

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Suiseki Association (ESA) at EBA ESA Convention in Vilnius, Lithuania

Venue: LITEXPO, Vilnius, Meeting Hall 1.2  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Time: 15.05 – 16.10 h  
Participants: Igor Bárta (president), Jesús Quintas (treasurer), Gudrun Benz (deputy secretary), Christoph Daim (board member), Martin Krivašik (web master), Šárka Čermaková, Ella Görnerová, Martina Vyhlidalova  
Excused: Vito Di Venere (vice president), Luciana Queirolo  
Language: Czech, English (translation by Martin Krivašik)  
Chairman: Igor Bárta  
Appendix: list of participants, financial report, report of the auditor

### Proceeding of the meeting

#### Point 1:

1. **Welcomes** by the president, thanks for coming to those present and thanks to exhibitors.
2. Next year's European Convention:  
20 – 22 May 2016 in Székesfehérvár, Hungary, hosted by Hungarian Bonsai Association  
Suiseki exhibition will be divided into 2 parts as it also was in Vilnius where there were two sections too (ESA + individual suiseki lovers from Austria, Slovakia...):
  - a) exhibition of ESA members and
  - b) exhibition of Hungarian Suiseki lovers (Hungary doesn't have any national Suiseki association)
3. European Convention 2017:  
It will be held together with Noelanders Trophy in Genk, Belgium in January 2017. The ESA contact person for this convention is Mr. Vito Di Venere.
4. Proposal for discussion of Igor Bárta for the future: organisation of an ESA convention separated from EBA, for example together with a national Suiseki association, for example AIAS (Italy) or Crespi Cup in order to facilitate to more Suiseki lovers to come to the venue and to exhibit Suiseki.

Objections from the assembly: ESA is a European organization and should be held its convention together with the European Bonsai Association. It is more prestigious and underlines the European community. Apart from this, ESA could always additionally participate in a regional or national Suiseki exhibition.

#### Point 2:

Unanimous approval by the assembly of the last year's minutes during the EAB ESA convention 2014 in Wroclaw, Poland

#### Point 3:

##### **Financial report of the Treasurer Jesús Quintas.**

The report was previously sent by e-mail to the board members for acknowledgement.

“The cash position at **31st December 2014 amounts 3,452.16 euros** equivalent to 2.5 years of expenses.

Comments on 2014 accounts:

At first glance, the economic affairs have performed as expected. The cash position in the year has been almost perfectly balanced, with a non-significant deficit of 57.78 euros (Budget: superavit of 50.00 euros)...

The 2015 budget contains expected income of 1,500.00 euros derived exclusively from members' fees...”

“Proposed adjustments to ESA's economic model:

“...I consider that the split between ‘e-subscriptions’ (23) and ‘postal subscriptions’ (24) achieved in 2014 points to a decrease in the requirements of printed copies. It is also to be noted that mailing expenses have significantly increased in last years in most, if not all, countries...In order to promote the option of e-subscriptions, it should be expanded the difference of fees between these two options. My suggestion is to decrease the e-subscriptions fee from 30.00 to 25.00 euros...”

Summarized proposal of Mr. Quintas:

- “- For 2016 onwards, to decrease e-subscription fee from 30.00 to 25.00 euros per year,
- to decrease the number of printed copies of Suiseki Journal in a 20 %,
- access to Suiseki Journal through ESA web page, assigning a code to every member that entitles him/her with a limited number of free downloads (up to 3, for example).

“A move to expand the use of new technologies will produce a sharp decrease of current expenses and an increase of cash position of ESA. So, there is an opportunity to think whether it should be used to expand the perception of ESA (prizes, subsidies of events, catalogues and books) or to create new services to members (electronic databases and/or libraries, online marketplace, etc.)”

Comment of G. Benz: There are higher costs of Suiseki Journal because of more colour pages. It was agreed that it is essential to have newsletter with more colour photos in order to increase the attractiveness of the newsletter.

Proposal of Mr. Bárta: Regarding the increasing costs for postage and the production of the newsletter it would be more opportune to increase the **membership fee with print-outs to 45.00 euros** and to lower the **electronic subscription to 30.00 euros**.

This proposal was accepted unanimously by the assembly.

Unanimous approval by the assembly of the financial report

#### **Point 4**

#### **Report of the auditor Mr. Marino Nikpal from 08 June 2015**

It was previously sent to board members by e-mail.

Mr. Nikpal stated that “The financial Statement (of the year 2014) was checked and verified by me and I personally assure that it coincides with the truth and it is congruent and correct...”

Unanimous approval by the assembly of the report by auditor

At the same time, the appointment of Mr. Nikpal as auditor was confirmed.

#### **Point 5**

#### **Election of board members**

The term of office has run out for Igor Bárta, Vito Di Venere and Christoph Daim.

All three were re-elected as board members by the assembly.

#### **Point 6**

#### **Miscellaneous matters**

Mr. Bárta asked for more Suiseki photos for the ESA web side.

A report about the convention in Vilnius will be made by Mr. Luboš Vilhidal.

It was suggested to put the ESA internet address into each issue of the Suiseki Journal.

The assembly was informed that an Award of Thanks was presented by the organizer to ESA at the gala dinner.

Mr. Bárta presented “Certificates of Participation” to those present.

Ms. Benz pointed out that there will be the possibility to exhibit one or two Suiseki by ESA members on occasion of the next Noelanders Trophy in Genk, Belgium on 23 and 24 January 2016. Deadline for application is on September 30, 2015. The application should be sent to Ms. Benz, e-mail: [Benz-W@t-online.de](mailto:Benz-W@t-online.de). The organizer will do a selection.

The meeting was closed at 16.10 h by Mr. Igor Bárta.

Chairman: Igor Bárta  
President of ESA

minutes recorded by:  
Gudrun Benz, Deputy Secretary