.5 It was noted that the ASIBA website is an extremely useful tool for informing interested persons of the role and activities of ASIBA and about the British version of the OIB.
- 3.6 Donna Philip reminded the meeting that ASIBA funds the presence of two Cambridge (UCLES) inspectors at two teacher-examiner training meetings per year for each subject (Geography / History and English Language / Literature). The autumn meeting is a plenary session to review the previous summer's exams, and the spring meeting is for experienced examiners and new examiners (nominated teachers). Paddy Salmon pointed out that the oral exams require complex procedures so the sessions are essential to maintain coherence.
- 3.7 Philip Shaw-Latimer underlined the vital importance of the examiner-teacher training, which ASIBA provides and that this message needs to be passed on.
- 3.8 The meeting noted that the role of ASIBA also includes the promotion of the OIB and that more could be done in this respect.

4. OIB

- 4.1 Following some questions from Ronald Silver, Patricia Comolet, Kathy Thomas and Anne Sargeant, a general discussion took place on the nature of the British components of the OIB. The meeting was informed that there is a four hour written exam and an oral in both subjects (Geography / History and Language / Literature). The written Geography / History exam paper may be answered in English or French, but it is relatively unusual for a student to choose to answer in French. The orals are in English.
- 4.2 Philip Shaw-Latimer observed that the parent representatives were asking technical questions on the OIB and he wondered whether ASIBA should organise a meeting targeted at parents' association members to clarify these matters. Debbie Ford confirmed that many parents have little idea of the technicalities and do not get really interested until their children start "1ère".
- 4.3 A discussion took place as to whether an information meeting would be feasible and the conclusion was that a simple explanatory document would be prepared and circulated / placed on the web-site. At that point the position would be reviewed. Donna Philip advised that she had a PowerPoint presentation which could be used as the starting point for such a document.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 Ivan Karaivanov circulated to the meeting a statement showing the income and expenditure of ASIBA during 2006.
- 5.2 A discussion took place on the payment of expenses and fees to the UCLES (Cambridge) representatives in respect of their biannual visits. The question of bank charges was raised as ASIBA's bank, Caisse d'Epargne, charge €42 per transfer, which is a material amount for ASIBA's budget.
- 5.3 Philip Shaw-Latimer proposed that his school, St. Germain-en-Laye, which has a sterling bank account, would be prepared to pay the Cambridge inspectors and ASIBA could then reimburse. There was support for this pragmatic approach but Peter Woodburn reminded the meeting that this was going back over a past decision made by ASIBA, and he felt it important that ASIBA managed its own funds and paid expenses directly.
- 5.4 The various possible alternatives were discussed, changing banks, opening a sterling account (in France or the UK) and payment by PayPal. **David Gage agreed to try to investigate these possibilities.**
- 5.5 Philip Shaw-Latimer reiterated his concerns about prompt payment in order to maintain the goodwill between ASIBA and Cambridge / the inspectors.
- 5.6 The meeting decided, by a majority vote (Peter Woodburn, abstaining) that if another appropriate (less costly) alternative cannot be found relatively quickly (another invoice is due soon) then invoices should be rendered to St. Germain-en-Laye and paid by it in sterling subject to the prior approval of Ivan Karaivanov as Treasurer of ASIBA, who would then reimburse in euros.
- 5.7 The meeting unanimously approved the income and expenditure statement produced by the Treasurer.

6. Membership

- 6.1 **David Gage reported on renewals and agreed to send a reminder to those members not present who had yet to renew. The members present representing an association or school which had not yet renewed agreed to follow up.**
- 6.2 Peter Woodburn suggested that the procedure for renewal and issuing reminders should be tightened up. In particular he recommended that a specific deadline date should be marked on the renewal requests (probably giving one month to pay), and that a reminder should be sent automatically on the expiry of that period. The meeting agreed with this proposition.
- 6.3 Donna Philip raised the possibility of automatic payment by bank transfer, on an annual basis, but the general view was that not many members would wish to pay in this way. Other suggestions included enclosing an addressed envelope (Ronald Silver), and an inspirational cover letter to encourage people to rejoin promptly (Patricia Comolet).

6.4 **David Gage confirmed that he would be following up on membership renewals / potential new members.**

7. Election of Board of Directors

7.1 The meeting was reminded that the mandate of all current Directors expires at this General Meeting but that all were entitled to stand for re-election.

7.2 Other than Donna Philip, who is not seeking re-election, all the current Directors present who have the status of (or represent) active members namely:

Debbie Ford (Balzac parents)
David Gage (St. Germain parents)
Ivan Karaïvanov (EAB)
Glenys Kennedy (Fontainebleau)
Paddy Salmon (Sevres)
Philip Shaw-Latimer (St. Germain)
Peter Woodburn (Ferney-Voltaire)

and two new nominees who have the status of (or represent) active members:

Anne Sargeant (Buc parents)
Ronald Silver (La Baule parents)

agreed to stand for election and were unanimously elected to serve for a term expiring at the AGM held in 2008.

7.3 The President reminded the Directors that a Board meeting was to be held immediately following this General Meeting to elect the officers for the coming year, namely the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and General Secretary.

8. Any Other Business - BiBac

8.1 Donna Philip spoke of the AbiBac programme offer by the German section, which results in a double delivery of a French diploma and a German diploma i.e. two national diplomas (sometime called BiBac or *baccalauréat bilatérale*).

8.2 Philip Shaw-Latimer remarked that it was important to be open about this for two reasons. Firstly, for political reasons, as the French authorities are favourable to the BiBac model and some US sections are likely to be offering it. Secondly, for organisational reasons, if the OIB continues to develop (an 80% increase in six years), there may be concerns as regards maintaining the quality of the exam (in particular the orals which are logistically demanding).

8.3 The conclusion was that ASIBA should follow developments carefully but that at present the intentions of the authorities are not clear and there is a considerable amount of speculation.

9. Vote of Thanks

- 9.1 The meeting offered a vote of thanks to Donna Philip for all her work over the last two years as President of ASIBA.

There being no other business, the President closed the meeting at 13:00.

Donna Philip, President

David Gage, Secretary