

EOU General Meeting
Thursday 27 August 2015 at 18:00
Auditorio, Palacio de Congressos, Badajoz, Spain

Minutes taken by the EOU Secretary, Susi Jenni-Eiermann

1) Welcome by the President

The President, Barbara Helm, took the chair and opened the general meeting. She welcomes the delegates and invites them to actively participate and discuss the future of the EOU.

2) Attendance

Apologies for absence were received of the Treasurer member Timothy Coppack and several other council members. 112 EOU members attended the meeting.

3) Minutes of the General Meeting of 29 August 2013, Norwich UK

The minutes have been posted to members on 27th July, 2015. The General Meeting is asked to approve these minutes as a correct record of the meeting. The delegates approved the minutes unanimously.

4) Matters arising from the minutes

Members are asked to raise any matters arising from the minutes that do not appear elsewhere on the agenda of the current meeting. No matter was raised by the delegates.

5) Treasurer's report

The Treasurer's report is presented by the President, in absence of the Treasurer, on behalf of Council. The auditors Hans-Peter Damian (Germany) and Reto Spaar (Switzerland) approved the report. The meeting is asked to discuss any pertinent matters and to approve the report. No matters were raised and the treasurer's report is approved by the delegates unanimously. The treasurer's report is attached to this protocol.

6) Report of Council

The President presents the report on behalf of Council. First, she thanks Alfonso Marzal, the local organizer, for his perfect organization of the meeting in Badajoz. 463 delegates from 26 different countries on 5 continents are attending the meeting. Barbara Helm also thanks Graham Martin, the Scientific Programme Committee chair, and his committee for the organization of the scientific program. In respect to submitted contributions the Badajoz conference is the biggest ever. More than 400 contributions were submitted and included into the programme. These included 6 plenaries, 75 symposia talks, 40 orals, more than 250 posters and 6 Round Tables. The President also thanks all delegates for their excellent contributions!

Thanks also to the BOU who sponsored 23 early-career-stage-delegates. There were 40 places, and not all were taken up. The BOU, the organizer of the last conference in Norwich, gained some money and kindly offered the sponsoring. Steve Dudley announced that there will also be sponsoring for early career researchers for the next conference in 2017.

Some new events took place by the "fledglings", a group founded by Jan Engler and Matthias Weissensteiner, aiming to improve connections between early career

researchers. They organized an editor's meeting, a fledgling pub and a competition for the best talks and posters. They also sold mugs and hope to sell T-shirts at the 2017 conference. These activities are highly welcome and will be continued at the next conference. More information can be found in facebook (see EOU website).

Another new feature was the satellite meeting of the "Migratory Landbird Study Group" held before the conference. The meeting was very successful and might become a tradition. The President encourages the delegates to think about other possible satellite symposia which could be held in the same manner.

The President announces that the website was renewed and appears now in a more attractive and timely look. The website is an important platform for communication between conferences and the delegates are encouraged to use the different structures as Facebook, Twitter, News (links), Noticeboard (positions) or Forum (discussion groups). The president also thanks the Swiss Ornithological Institute for sponsoring the new website.

The meeting is asked to raise any pertinent issues not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda and to approve the report. No issue was raised and the report was approved.

7) Election of new Officers and Council members

The past president, Tomasz Wesółowski, presents the names of the retiring, the continuing and the nominated councils.

Those retiring or resigning from Council this year are: Christiaan Both (Netherlands), Timothy Coppack (Germany, Treasurer), Olivier Duriez (France), Thomas Gottschalk (Germany), Graham Martin (United Kingdom), Alfonso Marzal (Spain), Jiří Reif (Czech Republic), Sergej Soloviev (Russia), and Māris Strazds (Latvia).

Continuing members of Council are: Barbara Helm (United Kingdom, President), Tomasz Wesółowski (Poland, Past President), Jan-Åke Nilsson (Sweden, President-elect), Susi Jenni-Eiermann (Switzerland, Secretary). Ordinary members continuing are: Daniela Campobello (Italy), Robert Matix (Hungary), Arie van Noordwijk (Netherlands), and Swen Renner (Germany).

The nominating committee (Zoltán Barta, Nikita Chernetsov, Michaela Hau, Tomasz Wesółowski) is pleased to ask the General Meeting to elect the following as new members of Council: Tamer Albayrak (Turkey), Elena Arriero (United Kingdom), Andrey Bushuev (Russia), Jan Engler (Germany), Arne Hegemann (Sweden), Marko Mägi (Estonia), Peter László Pap (Romania), James Reynolds (UK), Madelaine F. Scriba (Switzerland), Judy Shamoun-Baranes (Netherlands), and Matthias Weissensteiner (Austria). The delegates elected the proposed council members. Oliver Conz (Germany) was proposed as the new Treasurer of the EOU. The delegates elected him as new treasurer. All elections were unanimously.

8) Arrangements for future conferences

2017 conference

Toni Laaksonen from Finland extends an invitation to all members to Turku. The General Meeting welcomed the invitation and approved it. The Scientific chair will be held by Zoltán Barta.

9) Future of the EOU

- It is proposed that a participant list of the 2015 Badajoz meeting shall be circulated. Alfonso Marzal will do that.

- It is proposed to organize a childcare for families. Delegates interested in it should contact the local organizer in advance.
- The question was raised whether more species interest group meetings shall be organized. It was proposed that this kind of meetings could take place as round table discussions.
- It was asked to give the timetable of the meeting well in advance to facilitate the booking for delegates. This is possible, and had been done for Badajoz.
- Barbara Helm asked whether the delegates would like to have more notifications. Only about half voted for yes, 1 no, the rest abstained. Barbara concluded to send out notifications, but sparsely, on special subjects.

10) Any other business

No issues were raised. The General meeting was closed by the President.