

# European Same Sex Dance Association

## Minutes of General Meeting

Held on: 12 July 2007  
Held in: Antwerp, Belgium

The meeting opened at 4 pm. There were about 40 attendees.

### **Procedural issues**

1. Jacky Appleton opened the session and introduced ESSDA shortly. Then followed the introduction of the seven board members (A.Selerowicz, R.Schiller, R.Wetschka, J.Appleton, S.Vickers, D.Lange, D.Brocatus). Two other board members, B.Bleij and Nicky Milles, had resigned in the meantime. Jacky presented the agenda of the meeting: ESSDA constitution, report about the board activity, competition calendar, Thorsten´s report about competition rules, etc.
2. Csaba Csetneki and Mette Bugge proposed approving the minutes from the meeting in London (February 2007). Before this, Kees Notenboom handed voting cards to all who were present in London. Mette and Ingeborg volunteered to count votes. The minutes were accepted by the Assembly.
3. Dörte Lange and Frank Morche presented the ESSDA website ([www.essda.eu](http://www.essda.eu)) and invited all to cooperate. The ESSDA logo was created, many activities are planned (photo gallery, videos, forum, etc).
4. Concerning the competition calendar, it was stressed that ALL dance competitions can be published on the ESSDA Website (also outside Europe, in order to give all dancers a chance to be well informed).

### **ESSDA Constitution**

5. Roswitha, who was especially involved in this topic, presented the latest version of the constitution (draft No 7). The full text was sent by email to all from the tc dance list before the meeting.
6. Roswitha proposed discussing four main chapters: art 4. (Introduction and Summary, decision procedure, art. 2 about location, art. 9, 10, 11 about missions and goals, art. 12 about membership.
7. Mette brought up the subject of LGTB wording (art. 10) but accepted that no changes in the text should be made right now.
8. Kees made a proposal concerning a renewal and continuity of the board (art. 19.8). Acc. to Ralf formulation, the respective chapter should be changed into "... members of the board are elected on a rolling basis". More details will come in the Bylaws. The proposal passed.
9. After the article about ordinary, extraordinary, associate and honorary members was introduced by Roswitha (art. 12, summary: *Everybody can*

- be a member of ESSDA and will be included in the information flow, but only European individuals and clubs/organizations can become ordinary members with the right to vote*), Richard Lamberty from the USA asked why he had to be an extraordinary member while a proposal made in London allowed ALL to become ordinary members? Tori Leach supported the idea that also associated members should have the right to vote. Jacky read minutes from London “*we should focus on the establishment of a European same-sex dance association*”. After a small discussion and Ralf’s explanation that ordinary membership of ESSDA is reserved for Europeans only, while ALL people from overseas are welcome to join ESSDA and become e.g. extraordinary members, the voting proposal was finally withdrawn. Richard was satisfied with his status.
10. Voting about art. 10 (rolling principle for the next election of board members) was carried (26 votes in favor, no against and no abstentions). The text of the article passed.
  11. Kees opposed the present wording of “leader and follower” in art. 11.6 about Missions and Goals. Various people attended a discussion (Diana Voigt: “new terminology should be supported for educational purposes”, others said “too detailed” and “this does not belong in the constitution”. Sabine Karko proposed that we in general should work towards a neutral language.
  12. A voting proposal was made that the present wording stays as it is in the draft (art. 11.6). In favor were 14 persons, 9 against and 1 abstention. The proposal carried.
  13. Kees proposed that the chairperson should be always elected by the Assembly. Andrzej explained that a chairperson elected among the board members had the best overview about the planed agenda and targets of the meeting. Kees insisted on voting and suggested a following proposal for art 17.4.1: “general meeting will appoint the chairperson (for the next general meetings)”. In favor were 4, against 16, abstentions 4. The proposal for the change was not carried.
  14. London was suggested as a temporary location of the ESSDA. The lawyer who proofread the constitution draft and many practical reasons spoke up for this. Nobody opposed.
  15. Finally, a voting about the entire text of the constitution was suggested. The result: 23 in favor, 1 against, 1 abstention. The ESSDA constitution was accepted.

### **Bylaws**

16. Organizations with more than 99 members which join ESSDA will have two votes (acc. to the ESSDA constitution). Many persons asked why? Ralf: some want to become individual members, some (e.g. the club Pinkballroom Berlin) can become extraordinary members. Kees question: all possible sport organizations? Ralf answered: actually, yes.

17. More details will be presented in the bylaws meant as a part of the constitution. This work is in progress. The board decided to introduce the constitution in this status in order to get a chance to continue its activities.

### ***Competition calendar***

18. Jacky explained that no sanctioning (synonym: approval) of any competitions was planned at the moment. Any competition could be put on the calendar.

### ***Membership fee***

19. ESSDA accrues some expenses like fees for the website, registration at the state office, printing costs of flyers etc. Roswitha suggested two possibilities of the membership fee: either everyone pays 10 euro upon becoming a member, or the board should wait half a year while looking for a possible sponsorship (action initiated by Sharon). All agreed (no voting) to wait first and to decide about collecting a membership fee at the next General Meeting.
20. Sharon volunteered to become Treasurer.

### ***Miscellaneous***

21. Mette asked to solve the problem of the two Richards who recently accused ESSDA of "sanctioning" the competitions (which was not true).
22. Csaba explained that the time collision between competitions in Budapest and in Nijmegen on October 13th, was an example for the negotiation role of the ESSDA board.
23. Due to the lack of time (the Opening Ceremony of the EuroGames should begin shortly), Thorsten Reulen should introduce his suggestions towards competition rules by mailing them to the tc dance mail list.
24. Roswitha encouraged everyone to join ESSDA and fill in the membership application forms. Kees should collect them during the dance competition.
25. The meeting closed at 6 pm.

Minute taker: Andrzej Selerowicz