

AFIR SECTION COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

**Held in CTICC Meeting Room 1.93
Cape Town**

8th March 2010

AGENDA of Meeting

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Minutes of Last Meeting
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes
4. ERM
5. The ASTIN Bulletin
6. The AFIR Prize.
7. Report on the current meeting in South Africa
8. Future Colloquia
9. Review of Arrangements for General Meeting
 - a. Draft Agenda.
 - b. Treasurer's Report / Investment Policy
 - c. Election of Committee Members.
 - d. Prize Ceremony.
10. Other Business
11. Next meeting

Present:

Eric Thorlacijs (USA, Chairman)
Jean Berthon (France,)
Raimond Maurer (Germany, Secretary)
Carla Angela (Italy, Treasurer)
Nino Savelli (Italy, IAA Nominee)
Andrew Cairns (UK, editor ASTIN bulletin).
Robert Thomson (South Africa)

By Invitation:

David Ingram (US)
Fred Rowley (Australia)
Harry Panjer (Canada)
Julian Oliver (Spain)
Jose Luis Lobera (Mexico)

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at approx. 19.00

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read, and were approved.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes which were not already on the Agenda.

4. **ERM**

The invited guests Harry Panjer, David Ingram, and Fred Rowley informed the committee about the aims and scope of ERM. After that the committee discussed the possibility of extending the subjects of the AFIR-Section to incorporate also ERM.

There was broad support for the notion of AFIR taking a more explicit role relating to ERM and discussion of the many ways there is a connected relationship between ERM and AFIR.

The Committee unanimously decided to support the principle of making ERM an official part of the objectives of the AFIR Section. Eric and Andrew will form a subcommittee to draft an action plan on how to proceed on this issue.

5. **The ASTIN Bulletin**

Andrew Cairns gave us an update and the changes of the journal:

Recent editions: Since my last report 2 Volumes 39.1 and 39.2 have been published with 32 original articles and covering 752 pages. Of these 22 were partly or directly linked to the interests of ASTIN members and 10 of AFIR members. We maintain a broad mix of papers that cover the full spectrum of theoretical through to applied, which I see as our strength compared to some of our rivals. Over the last few years the submission rate has been reasonably steady or slightly rising and we now receive about 80 submissions per annum. Acceptance rates have been reasonably consistent or slightly falling: around 40% over the last year of all submissions, and 50%-60% of submissions that are sent for refereeing. Immediate rejection typically happens when the lacks genuine motivation in an actuarial context, or occasionally looks clearly very weak.

Editors: The editorial team over the last year has consisted of Sam Cox, Michel Denuit, Pierre Devolder, David Dickson, Montse Guillen, and Antoon Pelsser. Additionally Yair Babad on the editorial board has handled papers related to health insurance and genetics. The newer editors are settling in well and doing a good job. Sam Cox will be retiring shortly as an editor and I am very grateful to him for his contribution over the last 5 years.

Administration: The relationship between the editors, Christian Levac in our editorial office in Ottawa and the publishers is working well.

Online submission system: We have almost a full year's experience on the new online system for handling submissions. Most editors, authors and referees find the system straightforward to use. From my perspective, it is working well in the sense that the refereeing process is now working more efficiently than it was previously. In particular, turnaround times are now much improved. The official average turnaround

time for a first submission is 76 days with 50 days for actual refereeing. Since this our first year on the system, I suspect this is a biased average as it will exclude papers that have not yet had a decision.

Publishers: The relationship with Peeters continues to work well. We now have a modernised colour and material for the cover although the format is unchanged. About 10 days ago, as the result of cold calling, I met a Managing Editor (Alec Dubber) from Routledge publishers. Routledge already publish Scandinavian Actuarial Journal and would like to expand their range of actuarial journals. I had agreed to meet him knowing that an ASTIN Bulletin management committee might soon be set up, and a review of the publication arrangements might be imminent. Relevant discussion items include: marketing, editorial guidance on enhancing visibility, impact factors and citations, attendance at conferences, specialist typesetters, printing in different regions, market research, increasing library and non-member subscriptions, online journal promotion, online journal access for Routledge subscribers, and podcasts.

Online access to papers: We now have all papers accessible online on the actuaries.org website. The last two editions are available only to members of the relevant IAA sections. The move from the CAS website and the extension to the last 12 months I think is a big improvement for our members. “

The Chairman thanked the Editor for his report.

There was also discussion of the potential creation of an ASTIN Bulletin Management Committee to include representatives from the ASTIN Bulletin supporting sections. There was support for this concept as well as the AFIR chairman representing AFIR on this management committee.

6. The AFIR Prize.

The selection-process for the Bob Alting von Geusau Memorial Prize (AFIR prize) for the best paper published in the ASTIN bulletin in 2009 on a financial risk topic is not finished. The committee expect to make a decision during June/July this year.

7. Report on the current meeting in Cape Town.

David Wilkie gave us a written report. He has been representing the AFIR Committee on the Scientific Committee of the 2010 Congress. The Congress organisers decide to split off ERM from the main AFIR sessions. The programme shows ERM sessions on Monday and Tuesday, with four sessions, seven papers and three presentations. Three of these are repeated on Thursday and Friday, slightly modified, and with a fifth session containing an extra two papers. The AFIR sessions are all on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with eight sessions and 20 proper papers, and four that are just presentations. There are several papers that are written by academics for other academics, rather than for practising actuaries; these may get a good, but perhaps rather small, audience. Then there are papers and presentations by consultants who do not use an open academic approach, but tell enough about the problem and their solution to encourage clients to consult them; they may still be quite interesting. There are several papers that give good historical investment information and describe investment modelling based on data, which should be of interest to all. And there are some traditional papers, which try to explain to practising actuaries some good and new theoretical points in an

intelligible way. One of these AFIR-papers was outstanding, and the prize committee decided this for the overall prize for the best congress paper.

The chairman thanked the scientific and organisation committee.

8. Future Colloquia

Julian (Spain) gave us a proposal on the hosting the next AFIR Colloquium in Madrid, which will be held together with the ASTIN section from 19-22 June 2011. This proposal was unanimously approved by the committee. There was also discussion of the prospect of a higher registration fee for non AFIR members, which would give them auto-enrolment in AFIR.

After that Jose Luis (Mexico) presented the plans on the Meeting in Mexico-City 1.-4 October 2012, which will be a joint meeting of the ASTIN-, LIFE-, and AFIR-Sections.

Finally Jean reported about the interest of the French society to organise the Meeting in 2013 (potentially together with the PBSS-Section) in the South of France.

9. Review of Arrangements for General Meeting

- a. **Draft Agenda.** The proposed agenda for the General Meeting was approved.
- b. **Treasurer's Report.** The Treasurer, Carla Angela reports that the total Net Assets of the AFIR Section as of December 31, 2009 is CAD 454,728 (2008 unrestricted surplus CAD 489,005 deducted CAD 34,277 = 2009 excess of expenses over revenue 2009).

The number of AFIR members was 1441 (2008: 1561). AFIR fees revenue received by the I.A.A. are CAD 58,520 (2008: CAD 63,640).

The AFIR Section contributed to the I.A.A. fund with a donation of CAD 50,000 for ICA 2010 Bursaries.

AFIR current expenses have been CAD 39,510 (Reimbursement of ASTIN Bulletin cost: CAD 22,244; I.A.A. administrative recovery: CAD 14,410).

The Treasurer underlines that 2010 membership dues is of CAD 50,00 and the I.A.A. administrative support cost will be increasing to CAD 15,00 for each member.

Taking in account the amount of the cumulative excess of revenues over expenses (approximately 50% liquidity) the Treasure suggests to take onward the cultural initiatives according to the plan the AG as already approved.

- c. **Election of Committee Members.** No members must be re-elected.

10. Other Business

The committee decided to give (besides the Bob Alting von Geusau Memorial Prize) an additional prize (1,500 CAN) for the best paper accepted and presented on future

International AFIR-Colloquia. The Scientific Committee of the Colloquia should be responsible for the selection process.

11. Next meeting

The next meeting was set for June 2011, during Meeting in Madrid.

The meeting was closed at 22:30

Raimond Maurer (Secretary)