

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF MIL, IN ZURICH,
SWITZERLAND, AUGUST 10,11 AND 12 2001**

A. ATTENDANCE AND PROXIES

Chairman	Mr Dave Remine
Director of Administration	Ms Annette Kunz
Director of Development	Ms Carole Bell
Treasurer	Mr Noel Burger
Chairman, American Mensa	Dr Jean Becker
Chairman, British Mensa	Mr Chris Leek
Executive Director	Mr Ed Vincent
Assistant Director	Ms Rochelle Laurence

B. AGENDA APPROVAL

Eighteen items were added to the Agenda.

Moved LEEK, Seconded BECKER

To accept the Agenda.

Passed unanimously.

C. REPORTS (Verbal)

REMINE reported that it had been a short time since the MIL election, and that he had nothing to report that would not be covered on the Agenda.

KUNZ noted that she had recently represented MIL in Monaco, where she met with local members, and had participated in a test session involving nine applicants, five of whom proved eligible to join Mensa. She also met with local media.

Kunz also reported that Webmaster Patrick Khoo is redesigning the MIL web site and should be reporting on that soon. In passing she noted that Khoo apparently anticipated that the MIL London office should play a key role in the operation of the web site, however she felt that was an inappropriate role for the office. The Ex Comm supported that view. Leek suggested that a volunteer could be found to do day-to-day admin updates on the site, if that would help the Webmaster. It was also noted that IJ Editor Donna Jadis was doing an excellent job, and that Editor Sulynn Choong should be issuing her first "Mensa World" soon.

BELL reported that she had already been in Europe five days prior to the meeting, and had been meeting local members. She was particularly impressed with the activities and management skills of the Mensa Switzerland Chairman Tugrul Kircali, who was moving the group forward in a positive manner, and she had spent a working dinner discussing development with the Swiss Chairman. Bell had also travelled to Geneva, where she had a meeting with the Secretary to the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN about the development of Mensa in member countries..

Bell then asked for information about the status of Mensa in India. Vincent commented that testing was being done in four locations, and that he hoped this represented a new period of growth in India. Some discussion of the status of Mensa in Brazil and Indonesia followed, and Bell congratulated Brazil Chairman Joel Teixeira on his work for Mensa.

At this point Bell asked the other Ex Comm members to discuss the role of the Director of Development. She noted that she was new to the group, wanted to learn all about her role and function, and she intended to be very cooperative in learning about her responsibilities, and in working with Ex Comm.

Remine said that the Ex Comm was a team, and it worked together as a team. "Ex Comm is a committee of the IBD, and we work together to fulfil IBD aims and purposes." The Chairman asked the Executive Director to comment in detail.

VINCENT said that the Constitution, the ASIEs and previous Ex Comm and IBD Minutes all indicated very clearly that the Ex Comm officers had separate but collaborative roles. According to the Constitution, the Chairman was the "chief officer of international Mensa", the Treasurer was chief financial officer of MIL, while the Directors of Administration and Development each were noted as having "executive supervision" of matters related to their offices. The intent in particular concerning the DA and DD roles was that they would assure that MIL policy was fulfilled by action undertaken by the Executive Director and the MIL office staff.

He then read ASIE 87-12a,

Mission Statement of Ex Comm:

"Ex Comm is a committee of the IBD to implement the policies as directed by the IBD, and specifically to monitor the functions of the International Office, budget projections and performance, development and publications, and to explore the need for items to be put on the Agenda for upcoming IBD and IGC meetings."

It seemed clear from this statement, Vincent said, that Ex Comm officers were to monitor the actions taken by the MIL office in relation to policy decisions taken by the IBD.

Vincent then referred the meeting to ASIE 85-8, which is a job description for the position of Executive Director. He highlighted Items 3,4, 10 and 11, which all stress the point that the E.D. has direct responsibility to act on behalf of MIL in connection with development, public relations, media conferences, administering tests in new Mensa locations, assisting new groups and members and so forth.

In conclusion, Vincent said he felt it was obvious that the intent of the Constitution and of the ASIEs noted was to make it clear that Ex Comm officers, of course including the Director of Development, were to deal mainly with assuring that IBD policy was effectively implemented and they were to monitor, or "keep a watch" on that, while the E.D. was to act on behalf of the IBD and Ex Comm in turning policy into required action(s).

Remine agreed with Vincent's comments and viewpoint regarding the roles of the officers and the E.D. and added that "The historical function of Ex Comm officers also includes the fact that the Ex Comm needed to be and was flexible in fulfilling duties, so that various officers perform varied roles, according to the need of a situation." He then noted that on one occasion a Treasurer had represented MIL in Korea, because he lived closer to that country than any other officer, and he could do it at less expense than the E.D. Likewise, various chairmen and other officers had been assigned PR responsibilities, according to proximity and cost effectiveness. "The point being, the Ex Comm officer's duties are flexible, and shared."

Bell said that the ASIEs had no bearing on her position, as the Constitution was the final word and guide on the matter. "Nothing supersedes the Constitution, and that will be my guide."

Burger noted that the ASIEs are a record of IBD decisions and policy, and could not be ignored.

Bell then advised the meeting that she wished to be trained as a Test Proctor, while she was in Europe. Burger said he felt it would be appropriate for a DD to be a trained test proctor. Remine suggested that Bell contact American Mensa to pursue this matter, as proctors are trained by a member's own Mensa.

Bell said she had been offered the opportunity of being trained by Mensa groups in Europe, including Germany and Switzerland, and she did not see why she should be directed to American Mensa for this purpose. "As the Director of Development, I need this training." Vincent said that the rules said that members had to be trained by their "home groups." Bell objected to this rule, saying she had wanted to be a proctor. Burger said it was clear she should contact American Mensa. Leek said this was a minor matter and asked the meeting to move on.

Bell then said she wanted to review the status of Mensa in France, Nice and Monaco, "as there were problems and conflicts within these groups." Also she objected to the fact that another officer had conducted testing and pr in Monaco recently, and after the time she was elected as DD. Remine said that with respect, the agenda was a long one, the DD report was taking considerable time, so it was impractical to go into great detail about every point raised. Bell responded by saying that as DD, she needed to know all about the situation of Mensa groups in France.

Bell then asked if the visit to Monaco by former DD Kunz, now as current DA, had been sanctioned by the IBD or Ex Comm. Remine said the previous Ex Comm considered the matter ongoing business, and as Kunz had long been involved in corresponding with members in Monaco and making arrangements, it had been decided by Ex Comm to ask her to conclude this "unfinished business", before the election results were known. Bell said she thought this was unfair to her as the new DD, as she spoke French and was available for the trip. She was aware too, she said, that Kunz was also scheduled to visit Luxembourg for similar purposes. Kunz replied that this was part and parcel of the same assignment by Ex Comm. Bell said she should have been consulted on this. Leek agreed, saying that Bell should at least have been informed about these matters. Vincent asked the Ex Comm to recall that he had

written to Bell some weeks previously to acknowledge that point on behalf of Ex Comm and the office, and to apologise for the lack of communication about these visits. The information had been provided to Bell, but not in a timely manner.

Moved BELL, Seconded LEEK

THAT the Director of Development be funded to visit Luxembourg.

In discussion of the motion Bell said that the visit by Kunz should be cancelled, that she could represent MIL just as effectively, she was planning to visit Luxembourg anyway, and that she was in office as DD because the voters wanted her there. She had a duty to represent the wishes of the voters. She wanted to be given per diem funding for hotel and food expenses.

Leek said he intended to vote against the motion, for though Bell was certainly the current DD, during a hand over period on Ex Comm, it made sense that a previous officer follow through on an assignment. He reminded the Ex Comm that the Executive Director is first to represent MIL. Burger agreed, the E.D. is first, and, the Constitution does not give an automatic right to the DD to travel on behalf of Mensa.

Bell asked what administrative purpose would be accomplished in Luxembourg.

Becker said it would be embarrassing to MIL, and to the people in Luxembourg, to have two MIL officers in Luxembourg at the same time, so to prevent any embarrassment to Mensa or to the DA, she would vote for this motion, "as that may prevent an unfortunate situation."

The motion failed, Bell and Becker voting in favour of it, Leek, Burger and Kunz against, the Chairman not voting.

Moved BELL, Seconded BURGER

THAT the Director of Development be funded US\$140. for various train travel expenses, and US\$60 for meals.

Bell explained that when she took office she was unaware that as DD she might be able to obtain funding. She had been doing development work in Europe, travelling in Switzerland at the request of Swiss Mensa committee members, and would be doing more of it, so she was requesting funding.

Burger said that as treasurer he found this request "fell outside the current expense guidelines". Such requests should be made before travel was undertaken, and they should be detailed, then approved before any plans were made. Remine observed that it was common practice for Ex Comm officers to travel and to visit Mensa associates in other locations, but, they did this as a personal preference, without funding by MIL. "You have decided to travel in Europe, which is fine, but you never consulted Ex Comm about this, and your trip is not an official MIL trip."

Bell said that she had been “working hard for Mensa”, doing development work and meeting Mensans in other countries. “My trip is pure work and is not a holiday. I deserve funding to continue this work.”

The motion failed, Bell, Becker and Leek voting for it, Burger, Kunz and Remine against – a tied vote means a failed motion as no majority.

Moved BELL, Seconded Burger

THAT the Ex Comm approve a reimbursement to the DD for a mobile telephone she had purchased, for US\$125.

Bell asked for this discussion to be held in confidence. Becker objected, saying that there was nothing discussed in an Ex Comm meeting that should be in confidence.

Bell then explained that when she was elected she was “put under pressure” by the MIL office and the IJ editor to provide address and contact details. She was reluctant to provide her home telephone number, because of “security reasons.” “The Executive Director said I had to give him a telephone number by a certain date, so I purchased a cell phone.”

Vincent said he had set no such date, instead he had asked Bell to provide details “as soon as possible”.

Burger thought this would provide a poor precedent, also that security had never been an issue with previous Ex Comm officers as far as he was aware.

Remine said that MIL does not provide officers with basic equipment, as it is assumed they all have telephones, computers etc. Plus, as Chairman, he made two or three overseas telephone calls a month, so he did not see that having a cell telephone was an urgent matter.

Bell asked Vincent if he wanted her to print the e-mail where he had said it was urgent that she provide contact details. Vincent replied “I repeat, I never set a date for you for that, I only asked you to provide contact details at your earliest convenience.”

The motion failed, Bell voting for it, Becker, Burger, Kunz and Leek against, the Chairman not voting.

Bell reported that she had created a personal web site. It had in four weeks attracted 1309 visits, from 36 countries. She had also created a “Positively International” site, which had attracted 139 members. Her site was different and more positive than many, she explained, because she “eliminated the negative” by not allowing “attacks or negative comments to appear on it”, and because she would not let negative persons join it.

Remine urged Bell to keep her remarks brief, as she had already taken up too much of the meeting time. He also warned Bell that she could not expect to speak at such length at the IBD meeting.

Bell replied that when she had sent various e-mails and questions to the E.D. and the Treasurer, they both replied that these matters could be discussed in Zurich. "I want to do my job, and I need answers to many questions. This is the right time. I have the right to speak here." Remine said that in respect of the rights of the other officers, he ruled that Bell stop her report at this point. Bell again insisted she had the right to speak, and began to discuss her web sites again. The Chairman asked Bell to "Please stop now." Bell continued to talk. The Chairman ruled Bell to be out of order, and asked her to sit down.

BURGER circulated his Treasurer's report. He noted that last year MIL had a deficit of £12,500, but was of the view that this was not a problem, as there is a solid reserve. Also, the IBD had agreed we should be reducing the level of reserve, and the deficit is in line with this. He also noted that the figures could change after additional discussion and review. Burger reminded the Ex Comm that the intention was not to make a profit, as we are trying to reduce the reserves in accordance with the ASIE on the matter. He also said he would be revising the Expense Guidelines. He wanted to get better input on the budget in terms of specific expenditure estimates. He hoped too that in future funds could be allocated on a project basis, by which he meant that once Ex Comm had approved a request and allocated an expenditure, then the person needing the funds, most likely the E.D., could simply proceed with a project without the need to make step-by-step reports.

American Chairman BECKER reported that there was a new AMC, which met in July. It had conducted a Strategic Planning Session, involving the creation of nine focus groups, including one concentrating on the National Mensa – International Mensa structure and relationship. She distributed some of the results of this work to Ex Comm and said she would be bringing more material to the IBD meeting.

Becker reported that American Mensa was planning a Colloquium, which she emphasised, was not a social occasion, rather it was an opportunity for "quiet and thoughtful" participation in serious discussion of a range of topics. She invited participants from all the Mensa groups.

Bell congratulated Becker on this plan, but had noted on a handout that the event was sponsored to the amount of US\$10,000 – why was that? Becker said a member had made that donation to offset expenses for participants.

LEEK, British Mensa Chairman, reported that British Mensa was "financially very sound", members seem happy, and BM is introducing a range of initiatives to improve services to members, and for recruitment purposes. The membership total has been falling for some time, however enquiries and testing are on the increase so the decline is stopping. BM is doing cost-effective advertising, in the regional rather than national press, tied to Mensa and other events, and is recruiting a full-time PR professional for the BM office.

Remine congratulated British Mensa on "a turnabout with your membership, and I know that is not easy."

D. NEW BUSINESS – APPOINTMENT REVIEW

Remine opened the discussion by stressing “We are an international body, so we should have more international appointees. The current Ex Comm, with three Americans and two British members (plus a member from Germany), is not adequately international. He asked those present to think internationally in terms of recommending appointees. It was noted that the Ex Comm will request appointee nominations prior to the Budapest meeting.

E. DISCUSSION ITEMS

E. 1 Transition – Roles of Ex Comm officers, issues and comments

Remine began the discussion asking if there had been problems in the transition from one Ex Comm to the next.

Burger said he felt that there should be a hand over procedure, whereby former officers prepared a summary of their activities and related, and handed over all pertinent documents. Remine agreed this could be improved, but pointed out that some outgoing officers quickly lose interest, thus may be unwilling to participate in a hand over. Bell expressed concern about understanding her DD role, and not having adequate information to do it. Remine reminded Bell that the Constitution and ASIEs provided guidance in that respect, as did the comments made by the E.D. in discussion that day. Kunz said that while new officers naturally have questions, the Ex Comm and the office are good in providing help and information. Bell said she had not had enough information or cooperation from fellow officers, the previous Director of Development, or from the Executive Director. She was elected to do a job, and intended to do it. But she needed more information.

Remine asked Bell to look to the Constitution for guidance, and again, to the ASIEs, especially those discussed by Vincent. Bell said she felt she was being “closed out” from information, and stated that “someone had the E.D. withhold information from me. This Ex Comm has been behaving like children, by stonewalling me”, moreover, she had been the victim of character assassination. “Some of you”, she said “are making yourselves look small. Let me do my job.”

Vincent replied that he had answered over five hundred (500) e-mails from Bell in a period of four to five weeks, promptly, fully, and courteously, and he referred her to the language of the Constitution, wherein it was stated that she had “executive supervision” for development matters. “The position is, for example, that if we need to purchase a new computer, we seek approval from the DA and from the Treasurer, however, neither would buy it and neither would then come into the office to respond to e-mail enquiries. Likewise, when it seems possible to develop Mensa in a new location, I consult with the DD and the Ex Comm, but the DD does not come along to help me with test sessions. Yours is a role that combines consultation with monitoring results, in my view.”

Kunz agreed with Vincent, and said that was the only realistic relationship between the officers and the office.

Bell wanted it on the record that: “The Constitution and only the Constitution defines my job – not the Ex Comm and not the ASIEs.”

Burger replied by telling Bell that she was misinterpreting her Ex Comm role as DD - “Yours is a supervisory role, not a participatory role, and the ASIEs show that.”

Leek observed that a distinction had to be made between policy and action, and that these indicate two different roles.

Bell then began to read a statement, accusing the Ex Comm of being “uncooperative and afraid of change” when Remine interrupted her saying “Miss Bell, you are making this a very difficult meeting. We have never had this sort of experience, in Ex Comm or IBD. You are being contentious, and disruptive. I ask you to stop this.”

Bell said she was “shocked and horrified” at the Chairman’s comments. She was being attacked, and he as Chairman was not fulfilling his role, as one who is supposed to maintain fairness and objectivity. She repeated her view that her job was defined by the Constitution, and said that if the Ex Comm would not agree with that position, she would go to the Ombudsman, or to the members.

Becker observed that “while we do not have to like each other, what we do have to do is speak moderately, and stick rigidly to the agenda and the discussion at hand.”

Burger said personal comments and threats are unwanted. What is necessary is to define the roles of the Ex Comm members. “Only Ms Bell has a problem with that. We cannot move on until this is resolved.”

Bell replied saying that “Despite the threats, I am going to do the DD job, and do it my way and in my style. What the Ex Comm thinks of me, does not matter to me.”

Burger urged everyone to take the time to discuss and agree “job duties and roles” on Ex Comm. He also said to Bell that in his view, she could not simply go off doing whatever she pleased – she was part of a team, and her role was clearly defined and limited, as noted in discussion.

Bell said that she had members from 36 countries on her web site. She had not yet gone public with the way she had been treated, but she might. “If the members knew how I am being treated here, they would be angry, and you would hear from them.”

Burger suggested that this issue of the definition of the role of the DD was significant enough to seek legal advice on it. Would Miss Bell accept that, or would she accept opinion from the Constitutional Revision Committee?

Bell said “No, not from either. I know my job.” She also said “You haven’t helped me. You won’t cooperate.”

Moved BURGER, Seconded Kunz

THAT the Ex Comm seek legal advice on the Constitutional wording regarding the roles of the four elected officers.”

Burger stated that it was essential that all Ex Comm members agree on the definition and function of the four elected officers. It may cost fees to do that, but it is vital. Kunz and Becker agreed that it was necessary to have agreement and understanding in this area. Remine said he agreed, but asked Bell if she would accept a legal finding.

Bell replied “I rest on the authority of the Constitution. The motion is a colossal waste of time and money. I am doing my job as I see fit to do it.

The motion was passed, Bell and Leek voting against, Becker, Burger and Remine in favour, Kunz abstaining.

Bell then pointed out that the punctuation in the Constitution varied in one sentence, and queried which was correct. (There was a comma ending one phrase, and in another copy of the Constitution it ended with a semicolon.) Vincent suggested that either way, there was no significance regarding the meaning of the language. Bell disagreed and wanted that considered by the lawyers too.

Bell wanted to be quoted as saying: “The motion is a waste of time. No result will be binding to me.”

E.2 GOALS

Leek opened discussion by saying that a key goal was to promote Mensa where we have new groups, and in places where we have few or no members, and our resources should be put primarily into this area. Remine agreed with Leek, and added that Ex Comm should be aiming at development planning and success, more non-dues revenue, to reduce components, and it should be examining web and net-related problems and opportunities. Becker suggested that an emphasis should be placed on intellectual content in Mensa, rather than just the social side, and in general an emphasis should be put on the unique aspects of the society, in connection with planning.

Burger asked how Ex Comm could evaluate its success in one or two years. Remine felt that this would be reflected in terms of financial well-being, in having new Mensas and promoted Mensas, and in seeing a more sophisticated use of the net.

E. 3 AGENDA for Budapest IBD/IGC Meeting – content.

The Chairman asked Ex Comm to circulate any motions they may have to each other, for comment. Also if a motion involves financial issues, please discuss with the Treasurer.

Moved BELL, Seconded BURGER

THAT when the Ex Comm votes on a topic, the E.D. will advise on the vote outcome.

Bell said that she felt that the various decisions taken by Ex Comm by e-mail are often confusing as to who voted for what, so she made this motion. Remine said he did not find this confusing, but had no problems with the motion. However, he wanted to remind Ex Comm that they should only be making decisions on matters that were time sensitive, and that IBD makes MIL policy.

Motion passed unanimously.

E. 4 TRAINING DAY

A number of topics and approaches to managing training were discussed. The Chairman was charged with contacting various participants, to obtain additional information and to determine willingness to participate.

E. 5 STANDING ORDERS – Review

Remine proposed some changes in the S.O.s, to improve them and to bring them up-to-date. After discussion and Ex Comm approval, Remine agreed to bring these to the IBD agenda.

DR

E. 6 DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Bell said that as DD, she welcomed ideas and comments.

Burger said that MIL seemed to be a combination of reactive and pro-active in relation to development – is the balance right? Vincent said we need to be in a position to be both, that is, we can make plans, but we should be alert to opportunities as they present themselves. He then reminded the meeting that he would be testing in Egypt in September, and that there seemed to be chances in Ghana, too. He also discussed plans for trying to set up tests in Latin and South America, which Ex Comm supported. Vincent was concerned that for a time, the IBD wanted or preferred “break-even” development efforts, as those are almost impossible to arrange in many countries in which we are interested. Remine said that as Mensa has funds, there was no reason be constrained by that, though of course we need to be prudent when spending the members’ money.

Burger said Ex Comm should leave development activity to the E.D. – “We can agree policy, but operational decisions can be left to the Executive Director.” Becker agreed, saying that in American Mensa “The Board decides what to do, the staff decides how to do it.”

Moved BELL, Seconded LEEK

THAT each officer be given a discretionary fund of US\$10,000 so we do not nickel and dime the Treasurer to death, with the funds afterwards being accounted for.

Bell explained that this motion will help officers be more effective, and will be of use to the Treasurer, too.

Burger said officers did not need a budget in order to perform their duties. Leek said he had seconded the motion only for purposes of discussion. He then said that he felt that the officers should contribute to budget planning, to anticipate possible expenditure. However he was not in favour of a set outlay as suggested in the motion. Remine wanted to point out that Ex Comm and IBD were currently working to a fixed budget for this term, and that this motion was therefore inappropriate. Bell said that she was currently involved in Mensa work. She was travelling in Europe at her own expense. It would be useful to have discretionary funds, as needed. She felt it was important to meet members and to see what help they wanted. Remine asked Bell to keep her remarks to the motion. Bell continued by saying that she had a job she was elected to do and that the voters wanted her to do it. Interrupting, Remine cautioned Bell again and said "Please keep your remarks centered on the motion." Bell said she would not be interrupted, she had a right to speak as an elected officer, and continued speaking. The Chairman ruled Bell out of order and asked her to stop speaking.

The motion failed, Bell voting for, Becker, Burger and Kunz against, Leek abstaining, the Chairman not voting.

In additional discussion of development policy, it was agreed that the emphasis should be placed on

Establishing new Mensas

Assisting emerging and small Mensas

Assisting established Mensas, as requested through their Chair.

Moved BELL, Seconded LEEK

THAT the Ex Comm provide Bell as DD with per diem funding for hotels for four nights, in advance, to assist the DD with a two week trip she would shortly be making to four or more countries with the purpose of doing international PR and giving assistance to Mensa groups.

Bell noted that she was not on a holiday, instead she was travelling on development business, to meet Mensa people and committees, and so she would appreciate financial assistance.

Burger said he was uncomfortable with this motion, as financial assistance requires advance approval. Bell replied that in raising this now, a few days before departing Zurich, she was seeking advance approval. Kunz said this was inappropriate and not really asking in advance, as the trip was already planned.

The motion failed, Bell and Leek voting for it, Becker, Kunz, Burger voting against, Chairman not voting.

Discussion continued as Bell insisted that she had told the Treasurer she would be travelling on from the Zurich meeting, so she had told him in advance. In buying her ticket she found a low rate so she had saved Mensa money. "So I did tell about this in advance, both to the Treasurer and the Executive Director in e-mail discussion. But I did not know I might get financial aid. However this motion was in advance of the trip. I want to state that I am extremely disappointed by this unfair decision."

The Chairman noted that the motion had failed and there was now no point in additional discussion. Bell then asked how she could obtain advance funding for trips she might make. The Chairman said he wanted to get on with the agenda as this topic had had enough discussion. Bell claimed that the Chairman was preventing her from learning about her job. She would speak, and she wanted to know about possible new targets, and any plans for Africa. The Chairman ruled Bell out of order.

E. 7 LICENSING ISSUES

Remine circulated a newspaper article describing a huge increase in spending on licensing globally, and said that Mensa could anticipate a great deal more interest from commercial firms in using the Mensa name. He noted that the LMCA contract had produced good non-dues revenue, and if that company stays on target, considerably more could be expected.

Leek emphasised that this area (licensing issues and related) was critical, and in his opinion the most important item on this agenda.

However, MIL also had a contract with MICV and that there had been problems getting reports from them in a timely fashion. At the same time MICV had just written to request an extension of the contract. Remine commented that PR from this venture had been very good and there was no down-side. However the late report matter was seen as problematic, and Ex Comm asked Remine to negotiate with MICV with this in mind.

The licensing discussion continued, much of it focussing on issues related to publishing. MIL had engaged a legal firm to review matters pertaining to ownership and assignment for use of the Mensa name and logo. The company had reported back, and determined that MIL had the principal right to ownership of the name and logo. Leek, speaking for British Mensa, advised that he was not satisfied with this opinion. He stated that at least one significant aspect of the advice was based on a demonstrably erroneous assumption, and noted that even the lawyers agreed that British Mensa is the legal owner of the name and logo in the U.K.

After additional discussion, a motion was made, with the intention to find a suitable basis for providing a "head contract" as proposed by British Mensa

Moved REMINE, Seconded LEEK

THAT the Ex Comm authorises the Chairman to seek wording of an agreement from solicitors Bird and Bird to resolve the concerns of British Mensa over the LMCA and MICV contracts.

Passed unanimously.

A sense motion approved the idea that once satisfactory wording was obtained it would be circulated to Ex Comm as a motion.

DR

E.8 E-MAIL LISTS IN MENSA

The Chairman, noting that e-mail lists were proliferating massively, said that the lists had benefits, and risks, and asked for discussion.

Burger said that Mensa must use all technologies in order to promote Mensa. However there is a danger in that “unofficial” lists could be perceived to be official lists. He suggested that all officers should have clear lines of communication, and that they should not participate in lists, as their comments could be construed to be official comments.

Leek said that according to British Mensa rules, if an officer posted something on a list, it was to be emphasised that the comments were not official. Also, BM had list guidelines for officers and members reference. He suggested that if an officer is asked for information, he or she could tell people where to get the information, but an officer should not try to provide it directly, on an unofficial list.

Bell said that many officers were on e-mail lists and she saw no problem with that. She had herself created a list, and that was her right. She felt that Burger was wrong, and that officers should actively participate on lists.

Kunz said that there was too much traffic on many lists, so that participation was problematic, and often time-wasting. She also noted that Bell, before taking office and before putting her list online, had written to Ex Comm members to seek their comments about it. Four Ex Comm officers and the Executive Director responded directly, asking her to postpone doing that until they had an opportunity to discuss the matter together in Zurich. Bell ignored these requests and began her list the day she took office. This demonstrated an unwillingness to cooperate with Ex Comm colleagues.

Bell replied that she did not need the permission of the Ex Comm to start a list.

Remine wanted to point out that fact that Ex Comm officers cannot separate themselves from their offices. “When we become officers, we give up certain rights, as we become MIL representatives.” Members can participate and say what they like, but when officers speak, what they say may be taken as official or authoritative. He then pointed out that Mensa lists cannot exclude members from participation. A member can decide not to participate, but a member cannot be kept off a list

arbitrarily. It was his clear understanding, based on her earlier remarks, that Bell excludes members from her list. In the Constitution and the ASIEs it is stated that all members are equal, and there can only be one class of membership.

Bell said that on her list, no one can attack anyone else. The list is open to any member, as long as they do not make attacks, and have no history of attacking. She also said that many national Mensa officers participated in e-mail lists. "I would be insulted if this Ex Comm tried to curtail my participation in lists. We should all be able to do this, and I am ashamed of all who are not doing it."

Burger said that the Ex Comm had serious reservations about an officer setting up a list. He asked Bell if she was willing to turn her list over to someone else. Bell said she had delegated moderation of the list to six members from six countries, but she would retain control over who could join it.

Remine said that he felt that if he commented on lists, it would look official. If he had his own web site, it would appear to be an official MIL web site, and would be taken that way by many reading it. And, if he used his title on it, as the DD is using hers, that would make it appear even more official. Plus, having the statement "this is the hub of development" only adds to the perception that Bell's list is an MIL list, despite any disclaimers she provides.

Bell explained that before she started her list, she had known of a list that would be discussing MIL negatively. She wanted to provide a list that would be positive. In doing that, she was only trying to make members happy, and, there would be no personal attacks on it. She wanted MIL to do lists like hers, and requested that her list be made an official MIL list.

Kunz noted that the MIL Webmaster is redesigning the web site. An officer's list could be on the site, but then only as an official list. In the meantime, these private and unofficial lists of Bell's must be discontinued. Burger added that in his view Bell's use of her title on her list was utterly inappropriate, hence must be changed. He asked Bell if she would change it, given her colleague's concerns. Bell replied "No".

Burger then suggested that MIL should find some way to advise all members that Bell's list is unofficial and does not speak in any way for MIL. Bell said that if the Ex Comm tried to do that, "You would insult me, and you should be careful about that. Plus you would offend voters." She then asked Ex Comm "What are you afraid of?"

Leek said there was no fear factor here, the issue is that an MIL officer should not have a private list, for the reasons noted in discussion. The Chairman then asked all Ex Comm members if they were offended by the lists, and if they wanted Bell's lists to come down. There was complete agreement that the lists should come down, and the majority found the lists offensive.

Bell wanted to go on record as saying "I am ashamed of my Ex Comm colleagues."

Becker asked Bell why she sought advice, when she always rejected it. Bell said she could do as she liked regarding her lists.

The Chairman reminded the DD that she had said she wanted to be cooperative as an Ex Comm member, yet she was rejecting every bit of advice offered, and he found that very disappointing.

Bell then moved that Ex Comm contact a former American Mensa chair to seek advice regarding the Constitution and her position, but the motion did not have a seconder, so failed.

9. PUBLICATIONS

Kunz reported that Jadis was a capable and well-liked editor of the IJ, and that Mensa World would be appearing soon under the newly appointed editor, Choong.

10. INTERNATIONAL ELECTION – REVIEW

Remine noted that he would ask IEC Chairman Davies to submit a report about the election for distribution with the IBD agenda. He would be making a report to IBD himself, as he felt there had been many irregularities in the election procedures.

DR

11. RELOCATION OF MIL OFFICE

The costs of maintaining an office in London were very high, the Chairman observed, and the only way to reduce that disproportionate cost would be to move the MIL office elsewhere. He therefore appointed a Relocation Committee, to be chaired by Burger, and to consist of Annette Kunz as DA, Therese Moodie-Bloom as former DA, and Vincent as counsel. The committee would be charged to investigate the possible relocation of the MIL office to an English-speaking country with high standards of infrastructure and literacy etc, in order to make substantial financial savings for MIL. Leek asked if consideration would be given, among the various possible options to be considered as part of this exercise, to co-siting the MIL office with one or more of the National Mensa offices. This was seen as falling within the remit of the committee. The committee is to report to IBD via ex Comm by April 1st 2002.

12. STATUS OF VARIOUS MENSAS

The chair asked Vincent to give a report on all the various Mensa groups, with reference to any that were seriously wayward with reports and component payments. Vincent said that there were virtually no problems in that regard, however Mensa Korea did pose problems, and he was in touch with them currently, to seek information. If they could not respond by October, then the IBD might consider a de-recognition action.

13. EX-MEMBER SURVEY

This involved a discussion about whether it would be productive to undertake an MIL survey of former members in various Mensa countries, to try to determine why they had left Mensa. There was no enthusiasm for this, and the general feeling was that this was something that the Mensa groups could do themselves, if they wished. Becker noted that similar surveys had been carried out in several Mensa groups, and these

produced similar results, so additional work in this area would by MIL was unlikely to be useful

14. FUNDING REQUESTS FOR BUDAPEST MEETING

The Ex Comm reviewed requests made for funding to attend the Budapest meeting, and decided to fund as many European-based leaders as possible, including delegates from Italy (SIGs Coordinator), Macedonia, and Belarus. A Brazilian delegate would be funded as well.

15. CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Constitution Revision Committee (CRC) report was discussed and its recommendations would be a motion (brought by Remine) to the IBD meeting.

DR

16. DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

A poll of Ex Comm established the fact that they wanted to plan celebrations for the Diamond Anniversary. This will be brought to IGC for discussion.

DR

17. TRADEMARKS

Remine advised that he had received a message from former treasurer Godwin Zwanenburg, who expressed concern about the monitoring of trademark registrations, which Zwanenburg had been handling for MIL. He wanted to know if he should continue to do this, or if MIL wanted to make some other arrangement. In any case, the task was important and needed to be ongoing.

Leek suggested that this work be transferred to the MIL office, where registrations and documents should rightly be kept. He also made reference to a recently submitted EU registration application. Neither the MIL office nor the Chairman had agreed to or initiated that application. At Leek's request it was agreed that the application should be withdrawn. (Leek to investigate status and report to Ex Comm.)

Burger agreed the work should be assigned to the office, and asked the E.D. if he foresaw any difficulties with doing that. Vincent said he would manage the task, but that he would need to contact a number of sources, including the legal firm MIL retained for this purpose, to get background and other information. Ex Comm agreed that the trademark registration procedure would be transferred to the MIL office. The Chairman said he would contact Zwanenburg to thank him for his diligence in this activity.

EV

18. WEB IDEAS

Kunz reported that American Mensa member De Freshwater had suggested that an International Events Web Page be linked to the MIL page, and she found this an interesting idea. Becker agreed that it might be useful, but cautioned that all events listed must be checked to make sure that they are sanctioned by the appropriate Mensa group. She also asked that the AMC Gatherings Page be linked to the site, rather than

just copying or reproducing it, as American Mensa has had considerable experience managing this sort of site.

Bell noted that a member of Swiss Mensa had volunteered to create an online database for all members of Mensa Switzerland, which would be linked to their web page. All personal contact details would be noted in this, and the members would be able to access it to make changes as necessary. He also was considering listing details of test results on the list, for member reference. Both Becker and Leek objected to any test information being listed, as this must remain strictly confidential.

Kunz to discuss with Swiss Mensa and the MIL Webmaster and report to IGC.

AK

19. Withdrawn

20. DUTCH LIST

Remine had a message from a member who complained that he was unable to access the Mensa Netherlands membership list. This person was apparently an American life member living in the Netherlands, who should therefore join Mensa Netherlands. He said he felt this complaint should be referred to the IBD, if the member decided to make a formal complaint.

DR

21. NORWAY MEMBER COMPLAINT

A member from Norway wrote to the Chairman to complain that the MIL office would not accept her as an MIL member at her request. Remine said he would suggest she approach IBD if she wished to do that.

DR

22. OFFICER E-ADDRESSES

American Mensan Stacey Kirsch had proposed that she set-up aliases on e-mail for use by IBD/IGC/Ex Comm officers, that could be used to forward all mail to these persons, to their preferred addresses. This would provide continuity, as when there were changes of officers, the address would remain the same, for example "American Chairman" would remain the address, but the mail would be forwarded to the new officer.

Bell expressed concern about security issues, and said she did not want to be forced to use one of these addresses. Becker said security was no more an issue with this approach than with any other e-mail listing of personnel. She also said that members seemed to like the "alias approach". Bell replied that she would not use any such address.

Moved BURGER, seconded BECKER

THAT this alias e-mail address be used for all official MIL listings.

Bell asked the E.D. to contact Kirsch to seek assurances that mail sent via this address list is unread by anyone associated with the service, and that all messages can be guaranteed to be forwarded in confidence.

The motion passed, with Bell opposed.

23. MENSA-MATE, MENSA WORLD CONNECT

Becker noted that the “MensaMate” name had been creating problems for various persons, and that the American Mensa Co-ordinator and MIL Co-ordinator Barbara Lytle requested that the name be changed to “MensaWorldConnect”. Becker to bring to IBD.

JB

24. WORLD-WIDE SCHOLARSHIPS

Bell asked for the sense of Ex Comm views regarding the possibility of MIL offering world-wide academic scholarships. Leek said he was generally in favour, and that BM was currently providing scholarship awards. Becker cautioned that considerable research would first need to be done, to see what awards already existed. Vincent said that the MIL office frequently received enquiries about Mensa scholarships, from persons reading about MERF awards on the web site. All these persons were inevitably disappointed to find themselves unqualified to be award candidates as they were not eligible under terms of the awards. He also asked for caution. Bell would continue to look into possibilities.

25. INTERNATIONAL TESTING DAY

Bell said that there could be merit in holding an International Testing Day, and that this could lead to good member recruitment. Remine said this topic had been discussed in Singapore and as a result the former DA had circulated a memo asking for interest in having a test day. There was virtually no interest expressed.

Bell moved that MIL arrange an International Testing Day but the motion failed to secure a seconder.

26. VIDEO THE IBD

Bell suggested that the Training Day scheduled for Budapest be video-taped, for reference for persons who would not be there. Burger said the idea might have merit, but wanted to know what it would cost – presumably a professional would need to be hired to tape the event. Leek felt this might be a good idea for future consideration, once costs and other issues had been studied.

Moved by Bell that MIL video the Budapest Training Day, failed without a seconder.

Bell wanted to discuss this idea further, but the Chairman noted that the motion had failed so additional discussion was unwarranted.

Bell insisted that she had a right to additional discussion, as a point of personal privilege. "I am being insulted by not having a chance to talk here." The Chairman ruled Bell to be out of order. Bell then appealed to the Ex Comm on the ruling. Remine asked the Ex Comm to vote to support the ruling or to oppose it.

Bell was opposed, Becker, Burger, Leek and Kunz supported the ruling.

Bell said she refused to accept the ruling and the vote on the appeal, and that she had a right to continue speaking. Remine said the discussion was finished. Bell kept speaking, so Remine said that if she did not stop at once, he would adjourn the meeting. He did not want to do that, but he had two only choices, either to adjourn, or to have Ms Bell removed from the meeting by hotel staff, and he did not want to do that either, and of course would not do it. He asked Bell if she could please stop talking, and let the meeting continue. Bell said she felt insulted by the meeting, and sat down. Remine wanted to note that the behaviour of the DD was disruptive and obnoxious, and would not be tolerated at the IBD meeting

27 and 28, withdrawn

29. POSTERS

Bell wanted a show of hands in relation to the concept of having a Poster Contest to assist with development. All present said they saw positive potential in the concept. Becker suggested that this concept should be expanded to bookmarks for distribution in libraries, which was considered a good idea by all present. Bell to take to IBD.

CB

30. Withdrawn

F. GOOD AND WELFARE

1. Burger requested that everyone clear personal expenditure from their hotel bills. He also said that his preferred reimbursement procedure would be for the Ex Comm to send claims to the office, copying him.
2. Bell wanted it noted in the Minutes that she was "disappointed with the conduct of the Ex Comm, disappointed with how the Ex Comm voted on her motions, and disappointed with the way development is being treated by Ex Comm." She also said that she felt she was wrongly denied funds to support her development work.

Remine concluded the meeting by apologising to his associates for an extremely long and difficult meeting. He had never experienced one like it in his long association with Mensa. While he had tried to be accommodating, the DD refused to be cooperative, and showed no respect to her colleagues. She would not accept advice, or decisions made by Ex Comm. He asked the DD to please reconsider her behaviour in respect of the forthcoming Budapest meeting.

Kunz moved that the meeting be concluded, which was endorsed unanimously.