EOC AGM Meeting 8th May 2021 via Zoom at 14.00 (Central European Summer Time)
Present: G Diana (AIO) Board Member, M Dumont (FO), V Dumont (AFO) Board Member, A Gagnarli (AMAO), Guest, C Hammer Board Member, R Hendriks (NOV), C Hermans Minute Taker & co-opted Board Member, J Hermans (RHS) Board Member, L Ines-Conte (Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association) Guest (part meeting), R Jenny (SOG) EOC Secretary General, D Klein (SFO Italy), D Lafarge (FFO) Board Member, S E Hansen (DOS) President EOC & Board Member, M Lucas-Garcia (OE), A Matikka (FIS) Treasurer & Board Member, M Morandin (FIO), F-J Richardt (DOG) Board Member.

1. **Welcome:** the EOC delegates and guests were welcomed by Mr Jenny.

2. **Apologies:** None.

3. **Minutes of the AGM Meeting 16th March 2019, Estepona, Spain & Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the AGM Meeting 16th March 2019, Estepona Spain 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 from any of them. He agreed to contact Mrs Borg for further information.
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 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 AGM unanimously agreed to waive the fee for 2021.
The AGM unanimously agreed to accept the 2020 financial statement.

5. **Members**

The Hardy Orchid Society's, UK and SFO's, Italy (Felsinea) applications to join EOC were unanimously approved.
Mr Gagnarli gave a short presentation about the Associazione Meridionale Amatori Orchidee (AMAO), Italy based in the Naples and Palermo areas. Later Ms Ines-Conte of the Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association, Italy provided information on the society. Both were informed by Mr Jenny that he would need their formal applications by end of February 2022 so they could be voted on at the AGM.

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

Mr Jenny confirmed he would be standing down at the 2022 AGM. Nominations for Secretary General are needed by end of February 2022. He however, would remain a delegate of the SOG.
Mr Hammer stated he was also standing down at the 2022 AGM. Mr Jenny advised

Mr Matikka had offered to do the website. The AGM was asked for volunteers for website manager to be proposed by fall 2021 so they could be discussed at the next Board meeting. It was agreed they could be an EOC delegate or an experienced society member.
Mrs Dumont and Mr Hermans were unanimously re-elected as Board Members for a 3 year term.

7. Status EOCCE 2021 Copenhagen

Mr Hansen reported the organising team were less optimistic about the EOC. If their application for funding is refused at the beginning of June they will cancel the EOC. The Danish Orchid Society has already incurred non recoverable costs. Mr Hansen will inform Mr Jenny as soon as the decision is known.

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. It was noted the three year rotation of WOC, then EOC and then APOC was broken. Mr

Hermans suggested the EOC Board should contact the WOC Trustees about the lack of consultation in setting future WOC dates. Dr Hermans agreed to draft an e-mail to the trustees for Mr Jenny.

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

Mr Morandin confirmed FIO were interested in hosting an EOCCE in Florence, the exact year was not a problem. They had already had a venue in Florence, a conference centre and had agreements with the local municipality, province and region. Mr Morandin was already in communication with other Italian orchid societies about working collaboratively. Mr Jenny would confirm the exact year as soon as possible and requested a formal proposal to host the EOCCE to be submitted before the 2022 AGM.

10. Next AGM Spring 2022

It was agreed it would be at EOCCE Copenhagen otherwise Mr Morandin offered to host the 2022 Board and AGM meetings during the orchid show in Florence 23-25 April 2022. Mr Jenny stated the date and venue would be confirmed at the next Board meeting.

11. 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.'**

12. EOC Website

Mr Hammer advised he currently used Word Press. Mr Hermans suggested in future two people could be involved with the website so long as there was good communication. The web master did not have to be a Board member but again good communication was important.

13. AOB

Judging Document: Mr Lafarge started the proposal was the product of a small group representing the AIO, BOC, DOG, FFO, RHS and SOG judging schemes. See Appendix. It will be an Agenda item for the 2022 AGM to approve.

Wild orchids without appropriate permits for sale on the Internet: it was agreed individual societies should inform their members about this practice and encourage individuals not to purchase these plants. In addition Mr Lafarge said there was an article by Amy Hinsley about illegal orchid trafficking which could be made available for societies to publish. The original article can be consulted following the link:
https://academic.oup.com/botlinnean/article/186/4/435/4736317
Note: all requests for translation or re-publication must be addressed to the author and the original publisher.

Meeting closed at 15.30pm (Central European Summer Time)
Clare Hermans

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.