

EOU General Meeting
Saturday 27 August 2011 at 18.30
in the Auditorium of the University of Latvia in Riga

Minutes

Council President, Tomasz Wesołowski, took the chair and welcomed people to the general meeting.

1. Attendance and apologies for absence

91 members attended the meeting.

Apologies for absence: Peter Jones (Edinburgh), Jacques Blondel (Montpellier).

2. Minutes of the General Meeting of 23 August 2009

The minutes appear on the EOU website (follow link to conferences).

Chairman asked for any comments regarding these minutes. None was raised and the minutes were approved as correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

Members were asked to raise any matters arising from the minutes that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda of the current meeting. No members raised any matters.

4. Treasurer's report

The Treasurer, Timothy Coppack, presented his report on behalf of Council (see [Appendix 10.1](#) below).

The financial position of the EOU is sound. It allowed supporting the participation of 40 applicants from "low-middle income" countries for the Riga conference by (partially) waiving conference fees and organizing free or reduced accommodation. These costs are balanced by the surcharge on the conference fee. Current assets of the EOU amount to 8244.91 € (as of 30 June 2011) and will allow to continue running the website, to support meetings of the council and SPC between conferences, and to support conference attendance of young ornithologists and participants from "low-middle income" countries at the next conference.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the meeting, without dissent.

5. Arrangements for 2013 conference

5.1 2013 conference

Andy Gosler reported on behalf of the UK Planning Committee on preparations for the 2013 Conference in Norwich.

Question 1 from audience: why is the conference scheduled from Tuesday to Saturday, thereby including more working days as compared to a schedule including the whole weekend?

Answer 1: avoiding the overlap with other conferences was one of the constraints.

Question 2: how to deal with apparently only 200 booked beds for perhaps 400 participants?

Answer 2: The local organizers will do their best to book more beds.

No other offers to host the 2013 conference have been made.

The meeting unanimously approved the proposal to hold the 9th Conference of the EOU in Norwich.

5.2 2015 conference

Members were invited to express any interest in hosting the conference in 2015. No suggestion was expressed.

5.3 General

Members were invited to raise ideas for events and arrangements for future conferences.

There was the remark that moving between parallel sessions was easier during the previous conference (in Zurich) when all parallel sessions were synchronized. The chairman of the SPC, Leonida Fusani, explained that symposium organizers were given the freedom of organizing their symposia in any free format, allowing, for example, variation in number and length of talks, and extended discussions. This freedom distinguishes symposia from standard oral sessions, but makes synchronization of different symposia or symposia and oral sessions often impossible. In order to optimize the programme of future EOU meetings, Council will gather opinions on this issue from members through a questionnaire.

6. The EOU website

Barbara Helm invited members to discuss the future of our website.

Barbara explained site contents and options. Very recently, a discussion forum has been implemented on the website and will be launched in early September. Toni Laaksonen will be the moderator of the discussion forum.

The present website, including tools like a noticeboard and a discussion forum, offers a vibrant forum for the exchange of ideas among all members. Please, make use of it!

7. Amendments to the Statutes

A list of changes to the statutes proposed by Council has been sent out to all registered participants of this conference and has been posted on the conference website in early July. Jeremy Greenwood presented the proposed changes again in detail at this meeting (see [Appendix 10.2](#) below).

There was the remark from the audience that any time duration for "in advance of the upcoming General Meeting" in §6.9 should be defined. The meeting agreed on 'three weeks' for this time duration.

All proposed amendments were accepted unanimously.

8. Election of new Council members

All officers are continuing in office this year. Eight ordinary members of Council are stepping down as they have reached the end of their term or have resigned. A list of nominations for election to EOU Council has been drawn up by a Nominating Committee under the Chairmanship of the Past-President. The committee comprised Franz Bairlein, Jeremy Greenwood (chairman), Rob Robinson and Ludwik Tomiałojć. The closing date for nominations was 6 June. Information on retirals and candidates for election has then been sent out by e-mail and has been posted on the conference website. Jeremy Greenwood reported on the changes in Council composition and chaired the election of new Council members.

Chairman thanked the people retiring from the council: Gerard Boere (Netherlands), Nikita Chernetsov (Russia), Thord Fransson (Sweden), Andy Gosler (UK), Marcel Lambrechts (France; resigned September 2009), Erik Mathysen (Belgium), John O'Halloran (Ireland), Simon Verhulst (Netherlands).

For its function as member of the local organizing committee for the next conference to be held in Norwich in 2013, Andy Gosler will become honorary Council member for the next two years. Similarly, Nikita Chernetsov will become honorary Council member for its function as chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee for the next conference.

The Nominating Committee proposed the following persons to be elected to Council: Christiaan Both (Netherlands), Natalia Karlionova (Belorussia), Graham Martin (UK), Alfonso Marzal (Spain), Jan-Åke Nilsson (Sweden), Jiří Reif (Czech Republic), Valentin Serebryakov (Ukraine), Sergej Soloviev (Russia).

In addition, election of Olivier Duriez (France) was proposed, co-opted by Council to fill a vacancy that arose after the resignation of Marcel Lambrechts (France).

All candidates were elected unanimously by the meeting.

9. Any other business

Tomasz Wesołowski reported that EOU has received an invitation to become (as an organization) member of the IOU (International Ornithologist's Union). The EOU Council recommended acceptance of this invitation.

Members of this meeting were in favour of EOU joining IOU.

Members were asked for any other items of business but no further items were raised.

10. APPENDIX

10.1 Report of the Treasurer of the EOU 2011

Membership and Office

Membership is open to any interested person. The membership list contains the participants of the EOU conferences. A contribution to the EOU is collected as a surcharge on the conference fee (20 € EOU surcharge, 10 € reduced surcharge; decision of the General Meeting in Vienna, 26 August 2007, with effect from the Zurich conference 2009). This allows continuation of the EOU without an office, and no running costs for an office have occurred since mid 2005.

Finances (see Financial Statement below)

The financial period of the EOU is two years, and this report covers the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2011.

Since 2005, the EOU account is kept at the "Oldenburgische Landesbank", Germany (OLB) where no bank charges for running the account have to be paid.

Account details:

EOU – Dr. Timothy Coppack
 Account No. 9684285100
 Oldenburgische Landesbank
 D-26122 Oldenburg, Germany
 BLZ: 280 200 50
 IBAN: DE20 2802 0050 9684 2851 00
 Swift-BIC: OLBO DE H2

Income:

The main income was the surplus from the Zurich Conference in 2009 (5.279,30 €). During the financial period, interest rate was 0.5 %.

Expenses:

Main expenses were the loan for the organization of the Riga conference (2000,00 €, to be refunded in 2011!), costs for design (800,00 €) and maintenance (160,70 € for 2010-12) of the new website and domain, travel costs for a delegate of the scientific committee (Dr. L. Fusani) to visit the local organizers in Riga (309,99 €), and legal tax on interests.

Current assets:

Current assets of the EOU amount to **8'244.91 €**(as of June 30 2011)

BUDGET

The council decided to support the participation of 40 applicants for the Riga conference by (partially) waiving conference fees and organizing free or reduced accommodation. This causes liabilities of about **5'490.00 €** However, these liabilities will be balanced by the EOU surcharge collected for the Riga conference. The Riga conference will probably end with a slight surplus and will not need any input from core EOU funding. Thus, after the Riga conference, EOU assets will allow to continue running the website, to support meetings of the council and SPC between conferences, and to support conference attendance of young ornithologists at the next conference.

**Financial Statement July 01 2009 - June 30 2011
(Euro)**

ASSETS, June 30 2009	6'256.34
ASSETS, August 31 2009	6'260.20
ASSETS, September 30 2009	6'214.83

ASSETS, June 30 2011	8'244.91
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PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT**EXPENSES**

1	Flowers for organizer of Zurich conference (Aug 2009)	-47.29
2	Old internet domain (NIC AT 2010)	-69.84
3	New internet design and domain 2010-2012	-960.70
4	Loan for Riga conference (to be refunded)	-2'000.00
5	Travel costs SPC to Riga	-280.22
6	Legal tax on interests total	-23.99
TOTAL		-3'382.04

INCOME

1	EOU Conference Zurich: Surplus & Donations	5'279.30
2	Interests total	91.31
TOTAL		5'370.61

Profit (+) & Loss (-) from Profit & Loss Statement**+1'988.57**

The Financial Statement was approved by the Council of the EOU subject to pending approval through the auditors of the EOU (Helmut Sternberg und Reinhard Mache) following the Riga conference.

Riga, August 26 2011

Timothy Coppack
(Treasurer EOU)

10.2 Proposed amendments to the Statutes**Paragraph 3.3**

Membership is open to any person who supports the objectives of the EOU and who registers with the Treasurer her or his wish to be a member. It is the responsibility of each member to notify the Treasurer of any change of address or e-mail address. A member may resign by notifying the Council.

Proposed Changes:

1. Replace "with the Treasurer" with the words "*for a conference or who registers by e-mail with the Secretary*"
2. Replace "Treasurer" with "Secretary"

Reasons for the change:

1. Since the EOU abandoned the need for members to pay subscriptions, we have taken it that anyone who registered for a conference should be regarded as a member. The first part of this change is to formalize that practice.
2. The second change, substituting Treasurer with Secretary and specifying that communication with him/her must be by e-mail, is for administrative convenience.

Paragraph 5.3

The Council sends the invitations for the General Meeting to the members or announces the General meeting in the Journal at least 10 weeks before the meeting, mentioning the topics on the agenda. Decisions on topics which are not mentioned on the agenda may only be taken if nine tenths of members present accept.

Proposed change:

Replace the start of the paragraph, up to "*at least 10 weeks*" with:
"The Council announces the General Meeting on the EOU website, on the relevant EOU Conference website and by sending e-mails to all on the membership list"

Reasons for the change:

We do not currently produce a journal but use the web and e-mails for communicating with members.

Paragraph 6.1

The business of the Union shall be conducted by the Council, elected from among the members. Not more than one officer and two members of the Council may be from the same country. The Council shall consist of officers (President, Past-President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and, if a journal is being published, Editor) and from ten to fifteen Ordinary members.

Proposed change:

Insert after the second sentence:

"If an officer or Council member moves country during her or his term of office and the result is that more than one officer and two members of the Council are from the same country, then all the individuals from that country may continue to serve out their terms of office."

Reason for the change:

To avoid having to find replacements just because someone has moved country.

Paragraph 6.9

Nomination for officers and Ordinary members of the Council to be elected at a General Meeting shall be made by a Nominating Committee chaired by the immediate Past-President and including three other non-Council members appointed by the President. No more than one Ordinary member can be from the same country. All members of the EOU may submit nominations to the Nominating Committee. At least three members should be required for a nomination, which, in addition, must be accompanied by a letter from the nominee stating that she or he is prepared to stand if elected. The slate of persons to be elected must be made available with the notice of the up-coming General Meeting.

Proposed changes:

1. Change the second sentence to *"No more than one ordinary member of the Nominating Committee can be from the same country."*
2. In the third sentence, change *"All members"* to *"Any member"*.
3. Add to the third sentence *"or volunteer to be nominated"*
4. Remove the sentence beginning *"At least three..."*
5. Replace *"with the notice of"* by *"in advance of three weeks"*

Reasons for the changes (using corresponding numbers):

1. Clarification.
2. To remove ambiguity.
3. To ensure that members are free to propose themselves as members of Council.
4. To reduce the bureaucracy involved.
5. To allow the notice of the meeting to go out well in advance of the conference, possible before the list of nominations has been approved.