

Minutes ESSDA AGM 2018

Friday 10th August 2018, Paris

Attending: Patrice Naudier, Kai Lillebo, PJ (Trix) MacLeod, Davy Brocatus, Marc Schleuter, Ralf Schiller, Santra Rinne, Piia Korpi, Tom Dane, Pete Meager, Malcolm Hill, Yvonne Settle, Tori Settle, Patrick Sharkey, Benjamin Soencksen, Armin Lohrmann, Dorte Lange, Thorsten Reuben, Kerstin Kallmann, Judith (CH), Cornelia Wagner, Stef Garasto

Chair: Davy Brocatus, Co-President

1. Opening and welcome

All attendees are welcomed by Co-President Davy Brocatus (BE), on behalf of the ESSDA board, to the AGM at the Gymnase Japy in Paris. Voting has already taken place and attendees are informed that the voting count will take place during the latter part of the AGM.

2. Approval of ESSDA 2017 AGM minutes

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Davy asks if there were any comments or questions pertaining to the minutes. There are not. The minutes are accepted.

3. Annual report 2017-18

Likewise, the annual report was circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Davy invites comments and questions. There are none. The annual report is accepted.

4. Annual Financial Report by the Treasurer

Marc Schleuter (DE) presents the financial report. Marc suggests that part of the outreach fund be allocated to new competitors, to encourage participation. He asks if there are comments. There are none. The financial report is accepted.

5. Budget 2018-19

Marc informs the group that there is no firm budget yet, but rather a forecast. This is because there are many budgetary uncertainties pertaining to the Rome Eurogames in 2019, for example, a lack of clarity around whether a contract or licence fee will need to be paid.

6. The future (tasks) of ESSDA

- a) Davy thanks Patrice Naudier (FR) and the Paris team for organising such a successful competition.
- b) Davy confirms that there will be a dancesport event at the 2019 Rome Eurogames. He also briefly summarises the other upcoming championships: Dusseldorf 2020; Copenhagen 2021; Hong Kong 2022.
- c) Davy proposes a discussion on the future tasks, direction and purpose of ESSDA. He gives an overview of the five pillars of work identified by the ESSDA board members, to serve as a starting point: Sanctioning, Liaising, Supporting, Organising, Community Building.

- d) Pete Meager (UK) suggests that the final pillar (community building) is the most important.
- e) Patrice agrees, noting the value added by international couples' participation at the Eurogames who relied on the outreach fund to attend.
- f) Dörte Lange (DE) asks for ESSDA and other IFSSDA member groups to reach out to Asian and Australian same-sex dance federations.
- g) Kerstin Kallmann (DE) suggests competitions are an important focus for ESSDA, and that such a focus would support the community building task, as competitions are the meeting place for dancers.
- h) Benjamin Soencksen (USA) states that IFSSDA did reach out to these groups but had no response. They can try again. He furthermore requests that we move forward with IFSSDA, noting that it has yet to be fully ratified as a legal entity.
- i) Kai Lillebø (NO) proposes that ESSDA and member groups try to integrate more with national organisations, as these organisations are more and more incorporating same-sex dance events in their mainstream competitions. Otherwise, he feels, we risk losing our identity/position as leaders of same-sex dance.
- j) Tom Dane (UK) wishes to see ESSDA at the heart of the Rome competition arrangements, in order not to duplicate work.
- k) Cornelia Wagner (DE) agrees, adding that, as an organiser of the Berlin 2017 competition she feels it will be good for the Rome organisers to have someone from ESSDA to speak to and get guidance from.
- l) Davy proposes we make a resource compiling all our institutional knowledge on how to organise a competition, so new competition organisers know where to start.
- m) Pete asks: who is IFSSDA?
- n) Benjamin gives a brief history of how IFSSDA was formed in 2010 as a coalition between ESSDA, NASSPDA and IAGLCWDC but that it was not yet a legal entity.
- o) Ralf Schiller (UK) states that it would have been a good idea to invite the Rome organisers to the Paris Gay Games, so they could gain information on how things were run. Pete replies that this year wouldn't have been the best year to do that, given the tensions between ESSDA and the Paris competition organisers. Ralf suggests inviting them to another competition instead.
- p) Davy brings up the issue of high fees at this year's Games, suggesting that a fee waiver or reduction from FGG for showdance groups would be useful.
- q) Santra Rinne (FL) notes that this would be useful for couples too, particularly new competitors who may be discouraged from competing by the cost.
- r) Peter and Armin Lohrmann (FGG Member present) agree that the event is expensive, but that it always will be. That is why the scholarship fund is there.
- s) Davy concludes by presenting an overview of the working group system that ESSDA will implement, also inviting non-members to join these groups.
- t) Davy asks Kai to start the vote count, accompanied by Marc, Tom Dane (UK) and Malcolm Hill (UK).

7. Any other business

- a) Davy asks if there is any other business to discuss.
- b) Judith Wildi (CH) states that it was unclear what was the latest version of the dancesport competition timetable throughout the Games. She felt the details of this AGM were also unclear. She asks ESSDA to regularly update its website with these details, rather than relying on Facebook as not everyone uses this platform.

- c) Dörte appreciates the difficulties of communicating dance-specific information on the Gay Games website at large and agrees that the ESSDA website could have been put to good use in this regard.
- d) Pete states that GDPR regulations prevented the Paris 2018 team from getting participants' email addresses, so direct communications could not be made. He suggests that if relations between ESSDA and the Paris 2018 organising committee had been better, everything could have been communicated via the ESSDA website. He furthermore notes that he would like to receive a newsletter from ESSDA updating members on what the board is doing and what members can get involved in.
- e) Davy responds that all members received emails in advance about the meeting, along with all the relevant documentation. He notes that GDPR proves a challenge and that someone on ESSDA should work on it. He agrees that a newsletter could be a good idea.
- f) Pete asks if ESSDA has denied any membership requests. Davy and Patrice explain that a US applicant was denied ordinary membership as she was based outside of Europe. Pete asks why a US applicant was denied membership when he a member of the board is based in Israel. Davy points out that Israel is included in the list of EGLSF European countries. Pete disagrees and that the wording is unclear in the constitution and bylaws and unfair on those wishing to apply based on geographically being outside "Europe". He says it could be reviewed to include everyone.
- g) Dörte inquires about progress made on the development of showdance rules, pointing out that at the moment we have only guidelines. Kai replies that this was discussed at the last AGM, but nothing has been done on this yet.
- h) Stef Garasto (UK) asks whether any work on gender identity has been done yet, as discussed at the last AGM. Davy replies that this was to be undertaken by a working group which hasn't got underway yet. Pete would like this to be started as soon as possible.
- i) Patrice brings up the issue of a German judge being made to pull out of the competition at the last minute due to non-compliance with German DTV judging criteria, although she was complying with ESSDA judging criteria. He asks whether we need to start again with the ESSDA policies, asking who we are, who we want to be and how we would like to operate. Davy concedes that some rules may need to be changed but warns that it would be counterproductive to start again completely from scratch.
- j) Pat Sharkey (UK) discusses the lack of support received from ESSDA to ensure compliance during the competition.
- k) Kai brings up the possibility of a judges list, stating that he mentioned this idea at a past board meeting but it did not gain traction. Davy replies that it could work but would require some strategy and a framework.
- l) Dörte talks about how previous competition organisers are likely to have many judge contacts that could be shared with new competition organisers. She also acknowledges, however, that there could be data protection issues to consider around sharing judges' contact details.
- m) Ralf states that a judges list would be useful, but requests that the list be used as a reference point in emergencies only. Competition organisers shouldn't be forced to choose judges from a pre-approved list.
- n) Marc announces the election outcome:
 - o Voted in are Trix Macleod (UK), Piia Korpi (FL) and Pete Meager (UK). Not voted in are Diana Vinke (NL) and Kerstin Kallmann (DE).

- On behalf of the board Davy thanks Diana, the outgoing female co-president, for all her work for ESSDA. She has been a vital part of the team and will be missed.

Voting breakdown:

There were 55 voters at the AGM and 6 online voters. Each had up to 3 votes. There was one invalid vote with 4 candidates selected.

1. Trix Macleod (56 votes) - elected
2. Piia Korpi (39 votes) - elected
3. Pete Meager (33 votes) - elected
4. Diana Vinke (26 votes)
5. Kerstin Kallmann (24 votes)

13th August 2018

Trix Macleod, ESSDA Board Member