



INTERNATIONAL
POLICE ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

IPA Newsletter

November 2021

IPA Flying High



The IEB meets for the first time in 19 months

WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Dear friends,

The way things are going, day by day, we leave more of our difficulties behind and move forward dynamically. The pandemic now seems to have become manageable.

According to experts, "If there is no new variant against which vaccines will not protect - which is very unlikely - then in the spring we will have left the pandemic behind".

Therefore, very soon, I hope that the covid pandemic will be nothing more than a bad memory, and we will once again enjoy what is dear to us: normality ...



The world around us is opening up, and everything seems to be trying to get back to normal. So, after a difficult period, with many restrictions that prohibited us from meeting, we return refreshed and stronger. During these trying times, we were able to stay upright. Friendship managed to find its way, with the internet as a bigger ally! We held online competitions, sports competitions with the help of apps, Zoom meetings, to name but a few ...

I am aware that it makes perfect sense that the fear that has nestled within us, somehow prevents us from looking to the future. However, we strongly feel the need to regain consciousness! The World Congress was held online – for the last time as a virtual event I hope – with wide participation.

The IEB was able to meet again in person after almost two years, and enjoyed the hospitality of the Swiss Section, whom I would like to thank publicly here for their warm welcome and hospitality.

Within the wider IPA family, national congresses are being held again, giving the joy of face-to-face contact to our members.

The pandemic, with all the evil it caused, taught us an important lesson, and made us appreciate more the things that until recently we took for granted: A dinner with friends, a handshake, or a hug ... before too long, there will once more be regional meetings, friendship weeks, the IPA Games, the Young Officers' Police Seminar, plus many more events that we missed so much!

I am therefore looking forward to the future with optimism: we are moving forward!

Let us be united in the spirit of Servo per Amikeco!

Kyriakos Karkalis, IPA Vice President & SCC Chairperson

AROUND THE WORLD

IPA Deutschland – Neuer Vorstand jünger als je zuvor



Beim 22. Nationalen Kongress der IPA Deutsche Sektion wählten 150 Delegierte in Fulda einen neuen Geschäftsführenden Bundesvorstand.

Der bisherige Vizepräsident Oliver Hoffmann ist nun Präsident der IPA Deutschland. Vizepräsidenten sind Hubert Vitt und Philipp Kurz. Alexander Lübeck und Bärbel Birkhold führen künftig die Kassengeschäfte. Jürgen Glaub ist Generalsekretär mit der neugewählten Generalsekretärin Vanessa Pasquariello.

Der neugewählte Vorstand ist erheblich jünger als der bisherige, und zum ersten Mal in der Geschichte der IPA Deutschland gehören ihm zwei Frauen an.

Präsident Oliver Hoffmann und sein Team haben große Ziele: „Wir haben uns für die kommenden drei Jahre viel vorgenommen. So wollen wir als größte Sektion auf der Welt im In- und Ausland wieder stärker wahrgenommen werden. Die IPA lebt von persönlichen Begegnungen und wir sind dafür personell gut aufgestellt.“



Der scheidende Präsident Horst W. Bichl und der langjährige Schatzmeister Günter Lambrecht wurden beim Galaabend des Kongresses zu Ehrenmitgliedern ernannt. Horst Bichl wurde zudem mit dem hessischen Verdienstorden am Bande für sein Lebenswerk ausgezeichnet.

Am Abend sammeln Bichl und Hoffmann bei den Gästen und Delegierten mit Polizeimützen für das Malteser Kinderhospiz in Fulda Spenden ein. Es ist ein etablierter Brauch, dass alle keine Gastgeschenke mitbringen, und für einen guten Zweck gespendet wird. Ute Sander nimmt völlig überrascht nicht nur die rund 4.000 Euro entgegen, sondern darf sich über 8.000 Euro freuen, da der Vorstand beschließt, die Summe zu verdoppeln.

Holger Münch, der Präsident des Bundeskriminalamts und IPA Mitglied betont in seinem Grußwort, dass die IPA ein weltweites Netz der Freundschaft schafft sowie Brücken zwischen Polizistinnen und Polizisten weltweit baut. Die IPA schaffe Begegnung und Vertrauen untereinander und bereite so den Boden für das, was die Sicherheitsorgane in der nächsten Jahren leisten müssen, so Münch.

Zum Kongress sind neben der internationalen Generalsekretärin May-Britt Ronnebro auch Vertreter aus sechs Nationen angereist, um diesem besonderen Tag beizuwohnen. Diese reisten aus Griechenland, Nordmazedonien, Österreich, Polen, Rumänien und der Schweiz nach Fulda.

Hubert Vitt, Vizepräsident IPA Deutschland

Time to say Good-Bye Horst W. Bichl verabschiedet sich als IPA-Funktionär

Liebe IPA Freunde,

Nach zwanzig Jahren als Vizepräsident und Präsident der IPA-Deutsche Sektion habe ich meine Tätigkeit als IPA-Funktionär im Zuge des 22. Nationalen Kongresses in Fulda aufgegeben. Ich habe mich sehr gefreut, dass die 150 Delegierten des Nationalen Kongresses meinem Wahlvorschlag gefolgt sind, und meinen geschätzten Freund Oliver Hoffmann zum Präsidenten gewählt haben.

Ich möchte mich bei allen IPA-Freundinnen und Freunden in der großen Familie der IPA-Welt für die konstruktive, harmonische und freundschaftliche Zusammenarbeit in zwei Jahrzehnten bedanken und darum bitten, meinem Nachfolger das gleiche Vertrauen entgegen zu bringen wie mir.

Bleibt alle schön gesund!



Dear IPA Friends,

After twenty years as Vice President and President of the German IPA Section I ended my activities as an IPA official during the 22nd National Congress in Fulda. I was very pleased that the 150 Delegates of the congress followed my proposal to elect my dear friend Oliver Hoffmann as new national President.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all IPA friends within our large IPA family for their constructive, harmonious and friendly cooperation over the course of two decades. At the same time, I would like to ask you to show my successor the same trust you had in me.

Stay healthy and safe!

Horst W. Bichl, Ehrenmitglied IPA Deutsche Sektion

Happy Times at IPA Netherlands!

Luuk and Loeky from the Netherlands met in 2019.

At the time, Luuk was a student at the police academy, completing an internship with the Venlo-Beesel Politie, while Loeky worked in the same area as a neighbourhood enforcement officer for the municipality of Venlo. When Luuk and Loeky started working together on a project, they fell in love. Both are members of the International Police Association (IPA), and Loeky has now started training at the Police Academy.

Last Friday, a photo shoot took place in North Limburg for promotional and recruitment materials for the IPA. Loeky joined in, while Luuk had a training event at a facility a few kilometers away.

As a Belgian colleague had also travelled from Antwerp to participate in the photo shoot, a short visit was paid to the training facility in Sevenum, and after Luuk's arrest and self-defense techniques test was finished, the photographer asked if Luuk and Loeky wanted to show a double arrest procedure for the photo shoot. Nobody knew what was to come next ...

... After handcuffing the "suspect", Luuk decided to get down on one knee, and asked Loeky to marry him! Fortunately, after recovering from the first shock, the answer was "YES!". All other colleagues present responded with applause, and tied the engaged couple up with the handcuffs 😊.



The wedding date is not yet known, but at some time Luuk and Loeky will be husband and wife. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our members Luuk and Loeky.

Kees Jongh, Secretary General IPA the Netherlands



We are going through complicated times and the coronavirus pandemic seems to be far from over. However, life goes on and we all need to meet current challenges.



IPA Romania is aware of its members' expectations and the fact that despite the transition, the association's life must continue. Thus, we had to organise, despite the special conditions, the General Assembly of Elections of the IPA Romanian Section, for all the functions of the National Executive Committee.

The meeting of the over 130 delegates took place in Poiana Braşov, with some delegations from other national sections managing to take part: IPA Cyprus, IPA Croatia, IPA Hungary, IPA Moldova, IPA North Macedonia and IPA Poland. It was a pleasant experience, a reunion we all expected even if some friends couldn't make it.

Following the votes cast by the delegates, the new team of the Romanian Section consists of:

- Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu - President
- Florin Popa - 1st Vice President
(Social Activities)
- Marius Mureşan - 2nd Vice President
(International Relations)
- Dumitru Dorobanţu - 3rd Vice President
(Professional activities)
- Ion Melinte – 4th Vice President
(Sports & Hobbies)
- Cătălin Ştefan Bălteanu - Secretary General
- Iulian Tiţa - Treasurer



We wish for a successful mandate, with accomplishments for IPA members, closer contacts with other national sections and a real development in the country, but also abroad. We have a series of projects waiting for the green light to start, so stay tuned!

Further impressions of the Romanian national congress can be seen on the photos on the following page.



Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu, President IPA Romania

Polizeikooperation zwischen IPA Österreich und IPA Rumänien

“Professional project on the occasion of the UNTOLD music festival”

Eine Delegation aus vier im aktiven Exekutivdienst stehenden PolizeibeamtInnen der IPA Österreichischen Sektion folgte der Einladung der IPA Rumänischen Sektion und reiste vom 08.09 – 13.09.2021 nach Rumänien in die Stadt Cluj-Napoca, um am „Professional project on the occasion of the UNTOLD music festival“ teilzunehmen.



Das 4-tägige UNTOLD Festival 2021 wiederholte sich dieses Jahr bereits zum sechsten Mal in Cluj-Napoca, und ist eines der größten Festivals Europas in der Kategorie „Elektronische Tanzmusik“ mit einem Lineup der international bekanntesten DJs wie David Guetta, Afrojack, Steve Aoki, Martin Solveig, Martin Garrix, Parov Stelar und vielen mehr. Im Jahr 2019 erreichte das Festival mit 120.000 Besuchern an einem

einzigem Tag seinen bisherigen Rekord.

Dieses Jahr zählte das Festival coronabedingt „nur“ 35.000 Besucher am ersten Tag mit wachsenden Zahlen für die darauffolgenden Festivaltage. Beim eigentlichen Projekt, welches in engem Zusammenwirken der IPA Rumänischen Sektion, der IPA Region 1 Cluj, mit der Bundespolizei der Region Cluj, sowie der Stadt Cluj-Napoca umgesetzt wurde, handelte es sich um eine IPA-Polizeikooperation im Zusammenhang mit dem UNTOLD Festival 2021.

Das Projektziel war, vier österreichischen PolizeibeamtInnen aus dem aktiven Außendienst, die zugleich IPA-Mitglieder sind, die sicherheitspolizeiliche Organisation des Festivals im Vorfeld, die Abwicklung von sicherheits-, verwaltungs-, verkehrs-, und kriminalpolizeilichen Sachverhalten während, sowie ein Resümee nach Abschluss der Veranstaltung gegenseitig zu präsentieren, polizeilichen Erfahrungsaustausch zwischen beiden



Nationen zu betreiben und uniformierten Streifendienst gemeinsam mit BeamtInnen der rumänischen Polizei am Festivalgelände durchzuführen, um bei Amtshandlungen mit deutschsprachigen Parteien vermittelnd zu unterstützen.

Bei der vierköpfigen Delegation der IPA Österreichischen Sektion handelte es sich um den Delegationsleiter und Schriftführer des Bundesvorstandes, Fabian Payr, sowie eine IPA-Kollegin aus Oberösterreich und zwei weitere IPA-Kollegen jeweils aus Wien und Tirol. Bereits bei der Ankunft am Flughafen von Cluj-Napoca wurde die Delegation vom Präsidenten der IPA Rumänischen Sektion, Mihai Tartareanu sowie der Präsidentin der IPA Rumänien Region 1 Cluj, Elena Szekely, ausgesprochen freundschaftlich und herzlich empfangen.

Das Programm war über alle sechs Tage hindurch äußerst präzise und umfangreich geplant. Bereits untertags beinhaltete es mit professionellen Meet&Greet's mit lokalen IPA-Funktionären, leitenden Beamten der dortigen Polizeiführungen und dem Bürgermeister sowie überaus interessanten Besuchen in Polizeidepartments- und Abteilungen und diversen Sightseeings in und rund um die Stadt Cluj-Napoca polizeibezogene, soziale und kulturelle Höhepunkte.

Gegen Abend und nachts war der Hauptprogrammpunkt der uniformierte Dienst am Festivalgelände mit Besuchen der für das Festival temporär eingerichteten Polizeiinspektion „UNTOLD Festival“ inmitten des Festivalgeländes, dem Einsatzkoordinationszentrum im Dachbereich des Stadions und dem mobilen Krankenhaus, sowie Erfahrungsaustausch und Streifendienst mit den eingeteilten Beamten der rumänischen Polizei.



Dabei konnten unzählige Erfahrungen im Bereich der sicherheitspolizeilichen Organisation eines derart außergewöhnlichen und großen Festivals gesammelt und das überaus professionelle Auftreten und Arbeiten der rumänischen Polizeibehörden beobachtet werden.

Nach Abschluss des Projekts zogen beide Seiten äußerst positive Bilanz sowohl hinsichtlich des polizeilichen Erfahrungsaustausches als auch über die wohl unbeschreibliche und perfekte Gastfreundschaft und die vielen neu geschlossenen Freundschaften in Rumänien.



Ein herzliches SERVO PER AMIKECO, großen DANK und „auf ein Wiedersehen“ an die IPA Rumänische Sektion und die IPA Rumänien Region 1 Cluj!

Fabian Payr, Delegationsleiter und Schriftführer der IPA Österreich

IPA France: New National Executive Board



Dear friends,

It is with great pleasure that I communicate to you the composition of the new national board of the French section.

You will note that our members renewed their confidence in me for the presidency, as well as in Claire and Roland.

I welcome the return of Rose Lourme to the position of treasurer, as well as Brice, Jean-Luc, Victor, Walid and our two David's.

I also want to thank Mike Walsh, our international treasurer who honoured us with his presence. Rest assured that we gave him some lessons in cheese, wine and many other good things 😊.

Best regards,

Thierry Larrouy



Here are the details of the new national board of IPA France:

President: Thierry LARROUY

presidentnational@ipafrance.org

1st Vice President: Claire PALISSE - Chairperson Professional Commission

cnp@ipafrance.org

2nd Vice President: David PARISE - Chairperson Communication & Development C.

cncd@ipafrance.org

3rd Vice President : Brice FRESKO - Chairperson Social and Sports Commission

cnas@ipafrance.org

4th Vice President: Jean-Luc CHAUVET - Chairperson Cultural Commission

cnc@ipafrance.org

Secretary General: Roland MOREAU

secretairenational@ipafrance.org; cni@ipafrance.org

Assistant Secretary General (1): Victor COUTURIEUX

secretairenationaladj1@ipafrance.org

Assistant Secretary General (2): David PUSTOCH

secretairenationaladj2@ipafrance.org

Treasurer: Rose LOURME

tresoriernational@ipafrance.org

Assistant Treasurer: Walid BEN SRAIR

tresoriernationaladj@ipafrance.org

1st Shooting Tournament – President's Cup for IPA Poland's Lower Silesian Provincial Group

On 25th September 2021, the 1st Shooting Tournament for the President's Cup of the IPA Lower Silesian Provincial Group took place at the shooting range in Tuszyn near Dzierżoniów. Representatives of the IPA Regions from Wrocław, Głogów, Uroczysko-Piechowice, Milicz and Jelenia Góra turned up at the shooting range.

The event was organised by the Firearms Enthusiasts and Collectors Association "Pallad 1974", in cooperation with the Uniformed Services Weapons Collectors and Enthusiasts Association "WANAD".



As part of the competition, the best shooters in terms of skill, accuracy and precision were selected in three disciplines: Pistol, Pistol/Carbine, Pump-action shotgun.

Members of IPA regions from Lower Silesia competed at shooting stands under the watchful eye of instructors from the "Pallad 1974" Association, Paweł Rybarczyk and Radosław Damian, and the correctness and reliability of the results were supervised by a committee from the "WANAD" Association composed of Gracjan Mieszkała and Jacek Ptaszek.

After a spirited competition, the winners were decided as follows:

Pistol:

- 1st place – Grzegorz Długaszewski (Uroczysko-Piechowice)
- 2nd place – Paweł Kryczek (Uroczysko-Piechowice)
- 3rd place – Bartosz Starczewski (Milicz)

Pistol/Carbine:

- 1st place – Paweł Kryczek (Uroczysko-Piechowice)
- 2nd place – Paweł Kornalski (Wrocław)
- 3rd place – Bartosz Starczewski (Milicz)

Pump-action shotgun:

- 1st place – Marek Tarnawski (Wrocław)
- 2nd place – Mirosław Nowak (Głogów)
- 3rd place – Bartosz Starczewski (Milicz)

Winners of the President's Cup:

- 1st place – Bartosz Starczewski (Milicz)
- 2nd place – Paweł Kryczek (Uroczysko-Piechowice)
- 3rd place – Grzegorz Długaszewski (Uroczysko-Piechowice)

The President's Cup in the open category was won by Aleksandra Załęska from Wrocław, who won the trophy as the best contestant among women.

The tournament was held thanks to the involvement of individuals and organisations in promotion of the ideals of Servo per Amikeco.

We would like to thank the organisers: the „Pallad 1974” Association and its President Arkadiusz Hołub; the „WANAD” Association; Adrian Mikołajczak; Aleksandra Hołub and Ryszard Urban.



We are grateful to the members of the IPA Regions for turning up in large numbers, and for an exciting competition in the spirit of friendship.

We would also like to thank the President of the IPA Lower Silesian Provincial Group, Bartłomiej Majchrzak, for his initiative of integrating us through a sports competition.



We hope for an equally exciting rivalry in the next editions of the Tournament.

Servo per Amikeco,

Michał Sługocki, Secretary IPA Region Wrocław, Poland

IPA Brazil and Brazilian Freemasonry

On 18 September 2021, the Brazilian Section of the International Police Association received one of the highest honours of Brazilian Freemasonry, the “Masonic Insignia to the Independence Day of Brazil -1822”, in a Masonic Public Session commemorating the Independence Day of Brazil.



The Independence of Brazil was an achievement of Brazilian Freemasonry that was signed on 20 August 1822 in a Masonic Session at the Loja Arts and Commerce, located in the city of Rio de Janeiro, then capital of Brazil.

However, on 7 September of that year, when the Regent Dom Pedro, a Grand Master Freemason, was travelling to communicate this feat in the city of São Paulo, he was questioned by the Imperial Post on the banks of the Ipiranga stream, with a letter from his adviser, the Freemason Bonifácio, who informed him of Portugal's actions against him. Dom Pedro mounted his horse, drew his sword, and uttered the famous cry of “Independence or Death”, and took Brazil from the Portuguese yoke.



President of IPA Brazil during his thank-you speech



Painting: P. Américo (1888) – “O Grito do Ipiranga”

The president of IPA Brazil, Dr. Joel Zarpellon Mazo received the award during a beautiful event entitled “Independence Ágape (Gala dinner)”, in the presence of the IPA Brazil Executive Board, and from the pulpit made a statement of thanks for the partnerships signed with Masonic segments of Brazil, developing common social projects. This event marked an unprecedented Masonic acknowledgment of the IPA in Brazil.

Joel Zarpellon Mazo, President IPA Brazil

Riders of the IPA LE MC ROMANIA Chapter Zalău

Passion is always the engine of any progress. Behind every remarkable achievement lies the toil of individuals full of aspirations.

This is also the case with Daniel "Dan" Hadade, President of the RIDERS OF IPA LE MC ROMANIA Chapter Zalău, who did not give up until he brought this project to Romania.



In the course of a few years, it became certain that this group would grow, that we would have the first motorcycle events, and that we would continue to enjoy the friendship of those who welcomed us into this great family.

We are grateful to the RIDERS OF IPA LE MC Poland, Sir Stanislaw "Stanley" Dyngosz and Sir Slawomir "Kiwaczek" Brotaj for guiding us, and for all our other brothers for being with us.



We wish you good roads and dry asphalt!

Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu, President IPA Romania

Welcome back to the Kingdom! New IPA Accommodation in Ireland

As IPA Ireland's National Accommodation Officer, it gives me great pleasure, especially as we emerge from the prolonged lockdown which was necessary to combat the pandemic, to be able to announce here in the IPA Newsletter the official opening of IPA Ireland's newest property.



Progress was especially difficult during the past number of months but here we are, with everything in place, enabling us to offer another high-end accommodation facility to our members. Because of all the circumstances, including travel restrictions and our inability to hold physical meetings, the journey to completion of contract has been more arduous than it normally would have been, but after nearly three years of searching, some false starts, at times frustrating negotiations, and of course

excitement, we are delighted to have taken possession the sixth property in IPA Ireland's accommodation portfolio.

This excellently appointed and well-located property sits in the heart of the Kingdom, in the town of Killarney in Co. Kerry. Section Ireland previously operated an Apartment in Killarney, but that property was never owned by the IPA. It was leased to the Association on a seasonal basis and the cost of renting to our members was subsidised.

It was an excellent facility and when that ceased, it was obvious that it was missed greatly by our membership, especially by those members who had booked it on a regular basis. As Accommodation Officer, I never had the pleasure of managing that particular accommodation as it had been off our books for some time, but still, on an almost monthly basis, I continue to receive emails looking for availability in Killarney! Thankfully, I will now be able to respond positively.

The journey back to the Kingdom started most likely before my time on the NEC. When the Kerry Region submitted their motion in December 2018, the prospect of having a presence in Killarney had been slowly progressing in the background at national level. What began as informal conversations at NEC meetings, at National



Council, and as part of individual feedback from members, eventually led to the Social Commission, which oversees the strategic operation of IPA Accommodation, formally proposing the purchase of another IPA property to the NEC in February 2019.

We had of course looked at all other options, including the purchase of a property in Clonakilty, Kinsale, and Westport and also on our numerous islands, but when all of the criteria were considered, Killarney was consistent in hitting the mark. The existence of an active, hardworking, and eager Regional Committee in the Kerry IPA Region and the fact that we had previous experience of a property in Killarney certainly played a role in that decision. Chris Manton, Gillian O' Donoghue, Joe O'Sullivan and Siobhan Barry have driven this project on from the start, and will no doubt continue to roll out the red carpet for our members.

The apartment is located within the Gleneagles INEC Complex, adjacent to The Brehon Hotel, and is less than 2 km from the town centre. This beautiful ground-floor property is generous in size, extending to 960 sq. feet, with two spacious bedrooms.

The accommodation includes a modern kitchen, with all necessary appliances and a utility housing additional laundry facilities. The kitchen area extends to accommodate the dining area and adjoining living/sitting room, which is enhanced by double patio doors opening out onto a common green area of the scenic grounds. Both double bedrooms are quite large; one has a double bed and a single bed, while the other has two good size single beds.



This Apartment will sleep six adults in comfort, through the use of a suitable fold-up/portable bed in the living area. It is ideally suited to young families with children and to families with older members alike. Because it is ground-floor based, it is safe for all ages and is also ideal for anyone with limited mobility. There is ample free parking and as an added bonus for our members, we plan on purchasing access to the nearby Aquila Leisure Centre, which will be complimentary for our guests.

After having operated a minimum seven-night policy from June to September, we operate with a two-night minimum from October to May. With regard to the pricing structure, I expect that IPA Ireland will offer this apartment at approximately 50% of the equivalent commercial rates charged for nearby apartment accommodation.

IPA Ireland member can be proud in the knowledge that this Section now operates 10% of all official IPA Houses worldwide, and as a Section we are unique in that we own all of our six properties outright, something that was achieved through the good management of our finances and our accommodations over the years, since the foundation of this Section in 1955. It is testament to that good management in present times that on this occasion, we were able to finance the purchase of this apartment in Killarney without resorting to any mortgage facility, and when I say we, I mean all our IPA members in Section Ireland.

Chris Cahill, National Accommodation Officer IPA Ireland

ON THE TABLE OF THE IEB

Virtual IPA IEC Meeting held on 6 October 2021 via Zoom, coordinated from le Châble in Switzerland

The meeting was chaired by the international President Pierre-Martin Moulin. Delegates and observers from 60 sections across the world were able to choose to join one, or both, of two identical three-hour morning and evening sessions, arranged to facilitate their particular time zones.



*Reception at the Ministry for Security,
Institutions and Sports in Sion*

Delegates, as usual, had been sent the written reports of the IEB members in advance. An innovation this year was for each IEB member to send a short video presentation on updates to these written reports.

The meetings were held in English, and delegates were offered the opportunity to ask questions of the IEB members and comment on the various motions presented by the IEB and the sections. Ulrike Neuhoff, senior staff member of IBZ Gimborn, gave a presentation on the current situation of our education facility in Germany in both sessions.

It was a particular pleasure for the IEB to recommend that IPA Albania be awarded provisional-affiliated status.

Voting on all the reports and motions was carried out, using an interactive form, and sections had until the end of the 10th of October UK time, to send in their votes to the IAC in Nottingham.

The virtual IEC was regarded as a great success with business being completed within the three-hour time limit in both sessions. Perhaps a pointer to the conduct of future meetings?

In addition to the main event, the IEB held several meetings, the first being on October 5th when we came together for our first physical meeting since March 2020.



The IEB coordinating the virtual IPA IEC 2021 meeting from the congress centre in le Châble

This was mainly concerned with the running of the virtual IEC the following day. We also had the honour of being warmly received officially in Sion, capital of Canton Valais, by the Minister of Security, Institutions and Sports of the canton, Frédéric Favre, along with the Chief of Police of Valais, Christian Varone. M. Favre spoke of the need for cooperation between police and public and of the value of international contacts.

On the 7th of October, we had two working sessions of the IEB, covering a wide range of actions and decisions. We also reviewed the IEC meeting and matters arising. During a break, we were kindly received by the President of the local Municipality of Val de Bagnes, M. Christophe Maret. Then it was back to work, to conclude what had been a very productive coming together of the Board.



Apéritif for the IEB, organised by the president of Val de Bagnes, Christophe Maret

Later, in the evening we met with Alain Masseraz, President of IPA Valais and other regional board members. We then all enjoyed a meal at the Grand Saint Bernard Pass on the Swiss – Italian border, with Mirco Ciccarese, National Vice President of IPA Italy and members of the IPA Aosta Region, Italy, including Lorenzo Chiodo, the Regional Treasurer.

On the 8th, we travelled to the town of Zermatt, where we were welcomed by IPA Switzerland President Jean-Pierre Allet and national board members for a short meeting and exchange of views. The section had arranged a surprise

helicopter flight around the peaks of the Matterhorn and other world famous mountains. This was undoubtedly the highlight of the social side of the visit to Switzerland. We then took an underground cable car ride up to Sunnegga and following lunch, hosted by the national board, we hiked down the mountain back to Zermatt.

Later we travelled back to Sion, where we visited the local IPA cellar bar with members of IPA Valais and the Swiss national board, before heading to a restaurant for a traditional Swiss raclette meal, hosted by the Region.

Thanks to our President Pierre-Martin Moulin for arranging the meeting, and to Jean-Pierre Allet and to Alain Masseraz and their boards for the superb hospitality and friendship we experienced during our visit to Switzerland.



The IEB enjoying a raclette evening, kindly hosted by the IPA Valais regional board

Clearly a fine example of Servo per Amikeco!

Stephen Crockard, Head of Administration

LAST WORD

As was so nicely put in the Introduction of this Newsletter, despite the challenges the pandemic still places in front of us, everyone is trying to regain a sense of normality, and we are finally moving forwards once more.

Accompanying the IEB to the board meeting to Switzerland earlier this month meant my first journey outside of the UK for 19 months, and after having 'fought' my way through the covid regulations jungle, it almost felt surreal to board busy trains and full planes in order to reach my destination.

It was a real treat to see everyone face-to-face, and it was only at the very moment when meeting people in person once more, that I realised how much I had missed being surrounded by normal life. The working week was nicely interspersed with trips to meet Swiss and Italian IPA members at carefully selected locations that were simply breath-taking: to step out of the restaurant just past the Great St. Bernard Pass at night with a sky incredibly clear and the air so fresh, will be a memory that will stay with me for a long time.

IPA meetings of any kind always involve plenty of meals, and our week in the Valais proved no different. Really, the best advice anyone who attends an IPA event should receive, is to bring clothes that allow for a bit of 'growing room' after a few days! We were treated to fondues, raclettes, an 'assiette valaisanne', plenty of local wines, and an Italian meal with countless courses. A wonderful culinary experience, enjoyed by all, as you can see in the photo!



My culinary journey is continuing by the way ... I am in Germany right now to see my parents as well as other family members in person once more after nearly 20 months, and while I am writing this Last Word, and my Mum is busy cooking yet another of my favourite German meals. 😊

Elke

