

## **Minutes of the General Assembly for the European Society of Arachnology, Nottingham, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2017.**

### **1. President's report**

The president, Wolfgang Nentwig, reflected on the activities of the Society over the past year and how the Society continues to successfully fulfil its objectives. The Society continues to support the annual congress (€2000 in 2017) and the 'Spiders of Europe' website (€1000 in 2017). It continues to prioritise support for students and European Arachnological Society projects. Wolfgang offered thanks to the council for their efforts over the last year.

A minute's silence was held to remember four deceased members of the Society, who were friends and colleagues to many: Jan Buchar, Maria Rambla, Hans Hendricks, Gerd Alberti.

Council membership elections were held. Maria Chatzaki, Ferenc Samu and Holger Frick were re-elected. Efrat Gavish-Regev stepped back as membership secretary.

The council for the coming year thus comprises:

- Wolfgang Nentwig - President
- Sara Goodacre – vice President, congress organizer 2017
- Christian Kropf - Treasurer
- Ferenc Samu – vice Treasurer and Facebook, congress organizer 2018
- Maria Chatzaki – Media Secretary
- Jason Dunlop – Membership Secretary
- Holger Frick - Webmaster
- Marco Isaia - Newsletter
- Sara Goodacre - Newsletter
- Gabriele Uhl – Special Affairs

### **2. Membership**

Jason Dunlop reported that membership numbers are nicely increasing. There are currently 14 honorary members, 8 memberships with waived fees, and the total membership is 212. This is the highest number of members, our society probably ever had. However, many members did not pay their annual fees and this may cause serious financial problems to our Society. Membership will be discontinued where fees are not paid for three consecutive years.

### **3. New honorary member**

Following a survey with all ESA members prior to the Nottingham congress, the council received several proposals for a new honorary membership. There was a clear majority to honour Robert Bosmans who received the respective certificate with strong approval from the General Assembly.

### **4. Treasurer's report**

The report was presented to the council by Christian Kropf. As of 30/06/2017 the balance stands at 3205 Swiss francs. This figure is smaller than would normally be expected because many members did not yet pay their annual fees. Christian Kropf acknowledged the support of Regula Markwalder, bookkeeper of the Natural History Museum Bern. The Society thanked Christian for his work and accepted the report.

5. Auditor's report

The treasurer's report was accepted on behalf of the audit by Jakob Walter.

6. European Year of Spider Biodiversity Research

We received one application for the 2018/19 "European Year of Spider Biodiversity Research" from Maria Chatzaki for Cyprus. The General Assembly approved this proposal.

7. Facebook

Ferenc Samu showed the increasing usage and importance of the Society's Facebook page.

8. Website

Holger Frick reported on the increasing usage of our new website which is active since early 2016.

9. Newsletter & Proceedings

Marco Isaia informed members that a newsletter will be produced after the congress and that all contributions from members are welcome. Theo Blick confirmed that 'Archnologische Mitteilungen' continues to be the vehicle for conference proceedings, now also with the English title 'Archnology Letters'. The deadline for submission of congress publications is November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.

10. Next conferences

2018: The ESA 31st European Congress will be held in Vác, Hungary. The proposal was presented by Ferenc Samu and the General Assembly accepted it. Organizers are Tamás Szüts, Csaba Szinetár and Ferenc Samu.

2020: The ESA 32nd European Congress will be held in Greifswald, Germany, organized by Gabriele Uhl and Peter Michalik.

2021: The ESA 33rd European Congress will be held in Saint Malo, France. The proposal was presented by Julien Pétillon and the General Assembly accepted it. Organizers are Julien Pétillon and colleagues.

11. Closing ceremony

A vote of thanks was given to Sara Goodacre and Dmitri Logunov and the other members of the Nottingham conference organising team for making the meeting such a success and the president hoped to see all members once again at the next congress.