



MINUTES

51st General Assembly of the European IFYE Alumni Association,
Castletown, Isle of Man on Friday 10th July 2009

1. Welcome and Opening

Martyn Quayle (IOM), President, extended a warm welcome to everyone and thanked them for coming to the AGM.

2. Introduction of Office Bearers

Martyn introduced the executive committee: Anette Nilsson (SWE) 1st Vice-President, Angela Southern (IOM) 2nd Vice-President, Hilde Riser (NOR) Secretary, Geir Sandvik Hjelen (NOR) Treasurer, Andreas Lehmann (CH) Newsletter Editor and gave apologies on behalf of Danielle Nesor(LUX) who was unable to attend. He added a special welcome to Robin Swann, Chairman of Rural Youth Europe.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted without any amendments.

4. Information/ Greetings Received

Hilde read out the greetings received. Robin Swann extended greetings to the meeting on behalf of Rural Youth Europe

5. Appointment of Counters and Establishment of Eligible Voters

Robin Swann (RYE) and Dale Yonker (USA) were appointed counters. There were an agreed total of 104 eligible voters.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the 50th General Assembly held in Switzerland 2008

The Minutes had been displayed on the pin board for the week and were agreed as read.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

8. Reports on Past Activities

a) Report of the Conference in Switzerland 2008

Largest European Conference in History. 222 participants. 10 of 14 presidents attended the anniversary celebration. The conference was a financial success, and supported by European IFYE Alumni and so they have not claimed refund of postage for sending out Conference reports to the lifetime members.

b) Letter of introduction to European IFYE's of 2008

Anette did send out the letters in March and has had many returned with invalid addresses, apparently student e-mail addresses that have been closed. Maybe they could be send out to the Contact Members for further distribution or maybe the autumn is a better time to send it out. Letters will continue to be published on the web site.

c) Executive Committee Report

This had been on display in the reception and read out at Country meetings.

d) Newsletter 2008/2009

Accessible on internet earlier than the ones sent out by service mail. We will work on encouraging members to download rather than receive by service mail.

e) Website

The web site is updated. Using the e-mail address works well. It's used primarily for updating addresses, signing on for receiving conference reports. We will encourage members to register their e-mail address for receiving information on updates.

f) European Rally Switzerland 2008

Martyn attended the first days of the rally and promoted the IFYE programme to participants and had discussions to focus on the future possibilities for enhanced mutual cooperation between Rural Youth Europe and the European IFYE Organization. As a result of this the executive committee will have a meeting with Robin Swann from R.Y.E to formally discuss future possibilities.

9. Financial Reports

a) Main Report

The year shows a negative result of -835, 96 CHF

Costs for the newsletter have not been paid out to the Newsletter Editor this year. Three of the Board Members had not submitted their costs for the mid term meeting, and the President who had attended the World conference in Australia had not submitted the amount of the conference fee in time so that he could be reimbursed 50% as was due.

The stock markets have tumbled the last year, so the LUX strategy fund have gone down 4.112 CHF, and is now worth 15.385 CHF. Hopefully the stock markets have stabilised, and will start to grow again.

b) Lifetime Members Fund

The lifetime members fund has increased with 852,68 CHF during the last year. Six new lifetime members, minus the costs for one conference report. The fund is now 36.209,88 CHF.

c) Development Fund

The development fund is now at 15.000 CHF, 1.846,10 CHF was transferred to the general account at the end of the year.

10. Auditors Report

Geir read out the report which was received. The Auditors suggested for the AGM to adopt their approval of the books

11. Applications for the Development Fund

Application from Switzerland on starting up an exchange with Cameroon.

Switzerland have kindly used the new template and they apply for 3076,75 CHF to cover expenses for travelling to a meeting with the Cameroon representative and for a list of expenses for the first two exchangees (visa, vaccinations etc).

After discussions in meetings earlier in the week and in consideration of the guidance notes, the Executive Committee made a proposal to cover 2120 CHF. The amount excludes the organizing costs for each of the two exchanges.

Ursula Spillmann (CH) again presented the application for the AGM and asked for a coverage of the whole applied amount.

The two suggestions were considered and the AGM decided to approve the whole amount of the application, 3076,75 CHF to the Swiss project.

12. Budget

a) Annual Budget

The Executive committee presented a budget based on the following facts:

We believe that there has to be action to cut costs as they are getting higher than the income. The attention is on the general accounts as it's here the costs for newsletters and administration has been taken. In the budget for the next year, we are therefore suggesting for the general assembly, that the costs for newsletters to the lifetime members, and the correct share of costs for the mid term meeting be taken from the Lifetime Members Fund.

We are hoping for two new lifetime members.

We will also work on encouraging members to subscribe for receiving newsletters by downloading it from the web site after being notified by e-mail. It will be optional for the members, but we hope that as many as possible will help the organisation in cutting costs by doing this. A newsletter costs more than 6 CHF for each member every year.

Proposals from the members regarding the budget:

From Stephen Rennie, Scotland:

“All Newsletters be sent out by e-mail to all members and everyone requesting a printed copy can still have one. This should be organised by the Executive committee.”

From Kari Bjørke /Norway and Linda Steele/ Northern Ireland:

- 1) "The Newsletter to be no longer printed and posted to members as it will be made available on the web (www.ifye.org)
Members who have submitted their e-mail address to the executive committee (via www.ifye.org/ ifye_europe@hotmail.com) will be notified.

All members who wish to receive the newsletter in hard copy should register and the list will be provided to one contact person in each country who will print and post these locally. If there is a problem an individual can still contact the board directly "

The Executive committee informed the AGM about the implications following on from the two proposals.

There were 58 votes for the proposal from Norway/Northern Ireland and 33 for the proposal from Scotland.

b) Membership Fees

After further consideration, the Executive Committee withdrew their earlier announced proposal for a rise in the membership fee. There were no other proposals and the membership fees remain the same, 20 CHF annual and 240 CHF lifetime memberships.

c) Development Fund

3076,75 CHF applied for by the Swiss IFYES (see above).

13. Future Activities

a) Austria 2010; 31st July – 7th August

Norbert Winkler addressed the conference and referred to the invitation given Wednesday evening at the presentation, for the conference to be held in Austria in 2010.

b) Finland 2011; 23rd – 30th July

With the story of IFYE land the Finnish IFYE's extended an invitation for the conference to be held in Finland in 2011.

c) 2012

Carole Prim read out a letter from the Luxembourg IFYE's that they not are able to host the conference in 2012 due to the fact that they not are able to find enough members for the organizing committee.

Ann-Margreth Karlsson then invited on behalf of the Swedish IFYE's for the conference to be held in Sweden in 2012.

d) Wales 2013

On behalf of the Welsh IFYE's Mary Roberts extended an invitation for the conference to be held in Wales in 2013.

d) France 2014

Further consideration will be given by France to hosting the conference and clarification will be sought in time for next year.

14. Elections

a) President at present Martyn Quayle (IoM)
– Martyn was re-elected for a 2 year term.

b) Second Vice President from Austria
- Norbert Winkler was elected for a 1 year term. (Angela Southern (IoM) was thanked by the President for her contribution to the Executive Committee)

c) Secretary at present Hilde W. Riser (Nor)
– Hilde was re-elected for a 2 year term.

d) Convenor at present Danielle Nesor (Lux)
– Danielle was re-elected for a 2 year term.

e) Two Auditors from Austria
- Andreas Langgartner and Stefan Starlinger were elected for a 1 year term (Gill Gelling and Lynda Jones (IoM) were thanked by the President for their contribution)

(The First Vice President, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor were all elected in 2008 for two years so continue in Office)

15. Any Other Business

There being no other business, the President thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the Annual General Meeting closed.

President: _____

Secretary: _____