

**IASPM GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES**

**UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
16 JULY 2009**

Introduction

The 2009 General Assembly was convened by the current Executive Committee elected at the General Assembly held in Mexico City, 28 June 2007:

Chair: Geoff Stahl
General Secretary: Shane Homan
Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Michael Drewett
Web/Publications: Carlo Nardi
Member at Large: Martha Tupinambá de Ulhôa

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 4.40 pm.

(a) Election of Meeting Chair

Geoff Stahl was elected to chair the meeting as proposed by Anahid Kassabian and seconded by Freya Jarman.

(b) Approval of Agenda

Russell Reising proposed that the agenda for the meeting be approved; seconded by Bruce Johnson.

(c) Approval of 2007 Minutes (Mexico City)

Steve Waksman proposed that the 2007 Minutes be approved; seconded by David Shumway.

(d) Election of Auditors

Pieter Schoonderwoerd and Line Grenier were elected as auditors of the Treasurer's report.

e) Election of Electoral Officers

? and Koos Zwan were elected as electoral officers and ballot counters.

2. Reports

(a) Chair's Report

The Chair stated that IASPM has seen its membership continue to grow over the last two years. Many branches have expanded and we have recently added the Portuguese branch to our list.

The Liverpool conference was the largest IASPM conference. Numbers broke down along the following lines (with thanks to Freya Jarman-Ivens for data):

Early Bird Unwaged: 58
Unwaged: 45
[Unwaged total: 103]
Early Bird Waged: 83
Waged: 75
[Waged total: 158]
University (no fee): 26
Exec (no fee): 5
[Free total: 31]
Accompanied guests: 3
Total delegates: 292
Number presenting: 233

And for the review process:
Papers submitted: 378
Papers accepted: 347

The Chair noted the introduction of the IASPM journal, which will be a new avenue to publish in popular music, and will allow non-English speakers to publish in the language of their choice.

The Chair stated that the 2003 and 2005 proceedings were now available online; and that the 2007 proceedings will take the same multi-media form.

(b) Membership/Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer outlined the generally healthy state of the organisation's finances, but pointed to several long-term concerns (see attached report). He stated that the executive was continuing to investigate central payment options; and noted that several branches had continuing problems in making annual branch payments.

The Treasurer addressed the first proposed Motion in regard to ensuring that branch and institutional membership remain distinct:

“Membership of IASPM in the first instance is conducted at the international level, where the international fee rules apply. Local branch variations take secondary priority and may not contradict the rules of international membership. In particular, institutional arrangements can only apply to local branch fee paying structures.”

The Chair asked for comments from the floor:

Koos Zwaan asked if the proposed motion was any different to previous understandings of individual payments made at the previous general assembly in Mexico City. Anahid Kassabian believed that the Motion addressed rules that already existed in the statutes. Alenka Barber-Kersovan suggested the need to integrate as many potential members as possible, including institutional members.

After further discussion, Anahid Kassabian proposed that the Motion be removed from the proceedings; this was seconded by Franco Fabbri and carried by a clear majority of votes.

The Treasurer then spoke about the need for clearer definitions of terms of individual branch membership, identified in the proposed second Motion:

“That the period of membership of IASPM is equivalent to at least one calendar year. Members joining part way through a calendar year must pay for the remainder of that calendar year on a pro rata basis per quarter plus the following full calendar year (inclusive of the current quarter at time of joining).”

The Chair asked for comments from the floor:

Violeta Mayer suggested an amendment of the wording, and implementation of the defined membership terms to begin in 2010. David Shumway stated that all organisations pay a full year’s membership to simplify book-keeping; and that branches were left to do the work. Charity Marsh stated that most branches would not be interested in maintaining these kinds of records. Rupert Till asked if membership was from January to December; the Chair stated that it should be from the date of joining. Freya Jarman stated the changes ensure a precise membership time. Violeta Mayer believed this would be complex to implement. Anahid Kassabian asked what were the reasons for the Motion. The Treasurer stated that there were uncertainties about precise duration of membership. Anahid Kassabian wondered if this was the case. Koos Zwaan enquired about the status of the central payment system. The Treasurer stated that PayPal or a similar system would be feasible, although different branch systems of payment would have to be resolved.

Freya Jarman asked if the Motion could be clarified to state a calendar year. Jan Fairley believed that a central payment system would require the use of calendar years. Violeta Mayer stated the need to specify months of membership for non-English speaking branches.

An amended Motion was announced by the Chair to include the following in bold:

“**On the establishment of a centralised payment system**, the period of membership of IASPM is **always** one calendar year, **from January to December**. Members joining part way through a calendar year must pay for the remainder of that calendar year on a pro rata basis per quarter plus the following full calendar year (inclusive of the current quarter at time of joining).”

Freya Jarman proposed that the amended Motion be approved; seconded by Koos Zwaan The Motion was carried.

The Treasurer and the Chair then addressed the third proposed Motion in light of continuing problems with individual branches falling behind with annual payments:

“Branches who fail to meet their international membership payments must repay the arrears within three years from the time of the original deficit. Branches are expected to immediately notify and enter into negotiations with the executive in cases of financial hardship. In the interests of transparency membership payment lists will be made available on the IASPM list.”

The Chair asked for comments from the floor:

Hillegonda Rietveld asked why three years was stipulated as the agreed time for arrears repayments. The General Secretary stated that the executive believed that this was a reasonable period for branches to make up payments. Lee Marshall and Koos Zwaan asked for explanation of the “transparency” section of the Motion, and whether payment details should be made available on the website. The Treasurer stated that future branch payment details would be on the list, as the website is a public site open to the general public.

Anahid Kassabian stated concerns that under a central payment system, branch funds may flow out despite uneven branch payments, with the executive returning monies back to branches. David Shumway stated that the executive is a voluntary body and may not be able to organise the redirection of funds to branches. The Treasurer stated that when payments are received, funds are directed straight back to branches. David Shumway believed there would be further problems with the amounts paid in transfer fees. Violeta Mayer stated that the system was difficult in practice and good software was required to implement.

Rupert Till proposed that the Motion be approved; seconded by Violeta Mayer. The Motion was carried.

The auditors, Pieter Schoonderwoerd and Line Grenier stated that the Treasurer’s financial report (attached) was accurate and satisfactory.

Koos Zwaan proposed that the Treasurer’s report be adopted; seconded by Lee Marshall.

(c) General Secretary’s Report

The General Secretary outlined the changes made by the executive in terms of financial assistance provided to members to attend the conference. These changes included an application form available on the website requesting documentation of the applicant’s inability to receive funds from their institution. Funds were allocated according to IASPM priorities of need as defined in the statutes, and included assistance with travel, accommodation and/or registration fees. 11 members received assistance to attend the 2009 conference.

Shelley Brunt proposed that the General Secretary's report be approved; seconded by Hector Fouce.

(d) Web Report

The Web/Publications officer stated that the web site had been completely rebuilt, following Mexico City general assembly recommendations to improve the site. The interactive components of the site could be further improved, including regular announcements from the local branches; and to incorporate some of the functions of the Review of Popular Music. The review section has grown, partly due to renewed interest from publishers, who are sending review copies again.

The Web/Publications officer invited authors to offer review copies, and reviewers to submit English reviews of publications in any language, in order to make the international community aware about the academic production in different languages.

Koos Zwaan asked if a mailing list link for young scholars could be available on facebook. The Chair stated that this could be done.

The Chair and the Treasurer addressed the fourth proposed Motion in relation to the need for some sections of the IASPM website to be restricted to members:

“That key sections of the IASPM web site be restricted to members and made available via password access.”

The Chair asked for comments from the floor:

Shelley Brunt and Lee Marshall asked what was meant by “key sections” of the web site. The Treasurer stated that this included some personal details available on the archive. Hillegonda Rietveldt stated that restriction would be useful for Minutes and branch information etc which should be only available to members. Hector Fouce asked why a division was being made between private and public, and this was not for the executive to decide. The General Secretary stated that many organisations has restricted access for some sections as a further means of distinguishing membership benefits. David Shumway stated that funds would be required for the IASPM journal, and that journal viewing could be restricted and accessible only through payment. Gary Baines suggested an amendment to the Motion, to include “certain sections at the discretion of the executive”.

Koos Zwaan proposed that the Motion be approved; seconded by Annelies de Bruine; the Motion was carried.

(e) IASPM Publications

The Chair stated that the 2003 and 2005 proceedings were now available online, and their publication was delayed for a variety of reasons. No proceedings were in production for 2007 due to the ongoing difficulties of contacting the conference

organiser Julia Palacios. The Chair thanked Alex Gyde for his hard work in relation to the 2003 and 2005 publications.

Anahid Kassabian asked if there were plans for a 2009 proceedings publication. The Chair stated that a multimedia publication would be arranged. Violeta Mayer asked about potential copyright problems with images within papers. After considerable discussion about potential copyright problems relating to publication, there was general consensus that IASPM should be more active in assuming authors' rights in relation to fair use dealings of images and text, and that future proceedings publications should contain the usual disclaimers about rights and use.

Violeta Mayer proposed that an IASPM subcommittee be established to investigate the organisation's legal options in relation to publications. Anahid Kassabian stated that the committee investigate places where copyright functions closest to IASPM needs, and to publish a position paper on global legislation and to consult with other relevant bodies. Bruce Johnson asked when and to who the subcommittee will report. Jan Fairley stated that the subcommittee members required casework experience and expertise.

The Chair proposed:

“That the IASPM executive form a sub-committee to investigate copyright issues in relation to popular music studies and their impact upon popular music scholars.”

Bruce Johnson proposed that the Motion be approved; seconded by Freya Jarman. The Motion was carried.

3. IASPM International 2009 Book Awards

The Chair read a report provided by Norma Coates:

“I am very pleased to announce the winners of this year's IASPM book prize. I use the plural "winners" because the prize was expanded to represent different language groups and branches within the organization and to demonstrate the geographic and intellectual range of popular music scholarship. The awards are presented for outstanding first books on popular music. Speaking for the English language competition, I can say that every book nominated was of great value to the field. I'm sure that my counterparts on the other language committees will agree with my assessment. The creativity and the variety of topics, methodologies and disciplines represented speak to the international vibrancy and growth of popular music scholarship.

Now, on to the awards.

Akitsu Kawamoto and Toshiyuki Ohwada adjudicated books for the Japanese branch of IASPM. The received three nominations for the IASPM Book Prize 2009. The prize goes to Kyoko Koizumi, Associate Professor of Sociology at Otsuma Women's University in Tokyo for "Youth Wearing Music." This book is a revision of

Koizumi's doctoral dissertation on the use of popular music in Japanese high schools, a thesis submitted to the University of London, Institute of Education in 2003.

The book elucidates flexible -- and sometimes fragile -- relationships between music, space, and identity. She defines three kinds of music, 'personal music', 'common music', and 'standard music', and three kinds of site, the 'formal site', the 'semi-formal site', and the 'informal site'. She discovers that the youth uses these different kinds of musics tactfully according to the different sites, rather than consistently using one kind of music at all occasions. She further elucidates the difference between gender in the use of music, and cautions against exploring music culture of the young people just by social categories. The relation between music and identity is neither static nor fixed; just as people wear different clothes on different occasions, music also functions as 'wears' to construct their identity in a postmodern era.

Koizumi's first-hand knowledge of Japanese music culture, combined with her thorough knowledge of European sociological theories, made her work truly outstanding among the recently published books on related subjects. The book contributes to both domestic and international scholarships in sociology of music, and we congratulate her on receiving this prize.

The Francophone prize was juried by Barbara Lebrun and Olivier Julien. They received four submissions. All of the books examined were excellent and were the first monographs of young music specialists published in 2008 in the French language.

The award is given to Celine Chabot-Canet for her outstanding monograph on the vocal delivery and singing style of the French singer-songwriter Léo Ferré, titled: *Une voix et un phrasé emblématiques*. Using spectrographic analysis software developed by the Paris-based research group IRCAM to examine vocal range and 'speed in singing', Chabot-Canet compared the 'live' and studio recordings of Ferré and demonstrated the specificity and originality of his vocal tone and phrasing. Her analysis paid attention to the personal, historical and technical contexts in which different versions of the same songs were produced, and inscribed her reflection on 'the voice' in different theoretical models drawn from linguistics, semiotics, phonology and musicology. Her serious and thorough treatment of the vocal delivery of a popular music singer is a pertinent innovation in the traditionally lyrics-focused approach to popular music studies in France. In addition to presenting a methodological model applicable to other artists, in and outside of France, her research has the benefit of expanding the field of popular music studies into new directions, and does so with great clarity and confidence.

Martin Pfleiderer and Alenka Barber-Kersovan juried the German language prize. They received five books, two of which were eligible for the prize. Their award goes to Ralf von Appen for *Der Wert der Musik, Zur Ästhetik des Populären* (The Worth of Music: The Aesthetics of the Popular).

In his book Ralf von Appen reflects on the scarcity of aesthetics and aesthetic reflections in the expanding fields of popular music research. After a brief overview of the few aesthetic approaches to popular music, von Appen responds to this surprising shortcoming. First, he investigates the ways people validate recordings of

popular music. Secondly he opens up a very interesting new approach of philosophical aesthetics, the "aesthetics of appearing" ("Aesthetik des Erscheinens") of German philosopher Martin Heidegger for a better understanding of the ways popular music is experienced aesthetically.

In the main part of his study von Appen analyses one thousand reviews of ten successful CDs of popular music from around 2004 published at the internet shop portal Amazon. He analyses these reviews with methods of qualitative content analysis and categorizes around three thousand statements. The second part of his investigation is a bit demanding, as it encompasses the presentation of the philosophical aesthetics of Heidegger which von Appen then illustrates with many examples taken from the field of popular music and with the results of his empirical study. In short, Heidegger states that there is not only art – or artistic experience – but also a pure sensual experience of music, which contributes to a sense of freedom from everyday purposes and routines, and something like an atmospheric experience of music. This part of the book is not only convincing, but very inspiring for the future study of the aesthetic(s) of popular music genres. Von Appen establishes a philosophical, theoretical and empirical ground for a deeper understanding of the ways we can experience popular music and offers some interpretation why music is so important to listeners. In both parts of his investigations, von Appen embarks upon new ways of thinking and researching.

The English language jury consisted of Norma Coates and Ales Opekar. They received 12 books for consideration of which 9 were eligible. It was not an easy decision as the entries were excellent and represented diverse and interdisciplinary approaches to the field, often in the same book. We were impressed with the scholarship of our colleagues.

This very competitive award goes to Karen Collins for *Game Sounds: An Introduction to the History, Theory, and Practice of Video Game Music and Sound Design*. This is not only a first book for the author; as far as we can tell it is a first book in a new and exciting area and we expect that it will become a foundational work and a model for exploring game sound and sound in general.

This is an encyclopaedic work that delivers on its title and more. Collins' book combines industrial and cultural histories of the gaming industry with music theory, computer science, compositional theory, and more. Collins uses unusual sources including technical manuals and marketing materials yet never loses sight of the music under study. She provides musical transcriptions and analysis throughout the work to illustrate her examples. She clearly and deliberately demystifies the musicological, compositional, and technical aspects of writing music for video games and opens up the field to further exploration in many directions. Also provided is a clear cultural history of gaming and the relation of music to it, offering another springboard for future research. Collins exhibits a degree of mastery of computer science in her ability to explain complex technical details about game programming by providing boxes and glossaries that clearly explain concepts and processes to the reader. Each chapter is clearly written with a conclusion that provides a concise overview of the material just covered. The conclusion of the book points to directions and questions for future research. It is not a work of cultural theory but acknowledges work in that area as well as directions for further research. This important book can

and will, we're sure, will be used in media studies, music, and computer science classrooms, and will surely inspire important future research. It is an exemplary work of interdisciplinary popular music studies.

I thank all of the jurors who devoted their time to reading and thinking about the books submitted for consideration. I especially thank all of the authors who enriched the intellectual life of the jurors and encourage everyone to seek out the recently published work by our members. You will be impressed.” [Norma Coates]

4. 2011 Conference Site

The Chair stated that General Assembly discussions at Mexico City included a proposal from Michael Drewett that South Africa could be the potential site after Liverpool in 2009; and that South Africa has been formally proposed as a future site at Rome in 2005. Russell Reising stated that he couldn't remember these discussions, or that these discussions were included in the Minutes.

The Treasurer outlined the plans for the conference to be located at Grahamestown University in 2011 in the last week of June; and that the local arts and culture festival would be held in the week after the conference concluded.

Bruce Johnson asked if there were other conference site proposals. The General Secretary stated that no other offers had been received.

The Chair proposed Grahamestown, South Africa be formally adopted as the conference site for 2011. The motion was carried.

5. Election of Next Executive

The Chair stated that a call for nominations for executive positions had been placed on the list by the General Secretary six months before the scheduled General Assembly meeting in Liverpool. All positions received one nominee:

Chair: Jan Fairley

Nominated by: Alenka Barber-Kersovan; Franco Fabbri

Membership Secretary/Treasurer: Violeta Mayer

Nominated by: Christian Spencer Espinosa; Mike Jones

General Secretary: Helmi Jarviluoma-Makela

Nominated by: Martin Cloonan; Anti-Ville Karja

Web/Publications: Carlo A. Nardi

Nominated by: Francesca D'Amato; Maria Hanacek

Member At Large: Hector Fouce

Nominated by: Anahid Kassabian; Franco Fabbri

All nominees were introduced by the Chair and briefly spoke to the General Assembly.

Shelley Brunt proposed that the election of the new executive be approved; seconded by Justin Williams. The Motion was carried.

6. Other Business

(a) Conference Timetables

David Shumway proposed a Motion “That the executive post the conference program two months before the conference”.

The Chair asked for comments from the floor:

The General Secretary stated that while this would be ideal, the number of subsequent changes to the program makes the proposal impractical. Anahid Kassabian stated that the executive was always too late in sorting streams; and that a provisional program was necessary earlier. The Treasurer stated that in this case, registration would need to be earlier and enforced. Freya Jarman-Ivens stated that many delegates had to book flights out, which meant changes to their day of presentation; and that an earlier provisional timetable could be done. Gary Baines asked how early are the streams devised. The Chair stated that streams and the conference theme were devised six to eight months prior to the conference.

The Chair asked David Shumway to repeat his Motion: “That the executive post the conference program two months before the conference”.

Russell Reising proposed that the Motion be approved; seconded by Helmi Jarviluoma-Makela. The Motion was carried.

(b) IASPM Journal

Rupert Till asked about the status of the journal. Martha Tupinambá de Ulhôa stated that the journal would be published twice a year, with initial papers derived from the Liverpool conference for Issue One. For Issue Two, papers would be compiled based upon a ‘state of the nation’ theme from different countries. The submission deadline for Issue One was the end of August. 151 people had signed on as referees, but few submissions had been received to date.

The Chair stated that further calls for papers would be sent out, and that an advisory board, consisting of the outgoing executive, would operate. Martha Tupinambá de Ulhôa stated that all papers would be peer reviewed, with translations for international impact.

(c) Votes of Thanks

As one of only two 1981 IASPM members present (with David Horn), Franco Fabbri thanked the outgoing executive for their work; and Freya Jarman for her work in organising the conference.

The Chair, on behalf of the executive, also thanked Freya Jarman for the conference and presented her with a gift on behalf of IASPM. Freya thanked her conference team at IPM.

The meeting concluded at 7 pm.

Shane Homan
General Secretary

IASPM Treasurer/Membership Secretary Report 2007-2009 Prepared by Michael Drewett July 2009

Financial Report

Notes

1. The period covered in this report is from 31 May 2007 – 31 May 2009. The last treasurer's report covered the period up to 31 May 2007.
2. IASPM runs two accounts – a main US dollar account and a subsidiary sterling account. The maintenance of the sterling account is a requirement of the dollar account but, as pointed out previously, has proved useful for payments in British pounds. The dollar account and sterling accounts are presented separately. Branch subscriptions are requested in US dollars with the exception of the UK and Ireland branch subscription which is paid in pounds Sterling.
3. Arrangements reported in the last treasurer's report, made during Michael Drewett's first period as treasurer have continued to allow banking to go ahead in a manageable way, slightly inconvenienced by overseas phone calls, faxes and postage. The only difficulty has been with some branch payments when the Co-op Bank has refused to deposit a money order from the US branch and when the French bank would not process the Francophone branch's deposit for some technical reason.
4. At the General Meeting in Mexico this executive undertook to explore a more efficient fee paying membership enrolment system, whereby this could all be done centrally through the IASPM website. It has been difficult to organize this from South Africa, but research undertaken shows that the most affordable and convenient option would be to organize central payments

through Paypal. It is recommended that the new executive employ someone with the necessary skills to set up such a scheme, which is also automatically linked to the database and mailing list, so that a more immediate and accurate system is maintained. It has not been possible to do this from South Africa.

5. Branch subscriptions cover the previous calendar year. Subscription requests are sent out in the second quarter but can take several months (and even longer) to arrive from some branches. The figures in this report relate to payments for subscriptions covering payments for 2006 and 2007 (by those branches who made them).

US Dollar Account		Sterling Account	
Opening balance 33 (31 May 2007)	\$13,340-	Opening balance (31 May 2007)	£2,373-93
Income		Income	
Branch subscriptions	\$12,530-00	Branch subscriptions	£ 1,875-48
Subscriptions by individuals	\$500-00	Subscriptions from individuals	£ 00-00
Interest	\$765-29	Interest and credits	£ 5-10
Total Income	\$13,795-29	Total Income	£ 1,880-58
Expenditure		Expenditure	
EC Travel Expenses	\$ 7,263-59	EC Travel Expenses	£ 1,290-49
Bank charges	\$ 594-35	Bank charges	£ 8-00
Mexico Conference Deficit	\$ 616-00	Domain fees	£ 59-39
Domain fees	\$ 112-04		
Total Expenditure	\$ 8,585-98	Total Expenditure	£ 1,357-88
Income – Expenditure +	\$ 5,209-31	Income – Expenditure +	£ 522-70
Closing balance (31 May 2009)	\$18,549-64	Closing balance (31 May 2009)	£ 2,896-63

Expenses to come in the next two months include about half of conference travel and accommodation costs for the executive committee and the payment of 11 conference grants. Only the Australian/New Zealand and Portuguese branches have paid their 2008 subscriptions and some branches still need to pay subscriptions for 2007 and earlier. A subscription payment table appears below:

Branch	2005	2006	2007	2008
Australia/New Zealand	\$ 650-00	\$ 770-00	\$ 860-00	\$1100-00
Benelux				
Bulgaria				
Canada	Paid with 2006 dues	\$ 1337-76 (2005 + 6)	In process	
Francophone				In process
Italy	Paid with 2007 dues	Paid with 2007 dues	\$1920-00 (2005 – 7)	
Japan	\$ 1 150-00	\$ 960-00	\$ 1040-00	
Latin America	\$100-00	\$ 300-00	\$ 300-00	
Norden	\$ 550-00		\$180-00	In process
Portugal	No branch	No branch	No branch	\$100-00
Slovenia				
South Korea				In process
Spain	Paid with 2006 dues	\$660-00 (2005 + 6)		
Turkey	No branch	Paid with 2007 dues	\$ 300-00 (2006 + 7)	
United Kingdom	£ 882 64	£ 852-48	£ 1023-00	
USA	\$ 5 190-00	\$ 5710-00	In process	

IASPM Membership Details 2009

Branch subscriptions and membership lists are requested in the second quarter each year. The figures below are taken from the latest available membership lists. Not every branch has forwarded updated membership details and so the figures should therefore be seen as approximate. As noted above, IASPM needs to improve the system of recording membership so that it is done centrally. The present system does not allow for current membership numbers to be calculated.

Australia and New Zealand	100
Benelux	59
Bulgaria	2
Canada	64 (2007)
Francophone	33
Italy	54
Japan	63 (2007)
Latin America	274 (2007)
Norden	14
Portugal	8
Slovenia	+/-10
South Africa	7
South Korea	12
Spain	30 (2007)

Turkey	10
UK and Ireland	135
United States	206
Individual members	+/- 14
Total	1095

Branches

At the time of writing the last conference report it was not clear whether the Turkish and Bulgarian branches still existed. Since then it has been revealed that these branches are still operating. We are pleased to note that a Portuguese branch has been started but the South African branch is still battling to get going, with only a few members at present. As can be seen in the table above, some branches are not paying their subscriptions.

Individual Members

There are approximately 14 individual members from countries where no IASPM branch exists. Not all of these members are currently paid up, which is why the number is only an approximate. The cost of transferring money by individual members is expensive, so members are encouraged to take out a two-year subscription to IASPM and if payment is made at the conference, costs can be further reduced. We now have paid-up individual members from Switzerland, Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Philippines, Poland and Ukraine

Recommendations

- As noted at the last conference, we urgently need to set up a centralised system of membership whereby individuals enter their membership details and pay via Paypal (or credit card) on the homepage and on completion of the transaction their membership details are immediately entered onto the IASPM data base and their membership of the IASPM list is confirmed. At present most of this is done manually and is not practical or efficient. It is also problematic that people who are not paid up members continue to access the IASPM list. Members should also be provided with a user name and password which allows them access to certain areas of the IASPM website.
- It has come to the attention of the executive that in at least one local branch an institutional membership rate is applied in such a way that not all members are paying their international dues. This goes against the agreement that all members of IASPM are obliged to join at the international level in the first instance and pay those fees if applicable.
- To avoid confusion it is suggested that when joining IASPM, members pay a pro rata quarterly rate (including the current quarter) and the following year's membership fee in the first instance. This means that all membership renewals are due in January.
- The option of renewing membership for longer periods than a year in order to reduce credit card costs should be allowed.