

**ESSDA AGM 29th July 2009 7pm start.
DGI - Byen COPENHAGEN**

Present: 32 Ordinary Members; 6 Delegates from Extraordinary Members; 3 Associate Members.
Apologies from Niels Menge and Davy Brocatus (board members)
Minutes Jacky Logan.

1. Introduction - *Doerte Lange* welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced the Board.

2. Past Minutes – *Doerte Lange* invited members to approve the Minutes from the Antwerp AGM meeting in 2007 and the notes from the shortened AGM in Barcelona 2008. *Tori Leach* approved the minutes and *Frank Morche* seconded this.

3. Secretary Report - *Jacky Logan* presented the report charting the progress of ESSDA during the last year.

- Substantial informative website.
 - Affiliation to other LGBT sports and dance competition organisations.
 - Bylaws and constitution complete and available on website.
 - 15 queries and issues responded to by the board.
 - Currently 148 members from 11 different countries
 - Election 2009 follows a rolling system and elected 4 new board members.
 - 3 subcommittees for competition rule, championships and promotion/publicity.
- Doerte Lange* asked the meeting if they would like the secretary report available on the website, the meeting agreed. **Doerte to action this**

4. Treasurers Report - *Ralf Schiller* presented the Financial Report in Davy Brocatus absence.

Into the ESSDA account

- Loan Davy Brocatus 150 Euro
- Donation Doerte 36 Euro 19 cents
- Donation Doerte 115 Euros

Out of the account

- Membership EGLSF 130 Euros
- Membership FGG 36 Euro 19 cents
- Banking costs Dexia Belgium 12 Euro 87cents
- Printing costs Outgames leaflets 115 Euros
- Membership of GLISA is free

Account Balance is now 7.13 Euros

The financial report will be available on the website

Ralf Schiller proposed that the meeting accept an annual charge of 10 Euros per year to be charged from next year. ESSDA needs to raise a charge from members as the organisation cannot be effective without funds. Discussion followed.

Penny Johnson: How many Extraordinary members and how that would affect the votes. How would they pay?

Ralf Schiller: 20 euros for orgs with up to 99 members, 30 for those with over 99 members. There are currently 6 Extraordinary members. They are allowed 1 vote per delegate. Clubs with over 99 members can have 2 delegates. Members of those organisations have to join ESSDA as ordinary members to vote personally.

Peter Hall: Will it put people off?

Heather Gladding: It has not put people off in the UKSSDC, not lost members.

Angela Brooks: Membership of GLISA for no Euros was well worth it.

Sonja Furya: speaking from the point of view of the North American Association it is cheap.

Vernon Kemp: clarified that the members set the fee each year, so the control is in the member's hands.

Ralf Schiller proposed that the meeting agrees to adopt the membership fee specified in the Bylaws, to be collected from next year. VOTING: Unanimous decision to agree this.

3. (Follow up of that agenda item) Annual Board Report - presented by Female Co-president Doerte Lange.

This will also be posted on the website. Main points

Doerte Lange explained that she has a system for communication and collecting the board decisions.

ESSDA has voting rights in EGLSF, FGG and GLISA.

Representatives from ESSDA have attended conferences of the EGLSF and FGG. Representatives will attend the FGG follow up conference in September. Doerte manages the website together with Frank Morche and thanked him for being the webmaster, creating the discussion forum and creating the mechanisms for the website.

Vernon Kemp and Doerte Lange attended the Outgames sports reception. Three of the board have been involved in setting up the German national Dance sport organisation DVET. *Doerte Lange* thanked the Outgoing board members Jacky Logan for keeping the board to their schedules and thanked Ralf Schiller for his work on the Board.

5. Election of Board Members. *Jacky Logan* introduced the new Board Members, Hadass Armon (UK) and Angelo Berbotto (UK). The invites for candidates were sent out in May. Only two new candidates were nominated so they are elected unopposed.

Mary Matthew: asked for clarification of the system?

Vernon Kemp explained that the rolling system means that on an uneven year 3 board candidates will stay on the board for a further year. 4 came off, 2 declared their availability for re-election (*Davy Brocatus* and *Doerte Lange*), 2 did not

(Jacky Logan and Ralf Schiller) and there were 2 newly nominated candidates. As there were 4 candidates and 4 vacancies, all candidates were elected unopposed. The New Board members were asked to join the Board at the table.

6. Items carried over from the meeting in Barcelona

a. Rules and Guidelines – presented by Thorsten Reulen (Chair of this sub-committee). There have been big problems drawing up guidelines. There was work that needed doing urgently for the Eurogames in Barcelona and there was no opportunity to meet with the dance organisers. Several attempts were made, and in the end the organisation was taken over two weeks before the competition by a couple who worked with ESSDA board members to make it happen. This did not leave enough time to produce competition rules for consultation, so a special draft was made for Barcelona.

The Outgames is different as it was run by other rules, not European rules because they are 'World Games'

There are two ideas; one is to make rules for the Eurogames that are more specific and strict, but also to create a framework which is much broader which everyone can use to create competitions in each of the countries. Thorsten attended the EGLSF Annual General Assembly in March in the Hague and talked to some EGLSF functionaries and representatives of other sports. In this committee Thorsten would like to work with organisers of competitions of at least 4 countries.

The next Eurogames is in Rotterdam (2011) and Budapest (2012)

Roswitha Wetschka: Can more nationalities be involved in construction the rules, at the moment it is only German, Dutch and English?

Vernon Kemp: We are suggesting that Thorsten contact organisers of other competitions in Europe and ask other organisers across the world to read them. It's very difficult to work on this when different countries have their own idea of what is the normal practice, for instance the repechage or 'second try' this is normal for the Dutch but never happens in England. An example is that Thorsten and Vernon were reading the same rule and only discovered recently that they understood different things by it. We now have an opportunity to put it right, but will create opportunity and rely on members to contribute.

Sonja Furya: what is the feeling about having the same rules across the world?

Doerte Lange: This is a good idea. We can work together from the start. The Board is willing and interested in this idea.

Jens Neuman: Why not use the IDSF rules. Everybody understands them?

Vernon Kemp: There is a problem with IDSF and WDC. We do not want to get involved in rules where some can enter and some cannot. We need a more basic set of guidelines. ESSDA imagined that there would not be a problem in Copenhagen, but there has been feedback that this is not the case. If the rules are too strict, then people will start running competitions outside the rules.

Jens Neumann: agreed that the base should be the same.

Jacky Logan: Asked for a vote to agree that Thorsten is charged with involving competition organisers in pursuing the two outlined paths of action.

Mary Logan: asked for clarification of where we are at in the process?

Jacky Logan: the rules in their current form were posted on the forum website for comments from members. They are now being considered when creating further drafts.

Jacky Logan proposed that Thorsten is charged with involving competition organisers in pursuing the two outlined paths of action. VOTING unanimously agreed.

b. PR and Marketing Committee has now been re-named Publicity and Promotion Committee. There is no report as Davy (chair of this sub-committee) is absent from the meeting.

Mary Mathews: At the Outgames there was an outreach programme to involve and support new participants from countries that have not participated before. Could ESSDA create something like this?

Doerte Lange: agreed that the Board would look into establishing an Outreach Programme

c. Championship Committee Ralf Schiller (chair of this committee) made the point that there is no work for this committee at the moment as the line of action had been to talk with EGLSF to call the Eurogames competition the European Championships (this is what happens with the swimming competition) and to do the same with the Outgames/Gay games. The idea is to call them the World Championships and make them an open competition, therefore not having representatives chosen from certain countries. It's too early to do this until all countries who are participating have a National Body to appoint these people. There is now a Dutch, German and UK national body and other ones throughout the world such as the North American association and the Pan Pacific.

d. Website *Doerte Lange* (Chair of this committee) invited any comments

Angela Brooks: Suggested that there should be mutual links on the website to these other organisations. *Doerte Lange* agreed to look into this.

e. Presentation of the Bylaws. Vernon Kemp (Chair of this committee).

The Bylaws are a way of managing the constitution. They have been gone through painfully word by word and agreed by the current board. They have been on the website. They do not need to be voted on by members, but if any members are concerned by anything, they can contact the board who will consider making changes. The constitution is different. This needs 25% of members to vote for changes. Vernon explained that the Bylaws were not written in absolutely correct English. This is because they have been constructed by people from different nationalities and cultures and the wording is a kind of European type of English that can be understood by most Europeans. *Doerte* agreed to work on it in German.

Peter Hall: was concerned that 17% of members are needed for the meeting to be quorate. We are just quorate today and as we grow this will become more difficult.

Vernon Kemp: the reason it was set so high in the first place was to suggest that the members are running the Association and that it is not being controlled by the Board.

Peter put a motion to the meeting to reduce it to 5%. This was seconded by Ralf.
VOTING: unanimous decision to reduce the % needed to be quorate at a meeting from 17% to 5%. The board will make these changes by the next board meeting.

7. Motion from Vernon Kemp “ESSDA approach the EGLSF with a strong plea for them to negotiate for one set of World Games”

Vernon Kemp summarised the reasons. The point has been made to Essda by lots of dancers. Having two games splits the World dance community. People from countries a great distance away have spoken to Vernon and cannot afford to travel to do both. It is not fair on countries like America & Australia to have to come to Europe.

Sonja Furya: offered to approach the North American Board to stand with ESSDA on this.

Thorsten Reulen: At the Berlin Christopher St Day 15 metres of signatures were collected to ask to bring it back to one set of games. *Doerte Lange:* This banner was given to FGG and GLISA representatives at the conference “the future of LGBT Sports and Culture” on Monday. About 30 athletes of different countries attended this conference and were in favour of this.

Angela Brooks: was in Australia 2.5 years ago and had links with the dancers there. Only 2 out of 11 who said they were coming have made it.

Ralf Schiller: There are couples from Thailand who are in the same situation.

Doerte Lange: queried why the motion was just to EGLSF and not FGG and GLISA. *Vernon Kemp:* argued that motions have to be simple to work well. EGLSF are the European umbrella organisation for all sport. EGLSF need to know the opinion of member organisations such as ESSDA. It is evidence that they are speaking on our behalf at future discussions. There is no reason why we should not go direct to FGG and GLISA as well.

Heather Gladding: we should vote with our feet and boycott the games.

Vernon Kemp: This is difficult as the people organising this are our friend and colleagues and members of ESSDA. We would not want to upset our members. Nothing will happen to 2015 or 18 so there will be plenty of time for discussion.

VOTING: unanimous decision to pass the above motion.

8. A.O.B.

Penny Johnson: Is there a process to bring a formal complaint about a competition. *Vernon Kemp:* Within the competition rules there is a requirement for a competition to have a competition desk where comments can be passed to the organisers. Not all competitions have them.

Can members communicate with ESSDA if there have been concerns about organisation of the Outgames competition for instance – Double finals and repechage.

Vernon Kemp: This competition was not run by ESSDA rules. Even the judges did not know this was going to happen. It is in the wide draft competition rules as a possibility because Netherlands have this as a normal part of their competitions. It is sometimes called Re-dance. It is difficult because different

people understand this in different ways. If we have a re-dance in England it means there was something wrong and the dance has to be done again.

Cristel Andeweg: How do you call the reprocharge in England? *Vernon Kemp:* we do not have it. There are good reasons for it in certain competitions so that people do not come a long way to just dance one round. We all have to work together in a way to understand the different approaches. There is a plan to make a series of definitions in the rules once they are in place. *Doerte Lange:* This is the reason why the guidelines have to be very wide and will encourage competition organisers to define exactly their rules in advance.

Heather Gladding; competitions should post their timetables earlier to avoid the problem of competitions overlapping.

Yvonne Settle: raised the problem of timetable changes meaning that people may not have entered certain competitions. *Vernon Kemp:* The Board of ESSDA wrote very strong emails to the competition organisers about this, however if the timetable is too specific it makes it hard to run. It should be scheduled in blocks.

Angela Brooks: There were also problems with people having to dance in two levels above. *Carly Haslem:* We had to move from C to A.

Ralf Schiller: You can always let ESSDA know your views and complaints. It enables us as the board to act on member behalf.

Angelo Berbotto: Where can people complain?

Vernon Kemp: GLISA or PANDANS are the competition organisers. It's always helpful to have opinions to ESSDA too. *Doerte Lange:* Invited any other business – there was none.

Close of meeting. *Ralf Schiller* thanked everybody for coming and the meeting closed at 8.50pm.