



MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012
OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SYSTEMATIC KINESIOLOGY IN IRELAND

Date: Saturday 21st April, 2012
Location: Hilton Airport Hotel, Northern Cross, Dublin 17.

Attendees: Mella Britton, Margaret Byrne, Denise Cahill, Ella Chima, Dymphna Corrigan, Peter Costello, Bernie Doonan, Ross Fleming, Frankie Kelly, Johanna Kerscher, Gertrude Lawler, Clive Lucas, Barbara McCracken, Pippa O’Gorman, Victoria Sharpe, John Whitehead. Executive Council: Niamh Ashmore, Siobhan Guthrie, Kieran Haughey, Deirdre Lucas, Ted Mannion.

Apologies: Brenda Darcy, Jennifer Dunne, Lauren MacLennan; Adrienne McAllister; Mary-rose McBrien; Eileen Mollohan; Elma Murphy; Nuala O’Connor, Des Richmond.

1 Chairperson’s Address:

Ted Mannon opened the meeting and thanked Siobhan, Kieran, Deirdre, Niamh, Lauren, Adrienne, Des and Clive for all their hard work over this last year. She went on to present her address as follows:

“It’s great to see you all here today, I love meeting up with you, and in fact would like to meet up with you more often, but like a lot of people, life seems to take over and before you know it, another year has passed.

Hopefully Member’s Day will provide you with a good opportunity to catch up with your friends, and colleagues, to enjoy your day and have some fun, but also to get some updates, an opportunity to have your voice heard, to have your say and to get some really valuable training from Brian Miller. If there’s something you feel the Association needs to know or to hear about we hope you find the opportunity today to communicate that and to get the support you need and deserve from your Association.

Much like life in general each year in the Association seems to have its own unique character. This year the Association felt like an adolescent, one which is changing and maturing, and developing a stronger sense of its own identity as it overcomes new challenges. Some of these transformations are the result of new insights that come from having such fantastic, passionate new blood on the Council, and some are the unique burdens being placed on the CAM sector by legislative changes taking place at a national and European level. You can rest assured that ASK is a strong organisation, very well placed to adapt to the changing needs of its members and the changing responsibilities placed on it externally. You just have to think back to last year’s Member’s Day. We were encouraged by some really positive feedback on the day itself and afterwards. We were especially delighted by the increased involvement and interest expressed by you the members.

The natural evolution of the Association and the Council happened at a time when the CAM sector was being targeted by politicians and vested interests from the pharmaceutical and medical world. The way the Association can operate is being ever more tightly and stringently controlled by government working groups and changes in legislation. This has meant that the Council's job of running the day to day business of the Association has become increasingly complex. It has meant that we've to stay on our toes and on top of changes and new developments both within the Association and also the world beyond the Association. We've all been learning how to operate in this new climate, to evolve and grow along with the Association. It's very hard work but rewarding, especially if it helps to protect the rights and support the needs of our Members, which is after all, what motivates us to do this in the first place.

One of the really important jobs undertaken this year was updating the Rules of the Association. The foundation documents are the Trust Deed, which sets up the Association, and the Rules, which provides the guidelines on how the Association is run. Of course this document was drafted right at the beginning, before anyone had tried to run it. The Association has evolved over the years and it was important that the Rules reflect this. When drafting the Rules the first time it was just the three founding trustees doing it however this time there were more members involved and that proved to be a very valuable process. It's another sign that the Association has, in a way, come of age.

As we change and grow as an organisation the needs of the members naturally mature and change also. A great deal of time this year was spent discussing ways to support the changing needs of the Members. We felt that it was time to develop greater flexibility with respect to the types of membership available in ASK to better accommodate the changes in life circumstances that can happen from time to time to any of us. We're proposing three new membership categories in addition to the existing ones. I understand that Kieran and Niamh will be talking to you about this a bit later.

You'll also be hearing from Deirdre, the Secretary, who'll report on what we've been up to this year, from Niamh, the Membership Secretary, with an update on the membership, from Kieran, the Treasurer who'll present the Treasurer's report and from Clive our FICTA rep who'll bring you up to speed on FICTA and EFCAM.

There's plenty more though, the amended Rules of the Association need to be approved of by the members and so we'll be dealing with that this morning.

This afternoon we have a very well respected Systematic Kinesiologist, Brian Miller, providing us with some first-rate post-graduate training. As I'm sure you know, there are 2 CPD points for each hour of training with Brian.

Next year we intend to review the CPD scheme. The Scheme's been in operation for a few years now and because most of you have experience with it we're hoping that you have some feedback for us that will be helpful for the review. We're going to have a breakout session this morning, after the morning break and up to lunchtime, where you'll get the opportunity to divide into groups and discuss the CPD scheme and other topics you find relevant to your membership. We'd encourage you to write down your suggestions and give us your feedback. Again, we hope that this is a positive experience for you.

Finally, the research project hasn't been forgotten about. Progress this year has been slower than anticipated. We've received fantastic support from Dr. Anne Matthews, as always, and at this stage the speed of our progress is dictated mostly by the academic schedules within DCU. We had hoped to have ethical approval for the pilot study by now but that hasn't been possible, due to the enormous workload that Dr. Matthews has. The plan is for us to receive the final draft of the Proposal and Ethics Approval Application Form from Dr. Matthews in early May. This draft will need to be approved firstly by the Research Study Working Group and then by the Council. Formal application for ethical approval to conduct the pilot study in DCU will hopefully be made in June and we should hear back from them about two weeks later. Dr. Matthews believes that it should be possible to be ready to start conducting the pilot about a month later. That of course is also heavily dependent on us as well, and how much preparation we feel we need before conducting the pilot, and our resources in terms of volunteers and time.

There's plenty more happening today but I think you've probably heard enough from me. So it just remains for me to say thank you very much for the honour of being Chairperson this year."

2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2011 and Matters Arising:

Members attending the meeting had all read the Minutes in advance and there were no matters arising with the exception that the Minutes require amendment to include Brenda Darcy in the list of those who sent in an apology. The minutes were proposed by Ted Mannion and seconded by Namh Ashmore as being a true and accurate record of the 2011 AGM.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Kieran Haughey reported on the finances of the Association for 2011.

"The accounts have been balanced and are a reflection of the financial activities of ASK Ireland from January 2011 to December 2011. The following is an abstract of accounts for the year 1st January to 31st December 2011.

	2010	2011
Opening Balance at 1 January	€9,748.61	€10,745.66

The 2011 opening balance consists of €4,649.23 (Saving Account) and €6,096.43 (Current Account), presenting a total of €10,745.66. The following is a reconciliation of the 2011 bank accounts; the PayPal account was opened in February 2010, and is treated separately.

In detail this is:

	€		€	
	2010	9,748.61	2011	10,745.66
Opening Balance				
Expenditure				
Health Shows	1,270.42		1,234.20	
Postage / stat /Members Folders	1,168.44		494.31	
ASK Leaflets	150.00		283.25	
Advertising	100.00		Nil	
ASK Anniversary Pens	279.47		Nil	
Internet maintenance	76.23		76.23	
Golden / Yellow Pages	2,348.55		617.10	
FICTA	229.50		229.50	
Members Day	2,318.74		1,190.00	
Mastalgia report	1,123.00		Nil	
Misc.	50.00		232.60	
Bank Fees	44.39		39.21	
Total Expenditure	9,158.74		4,396.40	
Income				
Membership Day + Fees	9,785.05		6,551.07	
Health show	369.00		920.00	
Interest (Saving Account)	1.74		1.69	
Total Income	10,155.79		7,472.76	
Net Income		997.05		3076.36
Closing Balance		10,745.66		13,822.02

The closing balances are saving account €4,650.92, the current account €9,171.10. The combined closing balance at 31st December 2011 is €13,822.02.

Please see the total closing balance below.

PayPal Account

	2010	2011
	€	€
Total Income		
Opening Balance	Nil	316.09
(Membership fees and Members Day)	3,572.00	2,970.00
Less Outgoings	€	
PayPal Fees	131.95	104.43
Services	123.96	149.40
Total Outgoings	<u>255.91</u>	<u>253.83</u>
Net Revenue	3,316.09	2,716.17
Transferred to Bank Account	-3,000.00	Nil
Balance in PayPal at 31 December Y/E	<u>316.09</u>	<u>3,032.26</u>
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Total Closing Balance for the Association at 31st December 2011

	2010	2011
	€	€
Current Account	6,096.43	9,171.10
Saving Account	4,649.23	4,650.92
PayPal	316.09	3,032.26
Total	<u>11,061.75</u>	<u>16,854.18</u>
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Treasurers Report

General Review of 2011

Income Summary

Membership fees continue to be the main source of income; unfortunately, the Rude Health Show generated a small net deficit. However, the overall expenditure is reduced considerably by over €4,700 and this is reflected in the total closing balance, which has actually increased even though income decreased.

Membership

Membership fees in 2011 generated approximately €8,831.07 (€10,925.05 in 2010). *Please note:* the Membership category in the accounts also includes the supply of leaflets (at cost) and Members Day event (approx €1,190).

Mastalgia Protocol

While there has been progress on the Mastalgia Research, there has been no additional expenditure; we would like to thank Dr Anne Matthews for her continued work and support.

Health fairs

The shows continue to generate public interest and awareness of Kinesiology. Well done to the members who worked so hard at the Rude Health Show and their own local shows. The net revenue for the health fairs was a small deficit of €314.20, (-€901.42 for 2010). While the intrinsic value of increasing public awareness of Systematic Kinesiology cannot be underestimated for the Association and members alike. And, again well done to all the members at the various shows.

PayPal

The PayPal facility continues to be popular with many members being able to make transactions quickly and securely. The fees associated with it are greater than bank charges per transaction, but it provides another level of service to members. Almost 30% of members make payments via PayPal.

Golden pages and Yellow Pages

The breakdown of expenditure is as follows:-

The Golden pages are now on an annual basis and cost €617.10. The Yellow Pages cost £549.00 (€641.00) and was paid in January 2012; this will appear in next years accounts.

Overall Expenditure

A brief comparison of the expenditure categories for 2010/2011 shows a reduction in expenditure of over €4,700. Mainly due to one off expenses in 2010 (10th Anniversary, ASK Folders and Mastalgia Research fees) and a reduction in the Golden Pages advertising. This is the principle reason for an increase in net revenue at the end of 2011.

Projections for 2012

Golden & Yellow Pages

As previously discussed the spend on this advertising medium has reduced greatly and is at the basic level to maintain a reasonable presence in the Golden & Yellow Pages, which still has some value.

Mastalgia Research

The Council continues its commitment to the Mastalgia research. The Council previously set aside €7,000 to cover additional expenses. Of which, €1050 was paid in 2010 to cover the VAT charged to DCU. Additional potential expenses, such as insurance, training, monitoring, analysis of statistics and publication of the report etc will be required as we enter the actual research stage in the near future.

Estimated Projected Expenditure 2012	€
Mastalgia Research Fund)	5,950 (Balance of Allocated Mastalgia
Golden & Yellow Pages	1,250
Members Day contribution	400
Internet/advertising	1,000
Misc/Other	500
Estimated Projected Total	9,100

Membership Rates

The Treasurer recommends that no increase in membership fee is required for the forthcoming year. Fees have remained unchanged since ASK Ireland was formed.

Conclusion

To conclude, due to a major reduction in expenditure, the Association is in a very good financial position with the balance in the various accounts at 31st December 2011 being €16,854.18 (€11,061.75 for 2010). This will ensure the Association is able to continue to fulfil its commitment to develop and complete the Mastalgia research in the forthcoming year and take on other projects as other Council members will brief you on.”

4. Secretary’s Report:

Deirdre Lucas presented her report as follows:

“The ASK Executive Council is involved in the day to day running of the Association.

During 2011 we continued the practice started in 2010 of conducting a number of our Executive Council meetings over Skype. Overall 12 ASK Executive council meetings took place since the last AGM in April 2011.

The meetings which took place on Skype were shorter in nature (usually around an hour) but the live meetings usually took place on a week-end day and lasted for anything up to 6 hours.

The 2011 meetings took place on 19th January; 9th February; 2nd March; 26th March; 1st April; 2nd June; 12th June [Planning Day]; 7th July; 11th August; 1st September; 6th October; 5th November and 8th December. The 2012 meetings took place on: 19th January; 28th January; 25th March and 10th April.

In addition, a Working Group set up to revise the Rules of ASK Ireland met on several occasions.

Here is a summary of what we covered during these meetings.

- **PLANNING DAY**

On 12th June, the new Executive Council met for a full day to plan the year's activities. We considered all the tasks required for the coming year and how these could be allocated among the different Council members; scheduled the workload for the coming year etc. We also did considerable brainstorming vis a vis how the profile of kinesiology could be raised; how to best promote the Association etc.

- **RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION**

A big task undertaken by the Executive Council during the past 12 months was the revision of the Rules of the Association of Systematic Kinesiology in Ireland. The reason it was being revised is that the Association has been in existence for over 12 years, and the original rules needed updating to reflect new membership categories. Once the process started, it became a much more onerous task and we hope that now the work is complete, they will not need to be changed again for some time to come!

A draft of the revised rules was made available to members via the Members' Area of the Kinesiology website earlier this month and you will be asked to vote on these revised rules later today.

- **OTHER ISSUES:**

During the year we also worked on, inter alia, the Mastalgia Research Project; new categories of membership; FICTA matters; Members' Day preparation etc. Further information of a number of these issues will be provided in the reports to follow.

Other updates from the Association.

Kinesiology Google Group:

A Google Group is the online private area for ASK members and contains multiple topics and discussions related to Kinesiology. Members continue to use the Google Group and it has been great to see the support offered by other members when a question is raised. For those of you haven't joined yet, or visited recently it is a very good resource for your client questions. Please email Siobhan Guthrie for an invite.

Balens:

The block scheme insurance renewal took place in June 2011 and the premium remained at €125.00 and £60 for those in the North, which was the same as 2010. The premium for 2012 hasn't been released yet but this is a general reminder that you should expect to receive renewal notices from Balens during May.

For those members who don't use Balens, you should note that the the ASK policy is on a "claims occurring" (CO) basis and not a "claims made" (CM) basis. The difference is that with a CM policy a practitioner MUST advise a company of cessation of work – for what ever reason – and request a "run off" for the policy. Balens have advised us that as many people did not read the policy and therefore failed to notify them of a "run off", Balens amended their policy to be Claims Occurring and a practitioner is no longer required to advise Balens of a cessation or request a run off. Please note:- Other companies may still require such notification. This is an important element in their policy, as many insurers' use the failure to notify as a way to get out of the contract.

Graduation:

The TASK Diploma course 2010-2011 had 7 students and all graduated in September 2011. In July 2011, the TASK Diploma Course was started in two locations – Dublin and Belfast – and there are currently 15 students in 2nd year. We look forward to seeing everyone graduate successfully in September 2012.

2011 PROMOTION

The main public activity by the Association was at national and various local shows around the country. For the local shows the banner has again criss/crossed the country many a time, and that was co-ordinated by Des Richmond. So thank you Des for your work in that area.

National Shows

While we've given the Mind Body Spirit events a miss for the last few years, during 2011 one of our new Officers on the Council, Lauren MacLennan, was keen to test out the Rude Health Show in September 2011. Having visited the show in 2010, she felt it was a better event for the Association to be represented at. The show was a great success and costs were almost covered. There was an encouraging level of interest in kinesiology from members of the public and the team on the ASK Stand gave 36 mini treatments. In addition, there were 270 entries to the draw for a free treatment which were subsequently distributed out to ASK Ireland practitioners. A huge thank you goes to Lauren and to all the members who supported her in running the event, namely Lena Axelsson; Peter Costelloe; Tania Dunne; Adrienne McAllister; Sinead Matthews; Elma Murphy; Liz Svensson and Des Richmond.

Advertising - Golden / Yellow Pages

With fewer calls coming though to the office during 2010-2011 as a direct result of the Golden Page book, and as the Book becomes less needed in general, the Golden Pages are moving their services online. Golden Pages have just become a Google Adwords Agent and the Association is presently in discussions to consider running an Adwords campaign for Kinesiology to drive traffic to the website.

Website

The website continues to get good traffic from search engine Google searches and through links on other sites. Approximately 1000 visits a month, many of those visitors are visiting the practitioner listing. Approximately 3-400 visit the practitioner page each month.

Communications

Members were kept in touch with the Association through the regular ASK eNews Update emails and also quarterly postal mailings which took place in June, October, December. Most recently there was a mailing in April 2012 with Membership Certificates and the Positive Life magazine.

A newsletter team was set up and new sections were introduced to the Newsletter. Ted Mannion was the roving reporter and kept us updated on such topics as FICTA and research. Adrienne McAllister sought out interesting case studies to share and Lauren MacLennan reported on events around the country. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the newsletter team for their contribution during the past year.

And, finally, those of you who have a Facebook profile, please do connect there with the Association at [facebook.com/kinesiologie](https://www.facebook.com/kinesiologie). And we invite you to share updates with your friends to increase the awareness of what we all do."

5. Membership Secretary's Report:

Niamh Ashmore presented her report as follows:

“In March 2011, 71 Registered Professional and 8 Certified members were invited to renew their membership. 53 members completed their renewal, 18 people did not renew – 15 Registered Professionals and 3 Certified Professionals. 3 of these 18 registered professional members notified the Association of their intention not to renew, the remaining members did not advise the Association of their intention and were subsequently removed from the member list.

Of the members that renewed in 2011, 60% renewed on time. This was an increase on 2010, which was 51% of the members that renewed, renewed on time. One reminder letter was sent in 12th March 2011 and e-mail reminder was sent on 4th April 2011.

Category	Invited to Renew	Renewed	Not Renewed
Registered Professionals	63	48	15
Certified Professionals	8	5	3
Totals	71	53	18
		<i>75%</i>	<i>25%</i>

The membership at 2011 renewal time was 53. In July 2011, 18 new student members joined the association. Also 5 previous members requested to renew during the year, bringing up the total membership for 2011 to 76.

The 2012 invitation to renew was sent out to those 76 members, and so far 54 members have renewed to date. A few others have indicated they wish to renew so we are confident this number will increase. However, we are concerned that many are choosing not to remain a member of the Association.

New Membership Category

A new membership category, being proposed at today's AGM, will hopefully provide a member who may not be currently practising to be a 'non-active' member for a reduced fee. We hope that this would encourage these members to stay with the Association and allow them to keep in touch, still be involved and benefit from being a member of the Association.

Renewing On Time

As always, we request that members renew promptly at renewal time. If you are having any difficulties doing so, for whatever reason, we would encourage you to get in touch and let us know as there may be ways that we can help. It takes a considerable amount of time to arrange and gather the membership fees, print certificates, send reminders, numerous trips to the post office, etc. so any help by the members to renew on time would be hugely beneficial to the process. I would like to extend my thanks to all those who have renewed on time every year.

I must also mention the returning of the renewal forms. It is extremely important that we get this signed form with the up to date information filled in so that we can complete your membership and ensure that all of our member information is correct. Getting this form before the certificates are sent out is hugely beneficial to you as a member as it allows you the opportunity to check that the information we hold for you is correct and that any changes you have requested on your renewal form have been carried out. Again, many thanks to those of you who return these forms promptly, it makes a great deal of difference to the process.

Insurance

Just a further cautionary note, it is imperative that all members have current and up to date insurance – even if only working on friends and family. If they fall off your plinth, or trip over something in your house and end up off work for 3 months, they could sue you! It doesn't matter whether you are on or off the practitioner list, if someone is off work and not getting money they will seek money from you! This is especially relevant during these tough financial times."

6. FICTA Report:

Clive Lucas presented his report as follows:

"FICTA – Federation of Irish Complementary Therapy Associations

Allows members to exchange views/ideas/discuss and resolve issues/problems

Assists members where possible (e.g. draft documentation)

Puts members' views to Government /statutory bodies, Europe etc.

ASK Ireland is a member – Ted Mannion/Clive Lucas represent ASK Ireland at bi-monthly meetings

They ensure that ASK's views are heard and taken on board when decisions being made

All decisions taken at bi-monthly meetings held in Ranelagh, Dublin

Representative body for 20 members, generally 12/13 at meetings

Steering Committee meets between meetings to progress matters agreed.

Clive Lucas on Steering Committee

Seeking to have more education providers become members

Main issues for FICTA during year:

- Progress Report to the Department of Health enclosing all "regulatory" documents prepared by FICTA for use by its members.
- Survey of Educational Requirements for Category 1 CAM Therapies undertaken by Department of Health and HETAC [Higher Education Training Awards Council].
- FICTA becomes a member of EFCAM [European Federation of Complimentary & Alternative Medicine]
- Invitation to discuss CAM therapy room at Crumlin Children's Hospital.
- Invitation to participate in the Cancer Survivors Conference organised by the Irish Cancer Society.
- FICTA Survey of CAM usage.

I mentioned in last year's report that FICTA had prepared documentation for submission to the Department of Health with a request to meet the then new Minister. The Department indicated that any such meeting should be deferred until the results of their joint review with HETAC of (certain) "Complementary Therapies and Related Academic Programmes" was completed. While this process was underway, HETAC suspended their validation of all programmes for complementary therapies (including FICTA's for a generic award). The results of the review were significantly delayed while the Department and HETAC carried out further research on an international basis and are to be released at a meeting hosted by them on 3rd May next. FICTA's submission to the review emphasised the importance of tailoring education to the type of therapy involved – i.e one size does not fit all. Further information on any recommendations made for the education of practitioners in Category 1 therapies (Osteopathy, Chiropractic, Acupuncture, Herbal Medicine and Chinese Herbal Medicine) will have to await the outcome of that meeting in May. However, it would appear that, for this Category, 3rd level qualifications are likely to be required. Going forward then, it will be important for FICTA and all its members to argue the case for the type and level of education deemed appropriate by them for their therapy.

FICTA became a member of EFCAM around the middle of 2011. The new chair of FICTA has already attended a number of meetings in Brussels. This is a highly important development for FICTA in that it now becomes aware at an early stage of any development taking place in Europe which could have an effect on CAM in Ireland and can hopefully influence its direction through EFCAM. There are a number of European organisations whose members are medical doctors providing CAM therapies and a number of these doctors are of the view that CAM therapies should only be provided by persons with a medical qualification. This is already the position in certain European countries. Therefore, EFCAM has to be vigilant constantly to ensure that such provisions are not enforced on a European wide basis.

Due to the very large amount of work involved, EFCAM, which up to now has been run on a voluntary basis by its small number of members, has found itself in a difficult financial situation which means that they are unlikely to be able to continue working at the present level and also to attend certain conferences which are deemed necessary to enable them to meet with and lobby, policy makers at a European level. With this in mind, EFCAM has requested that its members make a donation on an annual basis in order to ensure that it has sufficient funding to continue its very valuable work. The suggested contribution is one Euro per member of its members practitioner base. In our case, ASK has decided not to levy this amount on its members but to make a contribution of approximately seventy Euro to EFCAM. Most other FICTA members have agreed to do so at this time. A number have yet to make a decision on this matter.

Following a newspaper article indicating that Crumlin Children's Hospital had established a CAM therapy room, FICTA wrote to the hospital congratulating them and enquiring if it could be involved in this project. Following the letter, FICTA was invited to visit the therapy room and to join a committee which would operate and, hopefully, expand over time, the range of services being provided. While only nurses provide the therapies at present, FICTA hopes that this will not be the case in the future. This could be a very important breakthrough for non medical CAM as it is the first time that FICTA has been associated with the provision of CAM therapies in a hospital setting.

FICTA was invited to take a stand at the Cancer Survivors Conference held by the Irish Cancer Society in March last. Again, this was an important first for FICTA in that its members were present to discuss with medical practitioners and cancer survivors how CAM therapies could potentially help such patients. A list of FICTA members, together with their details, was made available to all present.

Very little hard evidence on the extent of the usage of CAM therapies in Ireland is available. In order to rectify this matter, FICTA decided to undertake what it called a "CAM Usage Survey". All FICTA member associations were invited to participate in the survey. You, as a member of ASK Ireland, received a number of e-mail requests to complete the survey in order to ensure that, along with members of other associations, there would be as high a number of replies as possible. The survey closed last week and the results are currently being compiled. These will be made available to all FICTA members in due course.

That survey was extremely important as it was hoped that it would show a very high level of CAM usage through FICTA members so that it could be used in presentations to both the Department of Health and to EFCAM to support our argument that CAM therapies should be an important aspect of overall health care provision in Ireland.

FICTA will hold its AGM on 12th May next at 10 am in the Milltown Park Institute, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 6 and members of ASK Ireland are welcome to attend. Some of the subjects outlined above will be discussed at that meeting."

At the end of the FICTA report, Kieran Haughey made a proposal that (a) in recognition of the work carried out by EFCAM on behalf of the various European CAM associations [including ASK] a voluntary contribution in addition to the membership fee be made to FICTA on behalf of EFCAM and (b) that, whilst this would be set initially at €100 per annum, it would be within the power of the Council to vary this as it sees fit. The proposal was seconded by Clive Lucas.

7. Rules of the Association:

Clive Lucas gave a brief summary of the differences between the existing rules and the proposed changes. He pointed out that there were no major changes – it was more to bring them up-to-date, bearing in mind that the Association was set up 10 years ago and things have moved on. The main change is in the number of categories of membership provided for in the up-dated rules – in particular the new inactive membership category. Niamh Ashmore gave a brief explanation of the new inactive membership category; the conditions that will attach to it and the benefits of becoming an inactive member as opposed to letting membership lapse.

Kieran Haughey proposed that the new rules be adopted and this was seconded by Niamh Ashmore. The changes to the rules were put to a vote of the members present and there was unanimous agreement to the changes.

8. Election of Officers:

All officers must resign at each AGM and, therefore, all officers did so. With the exception of Adrienne McAllister and Lauren MacLennon, all officers were available for re-election and had been nominated by the membership. The following Member-Officers were duly elected to the positions as follows:

Bridget Mannion [Trustee]	Chairperson
Kieran Haughey [Trustee]	Treasurer
Deirdre Lucas	Secretary
Niamh Ashmore	Membership Secretary
Siobhan Guthrie [Trustee]	Officer
Des Richmond	Officer

The Executive Council was duly elected by the membership. Other positions were elected as follows:

Clive Lucas	FICTA Rep
Bridget Mannion	FICTA Rep

9. AOB:

There being no other business, members were thanked for their contribution to the meeting and the 2012 Annual General Meeting finished at 11.30am.