



General Assembly of the Scandinavian-Baltic Society for Parasitology

Uppsala, Sweden, April 24th, 2015

Minutes

Persons present: See the attached list

President Brian Lassen opened the meeting and presented the agenda

1 Election of a meeting Chairman

Brian Lassen was elected chairman of the meeting

2 Acceptance of the agenda

The General Assembly (GA) read the agenda and approved. Johan Höglund wanted to propose new candidates for honorary members under AOB (Item 11 on the agenda)

3 Election of Secretary of the meeting

Ulrika Forshell was elected secretary and notetaker.

4 Election of two Members to ratify the minutes of the GA

Eva Osterman Lind and Andrea Miller were elected and accepted to ratify the minutes.

5 The Board's Business Report for the previous period (Brian Lassen)

BL summarized what's been done over the last mandate period (PPT). Society has been going through change, most ideas have been brought to our attention by our members, and several have been pursued.



- New website

A new website has been requested with easier location of info and simplified membership registration. Especially Brian Lassen has been active in pursuing and implementing this change. A Danish company, "Tegnestuen", has designed the new site. A slide featuring the new website design was shown and the new look met with approval.

- Remake of SBSP logo

The new logo was introduced (appended to these minutes) and the GA approved and voted in favour of the switch. The new logo is clear and classical, yet retains the essence of the old logo. Adam Novobilsky commented that maybe the font was suboptimal – and could be difficult to read. This comment was noted, although no action was decided.

- Undergraduate Student Stipend

A new stipend has taken shape during this mandate period and is meant for undergraduate students who need to financial support to do research work in parasitology. Two applications were submitted. The winning candidate, Zanda Esite, Latvia, aims to look more closely at *Alaria alata* in wildlife.

- Other grants

Four persons had applied for and were awarded travelling grants to attend CSBSP 6: Suranjana Nandi from India, Dovile Bukauskaite from Lithuania, Elena Platonova from Russia and Zanda Esite from Latvia. Two mobility grants were awarded, to Pille Paats from Estonia to visit the SVA laboratory in Uppsala and learn more about diagnostics, and to Rebecca Davidson to attend the CSBSP 6 and General Assembly.

- Improving management

Membership levels remain stable and the lists have been updated and consolidated into one under the supervision of Jakob Skov.

Consolidating the accounts has proven more complicated than expected. The objective has been to close all accounts and deposit what's left in the Swedish account. Then, a PayPal account would be linked to the SE account and also to the membership registration form on the new website. In this manner, Visa could be used for payments and expensive bank transaction fees could be avoided (as well as maintaining membership lists more easily and only having to keep track of the finances of one account instead of one/country). In order to be able to use PayPal as a non-profit organization, one person has to guarantee the society with a personal credit card. There are also other details



that arise in connection with this endeavor, so the Board will continue to work towards this goal and it is not known when this function can be up and running.

- Board manual

This document has been updated.

- Facebook page

The SBSP Facebook page has approximately 300 followers. - Developing Young Scientist Award criteria

Jakob Skov has put effort into clarifying the criteria for the YSA.

- Promotion of SBSP6, EMOP XII, ESCCAP Echinococcus 2014

All meetings and conferences in our area concerned with parasitology have been promoted by the Board both personally and via Facebook. For CSBSP6, postcards were printed with event information. Also, effort was made to attract sponsors to the event. The Board will continue to be involved in the organization of EMOP XII, to be held in Turku, Finland, 20-24 July 2016. Antti Oksanen is on the organizing committee with Brian Lassen and Pikka Jokelainen.

6 The Treasurer's Report of the financial situation and the Auditors' Report

Rebecca Davidson presented the Treasurer's report (appended herewith) spanning the period May 2013 to end Dec 2014. In the future it is recommended that the full 2-year period is adopted for reporting purposes. In all, the Society holds some EUR 18600 in the various accounts. Rebecca presented how this money is distributed among the accounts.

Incomes are mainly from membership fees. There seems to be some confusion as to what fee to pay, this needs to be clarified and the institutions will be contacted in cases where there has been misunderstanding.

Costs include e.g. stipends and grants, bank charges, membership in World Federation of Parasitologists, stipends and miscellaneous, e.g. flowers to honorary members.

Consolidating accounts has proven a bit challenging, and especially PayPal difficulties are not yet overcome. Another challenge concerns membership control and keeping lists updated. Members were encouraged to keep their contact information updated.

Financial report auditors agreed that it is hard to have an overview and also recommend an online system, where it is clearly evident which membership amounts should be paid.

Once accounts are consolidated, an external treasurer will be appointed to audit the books.



7 The GA's approval of the Business Report and accounts, and granting of freedom from liability for transactions performed during the preceding business period

Brian Lassen asked if the GA could relieve the Board of all responsibility for the finances of the past period, which was supported by the GA.

8 Election to fill the vacant Board posts

The old Board was thanked and vacancies need to be filled were presented. President Brian Lassen will step down and in the future function as webmaster only for the society. Secretary Ulrika Forshell will step down completely and Andrea Miller was appointed her successor (and local rep for SE) by the GA.

Board positions will be redistributed as follows:

Jakob Skov approved for President, Pikka Jokelainen for Vice President, Rebecca Davidson will continue as treasurer, Vaidas Palinauskas will continue as local representative for Lithuania, Gunita Deksnė as local representative for Latvia and Age Kärssin was elected Estonian local representative.

9 Election of two Auditors

Two auditors had previously accepted the mission and had gone through without any complaints, although the recommendation is to consolidate the accounts and develop an easier way of handling membership payments and list. It is also desirable to adopt two calendar years as the reporting period of the society.

10 Establishment of the place and time for the next GA and appointment of the organizing committee for the next SBSP meeting.

It was proposed that the next CSBSP 2017 is held in Latvia, which was approved by the GA. Gunita Deksnė will be part of the organizing committee. More information will be forthcoming on the website.

11 Other matters brought to the attention of the board

The proposed possibility of a student representative on the Board is now automatically fulfilled in this new Board. The concept is that a student representative would help to recruit new members and help them feel welcome, and better reach students with info about the society. It is also possible to form ad hoc committees if need be for special purposes.



Parasite of the year – Gunita Dekšne launched the idea of “parasite of the year” on the new website, to raise awareness of important parasites from all phyla (trematodes, nematodes, cestodes, protozoans). It is suggested that the Board could determine country and phylum, and then members could propose relevant candidates whereupon a vote would be conducted. The main and most recent info would be made available on the site, updated at regular intervals. Gunita presented our suggestion for this year – *Alaria alata*, for next year *Diphyllobotrium latum* due to EMOP 6 being in Finland. The use of historical public health material from FI was suggested for use. We could also involve media! Brian asked the audience to please feel free to share pictures for the website etc.

Jakob Skov announced the **Young Scientist Award** – Four oral presenters and two poster presenters were qualified for competing. Therefore, according to the YSA criteria and regulations made official at www.sbsp.eu ahead of CSBSP6, all six presentations were judged together and two award winners were appointed by the jury irrespective of the format (i.e. oral or poster). Hence, two oral presentations were awarded: Andrea Miller (SLU) for the presentation of her research in the Swedish rodent population pertinent to *Echinococcus multilocularis*, and Eline P Hansen (KVL), for vividly describing her research on vesicles emitted by *Trichuris suis* that exert control over the host organism. The audience award went to Eline P Hansen.

- Membership payments need to be up to speed

Brian Lassen reminded that payment shall be made in the beginning of the year for the 2 year membership fee.

- Suggestions of new honorary members

Johan Höglund suggested to nominate two honorary members: Marianne Lebbad, SMI, Arvid Uggla, SLU. Both were approved by the GA. Brian Lassen explained that honorary members have done a lot in the field and inspired others and promoted the discipline. Flowers will be sent and honorary members can attend meetings without having to pay the registration fee.

12 The president concluded the meeting.



Ulrika Forshell

Ulrika Forshell, Secretary

Andrea Miller

Andrea Miller, Scrutinizer

Eva Osterman-Lind

Eva Osterman-Lind, Scrutinizer

Brian Lassen

Brian Lassen, Chairman