

Report from the ETC® Committee for the ETF-GM 2015

Hello and welcome to everybody also from my side and in the name of the ETC® Committee!

This report includes the time frame from April 2014, after the ETC® in Longarone up till now. We had the following personal changes in the Committee: Iginio Bressan, the former ETC® host was replaced by Ari Puolakoski, the new host and Vice Competition Chairman. The two staying members, Berend Koch and I as the chairman are still in function.

Maybe you remarked that I'm speaking about the ETC® Committee and no longer about the ETC® Competition Group which leads me to the most important points of our work in that past year.

This new name is a consequence of the development the ETC® has gone through the last 5 to 6 years. It's a sign that our group has become an independent status inside the ETF organization. Therefore - and this is the second important point of our administrative work in the past year - a regulation has been established which clearly defines the rights and duties of the Committee and the working together with the ETF-Board. This policy has been approved from both sides, the Committee and the ETF-Board, and will be brought to this GM for a final consent.

Let me tell you clearly, that the Committee needs that certain freedom and independence to make a sense full and effective job for the good of the ETC® and to be able to follow up this good track. I'm sure that all of you are interested to continue to reap the fruits of our work and if you appreciate it, then you also should finally approve it by voting with "yes" when it comes to this point on the agenda.

Now I'm coming to the actual Competition and our work there...

Dear folks, **we have a jubilee, the first one! We attend the 10th European Taxidermy Championships!** I think this deserves a big applause!

Ok, immediately when the team returned from the ETC® 2014 in Longarone, we started with the organization of this actual event. **This means that almost for one year we worked at this competition to make it to a success!** It was a long and sometimes also hectic time and I can tell you that **all the tasks we had to fulfil came partially close to a normal full time job for everybody in the Committee.** By the way, I think that it's not wrong to mention at this place that all of us are still working on a voluntary base without income and that we all had and have to function in our normal jobs, as well! This means that all of us have sacrificed a lot of our free time for this project and the developing of the ETC® in general, much more than a normal mandate in an Association would require. I'm not going to cry about this, nor the other Committee members, but it's a fact, which is true and deserves to be pointed out in such a report and should maybe create a little thankfulness in one or the other brain, because it's by far not self-evident!

All of this, and I don't make a secret out of it, sometimes also brought us to our absolute limits. I will come back to this point later on.

There's no need that I start to sweep you with details about all that had to be done. **We are sure that everybody who walked with open eyes and senses through this show has noticed that this ETC® has been improved again in nearly every segment.**

Let me give you only some remarkable notes and basic information:

- The new Competition Rules and Regulations has been adapted due to the experiences made in Longarone
- For the first time in the history of the ETC® we have appointed 12 international experienced Judges, to guarantee a maximum of fairness.
- We have settled once more a very attractive seminar program with themes, which covered a large field of taxidermy interests.
- We have increased the number of Special Awards to the record number of 19, with more than € 5000 prize money.
- An attractive frame program has been installed, for the first time in the history of the ETC® even with offers for wilderness Safaris.
- And also for the first time we were able to have an auction selling very valuable donations from a Sponsor.

Ok, these were only some key points like mentioned before.....

I would not like to finish this report without giving a big, big thank you to the following people:

- to Pentti Uusi-Illikainen and Johanna Nakkula from the Northern Finland Outdoor Life Fair, we worked from the very beginning with Johanna and she did an outstanding job.
- to the Finnish Taxidermy Association with Ari Puolakoski and Sari Mastromarino for hosting us, Sari the Finnish president created e.g. the competition logo.
- to Netta Lempiäinen, who did most of the work for the competition brochure, designed the diplomas and much more, a very good job.
- to the two Competition Chairmen and in the same time the members of the ETC® Committee, Berend Koch and Ari Puolakoski. Thank you guys for this long, very good and fruitful working together.
- **Let me especially point out here the contribution of the only regular member, Berend Koch. Since years he has been able to deliver a consistent outstanding performance, and I can tell you, every organization on this world would feel honoured to have him in their team.**
- then let me thank the judges and seminar leaders
- thank you to the sponsors
- to all the volunteers and workers in the background
- to my beloved wife, Helen, who is the ETF webmaster and helped us also a lot with translating and correcting documents.
-and last but not least to all of you guys, the competitors. It's you who are finally making such an event happen.

Before I mentioned that I would come back to the point that we partially reached our limits of capacity. I get back to this and at the same time make a short outlook in the future. We have reached a good standard now, and we even want to continue to improve it! **But to only keep this standard for the next shows is too much work for just 2 staying members inside the Committee, this has clearly crystalized out.** So, we will start an evaluating process for appointing a second regular member to make the ETC® Committee more able to carry a load. This will be one of our main tasks.

The other one will be to find out the place and date of the next ETC®, and here I honestly must admit, that we don't know yet. Please let me remind you that it was never the plan to make an ETC® every year. We only did it because of the planned WTC 2016 in Salzburg, to prevent that we would have again breaks of 3 or more years with our competition. That now, every sign shows in the direction that the World Show 2016 will not happen is of course not our fault nor our problem, but it brings us logically in a kind of confusion, so that we have to rethink and replan our rhythm.

We will also have a lot of other things to do as well, so there's absolutely no danger that somebody of us could become suddenly bored. **and even if it will be a little bit more quiet for the moment, then I guess that we deserved it.**

Thank you for your attendance and attention.

Matthias Fahrni
ETC® Committee Chairman