

International Society for Archaeological Prospection

Constituting Meeting. 13/9/2003

Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences

17 Sławkowska Street, Cracow, Poland

Minutes.

Meeting opened by Armin Schmidt (AS) 18.00

AS accepted as chair of meeting.

The Constitution

AS outlined the aims of the society, as noted in the handout issued to all conference participants (the Draft Constitution of the International Society for Archaeological Prospection (ISAP), <http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/archsci/archprospection/ISAP.pdf>).

AS suggested the draft constitution be accepted as a base for starting the society, on the basis that the Management Committee will note any necessary recommendations for revision over the first year of the Society's existence.

AS proposed a vote on acceptance of the draft constitution (overwhelming support for, 2 votes against).

Draft constitution accepted.

Nominations for membership of the Management Committee were detailed, and voted on. It was noted that there were not very many nominations.

Position	Nominee	Votes
Chairman	Jörg Fassbinder	Unanimous for
Vice Chairman	Chris Gaffney	Overwhelming number of votes for None against
Hon. Secretary	Armin Schmidt	Unanimous for
Conference Secretary	Salvatore Piro	Overwhelming number of votes for 2 Against
Conference Vice Secretary	Tomasz Herbich	Overwhelming number of votes for
	Cornelius Meyer	1 Vote
Editor	Anne Roseveare	Overwhleming number of votes for.
Auditor	Rob Vernon	Unanimous

The Management Committee there fore consists of

Chairman: Jörg Fassbinder, Vice chairman: Chris Gaffney, Honorary

Secretary: Armin Schmidt, Conference Secretary: Salvatore Piro,

Conference Vice Secretary: Tomasz Herbich, Editor: Anne Roseveare, Auditor: Rob Vernon.

Salvatore Piro offered to organise the next Archaeological Prospection conference in Rome in 2005.

Membership Fees

AS stated that there had been many comments before the meeting that the proposed membership fee of £2 (€3) was too low.

AS commented that the fee was set so low to be as inclusive as possible, and to encourage membership, but recognises the need to raise capital.

Hence AS proposed a raise in the annual membership fee to £10 (€15).

AS proposed that if this rate proved unnecessarily high, any spare funds could be used to provide financial assistance for students to attend the conference.

Doug Groom suggested a 2-tier membership fee, with reduced fees for students.

Norbert Schliefer suggested that the 2-tier system be extended to cover those on low wages, from countries where hard currency was difficult to come by. He also suggested that it may be possible to arrange a sponsorship scheme to cover this, if necessary.

AS proposed a vote on the 2-tier membership fee.

Overwhelming support for, 2 votes against.

Chris Gaffney (CG) noted that the exact details of this needed more careful discussion.

Paul Cheetham (PC) noted that the Society has no treasurer.

AS replied that this was a deliberate move, as many other societies found it very hard to find a treasurer. Hence the draft constitution allows the Management Committee to appoint a treasurer. Hence the post will be filled later, by someone willing and capable of performing the necessary duties.

Alain Tabbagh asked what is the legal status of the Society internationally.

AS stated that the Society was based on UK law. Anyone who wishes to start a society (legally an “Association”) may do so, so long as there is a committee and a constitution, irrespective of name. On that basis, the ISAP is a legal society in the UK.

The next step would be to register the Society for charitable status in the UK. The constitution was written with this in mind, and tailored to the necessary requirements, and hence registration should be fairly straightforward.

Rob Vernon noted that without a treasurer, there is no one to open a bank account on behalf of the Society, and so prospective members cannot pay now. Hence the Society would have a membership of zero, and would not exist.

PC suggested a way round this would be to make membership free for the first 6 months.

AS stated that he would be very reluctant to do this. Instead, he suggested prospective members join now, and are invoiced for their membership fees at a later date. The only problem with this is that it would require delegating the decision on the amount of the membership fee to the Management Committee, rather than deciding *en masse*, as stated in the draft constitution.

Mark Schurr suggested prospective members sign up today, and have dues deferred until the 1st of January. He also asked that if dues are to be paid for this year, were they to be paid on a pro-rata basis.

AS restated that he would be very reluctant to do this. Instead, he suggested prospective members join now, and are invoiced for their membership fees at a later date.

PC suggested an initial fee level of £0, to be revised in 3 months time.

CG disagreed, suggesting a nominal fee, to get the Society started.

Paul Linford suggested that should AS's suggestion be accepted, the issue of delegation of the decision of the level of membership fees to the Management Committee could be tackled by giving a steer to the Committee on a proposed fee.

Walter Edwards (WE) suggested that the prospective membership consider the system used in Japan, where the prospective members pay a nominal

sum (e.g. £2/€3) for the privilege of being placed on a list of founder members. Hence the issue of a treasurer and membership could be dealt with by the Management Committee before a given date, for example 1st January.

AS proposed that as this seemed the most practical suggestion, that the prospective members vote on it.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

WE stated that the membership fees need to be set as soon as possible, especially for institutional fees, so that Institutional members (in his case the Japanese Society for Archaeological Prospection (JSAP)) can be issued receipts.

AS stated that the status of the relationship between ISAP and JSAP is as yet undecided. He suggested that a deadline for deciding this be 1st January, so that ideas can be fed to the Management Committee as soon as possible, to ensure a speedy resolution of the issue.

WE asked if conference participation was to be limited to ISAP members.

CG stated that he felt very strongly that this was a bad idea, as it was exclusive and would discourage participation.

This statement produced a general agreement among the company.

AS called for any other comments.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm.

Minutes recorded by Ken Hamilton.