

MINUTES OF THE WORLD SCHOOLS DEBATING CHAMPIONSHIPS LTD
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HOTEL STANLEY, ATHENS, GREECE
13 FEBRUARY 2009 COMMENCING AT 10 AM

CHAIRMAN: Christopher Erskine (Australia)

MINUTES: Claire Ryan (New Zealand)

DIRECTORS: Yuri Romanenkov (Lithuania), Claire Ryan (New Zealand)

COMPANY SECRETARY/

CHIEF ADJUDICATOR: James Probert

MEMBERS: Argentina (corporate, full) - Dana Schottlaender then Daragh Grant
Australia (corporate, full) – Elizabeth Sheargold
Bangladesh (corporate, full) – Tanvir Ahmed Haroon
Bermuda (individual, full) – Susan Panchaud
Canada (corporate, full) - Janet Webster
Chile (individual, ordinary) – Alvaro Ferrer Del Valle
Czech Republic (corporate, full) - Jan Tulis
England (corporate, full) – Tim Savin
Estonia (corporate, full) - Karin Palo
Germany (corporate, full) – David Whitehead
Greece (corporate, full) – Kallina Basli
India (individual, ordinary) - Andrew Fitch
Indonesia corporate, full) - Sherria Ayuandini
Ireland (individual, full) - Dick Wafer
Israel (corporate, full) - Yoni Cohen
Japan (corporate, full) - Junichi Miyagawa
Korean Republic (corporate, full) – Joshua Park
Kuwait (individual, full) - Emma Bowie
Lithuania (corporate, full) - Virginija Paksiene
Mexico (corporate, ordinary) - Daragh Grant
Namibia (individual, ordinary) – Mirjam Mbango
Netherlands (corporate, full) – Ard van der Steur
New Zealand (corporate, full) – Rosy Moar
Pakistan (corporate, full) - Taimur Bandey
Peru (corporate, full) - Sixto Ramos
Philippines (corporate, full) – Kip Oebanda
Qatar (corporate, ordinary) – Kate Shuster
Romania (individual, full) - Simona Mazilu
Scotland (individual, full) Irene McGrath
Singapore (corporate, full) – Michael Thng
Slovakia (corporate, full) – Andrej Schulz
Slovenia (corporate, full) - Bojana Skrt
South Africa (corporate, full) – Alexander de Jager
Sri Lanka (individual, full) – Sachintha Dias

Sweden (individual, ordinary) Sigrid Jernuud
Thailand (individual, ordinary) Thepparith Senamengern
Turkey (individual, ordinary) Mert Onen
United States (corporate, full) – John Meany
Wales (corporate, full) - Martin Pollard

OBSERVERS: Bangladesh - Md Raihanuzzaman Rumman
Canada – Kris Ade
England – Trevor Sather
Estonia- Tajo Oja, Morten Ritso
Greece – Effie Giannakouri,
Indonesia- Rivandra Royono, Taufik Indrakesuma
Ireland- Eoghan McSwiney
Israel - Hayah Eichler, Ann Kirson Swersky
Japan – Junichi Miyagawa
Korean Republic – Roger Hatridge
Netherlands – Scott Brugmans, Eva Spoor
Pakistan - Sofyan Sultan
Peru – Jose Leon
Qatar – Rita Edde
Scotland – Malcolm Smart, Janet Stevens, Cameron Wyllie
Singapore - Geetha Creffield,
Wales - Beth James

1. Establishment of quorum.

For Council meetings to proceed there needed to be a quorum of members under rule 6.10 of those rules and Article 10.2 of the Articles of Association. As 39 of the 43 members of the Council were present, a quorum was clearly established.

2. Election of chair (in the event that no director is present)

Two of the Directors, Yuri Romanenkov and Claire Ryan were present but neither was willing to chair the meeting. Therefore, pursuant to Rule 6.11 of the Charity Rules and Article 12 of the Articles, Chris Erskine as Chairperson of the Executive Committee would chair the meeting.

MOVED Mexico/Netherlands “That Christopher Erskine chair the annual meeting of WSDC Ltd.” CARRIED.

3. Welcome and apologies

Chris Erskine welcomed all delegates and observers to the meeting. Apologies were received from Botswana, Hong Kong, Mongolia and Montenegro. James Probert, WSDC Ltd company secretary, informed the meeting that Mongolia had resigned its membership.

4. Identification of full members, ordinary members and observers.

Claire Ryan read out the list of the members present, their status as full or ordinary members and their representatives. She noted that since the last annual meeting the Directors had approved Japan’s becoming a full member and it could now vote for Directors and rule

changes. Sri Lanka had recently become a corporate entity so had moved from an individual to a corporate membership.

5. Report of the 2008-2009 Board of Directors.

Claire Ryan reported that the Board had been elected just over 4 months earlier. The Directors elected were Michael Birshan, Andrea Coomber, Peejay Garcia, Andy Goodman, Nick Pacheco, Yuri Romanenkov, Claire Ryan, Jimmy Soriano, and Asher Weill. In the short time since election, the Directors have;

- a. Elected a chairperson (Claire Ryan and retained the company secretary (James Probert
- b. Retained Dartmouth House (ESU) as the registered office
- c. Set up a Google discussion board thanks to Jimmy Soriano
- d. Completed requisite documentation for the new Directors to be filed at Companies House
- e. Agreed to open a bank account in the United Kingdom and have set up a Bank Account Committee (Michael Birshan, Andrea Coomber and Yuri Romanenkov) to manage that process;
- f. Set up an Associate Membership Committee (membership of individuals and nations outside full and ordinary membership) (Michael Birshan, Yuri Romanenkov, Claire Ryan & Jimmy Soriano)
- g. Set up the Development Board according to Rule 8 (Michael Birshan, Andrea Coomber, Peejay Garcia, Andrew Goodman, Claire Ryan, Yuri Romanenkov, Jimmy Soriano, and Asher Weill.)
- h. Discussed the issue of two different organisations wishing to represent India and agreed to encourage them to resolve matters between them, which they had done;
- i. Supported the Executive Committee in its interpretation of the rules with respect to under aged debaters and coaches and endorsed the steps proposed to resolve the situation for Athens.

Two Directors are standing down and Claire thanked Michael Birshan and Nick Pacheco for all their hard work on behalf of WSDC.

MOVED Mexico/Netherlands “That the Directors’ Report be received.” CARRIED.

6. Election of 3 Directors

There should be 3 Directors out of the 9 elected every year, so that Directors should retire by rotation. However, because things started in 2008, 9 Directors were all elected at the same time. Article 27.1 requires that in that case, the retirement of Directors be by lot. Those drawn by lot had been James Soriano and Yuri Romanenkov so 2 places were available for election. However, Michael Birshan and Nick Pacheco had also stood down, leaving 4 places to be filled. There being 3 nominations for the 4 Directors’ positions, namely James Probert, Yuri Romanenkov and Jimmy Soriano, the 3 were declared elected.

7. Ratification of the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting of WSDC Ltd.

Ard van der Steur requested that references to “Rotterdam” on page 5 of the minutes under paragraph 14 be amended to “the Hague.”

MOVED Canada/Singapore “That the minutes as amended be accepted as a true and correct record.” CARRIED

8. Matters arising from the Minutes.

Nil.

9. Report of the 2008-2009 Executive Committee.

Claire Ryan apologised that no written report had been sent out earlier but she had been awaiting the reports from Executive members heading the working groups. The hosting and motions working groups' reports had arrived late the night before the meeting and the new nations and draw working groups had not reported. Claire had endeavoured to print out copies in the early hours of the morning once she had received the reports but had run out of paper.

Adjudication Working Group

There had been a spirited discussion on the topica website, which had led to a majority of the group agreeing to recommend that there be no pre-tournament accreditation and that the matter not be raised again.

Chris Erskine noted that there had been extensive discussions by the working group in 2003/2004 and it had reached a similar view, opposing pre-tournament accreditation. It is an issue which does not die. He suggested that the Council needs to pass a resolution expressing a view on accreditation. He also observed that if a championship does not have enough judges, then it all becomes academic anyway and the important task is to encourage and train enough judges for a championship.

Sherria Ayuandini (Indonesia) said that despite the recommendation, pre-tournament accreditation was a live issue. Team Indonesia had serious concerns about the disparate standard of adjudication. Every year, teams were assured that the workshop on the first day would deal with key issues and every year, judges seemed to ignore the fundamentals. She referred to the concerns recorded in the minutes of the 2008 AGM. While she acknowledged that adjudication is subjective, there are general principles that adjudicators need to understand before they come. She gave examples of some of the concerning statements made by adjudicators to Team Indonesia after some of the debates at this tournament: "I'm a vegetarian so I know your case was wrong", "I just didn't buy your argument or your case so I gave it to the other team" "I gave it to the debaters who offered more POIs." She appealed to the Council to make a renewed effort to find a solution.

James Probert (CA) (England) said that Cameron Wyllie, a member of the CAP, had already spoken to judges following Indonesia's complaints and the matter had been dealt with appropriately. He did not see the need for pursuing the issue at the meeting.

He also said he would prepare a detailed report to Council at a later stage, including recommendations for the appointment and training of adjudicators. This year, the CAP used feedback forms by each chief judge about their co-judges and assigned specific members to deal with shadows and new judges. The test debate held during the adjudicators' training day verged on accreditation and some new judges were assessed as being able to judge straight away. He was aware that a number of judges felt they should not be accredited and assessed. However, in focussing on the debaters and trying to ensure quality control, the test plus feedback by chairs and follow up where necessary was the system used.

Dick Wafer (Ireland) asked if there could be more than 3 judges at the octo-finals. James said that the CA was not of the opinion that more judges meant better results and that there was no need for more than 3.

Sherria said that many debaters felt that action was not taken when concerns were expressed about judges because the tournament organisers were reluctant to bruise the egos of judges but that we should strive to ensure a consistent and high quality of judging for the sake of our young debaters and the integrity of the competition.

Daragh Grant (Mexico) said that we are subjective beings, not machines and that this needs to be accepted in a competition like this. He felt that most judges were mature, responsible adults who welcomed on going evaluation during the tournament. The only person with an ego was one who did not like scrutiny. Pre-tournament accreditation discriminated against those who were new and prevented them from experiencing the best form of training, mixing and mingling with more senior judges and learning first-hand how adjudication worked. He did not see it as the solution to the problems raised by Sherria because if judges still did this after a training day, a test, and regular evaluation by their chairs they could still do it after pre-tournament accreditation.

Joshua Park (Republic of Korea) noted that all the judges turned in were numbers for the test debate. He considered that the CAs should also ask each judge to provide written reasons on the test debate mark sheet as to why they gave the win to the particular team.

Alex de Jager (South Africa) said that debaters do not have faith in the adjudicators. He noted the disparity between marks across mark sheets even in the same debate.

Bojana Skrt (Slovenia) suggested a discussion after the test debate on the training day so that adjudicators could hear from each other and in particular from experienced judges as to how they saw the debate. She said there was no follow up for shadow judges: people were not told why they were shadows and were left to guess. She felt some form of accreditation was important at least for new judges. If teams feel robbed by inexperienced judges, this undermines the competition.

Rosy Moar (New Zealand) echoed Alex de Jager's concerns about disparity and gave an example of a debater who was regularly achieving marks in the mid to upper 70 range and in one debate had attained 77/78 from an experienced judge but a 63/64 from a new judge who had struggled to explain the reason for the decision. She accepted that some disparity had to occur but this was a very significant difference and would affect speaker points.

Cameron Wyllie (Scotland) appreciated Indonesia's concerns and agreed that we need to continue to look for solutions. However, he wished to stress that in Indonesia's situation, the judges concerned were highly likely to have been accredited under a pre-tournament system so it would not have solved the problems.

There was extensive discussion among the members as to the appropriate wording of a resolution with various suggestions being proposed until the following was agreed.

MOVED: Mexico/Canada: "That the adjudication working group's recommendation that there be no pre-tournament accreditation be accepted and that the feedback process and any

other relevant feedback from this tournament be forwarded to future CAPs to implement during adjudication training.”

Carried 22-11.

Bojana Skrt (Slovenia) suggested there should be a policy that the CAP includes EFL and ESL members. She said that EFL and ESL people were often under represented on the CAP. She also said panels of judges should ideally reflect a gender and regional balance, for example, not all males or females and not all from a similar region.

Chris Erskine referred to Rule 15.2 of the debating rules which provides that the Chief Adjudicator may nominate a panel of senior and experienced judges from different nations to assist the Chief Adjudicator in his or her responsibilities. Bojana’s suggestion would require a rule change which could not be done at this AGM as the requisite notice had not been given. However, the meeting could vote as a matter of principle so that the CA could consider it for 2010.

Effie Giannakouri (Greece) disagreed that EFL or ESL judges were unrepresented on the panel, especially this year. She said it was important that good people served on the CAP and if you are a good judge, you are a good judge. She did not want extra allowances or excuses made for ESL/EFL judges or their appointment to the CAP just because they were ESL or EFL. She said that such judges were easily holding their own and attaining positions through merit.

James Probert said that he was hoping to write a document after the tournament which would include an evaluation of the appointment of CAPs.

Bojana suggested we ought not to await James’ report but have a resolution now which could be taken into account, even on principle only, by next year’s CA. Having a CAP of ENL speakers, even if they were assumed to be the “best” judges created a poor image for an international body.

Ard van der Steur (Netherlands) said a quota system for the CAP would be impossible to implement because there may not be the necessary people available to act on the CAP every year. There may also be difficulties in achieving regional and gender differences on every panel for similar reasons.

MOVED: Slovenia/Indonesia “That the Council recommend to future Chief Adjudicators that their CAP has at least one EFL and one ESL speaker.”

LOST: 18-14

MOVED: Slovenia/Germany: “That the Council recommend to future Chief Adjudicators that for all adjudication panels from the octo-finals onward have at least 1 female and at least one male.

LOST; 27-2

Motions Working Group

Claire Ryan read aloud the recommendations of the Motions Working Group as the report had only been received the night before the meeting.

Sofyan Sultan (Pakistan) said that the Motions Committee had to be careful that phrases understood by some nations and cultures may not be so understood by others. “Zero tolerance” for example is not widely understood across cultures. He supported the recommendation by the Motions Working Group that the motion committee should consider the different interpretations of a motion beforehand, especially if the motion refers to a system that might be considered in different ways in different parts of the world

Daragh Grant (Mexico) stressed that it was important that debaters understand the motion which leads to a good debate.

Andrej Schulz (Slovakia) queried why, if “never” never actually means “never”, we ever use the term.

Martin Pollard (Wales), suggested that recommendation one by the working group be amended as follows (in bold);

- (i) Motions should be of genuine topical interest **and understandable** to audiences of students in the host country and teams from around the world. Latest news development can be taken in consideration.

He said that the motions this year were clear and he thanked the Motions Committee for their hard work.

Daragh Grant suggested that the phrase “or absolutes” be added to recommendation four as follows (in bold):

- (iv) Motions should be worded in a way which does not include colloquialisms and unnecessary words or phrases. Double-negatives **or absolutes** in a motion should be avoided.

MOVED: New Zealand/Peru; “That the Council accept the recommendations from the Motions Working Group to future Motions Committees, with the addition of “and understandable” to recommendation (i) and “or absolutes” to recommendation (iv). CARRIED unanimously.

Hosting Working Group.

Taimur Bandey (Pakistan) said that the minimum requirements should include not scheduling WSDC during Eid.

Tim Savin (England) expressed concern that the working group reports had not been available prior to the meeting and that members were expected to accept them without seeing them. Beth James (Wales) pointed out that the contents of the hosting report had been circulated earlier in the year and extensively discussed in the working group so that people could and should have already seen it before now.

Claire Ryan invited everyone to be involved in working groups, to participate in their discussions and to read the contents of the discussions before the AGM. She also referred everyone to the hosting wiki, a comprehensive document initiated and maintained by Martin Pollard.

Dick Wafer (Ireland) asked what was the status of the wiki and how was it accessed. Martin explained that it is on the WSDC website and is accessed simply by clicking. It is open to amendment and convenors are invited to contribute. It is a guide. The two page hosting document Martin produced and circulated during 2008 is a summary of minimum requirements and the question is whether it should become part of the rules.

MOVED; England/Argentina; “That the Hosting Working Group’s recommendations be adjourned for further consideration by the Council and that the Executive Committee refer them to a postal ballot if necessary prior to the next Annual General Meeting.”

Carried 21-12.

10. Report of the 2009 WSDC Organising Committee

Effie Giannakouri presented a verbal Convenor’s report. She began by saying that the wiki “saved my life” and recommended it to future hosting organisations. She thanked the members for the unbelievable spirit shown during the championship. She also thanked her organising committee, many of whom had been assisting her to plan over the past 2 years, and the volunteers some of whom had taken time off school to assist over the last 10 days.

She hoped that WSDC 2009 had shown that a tournament could be run largely on registration fees and she encouraged other nations to consider hosting.

She raised 5 further matters;

Schools: The strong ties between the Pan-Hellenic Forensic Association and a number of key schools enabled early approaches to those schools and an enthusiastic response. Meetings had taken place over the past 6 months and contacts were made regularly and, as the championship approached, every week, to ensure that any queries could be raised and answered, that the schools understood what was required of them and all was well.

Deadline for payment; The polite but firm insistence on payment before any registration could be accepted had worked well and contributed to the fact that there had been no withdrawals prior to the championship unlike the last 2 years. A few exceptions had to be made but on the whole, nations responded promptly and well. .

Visas: There were problems with nations who applied for visas very late to enter Greece and the organisers had to do a great deal of telephoning, including contacting embassies, to assist in the resolution of a problem which could have been solved much earlier. It meant that Effie and her committee were worried until the last minute that two nations might not be able to attend. She recommended that nations should apply for visas much earlier and that it would be a good idea to have valid passports and visas by the closing date for registration which in this case was just over 2 months prior to the championships. The registration date was known since September 2008.

Miscommunication; There was at times miscommunication between the organisers and team managers, coaches and debaters with different people from the same organisation asking different or sometimes the same questions and not passing them onto each other or passing them on in a way which caused confusion between team members. Effie stressed that there has to be one person and one person only, preferably the team manager, who does the registration and communication between

Complaints Committee. This was a Committee of great quality but no work!

MOVED: Singapore/Mexico: That Effie Giannakouri and the Greek organising committee be thanked for an outstanding 2009 Championships. **Carried by acclamation.**
Claire Ryan performed a waiata in honour of her father and in thanks to Greece.

11. 2009 awards including ESL and EFL awards

Chief Adjudicator James Probert announced to applause that Greece had won the ESL award and the Republic of Korea the EFL award. Results for individual speakers were being double-checked.

Deshan Pushparajah (Sri Lanka) asked who the ESL and EFL teams were this year.

Claire Ryan advised that those who had completed and returned forms were:

ESL: Chile, Estonia, Greece, India, Kuwait, Lithuania, Mexico, Namibia, Pakistan, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Turkey.

EFL: Argentina, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Romania, Slovenia.

Yoni Cohen (Israel) said that the semi-finalists had not been acknowledged. Chris Erskine said that there was no requirement to do so but was happy to record congratulations to semi-finalists Singapore and Greece and to the finalists England and New Zealand.

12. Report of the 2010 World Schools Debating Championships Organising Committee.

Kate Schuster (USA) spoke on behalf of Qatar because Dr Hayat Maraafi had needed to return to Qatar.

Reference was made to the discussions held on 12 February 2009 and the need to pass resolutions to indicate the way ahead

Kate raised 4 issues arising from that meeting;

- (a) **Cost.** Up to 8 people per delegation would be sponsored by Qatar; in other words they would need to arrange for their own flights to Qatar but would not have to pay any registration for shared accommodation. Those who wanted a single room would need to pay an extra 30 Euros a night. If a delegation brings more than 8 people, the extra people will pay 650 Euros which will cover accommodation, food and transportation throughout the tournament.
- (b) **Co-convenor.** A two fold approach was proposed. First, a consultation committee was to be established consisting of previous convenors and experienced members of WSDC who had offered their assistance. These were; Chris Erskine, Geetha Creffield, Effie Giannakouri, Sixto Ramos, Bojana Skrt. A co-convenor was being considered but this was a confidential employment matter.
- (c) **Judges; There** would be sponsored judges who would not have to pay airfares or registration. A process of selecting those judges would be determined by the Chief Adjudicator Simon Quinn and advised to all members. Judges who were not sponsored could be included in the delegations of 8 people. Consideration was also being given to a reduced registration fee for judges who were not sponsored and who were outside the 8 people

- (d) **Official letters.** Kate confirmed the letter from Qatar Foundation presented to the meeting on 12 February 2009 came with the approval of the highest authority and was an invitation to everyone to come. Visas would be arranged by the Qatar Foundation. Fiona Simon from QMDI might also work with the consultation committee but this would need to be confirmed.

The issues were extensively discussed with a number of members at the meeting supporting each other and a number of common themes being emphasised. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- (a) **Israel.** It was generally accepted that Qatar is well aware of the charter and doing all it can to ensure everyone is welcome and safe, including Israel. Yoni Cohen (Israel) thanked Qatar and said he looked forward to team Israel's participation;
- (b) **Convenor.** The consultation committee might be enough but was spread all over the world and unlikely to attend Qatar before the 2010 championship itself. Members wanted an assurance that all possible avenues had been explored for appointing a co-convenor as Hayat Maraafi herself had indicated she needed someone else. Members wanted a deadline by which a decision was made and communicated to WSDC but acknowledged that such a deadline could not be too strict.

The membership was not in agreement as to whether the appointment of a co-convenor was purely an employment matter and that WSD ought not to interfere in the process, with some members arguing that the approval of a bid is dependant on the choice of convenor along with the other factors outlined in Rule 9.2.1 of the rules but did agree that the choice of co-convenor should be communicated to the members.

- (c) **CA.** It was felt that a co-CA was definitely required as Simon Quinn had only been to WSDC once to adjudicate and his main experience was gleaned through having been a debater. In addition, even with a good CAP, experience shows that the CA does 90% of the work, as Trevor Sather and James Probert (England) confirmed. In addition, the increase from 39 teams to a possible 50 meant a huge increase in work which Qatar had foreseen by originally proposing 2 CAs. It was acknowledged that the Executive had the power to approve the co-CA under Rule 15.1.2, but this should be communicated to Council promptly.

MOVED: Mexico/Scotland: That we urge Qatar to approach an appropriate person as co-convenor by 31 March 2009 or as soon as possible thereafter. Carried 21-9

MOVED; Israel/Scotland: That we defer our approval of a Chief Adjudicator and ask Qatar to nominate a co-Chief Adjudicator by 31 March 2009. Carried 20-13

13. Future Championships

a. 2011

Claire Ryan advised the Council that she had received one application to host WSDC in 2011 from Scotland. Copies of the bid document had been emailed to all members of WSDC Ltd and Irene McGrath had provided one hard copy to each national representative present in Greece.

Sherria Ayandini (Indonesia) observed that Eid would start on or about 30 August 2011 which would be during the championships and this would make it difficult for Muslim participants to attend.

Irene said she had spoken to the Al-Maktoum Institute and the local Imam and had made arrangements for the celebration of Eid whilst the debaters were in Dundee.

Taimur Bandey (Pakistan) said that it would still be difficult as Muslim participants would be expected to be with their families at Eid and that this may prevent them coming. Sherria Ayuandini said that Eid was like Christmas but even more significant to Muslims.

Bojana Skrt (Slovenia) suggested that earlier dates might be looked at if it was possible to change.

Chris Erskine asked Irene McGrath if she could do that. Irene said that she could not guarantee that the dates could be changed given all the work done to fix them but she and her organising committee would see what they could do. She thought that they could have an answer within a month.

Geetha Creffield (Singapore) expressed her thanks to Scotland for its hard work and her sympathy to them for the issue arising at this stage. She acknowledged that this was a tough problem and agreed that if Eid is to be avoided, reference should be made to this in the wiki. She hoped that the matter could be resolved in a way that respected Scotland's position and the timing of Eid.

Daragh Grant (Mexico) also acknowledged Irene's work and asked if Scotland could look at its dates again to see if it could possibly move the competition back so that it finished earlier.

MOVED: Argentina/Mexico: That the approval of Scotland's bid for WSDC 2011 be deferred and that further information by Scotland as to dates be provided by 18 March 2009. Carried; 35-1

b. And beyond

Ard van der Steur (Netherlands) advised the Council that the Netherlands wished to submit a bid for WSDC 2012 at the 2010 AGM. However, if they could not host it that year, they would not bid again.

Rosie Moar (New Zealand) advised the Council that New Zealand wished to submit a bid for WSDC 2012 at the 2010 AGM.

Janet Webster (Canada) asked if the two nations could meet and resolve between them who would bid.

Mirjam Mbango said Namibia would be keen to bid for 2013.

David Whitehead said Germany was interested in bidding for 2014.

Michael Thng said Singapore was interested in 2015.

14. Elections for the 2009-2010 Executive Committee

a. Chairperson

One nomination had been received for Chairperson, namely Claire Ryan (New Zealand). There being no other nominations, Claire Ryan was declared elected as chairperson.

b. Vice chairperson

One nomination had been received for Vice Chairperson, namely Beth James (Wales.) There being no other nominations, Beth James was declared elected.

c. Secretary

One nomination had been received for Secretary, namely Geetha Creffield (Singapore). There being no other nominations, Geetha Creffield was declared elected.

d. 6 Executive members

8 nominations were received namely Sherria Ayuandini (Indonesia), Taimur Bandey (Pakistan), Hayah Eichler (Israel) Angelika Hoeness (Germany), Irene McGrath (Scotland), Simona Mazilu (Romania) Karin Palo (Estonia) and Dick Wafer (Ireland).

The Council voted by secret ballot and the following were elected; Sherria Ayuandini, Taimur Bandey, Hayah Eichler, Irene McGrath, Karin Palo (Estonia) and Dick Wafer (Ireland).

Chris Erskine acknowledged the work of the outgoing Executive members, Jeanette Baljeu and Alex Just.

14. Election of 2010 Motions Committee

There were 6 nominations for the 5 positions, namely Sherria Ayuandini (Indonesia), Russell Courts (Greece), Chris Erskine (Australia), Jim McElroy (Ireland), Liana Miholic (Slovenia), Taimur Bandey (Pakistan)

The Council voted by secret ballot and the following were elected: Sherria Ayuandini, Russell Courts, Chris Erskine, Jim McElroy and Taimur Bandey. The host nation, Qatar, will nominate 2 further members to the committee pursuant to Rule 16.1.2.1 of the Debating Rules.

15. Election of 2010 Complaints Committee.

Two nominations were received: Beth James (Wales) and Roger Hatridge (Korea.) There being no further nominations, these two were declared elected. There need to be at least 3 Committee members so the meeting agreed to leave it to the Executive to decide whether to co-opt or appoint any others. The host nation, Qatar, will nominate 1-2 further members to the committee pursuant to para 4.1. (a)(iii) of the Code of Conduct.

16. General business

(a) India's membership status.

Andrew Fitch (India) asked why India had not become a full member given that it had attended as many tournaments as Japan. Claire Ryan advised that the Directors had declined to elevate India to full membership because in 2007, only one person from India had competed, the team functioning as a swing team throughout the tournament. In other words, Team India really began in 2008 so if it came to Qatar in 2010, it would be welcomed as a full member.

(b) Free debating DVDs produced by Qatar

Alex Just (Qatar) announced that there are a few free ones left if people wished to approach him after the meeting. Otherwise they can be ordered on line and there are plenty still in stock.

(c) Life membership.

Claire Ryan proposed that Chris Erskine be WSDC's first Life Member. She briefly outlined his involvement with WSDC since 1988, (**attached**) noting that he had often been called "the father of WSDC" because it was his initiative that had seen it begin as an international competition in Australia during the bicentennial year. She noted that he had first been the coach of the Australia team to WSDC for many years, was instrumental in drafting the initial rules and debating guides with Rosemary Dixon and Andrew Stockley from New Zealand and Elizabeth Virgo from Bermuda. He had judged at WSDC for many years, chaired the adjudication working group through a key period of growth and rule changes in 2003 and 2004, had been a member of the CAP in 2005-2008

(b) New team award.

Beth James suggested a new team award for the best new team, something which has never been done before, at least not in the last 10 years. She had asked Effie if it was possible for the best new team to be acknowledged this year. Effie and the Greek organisers had agreed to issue a certificate acknowledging the best new team in WSDC 2009 which was Thailand.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 3.50 pm.