

Annual General Meeting of the European Bird Census Council, Évora, Portugal

Venue: Grand Auditorium, University of Évora

Date/Time: 10 April 2019 1400-1500 hrs.

Present: 50 people were present, including 36 delegates

1. Chairman's welcome

RF welcome to everyone to the meeting

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from Hans Schmidt, Johannes Kamp, Lesley Lewis.

3. Minutes of last AGM to be available on the website

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted.

4. Chairman's report

The Chairman's report from September 2016 to April 2019 was circulated.

Briefly, the Board has kept its schedule of two meetings a year since the last conference in Halle. In addition a number of observers join the board meeting, and the organisers of the next conference are always invited to board meetings ahead of the conference. The Conference proceedings from Halle were published in record time; sincere thanks to the organisers. Bird Census News continues to be produced regularly; the forthcoming issue is on garden birds. Thanks to Anny Anselin for her excellent work on BCN. There is ongoing work on the websites; there are three project websites (PECBMS, EBP and EBBA2) and the general EBCC website. Work is required on the general EBCC website to streamline content. Thanks to all concerned esp Alana Klvaňová. The Delegates Officer maintains communication with the delegates. Currently there are 87 EBCC National Delegates from 45 countries, 3 countries have only one delegate (Azerbaijan, Georgia, Lichtenstein). Albania does not have any EBCC delegate. 53 delegates have been active since 2016 – the last EBCC conference in Halle (Saale), Germany. The last contact corresponding about EBCC for 17 delegates are on 2009 or older date. We encourage every delegate who has not done that yet to get in touch with our Delegate Officer or any other Board member to ensure that we have the correct contact details and you receive the information that we distribute. Alana Klvaňová worked on content for the network partner newsletter; we ask that the newsletter is promoted further to delegates to ensure it is read. PECBMS continues to work well, produce excellent outputs and continue technological development. The most pressing concern is to secure funding. Work on EBBA2 continues well and there is a workshop at this conference. Exciting news is that EBP launched a live viewer. There is more work to do on use of scientific data from projects; a new group will take forward research projects and proposals.

5. Financial Report for the years 2016–19

The Financial report for 2016–18 was circulated. The accounts were presented by Anny Anselin. The financial position of the EBCC at the moment is secure for the time being. The capital at the end of 2018 was €8618,56 and assets €18949,92. Costs mostly stemmed from travel costs associated with Board meetings (for delegates from institutions with limited financial resources), work in relation with the Pan-European Bird Census Monitoring project and banking costs. Costs break down as 86% for PECBMS, 13% for

board and 1% for bank. There is no current income; this used to come from data requests, especially from the first breeding atlas. We need to consider how we can generate some income in the future. The Treasury Commission (Chris van Turnhout and Koen Devos) have checked the accounts and the Treasury Commission are happy to approve the Financial Report.

6. Election of new national Delegates

Oskars Keiņš presented the update on EBCC delegates. He advises all national delegates to be more active, to respond to emails and send updates from their countries, and updated email addresses to the Delegates Officer. There were 37 delegates present at the meeting. Thanks were given to those resigning from their position as National Delegates:

Bulgaria: Svetoslav Spasov
Germany: Christoph Grüneberg
Ireland: Stephen Newton
Latvia: Viesturs Ķerus
Luxembourg: Gilles Biver
Moldova: Nicolai Zubcov
Romania: Attila Sándor
The Netherlands: Arco van Strien

The proposed new National Delegates were:

Lesley Lewis (Ireland)
Katharina Klein (Luxembourg)
Stoycho Stoychev (Bulgaria)
Johannes Kamp (Germany)
Andris Dekants (Latvia)
Vitalie Ajder (Moldova)
Zoltán Benkő (Romania)
Robert Kwak (The Netherlands)

A vote was taken (33 voted), the proposals were all agreed and we welcome the new National Delegates.

7. Election of new Board members

In spring 2018 David Noble stepped down from EBCC Board. The Board, in agreement with the letters of association, is mandated to appoint a new member and in the Board meeting of spring 2018 Mark Eaton was elected.

The following Board members wish to resign:

Ruud Foppen (The Netherlands)
Anny Anselin (Belgium)
Oskars Keiņš (Latvia)
Lluís Brotons (Spain)

We have four nominations for these positions:

Jean-Yves Paquet (Belgium)
Chris van Turnhout (The Netherlands)
Ainārs Auniņš (Latvia)
Dawn Balmer (UK)

We held a vote for each position in turn: Jean-Yves Paquet (35 votes), Chris van Turnhout (36 votes), Ainārs Auniņš (34 votes) and Dawn Balmer (35 votes).

We made proposals for the key positions as follows: Chair - Mark Eaton, Vice-Chair - Verena Keller, Secretary - Dawn Balmer and Treasurer - Chris van Turnhout. Each proposal received 36 votes and we formally ask the Annual General Meeting to elect these candidates.

Ruud Foppen gave thanks to those Board members stepping down. We thanked Oskars Keiņš for his work as Delegates Officer and preparing the newsletter, and his generous gifts of sweets and chocolate during board meetings! Anny Anselin has been on EBCC Board since 1992, and has taken on the roles of Treasurer, Bird Census News coordinator during this time. We thanked Anny for all her hard work and presented her with a beautiful painting. We thanked Luis Brotons for his work as was Data Officer and for being a driving force in research ideas and for playing an important role in projects like Euro Bird Portal. We look forward to continuing to work closely with him on research ideas. David Noble was Secretary and Vice-Chair, and although a man of few words his input was always very instructive. We thanked him for his hard work, and for the fun the Board had birdwatching and socialising with him. Each received a gift of a photographic booklet containing many memories of Board meetings and workshops.

Ruud gave a few kind words about Petr Voříšek. Although Petr will cut back his on role in PECMBS he will remain involved in EBCC. Ruud thanked him for driving forward PECBMS and leading on developments and communication of the results.

Regarding representation on the Treasury Commission Chris van Turnout will step down as he takes on role of Treasurer and Ruud Foppen will join.

8. Next Bird Numbers conference

No proposals were put forward for the next Bird Numbers conference. Please contact the Chairman if you are interested in hosting the conference. A short discussion was held and Switzerland said they are considering hosting the conference. We talked about the timing of the conference and there was no preference between spring and autumn but there was no interest in a summer meeting as this clashed with fieldwork for many.

9. Any other business

João Eduardo Rabaça spoke about the important changeover in the Board and expressed strong support for the work of the EBCC, and thanked the Board and gave good wishes to the new board members.

Ruud Foppen said this was his last board meeting and that it had been a privilege to act as Chair. He said that EBCC is a wonderful organisation, and although it was hard work being on the Board, it was also fun. He'd enjoyed the opportunity to visit interesting places and enjoy the birds, culture, food, and that socialising is important. He thanked his employed SOVON, for giving support to attend meetings and work for EBCC. He joined EBCC Board in 2001 as an observer and had held the roles of Treasurer and Chair.

Mark Eaton gave special thanks to those leaving the Board and said it had been a privilege and a joy to work with them. He thanked Ruud for his work; he had been Chair for nine years and overseen considerable growth in EBCC and development of PECBMS, EBBA2 and research. He had led us through these projects – leading teams and collaborations. Mark said it had been a pleasure to work with Ruud, and he had led Board meetings with warmth, humanity and wisdom.

Mark said he was looking forward to working with the Board, on exciting projects and working with delegates and organisations across the EBCC network. The strength of EBCC is to work together for the benefit of the birds.

Mark Eaton
Chair

Dawn Balmer
Secretary