

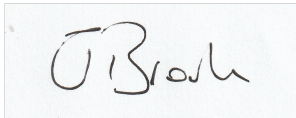
Minutes of the ACIP AGM 2023

Friday 1st December 2023 at 16h00 at the PAC, Le Buisson



ITEM	AGENDA TOPIC	DISCUSSION
1	Welcome & apologies	The event was held at the PAC in Le Buisson and attended by 9 committee members and approximately 40 members. Apologies were received from Shona Wisedale (Treasurer) and the meeting was opened by departing President Alec Robshaw at 16h00.
2	Signing of the minutes of the 2021 AGM	The minutes of the 2022 ACIP AGM had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. They were unanimously approved and duly signed by the departing President.
3	President's Report	Alec welcomed those present and as the President's report had previously been circulated to all the membership, he called for the election of the officers to be next on the agenda.
4	Election of Officers	With no other applications received, the new team of Jonathan Brooks as President, Lianne Lenz-Spijker as Vice-President, and Shona Wisedale and Evelyn Kaplan continuing their roles as Treasurer and Secretary respectively was proposed. After a show of hands all were duly elected, without opposition.
5	Membership Report	Membership Secretary Julie Healey informed the meeting that the current membership stood at 382, with 20 different nationalities. Julie confirmed that there would be no increase in membership fees for the coming year. Membership renewals are due at the year end, with notices to be circulated in the next week. Payment by Bank Transfer was the preferred method. Julie also requested that any changes of member details should be forwarded to her so that she could streamline the data files. Julie concluded by thanking everyone for their continued support.
6	Treasurer's Report	As Treasurer Shona Wisedale was not able to attend the meeting, so Jonathan gave a summary of her previously circulated report. While revenues had increased by 28%, costs had increased as well, and for the year there was only a small profit of 69 Euros. He highlighted the fact that the costs of operating the Clubhouse were now between 28 and 30 Euros per member, well above the annual membership fee of 25 Euros. However, given the bank balance was still 8400 Euros, it was not felt necessary at this point to increase membership fees. There were some questions from the floor as to why we shouldn't apply an increase now. In Jonathan's estimation, this would have to be reviewed within 12-18 months, especially if reserves fell below 7000 Euros, but as a non-profit organization, it was difficult to justify increasing membership fees just yet. Nonetheless, the year had seen a significant cash reduction following the investment of 1500 Euros in the new website, and this showed how quickly reserves could be depleted. Finally, he noted that bank charges of 200 Euros were much higher simply due to members making transfers from overseas bank accounts. He explained that it was essential that direct payments were only made from French bank accounts to avoid these charges in future. There was a short discussion on the comparison of costs at Le Bastion versus the costs at the Clubhouse. It was noted that the rent for the Clubhouse was on a three-year contract and would increase each year in line with a national formula.

7	New President's address	<p>Jonathan began by thanking Alec for having stepped in at short notice to act as President in difficult circumstances at the end of April 2023. This was universally echoed by applause from the room. Alec would remain on the committee but revert to his previous role as Webmaster. Jonathan also thanked all the teachers, group leaders and anyone who had volunteered at the barbecue, Vide Grenier or at a soirée or any other ACIP event for their contribution. The association depended entirely on volunteers.</p> <p>For the coming year, Jonathan explained that we had several new initiatives planned. Firstly, we would be having more themed soirées in the Clubhouse. It was clear these were popular among members, and we certainly planned to repeat the recent October Rose and recent Art Exhibition soirées next year. Since September, we had been running 2 additional French classes, making 7 in total, and reflecting the permanent demand for these, we hoped to start a further class during 2024 aimed at an elementary A1/A2 level.</p> <p>Building on the success of Jeff Bottger's Art Appreciation class, we were also making efforts to establish some more classes with a 'cultural' theme. Finally, we were keen to get as much feedback from members as possible as to what they wanted to get from their membership. With over 380 members and 20 nationalities, this was quite a challenge. We had been contemplating the possibility of a short questionnaire but at this stage no decision had been taken. He welcomed any input members might have.</p>
8	AOB	No topics were raised.
9	Closure of Business	There being no further business, Jonathan closed the meeting at 16h30 and invited everyone for a welcome drink at the bar.



Evelyn Kaplan, Secretary