



**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE MELIA CONVENTION CENTRE, TORREMOLINOS, SPAIN  
ON WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2015**

**PRESENT:**

<b>President:</b>	Bernard Whewell	Australia
<b>Vice Presidents:</b>	Kamer Rodoplu William Rheume	Turkey Canada
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lavonne Wittmann	South Africa
<b>Councillors:</b>	Alberto Esper Gerald Perez Bob Lunnon Ximena Alvarez Marja Eela Kaskinen Jason Samuel Francis Brennan Yaacov Hartman Antonino Percario Jorge Luis Moya Huerta Constantine Panoussi Frans Staal Peter Morrison Abimbola Durosinmi-Etti Arshad Khokhar Heine Johansen Patria Chiong Carlos Lopez Gallego Gracia Peregrin Martin Ahlberg Peter Keller Brinley Waddell Mark Alexander Llana Smith Armando Chaquiriand	Argentina Asia Australia Bolivia Finland India Ireland Israel Italy Mexico Monaco Netherlands New Zealand Nigeria Norden Norway Philippines Southern Latin America Spain Sweden Switzerland Thailand United Kingdom United States of America Uruguay
<b>Deputy Councillor:</b>	Aleksandra Mandic-Kauzlaric	Croatia
<b><u>EXCUSED:</u></b>	Edward Lo Katarina Hauptfeld Victor Abboud Werner Flegel Annette Cardenas	Chinese Taipei Croatia Ecuador Germany Northern Latin America

**ABSENT:**

Martin Hirl	Austria
Jano Mouawad	Bahrain
Ana Carolina Dias Medeiros	Brazil
Konstantinos Kalogeorgos	Greece
Peter Javorkai	Hungary
Victor Osumi	Japan
Michel Kreitem	Jordan
Igor Vilorio Barazarte	Venezuela

**OBSERVERS:****Executive  
Committee:**

Salih Cene	President, Skål International
Nigel Pilkington	Senior Vice President, PR & Communications/ Business Affairs/Coordinator Membership
David Fisher	Junior Vice President, Finances/FVF/Sponsorship
Lou Conkling	Director, Statutes & Manuals
Rafael Millan	Director, Membership Development & Young Skål (America)/Assistant to VP Finances
Susanna Saari	Director, Membership Development & Young Skål (Europe, Asia, Oceania, Middle East, Africa)

**Members:**

Antonio Garcia del Valle	Honorary President Skål International 1986
Max Kingston	Honorary President Skål International 1992
Uzi Yalon	Honorary President Skål International 1994
Clive Davis	President Skål International 1998
Jan Sunde	President Skål International 2006
Hulya Aslantas	President, Skål International 2009
Enrique Quesada	President Skål International 2012
Karine Coulanges	President Skål International 2014
Martha McClintock	President, Skål International United States of America
Denise Scrafton	President, Skål International Australia
Fiona McFarlane	Comm. & PR, Skål International Australia

WHO	WHEN

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY PRESIDENT OF THE ISC BERNARD WHEWELL**

The President of the International Skål Council Bernard Whewell opened the meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES AND WELCOME TO HONORARY AND PAST PRESIDENTS AND OBSERVERS**

He then welcomed the Honorary and Past-Presidents and the observers attending the meeting. No apologies had been advised.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President Salih Cene introduced the members of the Executive Committee and wished the Council a fruitful meeting.

**3. INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCILLORS**

ISC President Bernard Whewell inducted the new Councillors, Ximena Alvarez (Bolivia), Heine Johansen(Norway) and Peter Keller (Switzerland) and presented them with their red pin.

**4. APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN HAARLEM, NETHERLANDS, ON 24 APRIL 2015**

On the proposal of Peter Morrison (New Zealand), seconded by Llana Smith (U.S.A.), the minutes were approved unanimously.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

**6. COUNCILLORS AND DEPUTIES INTRODUCTORY SPEECH**

The Councillors gave a brief introduction of themselves, including their professional and Skål lives.

**7. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF SKÅL INTERNATIONAL SALIH CENE**

President Salih Cene said that the executive team had had a very challenging year, but on the other hand he had enjoyed it and was proud to be the President.

He thanked the ISC Board for their cooperation and all the Clubs and countries he had visited for their hospitality. He urged Councillors to keep the core value of Skål which was friendship and thanked them for their support. He also thanked the Executive Committee for the team work.

Arshad Khokhar (Norden) mentioned that only Copenhagen and Toronto had met the deadline for submission of bids for the 2017 World Congress and he asked the reason for the extension of the deadline.

Secondly, he wondered why the Secretariat had accepted bids whose prices were higher than those stated in the new Congress Manual.

President Salih Cene responded that the deadline had been extended for one week because Copenhagen had asked for it and in the meantime other bids had been received.

Arshad Khokhar (Norden) explained that Copenhagen had asked for the deadline but managed to submit the bid by the deadline.

President Salih Cene admitted that there had been a mistake since the Secretariat should have seen that some bids did not abide with the new Manual. When the Executive Committee realised it, they decided to stop the voting process which was being undertaken by the Council and requested the candidates concerned to review the rates.

He clarified that there had also been an issue with the language since the Congress Manual stated “should” which was not a must.

Arshad Khokhar (Norden) accepted the explanation, but he complained that the new Congress Manual excluded several services, like transfers or dine around, and at the end participants had to pay more. He recommended that in future there should be more liberty with regard to the prices.

President Salih Cene confirmed that the Congress Manual would again be revised and amendments made.

Aleksandra Mandic-Kauzlaric (Croatia) said that while the congress fee was less, the quality was also poorer. The transfers and an excursion to promote the destination should be included in the congress fee.

President Salih Cene agreed. However, in view of the constant complaint regarding the congress rates, it had been decided to reduce the costs.

ISC President Bernard Whewell suggested Councillors to complete the congress survey with their feedback.

**8. (A) REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISC BERNARD WHEWELL**

ISC President Bernard Whewell referred to the new meeting structure that allowed for a “Councillors Only” Plenary Session. The meeting was a great success and many of the Councillors had said that it was the best ISC meeting they had been to.

The Committee meetings were more vibrant and driving activity up to the Executive Committee managed by the Vice Presidents but driven by the Councillors to make a difference and strengthen the Skål community.

The Council had totally revamped the Form 4 which was now a document that provided data from the Councillors to gain insights into the countries and regions.

Sports & Medical Tourism had been worked out for inclusion as a membership classification.

A new structure for the annual FVF raffle had been developed to increase the amount collected around the World Congress each year.

The Council would be looking at a new concept for the B2B workshop.

The highest attendance of Councillors at the Torremolinos meeting for the last five years was a reflexion of the work being done.

ISC President Bernard Whewell mentioned that the first EC/ISC Board joint meeting would be held on Sunday 1 November which would be a great achievement.

He then thanked his board and the Councillors for their effort and dedication.

On the proposal of Jorge Luis Moya Huerta (Mexico), seconded by Mark Alexander (United Kingdom), the report by the ISC President Bernard Whewell was approved unanimously.

#### **(B) REPORT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ISC KAMER RODOPLU**

ISC Vice President Kamer Rodoplu explained that the new document “FVF Raffle and Silent Auction Rules and Regulations” had been approved and would be implemented at the 2016 World Congress in Monaco.

A subcommittee including members from both Committees A and B was working on a proposal that consisted in splitting the Florimond Volckaert Fund between “people in need” and Skål to support membership retention and development, and creation of new Clubs.

The Form 4 had been completed.

Another topic discussed by Committee B was the problem of Clubs with arrears which remained one of the major headaches of Skål International.

As a member of Skål International Turkey, he had attended the Skål Arena held in Istanbul in February which was also attended by the Executive Committee. Another important event was the triple twinning of Clubs from Turkey, Australia and New Zealand. In fact, the Clubs of the three capital cities, namely Ankara, Canberra and Wellington; the Clubs of the three major metropolises, namely Istanbul, Sydney and Auckland; and the Clubs of the three cities involved in the Gallipoli war, namely Troy, Albany and Christchurch were tied with the twinning agreements during a ceremony held in Istanbul.

On the proposal of Jason Samuel (India), seconded by Llana Smith (U.S.A.), the report by the ISC Vice President Kamer Rodoplu was approved unanimously.

#### **(C) REPORT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ISC BILL RHEAUME**

ISC Vice President Bill Rheaume stated that the goal of Committee A was to expand the work done at the Committee level, introducing new topics and ideas. The format of the Committee meetings allowed for discussion on subjects relevant to Skål and important to the Councillors.

The follow-up activities included:

- Communication with the EC to further the recommendation that the delivery of lecturer toolkit contents be the responsibility of the clubs and regions that have Young Skål members. Clubs that have schools / instructors as members are better suited to know the needs and technology available. These Clubs are more able to directly facilitate the implementation of this initiative.
- B2B format – recommendations were submitted for a revitalized format that will include professional workshops, a trade fair and expanded participation to non-Skål members from the local Tourism Industry.

- Special Interest Tourism – Recommendations on changes to the By-Laws were drafted for Medical Tourism and forwarded to the Executive Committee for approval.
- Sport Tourism – the first presentation was delivered in Haarlem resulting in draft By-Law recommendations forwarded to the Executive Committee. Further research was undertaken as work on the development of this exciting opportunity for new membership.
- Additionally, work on Congress attendance and format has been undertaken in an effort to revitalize one of the mainstays of our organisation and address the relevance to the general membership.
- Committee A continued discussions on the merits of the annual Congress and the functionality of the ISC.

ISC Vice President Bill Rheame mentioned that the Council was a great opportunity for members to have a voice.

He had enjoyed working with his fellow Council Executive and said the Skype calls were always animated and productive.

He acknowledged and thanked Marja Eela-Kaskinen (Finland), Llana Smith (U.S.A.) and Lavonne Wittmann (South Africa) for their work as Lead Councillors.

On the proposal of Frans Staal (Netherlands), seconded by Francis Brennan (Ireland), the report by the ISC Vice President Bill Rheame was approved unanimously.

**(D) REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ISC LAVONNE WITTMANN**

ISC Secretary Lavonne Wittmann reported that she had sent off agendas for meetings and comprehensive minutes of the monthly ISC Board Skype meetings.

The first ISC newsletter was published after the Haarlem mid-year meeting in Haarlem and this would be a regular feature in the future.

She had been responsible for the new membership classifications for Medical, Wellness and Sports Tourism.

The International Council was the stage where all new ideas for Skål International were created and implemented and the Council meetings was the platform where Councillors became the conduit between our members, National Committees and the Executive Committee.

It had been a privilege for her to work with President Bernard Whewell and Vice Presidents Kamer Rodoplu and Bill Rheame and thanked them for allowing her to be part of their dynamic team.

On the proposal of Bob Lunnon (Australia), seconded by Marja Eela Kaskinen (Finland), the report by the ISC Secretary Lavonne Wittmann was approved unanimously.

## (E) REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE FLORIMOND VOLCKAERT FUND

Past-President and Florimond Volckaert Fund Trustee Jan Sunde presented apologies on behalf of the other two Trustees Richard Hawkins and Mary Bennett.

He recalled the objectives of the Florimond Volckaert Fund and reminded the Councillors about their key-role in the promotion of the Fund. He explained a couple of cases that had been granted help from the FVF and that had had a happy result.

### 9. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE A

ISC Vice President Bill Rheaume stated that the primary focus of Committee A was Membership and PR & Communications.

Lavonne Wittmann (South Africa) made a [Presentation on Sports Tourism](#) as a membership classification under the umbrella of Special Interest Tourism. She gave some facts and figures. Travel was changing and our organisation had to review the membership classifications for the growth and visibility of Skål.

Jason Samuel (India) proposed that persons giving visa facilitation could be accepted as Associate member. Statutes Director Lou Conkling responded that it would not fit as an Active membership category at this point.

President Salih Cene confirmed that the Medical Tourism classification had been completed and would be included in the By-laws.

Constantine Panoussi (Monaco) asked what reasons could be given to potential members qualifying under Sports Tourism to join Skål.

ISC Vice President Bill Rheaume responded that definitions would have to be clarified and included in the recommendations for By-laws changes.

Following a discussion on Sports Tourism, a strong support was shown towards this new classification.

A [presentation on the Future of Skål Congress](#) was made by Marja Eela Kaskinen (Finland) and Llana Smith (U.S.A.).

Current challenges – Lack of business discussions and seminars. Too much emphasis on cost rather than quality. Low attendance.

Structure – Length of the congress. Events included in the programme.

Pricing – Three tier level: Everything included; Congress Only; A la carte.

B2B/Trade Show – Three day duration.

Suggested changes:

Day one: No change. Arrival & Get-Together.

Day two: Opening Ceremony and B2B/Trade Show.

Day three: General Assembly and B2B/Trade Show.

Day Four: EC Forum; B2B/Trade Show with keynote speakers and Gala Dinner.

A general discussion on the business sessions at the Congress followed.

On the proposal of Gerry Perez (Asia), seconded by Jason Samuel (India), the report by Committee A was approved unanimously.

## 10. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE B

ISC Vice President Kamer Rodoplu explained the agenda items of [Committee B report](#).

I. Recent changes in the organisation and new format of the world congress excluding expenses such as airport transfers, free dinner out and tours.

Committee B had worked out a comparison on the congress costs and attendance at the five past world congresses.

Frans Staal (Netherlands) mentioned that Committee B had come to the conclusion that the registration fee for Torremolinos was far too high for what had been offered.

The suggestions made by Committee B were as follows:

1. Rates should always be competitive.
2. Contracting should be done by a professional (should be a Skål member or become a member for a five year period).
3. Calculation should be transparent.
4. Rotation of location

Mark Alexander (United Kingdom) raised the issue of the congress timing that should not clash with school holiday period in order to avoid higher rates.

II. Problem of delinquent Clubs and current situation. Clubs paying late and Clubs with arrears have always been a problem for Skål finances.

ISC Vice President Kamer Rodoplu gave the outstanding fee figures.

Abimbola Durosinmi-Etti (Nigeria) said that Committee B suggested to take out the suspended Clubs from the debtors' list.

She added that there was a problem with some Clubs owing money due to the government regulations and restrictions regarding transfer of funds outside the country. She referred to her own situation in Nigeria where members had to pay their fees in cash during the congresses.

The recommendations from Committee B were:

- When Clubs are in default reminders should be sent to the Club President, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as the National President and International Councillor.
- National Committees should assist in recovering the dues.
- A Club in default should not be allowed to bid for any Skål congress or meeting.
- New Clubs should not be introduced by National Committees where there are current defaulting Clubs.
- There was a debate on whether an individual should be allowed to pay with his credit card directly to the headquarters. This was, however, not accepted as it could cause some confusion.

Brinley Waddell (Thailand) raised the issue of Pattaya & East Thailand where all the members who were no longer in the Club were being billed the fee and he wondered how accurate were the membership numbers on the database.

ISC Vice President Kamer Rodoplu explained that in Turkey they had created a federation of Clubs to be able to send out funds abroad.

Arshad Khokar (Norden) confirmed that Copenhagen was willing to pay for the membership fees of the 10 Malmö members and have them incorporated into the Copenhagen Club.

### III. New Rules for the FVF Raffle and Silent Auction.

ISC Vice President Kamer Rodoplu confirmed that the new document on the Florimond Volckaert Fund raffle and silent auction was completed and would start at the Monaco World Congress.

The structure of the Special Committee responsible for the organisation of the FVF raffle and silent auction would now be discussed with the Executive Committee and the Trustees. It was recommended that the Special Committee should include one or two Councillors.

Constantine Panoussi (Monaco) advised that Monaco had very strict rules about raffles and auctions and unless official permission was requested, they would not be allowed to do it. ISC President Bernard Whewell asked Constantine Panoussi to provide the rules to Kamer Rodoplu and the Trustees.

Past-President Jan Sunde complimented Committee B on the work they had done on this issue.

On the proposal of Carlos Lopez Gallego (Southern Latin America), seconded by Patria Chiong (Philippines), the report by Committee B was approved unanimously.

## **11. PRESENTATION OF THE BIDS FOR THE 2016 MID-YEAR MEETING AND SELECTION OF THE SITE**

ISC President Bernard Whewell invited the bidders to make their presentation. [Comparison sheet](#).

Jorge Luis Moya Huerta (Mexico) and Jane Garcia, President Skål International Cancun, presented the bid proposed by Skål International Cancun.

Peter Morrison (New Zealand) presented the bid proposed by Skål International Christchurch.

Armando Chaquiriand (Uruguay) presented the bid proposed by Skål International Colonia.

Arshad Khokhar (Norden) presented the bid proposed by Skål International Copenhagen.

Llana Smith (U.S.A.) presented the bid proposed by Skål International Louisville.

Aleksandra Mandic-Kauzlaric (Croatia) informed that the bid proposed by Skål International Split was withdrawn.

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The result of the election was as follows:

Total votes cast	35
Spoiled votes	0
Total valid votes	35
Colonia	4
Copenhagen	4
Cancun	5
Louisville	10
Christchurch	12

Past-President Jan Sunde and Australia President Denise Scrafton acted as scrutineers.

Christchurch was selected as the venue of the 2016 ISC Mid-Year meeting.

## **12. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**

## **13. ELECTION FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ISC**

Bill Rheaume (Canada) was the only candidate and was elected Vice President for a two year term with the following result:

Total votes cast	25
Spoiled votes	0
Total valid votes	25
In favour	25
Against	0
Abstention	0

Honorary President Max Kingston and Past-President Jan Sunde acted as scrutineers.

## **REPORT ON THE NEW IDEA**

Mark Alexander (United Kingdom) presented a report on the creation of a very high level of quality business focussed event that would take place during the annual congress in replacement of the current B2B workshop, allowing more members to do business at congresses. It would be like a trade show open to non-members as well, used as a recruitment tool and viewed as a benefit of joining Skål.

The proposal was that the Florimond Volckaert Fund donations and raffle income for the next three years be allocated to a Membership Development Fund in order to help finance and support the initiatives for new business development, including good panel discussions and quality speakers.

Bob Lunnon (Australia) added that this might be a one off cost which should then become self-funding.

Past-President Jan Sunde thought that the idea was good, but he suggested not to mix a Membership Development Fund with the Florimond Volckaert Fund.

Honorary President Max Kingston proposed to make use of the Reserve Fund.

Martha McClintock (U.S.A.) referred to the appointment scheduling for the trade fair and she suggested to partner with USTA or ABA in order to use their system instead of purchasing a software.

Director Susanna Saari confirmed that the current Skål Congress software Lytti could be used to that effect as well.

ISC President Bernard Whewell asked for a motion. On the proposal of Peter Morrison (New Zealand), seconded by Heine Johansen (Norway), it was agreed to continue with this project.

#### **REPORT ON THE 2020 GROUP**

Following the resignation of Russell Butler as Chairman of the Skål 2020 Project for personal reasons, Immediate Past-President Karine Coulanges had taken over the position for some months until a new leader is appointed.

Immediate Past-President Karine Coulanges gave an update on the [Skål 2020 Project](#).

Vice President Nigel Pilkington referred to the whole concept behind the Skål 2020 Project which was based on change. Focus on social media, Young Skål, external relations and brand development.

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

At the request of President Salih Cene, Past-President Hulya Aslantas made a presentation on the Skålite Tourism Awards programme and explained the concept for application on a global basis. The Executive Committee would study the document during its meeting on 1 November 2015.

Arshad Khokhar (Norden) suggested to have a Skål European Congress.

Bob Lunnon (Australia) shared with the Council some ideas on the success of Skål International Australia in terms of membership retention and membership development.

Llana Smith (U.S.A.) referred to the political atmosphere within SIUSA and she stated that she would not run for an additional term on the Council. It was not her decision to leave, it had been made for her without her input.

Gracia Peregrin (Spain) made a presentation on the agreement between Skål International Spain and Melia Hotels.

Antonio Percario (Italy) explained the "Jubilee – Holly Year – VisitRomewithSkål programme and Golf Tournament organised by Skål International Roma.

#### **15. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISC BERNARD WHEWELL**

ISC President Bernard Whewell then closed the meeting.