EOC Board Meeting 30th April 2022 via Zoom at 10.00 am (Central European Time)
Present: G Diana, C Hammer, C Hermans (Acting Secretary General & Minute Taker), J Hermans, D Lafarge, A Matikka & F-J Richardt.

1. **Welcome**

EOC Board Members were welcomed by Dr Hermans and Mr Richardt was thanked for hosting the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** V Dumont.

3. **Minutes of the Zoom Board Meeting 13th November 2021 & Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the Zoom Board Meeting13th November 2021 were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising.

4. **Financial Report**

Mr Matikka tabled the spreadsheet of Membership Fees and 2021 Financial Statement.
It was agreed not to increase the fees and to offer the option to members to pay for two years. Those who had already paid in advance would not be invoiced. (Orchideeën Vereniging Vlaanderen; Fondation Orchidée; Schweizerische Orchideen-Gesellschaft (x2); Swiss Orchid Foundation (x3); Dansk Orchide Klub; Association France-Orchidées; Royal Horticultural Society; Magyar Orchidea Társaság; Associazione Italiana di Orchidologia (x2) & Federazione Italiana Orchidee).
Mr Lafarge confirmed the fee paid by Société Française d'Orchidophilie should be considered a donation
To ensure compliance with Swiss law Mrs Dumont's address in Switzerland will be the official address of the EOC and to reduce bank charges she will be a signatory for the PostFinance bank account. It will be included in the AGM Minutes as a Confidential Appendix not for publication.
It was proposed the new Secretary General and Treasurer will investigate moving the EOC Statutes and bank account from Switzerland to perhaps Germany.
Mr Matikka and Dr Hermans reported they had no reply from Norsk Orkidéforening (NOK) regarding their unpaid 2019 subscription but noted their website was active. It was agreed Mr Matikka would send them one more invoice and if there is no reply, they will be considered resigned at the 2023 AGM.
Mr Matikka was thanked for his work on the finances.

5. **Members**

Dr Hermans reported Mr Hansen retired as Chairman of the Danish Orchid Society and sent his thanks to the Board for their support for the Copenhagen EOCCE.
After discussion the Board agreed unanimously to support the applications by the Dendrobium & Fuukiran Association, Italy and the Associazione Meridionale Amatori Orchidee (AMAO) to become members of EOC at the AGM.

6. **Election of Secretary General at AGM**

The Board agreed unanimously to support Mr Lafarge becoming the next Secretary General at the AGM.

7. **Appointment of new Board Member(s)**

As agreed at the previous Board Meeting Dr Hermans would be proposed as a new Board Member at the AGM by Mr Matikka and seconded by Mrs Dumont.

Dr Hermans confirmed there are two vacancies on the Board after the AGM and suggested suitable candidates are identified and discussed at a subsequent meeting.

8. Re-election of Board Members at AGM

As agreed at the previous Board Meeting Mr Diana, Mr Lafarge, Mr Matikka and Mr Richardt would be proposed for re-election at the AGM by Dr Hermans and seconded by Mrs Dumont.

9. EOC as Founding Sponsor of the World Orchid Conference Trust

Mr Hermans informed the Board of the background to the old WOC Trust and the creation of the new trust. It was unanimously agreed to propose the EOC should be a Founding Sponsor of the WOC Trust at the AGM with the aim to facilitate exchange of information and ensure a European voice on the Trust.
It was unanimously agreed to propose Dr Hermans as the EOC WOC Trustee at the AGM for an initial three-year term. Dr Hermans confirmed she would not claim any expenses from the EOC.
It was agreed to defer any required amendments to the Statutes to a later date.

10. Update on EOC Website

Dr Hermans thanked Mr Hammer for his work on the EOC website since 2011.
Dr Hermans then thanked the Finish Orchid Society for agreeing to host the EOC website for free.
Mr Matikka reported the website https://europeanorchidcouncil.eu/ was now fully transferred and it was an easy handover. The new host provided good analytics. It was agreed to remove the Lecturers List and the Calendar of Past Events should be more focused. Events for inclusion will be selected by the Secretary General and Mr Matikka.
Mr Matikka proposed to ask the AGM if they supported the Events Calendar and were willing to provide the information to update it. He will also remind delegates to check their information was up to date.

11. Status 19th EOCCE 2024 Dresden (21st to 24th March 2024)

Mr Richardt reported plans were progressing well. Sponsors were confirmed and a new 5-year contract will shortly be signed with the organisers of the Dresden Show. The budget plan is for sponsorship and exhibitor fees to cover all the costs. The Taiwanese traders have confirmed they will attend the EOCCE in preference to a TIOS or WOC in Taiwan at the same time. However, it is hoped the next WOC will be held in Taiwan in 2023 as confirmed by the WOC Trust President and would therefore, also reduce the potential impact on the lecture program for the EOCCE. The plans for the Organising Committee were progressing well.
Mr Hermans commented *The Orchid Review* would help promote the EOCCE as soon as information was available.
Mr Lafarge enquired about trips to see orchids in nature. Mr Richardt commented although it was too early for terrestrial orchids, they were investigating visits to Foundations and Botanical Gardens.

12. Proposal 20th EOCCE 2027 FIO Florence, Italy

Mr Diana reported back on the recent Florence Orchid show organised by FIO: the location was good only a sort walk from the centre of the city; however, more work needed to be done on the Show as it was like a sales fair; the orchid show was held in association with a handicraft fair, there were 20,000 visitors over the three days and 5-6000 for the orchid show;

not all the Italian societies were involved yet but a country wide association was helping to increase involvement.
Mr Lafarge stated there was good support for the lecturers, although, judging would need significant help.
The application to host the 20th EOCCE in Florence received the backing of the Board and would be put to the AGM.

13. Next Board Meeting Autumn 2022

It was agreed to accept the invitation from the Eric Young Foundation, Jersey to meet on **Saturday 3rd December at 13.00 or 13.30** in the library (time to be confirmed).
POST MEETING NOTE: time confirmed as **13.30**, only the Public Glasshouse will be open on Saturday but on Friday all areas will be accessible.
Dr Hermans invited Board members to join the RHS Orchid Committee meeting at **11.30 am Friday 2nd December** if they wished.
Mr Hermans advised there was an OHRAG (Orchid Hybrid Registration Advisory Group) meeting on **Thursday 1st December at 11.30 am** which members could also attend.

14. Next Board Meeting Spring 2023

A suggestion was made to meet during the Dresden Show 30th March to 2nd April 2023. The AGM would be asked for other suggestions and a final decision would be made at the AGM.

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16. AOB.

Dr Hermans reported she had an enquiry in December about the Copenhagen EOCCE.
Mr Lafarge reported he had been contacted by Mr Neirynck who had digital copies of past EOC Minutes which he would like to be made available permanently. It was agreed it was most appropriate they should be hosted on the EOC website.

Meeting closed at 12.00 pm (Central European Time).
Clare Hermans