Minutes of EOC AGM Meeting 13th April 2013, London

Present: I. Borg, G. Diana, M. Dumont, V. Dumont, C. Dupont, H. & S. Grote, A. Jouy, C. Hammer, J. Hermans, R. Jenny, J. Larsen, C. Maeder, A. Matikka, V. Micklewright, H. Oakeley, I. Parsons, J. Santos & E. Wildburger.

Apologies: I. Belitskiy, H. Christiansen, E. Luckel, R, Neirynck, I. Palmai, C. Rojner, M. Speckmaier D. Stala & H. Vastenhoud.

Guests: C. Hermans (Minute Taker), R. White, J. Otway (part) & S. Forsyth (part).

Those present were welcomed by the Chair, Mr Jenny.

3. Minutes AGM in Budapest 14.4.2012.
The minutes of the AGM Budapest April 2012 were unanimously approved.

4. Report of Finance.
The Auditor report by Mr Christiansen was read and accepted. Some societies' 2013 subscriptions, including Orchid Club of Europe, are outstanding and a reminder will be sent to them.

5. Re-Election of Auditor.
Mr Christiansen was unanimously approved as auditor for a further three years.

6. Members.
The following societies were proposed and accepted unanimously as new members of the EOC: GIROS, AGEO, the Portuguese Orchid Society & the Irish Orchid Society. The AGM was informed that Orchidophiles Réunis de Belgique and the Slovenian Orchid Society have resigned. It was agreed that there further approaches to the AHO and Hardy Orchid Society should be made.

7. Elections of the board-members and the secretary general Elections of the board-members and the secretary general.
The following Board members were proposed and accepted unanimously to serve a further three year term: Mr Jenny Secretary General; Mrs Dupont Board-member; Mr Hermans Board-member; Mr Hammer Board-member; Mrs Borg Board-member and Treasurer; Mrs Dumont Co-opted member & Mrs Hermans Co-opted member and taker of the minutes.

8. EOCCE 2015.
At the end of 2012 Vienna withdrew their proposal to host EOCCE 2015. At short notice the RHS in conjunction with the RHS Orchid Committee have offered to host EOCCE 2015. The AGM unanimously agreed to accept this proposal. The Conference facilities at the RHS are now limited to a maximum of 120 people. The final dates will be confirmed by autumn 2013; however possible dates could be 13th to 18th April. Judging will be a combination of RHS medal judging for stands, RHS award judging and British Orchid Council-style ribbon judging which would involve all international judges. The AGM thanked Mr Hermans & Mrs Otway for their work on putting together the proposal.

9. Change of Presidency of the EOC.
Mr Hermans was approved as the next President of the EOC.

10. Proposal for EOCCE 2018.
The formal proposal by the SFO, France Orchidées and SNHF to hold the EOCCE 2018 in Paris was unanimously approved by the AGM. After some discussion it was agreed that EOC is not responsible for any loss incurred by the host Society in organising an EOCCE.

11. Financial Competence of secretary general, treasurer and board-members.
It was agreed that the proposal to change the EOC banking arrangements would be put to the AGM in 2014.

12. EOC-Website.
Delegates were reminded to update the information on the EOC website about events in their country. It was agreed that the 'Umbrella' society's link on the EOC website should remain the contact one for all their member groups. A proposal to have information on the EOC website about orchid traders in each of the member countries was discussed. Concerns were raised about the possible implication of appearing to endorse traders by having them on the EOC website. It was agreed that Mr Parsons & the BOC would trial a scheme in the UK before this issue is looked at again.

13. EOC-news platform Orchid Review.
Mrs Forsyth, Editor of the Orchid Review informed the AGM that a PDF of events was now on the EOC website. It was agreed that Mr Hammer would send a QR code to her that could be included in the magazine. Mrs Forsyth requested that delegates send news and events to her for publication in the Orchid Review (orchids@rhs.org.uk).

14. Status EOC projects.
List of judges: Mr Hammer reported that eight societies have responded so far with updated judges lists and he requested that other societies send him their lists.
List of translators: It was agreed that this was no longer required and in future would be removed from the Agenda.
List of events (shows, conferences etc.): see above.
List of Orchid journals: Mr Jenny informed the meeting that the Journals on the website were up to date.
Contacts CITES: Mrs Dumont reported that the next meeting is due soon and that there was no other new information.
Protection project: Mrs Dupont would like to explore the possibility of handing the project over to one of the hardy/native member societies.

15. Communication within the EOC.
Mr Jenny reported that he felt that that there should be a web-based EOC discussion forum but there was no further discussion on this topic.

16. List of all societies.
Mr Jenny had nothing to report.

17. Any Other Business.
List of national collections: The possibility of setting up an EOC list of national orchid collections was discussed and it was agreed that it would be more practical to have the list at a national rather than international level. It was also agreed to encourage societies to set up a local system of looking after collections in emergencies, for example after the owner dies.

18. Next AGM 2014.
It was agreed that the next AGM in 2014 will be held during the SFO Conference and Show Blois, France 1st & 2nd March 2014.

19. Next EOCCE 2021.
Mr Jenny reminded delegates that proposals to host EOCCE 2021 need to be in before the 2015 AGM.