

## **E.B.T.A. Members' Annual Meeting**

**Paul Klee Centre, Bern**

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2013 12.35 to 13.30**

**Present:** Mark Beyebach, President, Peter Sundman, Vice-President, H el ene Dellucci, Treasurer, Heike Schemmel, Secretary, Ursula B uhlmann- St ahli, Ferdinand Wolf, Caroline Klingenstierna, Marie-Christine Cabie, Manfred Vogt, Tomasz Switek, Jacek Lelonkiewicz, members of EBTA whose signatures have been kept in a separate document and others who were attending the EBTA conference.

### **1. Introduction and overview**

Mark Beyebach, President, presented an overview and explained the structure of the meeting. Mark noted the following in particular.

- The Board acknowledged that the time available for the meeting would only allow a small amount of time for discussion.
- Over the last year the Board has done as much as it could.
- The Board has taken feedback from previous meetings with members to help EBTA become a more standard organisation with rules, elections and transparency.
- The Board is committed to keeping to the original goals of EBTA.
- The Board now has in place task groups
- The Board sees itself as having an intermediary role between the task groups and members.

### **2. Secretary's report**

Heike Schemmel presented her report as secretary, explaining that the full report would shortly be available on the EBTA website. Heike listed the Board membership up to the time of the meeting and reviewed the goals the Board had been working on over the last year as follows,

- Re-define the EBTA goals and vision
- Create a new structure
- Improve communication between members of the Board
- Plan and support the upcoming conference
- Encourage Solution Focused research
- Reduce the cost of the Spring meeting

### **3. Structure working group**

Peter Sundman, lead of the structure working group, presented the new structure which had incorporated feedback given by members at the 2012 EBTA conference and has been in place since the July 2013. Peter thanked H el ene Dellucci, Ferdinand Wolf and Manfred Vogt for their contribution to the task group and added thanks to Svea Van der Hoorn and

Arild Aambö who also made major contributions. Peter offered his view that EBTA now has a structure that should be familiar to members in most countries and explained that full details are available on the EBTA website. Peter drew attention to the following features of the new structure,

- An annual members' meeting
- Task groups which members are welcome to join
- The EBTA website which is designed to be a communication channel for members to see what EBTA is doing and present their own ideas.

#### **4. Web task group**

Caroline Klingenstierna drew the attention of members to the EBTA website and the link to a Ning website where members can find the discussion forum. An internet connection was established at this point of the meeting so members could see how to find the discussion forum and see what it looks like. Caroline explained that the forum provides members with the opportunity to,

- Join in blogs
- Start blogs
- Contribute interesting materials

#### **5. Research task group**

Mark Beyebach, lead of the research task group, explained that this year's award has been made to Rytis Pakrošnis and Viktorija Cepukienė, as explained on the EBTA website. Mark reported that a number of bids for funding support have been made to the Board each year for a while now, and encouraged members to consider making a bid for next year's award. The award can be given to one bid or split between two.

#### **6. Conference task group**

Tomasz Switek, lead of the conference task group, explained how the task group helps future conference organisers to benefit from the experience of previous conference organisers.

Paul Z Jackson asked how the learning from previous conferences was being documented.

Tomasz explained that Ursula Bühlmann- Stähli is taking responsibility for creating a conference guidelines document.

#### **7. National Associations task group**

Tomasz Switek, lead of the national associations task group, explained that the Board does not see EBTA as being an umbrella organisation for national associations, but instead sees itself as providing a platform for national associations to connect to each other. It's now up to the national associations to make use of this opportunity. Tomasz explained that up to now some have made use of this opportunity but not all.

## **8. Financial report**

Hélène Dellucci, Treasurer up to the time of the meeting, presented the financial report for 2012/2013, and explained that the report would be available on the EBTA website shortly.

Helene drew attention to the following in particular,

At 30.8.13 the balance was 16,007.17 Euros

The cost of the Spring meeting has been reduced from about 8,000 Euros in 2012 to about 4,000 Euros in 2013.

Board members now receive the sum of 300 Euros towards the cost of attending the Spring meeting instead of full costs.

Peter Sundman, as proposed new Treasurer, presented a budget for the forthcoming year which included the financial support for Board members to attend the Spring meeting and the need for external auditing of the accounts. An internet connection was made to enable Peter to take members through a new program which will give members

- real-time access to the accounts
- a portal for new members to join,
- a means of paying for membership, where necessary, with reduced extra banking costs

Mark Beyebach thanked Peter for finding accountancy software which provided members with a system that will be absolutely open for all members to see.

## **9. Board members departing the Board**

Members were informed that Hélène Dellucci, Heike Schemmel and Caroline Klingenstierna were departing the Board. The President, remaining Board members and the members of EBTA who were present, thanked and applauded Hélène, Heike and Caroline for their contributions to EBTA and each was given a gift as a mark of appreciation.

## **10. Goals for 2013/2014**

The Board presented the following goals for the next year,

- To put the new structure to work, evaluate and ameliorate.
- Promote participation of the membership through membership of task groups, and the discussion facilities on the website.
- Plan and support the next conference.
- Encourage further research and best practice through the research grant and best practice award.

Ferdinand Wolf asked members to consider all these activities as work in progress, and to appreciate that members of the Board are carrying out these activities in addition to their own work.

Mark Beyebach invited discussion on these goals.

John Pilhaja expressed appreciation for the attention which had been given to the creation of the new structure along with the Board's commitment to see how it works.

## **11. Proposed new Board**

Mark Beyebach explained that in the future members will be able to vote on a list proposed by the Board, and the election task group will have a process in place for this and for the possibility of an alternative list being proposed by members. Mark explained that as the Board had needed to give priority to other areas of work it had not been possible for such a process to be in place in time for this Members Annual Meeting. Mark went on to explain that the Board proposed to add two new members – Geert Lefevere and John Wheeler.

Manfred Vogt explained that he and Marie-Christine Cabie are taking responsibility for the election task group and that they are the people to approach with regard to prospective new Board members.

Mark Beyebach offered the view that the Board see membership of task groups as a natural way for people to become Board members.

Jacek Lelonkiewicz pointed out that the meeting needed to include voting on the reports which had been presented to members as well as voting on the proposed new Board.

A member asked about the nature of the mandate that would be given to the Board in the event of members voting.

Mark Beyebach explained that the new Statutes mean that voting for the Board at the Members Annual Meeting gives the Board a mandate for the subsequent year, that the Board is required to have two new members each year and that the President, vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary can hold office for a maximum of three years.

Luc Isebaert asked for further clarification over how the Board would be chosen next year. Mark Beyebach explained that there was a hope that the process would allow for a degree of continuity but acknowledged that the greater degree of democracy which now exists allows the membership to replace the entire Board should it chose to do so. Luc expressed concerns over how this will work in practice. Mark acknowledged Luc's concerns and reminded members that the new process would be open to evaluation and amelioration.

## **12. Voting**

**TASK GROUP REPORTS** were voted on en masse.

Against – none

Neutral – 1

For – majority

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Against- none

Neutral – 1

For – majority

**NEW BOARD**

Against – none

Neutral – none

For – unanimous

**13. Any other business**

Wolfgang Geiswinkler commented that he was happy that EBTA is now a legitimate and transparent organisation. Whilst the previous EBTA did a great job, the current Board has done a great job of restructuring the organisation into what it now is.

Record of meeting taken by John Wheeler at the time of the meeting and finalised on 14 October 2013.