



Minutes of the General Meeting September 21st 2007, Potsdam, Germany

Members present: Laura Áberg (Finland), Maria Arvio (treasurer, Finland), Roger Banks (UK), Jeannie Bormans (Belgium), Mieke Bouma (The Netherlands) Frans Scholte (president, The Netherlands) Peter Martin (secretary, Germany), Frieda de Meij (The Netherlands, minutes)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence.

The president welcomed all members present and asked them to introduce themselves. Apologies for absence were received from Sylvia Carpenter, Muruvvet Gumus Banaz, Dana Janotova, Geirmund Skeie and Frans Ewals. A special welcome was given to Roger Banks, who is willing to become a board member.

2. Minutes of the meeting in Maastricht, August 4th, 2006.

The minutes were agreed by those present.

3. Matters arising.

There were no matters to discuss.

4. Election Board Members.

Board members are expected to step down after three years. They are eligible for re-election up to a maximum of nine years.

Peter Martin, having reached the end of three years as a board member stood down this time and was unanimously re-elected.

Roger Banks was elected to the board, filling the vacancy which results from the departure of Sylvia Carpenter and Mike Kerr.

Roger has worked since 1998 as a learning disability psychiatrist in Wales and has a clinical interest in challenging behavior and in psychotherapy for people with learning disability. He is also Vice-President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

5. President's report

This subject will be discussed under point 8 "new activities".

6. Treasurer's report

Frieda presented the income and expenditure summary for the past year:

Income	
Membership	934,20
Interest	31,23
	965,43

Expenses

Bank, transfer & payment charges	24,00
memberships	337,06
Travel cost	961,62
Prints	46,350
	595,18
	1369,03

Net result - 403,06

Our financial situation is stable. We have a small negative result which is mainly caused by non-paying members and last year's travel costs.

As Frans is not satisfied with the Fortiss Bank, Frieda will find out how to transfer the money to another bank, possibly the Postbank.

7. Secretary's report

Peter has tried to get in contact with colleagues from Eastern European countries and France but unfortunately did not succeed. The problem is that in Eastern European countries ID-medicine is just a small part of the job. The French informed us that they are interested in future contacts. Due to the time consuming organization of the congress Peter did not have the time for other activities.

Frans contacted colleagues in Portugal and Greece for information with regard to his presentation. They responded, but very briefly. Roger will chase some new contacts, he will ask Greg O'Brien who has contacts with the Ukraine and he will also ask Alex Corton who is involved in advocacy for ID-people in the Balkan to contact physicians.

8. New and existing activities

Frans expressed his concern about the lack of participation and activities from our members as well as the fact that there has been no increase in membership. In order to attract more members and to get more commitment from existing members it is important that we develop new activities.

- Peter would like to spend some of our money on a professional flyer on Mamh which can be translated into several languages. In this case we should not forget Israel. Another possibility is to rewrite our existing flyer and have it translated.

Roger advised add statistics about mortality and morbidity to it, which should make people think. The translation and exchange of clinical guidelines could also be an option.

- Frans informed the members of the previous day's discussions in the board meeting on the development of a strategic plan.
 1. Develop a strategic plan and reconsider our goals
 2. Make priorities
 3. How can we realize our goals

Roger will do some preliminary work and send this by email to Frans. After that, if necessary, they will meet and talk it over and subsequently the plan can be presented to the members. Roger also explained his ideas about working in a network of 'cells' to give greater autonomy and flexibility to members..

- Another important issue is to get in touch with physicians in EU-countries. Sylvia Carpenter may be able to help us to make some contacts in East European countries. She intends to organize educational courses for physicians and MAMH can cooperate with her. Decided is that the manifesto will be translated in Croatian so that Frans can take some copies with him when he goes to Zagreb. Frieda will take care of having the manifesto translated. Frans will search for contacts in the EU and ask our members to contact deputies of the EU in their own country. The existing recruitment letter and leaflet will be updated and can be sent to politicians.
- Frans explains that we did not get any response from Bob Davis on last years round table on educational training in intellectual disability medicine. Peter will take initiative to reanimate the round table. Roger and Maria will become a member of the working group.
- Jeannie will translate the flyer into French and have a look at the translation of the manifesto.
- Next years meeting
A few years ago the Danish organization asked if a conference could be organized in Denmark as in this country the care for ID-people is still a taboo. A congress and the accompanying public relations could help to improve the situation. If this cannot be arranged, Liverpool is our second option, in which case Roger Banks will take care of the organization. Frans will contact the Danish organization to ask if they are still interested in organizing a congress.
- On behalf of Markus Kaski Laura asks what is most essential for physicians that work with ID-people. Frieda will let her know where she can find the competention profile for ID-physicians.

9. Closure of the meeting

The president thanks those present for their contribution and closed the meeting.