EOC Board Meeting 8th May 2021 via Zoom at 9.30 am (Central European Summer Time)

Present: G Diana, V Dumont, C Hammer, C Hermans (Minute Taker), J Hermans, R Jenny, D Lafarge, S E Hansen (EOCCE President), A Matikka & F-J Richardt.

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

2. **Apologies:** None.

3. **Minutes of the Zoom Board Meeting 21st November 2020 & Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the Zoom Board Meeting 21st November 2020 were unanimously approved. Mr Jenny thanked Dr Hermans for taking the Minutes. There were no matters arising.

4. **Financial Report**

Mr Matikka tabled the spreadsheet of Membership Fees. Mr Jenny reported he had written to the individual Swedish Orchid Societies inviting them to become members of the EOC but had no reply.

Mr Jenny advised the Orchid Society of Great Britain (OSGB), Fédération Française des Amateurs d'Orchidées (FFAO) and Clube dos Orquidofilos de Portugal (COP) had now paid their 2019 subscriptions. It was noted the Fédération Française des Amateurs d'Orchidées (FFAO) and the Société Française d'Orchidophile (SFO) had merged on 1st January 2021 to become the Fédération France Orchidées (FFO).

Mr Jenny stated he had no reply from Norsk Orkidéforening (NOK) regarding their unpaid 2019 subscription and Mr Hansen confirmed he had no recent contact with the society. It was agreed to defer the decision on their status for the moment and Mr Hansen would attempt to contact them again,

The Board unanimously agreed to propose to the AGM to waive the 2021 fee.

The Board unanimously agreed to accept the 2020 financial statement and a vote of thanks was made to Mr Matikka and the Auditor Mr Spinola. Mr Matikka confirmed Mr Spinola's agreement to continue as Auditor.

5. **Members**

It was agreed to leave the website information unchanged about the Swiss Orchid Foundation. The Hardy Orchid Society's, UK application to join EOC would be submitted to the AGM. Mr Jenny stated SFO, Italy (Felsinea) would be approved as a full member at the AGM. Mr Jenny advised the Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association, Italy and the Associazione Meridionale Amatori Orchidee (AMAO), Italy would be attending the AGM as observers.

6. **Re-Election of Board Members**

Mr Jenny and Mr Hammer confirmed they would be standing down at the 2022 AGM. Nominations for Secretary General are required by the end of February 2022.

Mr Matikka offered to do the web site; he advised he would change server with an approximate annual cost of 200 Euros. It was agreed Mr Jenny would ask at the AGM for volunteers to be proposed by fall 2021 so they can be discussed at the next Board meeting.

It was noted all Board Members were re-elected for 3 years at the 2019 AGM. However it was agreed by a majority that Mrs Dumont and Mr Hermans would stand for re-election at the AGM to ensure better continuity of experience.

7. Status EOCCE 2021 Copenhagen

Mr Hansen reported the organising team were less optimistic about the EOCCE. If their application for funding is refused at the beginning of June they will cancel the EOCCE. The Danish Orchid Society has already incurred non retrievable costs for the management/website and to Dr Pedersen. Mr Hansen will inform Mr Jenny as soon as the decision is known. Mr Hermans suggested future EOCCEs might be on a smaller scale in conjunction with an orchid show.

A progress report by Mr Hansen was tabled:

EOCCE 2022, Copenhagen

Status from the Danish Orchid Society May 2021.
After the last meeting in autumn 2021 we stopped using money and tried to get some funding. The effort has been obstructed by the lock-down due to Covid-19. A couple of major companies declined to support us, partly due to the fiscal impact of Covid-19.
Presently we have an application for funding by "Queen Margrethes and Prince Henriks Fundation", an amount of about 18.000 Euros. We are mildly optimistic. Our protector HRH Princess Benedikte is the Queens sister, and the application was received for evaluation in spite of the deadline being long overdue. We shall know by the beginning of June. In the meantime we are trying to get commercial interests to support us. We are also trying to get in touch with non-profit organizations and communities interested in nature preservation and in promotion of local attractions like orchid locations.
Our present position is that we may proceed if the Royal foundation supports us. Otherwise we have to close the project permanently.
Even if we get sufficient funding we still face some challenges. One of them will be the number of delegates. We have two locations for the event, Viften and Rodovrehallen. If the number of delegates is too small, we have the possibility to cancel Viften, and move everything to Rodovrehallen in order to reduce the costs. Some expenses will also be reduced with a reduced number of delegates.
Concerning Covid-19 the Danish population will be vaccinated by the end of 2021, and hopefully a bit earlier. There may be restrictions for attending like Corona passports and testing, but we expect this to be an integrated part of daily life in Denmark. We have a very large testing capacity. We still aim for 3 opening days of the exhibition, but intend to expand the opening hours a bit to avoid crowding.
Concerning foreign visitors it's a bit more difficult. We expect that Europeans may attend without major difficulties and possibly also US citizens. We can't know if restrictions will still be imposed on other parts of the world, specifically South America.

May 5th 2021
On behalf of the organizing group
Svend Erik Hansen, Hans Martin Christensen and Dorthe Rønnov-Jessen

8. Status EOCCE 2024 Dresden

Mr Richardt reported the status of the Dresden Show in 2022 is uncertain. However, Mr Jenny stated Mr Treder, President of DOG had confirmed hosting the 2024 EOCCE at Dresden. Dr Hermans pointed out there was a WOC in Taiwan around the same time of year. Mr Richardt advised he was aware and Dresden was still proposing to bid for the 2027 WOC. It was noted by the Board the 3-year rotation of WOCs, then EOCs and then APOCs was broken. The Board agreed that EOC, APOC and the WOC Trust should start communicating

again so the rhythm could be restored. In addition Mr Richardt remarked he had no reply to his e-mails to the WOC Trust.

9. Proposal EOCCE 2027(2026/2028) FIO Italy

Mr Jenny stated FIO were interested in hosting an EOCCE in Florence. It was agreed he would inform them the year could be 2027 or 2026/2028 and the year would be confirmed as soon as possible. A formal proposal would need submitting to the 2022 AGM. In addition he would encourage them to collaborate with other Italian orchid societies.

10. Next Board Meeting Fall 2021

It was agreed the next Board meeting would be in Copenhagen if the EOCCE was going ahead during the 2nd weekend of November (12th – 14th). The agreed alternative was a Zoom meeting the same weekend.

11. Next AGM Spring 2022

It was agreed it would be at the EOCCE Copenhagen otherwise a date and venue (or Zoom) would be decided at the next Board meeting.

12. Change in Statutes

It was unanimously agreed the revised wording of the new clause 8a of the EOC constitution: 'Article 8.a The Directors and the Secretary General have to be delegates of a Member Organisation; **if they cease to be a delegate they can complete their appointed 3 year term, at the discretion of the board'** would put to the AGM.

13. EOC Website

Mr Hammer confirmed he was still working on changing the addresses on the EOC website from @ to 'at'.

14. AOB

Judging Document (Appendix to 21st Nov. 2020 Board Minutes): It was agreed to inform the AGM of the proposal. Following the AGM the document will be circulated to delegates and it will be a 2022 AGM Agenda item for approval.

Meeting closed at 11.10pm (Central European Summer Time).
Clare Hermans