

International Committee
Minutes for the Meetings held in Baku, Azerbaijan
4-11 August 2019
Venue: **Mukhtarov Boardroom**

Present

Greg Lee, Taiwan, President
Araz Yusubov, Azerbaijan,
Sun Teck Tan, Singapore,
Eslam Wageed, Egypt,
Yugo Kartono Isal, Indonesia
Valentina Dagiene, Lithuania,
Mathias Hiron, France
Benjamin Burton, Australia,
Eduard Kalinichenko, Latvia,
Mile Jovanov, Macedonia,
Margot Phillipps, New Zealand, Secretary
Eljakim (Kim) Schrijvers, The Netherlands, Treasurer

Agenda

1. Greg welcomed the committee and thanked them for coming.

2. Apologies: None

3. Urgent decisions regarding IOI-2019

Greg stated that the IC had not reached a conclusion about the Distinguished Service Awards. Ben clarified that Long Service awards were made at the GA but that the DSA's have been made at the closing ceremony. Mile suggested that as the approved awardee will not be present, the award should be made at the GA. There was some discussion as to whether this was appropriate or precedent-setting. The regulations are explicit that the award should be made at the closing ceremony. Araz raised if it really should be the same trophy for the top student(s) and the DSA.

4. Projects

Mile looked at 2 proposals but had had no response from Ben, so no conclusion was reached.

a) From Bojan Kostadinov, Macedonia : IOI cloud: The development of a web application, and a cloud of instances that can be used to execute submissions, which will be called "IOI Cloud". The goal of the web application is to enable organizers and teachers to quickly create an event of one of the following types: 1) a programming contest, 2) a small course with programming tasks, and 3) a training event/camp. (4000 Euros)

b) From Tomasz Idziaszek, Poland: Analyses of 2018 tasks as a booklet (2400 euros)

There was a brief discussion about the relative usefulness and merits versus costs. The IC was asked to consider and vote subsequently. We have missed all deadlines. Margot was charged with checking that the 2nd proposal author was still interested.

5. Regulation changes

Ben said some had been seen and approved at the February meeting, but he had drafted others and had emailed them to the leaders.. They are presented below.

N2.6.2 If a Country wishes to attend IOI as an Invited Observer, they should contact the Secretary of the IOI for information on how to apply. A typical application would include information about programmes that are already established within the Country. The IC is responsible for deciding whether to approve such applications.

E.3.4

When a member is selected to represent the Host Country for IOI'n+3, that member is expected to remain a member for five years.

N5.6.1 If a Country has not participated in any of the past three IOIs and wishes to re-apply for participation in future IOIs, they should contact the Secretary of the IOI. The IC is responsible for deciding whether to approve such applications.

E6.11

- The score necessary to achieve a gold medal is the largest score such that at least one twelfth of all eligible contestants receive a gold medal.
- The score necessary to achieve a silver medal is the largest score such that at least one quarter of all eligible contestants receive a gold or silver medal.
- The score necessary to achieve a bronze medal is the smallest score such that at most one half of all eligible contestants receive a medal.

E6.12 If a contestant is disqualified, they will still be counted for the purpose of computing medal boundaries as described by E6.11.

N6.11.3 If a contestant is found to be ineligible after the GA meeting in which the awards are confirmed, then the medal boundaries will not change.

N6.12 The IOI Code of Conduct includes examples of unethical behaviour, some of which may lead to disqualification.

After a small discussion about E6.12 and the addition of N6.11.3, Greg stated that these could now be presented to the GA for approval.

6. Presidents Report

- (a) Greg received a request to host from an organisation not affiliated with a country organisation and asked if we have a regulation about who can host. The only rule seemed to be “willing and capable”. The organisation was asked to liaise with the current country organisation and after that they didn't respond.

- (b) Greg has signed the scopus form for the approving the indexing of the IOI conference proceedings (IOI Journals) . The contact person is Valentina. As Scopus is important in the academic field, this recognition is pleasing. Greg thanked Valentina for her work.
- (c) ACER support : Geg has talked with management and asked them to send some senior staff to observe IOI. Richard Lei, from the Acer Foundation, is here and will see “powered by Acer.” everywhere. Although the representatives of Acer paid the guest fee and flights themselves they registered with Taiwan. Greg is hopeful the positive experience in Azerbaijan will encourage them to continue their sponsorship. Greg is to introduce the Acer representatives to Eslam.

7. Confirmation of Minutes (IC meeting Feb 18-20 2019) : Approved

No further decisions were made between February and now that need minuiting.

Mile raised the issue of minutes missing from the website. For the July IC 2017, Ben and Mathias were to try and recreate from one lot of notes and the Bug Tracking System (BTS). Eduard raised the case of the GA 2017 minutes. which were never fully approved as they were objected to by Latvia. Margot responded that she plans to have these approved at the final GA meeting in the “any other business” item, as there are still files to be retrieved from Ricardo as well as the clarification from Latvia of the changes required.

8. Report by secretary

- (a) The Process of changes requested to the Registration system for the contact person for a delegation.

The secretary was copied into some emails for countries requesting changes.

Araz stated the main Countries which had caused issues during registration were Nigeria, Venezuela and Cuba. Kim said that some people contacted him directly and if it was an obviously reasonable change, he made it, otherwise he contacted Araz. Most were not deemed potentially malicious.

Mile stated that we decided in 2017 to store details for the national organisation and contact person. Kim responded that forcing an organisation to be responsible has not been acceptable to the GA. There is a coordinator for the registration system. Mile reiterated that who is the contact for the country should be on website as people are writing to the webmaster for the contact information. Kim responded that we have a list, but he wouldn't want to publish it as for example. the contact for Australia doesn't do the actual registration, and probably doesn't want to be known.

The suggestion was raised again of IC members talking to each delegation to get a country report. Valentina has tried previously, unsuccessfully, to get country reports. Kim suggested a broad approach to all countries on Translation night to gauge if the country needed any assistance with its programs etc. and is it still meeting the entry criteria.

There was further discussion about the lack of a regulation allowing the IC to check that a country still meets the criteria, the need for a questionnaire to gauge if deeper conversations are needed and the role of the host in taking the responsibility of each team's registration.

Mathias, Mile and Greg were tasked with creating a Google form and asking leaders to complete it within 2 days. (contact details, website, number of cycles of local contests, eligibility etc.)

- (b) Nepalese enquiry: the person trying to set up an organisation is not yet a graduate. Can we encourage them to continue if the potential leader is not a graduate?
Greg responded that the IC endorses a country, not a person.
- (c) Awards and the new design: Greg handed over 3 trophies to Araz. The new design proposed by Eslam was discussed. If the design is changed, the old ones should be used first. The plate on the new design can be changed each year to show the year and whether its “winner” or “DSA”. Typically this can be done in 1 to 2 days at an IOI to personalise them. The GA needs to approve the design change.
- (d) Aside: Eduard reminded the IC we were to remind the GA of what abstaining meant. Ben suggested that the ISC could explain this evening when tasks were voted on.
- (e) In Kim’s absence Margot proposed that Kim be awarded the DSA. Approved unanimously.
- (f) Visitors to IC: representatives of Hungary, the UAE and M. Opmanis - all to come to the day 3 meeting.

9) Survey: Mathias has now prepared it.

Eduard stated it needed to be made clear that other than the website and email address of the organisation, no other content would be distributed or published. There was discussion about the wording for the numbers in the final selection/ National stage. Do we wish to know the numbers who compete rather than those just eligible for the IOI. Less than 10 is a cause for concern and this is what the survey is intended to elicit.

10) Group Discussions: Mile offered to organise these.

Meeting 2 12.00 Wed August 7

Seiichi Tani (Japan) joined

11) Regulations (Ben)

Two concerns were raised in the GA meeting

- (a) There is no definition of eligible contestants and thus no notion of ineligible. 6.11 was re-amended to :

E6.11 Medal boundaries are allocated by the following rules:

- The score necessary to achieve a gold medal is the largest score such that at least one twelfth of all contestants receive a gold medal.
- The score necessary to achieve a silver medal is the largest score such that at least one quarter of all contestants receive a gold or silver medal.
- The score necessary to achieve a bronze medal is the smallest score such that at most one half of all contestants receive a medal.

If, before the end of the GA meeting in which the awards are confirmed, it is discovered that one or more Contestants fails to meet the eligibility criteria of S2.5, then the number of contestants used to compute medal boundaries will be reduced accordingly.

E6.12 If a contestant is disqualified, they will still be counted for the purpose of computing medal boundaries as described by E6.11.

(b) The Code of conduct is referred to in the Notes in the regulations. Thus it does not have to be ratified by the GA and it is not a back door to changing the regulations (a concern raised by M. Opmanis in the GA) as notes don't form the regulations.

There was discussion about how the code is amended and Ben offered to draft a process for changing it.

Mile suggested that the methods of punishment be added to the regulations. As it is impossible to create a comprehensive list this was not agreed to but may be raised again as a fuller proposal at the February meeting.

(c) Araz was asked why we didn't vote on appeals. It was noted that the regulations don't match what we do in practice. So Ben would like to re-draft A6.10 for the IC at the next meeting and then present to the GA.

12. Incident at Opening Ceremony (Ben)

An incident reported by a 3rd country about the actions of one country towards another at the ceremony has been investigated following the procedure established with the Code of Conduct and there was no corroborating evidence. So the decision was made to announce in the GA that all teams should show respect to other countries.

No further action: in favour 6, against 2, abstaining 2

Discussion continued and Greg requested Ben to talk to the first country's leader and say that if it happened, then please ensure it doesn't happen again. The person reporting from the 3rd country was to be thanked for bringing the matter to the attention of the IC

13. Eduard asked about the Survey: Mathias responded there are currently 64 responses.

14. Report on 2019 (Araz)

89 invitations were sent, Armenia was included but their government didn't support their participation. Cuba, Cyprus and Colombia didn't send full teams.

All delegations except the UAE have at least 1 contestant so there are 87 teams

Azerbaijan has tried to do some things differently

a) Newsletters are not printed: Saving piles of paper and is more green. There are 2 monitors in the GA area and also in the student centre there are screens with videos and the newsletter. A comment was made that the schedule for the next day should be in each newsletter edition.

b) The Athletes village has no internet except in the entertainment and eating areas . Students go through security before entering buildings. . Before the contest, students will put their devices into safe boxes and they will be given back. After day 2 they will get internet in the whole building. Students may be nervous about having no device to wake them up, but a guide will be in their room at 7am and will get them up . There were no reported problems with this regime on day 1.

c) Cookbook - a souvenir Azerbaijani cookbook was compiled with a forward by Knuth.

Questions:

Will there be coffee past midnight and maybe snack a bit later? The hotel removed snacks at 10pm

Departures: Will buses leave from here or the athletes village.

Araz undertook to find answers.

Medical Incidents: Students were taken to hospital before the leader was informed. Araz said their policy is to “over react”. There are two ambulances in the Athletes village. Sick students will see paramedics and might then be taken to a clinic . Araz tried to contact the leaders of the 6-7 students affected but not all responded to the numbers recorded in the registration system. Araz personally drove the leader of the student admitted overnight to the hospital.

People staying more than 10 days may need to report to some agency. Araz offered to check.

Could the food be spread over more stations? Araz said he would ask, but tomorrow is a boxed lunch. Could we please remind the GA that if you skip the excursion, then lunch is not provided.

On Aug 11 there is Muslim prayer service. Can students get a bus to go to the local mosque ? Araz thought it easier to bring an Imam to the students and will investigate a solution.

Greg thanked Araz for a great event so far.

15. Report on 2020 Singapore (Sun Teck Tan)

The report is similar to that in February.

The dates will be 19 - 26 July 2020.

There is a new website with the dates on the landing page and a 3 minute video which shows the accommodation among other things and a link to the facebook page.

Accommodation: 3-4 people will share bathrooms. The Leaders and deputies will be in the same accommodation as the students There are 2 blocks (Alice and Peter Tan and Tembusu) - there would be 3 to 4 people to one washroom - is this a problem, with leaders sharing with leaders? Ben replied potentially on Translation night as people finish at different times and Eslam raised hygiene concerns. Sun Tack responded that he will try to get more funding and thus a hotel. The budget is 1.1 million and the university is a cost centre at \$75 per night. (Araz had 2.3 million and the hotel for leaders is \$129 per night)

Everything is within 10 minutes walking distance: Accommodation and meals, GA and Translation rooms, General Briefings. The accommodation for committees and guests (Kentville 3 bedroom

apartments, for 5 people, 1 ensuite room, one other bathroom), the opening and closing ceremony venue (University Cultural Centre, seats 1000) , there is a museum, if people have free time , the competition hall, the cms server rooms.

Eduard:the picture of a bed shows that a tall person might not fit between the walls.

Competition venue:Multi purpose sports hall 2. A photo showed it fits 800 desks and a layout is planned for 400 during a contest. On the 2nd level there are toilets, about 15m away. Araz offered to share the plans for his custom built desks for the contest. (\$49 per desk is an extra cost)

Meals will be held at Multi purpose sports hall 1

Guests excursions have been planned

Excursion day 1 for teams: Merlion park, The Esplanade, (there will be competitions there, with prizes) Marina Barrage (a guided tour for 25 minutes) , Gardens by the Bay (Including the Flower Dome and Cloud forest). If the budget allows, the famous “boat” at the top of the hotel will also be included. Although the weather is hot and humid there is air-con in the Flower Dome and Cloud Forest.

Excursion day2 for teams: Universal Studios singapore (\$65pp) . If people are not interested in the rides, (maybe leaders), then maybe they can go to the aquarium or Sentosa.

The Winter meeting is confirmed as Feb 24 to 28 and you can book flights now. If you wish to arrive early, please let Sun Teck know. Accommodation will be at the apartments as it is recess week at the University.

Guests of honour at the Opening Ceremony will be the State president, Madam Halimah Yacob At the Closing it will be Deputy PM Mr Heng Swee Keat. As there is an election next year he may be prime minister by then. Sun Teck may have an announcement about scholarships for medallists but this is still being worked on.

SIA will give roughly 7% - 9% discount if use them for flights. A promo code UZMPM8 will be published. (4% to 20% depending on where you are). You are not obliged to use SIA.

Medical: The University health centre is 100 m from contest hall. After hours, the National University hospital will be used. There will be a medical service on site during excursions. Medical centres all share information so there is a need to obtain consent: as if treatment is sought,permission needs to be granted that information will be shared. However students under 17 can't give consent, so Sun Teck is to find out if leaders can while there or whether parents must before they leave their home country. (Authorisation of Medical Procedures: if you don't give consent, you can't get treated.)

Non smoking campus will be strictly enforced. Security will be called and the 2nd time you are fined. Sun Teck is to find out if that also applies to e-cigarettes.

Ben, Eslan and Eduard raised the issue of fines and maybe a page of local customs could be published, so that attendees know what they may be fined for.

The guest fee is 1500 euros, but Sun Teck asks to please pay in Singapore dollars (Approximately 2300, but the exchange rate at the time of registration will be used) Araz raised that some countries can't transfer money (eg:Iran, Syria, Ukraine has strict rules)

If a leader brings their partner, the couple will be put together and the leader will be in the guest accommodation. Guests will not be paired. Gender and bathrooms in the hostel was raised. Sun Teck said if the IOI could get sponsorship, then the accommodation could be improved.

16. Report on 2021 Egypt

In March the organising committee met with the main partner, the Minister of communication and IT . MCIT & AAST signed a 5 years MOU to spread computer science (Beaver and C++_ in 14 African countries (Sudan,Southern Sudan,Kenya, Uganda,Kongo,Rwanda,Tanzania,Burundi ,Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia ,Djibouti, Libya and Mauritania) . Egypt will pay for this development and will attempt to form an African OI.

Committees : most of the organising committee are here in Baku and also some of the HSC members .

Advisory Board: Dr Yousry ElGamal (Former Minister of Education), Dr Mohammed Youssef (IOI2008 Chair), Dr. Ossama Ismail (IOI2008 HSC Head)

Organising Committee: Dr. Sara ElGazzar (Site Manager), Dr. Omneya Darwish (Logistics and Operations Manager), Dr Haytham Helmy (Budget Officer), Eng. Mohamed Adly (Site operations Manager), Eng. Eslam Wageed IC Member

Scientific and Technical Committee: Eng. Mohamed AbdElWahab (Head of ISC), Eng. Wael Eweda (Head of HTC), HSC Members (Eng. Mohamad Yousri (ICPC world finalist), Mahmoud Baldry(IOI medallist))

Governmental representatives: Ministries of Communications and IT, Interior, Foreign Affairs, Civil Aviation, Tourism and Education

Government Representatives will help with transport and excursions.

Venues: photos of buildings in progress were shown. They will accept students from September 2020.

565 people can be housed in each of 3 halls (one for boys, one for girls, one for staff.)

The dates are: not confirmed other than that it will be July, August with a preference for August. For the February meeting the IC may choose the best date .

Questions:

Sun Teck asked about distances within the venue . Eslam responded they are walkable. He also added an alternative is available at Sharm el Shaik if needed.

17. Report on 2022 Indonesia

The President was re-elected but ministers have not been confirmed.

There are 2 alternatives for the venue.

1. Universitas Indonesia: In campus dormitory for the contestants, (> 100 capacity) and nearby hotels for leaders and committees. The Competition could be in Balairung UI (holds up to 10,000 people but 400 on floor), A lecture theatre style room for GA meetings with 250 seats, and 1000 seats at Balai Prawiro (new) for the Opening and Closing ceremonies
2. Magelang or Yogyakarta in Central Java. The Ministry has experience with astronomy and physics olympiads here.

Progress : We need a minister to make a decree to prepare an IOI. A team is assigned to prepare an IOI (IC, TOKI, IOI alumni, staff from the Ministry) but we have to work fast.

Questions

Eslam: The GA hall: won't be comfortable because its theatre style - need flat floor. Yugo responded we have 5 or 6 alternatives in other faculties within walking distance

Eslem: The picture of the opening/ closing venue doesn't look like it holds 1000. Yugo assured him it does.

Mile asked about visas. Yugo responded that they will coordinate with Internal Affairs.

Mile: Visas are easier to get for Bali. Yugo responded it is not the same experience.

Mathias suggested all future hosts consult the check-list

Araz also advised future hosts to look at the Japanese report

Discussion to accommodate IC members other duties (ministerial lunch for Greg, and discussion groups)

18. Meeting 3 Thu August 8 has to be rescheduled so invited guests to meetings must be informed.

19. IOI Statistics (Eduard)

(i) Shortly after the February meeting, one person requested through Greg that their name is deleted from IOI Statistics. This was the first case to mention GDPR and was insistent on it. The IC decision was that the intention of the request was in conflict with the goal of preserving accurate records. The effect would be to erase IOI history.

(ii) Naming of gender change participants.

In one of the previous IOIs a contestant participated in two IOIs and has changed gender in-between those. This case was brought to last year's IC meeting. Eduard offered to either merge the entities (and keep using different names for different IOIs) or keep as separate entities. The participant initially opted for merge, but later changed their mind as they wanted to be found by name in participation of both IOIs to be able to reference it in their CV. Also, people discovered the gender change through this, so they inquired if it would be possible to have a third option and replace their historical name. Although the request was well intentioned and granted as an exception after a short consultation with Ben, Eduard requested that IC discuss the issue as he felt that the correct choice was made but wanted confirmation from IC and to discuss future policies.

Eduard displayed a draft policy: The intention is that the IC can allow a change if there are strong reasons for such a change (e.g.: legal name) but not to modify the association of a person with the IOI. The association (name, country, score) should be kept but other data such as e-mails, photos could be deleted on request without any issue, on first request. If people do not want to be discovered (e.g. from Google search), then robots.txt is offered to be used to prevent search engines from indexing the page. IC should consider that allowing changes weakens GDPR compliance slightly. The purpose of the policy is both to be compliant with GDPR, requiring having such a policy on file, and to limit how many such cases go to IC for individual consideration.

Greg thanked Eduard for his hard work. Ben added his thanks and thought the policy was excellent. However, the language might benefit from small rearrangements. Eduard noted that and undertook to discuss it further with Mile and Ben.

(iii) Eduard also noted that there were instances of a Deputy Leader who had married and changed their name. The person was contacted to confirm this and was merged into one entity, but different names were kept in different years, unlike the gender change request. Allowing a name change makes it no longer a historical record so the IC is advised to grant those only in exceptional circumstances.

Greg asked if all requests be documented and kept. Eduard undertook to collect them all from his emails. In summary: only two name deletion requests were granted in 2012 – in IOI 2004 there was no live scoreboard and the results of non-medalists were not published. However, from what seems to be a mistake, the full results of IOI 2004 were published on the official website for two weeks, which was captured on one of the Wayback Machine snapshot. Eduard published full results in Excel spreadsheet in 2011, received and granted two name deletion requests from non-medallists and did not transfer any of the non-medallist results to IOI Statistics website in 2012 (but kept the list of all participants). All other name deletion requests were refused.

20. Distinguished Service Awards

Gokturk's response to the offer was discussed. Greg asked for something to read about him. Ben offered to provide something.

Mile: There were no 2017 winners of DSA . It may have been because of the confusion about Gokturk.

21. IC meets a day before IOI in future (Greg)

There was discussion about the dual roles of some IC members (as leaders or deputies travelling with their teams) but the time squeeze on the IC during an IOI was acknowledged. Some of the business, such as country reports probably don't need a full complement of the IC to be present.

The decision was to defer a decision until February but Sun Teck assured the committee it would be possible in 2020 to assemble the IC a day early.

22. Website and Mārīņš: Arrange to meet with him (and Bojans from Macedonia, the current web master) - preferably in session 3 as they are leaders and probably prefer to be on the excursion.

23. Concerns from 2019 registration (related to item 9)

Do countries still meet the standards we expect of new countries applying?

We could ask for data during the registration process (starting next year) on the number of participants during each phase of each country's selection process. And then talk to leaders of the suspected cases individually. (Araz, Kim, Greg) . Kim said he can add these questions but only the team leader will see them.

Araz suggested that the host asks ("our government is paying, what is your qualification for coming?") Mathias said that the survey does this. Of course they can make up numbers. If we are suspicious from survey results, the IC can discuss in meeting three and possibly invite to meet the IC in meeting four.

Greg: This could be used as "this is how many students this reaches across the globe". But bogus numbers will come back to bite when trying for sponsorship.

Two countries were discussed in committee.

24. Regulations for appeals Ben

Asked to revisit this later :This requires larger edits than first thought. (Discussed with ITC/ISC during the break) There are 3 options:

1. try and push through the changes for the final GA on Saturday
2. break the rules next year but have a draft to vote for the following year
3. can use “experimental regulation changes”, so long as the GA has warning a month in advance.

Ben thinks option 3 is best. We will consider at the February meeting. . Today we should ask the GA to approve that we draft changes to make it match current practice

25. Conference and Journal report Valentina

Journal copies are available.

Teachers in the workshop were really active and thanks to Kim.

Statistics for journal over the years were presented: For 2019, volume 13, had: 11 research papers and 6 reports, from 27 submissions and is 250 pages. It is a Research journal (with 2/3 being good quality research papers and the balance is country reports) . It is indexed in: Cabell’s Publishing , Central and Eastern European Online Library (CEEOL) , EBSCO (ERIC) , INSPEC, SCOPUS – Elsevier Bibliographic Databases and *Conference Proceedings Citation Index* (Web of Science)

The Conference was held August 6, 9.15am til 14:00, including discussion time and a workshop for local teachers.

Valentina would like to attract authors from outside the IOI community, support young researchers, raise dissemination of the journal, and take care of indexing in data bases especially Scopus and the Web of Science. She would also like reports from these countries: Albania, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ghana, Jordan, Kuwait, Luxemburg, Montenegro, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam

For next year she would also like more papers of quality in a better time frame, involve more CSE researchers, to know dissemination statistics, potentially increase the citations.

Valentina thanked the editorial board: Benjamin BURTON (Australia), Sebastien COMBEFIS, (Belgium), Michal FORIŠEK (Slovakia), Gerald FUTSCHEK (Austria), Marcin KUBICA (Poland), Ville LEPÄNNEN (Finland), Krassimir MANEV (Bulgaria), Seiichi TANI (Japan), Peter WAKER (South Africa) , Willem van der VEGT (Netherlands) and special thanks to Executive Editor Mile Jovanov

Ben: Please remove me from the board as I no longer contribute.

Valentina: there is an evaluation form in pigeon holes.

26. IOI workshop

This has previously been aimed at improving the IOI with concrete outcomes. Although its in the budget, one hasn’t been held for a number of years. Mathias suggested combining it with projects and the IC will just discuss it if one is actually offered. Kim will keep the budget line but with 0 for 2 years until comparisons are no longer required.

27. Secretary role vs Executive Director (Eduard)

The secretary role is different to other IC members in that it requires attention all year round, not twice a year of concentrated attention. The effects of not having one active year round has resulted in missing minutes.

It is difficult to get decisions off site as email has proved a difficult medium to ensure a quorum. There needs to be a person to make limited decisions between meetings. They should have limited powers and be paid a small amount to set expectations around eg: agendas on-time, minutes provided etc. .

The history of a paid ED role was discussed. Kim said we don't want to have people apply just because there's money. Mile suggested a part time worker for 2 hours a week to also ensure media coverage, that the Facebook page is alive during the year etc.

Greg said there were 2 separate issues: that the minutes are kept and secondly, the off season. ISC and ITC could use this person.

Kim suggested that many people do a lot of work voluntarily and would resent one person's being paid. Mile and Araz suggested the organisation is mature enough to consider other modes of operating. (eg: ACM has volunteers and paid roles)

Matias added that the IC members were given duties several years ago but this didn't continue. We should we make it clear to GA that there will be roles and expectations associated with standing for IC.

Meeting 3 Thu Aug 8 9.00am

28. Future host bid, Hungary

The 3 presenters (Laszlo Jobbagy, Agnes Erdosne, Gyula Horvath) were thanked for coming.

Agnes thanked the IC and stated 2023 was an important year for Hungary as it is the 120th anniversary of the birth of Von Neumann. The Declaration of intent and letter of support were presented to Greg.

There will be 3 partners : John Von Neumann Computer Society, Szeged University, and the Digital Success non-profit (a Government initiative) The Hungarian Government is providing financial background for the IOI'2023 under the auspices of the Ministry for Innovation and Technology. The Central European Olympiad in Informatics will be hosted by Hungary in 2020 and will form the model for 2023. The profiles of 22 people willing to assist and their associations with the IOI and CEOs were presented.

Szeged is a University town in Southern Hungary which has hosted other international events including the IBO. There are sufficient hotel rooms and university dormitories to accommodate and IOI, as well as conference facilities for GA's, and a large enough hall at the university for opening/closing ceremonies. Potential excursion venues were presented, as well as the bus travel time from the international airport in Budapest (2 hours).

There were questions about the accommodation (back-up is available) and the airport transfers as 2 hours in a bus could be problematic if they don't run frequently. (There is no closer airport in Hungary and trains from the airport in Budapest are not an option)

Timing: Its a university town and has events in August such as festivals for students so the end of July to the beginning of August is most suitable.

Ben asked who would help with HTC and the response was that the University would, and they also have IT companies willing to help.

Greg asked are you willing to accept Acer sponsorship if it continues? The response was that the President been in Vodafone and HP, so would get their sponsorship. But its 4 years to go, so they will find other sponsorship. Greg stated he would need to be able to tell Acer and the presenters concluded they would accept Acer sponsorship.

Araz asked if they had a rough idea of figures yet. The response was there was a budget of 5 million euros from the government and also the university has a high operational budget.

Araz said sometimes it becomes uncertain as ministers may change. The presenters said that the minister had agreed that if they won the right to host, a four year budget plan would be made.

Greg asked who would sit on IC and that is to be discussed.

Greg thanked the presenters very much for a strong bid.

29. Website Discussion

Bojan Kostadinov (Macedonia) and Mārtiņš Opmanis (Latvia) were invited to be present for this discussion.

The poor way in which the website was moved from Mārtiņš 's site to the new one was discussed. The design had needed refreshing but the first time Mārtiņš knew of the new site was from an email from Bojan several days before it went live in 2017. Greg sent a letter of apology to Mārtiņš earlier in 2019 and reiterated his apology in person.

Mārtiņš said of the new site that the design is modern, and there are different topics - some he viewed as positive, some negative and some questionable. The site does not appear to be updated in the IOI interval as some news was old (eg: IOI2018 finished successfully). The journal processing was done well. The map of previous Olympiads is now static and should be updated after each IOI, the tasks are only in English (the translations used to be available) and there are no eg: newsletters. We have a lot of history and it is possible it will be lost. Mārtiņš saw the same problem in the Statistics website, that if there are blanks in our history it will become impossible to fill them in later. Before he agrees to participate in the new site he would like to understand why only some parts were taken to form the new one and what that by design, and what are the plans for the new website?

Mile gave some background to the history of redevelopment and said the biggest problem was it was too expensive (2000 euros to host.)

Eslam remembered the intention was only to change the look.

Eduard asked if the omissions of data was an oversight or intentional.

Mārtiņš said he would have been willing to redesign the site and this is the first time he had heard that it was too expensive. Last year he was told by Kim he would not be paid as he was no longer the webmaster any more.

Eduard said the 2000 Euros for hosting didn't capture that it included maintenance.

Bojan said he thought Mārtiņš already knew when he sent his email. He is open to suggestions and stated it would have been nicer if he had known the history . Martin Mares and Bojan collected all the data from the website, and he has all the translations. It now opens on phones, and he didn't want 90%

of the site to be links that 99% don't use. He will think of alternative repository for translations, newsletters etc. It can be maintained by multiple people. At the moment the only other person is Martin Mares. He could add attributions to old webmasters. He thinks the most important data is currently visible. The Journal part was published in one day and he is open to ideas about how to improve it. People could be responsible for different areas. He does not want there to be bad feelings about it.

Ben said there are 2 audiences: the history aimed at people in community - its small and we care about it. Part of the motivation for the change was for the 2nd audience - the rest of the world, who don't want all the data but do want a clean, modern look.

Greg said we need look and feel to be modern, but we need to not lose history. His suggestion is we need to preserve data but with more a modern feel.

Eduard said in previous handovers data was lost. He would like the current site to not lose data and that Mārtiņš is the expert on historical data and knows where it is.

Araz asked if its possible for host countries to build theirs on the main platform? It would help get a website presence quickly and would keep data. The way it is at present, at some stage past hosts let their websites die.

Mārtiņš stated that the history website is updated year by year. If the community doesn't want to pay for it, then there is no guarantee he can continue maintaining it. If translations are not taken and stored immediately after an IOI, there is a risk they will be lost. It takes persistence to retrieve the data .

Valentina said for Journals looking at the site, it is better for it to be stable.

After further discussion, about 2 sites or 1, it was agreed there should be a link from the new site to the old site with historical data eventually being moved, if that is possible.

Eduard said he would speak with Mārtiņš about creating a dedicated history.org sub domain

Greg apologised again and thanked Mārtiņš and Bojan for their efforts and attending the IC meeting.

30. Meeting with UAE representatives

(Mile left to open the group discussions)

Greg welcomed Ahmed Bentiba and Dr. Saad Harous (who had attended IOIs as a leader previously) and said the committee wished to hear about the preparation plans for students.

Dr. Harous said there is a national competition for grades 1 to 12 with C++ at the senior years. It is not currently, but will be in line with the expected difficulty level of an IOI.

Greg said it has to be individual, not team preparation as in an ICPC.

Dr. Harous stated there used to be no programming in high schools so previously they chose 100 students based on maths word problems. They were given 40 hours of teaching C/C++ then an exam,

after which they chose the best 40 to train in the weekends for 3 months, then there was another exam after which 10 were chosen for intensive training.

But now the UAE is teaching programming in schools. And now the program is part of the role of an under secretary rather than just one volunteers, so has a better chance of success.

Questions elicited that the selection process is open to all, that it will change from team to individual in September, that the language is C++ .

Ahmed then asked why this process takes so long? Ben replied that if you are absent for three years, then you fall out. Often after that long organisations have changed and so the country must reapply. Araz assured them that their attendance as observers in the practice hall (denied day 1) will be allowed from today.

Eduard asked about the expected level of difficulty of tasks as there doesn't appear to be much algorithmic thinking involved from the slides. They said it would in the future.

Greg thanked the UAE representatives for attending the IC meeting and said he would see them in 2020.

31. ISC nomination problem

Greg asked about current numbers - 4 for ISC and 1 for IC

There was discussion as to whether nominations should be re-opened and the consequences of that. Also discussed was whether the numbers standing should be disclosed to people before the nomination deadline.

It was agreed to leave the seat vacant and that next year there will be 2 IC positions (one for 2 years, and one for 3 years) as well as the President's position.

There is no rule to stop an unsuccessful presidential candidates being automatically put in the IC pool. Ben said there would need to be a check that they wanted to do that as there may be different motivations.

A question was raised about an ISC nomination request that came in too late, and that 3 other people had asked on his behalf. Mathias questioned why were strict about the deadline and the answer is in the interests of fairness. Ben said Margot was asked three times and said No three times. Eslam said the person was a special case as they were busy working on the HSc and was not a team leader. Ben said the person in question had told others he chose not to run because he thought someone else was running, so this is simply tactics. Eslam said it should about the best people, and let the GA decide, as it is not an issue of the "prize" being given out fairly.

A vote was taken whether to accept the appeal against the deadline: Accept the appeal: In favour 7, against 0, abstain 3

Meeting 4 : 9pm August 9

32. ISC/ITC reports (Martin Mareš, Jakub Łacki, Fredrik Niemelä, Farid Ahmadov)

ITC (Martin Mareš)

- Overall the IO went well apart from minor communication errors when messages were lost by radio interference with walkie talkie
- The memory space on the contestants machines was getting a little bit tight so ask Acer if it possible to get more memory. The experience would be better for the contestants and this would be better advertising for Acer. Greg said he would talk to the 2 representatives and ask for 8GB next year.
- They would like to remove Java in the future (2 years) as there are consistently small numbers (Danish team and several from Luxemburg, who were the most affected by the removal of Pascal)

Eduard asked if long arithmetic was out of scope and Jakub replied it was not a good idea to include it.

Martin said supporting Java is a lot of extra work for the host and the effort to support it was much more than it was for Pascal. Java behaves in strange ways so they have to do lots of testing and give high memory limits which may have contributed to the mistakes we keep making. He is not opposed to other languages but the number using Java (9) doesn't justify the extra work.

Greg said It may feel like we are targeting a country and also we are only left with C++ and asked if that was a bad thing?

Fredrik replied that one is fine as its not about the language and one way to make it not about language is to have just one. Jakub said we should make 2020 the last year .

Greg said it must be raised in the final GA. (The GA may vote if they don't like the proposal)

Martin and Jakub were not opposed to a second language if another one came along with less potential for errors than Java.

Ben reminded the meeting of the eventual removal of Java. Jakub said we will announce it and as we want the contest rules 1 year in advance, this is the right time. It can be put in the rules next year to be approved for 2021.

Kim suggested that the proposal is phrased that "There are students who are being trained in Java, so we will support it next year and then remove. Does everyone approve?"

Jakub and Eduard: There will be a vote for the new rules at the end of next year and that will include dropping Java.

- Martin said he would like to give a small award to 2 contestants: when there was a problem with the visualiser they told us how to solve it using python 3 and they were faster than we were. One was Czech and one from Slovenia. No final decision was reached (certificate, their Acer laptop? At the closing ceremony or not) so Araz was to confer with ITC
- Mile passed on a suggestion from the GA that there be a suggestion box with the guarantee of a quick answer. Fredrik said email was a solution and he would love to hear from anyone with suggestions.

- Ben had been approached by someone in the GA to ask if the discussions during Translation could be streamlined (when the ITC and HTC needed to be doing other work.) Ben is drafting a regulation that when ISC and HSC disagree then the ISC can take a vote to resolve it (the HSC chair is in ISC) and HSC . Moving disagreements to a vote protects the host. (if something goes wrong, its not their problem)

ISC - Ali was not present so in his absence the HSC chair reported. (Farid Ahmadov)

- There was some miscommunication between HSC and ISC (about a task wording) but ISC was very helpful and they did a great job in contributing to task preparation. The ISC represents the GA but if it tells them to change a task entirely, there may not be time to make test data changes etc. The ISC should have more authority on task statements. Jakub responded that ISC likes to hear from the hosts but in the case of a disagreement, it would be good to have a dispute resolution process. He asked what other past hosts thought.

Eduard said that while he was not a future host, the main frustration felt by the GA was that this could have been solved before presenting the problem and that would have sped up translation night.

Ben said as a past host he would like a Best practice document as the work that involves the ISC needs to happen before the translation session. The GA saw ISC huddled, for too long.

Jonathan Gunawan, future host, Indonesia whilst not familiar with this particular aspect he thought that the ISC should be able to change task statements..

Martin said that this is an example of how things should not be done. The Host should inform ISC in advance how and what they are going to do. Jakub said that they could have prepared 2 versions up front and get the GA to vote. Ben said the real problem wasn't the debate and vote but the time taken after it.

Greg asked how can we make this into a rule or guideline to stop it happening again. Martin reiterated the ISC should be the final authority on task statements for consistency. Greg asked the ISC to come up with guidelines.

- Jakub said that some appeals were not handled properly and the score changed 2 hours ago. The leaders don't yet know but need to be told as the medal allocation has changed. There was discussion that the algorithm is impartial although the GA can over-rule it.
- Jakub said the contest went pretty well from the contestants point of view and we have started an analysis of how we could do things better and it was also good learning for us.

Questions: Eduard asked for the changes for the Statistics pages.

33. Finances and Budget (Eljakim Schrijvers)

There was a positive cash flow because the Call for Projects didn't result in any being awarded and the live broadcast was fully sponsored.

Kim sent the bank statements to Greg and Margot so they know the money is in the bank.

For next year: The money in has happened (fees collected) and he kept the 2500 in as sponsor because we are still getting the website for free. However we have agreed to 600 Euros for maintaining the old site. Eduard was asked to follow up with Mārtiņš that he would continue for that amount. Eduard said that although the amount is insignificant now compared with when he was a student, it makes him feel responsive and responsible. The payment is to recognise the work in chasing people to maintain the accuracy of the site. The Statistics website money and the Historic site money effectively goes to the same institute hosting the sites, and he and Mārtiņš could divide it between them.

Mile said that maybe this year they won't be able to cover the website. Kim asked if he should reduce the sponsorship to 1500 Euro? Mile didn't know how much.

The Call for projects will be taken out because its all zeros.

The IC approved it to be presented to the GA.

34. UAE

Some concerns about the preparedness were discussed. Margot was asked to write to the UAE to ask them to invite someone to attend their camp in December.

35. IOI Statistics Policy :

Fredrik has said data can be kept on file but needn't be published. Eduard is to prepare it as a pdf to send to the secretary to keep on Drive.

36. Survey Results (Mathias)

People didn't understand the purpose of the survey as some included Bebras and therefore had huge numbers and others entered 20 (their final round). The questions need to be clarified.

Mile suggested that supplying the data be a requirement to participate next year.

Eduard suggested that we leave detailed discussion until the February meeting. In the meantime the data collected that we said would be published (websites and email contacts) will be given to Bojan to update the website.

37. Future Hosts Decision:

Hungary in 2023: Unanimous

38. Projects (Mile)

There were 2 applications, one from Poland and one from Macedonia.

- One offered an analysis of the 2018 tasks for 400 Euro per task. After discussion it was decided that the publication produced could be sold and thus didn't require funding. Also, in the future this may be done by ISC/HSC (although it is often promised by HSCs it is rarely produced) . The decision was for Mile to negotiate a better price point and to reapply.

- The second (IOI Cloud) was no longer interested but would propose another idea. This will be considered in February.
- Last year's proposal ("IOI in a box") has been delivered. It needs to be disseminated so Kim undertook to talk to the author.

39. Other Business

- **Social Media and Host websites:** Eslam suggested we have a consistent social media presence which future hosts can tap into. Araz said that will help keep the history. Eduard suggested, for example, transferring the 2019 twitter account to the 2020 hosts - this would provide one twitter handle, similar to other Olympiads and reflects that younger people would prefer that to websites. Araz was happy to link their website but probably not to hand over the website to the main IOI site. Eduard said we shouldn't be strict but ask that the host shares the official one. This was agreed to in principle without a formal vote.

The IC should take over domains when past hosts cease paying for domain name and infrastructure. (Eduard). Martin has said he can create virtual machines to host past IOIs. The challenge will be in gathering the information. Eduard offered to work with Martin and Araz to do it.

- Eduard reported a GA members complaint about a political statement made **about "disputed territory"** during the Cultural night. Araz **said that no country considers this territory "disputed"**, **expressed his disappointment with the bias shown by the complaint and** responded that it **can be considered** a matter of **geography** rather than politics.
- Eduard asked about a 5th meeting to meet new members (Hungary) and assign IC tasks.
- Some guests are 'holidaying' and others wish to be involved with the IOI. Do we need a different term such as adjunct where they would follow the leader program. It is already sorted in the regulations so in February we can decide how it should affect the registration system.
- Ben showed a screen-shot of the wifi names in use at the Opening ceremony. Greg suggested that we show it to the GA and if the leaders are disturbed by it, they should talk to their students. There is an hour of "seating" which gives them time.
- Mile wished to discuss different types of awards. This was deferred to February.
- The Chair of GA - should they continue to be a local who may have little history with an IOI. This was deferred to February.
- Seiichi was farewelled and thanked.

- Scrutineers : Vladimir is not here officially and with Seiichi leaving early, that left Troy and Mohammad. We should ask the GA to approve another scrutineer.

Meeting 5 August 10 (after GA 7 at 12.45pm)

Present : Initially missing Ben, Seiichi(left IOI), Kim, Valentina, Yugo

40. New Member(s)

Greg welcomed Agnes from Hungary as the 2023 Future host IC member and Mile (again) . He also farewelled and thanks Matthias.

Agnes was informed of the winter meeting Feb 24 to 28 and Matthias said we have a Welcome package to share with you. Agnes will be added to the IC mail list. Araz offered to help her as in February she will need to provide a report.

41. Delegation of duties

Regulations: Ben

Projects: Mile

Reminding people: Eduard

Mathias: offered to help anyone who needs it.

The secretary stated she should be OK from now on as the backlog from 2017/2018 had been largely dealt with.

Mathias had tried to organise the minutes by topics but didn't finish. If anyone was interested in helping that would be useful.

Greg said that in the off season, answering emails is our lowest responsibility. Eduard said he is happy to keep pinging the IC mail list. Mile asked if the BTS was better as it had a better interface. Ben said it works better than email, which is why they chose it. However to get the app you need to give Ben your ID.

42. Budget for future hosts (Eslam)

Could past hosts please detail items without the numbers for one just done. Greg said past hosts used to supply the budget and we need to start that again. The amounts are less important than seeing the things required.

43. Trophies

Today we will use three: Ben Qi (top student) and 2 DSA's . The balance will be handed to Singapore.

44. Next steps for Hungary

The secretary outlined the process of letters (provisional and then confirmed hosts)

Meeting closed 1.45pm