# **International Committee**

### Minutes of the Meetings held in Almaty, Kazakhstan

# July 26 - August 2 2015

Present:
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Krassimir Manev	President	krmanev@gmail.com	Bulgaria	2014-2017
Greg Lee	Host 2014	leeg@csie.ntnu.edu.tw	Taiwan	2010-2015
Bakhyt Matkarimov	Host 2015	bakhyt.matkarimov@gmail.com	<u>n</u> Kazakhstan	2011-2016
Vladimir Kiryukhin	Host 2016	<u>vkiryukhin@nmg.ru</u>	Russia	2012-2017
Mohammad Ali Abam	n Host 2017	abam@sharif.edu	Iran	2013-2018
Seiichi Tani	Host 2018	tani.seiichi@nihon-u.ac.jp	Japan	2014-2019
Valentina Dagienė	Elected	valentina.dagiene@mii.vu.lt	Lithuania	2012-2015
Mārtiņš Opmanis	Elected	Martins.Opmanis@lumii.lv	Latvia	2012-2015
Ricardo Anido	Elected	ranido@ic.unicamp.br	Brazil	2013-2016
Eslam Wageed	Elected	eslamwageed@gmail.com	Egypt	2013-2016
Ben Burton	Elected	bab@debian.org	Australia	2014-2018
Margot Phillipps	Exec. Director	margot.phillipps@gmail.com	New Zealand	2014-2017
				Non-voting

#### 1. Welcome

#### 2. No apologies

#### 3. Urgent Decision:

It was agreed formally that electronic voting would not be used at this IOI, because of the change to anonymity of voting.

#### 4. Presentation and Confirmation of Agenda

Meeting places also confirmed and future host presentation times confirmed. (Azerbaijan: 15.00 – 15.15 Tuesday, Singapore 11.45 Thursday)

#### 5. Confirmation of IOI15 attendance

Bakhyt Matkarimov advised that at this moment Lebanon had 1 contestant and Nigeria had paid for a number of guests so he was confident they would attend. Bakhyt was asked to check if there were any contestants without leaders as this presented a risk to the IC and IOI15.

#### 6. President's report

Workshop:

- (i) The payment through personal bank accounts to avoid taxes was not considered acceptable. Financing for future such events needs to be discussed with the treasurer.
- (ii) Eventually the IOI workshops could produce a program design and curricular for national schemes.

Countries to be considered for future hosts: Azerbaijan and Singapore have made formal requests and there is also an announcement from Bolivia.

### 7. Executive Director's report

Communications: Emails to future candidate hosts, April and June newsletters, Letter to Iranian government official recognising progress.

IOI Planning Checklist: Helped complete the planning checklist begun in February and started to find a project planning team to form a template project plan for hosting an IOI (Troy Vasiga from Canada, Andree Phillips from Australia).

### New Countries:

**Pakistan** – contact is Ahad Butts, using CEATS , a professional exam writing organisation, to produce the national exam, not yet written.

**Mozambique** – Bakhyt Matkarimov was asked by them to include them, but their national olympiad isn't held until August 2015.

**Panama** - No further news on a national contest since November after initial communication from the University of Panama. There was a second contact in June with a representative of Panama Stem, a robotics organisation for students. They were informed of the standard criteria.

**Uzbekistan** – observed 2012, change of personnel in 2013 so Bakyht re-contacted the 2012 staff and they have organised a team.

New Country information was sent to Eljakim Schrijvers for inclusion in the registration system (Lebanon)

Miscellaneous:

- An Action list and unresolved items was circulated from the February meeting.
- Facilitated the workshop proceeding.
- Coordinated with some IC members about the ACER proposal.
- Approved funds (workshop, journal, IOInformatics website domain name, IOI statistics website hosting and development).
- Regulation changes discussion with Mārtiņš Opmanis.
- Eligibility question for Canadian student (Richard interpreted regulations which allowed the student to compete. He had been enrolled only part of September to December in a Canadian high school).
- Dealt with a sponsorship request from the Knowledge Academy, Britain. No progress.
- IC mail list: deleted past participants and added new, including Eljakim.
- Proof-reading of 3 journal papers which had already accepted.

#### Discussion

Mārtiņš Opmanis asked how the regulation changes we wish to have made can occur. It was decided that Ben Burton, Margot and Mārtiņš would look at regulation changes tonight (Monday July 27) in order to circulate them to the GA for consideration as soon as possible.

### 8. Off site participation

Krassimir Manev presented the GA motion last year, a summary of Narayan Kumar's objections and why the IC rejected an offsite contest last year. The proposals circulated were

# (a) Do nothing

(b) Allow a country (C) to hold their own unofficial contest at the same time as the official one, overseen by an ISC appointee, whose costs are covered by C. The host country will supply problem sets, test data, grader etc. to the ISC. The IOI would award certificates acknowledging any student who would otherwise have gained a medal. The host country does not need to mention or acknowledge the offsite participants. (What if there is more than one such country?)

(c) Such a team in these circumstances may go the following year and have 2 official teams. (Because of the age restrictions this may necessitate a rule change)

(d) If country C cannot participate in IOI'n due to absence of diplomatic relations with IOI'n host country, it may send an extended team of up to six contestants instead of four for IOI'n-1 and IOI'n+1 obeying all other IOI rules. (Country has the possibility of up to six medals.)

For options (b) - (d) a country must apply before the IC meeting prior to IOI'n-1 (i.e. approximately 18 - 24 months before the event it can't attend). A decision will be taken by the IC at meeting prior to IOI'n-1

The open letter from David Ginat to the announce list and 2015 leaders list was discussed. The lack of official medals and recognition of the Israeli team in Iran was unacceptable to him.

The IC was asked to find a general solution but this letter forces the focus to be on 2017.

As the IC itself does not have a uniform view on the solution it is impossible to recommend one. Ben Burton was nominated to re-word the options to make them clearer.

The fairness of Israeli students not travelling was discussed but it had been circulated previously that Ries Kock was not willing to host the students in the Netherlands.

It was suggested that voting should be firstly a vote on Do Nothing/Do Something and then choose from the options (b) to (d).

Implementation details to be decided later.

#### 9. IOI-related collection of data

Mārtiņš had received an email from a 2008 participant asking for his name to be removed from the statistics database (but was happy with a placeholder name to be used).

**Discussion**: Some records of participation are permanent anyway as the written material holds names of participants. However as laws vary, it is "safer" to do as requested and remove the visibility of the name. The issue of verifying the email as genuinely from the participant arose. Parents should approve that names and photos will be published. This can be a responsibility pushed back to leaders at the time of registration – the leader confirms permission has been given.

Mārtiņš : to keep the Statistics data accurate, the official results need to be obtained so that unofficial websites don't give inaccurate information.

# 10. Regulations

The condition for a Second team for a host country team is not clear in the regulations. It should be explicit that they have a leader, the team size is 4, that they receive an unofficial diploma but not medals etc.

Also the ISC should be asked to remove them from the official scoreboard or adjust n to give medal boundaries correctly if those students are left on the scoreboard.

# 11. Off site participation (Session 2)

Discussion of re-written proposal for the GA

# (Off-site, Using nearby years, Do Nothing)

The Israeli leader told Ben Burton they wanted that their participation be "official", that they should be awarded medals if deserved by score and wanted to be recognised on the Iranian site.

Iran cannot have Israel recognised on their website but it could be recognised on the IOI website and there is no objection from Iran about producing an alternative medal.

As the problems from the IOI were on the internet almost immediately after day 1 of the competition, then security around quarantine needs to be tightly enforced at any off site venue.

The issue of fairness arose as the Israeli team wouldn't travel under option (b) above.

Re-ordering the options was discussed and adding "apologise" to the do nothing option and making it explicit that the medals were not the same was accepted

# 12. Future Host - Azerbaijan bid :

A proposal for the 2019 IOI, to be held 10 - 17 August in the capital city Baku, was presented.

Information was given about

- Azerbaijan's weather
- The proposed accommodation, (in the Olympic village used for the European games) its fibre-optic cabling, travel times (15 minutes from the airport, 5 minutes to the opening ceremony hall ) meal wait times (5 to 7 minutes) and special diets catered for. The use of buses would be limited to pick-ups, the 2 ceremonies and the big excursion.
- The contest hall (built for Eurovision and sufficient bandwidth for 500 contestants) and its infrastructure. A translation network will be provided.
- The small excursion will be 20 minutes by bus (Baku and the temple of Fire) and the big excursion will be to Gabaland.
- Closing Baku ballet and opera theatre classical
- Visas the Minister of Foreign Affairs will sign a decree to instruct embassies to help visitors and the ADA university can offer electronic visas
- Early arrivals will be picked up from their hotels on August 10. Buses from the airport will depart every 45 minutes or when full.
- Guides will all have English and will be selected for their other languages.
- Guests will have excursions based on the culture, history and nature of Azerbaijan and the fee will be \$1500US

- The budget has been accepted by the government so other sponsors are not required.
- Marketing and Media include televised opening and closing ceremonies, a livestream room will be provided and daily newsletters.
- The organising team and the HSC and Technical committee were detailed. Azerbaijan would also pay fares for extra ISC members and there are 6 or 7 former members ready to help with the set-up.

#### Discussion:

The number of computers (800) mentioned would not be required.

Buses will be required on competition and practice days.

Flights: 1 to 2 daily from Istanbul and also from Qatar and Dubai. Trains from Georgia, Iran and Russia.

As 2019 is an anniversary year, past presidents could be invited.

There was no objection to ACER sponsorship. Initial discussions had been held with Cisco.

#### 13. Dishonest Student

A student submitted 15 lines of source code for Scales which scored 100 points. It had accessed the grader code with no attempt to solve the problem and was a clear case of cheating. It was discovered in 2 minutes. Discussion concluded that it was the student's intention to cheat, that the spirit of the competition was flouted, that the student wasn't just having fun and knew the rules. The student should be allowed to compete in day 2 for logistical reasons.

The announcement is to be "One student was caught cheating and has been disqualified, but this will not affect the medal allocation as their score will be 0 for both days. "

9 for, against 1, abstain 1

Ben Burton was to speak to the leader of the disqualified student.

#### 14. Task Publication

It was observed that the tasks were available on the internet very soon after the competition began in English and also in Russian within 30 minutes. Yandex was not running a parallel contest although there had been an ISC mail list discussion about allowing this. It was unclear how the translation to Russian could have accomplished in 30 minutes. More information was sought and later a leader gave a signed statement that he released the translated version of the tasks but had consulted with ISC before, and it was agreed that as the contest had already begun that no harm would be done. It is potentially a matter for the regulations that only HSC or ISC should publish tasks.

#### 15. ACER Sponsorship

The starting year was discussed as Acer wants 5 consecutive years, beginning somewhere from 2016 to 2018. Whether being tied to sponsorship for future hosts was a deterrent or attraction was discussed, as was the link with ITC's request for another year of experiment.

#### 16. Awards and Trophies

The decision to award a Distinguished Service Award (DSA) to Don Piele posthumously was made too late to invite his widow, so the USA leader has been invited to accept it on his behalf. The closing ceremony presenter or Krassimir Manev should speak about Don's contribution, rather than Brian.

There was discussion about long service and whether it should be recognised by an award or certificate as there are many viable candidates. The closing ceremony is not seen as the appropriate

place as it should be about the students. So such awards should be done in the GA. The DSA must be rare (one per year) and for Distinguished service. The value of a service certificate and how it is determined was debated.

Krassimir Manev asked to be sent views on what should constitute a "long service" (or other awards).

There are sufficient trophies available if there is a tie for the top score. (7). Russia will take what is left and return any not required by IOI 2016.

### 17. Country Membership

Krassimir Manev believes there has been a loss of a regulation: after 3 years of non-attendance a country loses membership. He will attempt to find it in old versions.

### 18. Future Host - Singapore bid :

Information was given about

- PM Lee Hsien's vision of a "Smart Nation".
- English main language so all volunteers speak English but would choose those who speak visitors language.
- Would accept all countries and ease of entry. (only 1 country would need a visa)
- A very safe nation.
- SIA will offer preferential fares, and most countries have direct flights. 6500 flights per week, from 72 countries.
- Venue is NSU and proposed dates June 25 to July 2 to avoid conflict with other university requirements. If ACER was a sponsor it could be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week July.
- Student accommodation : Team has a 4 bedroom apartment, so there are no gender issues.
- Leader's Hotel is a 3 minute drive from the university.
- Excursions: First: Gardens by the bay, Marina barrage both have an environmental and educational influence.
- Second: Marine park, Universal studios on Sentosa.
- Guests: Zoo and night safari, river safari, botanic gardens etc.
- There is strong governmental (Education Ministry, underwriting the full budget) and University support.

#### Discussion:

Effect of Acer sponsorship will be to improve e.g.: hotels, taxis rather than buses from the airport etc. Preference is for 2019 rather than 2020.

Date is quite early and might clash with IMO.

Technical and Scientific experience with APIO and also regional ICPC.

Letters of support were received from The Ministry of Education, the Singapore Tourism Board and Singapore Airlines.

# 19. Future Host intention - Bolivia:

There is an intention to bid for IOI 2020 or beyond so wish to know the requirements/budget etc.

Some ideas were given by the IC: The cost is US \$1.5 to 2 million, need 200 volunteers including a Technical committee and Scientific committee (need at least 20 experienced good people), arrange a

contest site, room for GA meetings (to seat 200+), 100PCs for translation, Excursions with 700 people on buses, plan complex logistics for competition days (need a short chain for decision making), involve officials for visas. The checklist developed at the IC meeting in February will be shared.

Discussion: Capital is 3600 m above sea level – so contestants would need extra days to acclimatise. A regional IChO has been held in La Paz and a national Informatics competition has been held for 4 years. It was suggested that a precursor would be to organise a regional OI.

# 20. 2016 host report (Russia)

Update: The site will now be Kazan, not Innopolis as stated in February, at the Universiade village, which is a self-contained micro town. The Village has all the necessary facilities including a clinic and lots of sports grounds. There are rooms for committee meetings and a conference hall that holds 216 for the GA. A concert hall holds 1217 for the Opening ceremony but the closing ceremony will be in Kazan at the Pyramid Entertainment Complex which holds 1130. (6 minutes away). Leaders' hotels are 10 minutes by car to the competition site and a similar time for the students but by walking. Better hotels for leaders and committee members may involve travelling.

The competition itself may take place on the premises of Volga Region State Academy of Physical Culture, Sports and Tourism. The gyms here have enough space for up to 400 workstations. A final decision will be made in February.

There are good connections by train and plane.

Dates are August 12 to 19 and the usual programme will be implemented. Weather at this time is warm (average 17.6, max 22.9)

It is planned that contestants will have large screens (21.5") so big distances will be needed between each contestant. (as the university library will be their ultimate home). The machines for translation have been specified. ISC/ITC recommendations are sought.

Organisers include the Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications, Kazan University and regional Ministries.

Regional Sponsors: Open Joint Stock Company and ICL-KME CS.

Acer sponsorship will require discussions between Acer and the Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications.

Discussion:

- The switch to Kazan was because the facilities are now better than when first planned and it is closer to the hosting University. However, the students should still see Innopolis.
- The website doesn't mention Java but that will be fixed. The IC is invited to give feedback on the website.
- The dates are fixed.
- The HSC should talk with the ISC in February about the monitors. Also a UPS will be required if laptops are not used.
- There is an agreement with a tourist agency to support guests who may want to extend their stay.

#### 21. Feedback on Regulation changes circulated

New S6.13: If there are unforeseen large scale problems during the contest, the ISC is empowered to decide on an appropriate resolution. ISC must inform the IC and the GA of decision. Can over-ride ISC's decision with 2/3 majority vote.

E6.11 bullet point 2 - "at least ¼ silver "

Final point of 5.12 – requiring official English solutions to tasks within 3 months.

# **22.** Choosing Future Hosts

Azerbaijan had bid unsuccessfully for 2017, and they were invited by Krassimir Manev to bid again. Although their proposal didn't state that all countries would be invited Krassimir has sought and gained such an assurance verbally. Singapore has a preference for 2019 but would bid for 2020.

Discussion: Is it a queue (first come first served) or the best bid available? Krassimr suggested that if the bid wasn't strong technically, the ISC could support them. Potential visa issues should be taken into account.

The regulations allow for 2 future hosts to be chosen. ("no more than 5 years in the future").

An approval vote was held and offering IOI 2019 to Azerbaijan and IOI 2020 to Singapore was approved by the majority vote (9).

#### 23. Financial Statement and Budget – Eljakim Schrijvers

Accounts and budgets presented (as shown in GA minutes)

- The savings were reduced deliberately.
- The over-spend of 16,000 € was a little greater then intended and there was less interest than expected.
- The aim, as last year, was to maintain a balance of about 100,000 €.
- The ITWG, ISC and Website were effectively sponsored and spent no money.
- The President's office also cost nothing but the ED's office overspent (all on travel).
- There was no live broadcast this year although money was spent it was not claimed.
- The conference costs were under budget by nearly 4,000 €.
- The cost for the conference presenter of 1,000€ is included.
- More was spent on awards because of ties.
- Accounts were checked by Ries Kock and Marcel Vlastuin and Audited
- Payments are made within a week once approved by President and ED
- Cash payment to Krassimir Manev for the workshop is not desirable for either party as it may attract tax on one side and is not traceable on the other side.
- Website budget hopefully to improve look of it.
- No workshop planned at present.
- Conference reduced from 6,000 € to 5,000 € for the journal (4,000) and conference (1,000).
- Kept ITWG and potentially use that budget for a UPS for the translation system at each site.
- Awards include pins and there is an unknown number of awards each year because of ties at the top of the competition.

As there should be 7 in Almaty, reduce the budgeted amount to 2,000 €.

#### 24. ISC and ITC report – Michal Forišek and Martin Mareš

ISC

- The February meeting is largely concerned with competition setting and until the IOI not much else can be achieved. As a result of heavy proof reading (17 versions) very few revisions (3) were needed for the problems.
- No significant issues on day 2.
- Election of new member.

ITC

- Was a one year experiment and would like one more. The ISC has discussed this and agree.
- Couldn't meet in February due to miscommunications with the host and consequently only met 2 days prior to the IOI. The February meeting is for long term planning.
- New version of sandbox and public release of translation system.

Discussion:

- If Russia is not able to supply the equipment details for the winter meeting, then there is still long term planning and also discussion about Yandex. Vladimir Kiryukhin wishes to discuss the minimum and maximum specifications and also the 21.5 inch screen plan.
- 2015: The cooperation with the host was excellent. All bugs were discovered and fixed quickly. The ITC was kept busy with fine tuning and long term
- The ISC is also working on an archive of IOI problems and will discuss this more at the GA
- Russia confirmed that if the GA approves the continuation of the ITC for one more year, they can host them.
- The cheating was caught quickly and the chances of other cheaters is close to 0. Extra safeguards were in place for day 2 and recommendations and a technical checklist will be given to future hosts. (set up of no. of nodes, translation servers, how to prevent cheaters etc.).
- Solutions will need to be provided in 3 months if the regulations change and Michal Forišek confirmed this will be done.

#### 25. Mail from David Ginat and response from Iran

Iran expressed to the IC : "We believe that this is a public insult and hence seriously ask IC to publicly condemn this kind of unacceptable behavior."

Krassimir Manev indicated that after the February meeting we understood that Ries Kock was only willing to travel to Israel to supervise an offsite competition, but this evening he has proposed a physical Olympiad in Netherland for Israel plus second teams of other European countries. He would ensure the medals, diplomas etc. were supplied but the financing must be solved. If he can't find the balance, then the IOI should pay the bill. Ries Kock is reported as saying that the IOI created the problem so should pay. Krassimir undertook to put to IC but if the IC doesn't agree, then Ries Kock will present it to the GA.

Discussion:

- The off site offer is already an expression of goodwill and it is possible that the Israel-Iran situation may change
- Proposed budget estimate is 5000 Euros (Germany, Netherlands and 1 other and Israel). The IC was unclear why other countries' 2nd teams should be paid for by the IOI or why Israel needed to travel.
- This attempt to solve a problem is creating another. In the past Iran and Egypt haven't got visas.
- IC members agreed that no change was required to the propositions the IC had formulated.
- The use of the (moderated) list should be explained to Israel rather than public condemnation. Ben Burton offered to undertake this.

# 26. Future host

• Krassimir Manev confirmed that Azerbaijan will invite every member country and that if the GA votes for the Acer proposal, then they will also use Acer.

### 27. 2017 Report

- Dr. Mohhamad Bathaei, deputy minister was selected as chair of organising committee.
- His senior advisor is observing all events in Almaty and taking videos of all events at IOI 2015.
- The Acer sponsorship has been discussed but an official request is needed.
- An office will be set up in October and the organization chart has been finalised.
- Plan to have Organising Committee meetings every 2 months from now on
- The duties for each subcommittee are being written and more detail will be available at the winter meeting.
- The dates will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> to last week of July and starting on Saturday or Sunday was discussed as Fridays are very crowded for excursions.

#### 28. 2018 Report

- Few developments since February but there will be more detail available at the next winter meeting.
- The government will support by paying half the cost.
- The venue will be in Tsukuba which is easily accessed and is easy to organise excursions from.
- The chair of the organising committee is Mr Kazuo Furukawa.

#### 29. GA Chair for tomorrow

An independent chair with strong English is needed. Ben was nominated and accepted.

#### 30. 2015 Report

83 countries – 322 contestants which was better than expected as it's not easy to reach Kazakhstan. The Turgen gorge excursion wasn't to plan as the damn was considered too risky by others. We met all milestones we'd like to meet. The Contest was done well. Discussion:

- A full written report for next February is required including the budget and formal conclusions.
- Bakyht was thanked and applauded.
- Naming "Arrival" and "Departure" dates was problematic for visas if people needed to arrive early because of flights etc.
- Is it possible, because of the online scoreboard, to have a shorter 2nd excursion and hold the awards ceremony earlier? The extra day is a necessary buffer for certificate printing, results analysis and potentially organising extra trophies.

#### 31. Conference and Journal Report - Valentina Dagienė

Journal

- 15 research papers and 5 reports 248 pages. 31 papers were received.
- Research journal (2/3 good quality) and country reports on National Olympiads.
- Review of books, algorithms, task solutions.
- Indexed by Cabells, CEEOL, EBSCO, ERA, ERIC, INSPEC, SCOPUS.
- Important for Mārtiņš Opmanis to add download counting from IOI sites .

Conference

• Wolfgang Pohl referred to an earlier GA request about the format, and there was one day of conference and one day of workshops. (Mile Jovanov on the workshop, Stefano Maggiolo on cms).

Next year will be volume 10 and the issues are: how to improve the quality, focussing on CSE education research and methods, and how to increase the number of citations. Maybe for volume 10 Valentina will do short interviews with previous host chairs.

The IC agreed we need to keep the journal but Valentina's term ends this year. Krassimir Manev suggested she become a non-voting member of the IC.

This changes the IC structure so Krassimir Manev then suggested Valentina be added to the office of ED. If the IC didn't agree then he would take on the work.

There was discussion about changing the structure of the IC and Krassimir Manev chose to leave the meeting.

Valentina's workplace would not pay for her to travel to the IOI as simply "editor", but she needs to attend to talk to authors. Her employer would pay if she was on IC or in the OED. There was discussion of the IOI paying fares from the budgeted amount for the journal and conference. The host may or may not wish to accommodate an extra person. If not, then the IOI should. Russia confirmed it would host her.

#### Proposal:

That Valentina is added to the Office of the Executive Director (OED) for one year so that she can receive an invitation as a member of the OED and therefore be funded for travel by her Ministry of Education and Science.

The Executive Director stated that the IC's decision should determine who is a member of the OED and she had no objections.

9 for, 0 against, 0 abstain

#### 32. Closing Ceremony (Bakhyt Matkarimov)

IC members are needed to award medals.

The MIT representative, Chris Martin, was invited to present to the students because MIT approached them (and no one else did) and it was deemed useful for the students and volunteer. He has 5 signed copies of the Introduction to Algorithms text by Cormen et al. and would like to present them to the top 5 contestants.

Discussion:

In the future presentations about scholarships should be handled differently. (e.g.: an open invitation).

No actual contribution to the competition was made so being on the stage is inappropriate.

The books may be awarded but not on the stage

9 for, against 0, 0 abstentions 0.

#### 33. Minor changes to regulations before presenting for voting by the GA

E5.10.1 – marks and names prohibited – now deleted And S6.7 to explicitly allow ISC and ITC and ITWG to talk to students

Discussion:

7 for, against 3, abstentions 0.

E5.10 Host must not tabulate any ranking by country

10 for, against 0, abstentions 0.

#### 34. Other business

Greg Lee's term is finished, and he expressed his thanks to the committee.

#### **Business not considered**

The state of the wiki (Find out for February meeting) and the role of the treasurer