

World Association of Professional Investigators
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 86
Southwark Bridge Road, London
On Friday,
31st May 2002.

1. Opening Address. The meeting was declared open by the Chairman, Mr Ian Withers.
2. Resignation of serving members. All serving members formally resigned their posts.
3. Election of Officers. All current holders of the various positions were returned unopposed.
The composition of the General Council of the Association is therefore as follows:

Chairman - Mr Ian Withers.
Vice-Chairman - Mr John Edwards.
Membership Secretary - Mr Stuart Withers.
Treasurer - Mr Keith Walker.
General Secretary - Mr David Waight.
4. Attendance. Members present were Messrs Ian Withers, John Edwards, Stuart Withers, Keith Walker, David Waight and Ms Veronica King.
5. Apologies. Apologies were received from Messrs Franks, Donnison, Davis, Burchell, Hope, Cousin, Vassie and Hagan.
6. Minutes of the Meeting held 24.8.01. These minutes were circulated to all members. It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that they be adopted as a true record.
7. Matters arising. The Secretary informed the meeting that a query had been raised regarding the provision of an Identity Card in addition to a Certificate of Membership. The Membership Secretary stated that this had been proposed at the inception of documentation but had not been considered to be appropriate and therefore no Cards were issued. It was resolved not to issue Cards in the future.
8. Chairman's Report. Presented as previously published on the eGroup.
9. Vice-Chairman's Report. Presented as previously published on the eGroup
10. Membership Secretary's Report. Presented as previously published on the eGroup.
11. Treasurers Report. Presented as previously published on the eGroup. Audited Accounts were made available to all members present.

12. General Secretary's Report. Presented as previously published on the eGroup.

13. Any Other Business.

a. Following a discussion it was decided to adopt the PI Magazine as the appropriate journal for the Association. So far as advertising is concerned in the magazine, WAPI has taken a half page ad at very competitive rates. Any discounts to be retained by WAPI. It was recommended that a free copy be sent to all members prior to John Edwards contacting members regarding individual advertising. The next publication is due in July 2002.

b. The Membership Secretary tabled a motion that WAPI should explore the possibility of creating a marketing tool by way of a brochure that could initially be distributed free of charge throughout the WAPI membership on the basis that these would be sent to all Solicitors and Legal clients which would encourage the use of WAPI members. This would also invite applications for affiliate membership. Stuart Withers to secure some details regarding prices and proofs.

c. The WAPI Website problems have now been overcome and is now able to receive and send E Mail. The whole Website content is to be up-graded and to this end a Web designer has been employed and a meeting is to take place on 13 June 2002 for the final detail to be considered. It was decided that an independent moderator be sought to oversee the eGroup adopted by WAPI.

d. John Edwards informed the meeting that the Legal Aid rates appertaining to Scotland had been fixed. It was decided that Ian Withers should contact the Law Society regarding the setting of fees to explore whether it was proposed to implement such a course in the rest of UK.

e. A vote of thanks to Veronica King for her contribution was moved and carried. Ms King suggested the possibility of appointing executive members to the Council for specific purposes. The consensus was that at this stage, the Council seemed to be large enough and if anyone wished, they could either volunteer for such duties as and when they occurred, alternatively they could stand for election.

f. The General Council determined that a new category of membership should be created. An "Honorary Member" to be awarded to those exceptional few who perform outstanding service to the profession as a whole or to WAPI. This class of membership is limited to a maximum of three per year and if not awarded in a particular year, cannot be brought forward.

g. The General Council determined that the Founder Members and all Chairmen Will, upon determination of their term of Office, be awarded Life Membership status.

There was no other business for discussion and the meeting closed at 1410 hours.

Next Council Meeting will be held at 86 Southwark Bridge Road, London on Wednesday, 11th September 2002, commencing at 1000 hours.