

ETF GENERAL MEETING 27.04.2014

Longarone

ATTENDANCE

NAME

ASSOCIATION

Delegates

C. Meier	VNPS, (Switzerland)
I. Bressan	ATI, (Italy)
F. Polensky	VDP, (Germany)
M. Fahrni	VNPS, (Switzerland)
B. Wessman	SZK, (Sweden)
V. Reitz	DZK, (Denmark)
B. Rolfes	DZK, (Denmark)
A. Puolakoski	FTA , (Finland)
R. Centenera	ANTAX, (Spain)
J. Fiebig	VDP, (Germany)
D. Schön	VDP, (Germany)
F. Schwarz	WKO, (Austria)
D. Frumeller	WKO, (Austria)
B. Koch	VDP, (Germany)

Individual members

D. Ferguson	GOT, (Great Britain)
L. Bouten	NVP, (Holland)

Board-members

C. Meier (President), M. Fahrni (CG-Coordinator), D. Ferguson, (Secretary) F. Polensky (Treasurer) - they are all Delegates - and Daniel Salzer (accessor) - he has no mandate as a Delegate but is a board member.

Also H. Fahrni as Webmaster was present.

Guests

P. Visnak	Czech Republic
D. Speleman	DZK, (Denmark)
M. Fischer	VDP, (Germany)
J. Panniger	VDP, (Germany)
O. Sutto	ATI, (Italy)
F. De Conti, Translator	Italy
H. Fahrni	Switzerland
R. Stein	VDP, (Germany)

MINUTES

- 1. Welcome – Christoph Meier (CM)** welcomed all to the meeting and talked about the state of the ETF. **CM** reported on the importance of this meeting to the future of the ETF and clarified the voting system.
- 2. Ascertaining – CM** explained that the meeting had been called in accordance with the regulations and welcomed our guest from the Czech Republic.
- 3. Apologies and attendance sheet** - this was being dealt with.
- 4. Proposal and appointment of minutes secretary and persons to count any votes – CM** proposed **Duncan Ferguson (DF)** to take the minutes, this was agreed. After discussion it was also agreed that A. **Puolakoski** would act as vote counter.
- 5. Minutes from GM 2013 – CM** proposed these, they were agreed and there were no questions.
- 6. Report from the Board – President and Secretary – CM** proposed these. **Vagn Reitz (VR)** asked **CM** to briefly run through his report which was done. **CM** spoke of the good work done by the Competition Group, and of the registering of the ETC trade mark, and of the importance of the web site, and thanked **H. Fahrni** for her good work. **CM** then asked **D. Salzer** to report on the work done by **M. Tilley** to create a professional taxidermy certificate in Belgium. The Belgium Government suggested that the **BVP** applied to have taxidermy as a recognised profession. This was successfully applied for. **Robert du Buysere** and **M Tilley** put

a 20 page document together then asked the **ETF** for support. Through the **ETF**, **D. Salzer** looked at the Swiss format and translated this into English and passed this to **R. Du Buysere** to use in his application which was recognised last February. **CM** highlighted this as a success for the **ETF**, and then asked if there were any questions, there were none and the report was agreed and accepted.

7. **CM** proposed the Secretary's report, there were no questions and this was agreed and accepted. **CM** thanked **DF** for this report. He then pointed out that due to a typing error we jump from point 6 to point 8
8. **Treasurer's report 2013 – Florian Polensky – (FP)** had passed out copies of his report and he reported that it had been reviewed and accepted by the Financial committee of **R. du Buysere** and **V.Reitz**. There were no questions and this report was agreed and accepted.
9. **Report from the Competition group – M. Fahrni (MF)** reported that they had fulfilled the new rules and regulations and also developed a new registering system to make the registration of the different animal groups according to their categories clearer and more logical. Also have increased special awards from 8 to 14 with new sponsors. He explained once more the new Ribbon system, where the basic Ribbon colours are no more related with places, but a definition about the ranking is made according to the appropriate colours (blue, red and yellow). There are information panels on display explaining how the new ribbon system works. **MF** thanked **I.Bressan (IB)**, **F. De Conti**, and **O.Sutto** for their involvement with the competition and noted that with **IB's** regular involvement he guaranteed the survive of the ETC during the long time, where **ETF** was not able to act or support the Show in any ways. **B. Koch** was also thanked for his help as continuous member of the Competition Group (CG) as was **H. Fahrni** for her help with translating. **MF** noted that the rules for ETC 2015 will be slightly different from 2014 but will be placed on the web site which will give people time to read and understand before 2015. **MF** asked for input from the members and asked members to react to the new rules and noted that **I. Bressan** would be replaced as third member of the CG by **A. Puolakoski** for ETC 2015. It was also recorded that the prize giving ceremony had gone very well the previous evening and that the use of views of the winning specimens had helped all to enjoy the evening.
10. **Agreement for subscription fee – CM** proposed that these remain the same at 20eu for Individual members and 5eu per member for member countries. This was agreed.
11. **Discussion on the future of the ETF. "Is there one?" – CM** pointed out that as he is standing down as announced last year in Basel at the GM 2015 as **ETF** President there is now a problem. **CM** reported that he had sent e mail to all of the member country presidents and that only 2 had replied, one from Denmark, and one from Spain. **CM** explained that he felt the **ETF** has 2 main problems – member countries do not support the **ETF** other than by paying their subscription fees, and if the ETC is all that we have then that is not enough. This

is a substance problem. The other problem is a structural problem: it is illegal for an association to operate without a complete Board and after this meeting the ETF will be without a president so he asked the members to go back to their associations to see if someone with English language and the relevant experience would step forward to take over the post as president. This person will have to be able to integrate the various cultures and attitudes to taxidermy within Europe. **R. Centenera (RC)** explained that Spain joined 2 years ago because it had some problems and it made sense to join. Spain was concerned with EU agendas as in Spain only hunted animals can be mounted. (There are 700 members in their association). **RC** pointed out that it was better to be a registered association like the ETF if dealing with the EU and that it was better to be in an association like the ETF for that reason. **VR** pointed out the successes of the ETF such as the ETC and the contact list which would not exist had it not been for the ETF which began as a base to support taxidermists in Europe. It was noted that the ETF has a problem with being registered in Holland as their rules are very strict and time consuming, perhaps we can move our base for registration? There was also discussion on looking to see if membership fees can be reduced for non professional taxidermists. It was agreed that the Board would look into this and ask the member countries to supply a breakdown of membership to look at the numbers of non professional taxidermists as opposed to professional/full time taxidermists. It was proposed that **CM** prepares a “work pack” explaining the duties and advantages of being the President of the ETF, and of future ETF projects. This will have to have been sent out to allow members to read before the dead line of September 2014. If the ETF has to be dissolved because of again no significant increase of activities and support from the members, or no new president could be found, the Board will need the time with beginning of October to prepare the dissolving of the ETF for the GM 2015 in Finland. However if a new President can be found then this will not be necessary. This proposal was agreed and accepted.

- 12. Proposal and appointment of ETF Secretary – M. Tilley, (Belgium) (MT)** has been proposed. This proposal was agreed although as **MT** will be abroad until late summer, **DF** will continue to act in this position until **MT** returns.
- 13. Proposal and appointment of ETF Treasurer – FP** to continue with the help of **L. Bouten (LB)** as there would be major problems in moving the bank account from Holland. This proposal was agreed.
- 14. Daniel Salzer (DS)** who was elected last year in Basel as an accessor for one year was **nominated by the board as a standing accessor in the board** – this proposal was agreed.
- 15. Proposal and appointment of vice president.** This was discussed under item 11.
- 16. Proposal and appointment of the Financial Control Committee** – agreed to remain the same with **R. du Buysere and V. Reitz**.
- 17. The date and venue of next European competition** - Ari Puolakoski (AP) reported that this would take place in Oulu 14-17/5/2015, information about seminars and competitions will follow. There is an international airport near by and a car train runs from Helsinki. **MF**

explained that the ETC should be every 2 years but with the WTC possibly being held in Austria in 2016 the ETC Competition Committee felt that leaving the next ETC till 2018, 2 years after the WTC was too long, so the ETC will be held next year.

18. Date and venue of next general meeting - Finland, Sunday 17th May 2015.

19. **AOCB – MF** reported that we have been using score sheets purchased from the USA, the WTC score sheets and that it had been proposed to revert back to ETF/ETC score system for future ETC's. **CM** explained that in 2012 the GM agreed to use the US system and to purchase a license to use this system for 3 competitions but felt that it was worth losing money on this as the alternative system is better and ready for use. Due the fact that the WTC Score Sheet licence agreement with Larry Blomquist was decided by the GM, the decision to step back from this agreement had be taken by the GM as well. This proposal was agreed and decided.

VR reported on the situation in Denmark where taxidermy regulations were revised last year from being able to buy and sell road killed birds etc as long as they were registered to now where you cannot sell dead specimens unless they are mounted. The Danish by product rules are now accepted by the EU. **VR** offered help to anyone who has problems with registration.

It was noted that **DF** is in charge of the ETF archive material until a new home is found for this material. There followed a presentation to **DF** and **LB** for their long years of service to the ETF.

End of meeting.

Duncan Ferguson, Mai 2014