

WAPI Annual General Meeting - 12th October 2007

Held at WAPI office, 212 Piccadilly, London

1. Meeting declared open by Darren Glover at 2.00pm

Those present were Darren Glover, Beverley Flynn, Tony Smith, Ian Withers, John Hope, Stuart Withers, Jorge Salgado-Reyes, Terence O'Connell (Guest) and Lorraine Jenkinson.

Apologies were received from Matthew Thomas, Nigel Ross and John Edwards.

2. Chairman's Annual report. (read by Darren Glover)

The last twelve months has witnessed a very slow and inactive period in the life of WAPI this is as a result of the Profession being in a state of uncertainty with regard to the question of licensing and has resulted in a degree of apathy that seems to have crept in.

In hindsight I would recommend that any future chairperson considering or being considered for the position of Chairperson needs to have a reasonable administration back up to give the position the full attention that it requires, as a one man band it is difficult to juggle the needs of the Association with the requirements to sustain a reasonable standard of living.

The backing of the remainder of the GC and our Representatives is also essential to ensure that things can move forward for the benefit of the organisation, we must also be mindful that no one person is bigger than the organisation.

Training has also been something of a grey area as the SIA have been unable to steer anyone in the correct direction, although just lately things seem to be moving and it looks likely that we may see a clearer picture over the next few months., The Academy of Professional Investigation have successfully had their Distance Learning Course transformed into a BTEC qualifications which was a long road, but gives the profession another source of valuable training with a recognised qualification upon successful completion, I commend Ian Watts' statement as posted on the uk2 site, with regard to qualifications for trainers.

Accordingly I have decided that I will not be standing for Chairman for a second term. By not having the necessary administrative support I was most probably not the best suited individual to hold the office enabling me to give the best that the association deserved.

I would like to thank all members of the GC and Representatives that have given me support over the last 12 months and urge the membership of the Association that you can get a great deal out of serving on the GC even if it is only for a short term, so do not be afraid to embrace it. Finally I would like to thank Stuart Withers for giving me the opportunity all those years ago for being in at the start of WAPI and wish the Association all the very best for the future.

3. Vice Chairman's Report (read by Darren Glover)

During my involvement with the association from General Secretary, to GC member and in this past year as Vice Chairman, I have been pleased to see how the Association has grown and to have had increased insight into the way the investigation sector operates. It is without doubt that WAPI provides a

voice for its members both here in the UK and worldwide. I would like to see WAPI forge stronger relationships with the other associations such as ours to show solidarity and to strengthen the investigation sector as a whole. It is true to say that this past year has been less active than most but we all understand the commitments that running our businesses places on us. It is because of this I have decided to stand down for the next term of office, however it is my intention to return to the GC in the near future.....if wanted!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the GC for your past and continued support to the Association and would like to wish Ian and Beverley all the best in leading the GC for the coming term.

4. Treasurers Report

I have been the Treasurer of our association since its inauguration but, I now feel that it is long overdue for another person to take control of the association's purse strings, bring new ideas and systems into the treasury. I have always carried out my duties, positively and diligently, always endeavouring to maintain a healthy bank balance together with the paying of invoices received by the association on time. I have in many ways enjoyed the experience, in particular, what has become the treasurer's responsibility in organising and presenting the WAPI awards ceremony, at our annual banquets. Unfortunately and indeed sadly, this year's event will not take place for the reasons that we are all fully aware of. However, I'm sure, that with the possible licensing of our industry taking place by the end of next year, we will have good reason to have a bumper banquet for 2008.

A founding member of the association it has always been my goal to see our association become the investigators "number one choice of trade associations to belong to" in my new role on the GC. I hope to be able to work towards achieving that goal, as I am sure all of us would want to.

I have this year, only with the great assistance of Lorraine Jenkinson, made sure that all renewal invoices, to current members, were sent out on time by the second week of January, as agreed with the GC.

To enable a smooth handover to the new incoming Treasurer we have changed the accounts working program to Sage, making sure that this year's accounts are up to date and posted on the system.

I also, with the agreement of the GC purchased a laptop computer in order that all data could be kept in one place under the control of the Treasurer. When a new Treasurer is elected and takes up the appointment, the entire association data is easily transferable.

That just leaves me to present the association audited accounts for 2006 and to invite any questions.

5. GC Members reports.

i. Membership -

The following new members were approved:

Lee Martin	Suffolk	Student
Nicholas Berry	Lancs.	Associate
Anthony Carrier	Spain	Full

Victoria Mitchell	Surrey	Full
Graham Bailey	Cornwall	Full
Lahoucine Embarc	Spain	Full
Stuart Cutty	Co. Durham	Associate
Kadir Karasu	Turkey	Full
Fabienne Michea	France	Full
Abraham Pius	Leeds	Student
Terence O'Connell	Kent	Full
Colin Wilson	Essex	Full
John McConnachie	Glasgow	Full
Philippe Dookhun	Kent	Associate
Mehmet Uzuner	Turkey	Full
Gary Murray	Surrey	Full
Iain West	Lincs	Full

ii. EU & Training

Ian Withers

IKD Common Minimum Standards Proposal - presented at the conference on behalf of WAPI at the congress (next item)

These proposals certainly upset the WAPI French/EU Associates who do not accept these proposals as they are not workable in the expanded EU as at today. Until ALL states introduce regulation and common standards plus recognition of both licenses, and qualifications a common minimum standard cannot function. WAPI were represented at the congress by Rick, whose report follows:

WAPI European rep Rick Howatson submitted the following report in respect of the Spanish organised congress:

IKD EUROPEAN CONFERENCE AND THE AGM OF THE ADPE IN ZARAGOZA SPAIN.

4th.10.2007 to 6th.10.2007 - REPORT

I attended the above conference on behalf of WAPI at the request of Ian Withers and the WAPI GC.

Thursday

There was nothing really of interest in regards to the CMS or the Common Minimum Standards that are to be proposed and that the IKD require to put forward to the European parliament with a view to obtaining a Pan European Private Investigators license to allow Private Investigators to work freely within the European Union.

Friday

The morning started with Tony Amossi introducing the members sitting at the podium like the chief of police from the Garda Civil and the minister President of Saragossa and a high ranking Police Officer from the National Police. These people very quickly left after they had been introduced and were replaced by the committee that had worked on the forming of the CMS with David Sanmartin being the chairman of this altogether 3 x men and one woman committee.

Justice Dr. Ernst Makel the Hon. President of the international association of judges held a very interesting speech about the integrity and honesty of

private investigators and how the workplace had now changed on the private investigator sector and how the courts appreciated the work of the private investigator.

The speeches were in English and there was also an interpreter head set service in 4 x languages available to all.

CMS 1 - Personal requirements, fit and proper test and professional indemnity. Code of ethics, exemptions and validity presented by the CMS committee.

CMS 2 - Competence test from the CMS committee.

Afternoon Session

Importance of regulation - Dr Ruben Jimenez President Foundation Justice of the World.

The main topic of this conference was of course the CMS requirements.

National situations - In the afternoon Country members of the IKD - being the international. Kommission Der Detectiv - Verband or group hosting the conference, represented by their Chairman gave a short introductory speech to the requirements if any to the auditorium of the respective countries.

The signing of the agreement of the respective chairman of the IKD country members.

5pm - Conference debate and members - President APDPE, and Aragon Government Director for the interior

The Spanish APDPE AGM started off as usual with complaints of foreigners from Germany, France and England working in Spain. The Spanish President of the APDPE did not miss a chance not to show himself and his investigation agency in a promotional film during the conference and even at the Gala Dinner.

Alain Bernia of the French Detective Association was very angry at the outcome of the conference and expressed dissatisfaction to all.

Tony Amossi did an excellent job representing the IKD as General Secretary and throughout the conference.

It is a well known fact that the IKD has been in a sleeping mode for many years now but with Tony Amossi I would say that it is now a force to be reckoned with. I was the only member of WAPI attending this conference.

PSIA - Investigators Sector - Option for licensing - Partial Regulatory Assessment.

The basic options defined in the RIA are:

1. Do nothing
2. Alternatives to regulation
3. Licensing with no competence criteria

4. Licensing with competence criteria

The Association having consulted with the membership (430) and associated eGroup (856) wish to record our support for option 4.

a) WAPI supports the criteria in respect of Proof of ID and Probity:

We do not accept the concept that our sectors through normal lawful activities pose any potential harm to the public. The small percentage of convictions of Private Investigators hardly supports this concept.

We do have reservations as to the legal implications of mental health criteria - This may well be a potential human rights issue, for example a person (Police Officer or PI) who suffers a mental breakdown as a result of domestic or work related stress can be denied a right to follow his/her profession.

b) WAPI supports Competency Criteria, but believes that this should be based on a combination of proven experience and qualifications.(see annex 1)

There are widespread concerns over any form of required "Training and Exams", both on the time and cost factor, and perhaps more importantly, that the current community of practising Professional Private investigators are by the very fact that they have been trading over many years "competent" - that is not to say that optional training with recognised qualifications should not be available for those wishing to enhance their abilities and evidence their competence.

c) Other important factors for consideration:

i. WAPI urge that in regulating, there should be additional licensing options for trainees. According to the SIA it is not possible to issue licences for trainee investigators, the question then begs, how do new entrants become licensed? - If the answer is based upon "selling" training courses, we are likely to see an influx of "Licensed" investigators with no practical experience, to the detriment of the marketplace.

In the view of WAPI this will be wholly unacceptable. The SIA have been able to generate under their powers defined by the PSIA, front line and back office categories, there appears to be no logical or legal reasons that they cannot introduce a trainee license - allowing a trainee to work with, and under the control/guidance of a licensed (experienced) investigator.ing

iii. Undercover Investigators: Despite WAPI having drawn attention on many occasions in the past, no SIA response has been forthcoming on the vexed issue of "undercover Operatives" who may be at risk if their details are accessible on the Public Register

iv. Overseas Short Term Licenses/Permits: For those Licensed PI's from Overseas (Non EU) which could be applied for after the event. (similar to the London Congestion Charge system

v. Complaints & Discipline

Tony Smith reported that he had mediated three complaints involving members of the association, one of which is still ongoing but has little to do with WAPI, although Tony has offered advice and recommended a correct channel to resolve any issues. Tony agreed to revise the wording on the application form to better encompass the disciplinary procedure.

vi. Egroup

The following report was read by Tony Smith:

Egroup membership is currently 845, of which 145 are bouncing for one reason or other, mostly temporary. Persistent bouncers are being removed. We remain the largest European and second largest worldwide for this profession. We have an average of 152 postings per month over the last three months. There remains a problem with spamming to the list and if two spamming messages are received that member is unsubscribed without comment. All new members are moderated, as they have been since March 2006, so the problems experienced in the past cannot happen again.

6. The current General Secretary, Darren Glover, asked the current GC to stand down and announced the WAPI 2007/2008 Election results:

The newly elected Governing Council Members for the 2007/2008 Term are as follows:

Ian D. Withers - Chairman and UK/EU Regulation
Beverly Flynn - Vice Chairman and Treasurer
Darren Glover - Membership
Stuart Withers - Business Manager/Marketing
Tony Smith - Complaints & Discipline and eGroup Moderator
John Hope - Mentor and Press Officer
Nigel Ross - Governing Council Member

General Secretary - Jorge Salgado-Reyes

Overseas Representatives:

Ireland - Eddie Foster

EU - Rick Howatson

Asia - Jeffrey A. Williams, CPP

Australasia - Neil A. Wood. JP, MCE, FIMA

USA - Warren H. Levicoff.

9. Incoming Chairman's Report, read by Ian Withers

Ian Withers requested that Darren Glover liaise with Paul Freeman (IT/Internet) to ensure that GC email addresses are changed, agreed that Stuart Withers would be allocated [business@....](mailto:business@...) Stuart Withers proposed that Nigel Ross help the treasurer to contact any overdue renewals. John Edwards indicated that he would continue to process membership cards.

10. UK2/UKPIN Christmas

Ian Withers reported that Barry Smith had asked UK2 to hold a joint venture between UK2 and UKPIN, to be held on 14th December. Ian withers to continue negotiations with Barry Smith.

11. Skills for Security

Ian reported that the Belfast Skills for Security conference was too short notice to adequately arrange a WAPI stand, Tony seconded.

12. Banquet 2008

It was agreed that preparations need to be well under way by Jan/Feb 2008, and all GC members to be allocated individual responsibilities.

13. Ireland Egroup

Eddie Foster has offered to moderate the Southern Ireland Egroup, his kind offer has been accepted and Tony Smith offered any assistance that Eddie may need.

14. Any Other Business

It was agreed that Beverley Flynn would be responsible for WAPI's dormant companies.

With nothing else to discuss the meeting was declared closed at 16.30.