



DBI SECRETARIAT

Annual Report
1st July 2010 – 30th June 2011



Founded over 30 years ago, Deafblind International (DbI) is the world association promoting services for deafblind people.

DbI brings together professionals, researchers, families, deafblind people and administrators to raise awareness of deafblindness. Central to our work is to support the development of services to enable a good quality of life for deafblind children and adults of all ages

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MEETINGS

Denmark

It was a pleasure to meet with the Dbl Management Committee (ManCom) and the Board in Aalborg, Denmark in September 2010. A significant amount of work was accomplished at the meetings and an impressive number of Board members attended and contributed to the discussions. Developing the next Strategic Plan for 2012-2015 was the big focus and the discussions that came out of the meetings will lead to an exciting new future for Dbl. The Secretariat will play a role in pulling it all together and to have it confirmed by the Board in September 2011 for implementation in 2012.



A tractor driven bus, called The Sand Worm, took us to Grenen the two seas, the Kattegat and the Skagerak, meet, and you can literally stand with one foot in each sea.



Elvira Edwards and Bronte Pyett working at the Board meeting in Aalborg.

Singapore

In April 2011 the ManCom met in Singapore for the second time in this financial year. ManCom made some good headway at the meetings and acknowledged the progress that has been achieved in line with the Dbl Strategic Plan. There is still a great deal of work to be accomplished in preparation for the Board and General Meetings in Sao Paulo and we are committed to achieving the tasks set out in time to present to the Board in Sao Paulo.



Dbl ManCom meeting Singapore, April 2011

Stan Munroe, Gill Morbey, Ton Groot Zwaafink, William Green, Koh Poh Kwang (Lighthouse School), Elvira Edwards, Bronte Pyett

Sao Paulo

Much work has been done in preparation for the next round of Dbl meetings to be held immediately prior to and after the next World Conference in Sao Paulo. September 2011 brings to a close the current four year term for the President, Vice-Presidents and Board and as a result the Secretariat has played a vital role in supporting the Nominations Committee in the processes of nominating and voting for the next Officer positions and Board members. According to the Constitution, only paid corporate members and Networks are eligible to vote and therefore the accuracy of the membership list and payment schedule was of the utmost importance. We were pleased to collate that data and ensure a smooth process unfolded.

Negotiations for the venue hire, catering and access requirements are underway and will be finalised in advance of the meetings in Sao Paulo.

Following all the meetings a new Matters Arising document is created to follow through on the actions agreed at the previous meeting. The Secretariat completed all allocated tasks on time and successfully.

With all the meetings there is significant travel, accommodation and venue requirements and the Secretariat was pleased to manage all these arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP

This year we streamlined the membership renewal process and the renewal rate has been stronger this year for corporate members. We did away with the old paper copy format and encouraged all members to join and renew online. The online payment system was reviewed and improved. Following the call for renewals much time was spent liaising with members regarding membership queries, payment, change of contact details etc. We expect many of the Individual members to renew at the Conference in Sao Paulo later this year. Our members currently represent 32 countries and we were pleased to welcome new members from India, Netherlands, Malawi, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, Croatia, Germany and Italy in 2011.

Membership statistics for 2010/11

Member Category	Active & Paid 2010/11	Awaiting Renewal 2010/11
Individual	61 (8 new)	25
Mini Corporate	1 (1 new)	1
Small Corporate	37 (2 new)	11
Large Corporate	8	3
Libraries	4	1
TOTAL	111	41

The database software, *Maximizer*, was upgraded to be compatible with the new software introduced at Senses Foundation.

CONFERENCES

Acquired Deafblind Network Conference

Following the successful Dbl meetings in Aalborg, the Secretariat stayed on to represent Dbl at a display booth in the ADBN Conference. We took the opportunity to speak with many of the delegates about Dbl and encourage new members. It was also a great opportunity to thank existing members for their continued support and assist with any membership queries. It became evident at that Conference that some promotional material was required to be able to represent Dbl in the light to which it aspires. This was placed on the Agenda for the ManCom meeting in Singapore.

XV Dbl World Conference Brazil

The Secretariat formed a relationship with the Conference Planning Committee and Secretary and has supported them by facilitating the distribution of information to the Dbl membership. Information pertaining to Conference Announcements, Programs, Pre-Conference Activities, Accommodation and Registration has been circulated. We have used the Dbl website as another medium for advertising the Conference to a wider audience and have been pleased to be able to assist in this way.

The Secretariat played an integral role in the sponsoring of selected people to attend the Conference in Sao Paulo. Extensive communication between the recipients, the sponsorship committee, the Treasurer and the conference agency has occurred to enable this process and we are pleased that the funding has been far reaching. The selected participants will be valuable contributors to the conference.

Expressions of Interest to host Dbl World Conference 2015

Expressions of Interest (EOI) were called for to host the Dbl World Conference 2015. Despite the call going out to a database of over 600 contacts, Dbl only received one EOI from Sweden. The application was solid and will most certainly be considered, however due to the lack of applications, the process of selecting a host has had to be modified and timelines adjusted accordingly. The Secretariat will be instrumental in communicating this process to relevant parties over the coming months and to the Board in Sao Paulo.

ELECTIONS

2011 marks the time for Dbl to elect a new President, Vice President(s) and Board members. In the term of the Secretariat this is the first occasion we have been involved in this process. We have worked closely with the Chair of the Nominations Committee to communicate the information to relevant members and the process has been managed precisely to be in line with the terms of the Constitution. The new officers and Board members will be announced at the Dbl General Meeting on 28th September 2011 in Sao Paulo.

WEBSITE & INFORMATION

Website

The Secretariat has been working closely with the Information Officer in Canada to improve the look and functionality of the Dbl website. We have pooled our recommendations and presented them to a third party to implement the changes in a draft version of the updated website. The objective of this exercise is to make it more accessible and presented in a clear format to make navigating around the site and finding the information required easier to find. There will also be links to social networking sites to bring it in line with the way the world communicates now.

There is ongoing work completed on the website to keep the information current and interesting. We have also used it as a tool to encourage organizations who wish to use the Dbl website to advertise their work and events by encouraging them to become members.

The Dbl Policy & Procedure Handbook was updated and uploaded to the website. It is now in line with the new constitution.

DbI Review

Last year we assisted in the production of two issues of the DbI Review (#45 & #46). Articles were written and members and honorary officers were collated to form the back page of each magazine. As the Secretariat is the hub for information going in and out of DbI, we were pleased to make recommendations for article inclusions for the magazine based on the information received over the year. The circulation list and required quantities were calculated and communicated with the printing house. The issues were both of exceptional quality and were well received by members.

Performers at Osaka's Big Stage

Number 46 • DbI Review • July – December 2010



Denise helps Nuno with the Happy Birthday song

Number 47 • DbI Review • January – June 2011



Supporting the President of DbI

An important role the Secretariat is pleased to fulfil is supporting the President of DbI. Several letters were prepared and we were pleased to facilitate communication between third parties and the President. Similarly support was provided to ManCom by the Secretariat being the “voice” of DbI.

Communication

Communicating with members and the Board was ramped up this past year to keep all interested parties informed and involved in the goings on of DbI. The response to the increased communication was positive and one we will follow through with in years to come.

A new look for DbI

The Secretariat put forward a proposal to ManCom to give DbI a new look. The objective was to present DbI in a professional yet inviting way at the events we attend around the world. With the budget provided (2,350 Euros we designed two new roller banners, an embroidered table cloth, a brochure stand and some soft touch flashlight key tags. These new items will be displayed and used for the first time at the World Conference in Sao Paulo.



THE WORLD ASSOCIATION
 promoting services for
 deafblind people



OUR VISION

To be the international association which promotes the awareness of deafblindness as a unique disability and to influence for appropriate services for deafblind people around the world.

DBI REVIEW • NETWORKS • CONFERENCES • MEMBERSHIPS

OUR PURPOSE

To support professionals, families and deafblind people to raise awareness of deafblindness. Central to our work is to support the development of services to enable a good quality of life for deafblind children and adults of all ages.



www.deafblindinternational.org

DEAFBLIND INTERNATIONAL BECOME A DBI MEMBER TODAY!

DbI recognizes that the success it achieves worldwide greatly depends upon the support of it's members to promote awareness and services.

MEMBERSHIP OF DBI IS OPEN TO:

- Corporate Organizations
- Individuals
- Libraries and Universities



www.deafblindinternational.org

A new look for DbI – Banner designs to be displayed for the first time in Sao Paulo

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The European Conference 2013 in Lille, France and the 16th Dbl World Conference in 2015 (host yet to be announced) will provide a great stage for Dbl and its members to share knowledge and expertise as well as friendship. The work involved for the Secretariat will be extensive. The first meeting with the organizers in Lille is scheduled to take place in February 2012 which will provide a good opportunity for ManCom and the Secretariat to meet with the local planning committee and form relationships to establish a good working group in the lead up to the conference.

With the election of the new officers and Board in September 2011 we are looking forward to entering a new phase for Dbl. Some fresh faces and new perspectives will add further interest and diversity to what is already a wonderful organization. The depth of knowledge we have developed over the past three years will stand us in good stead to manage the Secretariat and it is a challenge we welcome and look forward to.



Bronte Pyett
Secretariat Manager
Deafblind International.