

Third Executive Meeting - 22-2-2021

Attendees

IIW Executive		
Bina Vyas	President	BV
Ebe Martines Panitteri	Vice President	EM
Liz Thomas	Treasurer	LT
Phyllis Charter	Past President	PC
Corinne Dalleur	Constitution Chairman	CD
IIW Office Admin		
Alan Phillips	Administrator	AP

Opening Comments

Bina welcomes everyone to the third executive meeting and gave her apologies for being late, due to technical difficulties.

Previous minutes

There were no corrections or alterations were required.

Reports

BV – said that all reports would be taken as read and that her report would be provided by the end of the day.

PC – stated that reports can only be taken as read from Ebe VP, Liz Treasurer and Phyllis IPP as reports from President and CC had not been received.

LT – This report covers the period from 1st July 2020 to 21st February 2021.

Capitation Fees - Membership

The Membership Summary shows the current position. Capitation fees were slower coming in this year but have been received from all National Governing Bodies and nearly all Districts. The two Districts in South Africa had exchange control problems getting the money out of the county, D707 Canada had difficulty in collecting the subscriptions under lockdown, and District 915, Central Africa, has paid and we have a copy of the bank debit note, but the funds have not reached us. I have requested them to ask the bank to investigate. Capitation from more Non-Districted Clubs is outstanding this year, including Ukraine, Hungary, Lithuania and of course Lebanon.

As required in the D&R, official receipts have been sent for all payments received.

So far 81 new clubs have been chartered: India 57, Pakistan 6, Bangladesh 5, **Nepal 4**, Italy 2, France 2 and 1 each in Mexico, Malaysia & Singapore and the new nations of Latvia, Ecuador and Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).

Approximately 1,600 new members have joined, of which, over 1,000 in India and 118 in Italy.

Total membership - 104,197 (105,710 in February 2020 = less 1,513)

LT – there were new clubs in Australia, but they were not in the IIW HQ list, e.g., Tuggerah Lakes and asked if IWA created their own Charters. PC – cannot be new and chartered if they have not paid subs; EM – said that they were all clubs who were in IWA D52, and she had allotted them to Darlene Westrupp.

Payments

All payments have been executed online and authorised by Past President Phyllis and myself. President Bina has been informed of all payments.

Autumn Mailshot – there have been problems with delivery to many countries in Europe which must be investigated – it may be connected with delays due to the pandemic. It has continued to be printed in India for distribution in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia & Singapore and Nepal by Amaira Creations still at considerable savings.

Monthly Income and Expenditure Accounts have been circulated to the Executive Committee and to the Board Directors on 31st December.

Insurance – General: The policy has been renewed. Our agent went to the market, but our current policy was still the most competitive.

Trustees & Officers: This has also recently been renewed.

Cyber Insurance: A new policy has been taken out to cover all forms of security breaches, fraudulent transactions, extortion loss and data recovery.

International Convention 2021

Jaipur – we have received a monthly statement from LCC Treasurer Gomathi. The total paid by IIW for the Jaipur convention is £53,192 which includes £21,752 paid to MCI.

After payment of all outstanding amounts due – the final statement received from the LCC shows a surplus of INR42,651 (£422) which has been transferred to the Virtual Convention account.

The Jaipur joint LCC/MCI account has been closed and a new one opened for the Virtual Convention.

Virtual – we agreed to pay MCI 75% in 3 stages based on the number of registrations received before and the balance of 25% 7 days after the Convention.

We also agreed to split any surplus 50/50 between IIW and MCI.

Breakeven is approximately 5,000 registrations.

PC – Eswatini has not paid their Cap Fees; Latvia has not paid their Cap Fees and Charter has not been sent.

BV – asked if three new countries had been included; LT – two had not paid their cap fees, so, should not be included. EM – thought that Riga was connected to a German club and LT will contact again.

CD – did not think that 50:50 revenue split was agreed, but other members thought that it had been. There was further discussion regarding the revenue split, AP to confirm from the recording what was agreed.

LT – letter to C de Vos was agreed regarding repayment; Philippines have paid to register for VC but have not sent their registration forms. Draft letter to Gaby was agreed. Pointed out that it would be difficult to summarise three years of accounts for the VC and has requested that MCI display the figures when she is presenting her report. BV made suggestions regarding summary slides and LT said that she would work this out with MCI.

Matters arising

Name change to Inner Wheel Club of Ghaziabad Diamond – agreed.

Sadia Asif Fatiana – D344 – agreed that she could assume the role of the unfortunately deceased Chairman.

Athenæum-Vestheim IW Club, Norway – agreed that the club could close without the Charter.

New club in Egypt & Jordan, Tulip – geographical element. AP to write, explaining that there needs to be a geographical element to the name of the proposed club.

Correspondence

BV – provided background to the email sent to CD and BV regarding a BD being a proxy vote holder, to which CD had replied that this was not possible.

CD – NR from Croatia and they did not understand why BD could not be a voting delegate. CD will reply with an explanation. Said that she would include the D&R of a BD, for their information.

CD – Denmark – they do not agree with the name change not being agreed and CD will suggest an alternative.

CD – Greece – CD had written that the District Chairman cannot cancel the elections; it should be by their governing body or by the district. BV – said that the reasoning that had been outlined cannot be accepted an outlined for the group the background to the difference of opinion. CD agreed that the DC cannot make such decisions on their own, as there are candidates, and this would be the third year that she would be DC. BV states that a copy must also be sent to NR.

CD – Germany – extension to the term of a District Treasurer; LT pointed out that Cap Fees had not been paid, and LT had to request payment from D90, mentioned the received minutes from the district and discussions over appointments into some roles.

BV – highlighted the boundary issue in Pakistan, where some are creating clubs in other districts; Exec should be able to tell them that all boundaries should be followed and adhered to. Added that there are some in Pakistan that want to form an NGB, but there are others who do not. BV said that they have 2/3 majority in favour; PC pointed out that they have districts – BV added that 4 districts are in favour and in the fifth, there are many in favour to. PC said that when the NGB is formed, the boundaries of district need to be resolved first; CD agreed and that clubs need to stay in their geographical territory. BV – said that there are two issues – that of boundaries and of the desire for an NGB and that the Exec needs to look after the interests of the majority.

CD – Bangladesh – they had asked who should organise the voting for the National Representative and CD explained the solution that would be proposed to them; CD to write to them; PC asked if this had been agreed by Bangladesh Exec; CD said that most of this had been played out on Facebook.

PC – asked whether BV had sent letter to IIWPPs and members who had raised questions regarding the Virtual Convention and she confirmed that she had. CD – said that there were issues that had been raised by FAMAT.

Replacement for ‘caring for women and girls’.

BV – said that some are still sending their replies; EM said that there had been twelve replies to date members who had voted. PC pointed out that the Exec also have a vote and said that her understanding was that this was just their thoughts, but these were not their votes; BV – said that if a majority were in favour, this could be worked out if the remaining votes had been received.

CD suggested that a vote be held; Stronger women, stronger world, which received three votes; BV proposed that the emails be accepted as votes; LT said that all votes need to be counted from BDs, although CD pointed out that there are some communication problems with some BDs. BV – asked that these additional votes are sort and those from remaining Exec members. BV said that the decision needs to be taken, so that there is time to design and agree the logo that will be used. CD asked PC what happened in Melbourne and said that it had been decided beforehand. PC pointed out that RMS will need guidance on the logo; BV – asked whether logos should be developed for three projects and pointed out that some of the suggested projects had been merged, so, the logos may not be applicable. AP said that RMS would need a backgrounder to enable them to design an appropriate logo.

BV – when thinking about Strong Women, Stronger World, the projects that could be done under this umbrella would be unlimited, such as women’s empowerment.

PC – said that she would go with the majority decision, but her personal preference was for Women for the World and Health.

EM - said that there were 4 BDs who had not voted and 1 Exec.

CD – Said that she also liked “Women Improving Lives”.

BV – suggested that AP write to those that have not expressed a preference, deadline of 26th February.

CD – AP to send email that the Amendment has been withdrawn. BV asked who would write the script for the President and it was pointed out by PC that this was the responsibility of the Constitution Chairman.

MGA

There were 10 nominations for Margarett Golding Awards, of which six were accepted and four were not accepted.

Disbandment of D30 Norway

PC – said that the seven clubs from D30 transferred to neighbouring District 31, although one disbanded; BV said that this has to be accepted, as their minds will not be changed, most have transferred and only 16 have resigned. PC – pointed out that one of the transferred members will take office in the new district.

Changes to Blueprint

BV – suggested that it made more sense to discuss after Virtual Convention.

UN Reps

AP - gave a background to the application that had been received.

BV – thought that there should be some remuneration for the costs incurred by UN Reps.

LT – all, except for UN NY live near to their office; PC said that if expenses were to be paid, this must be added to the budget. LT said that for the UN NY reps, they must have to stay overnight, and this incurs costs for themselves.

PC – said that as no-one is able to travel at present and UN's work is being done virtually, it could be discussed at the next meeting.

EM – the need for another UN Rep has not been established, and that one of the committees in Geneva only meets three times per year.

PC – asked whether the level of activity at UN Geneva merits there being another IIW Rep. BV said that of the local UN Rep is managing to cope with the workload, why change and they could recommend someone more local if the situation changes. AP confirmed that he had already acknowledged the receipt of the letter and documents.

President's Theme 2020-2021

EM – provided a background to the theme for her logo and year as IIW President.

Inner Wheel was officially born in 1924 – and its centennial anniversary is rapidly approaching – thanks to the initiative of a group of ladies who met at the Turkish Baths in Manchester and gave start to one of the most important volunteering organisations in the world.

Since that inaugural date, IW has been tirelessly working in favour of needy human beings, mainly girls, young and old women.

The UN's 4th World Conference on women held in Beijing, China, in 1995 has brought steps forward in some areas of women's and girls' lives but poverty, discrimination and violence are still strongly present in their lives.

The UN 2030 Agenda clearly states that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is the catalyst for the achievement of all sustainable development goals.

The Under Secretary General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka declared that “One half is an equal share and only equal is enough”.

Women helping women, then, is the orientation of my IIW’s Presidential Theme 2021-2022 “PINK FIRST”.

There will be four areas of attention:

- Health.
- Education.
- Opportunity.
- Empowerment.

Health focus will be centered mainly on extending healthy life expectancy and ending gender-based violence.

Education focus can leverage on inclusiveness and quality education: improving female literacy rate expands their employment outcomes, decreases the number of early marriages and improves their health and well-being. Another field of action will be harnessing new technologies for digital gender equality and enhancing Science Technology Electronics Mathematics (STEM) studies for women.

Opportunity will focus on:

- increasing women participation in labour force, helping them to get a job or starting a business.
- recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work by providing public services, infrastructures and social protection policies as nationally appropriate.
- asking for wage equality.
- striving for ending of occupational segregation.

Women empowerment can be done through:

- Ensuring women’s participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- Encouraging women to take decisions on their own health care, own earnings and investments.
- Improving financial inclusion and economic awareness.
- Supporting women movements and leadership.

BV – offered her best wishes for EM’s time as President and suggested that the Minutes Received are taken as read.

Dates of Meetings for 2021-2022

BV – said that she would appreciate that the last meeting of this year 29-30 June; suggested 1-2 July; PC pointed out that this meeting doesn't normally last too long, so

Oct 6/7/8 for GBM, before that there would need to be the 2nd Exec on 4/5 October.

AP - pointed out that this assumes that people will be able to travel.

EB – Third Exec - 22/23 Feb; Fourth Exec - June 21-22-23

AOB

LT – the letter from Darlene, asked if there was anything further that needs to be done; BV thought that it was acceptable; EM though that something needs to be communicated to the clubs, as there are questions being asked about how the money was going to be used, as vaccines will be free; this might not be the case though in some countries. BV – suggested that when it is known which countries will need vaccines and where it would not be free, this is the information that is needed before a decision can be taken. EM – although the vaccine may be free, it may be that the infrastructure to inject may not be; PC pointed out that the fund title also had the 'Disaster', not just vaccines.

BV – asked that LT meet with the Covid19 team and find out the above info for the group and their plans in this regard.

LT – has the editor been approached, BV said that as of 31st March, she was only "elect"; PC asked whether she was holding a role in her own country, which was not known; PC said that she was currently webmaster for D330 & D331.

AP - asked about the Ceremonial Chain, whether it was going to clear customs and whether he should try to get it returned. BV said that it is taking too much time and has appointed a customs clearing agency to try to expedite matters, who have promised that it would be done by 26th / 27th. BV said that she does now not have time to have another collar made. AP said that he would contact the courier firm to see what could be done.

BV – said that it was a fruitful meeting and wished EM all the best for her year as IIW President. Once the social project has been decided, AP can discuss with RMS the logo; asked whether the bidders for 2024 had been sent, which he confirmed had been done.

PC asked whether there was anything further that needed to be discussed; CD added that a decision had yet to be taken whether the discussion will be live, and BV said that it would be. PC – said that there are discussions on-going about how this will be done. CD – the people who would be speaking 'live' had not been decided; BV said that the names of the people to speak would be pre-determined. PC – pointed out that there is a difference between what is being told to IIW by Samir and Udit from MCI about whether debate would be 'live' and there is a concern amongst the membership about the democratic process, as there are some people who are wishing to speak on multiple proposals. She continued that care needs to be taken to ensure that this does not happen, thus disenfranchising members who cannot therefore speak and that if there is to be a ballot, this must be fair, open and all members who wish to speak are considered for it.

BV – said her understanding is that it will be live, but the speakers’ names would have been pre-determined; PC said that the six speakers could be put in a virtual room, as suggested by Udit / MCI. CD – brought up her concerns regarding the technical challenges with w-fi / internet connections failing; BV said that there was no way to mitigate this, but that MCI will be coming up with a solution. PC – pointed out that MCI had said that one member not being able to vote would not matter, but that member could be holding up to 70 votes. CD added that lawyers should be engaged to ensure that what is being technically proposed is lawful.

BV – said that all the concerns had been expressed to MCI and is confident that they are working on a solution.