

INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS

EUROPEAN CHAPTER

MINUTES OF THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 9 MAY 2009 AT 9.30AM AT THE GRAND HOTEL, STOCKHOLM

1. Apologies for Absence

Carla Smeets

Frances Hughes

Miles Preston

Catherine Hallam

Kevin Harris-James

2. Approval of Minutes of 19th Annual General Meeting on 5 April 2008 in Rome

The Minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from those Minutes.

4. President's Report

Thanks

Mia Reich-Sjögren extended her thanks to the officers and the committee for their hard work in the organisation of this meeting, and in particular Mark Harper.

Registrations

There were a total of 112 registrations of which 71 were Fellows.

Recruitment

Mia Reich-Sjögren explained that there are now 169 Fellows of which 23 are new, including from Russia, Guernsey, Jersey, and Luxembourg.

Mia Reich-Sjögren explained that she had worked hard to try to obtain Fellows in the Baltic States, and in Norway. So far Mia Reich-Sjögren had spoken to ten lawyers in Norway as yet without success about becoming Fellows.

Conferences attended

Mia Reich-Sjögren explained that she attended the annual ERA Conference in Trier in September 2008 and the CCBE Brussels conference in December 2008.

5. Elections and Nominations

5.1 President-Elect:

William Longrigg was elected President-Elect to take over after the Munich Conference 2010.

5.2 Vice-Presidents:

Alfred Kriegler and William Massey were nominated for a one year term.

5.3 European Chapter Delegate to Board Governors:

Mark Harper was nominated for a three year term.

All of those nominations were duly elected unopposed.

6. Approval of Secretary/Treasurer's Financial Statement

Mark Harper spoke to this document (Financial Statement attached to these Minutes). The position for the year ended 31 December 2008 was that the balance as at that date in both the Sterling and Euro accounts amounted to a total of £64,478, an increase of £7,683. As regards the Rome meeting a surplus of €5,700 had been made including all registration fees and meeting expenses, after a subsidy of €12,600 from Thessaloniki/Krakow. The Chapter's finances were clearly secure and the question was to what extent the balance should be used to keep registration fees low or help to subsidise guests.

It was agreed that the bank balances enabled a reduced registration fee for future conferences and a figure €325 was suggested. It was also agreed that children under 16 should be able to attend without charge.

Mark Harper pointed out that in the Financial Statement for 2007 an exchange rate of £1 = €1.40, however for 2008 an average exchange rate of £1 = €1.25 was used.

7. **Future Meeting Venues and Educational Programmes**

Mia Reich-Sjögren spoke about the Munich Conference which was taking place from 5 to 9 May 2010.

Fellows were encouraged to attend the Puerto Rico Conference for the American Chapter from 3 to 7 February 2010.

William Longrigg explained that the 2011 Conference would be in Strasbourg, France from 3 – 6 April 2011 given lack of availability for hotels for later dates.

There then followed a discussion as to where the next European Chapter Conference should be held.

8. **Venue and Date of Next Annual General Meeting**

The AGM next year will be at the Hotel Bayerischer Hof, Munich on Saturday 8 May 2010.

9. **Any Other Business**

David Salter raised how the question of our healthy bank balances could be best used. It was suggested that there should be a cash prize and bursary for young family lawyers of up to ten years post qualification experience. It was agreed that Hilary Coveney would prepared a report to be discussed.

James Stewart raised the need for more diverse and youthful Fellows, especially in the US.

A formal vote of thanks for Richard Sax was agreed and given for his many years of hard work for both the Chapter and the Academy.

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Financial Statement for Year ended 31st December 2008

	£	£	£
Assets			
Opening Balance as at 1 January 2008 (Sterling and Euro accounts) (£53,811.65 at £1 = €1.4, rate for 2007)			56,795.92
ADD			
Fellows' Dues - none received in 2008	0.00		
Rome meeting registration fees	73,338.26		
Reimbursements for petty cash and refunds from Rome	3,268.44		
Bank Interest received	387.19		
DEDUCT			
Rome meeting expenses	66,676.65		
Secretarial expenses	0.00		
Bank charges	69.59		
President's expenses for attending Trier conference	1,102.06		
Refunds for Rome cancellations	1,129.40		
Charges for credit card processing for Krakow	330.00		
Exchange rate fluctuations	3.98		
			64,478.17
Balance in hand as at 31 December 2008 (Sterling and Euro accounts)			
<u>Notes</u>			
1. Accounts prepared on a cash basis.			
2. Cash position as at 31 March 2009 £32,252.47 plus €61,285.59 in Euro account – total: £81,280.94.			
3. Cash balances as at 31 March 2009 includes Fellows' Dues for 2008 and 2009, paid since 31 December 2008, amounting to £9,600 and £7,350.			
4. Rome meeting: Surplus of €5,700 including expenses paid in previous years ¹			
5. Average Sterling/Euro exchange rate taken for 2007 as £1 = €1.4, 2008 as £1 = €1.25			

¹ (after €12,600 subsidy from Thessaloniki/Krakow profit)