

Minutes of IOV Executive Meeting Online 17th December 2021

Present: Tony Manning, Zulqar Cheema, David Hunter.

This meeting had been scheduled to follow the Members' Zoom meeting held on the previous evening.

Matters discussed.

1. Membership requests via the website.

We receive occasional enquiries about membership of the IOV together with separate requests to join our Members-only Facebook page.

Some of the membership enquiries are in essence registration requests in order to complete the online exam which forms Part 1 of our accreditation process. Once such a person has submitted his/her completed exam Cheema notifies the score and offers congratulations or encouragement, and provides information and a link for that person to join up.

Many enquiries turn out to be bogus or bot-generated, and Cheema weeds them out – unusual addresses, etc, but checks out particular UK based emails which might be a genuine video-related business.

Our discussion was essentially about improving our chances of catching the few fish that do bite as well as enhancing our appeal, e.g. through welcoming visitors to sample member Zoom sessions or other content on a limited basis. This would require a system to allow them in, notify them that the free offer is due to expire, and close the door if no membership application is forthcoming. Central to this is having something worthwhile in our shop window. This should include samples of our members' work as discussed yesterday. David thought it might be necessary to consult members who wish to submit work regarding who can access, copyright etc, but the principle that an organisation that is about the skills of video production ought to have work and tips (Chris North and others) on show. Extending from this Tony re-iterated his suggestion of themed monthly meetings around an area of skill or knowledge.

2. Membership Options.

David felt that we offered too many options and ways of paying and ought to simplify the whole thing. Tony asked whether we would want to retain Student Membership rates and likewise the Retired category.

3. Accounts – latest position.

Cheema reported a balance of £8721.28. This is after agreed payments of £2000 to Cheema and the clearance of an old part-invoice of £663.90 to Tony. A further £2000 will be paid to Tony on production of back-dated invoice.

Our PPL account has a balance of £178.48.

PayPal a/c has approx £200 but we are awaiting resolution of the problem of accessing it.

This has been passed to former Treasurer Steve Abrams. David suggested that since we currently have an outstanding invoice of £500 against SA, that we offer that he keeps the money from that account (which we no longer need) once access is resolved. TM suggested

this might be fair particularly given that in his and Ron Lee's time they were paid in full whereas we (Zulqar Cheema and TM) were taking a heavily discounted offer.

4. Professional Indemnity Insurance for Arbitration Service.

This insurance, provided by Royal Sun Alliance, expired on 12th December. Renewal cost was £474.32. Zulqar Cheema had got back to the insurer to query the increased cost given zero claims and our members being in a sector with little or no work to give rise to potential claims given the CO-VID situation.

We discussed the continuing need for a trained internal Arbitration Officer. At present the service and associated post is part of our offer and contained in our Constitution. The wording could be altered e.g. to offer an advisory service via the Exec body as a whole. It would then be doubtful whether we could intervene with both parties (our member and their client) and make binding recommendations. At present new members agree on joining to abide by the decision of the Arbitrator. Sometimes people have opted to resign and of course members and/or their clients could seek a civil court solution, although the costs, risks and time-scale might make it prohibitive to do so.

A second option might be to call on an external Arbitrator. Ideally we would want someone with knowledge of video production and what is or isn't an acceptable standard.

A third option for now might be for TM to accept referrals from members (possibly via the Exec) and to build in the costs of his own Indemnity insurance. **TM agreed to check out option 2 (professional UK arbitrators) and 3 (a quote for insurance in a personal capacity).**

We also discussed our Policy under Associations, Clubs and Societies and agreed this was needed, including £10m Employer Liability cover (David clarifying that if someone is doing something at your instruction this creates a liability even though that person is not actually employed by you) as well as £5m Public Liability. The cost of this insurance is currently £274.

5. Our Position as an Executive body

David said that he would not wish to take on the Chair role until late January. Both Cheema and myself are in a difficult position, again as discussed at length in the meeting yesterday. It was also agreed that we would not be taking up the offer in that meeting that Alvin Burrell would be prepared to re-join the Exec on the condition that TM stepped down.

6. Next Meeting

Wednesday 9th January 9-11am.

Notes taken by Tony Manning.