EOC Board Meeting 5th October 2018 at the Botanical Garden of University of Vienna, Rennweg 14, Vienna, Austria

Present: G Diana, C Dupont (part only & via phone-link), V Dumont, C Hammer, C Hermans (Minute Taker), J Hermans, R Jenny, J Larsen & A Matikka

1. **Welcome:** EOC Board Members were welcomed by Mr Jenny.

2. **Apologies:** None

3. **Minutes of the Board Meeting 23rd March 2018 Paris, France**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting 23rd March Paris, France were unanimously approved subject to the amendment of C Hermans (Minute Taker) and Mrs Hermans was thanked for taking them.

4. **Financial Report**

Mr Matikka tabled the spreadsheet of Membership Fees and confirmed that a second reminder had been sent in August to the six outstanding ones. It was agreed that Mrs Dupont would contact the Association Francophone (AFJO) and Société Française d'Orchidophile, Mrs Hermans the RHS and Mr Jenny the British Orchid Council, Associació Catalana d'Amics de les Orquídies (ACAO), the Latvian Orchid Society (LOEADA) and Polskie Towarzystwo Milosnikow Storczykow to chase payment.
Mr Matikka reported that the bank now charges 4 € a transaction. After a discussion it was agreed to help reduce their costs members should be informed that they can pay two years in advance or in cash at the AGM, when the Treasurer will provide a receipt. The possibility of opening a PayPal account would be explored by Mr Matikka and Mr Jenny. It was unclear if there was a bank card already available with the EOC account. Mr Dumont would also look into ways of reducing the banking costs. Both would be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.
It was agreed that the current Auditor, Mr P Spínola could continue and it was appropriate that he was not an EOC delegate.

5. **Members**

Mr Jenny reported that the Austrian Orchid Society had resigned with immediate effect and had not paid their 2018 subscription. In addition contact had been lost with the Orchid Planet Society whose 2018 fee was outstanding. Mr Jenny commented that the Swiss Orchid Foundation had not paid their subscription but he understood that they wanted him to continue as their delegate. The Swiss Orchid Society had paid their dues but still needed to nominate a delegate. It was agreed that Mr Jenny would send the minutes to both societies so that their situation with fees and delegates could be resolved.
An application for membership has been made by Mr D Klein on behalf of Società Felsinea di Orchidofilia, Italy. Mr Jenny reported receiving a letter from Mr Cappelli (President of AERADO) objecting to this application. The members of the Board agreed that it would be up to the delegates at the next AGM to decide if Società Felsinea di Orchidofilia could become a member and, as they fulfilled all the criteria for membership the Board would not oppose their application.
Mrs Dupont reported that AFJO had a new delegate and she would confirm their details before sending them to Mr Jenny.

6. Report EOCCE 2018 Paris

Mrs Dupont reported that due to the ill health of the EOCCE Treasurer there was no Financial Statement available, but she hoped that it would be ready for the AGM in March. In addition she agreed to provide the full visitor/registrant numbers to be circulated to the Board six weeks before the AGM. It was agreed that Mrs Dupont would request a pdf version of the *L'Orchidophile* EOCCE article from the editor David La Farge for members of the Board and the EOC website. It was confirmed that Proceedings of the Conference were being planned.

7. Status EOCCE 2021 Copenhagen

Mr Larsen reported that the venue for the EOCCE 2021 Copenhagen was the same but the organisers were investigating a new site for vendor parking. A theme for the Conference around Reintroduction and Conservation of orchids was being developed and he confirmed that there would be both a Horticultural and Science programme. He advised that an Editors Forum would be held, that the orchid tours would be following the event and he hoped to advertise widely in Scandinavia and Germany. There was a discussion about having a common EOC exhibit again at the Show and it was agreed that the EOCCE organisers should decide if they want one. Mr Larsen confirmed that he would give a presentation about the EOCCE at the next AGM.

8. Next EOCCE 2024

Mr Jenny stated that Switzerland had withdrawn its proposal for holding an EOCCE in 2024. The DOG had made an initial approach to host the EOCCE in March 2024 in Dresden and will submit a full proposal at the AGM. It was noted that an EOCCE was last in Dresden in 2009.

9. Next Board Meeting Spring 2019 (Estepona)

It was agreed that the Board would meet 10am Friday 15th March 2019 in Estepona. Mr Jenny would confirm the Programme and exact dates with Mr Lucas.

10. AGM 2019 (Estepona)

It was agreed that the AGM would meet 10am Saturday 16th March 2019 in Estepona. Mr Jenny would confirm the Programme and exact dates with Mr Lucas.

11. EOC Website

It was agreed that Mr Jenny would send more up to date non-member journal information to Mr Hammer. Mr Hammer had already uploaded *The Orchid Review* articles on EOCCE Paris and will do the same for the *l'Orchidophile* one.
There was discussion about the impact of the new European-wide Data Protection Regulations that came into force in May. It was agreed that the list of Judges was non-compliant and should be removed from public access. Mr Jenny agreed to draft a letter for delegates, including honorary ones seeking written permission for the EOC to keep their personal data. He would base it on similar ones used by other organisations.

12. Elections at the AGM 2019 in Estepona

All the Board Members and Secretary General agreed to stand for re-election but it was suggested that perhaps a new member from SFO should be sought.
After extensive discussion it was agreed that Mr Jenny would approach the DOG; to enquire how they see the relations between the EOC and the Board, if they had a problem in not having a DOG appointed Board Member and a direct link to the Board and if they were still interested in having one. Mr Jenny agreed to report back at the next Board Meeting.

13. Mrs Dupont's Proposals

In view of the lack of time it was agreed to make Mrs Dupont & Mr Matikka's proposals an Agenda item at the next Board Meeting.

14. Exchange of Articles

Mr van Winkel had submitted a proposal, including rules for sharing articles between Editors.

"- All articles will be written in English. You take care of the translation. We like to check your translation to avoid misunderstandings, but we can do that only for French, German, and Italian.
We also like to see a proof in pdf.
- Per language, only one orchid magazine is invited to publish the series. So, for example, in English only the Orchid Society of Great Britain Journal will publish the series. Thus we minimize overlap among our readers.
- After part 1, you are free to publish any parts of the series if and when you like. So, your numbering of parts may deviate from the original one, no problem.
- If you like to contribute to the series, you are most welcome. Just write us first about the theme or idea of your short article."

The Board was in agreement with Mr van Winkel's rules but with the addition of "subject to the Author's and Photographer's permission" to avoid any copyright issues.
Mr Jenny agreed to inform Mr van Winkel of these additions.

15. AOB

New EOC Logo: A short list of three was made from those submitted and will be voted on at the AGM. See Appendix 1.

Delegate numbers attending at AGMs: Mr Hammer stated that 33-50% of delegates had attended the past few AGMs, but it was commented that the Societies represented varied year on year. It was agreed that Mr Jenny would remind delegates that substitute delegates were allowed to attend the AGM. It was agreed to review the numbers attending the next AGM at the autumn Board Meeting.

Orchid Review: Mr Jenny outlined the details of an e-mail from Sarah Forsyth, Editor of *The Orchid Review* about what *The Orchid Review* had to offer the EOC, which included 3 subscriptions for Board Members.

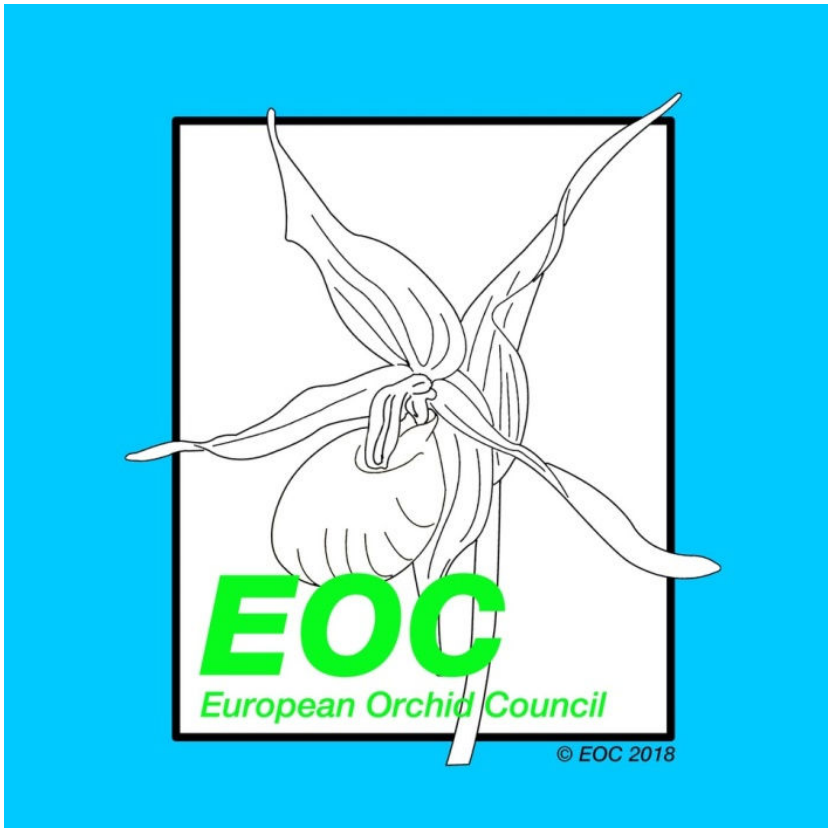
Future Meetings:

Board Meeting Autumn 2019: It was agreed to accept the invitation of the SFO to hold the Board Meeting in Paris in autumn 2019 as part of their 50th Anniversary celebrations.
Board Meeting & AGM Spring 2020: Mr Diana agreed to investigate if an event in Italy, possibly Rome could be the host.
Board Meeting Autumn 2020: the possibility of meeting in Copenhagen would be explored by Mr Larsen.

Meeting closed at 18.20.
Clare Hermans

Appendix 1

EOC Logo Shortlist



Appendix 2

Proposals from Charlotte Dupont & Ari Matikka

Charlotte Dupont 10th August:
I would like to discuss with EOC Board members about the future actions of EOC, beside EOCCE 2021 in Copenhagen and EOCCE 2024 somewhere else.

The suggestions made by Ari Matikka and reported in the minutes of May 2017 were considered with enthusiasm. A first action was the meeting of editors in Paris but other propositions were not yet followed, as far as I know, by practical initiatives.

So the question is still what we could do in common with EOC members, in relation with EOC objectives? In that prospect I made an enquiry among SFO Board members to know about their expectations with regard to EOC. I list them hereafter for your information, though we obviously cannot tackle them all at once. It would be interesting to determine if these expectations are shared by other EOC members and whether they are realistic and within reach for us. Of course there may be some overlapping with Ari Matikka's propositions.

These expectations could be sorted and summed up into 5 main topics:

- Dissemination of knowledge, publications, shows, exchanges of data and/or information.
- Conservation-minded research. Evaluation of extinction risks (e.g. what could be our input to the evolution of red lists).

- Culture and quality of culture (judging).
- Policy and decision makers (lobbying, expertise, networking, concerted actions).
- Participatory or Citizen Science, how to involve citizen and stakeholders in knowledge and conservation shared actions?

Another question, out of the previous classification or tentatively part of the fourth one, is how to get funding (e.g. from the European Union?). It is probably not so easy, rather easier for the academic community, but worth trying it. Our national project Orchisauvage (www.orchisauvage.fr), with interfaces in 4 different languages, could ring a bell among other members, the more so because it is an example of successful participatory science.

All this must be understood as a mere preliminary message in a bottle, which could be added to the agenda and be developed and discussed further on with board members during the next meeting.

Ari Matikka 4.10.2018

A PROPOSITION

In discussions with some of our member organisations I have understood that in exchange for their membership fees people are very welcoming to any tangible knowledge and assistance in managing an orchid society.

If I again cite Article 3 in the Statutes: "**The chief goal of the EOC is to help Member Organisations and their individual members to exchange experiences and ideas** in order to facilitate a common realisation of all activities concerning orchids". As Wikipedia puts it: "People form societies in order to gain greater benefits as a group than would be possible separately".

Taking into account that the resources of the EOC are very limited, I have been thinking what we could do fulfil the expectations of Article 3 and the members. As a former chairman of an orchid society, my biggest concerns were **how to keep the activities interesting to maintain the existing members and how to attract new active members.**

I don't think I have been alone with these thoughts. There have been and there will be solutions. I propose that the board would discuss formally or outside the minutes about setting up a place/forum/group to share experiences of best practises in tackling the two challenges.

One of the easiest ways would be to **open a Dropbox (or similar) account under EOC website, where people could post their experiences in a form of short text files.** It would be easy to share a link of the folder to the member organisations – maybe against one starter proposition. Dropbox also allows commenting of the posts. A few initial ideas could be first posted there and then encourage others to continue. I'm sure everybody has something to add. One folder could deal with suggestions to contents of regular member's meetings or maybe even (links to) taped lectures.

Actually, this Dropbox approach is very similar to how we now have started to exchange journal articles.

Ari Matikka