EOC Board Meeting 21st November 2020 via Zoom at 10.30 am (Central European Time)

Present: G Diana, V Dumont, 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:** C Hammer

3. **Minutes of the Board Meeting 25th October 2019 Paris, France & Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting 25th October 2019, Paris, France 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.
Mr Jenny agreed to write to the Orchid Society of Great Britain (OSGB), Norsk Orkidéforening (NOK), Fédération Française des Amateurs d'Orchidées (FFAO) and Clube dos Orquidofilos de Portugal (COP) regarding their outstanding 2019 subscriptions as they already had two reminders from the Treasurer. It was noted the Fédération Française des Amateurs d'Orchidées (FFAO) and the Société Française d'Orchidophile (SFO) will merge on 1/1/2021.
The Board unanimously agreed to waive the fee for 2020. Mr Jenny will inform the delegates of this decision.

5. **Members**

Mr Hermans agreed to contact Dr Cribb regarding the absence of a Swiss Orchid Foundation delegate. Mr Jenny confirmed the Hardy Orchid Society, UK had made an application to join EOC. The Board agreed unanimously to support the application and it will be submitted to the next AGM. Mr Jenny confirmed that Felsina, Italy was now a full member of the EOC.
Re-Election of Board Members: Mr Hermans & Mrs Dumont need re-election in 2021 and will confirm with Mr Jenny if they are willing to stand.

6. **Status EOCCE 2021 Copenhagen**

The Board unanimously supported the request by Mr Hansen to change the proposed date of EOCCE Copenhagen from October 2021 to May 2022.

A progress report by Mr Hansen was tabled:

EOCCE2021 status, November 2020

Positives

The location is booked and the booking may be moved to spring 2022
The Homepage is up and running
The conference organizing group (COG) is in place (HÆP and allies)
Announcing the conference has slowly been started by the COG
Contact with the Danish Plant Authorities is in place
Budget is still valid, but we have used about 13.000 euro to date primarily to the event firm and the homepage, and payment of further expenses will depend on incoming money.

Concerns

So far 4 vendors have expressed their interest, among them 2 Asian vendors. Two of them have expressed concern about return of their money in case we have to cancel due to corona. One firm informed us that they won't participate in any exhibitions in 2021.
Seeking money from sponsors has not been possible so far due to the corona crisis. Denmark closed in the spring and after reopening most companies are cautious.
Presently, an increasing number of corona cases makes travels next autumn uncertain. This situation may have mayor impact on the number of delegates.
Restrictions on how many people are allowed into the exhibition halls at the same time may undermine the economy of the exhibition.

Challenges/questions

1) Judgement of orchids – we need an organization.
2) How do we best distribute information about the conference to secure that persons potentially interested in presenting their work are reached.
3) Key note speakers. We would like some suggestions. Our intentions are that the speaker introduces the relevant section of the conference. Reimbursement will be in the form of a flat fee.

To sum up

The budget is still sound. We have not been overly optimistic. The planning and organization of the event is in place. We have the possibility to move the event to the spring 2022. But without incoming funds of some kind, we cannot proceed.
We propose to stop spending and use the next three months to clarify new dates, approach sponsors, and tune the organization of orchid volunteers. Then the final decision to proceed or not should be made.

7. Status EOCCE 2024 Dresden

Mr Richardt reported there will be no Dresden Show in 2021 and no new contract has been signed with Exhibition Dresden. The sponsorship situation was unclear due to the Covid-19 situation and there was no certainty an EOCCE can be held at Dresden in 2024 and may be postponed to 2025. 2022 was likely to be the earliest date for clarification. He feared the number of participants may be reduced by 50% as a result of people not travelling.

8. Next Board & AGM Meetings Spring 2021

It was agreed due to the ongoing uncertainties both meetings would be by Zoom.
Saturday 8th May 2021 Board Meeting 09.30 (Central European Time)
Saturday 8th May 2021 AGM 14.00 (Central European Time)

9. Board Meeting Fall 2021 (Copenhagen)

It was agreed the Board would provisionally meet in early November 2021 in Copenhagen.

10. Change in Statutes

It was unanimously agreed to revise the wording slightly for 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.'** and it will be put to the next AGM.

11. Judging

See Appendix: Mr Lafarge tabled a proposal for the requirements for an EOC accreditation process for approval at the next AGM.

12. EOC Website

There was nothing to update from Mr Hammer. However, concerns were raised about the amount of personal information available on the website such as full postal addresses and telephone numbers. It was agreed to ask the next AGM how much of their data delegates wanted on the EOC website. In addition it was agreed to try to minimize harvesting of e-mail addresses that all addresses on the EOC website would have @ removed and 'at' substituted.

13. Article exchange

Mr Lafarge reported this was working well thanks to the work of Mr van Winkel.

14. Fake e-mail

Mr Jenny confirmed he had recently acquired a virus generating a lot of spam e-mails. It was agreed in future the large circulation e-mails would be blind copied.

15. AOB

Mr Richardt informed the Board the various groups of DOG were seeing reduced membership and therefore were combining together to have Zoom conferences, sometimes with overseas lecturers. In addition they were considering new ways of involving people. A Facebook group for judging has been set up and was proving popular. It was based on DOG judging criteria but was not official DOG judging. Mr Matikka reported that the Finnish Society was uploading lectures to its website and there were online meetings in Portugal. Dr Hermans reported the BOC had run a virtual show in June with ribbon judging.
Mr Jenny thanked Mr Richardt for hosting the Zoom meeting.

Meeting closed at 12.30pm (Central European Time)
Clare Hermans

Notes from the 1 hour afternoon Zoom meeting with EOCCE 2022 Copenhagen Organisers

In attendance were EOC Board Members: V Dumont, C Hermans, J Hermans, R Jenny & F-J Richardt
From the EOCCE Organising Committee: Mr H M Christensen, Mr S E Hansen, Ms H Mikkelsen & Ms D Rønnov-Jessen

Topics covered

Budget: the committee stated they need a minimum of 5000 visitors to break even. They plan to re-write the budget in the next 3 months and decide if they will continue or not with the EOCCE.
Impact of Covid-19: Mr Richardt reported the need to consider the impact of increased on-line sales; it may reduce the likelihood of vendors wanting to buy sales booths and the price they will pay. Delegate numbers may also be significantly reduced. The organisers reported they are unable to get cancellation insurance cover for Covid-19.
Show: it is hoped to broaden its appeal by including greenhouse vendors. The size of the hall is flexible and can be reduced.
Date: it is proposed to be held in the first half of May 2022
Lecture Programme: it has already been agreed with the Conference Organiser it will be 50% horticulture. It was suggested the fee was discussed again with the Conference Organiser as it is a major expense in the budget. Key Note Speakers: Bob Fuchs from RF Orchids USA, the current AOS president & Hendrik Pedersen were suggested. It was recommended to approach Hans Christensen again.
Publicity: the committee was informed *The Orchid Review* was the official journal of the EOC. They were encouraged to write short articles and updates as publicity for *The Orchid Review* (The Editor is James Armitage james.armitage@rhs.org.uk) and also to send them to Mr Jenny to distribute via the EOC Board to other European orchid journals. A Facebook page has been set up; similarly the details were requested for Mr Jenny to disseminate.
Judging: It was suggested the committee formally invite DOG via Bernd Treder to organise the judging at the show and to involve local Swedish Judges. In addition they were asked to encourage the Swedish Societies to become members of EOC.
Editors Meeting: the organisers confirmed one would be held.

Mr Jenny offered to convene further Zoom meetings with the EOC Board if required.

Appendix

Proposal for accrediting European Orchid Council member Societies' Judging Systems

Aim: to allow judges from accredited societies to participate in European Orchid Council shows and to judge at other member societies' events if invited. Accreditation is open to all member organisations of EOC.

The responsibility for the day to day running of each Judging System remains with the Society and there is no requirement to follow another system.

Procedure for EOC Accreditation

Each Judging System needs to provide:

1. evidence of their training process, a minimum of 3 years is required
2. evidence of continuous training and monitoring for qualified judges and maintain a list of judges and trainees
3. evidence of a written Judging Manual
4. a contact for their system who can, if requested provide a list and/or confirm the individual status of judges and trainees

The evidence for accreditation shall be submitted to the EOC Secretary General and will be discussed at the next EOC Board. Then, the Board's recommendation will be ratified at the next EOC AGM.

Once a System has been accredited the Societies' EOC Delegate will be asked at each EOCCE AGM to provide a short report and confirm the current status of their system.
If a Judging System stops, its accreditation will automatically cease.