



ASTIN COMMITTEE – Zurich (Switzerland), September 4, 2005

Attending: Andrew Cairns, Paul Embrechts, Yasuhide Fujii, David Hartman, Mette Havning, Christian Hipp, Henk Kriek, Jean Lemaire, Edward Levay, Charles Levi, John Ryan, Nino Savelli, Shaun Wang

Apologies: Hans Buhlmann, Chris Daykin, Tor Eivind Hoyland, Harry Panjer, Steve Philbrick

Guests: Chris Carlson (CAS)

1 – Call to order (12.30)

a) Welcome

Dave Hartman welcomed everybody, especially first time attendees Shaun Wang and Chris Carlson

2 – Secretary’s Report - Henk Kriek

a) Approval of minutes of 6 June 2004

The minutes were approved without changes

b) Review of minutes of 7 June 2004 General Assembly

The Committee had no comments on the minutes

3. - Treasurer’s Report - Nino Savelli

a) Ratification of mail vote on Report 1 July 2003 - 30 June 2004

The half year report is approved

b) Approval of Report 1 July 2004 - 31 December 2004

We are in the process of moving the accounts from a fiscal year basis to a calendar year basis. The results of the ASTIN balance sheet for the second semester 2004 show a profit of 9.252,55 EUR (26.485 EUR for 2003-04) due to positive performance of the financial markets, with a net income of the ASTIN investments of 38.658 EUR (47.514 EUR in 2003-04). This includes the expenses for two ASTIN Bulletins. The IAA Secretariat has collected 70.960 CAD membership fees over 2004, which corresponds to approximately 1.745 ASTIN members (ordinary and donateur members). This figure show a 15% decrease compared with year 2003, because the membership fees of some countries have not been received yet. The value of ASTIN assets as at 31st December 2004 is 1.066.862 EUR (994.746 EUR as at 30th June 2004). They include bank accounts, bonds, equities and SICAV.

The ASTIN accounts have been audited for the last time as at 30/06/2003. In the future the auditing will be performed by the IAA’s auditor.



The following key issues were discussed:

- The decline in membership numbers: France is down 98 members from last year and the UK 45 members. Four countries have yet to submit dues, Brazil, Italy, Puerto Rico and the US.
- Ideas were discussed to increase the membership numbers. This includes
 - i. Letter in magazine to create awareness
 - ii. Starting an awareness program
 - iii. Make membership part of tick box of national association
 - iv. Dave Hartman will bring this issue up in the member services committee of the IAA (**action: Dave**)
 - v. Increase the number of non-actuaries to join (not easy)
 - vi. Make an inventory of what benefits people get (**action: John Ryan**)

The Report was approved by the Committee and Nino Savelli was thanked for his work.

c) *Dues level*

The Committee supports the proposal of the Treasurer to keep the dues at 40 CAD for Ordinary Members and 80 CAD for Donating Members for the next year. The dues have been unchanged since 1977.

d) *ICA bursaries*

ASTIN has sponsored 25.000 CAD and another 15.000 CAD if other sections and associations come up with at least 15.000 CAD. IACA has matched our bursary for ICA France and AFIR will probably do the same, so ASTIN will pay the other 15.000 CAD (**action: Nino**)

e) *IAA service fee from \$3 CDN to \$5 CDN for each ASTIN member*

The IAA has raised its service fee for all sections and will take over the book keeping, the audit, and will track membership. Nino Savelli will remain Treasurer and will share the P&L and the balance sheet with us. He will contact the IAA to get our service fees paid (**action: Nino**)

4. Editor's Report - Paul Embrechts and Andrew Cairns

a) *Regular report*

Since the ASTIN Colloquium in Bergen, two issues of the ASTIN Bulletin have been published (volume numbers 34.1 and 34.2). The volumes were large and appeared on time. Volume 35.1 is ready for publication. The Editorial Board is pleased by the number and the quality of the papers. The rejection rate is steady around 50%-60% and the editors are somewhat faster in returning papers back that do not meet the standards. The Bulletin has very high quality editors.

The Bulletin is still not appearing under the Social Science Citation Index ("SSCI"). This is a major challenge to aim for. We can try again in one year's time.



b) *Acceptance of Paul Embrechts' resignation*

Paul Embrechts is stepping down as Editor of the Bulletin after 10 years of duty. Volume 35.2 will be his last. Paul thanks his fellow editors and the Committee for the support over the last 10 years and predicts that the future will be exciting.

The Chairman summarized the significant progress of the Bulletin over the last decade and thanked Paul for his many years of excellent work. The Committee joined him in a round of applause.

c) *Election of Shaun Wang as Editor*

Shaun WANG is welcomed as co-head editor of the Bulletin and congratulated with this position. Andrew Cairns and he will distribute the duties amongst them. The Committee agreed with granting Shaun a stipend of \$ 10,000 per year for secretarial support. **(action: Nino)**

d) *Discussion of additions to Editorial Board*

The Committee hopes that the ASTIN Bulletin will move to a journal that will encompass growth of the field. It is agreed to widen the Editorial Board with representatives from the Health sector (Yair BABAD) and Pensions (Eduard PONDS). Adding an editor who is knowledgeable on genetics (Angus MacDONALD) and another from the Life section to be established in November 2005 is considered. **(action: editors)**

e) *Discussion of 50th Anniversary (Jubilee) issue of the ASTIN Bulletin*

A separate Jubilee edition of the ASTIN Bulletin will be written. The mailing can be done with limited additional expense by sending it with another issue. Some extra cost can nevertheless be expected. Possible content of the Jubilee issue:

- a. lecture on history
- b. data on the history of ASTIN
- c. articles devoted to history

f) *Memorabilia*

Mette Havning brought a collection of papers which belonged to Dr. Paul Johansen, the first chairman of ASTIN. It contains letters from the days of creating ASTIN (some of the letters are dated in 1953), minutes from the first ASTIN Committee Meetings, "Draft Rules for the ASTIN Section of the Permanent Committee" and other letters from the early days of ASTIN. The papers were handed over to Paul Embrechts who will pass them on to Hans Bühlmann. **(action: Paul)**

g) *BAJ guest editorial*

Jean Lemaire has sent a draft editorial to the British Actuarial Journal as a private person, not as an ASTIN Officer. As first steps, he presents, in his own words "three very modest proposals". The text in the final version of the editorial is:

- “1. Besides peer-reviewed articles, actuarial journals have numerous other sections, such as reports on past meetings, obituaries, university actuarial vacancies, book reviews, table of contents of other actuarial journals, and call for papers for future meetings (more often than not appearing when the submission



deadline has passed). These sections allow the vast majority of members -who cannot attend annual meetings- to participate in the life of the association, and bring a sense of togetherness to members. However, these sections have a “Newsletter” feeling that may convey evaluators the sense that they are reading a professional journal, not a scientific publication. The Institute, the Faculty, the Society of Actuaries, and ASTIN, are all financially sound associations that have permanent secretariats. It would not be difficult for these associations to organize an electronic transmission of some –not all- of these sections. Call for papers would be distributed in a timely manner, college positions would be forwarded to the academic subset of the membership, and abstracts of other actuarial journals may get more attention if sent in a separate message.

2. Actuarial associations can boast very impressive circulation figures for their journals. However, very few universities, libraries, and individual non-members, subscribe to these journals, spreading the message of a “niche” discipline publishing exclusive professional journals, and ensuring that citation counts of actuarial authors remains low. Associations contribute to the problem by imposing hefty subscription prices for non-members. They are not exploiting the unique advantage that the use of a local printer confers them, namely the fact that the marginal price of printing and sending an extra issue of a journal is extremely low. They could offer subscriptions to universities at a reduced cost, maybe equivalent to the cost paid by a member. University libraries are extremely sensitive to the high cost of journals these days, and they would very much appreciate to be able to subscribe to a major journal at a cost that is well inferior to the price charged by major international publishers. ASTIN, the Institute and the Faculty already distribute their journal, free of charge, to a long list of universities and actuarial associations in actuarially developing countries. It would not hurt the bottom line of these associations to offer subscriptions of their journal to all universities at a modest cost. The increased resulting circulation would enhance the status of actuarial science as a scientific discipline, and hopefully improve the chances of BAJ and ASTIN being selected as top journals when government authorities in more countries decide to rank actuarial journals.

3. Major publishers get near-automatic subscriptions of new journals by many universities. They can promote a new journal in their numerous other journals. The small publishers used by actuarial associations usually maintain the short list of external subscribers as a service to the association, without real promotion or attempt to increase circulation. Large actuarial associations could take over the promotion process. For instance, the IAA could do a better job at promoting ASTIN externally than the small publisher selected by the section.”



5 - Colloquium Reports

a) 2005 - Zurich - Paul Embrechts

The Committee was guided briefly through the program. The Colloquium was handled almost fully electronically. All papers and presentations are on the web and 90% were accessible one month before the meeting. There are no hard copies of the papers, but a CD will be provided to all participants. There were 238 ASTIN and 135 AFIR participants pre-registered. Wednesday is a joint day, also in the light of the 100 year anniversary of the Swiss Actuarial Association and the 150 year anniversary of ETH Zurich with only invited speakers. In total 84 papers are to be presented (52 ASTIN and 32 AFIR).

The financial situation is sound with excellent corporate sponsorships. Travel and hotel expenses are paid for all invited speakers. Also the Colloquium fees are waived for them. The local organizers used the €10.000 to invite several participants from developing countries. Present are Hungary (2), South Africa (1), China (2), Romania (1) and Mexico (1). One participant from the Czech Republic is invited on the expense of a gift of 1000 Swiss Francs of the Institute of Actuaries.

b) 2006 - no Colloquium

No Colloquium is planned for 2006 in order to encourage participation in the ICA, which will have ASTIN topics.

c) 2007 - Orlando, Florida, USA - Chris Carlson

The colloquium will take place in the Disney complex. The hotel offers very good facilities and off-site properties are nearby. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the CAS meeting and will start with a joint session. The afternoon excursion will take place on Thursday afternoon. The idea of an excursion to Cape Kennedy is explored. The gala dinner will take place on Friday night.

The organising group is assembled and headed up by Chris Carlson. The Scientific Committee is led by Gary Venter. The request for papers will go out the next 3-6 months. Ideas for topics and external speakers are appreciated. Sponsorships are sought.

A website is set up: www.astin2007.org

Chris can be contacted via ccarlson@pinnacleactuaries.com

d) 2008 - U.K. - John Ryan

John Ryan introduced the 2008 colloquium in Oxford (8-12 September) at Keble College. There are several hotels in Oxford nearby. The organizers are looking for sponsorships.

e) 2009 and subsequent – Open

There is no invitation yet for 2009 and subsequent years. Suggestions for locations are: The Netherlands -Henk Kriek will contact the board of the Actuariel Genootschap (**action: Henk**), Hong Kong / China, Finland, Spain and Australia.



f) Revised guidelines - Christian Hipp

The draft revised guidelines are discussed. A new draft will be written and voted for by e-mail (**action Christian and Tor Eivind**). The most important suggestions are:

- a. Organisers should make some effort to make papers publicly available through the IAA website, if preferred after a certain period
- b. Make a CD (“electronic medium”) with the papers for the attendees
- c. If the Colloquium will be held in a developing country the financial risk is larger than normal. We will leave this as is and will be prepared to help in case of a catastrophe
- d. Be more flexible on topics. Do not limit them to three or at least formulate them very broad. Only encouraging papers in certain areas may be a better idea.
- e. In the future the meeting fees for the IAA president and the ASTIN chairman will be waived.
- f. Discounts for PHD students are considered
- g. Fees and expenses will be waived for invited speakers

6. – Seminars - Jean Lemaire and Nino Savelli

- a) Bucharest - 2004
- b) Bangkok - January 2005
- c) Beijing - March 2005
- d) Kuala Lumpur - Health Insurance
- e) Taipei - Health Insurance
- f) Bucharest - Claims Reserving/Solvency
- g) Rio de Janeiro - Non-Life Rating
- h) Romania - Claims Reserving/Solvency

The \$ 50.000 budget for seminars is almost used up. The seminars cost approximately \$ 5.000 each and take on 70-80 people. The Committee is very happy with the seminars and gives permission to continue.

A lesson learnt is that a local champion is needed to build a seminar into a success. Also, some more coordination between ASTIN, the IAA, the Institute and the CAS may be beneficial.

The suggestion is made that China may be keen for more seminars.

Jean Lemaire will write some text to be put on the IAA Bulletin Board (**action: Jean**).

7. - Committee Vacancies/Nominations - Dave Hartman

The Committee currently consists of 14 members, including 2 members that are appointed by the IAA. The other 12 are elected. The Editor of the Bulletin has to be a member of the Committee. This will be Andrew Cairns. This leaves one position open and we have two good candidates, David Finnis and Jose Luis Lobera. Some time was spent discussing this.

It is agreed to ask the General Assembly for permission to increase the number of elected members from 12 to 13 in anticipation of a rule change during the next Colloquium. Both



David Finnis and Jose Luis Lobera will be recommended to the General Assembly. The considerations of the Committee have been:

- a. The rules have been in place for 10 years and many things have changed since
- b. 12 Elected members is not adequate anymore
- c. In 2 years time the new rules will be voted on, including a proposed change of the number of Committee members

8. - Conduct of Business between Colloquia - Dave Hartman

We will have a meeting in Paris prior to the opening of the ICA meeting. We will not try to meet two times per year or to organise teleconferences. Since most of us do not attend IAA meetings regularly, it does not make sense to have meetings linked to IAA.

It is agreed to do more business via e-mail. The timeframe for responses will be explained in the email. Members will be pushed to answer, if only by “No comment” (**action: all**).

9. - Expense Reimbursement of Officers - Dave Hartman

Dave’s email is discussed. Everybody will give his opinion to Nino separately (**action: all**).

10. - Future Structure of ASTIN – All

It is decided to have a “one box” structure like we currently have, meeting the needs of both academics and practitioners. The ASTIN niche is more on the practical side.

We are currently missing out on PhD students. Dave Hartman will pass on the idea to the US organisers to have the fees reduced for this category (**action: Dave**). Also, a PhD corner on the Colloquium can be considered.

Some further ideas:

- a. A 2-pager can be developed to promote the Colloquium to non-ASTIN members.
- b. Could the limit to have papers ready several months before the Colloquium be relaxed a little bit? For example, the IME conference in Quebec had a guideline of having an abstract ready only one month prior to the conference.

11. - Revised ASTIN regulations - Dave Hartman

There is no time to discuss this subject in detail. Comments will be sent by email so that voting can take place next meeting (**action: all**).

12. - Other Business

No other business.

The meeting adjourned at 17.00



Action points

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| 1 | Pass on ideas on increasing membership numbers to membership services committee IAA | Dave Hartman |
| 2 | Pass on idea to organizers 2007 Colloquium to reduce fees for PhD students and possibly have a PhD corner | Dave Hartman |
| 3 | Make inventory of membership benefits | John Ryan |
| 4 | Pay CAD 15.000 for ICA bursaries | Nino Savelli |
| 5 | Contact IAA to get our service fees paid | Nino Savelli |
| 6 | Implement Committee decision regarding secretarial support Shaun Wang | Nino Savelli |
| 7 | Widen editorial Board | Editors |
| 8 | Pass Johansen papers on to Hans Bühlmann | Paul Embrechts |
| 9 | Contact Board Actuarieel Genootschap regarding possibility to organize 2009 colloquium in the Netherlands | Henk Kriek |
| 10 | Provide new draft version Revised Guidelines | Christian Hipp, Tor Eivind Hoyland |
| 11 | Write text on Seminars for IAA bulletin Board | Jean Lemaire |
| 12 | Give deadline on reactions by email in all Committee email and be committed to answer timely | All |
| 13 | Give opinion on expense reimbursement of Officers to Nino Savelli | All |
| 14 | Send comments on revised ASTIN regulations | All |

Respectfully submitted,

Henk Kriek
Secretary