

ETF GENERAL MEETING 29.4.10

Longarone

Sederunt

Name		Association
<u>Delegates:</u>		
Vagn Reitz ETF President		DZK, Denmark
Leon Bouten ETF Treasurer		NVP, Holland
Iginio Bressan ETC organiser		ATI, Italy
Christoph Meier		VNPS, Switzerland
Dieter Schön		VDP, Germany
Bettina Henrich		VDP, Germany
Franz Schwarz		Austria
Erling Mørch		DZK, Denmark
Rafael Centenera		Antax, Spain
Juan Bejar		Antax, Spain

Individual members

Duncan Ferguson ETF Secretary	Great Britain
Tom Larsen	Norway
Jean Michel Rougetet	France

Guests.

Paulino Vicente	Antax, Spain
Francisco Coin	Antax. Spain
Johannes Wicke	NH Museum Wein
Dominik Speleman	DZK, Denmark
Sarmite Inberga-Petrovska	Latvia
Bjorn Rolfes	DZK, Denmark
Franchesca De Conti, Translator,	Italy
Larry Blomquist	Breakthrough magazine.

MINUTES

1. Welcome.

VR welcomed all, thanked all for attending then asked us all to introduce ourselves. The meeting was informed that our new delegates from Spain would be arriving soon. VR asked for AOCB, there was no new competent business.

2. Ascertaining the meeting.

VR explained that the meeting had been called in accordance with the statutes.

3. Apologies and Attendance sheet.

The Sedurent sheet had been completed and apologies from R. du Buysere, Belgium had been received and a written transfer of his vote to L. Bouten had also been received.

4. Proposal and appointment of minutes secretary.

It was agreed that D.Ferguson take the minutes and B. Henrich would count any votes.

4a. 2009 minutes from General meeting.

VR proposed that we accept the 2009 General meeting minutes. This was agreed.

5. Approval of new members.

VR proposed Spain as a new member. This was agreed.

6. Report from the Board.

VR summarised the report from the Board to the meeting as all had received an e mail copy of it. It was noted that I. Bressan had organised this the 8th European Taxidermy Championship with support from the ETF Executive committee and Competition Group and that this event had been successful.

VR reminded the meeting that he intends to stand down next year therefore a successor will have to be appointed and that this person would have to be a good organiser. VR thanked all for their support over the years and pointed out that the ETF executive committee works well and that the ETF is now a successful association. There were no questions on the report which was accepted.

7. Treasurers report.

L. Bouten handed out copies of this report and explained the report. He also explained that copies had been sent to the Financial Control Group and that R. du Buysere had replied positively but that he had not heard from L. Vinciguerra but asked the meeting to accept the report. There were no questions and the report was accepted.

It was noted that although there appeared to be a lot of money in the ETF account expenses had still to be paid.

VR thanked all for prompt payment of their subs and for accepting the report, and LB for preparing the report.

8. Report from Statute Group.

C. Meier reported the need for new statutes and the need to simplify the statutes. He also explained that there were only some points to be discussed as we all have had time to read and question the report. The specific items were– number of votes for each country, individual member's rights, and length of term for the President.

CM asked that we accept the name, ETF, and place of registering. This was agreed.

Article 4 paragraph 3 was discussed. VR explained the background to this, the Board must come from member countries but if D. Ferguson wants to continue as secretary he can do so. As we are a federation the Board should normally be made from member countries. This was proposed and accepted.

Article 7 paragraph 3 was discussed and it was agreed that that 1 more vote be awarded for every 50 extra votes over 100 but the maximum number of votes should be 4 to protect the smaller member countries from the larger ones. This shall be included in the Statutes,

Article 8 paragraph 2. After discussion it was agreed that the President be in post for 2 years but could carry on for another 2 years if no one else was prepared to carry out the duties of President.

CM asked the meeting to accept the proposal for new statutes, this was agreed. The report new statutes will now be sent to the Dutch legal offices to be ratified. If there are any problems CM will report back to the next general meeting.

9. Proposal for membership fee.

It was proposed and agreed that the fees be 20eu for Individual members and 5eu per head for country members.

10. Proposal for fees for the Board.

VR explained that the Secretary and Treasurer both get 250eu per year for their time spent on ETF duties. At the moment neither the President nor Web master claim expenses. It was proposed and agreed to continue this way.

11. Proposals and appointment of Council members.

VR proposed D. Ferguson as Secretary for 2 years, this was agreed.

VR proposed L. Bouten as Treasurer for 2 years, this was agreed.

VR proposed vice President, because new statutes were accepted, for 2 years, this was agreed.

C. Meier was proposed and accepted as vice President.

12. Proposal and appointment of Financial Control Committee.

VR proposed that we accept the present committee. This was agreed.

13. Proposal of a web master.

As there are no new proposed web master, and the Executive committee have a mandate to find one, VR will ask HSH to continue **until** his replacement is found

14. Report from the Competition Group.

T. Larsen, the group coordinator, reported why the CG was created and summarised his report and explained that it had been difficult to create. TL reported that the ETF need to be in charge of competitions to allow continuity and fairness. In his opinion competitions should not be left to host countries alone, the CG should also be involved. It was explained that the CG's task was to work out how competitions were run, assist and cooperate with the host country and advise the host country. The CG consist of T. Larsen – Norway, P. Sunneson - Denmark, D Schon – Germany, B. Koch – Germany –**Maurizio Gattabria – Italy.** .

The report was proposed and accepted.

15. Proposal for competition rules.

VR explained that the initial meeting to discuss these rules was in Salzburg following the World Competition as it became obvious that there is a need to have a format for the competition and support for the host.

T. Larsen, the coordinator of this group, explained the need for an understanding of the rules and for continuity between competitions incase of any changes to these rules by a new host country. Competitors should be able to expect the same standard of rules and judging for competition to competition.

There was discussion that some members of the competition group had contributed more than others, but the general impression was that the idea of the competition group was a good one and that this one had worked.

I. Bressan explained that a competition group needs knowledge and commitment to make it work and that a competition group was a good idea. He also reported that he had not known about the first meeting due to a breakdown in communications. It was agreed that in future any information would be sent to at least two members of any association.

TL produced his report and proposals and explained that the EC has the final decision in any argument/discussion about competitions. There was discussion on this statement but it was agreed to go through the points and examine them.

There was discussion on point 4.

D. Schon disagreed on this point as he thought it was unfair on the host as it is the host who sponsors the finance, not the EC, so the host should have the final word on any decision regarding the competition, not the EC nor the Competition group.

C. Meier explained his position as Chairman of the Judges and feels that we need this position to be more democratic and pointed out that the EC is clever enough to be able to handle problems relating to competitions. R. Centenera pointed out that as the ETF did not own the title of ETC then we could expect problems with the use of the title ETC.

D. Schon asked if the ETF would take any part in the financial risk involved with a competition and if not why should the EC have the final word with problems?

CM explained that the ETF is not in a position to finance any more than it does which is the ETF prize and expenses for the EC to run the ETF and advise the host of the ETC.

TL reported that the ETF had enquired about registering the ETC as it's title but it was felt to be too expensive.

E. Morch expressed some concern in the language in points 4&5, and after some discussion VR explained that it is always the host who organises but we need the ETF to be more supportive, involved and visible. It was felt that the members want a framework to be followed and the question was who is responsible for this and who pays?

TL argued that we all want the event to work well and it was agreed that continuity in rules and judging was essential, and E.Morch explained that we need rules agreed by the entire group who are involved with a competition to allow all to have a say.

L. Blomquist explained that in USA the taxidermy competition, "The World Show" is financed by the NTA but hosted by different hosts in different states. As he, LB, is the owner of the title he has the final say on any problem/decision but that he also has 2 assistants who can be relied upon to make decisions on behalf of LB in his absence.

L. Blomquist feels that a competition needs a committee to make the decisions and a competent committed group of expert judges who know the rules to do the judging.

R. Centenera suggested that the ETF could leave a competition if the host would not follow the rules, there was discussion on this subject but it was accepted that the ETF should be the umbrella organisation of the ETC and that competitions should be planned 4 years in advance to give all time to iron out potential problems.

There was discussion about removing point 4 as point 5 covered it anyway and with the fact that although the ETF create the rules the host can have the final say, or a committee from the host and the ETF, as long as it falls within the rules.

Following this discussion it was agreed to remove point 4 and to accept the proposals.

IB reported that he appreciated the role of C. Meier and asked if CM could have an input with the CG to help avoid mistakes, and could the CG physically help the host as well as advising and suggested that CM be present at the point of registration to help clarify any situations.

16. Next ETC.

VR asked for proposals for this event.

FS proposed hosting a World Taxidermy Championship competition in Feb 2012 in Salzburg, Austria. He has agreement for financial support from his Financial Minister and Reed Fare to cover the full costs of this event and wants to do this project together with the ETF and would be thankful for all and any help that he gets. FS will also discuss with L. Blomquist the details involved with using LB's brand, WTC.

VR thanked FS for his kind offer and asked all to consider where and when for the next ETC in 4 years time, and suggested setting up a committee to support the competition consisting of TL, CM, FS and L. Blomquist. Vr would appreciate being kept abreast of events relating to this competition by e mail.

17. Date and venue of next general meeting.

It was agreed Salzburg in May 2011, exact date time and venue to be organised later.

18. AOCB

VR proposed setting up an information page on the ETF home page giving information on taxidermy training in all of the member countries. It was agreed that DF would issue a request for such information to all of the member countries and have this information forwarded to the Web master.

VR has papers etc relating to the ETF that should be stored as archival material in museum conditions and asked for suggestions. DS said that he would look into this. DF reported that there is a lot of material stored in Glasgow Museums library which would have to be moved to a permanent archival store when one was set up.

JB explained the situation regarding animal by products in Spain concerning "safe sourcing" and would like the ETF to contact the EU to discuss this issue. After discussion it was agreed that Rafael Centenera, should draft a letter to send to Brussels explaining the problems taxidermists have with the by products regulations.

There was no further competent business and VR thanked all for attending and for their input. As there was no further business the meeting was closed at 17.30.