



ESSDA AGM 2012 Minutes

Saturday 25th August 2012, Skype meeting

Attending: Heather Gladding, Dörte Lange, Hadass Armon, Davy Brocatus, Frank Morche, Bradley Stauffer-Kruse, Sören Stauffer-Kruser, Tori Settle, Yvonne Settle, Jocelyn Pearson, Jo Chilvers, Diana Vinke

Not being able to participate due to connection failure: Mette Bugge, Kees Notenboom
The quorum of 5% of the members was reached.

Chair: Hadass Armon, Co-President

Attendees were warmly welcomed by our Co-Presidents to the Annual General Meeting 2012 held via Skype. The Chair proposed to move agenda item 8 – Election of board members – to the beginning of the meeting.

Election of board members

Three board members were not standing for re-election: Ursula Hegglin, Thorsten Reulen and Andrzej Selerowicz. A word of appreciation and thanks for these members and their work was expressed by the Chair, and supported by the attendees.

Four candidates had put themselves forward for election to the Board: Frank Morche, Kees Notenboom, Frank Röpke and Diana Vinke. Since there were four vacancies the Chair proposed to elect all four of them to the Board. This proposal was accepted unanimously. At the next Board meeting (within 3 weeks of the AGM) the available positions within the Board (Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and General Member) will be discussed and divided.

Due to illness the Secretary was not able to join the meeting. So the Chair asked if one of the newly elected board members could take the minutes of this AGM. Diana volunteered.

Approval of the minutes pertaining to the Annual General Meeting 2011

The minutes of the 2011 AGM had been emailed to all ESSDA members and had been posted on the ESSDA website as well, together with the agenda for this meeting. The Chair asked whether there were any comments or questions related to the minutes. Since there were not, a vote to approve the minutes was proposed by Davy and seconded by Heather. They were accepted unanimously.

Annual Report 2011-2012 by the Secretary

Due to absence of the Secretary the Annual Report 2011-2012 could not be read. This report will be sent to ESSDA members by email as part of the minutes, within three weeks of this AGM.

Financial Report 2011-2012 by the Treasurer

Davy read out the Financial Report 2011-2012 in brief. The main sources of income were the ESSDA competition license for the European Championships in Budapest and membership fees. The largest costs were for the preparation / organisation of these championships. 2011-2012 is closed with a positive result of €559,42.

There was general agreement with the financial report. It was requested, though, to receive a copy of the full report. A copy of the report will be included in the minutes of this AGM.

Changing Statutes (outcome of the Annual General Meeting 2011 & General Meeting 2012 Budapest)

This issue was about changes in the bylaws. Davy pointed out that even though the board does not need approval from their membership they want to bring up any changes in the AGM because they value support of and agreement from the ESSDA members with changes in the bylaws.

A first concrete change was proposed. The board would really like to enhance commitment and participation of individual dancers and supporters. One way of achieving this may be to increase the number of individual ESSDA members. In order to encourage individuals to become an ESSDA member Davy proposed to add an option to the current situation: ask the national representative bodies to charge €5,- extra for their membership fee and pay these extra €5,- per individual to ESSDA. In return for this, every individual member of a national representative body will also be an ESSDA member, with voting rights and benefits related to e.g. competition fees. Davy asked whether attendees agreed with the proposed change. In general the response was that a check with the board of the national representative bodies was needed first. Then Davy proposed to do this and send the proposal to the national bodies. The board will put this on the agenda of the next board meeting.

A second concrete change Davy proposed to have European Championships every year, so also in the two years when there are no EuroGames (the 4-year schedule is EuroGames – EuroGames – Outgames – Gay Games). In these years the European Championships could be organised by the bigger same-sex dance competitions and circulate around Europe. The board proposes to do so by means of an open bid. There is unanimous agreement with this proposal. The board will put this on the agenda of the next board meeting.

A third proposal pertains to the competition rules and was already brought up at the GM in Budapest. Many 35+ couples compete in the 35+ as well as the 18+ competitions so in both these competitions the couples are the same to a large extent. That is why it was proposed to add another age category, for example 40+ or 45+. Davy and Hadass had discussed this proposal prior to the AGM and would like to bring up another proposal: before changing the competition rules, first experiment with this additional age category at one or two of the larger competitions in Europe to see if there is enough body for this extra age category and if it affects participation in the 35+ and 18+ competitions. This proposal gets full agreement. It will be on the agenda of the next board meeting.

EuroGames <=> European Championships 2012 Budapest Evaluation

Davy did the evaluation of the European Championships 2012 Budapest. First he gave Hadass a big compliment for the very good job she had done, which was supported unanimously. The final figures for Budapest were not that good, even though the fee for the adjudicators had been lowered and the license fee had been reduced to 50%. Given the circumstances the competition was OK, despite the abundant presence of all the security. It was a pity, though, that we could not convince more

couples to enter the dance competition, and some countries really were underrepresented, in terms of competing couples as well as representatives. It seems there was some lack of confidence and trust whereas ESSDA only supports dance events if everything is really in place. A remark by a UK attendee about strong support and participation from the UK was wholeheartedly agreed on.

IFSSDA

Davy and Hadass sat together with NASSPDA in October to discuss a new constitution and bylaws. This is a very difficult process due to the differences in laws. About 80% of the work has been done now, though the remaining 20% may take up quite some time. Small things, e.g. amendments, need to be sorted out. The communication with the country & western dance association (IAGLCWDC) turns out to be problematic. Davy would like to have finished this job by the end of 2012. The answer to a question from Dörte about the legal form of IFSSDA was that Davy has to check this but it is something quite similar to ESSDA. Heather observed that there is not anything concrete yet.

Goals & Plans 2012 - 2013

- Changing membership fee ESSDA 2012 – 2013
See above: discussed as part of 'Changing Statutes' (1st proposal)
- Opening Bid for European Championships 2013
See above: discussed as part of 'Changing Statutes' (2nd proposal)
- Complete the constitution for IFSSDA (see above)
- ESSDA approved competitions 2012-2013
Davy introduces this topic. When organisers are new to same-sex dance competitions (e.g. Les Gais Musette) they try to follow up all the rules and turn to ESSDA for any questions, which is fine. We need to make clear to people what they can expect and at the same time we need to protect the level and quality of our same-sex competition. Therefore Davy proposes to introduce an ESSDA-label for ESSDA approved competitions and only give this label if organisers actually apply the rules and criteria. Of course some kind of check or control mechanism is needed. All agree with this proposal. Dörte points out that this might be an opportunity to re-establish the ranking system (Thorsten's and Andrzej's effort). The board will discuss how to proceed at their next board meeting.
- World Championships 2013
The goal is to organise World Championships at the Outgames in Antwerp next year, under the auspices of ESSDA (NASSPDA will follow up on this at the Outgames in Cleveland in 2014). Negotiations are still on. The venue for the Outgames dance competition has changed: it will be the Hilton Hotel. The execution of the contract and the organisation of the competition will be done by Metropolis Dance Sports Club. Davy is in touch with them on a regular basis.
Related to Cleveland 2014: Dörte tells that a delegation from Gay Games 2014 Cleveland were on a trip across Europe and visited some cities, so Cologne, too, and talked to some co-organisers of Gay Games Cologne 2010 (Dörte and 3 others). The impression is the organisation of the next Gay Games dance competitions is in time and they have good contacts with NASSPDA. With Armin Lohrmann from Cologne they now have a dancer in the FGG Board (Officer at Large). He was elected one week ago at the AGA of the FGG at Sofia. He wants to bring forward the 1QE project.

Q & A

Heather suggests something like a Newsletter for the communication from the board, not necessarily or only about what has been achieved but also about what is happening, keeping in touch about what is going on European wide. This suggestion is received well, though this needs somebody who takes up the pen. Maybe one of the new board members wants to.

The meeting is closed with mutual thanks between the board and attendees.