Minutes of EOC Board Meeting 3rd October 2015 at Dahlenburg, Germany

Present: I Borg, C Dupont, C Hammer, C Hermans (Minute taker), J Hermans, & R Jenny.
Apologies: V Dumont & M Le Roy
Guests: E Lückel Honorary member

1. Those present were welcomed by the Chair Mr Jenny.

2. **Minutes Board Meeting 12th April 2015 London, UK**

The minutes of the Board Meeting 12th April 2015 London were approved unanimously.

3. **Report bank-account**

Mr Jenny reported that the EOC Bank account has been successfully transferred to Switzerland and is a Euro account.

4. **Report of finances**

Mrs Borg reported that the contact e-mail for Hungary appeared to be incorrect. It was suggested that she spoke to Mr B Treder to find out the correct contact address. Mrs Borg reported that there were outstanding subscriptions from LOEADA, Orchid Club Romania, Club Amigos de las Orqúidis and the Swiss Orchid Foundation; Mr Jenny agreed to contact them. Mr Hammer reported that the officers for Nederlandse Orchideeën Vereiniging had changed recently and that he would forward the new details to Mrs Borg. Mr Jenny reported that all the EOC sponsored speakers from EOCCE 2015 had now been paid. He reminded Prof Dupont that EOCCE 2018 needs to submit a proposal for possible EOC subsidy at the 2017 AGM. Mrs Borg gave notice that she wished to retire some time soon after the AGM but agreed to work with her successor for an overlap period. Mr Jenny thanked Mrs Borg for all her work on the finances.

5. **Members**

Mr Jenny reported that the Swiss Orchid Foundation may have changed its status by the end of 2016.

6. **Status EOCCE 2018, Paris**

Prof. Dupont presented a report on the progress for EOCCE 2018. (See Appendix 1). The dates have been confirmed as 23-25 March 2018 and the venue will be Paris Event Centre Port de la Villette. Mr Hammer agreed to let the Board members know the dates of the 2018 Dresden Show as soon as they were available. It was agreed that a list of nearby hotels for the delegates would be provided.

7. **EOC-Website (new host & new web-masters)**

The Board members congratulated Mr Hammer on the new look EOC website. Mr Hammer reported that although he has overall control of the content of the website individual societies can add their own information but few do. Mr Hammer commented on the lack of information about shows in Europe and it was agreed that Mr Jenny would remind delegates by e-mail that they can add their own show information or that Mr Hammer would do it for them and if they wanted other links for example to their shows page these could be added to the website by Mr Hammer. It was agreed that the delegates at the AGM should also be reminded to check that their data is up to date. Mrs Borg agreed to provide Mr Hammer with

a biography of Mr Christensen for the website. Mr Hammer agreed to speak to Mr Larsen as information for Dansk Orchide Klub was lacking.

8. **Next AGM (Spring 2016) in Porto**

It was agreed that the next Board meeting would be in the morning of Saturday 12th March 2016 and the AGM in the afternoon at the Associacao Portuguesa de Orquidofilia (APO) Show (11-13th March) at EXPONOR in Porto, Portugal. Mr Jenny agreed to confirm timings and the arrangements for entry for delegates to the show.

9. **Next board meeting Autumn 2016 (possible venue BOC Congress at the Holiday Inn, Norwich North, UK)**

It was agreed that Board members would check flight arrangements for getting to Norwich and to confirm with Mr Jenny if it was a feasible destination for them or not. It was agreed that a meeting on Friday 4th November around 4pm would be the easiest for Board members.

10. Proposal Judging

Mr Hermans presented a paper titled 'EOC Judging proposal' which was supported with some minor amendments, the amended version would be circulated to Board members for approval (see Appendix 2). It was agreed that it should be an AGM Agenda item and circulated to the delegates before the meeting so that written comments could be returned in time. It was agreed that Mr Hammer should circulate the delegates soon, requesting their Judging Guidelines for uploading onto the EOC website; they could be in their original language.

11. AOB

Mr Jenny asked the Board members if they were willing to stand for another 3 year term, apart from Mrs Borg they all agreed. It was suggested that Mr Jenny approached Mr Matikka to see if he was willing to take over the finances and Dr Diana to see if he was willing to become an additional Board member.

There was a preliminary discussion about the future of the Swiss Orchid Research Award and the journal *Renziana*.

Mr Hermans circulated the special EOCCE 2015 issue of the Orchid Review for the members to see and all board members would receive a copy by post..

Future Meetings: It was proposed that the 2017 Board meeting should be in Paris either during an SFO meeting where Board members may be asked to speak or possibly at the Vacherot & Lecoufle nursery, the date to be after mid October. Prof Dupont agreed to investigate the possibilities and report back.

Appendix 1 Progress Report on EOCCE 2018

Progress Report

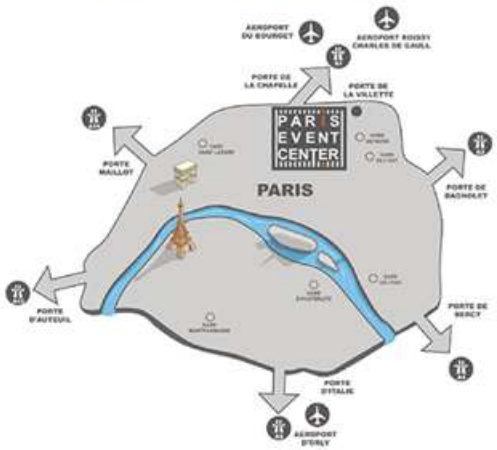
3rd October 2015

Venue and Date

- The venue will be Paris Event Center (P.E.C.) with whom an agreement was signed early July (*http://www.parisevent-center.com/*)

- EOC CE 2018 will take place on 23rd – 25th March 2018
- Preview on 22nd March 2018

P.E.C. LOCATION



ACCESS TO P.E.C. IS EASY

- By car: Boulevard périphérique, exit Porte de la Villette. Large car park (1,500 places) at a 5 minute walking distance
- By public transportation: underground station 100 m away, tramway and buses 200 m away
- By plane: Paris CDG airport 18 km
- By train: all train stations

P.E.C. SITUATION MAP

FACILITIES OFFERED BY P.E.C.

- Exhibition will take place in the hall A where we have currently booked 2,500 m^2 expandable to 4,000 m^2. Large doors accessible to exhibitors' vans.
- Congress will take place in the Administrative building: two large conference rooms. Each one can accommodate approximately 180 people.
- Additional smaller conference rooms are available in the Administrative Building
- Car park, within the site, from which 150 slots will be available to us for exhibitors, organisation and buses

P.E.C. HALL A

PRELIMINARY LAYOUT

- A preliminary layout of the exhibition hall has been drawn.
- 2,500 m^2 can accommodate:
  - 15 to 17 orchid vendors (display and sales)
  - 3 to 4 French "institutional" exhibitors (Senate, Museum, botanical gardens, ...)
  - 3 to 4 foreign "institutional" exhibitors (EYOF, botanical gardens, ...)
  - 3 to 4 sponsors
  - 3 to 4 horticultural schools
  - 10 miscellaneous tradestands (growing products, floral artwork, jewellery, books, ...)
  - Societies
- As mentioned previously, additional space is available should the need arise.

WORKING METHOLOGY

- Monthly progress meeting
- Three documents are reviewed:
  - The schedule, detailed for the upcoming quarter, general for the rest of the time
  - The budget
  - The risk containment plan

EOC Judging proposal

Following many years of confusion over standards of orchid judging by the different member organisation of the European Orchid Council I would like to propose a scenario that could accommodate the diversity of methods used but also set a recognised International standard.

Summary:
EOC accreditation is established for the different judging systems used in Europe.
National organisations only judge in their own country.
Countries without judging schemes are encouraged to start their own system.
Inter-national training and exchange of information is encouraged.

Proposals for discussion are as follows:

- There is a great strength in having different national or local judging systems within Europe; they reflect national characteristics, locally grown plants, growing skills and

resources. There are however great differences in the quality of judging, ethics, training, awards given and development; this is often obvious at international shows where judges try to work together.

- It is proposed that national organisations are accredited by the European Orchid Council, based on an evaluation of the processes used for the selection of judges, number of judges, their experience, training, continuous development, written standards or instructions and other measurable criteria.
- This list of accredited organisations would then be used for accepting judges at International shows.
- To record the methods used by the different judging systems and the type of awards given; for the benefit of all organisations.
- That national organisations only judge in their own countries. Judges from another organisation could be invited as guests to take part in judging abroad but they should not be a majority.
- All judges from accredited organisations will be encouraged to judge at International shows to the rules of the host country.
- Countries that do not have a judging scheme, and have a large enough remit, should consider setting up their own judging scheme, supported by the EOC.
- That national organisations help to set up proper judging systems in neighbouring countries where they do not exist and encourage their development.
- EOC should encourage training and exchange of information and ideas between the different judging systems; this could be done through joint study days.
- If these proposals are accepted by EOC member organisation, a working group would have to be set up to develop practicalities.

Johan Hermans
October 2015