



Executive Committee

President: Prof. A. Shorthouse

President Elect: Prof. T. Skřička President in Waiting: Prof. G. Romano

Treasurer: Mr. M. Parker Secretary: Prof. A. Mellgren Assistant Secretary: Prof. Ronan O'Connell

Program Committee Chairman: Prof. R.J. Nicholls UEMS Representative: Prof K. Matzel Journal Representative: Prof. N. Haboubi

Minutes of the ESCP Annual General Meeting
Saturday 29 September 2007
Hilton Conference Centre, Malta

Chairperson: Prof. Anders Mellgren, Secretary

1 **Present:**

See appendix 1.

2 **President's report**

Lars Pählman welcomed everyone to the meeting, saying that he had very much enjoyed his year in office, a period during which he felt that ESCP had reached a more settled place after what had been a turbulent year.

3 **Minutes of the AGM 2006**

The minutes of the AGM which took place in Lisbon on 16 September 2006, were agreed *nem con.*

4 **Secretary's report**

4.1 **Membership Update**

Anders Mellgren reported that there are now 380 members. He apologised to those who had experienced internet problems that had resulted in difficulty in completing membership subscriptions. He emphasized that the Secretariat Office were keen to provide support at any time in order to help members complete online payment, this being to the advantage of both individual members and the Society; once online membership is completed, provided that credit card details do not change, membership can then be automatically renewed each year.

4.2 **Election of Officers**

Anders Mellgren highlighted the summary of National Representatives that were circulated, and welcomed the new incoming Representatives that had been appointed within each country with the agreement of the Council on Wednesday 26 September. New Representatives are:

- Carlo Ratto – Italy
- Xavier Delgadillo – Switzerland
- Sergii Podpriatov – Ukraine
- Peter Dawson – UK

4.3 **Sub Committee Chairmen Reports**

A report was circulated covering reports from the Scientific Chairman, Prof. John Nicholls, and from Mr. Najib Haboubi, Journal Representative. Najib Haboubi also addressed the meeting to report that some people had asked about the Impact Factor; he advised that he felt certain that this will materialise next year in 2008.



5

Treasurer's report

- 5.1 **Introduction:** Mike Parker reported that financial accounts are in a healthy position. At 31 December 2006, financial reserves were €31,683 and the estimate for the end of 2007 is projected at €162,671 which is a significant improvement.

Mr. Parker reminded Members of ESCP's core financial principles; firstly that fixed income from membership should be enough to meet fixed administrative costs. It is important to abide by this in accordance with Austrian tax laws.

The second principle is that there should be adequate funds in the bank in the event of a disaster that would result in the last minute cancellation of the annual meeting without opportunity to recoup revenues to offset against cancellation charges. The Society is working towards an adequate capital sum to cover this, but Mr. Parker reported that he estimated it would take another 2-3 years to reach an acceptable fund level. He advised that at that point, it would then be possible to exercise more flexibility on expenses such as more international speakers.

- 5.2 **Income from annual meetings:** Mr Parker outlined revenue and expenditure from previous meetings, highlighting that Lisbon had been a pleasing result with an overall profit of €43,449, and he is optimistic that Malta will yield a healthy profit also.

It was reported that income from membership for the year to date stood at €27,280, with Secretariat costs running at approximately €25,000, therefore a positive balance of €2,265.

- 5.3 **Membership rates:** Mr. Parker proposed that membership rates increase by €5 in each category. He also underlined the fact that without the legal problems of the last two years (merger and EU Trademark dispute), he is hopeful that membership rates may not need to increase for 2009.

Mr. Parker summarized by underlining main priorities to attract more corporate membership, to monitor conference venue costs carefully and to continue to increase membership.

Lars Pählman supported Mike Parker's objective to increase members, emphasizing the importance that National Representatives are more active in encouraging surgeons within their countries to join up.

6

Election of Auditors

Mike Parker advised that it was required that Members approve the re-appointment of Whitelaw Wells, the UK-based Auditors. This was approved *nem con*.

7

Report of the Chairmen of the Board of Trustees

Jens Kirsch confirmed that the Trustees had met on Wednesday 26 September. He advised that the Society was registered in Vienna in 2006 and that ESCP officially became an Austrian company from 1 Jan 2007, with a requirement that accounts must be compiled according to Austrian law.

It was reported that it had been decided not to open an Austrian bank account at the moment due to practical reasons; a UK bank account provides the facility to transact online internet payments across Europe, which is not yet possible in Austria. If the situation changes, banking will be relocated.



7 Dr. Kirsch also reported that the English version of the Constitution had been approved in Lisbon at the AGM and can be consulted on the ESCP website. The Constitution may only be altered with the agreement of two thirds of the General Assembly. Revisions must then be notified to authorities in Vienna. Dr. Kirsch also highlighted that the Rules, outlining the more practical day to day running guidelines and work in conjunction with the Constitution, were also published on the ESCP website.

Jens Kirsch asked Members to endorse the report, and this was agreed *nem con*.

8 **Endorsement of Executive Appointments**

Anders Mellgren outlined the proposed new Executive Council representatives:

- President: Andrew Shorthouse
- President Elect Tomas Skříčka
- President in Waiting: Giovanni Romano
- Secretary: Anders Mellgren
- Treasurer: Mike Parker
- Scientific Committee Chair: John Nicholls
- Assistant Secretary: Ronan O’Connell
- Journal Representative: Najib Haboubi
- EMS Representative: Klaus Matzel

These appointments were agreed by the Members present, *nem con*.

9 **Address by the Incoming President**

Lars Pählman welcomed Andrew Shorthouse as President. Prof. Shorthouse said that he was honoured to be chosen as President, and felt that both Eastern and Western representatives had been brought together over the last year, and were now singing with one voice as a united body of European Coloproctologists.

Prof. Shorthouse thanked Lars Pählman for his hard work over the last year, underlining that he had brought a tremendously stabilizing influence to the Society which was now on a strong footing. He added that he felt it had been a wonderful conference, and thanked the Secretariat for their hard work.

Prof. Shorthouse also gave thanks to Mike Parker as Treasurer, highlighting his tremendous success in gathering sponsorship funds and keeping the organization on a healthy financial footing. He also thanked Anders Mellgren for his hard work as Secretary and looked forward to working with him over the next year. Thanks were also noted to John Nicholls for his dedicated work leading the Scientific Committee.

Prof. Shorthouse said that he hoped that the future would bring unified training standards, and the establishment of recognized Centres of Excellence across Europe. He also highlighted that the ESCP website needs development.

Finally, Professor Shorthouse said that he hopes to welcome all members to Nantes next year, and that it will be every bit as successful as the meeting in Malta had been over the previous three days.



10 **Future meetings of ESCP**

- 10.1 Prof. Mellgren confirmed that the meeting next year will take place in Nantes from Wednesday 24 – Saturday 27 September 2007. Paul Lehur will be supporting activities locally.
- 10.2 The following year, a provisional booking has been made in Prague, and will be confirmed following a site inspection taking place in October 2007.

11 **Close of Meeting**

As outgoing President, Lars Pålman closed the meeting saying that it had been a tough year, with challenges in bringing together two societies. He thanked Andrew Shorthouse and Jens Kirsch for their work in bringing the merger of ECCP and EACP together. He said that he was delighted to now welcome Andrew Shorthouse as President now, and that it had been fantastic to work with the ESCP Council. He also thanked the Secretariat for their hard work, and efficiency in ensuring that nothing was forgotten during the course of the year.