

WORLDWIDE DRAGONFLY ASSOCIATION (WDA)

Board of Trustees Meeting No 8 held at La Trobe University Campus, Beechworth, Australia

13th January 2003

MINUTES

Present: Linda Averill [LA]; Viola Clausnitzer [VC]; Mike May, Chairman [MLM]; Dennis Paulson [DP]; Gordon Pritchard [GP]; Frank Suhling [FS].

In attendance to provide information and continuity: Philip Corbet [PSC].

The meeting commenced at 16.15 h.

Abbreviation: **[PU]** passed unanimously.

MLM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence & approval of the agenda

Apologies were received from Rob Arnold [RMA]; Reinhard Joedicke [RJ]; Hidenori Ubukata [HU]. FS had asked that Item 9 be removed from the Agenda as this had now been dealt with (IUCN Working Group). *With this amendment a motion to approve the agenda was proposed by DP; seconded by FS [PU].*

3. Co-option of the Immediate Past President onto the Board of Trustees

The Chairman asked for a motion to support the co-option of the immediate Past President (PSC) onto the Board of Trustees. It was confirmed that the co-option would be an interim measure pending the membership's acceptance of the change to the constitution. *The motion for co-option of PSC on to the Board was proposed by GP; seconded by LA [PU]*

4. Minutes of the 7th Board Meeting held on 8th January 2003

The motion to accept the minutes as an accurate record was proposed by FS; seconded by VC [PU]

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising at this time.

6. Agrion

LA suggested that the Board clarified and firmed up the discussion that had been going on via email concerning the circulation of *Agrion*. There would be great savings in having *Agrion* available to download from the website rather than sending out paper copy. The printing costs are £270 per annum, plus a small amount for postage costs. There will also be savings for those members who have

helped WDA extensively in the past by providing postage services, Goren Sahlen, Vicky McMillan and Wolfgang Schneider who has provided labels.

LA proposed the motion that Agrion is made available to all members on publication, on the WDA secure website. Members who still wish to take Agrion as a hard copy by mail must request that option from the Secretary. Seconded by DP[PU]

7) Direction of WDA Conservation

Since taking up post as Chairman of the CFC, FS has clearly defined guidance for the committee and decided criteria for awarding grants. There is however very little money available for making grants, about 800 Euros per annum. FS suggested that a more sensible use of this money would be to make the symposia more attractive to students and to enable more students and young people to attend. At this point MLM said it might be sensible to look at the next agenda item, sponsored membership in conjunction with the present item. Queries that he would have on both of these issues are:

- Would it be seen as a charitable action
- Would what we are discussing mean a change in the Constitution

PSC thought that provision was already made in the Constitution for these actions. (The Constitution was checked at this point and it was confirmed that it would cover us using funds in the way FS proposes). VC confirmed that with a limited amount of money available she would be in favour of supporting students by giving a prize of some description and by sponsoring travel bursaries to students from Third World countries. GP clarified that in the past the Conservation Fund had been a separate amount of money to that made available for sponsorships for the Symposia. Monies made available to the Symposia Organisers seemed to be at the discretion of the Treasurer as it had varied from one Symposium to another.

FS proposed that because the 800 euros given to the Conservation Committee is not enough to support either a research project or to pay travel costs in most cases, it should be made use of to fund other activities, and he made 4 suggestions:

1. Sponsored memberships
2. Supporting delegates from undeveloped countries to attend the Symposium
3. Student registrations for the Symposium
4. A fixed amount for a student prize for a conservation project

PSC said that Board members would need to know in advance how much money is available thus removing the uncertainty, and if the Treasurer was aware of the priorities of the Board he could propose a budget to cover the four activities discussed which could then be approved by the Board. There followed a discussion about the awarding of a prize; the Chairman suggested that the committee make a decision about a WDA Prize and how much the prize should be, and if we decided to move forward with the idea that FS and the CFC committee be asked to look at the mechanisms (perhaps using the Entomological Society of Canada as a model) and procedures needed to set this up and report back to the Board by September 2003.

PSC proposed that the WDA institute a prize and that the Prize carries the name of the WDA and the wording 'excellence' and 'conservation' be used. Seconded by GP. This was amended by PSC adding that the amount to be given as a prize should commence at not less than \$/Euro 200. In the first instance the award will be awarded biannually. [PU]

Action FS & CFC

GP queried the 2002 accounts circulated for the BGM and it appears that we have over £13,000 in our bank account which is an increase of over £3000 over the previous year. Without the treasurer present it was unclear what our financial commitments were other than IJO. PSC said that as we seem to financially sound we should perhaps reconsider funding conservation projects. VC said that the IUCN were looking for funding to produce a world-wide dragonfly report and this may be something that WDA could consider funding. PSC suggested that a special issue of IJO might be used for this purpose. The Chairman expressed concern that we need to involve the new Treasurer in these discussions and get some firm figures as to the availability of funds before we allocate percentage amounts. MLM will contact David Fitch and report to FS within 3 months and as soon as there are figures available MLM will make a proposal to the Board for decision on the amounts of funding available for particular activities.

Action MLM, DF

8) Sponsored Membership

GP said although we had discussed sponsored membership and decided that it did not cost the organization a great deal, it would have a cost implication if the member being sponsored could afford to pay and there is a need for some type of criteria. MLM said that he would like people from underdeveloped countries to be able to become members but there is the possibility that the system could be abused. It was suggested that as a starting point we need an exclusion list of countries that we would not offer sponsored memberships to. After discussion a motion was proposed by DP; seconded by PSC:

In applying for sponsored membership the person concerned gives an indication of a continuing interest in Odonata and suggests a WDA member who would be willing to recommend their application. Sponsored members can also be suggested by any member of WDA. A sponsored membership will initially be approved by the Board and will be renewed annually at the discretion of the Board, providing the member shows continuing interest in odonatology and that the finances of WDA allow continuation. Sponsored membership does not include the journal but sponsored members may pay a token amount of US\$10 to receive the IJO. Applications should be made initially to the WDA Treasurer. [PU]

The decision was made to advertise this on the WDA website and let members know through *Agrion*.

Action LA, DF, RA

MLM proposed that we offer sponsored membership to Carlos Esquivel, in accordance with the criteria we had just decided. This was seconded by PSC [PU]. MLM will contact Carlos Esquivel.

10) Transfer of the management of mailing/members lists

LA informed the committee that the mailing/members list had historically been administered by Wolfgang Schneider and he had indicated that he would be passing this back to the secretary in 2003, and she took that to mean the beginning of 2003. LA does not foresee any problems in transferring these lists to the UK and in some respects welcomes the change. FS offered to look at the mailing list as he knows that some European names are wrongly entered and he thought we should rectify this while we have the opportunity to do so.

Action LA, FS

VC said she had been approached by a member after the BGM who said he would like to see details of membership figures and trends made more available. VC said she would be happy to make a presentation to the next BGM. LA will, in the meantime write a short piece for *Agrion*. LA pointed out that there had been a lot of interest in membership at the symposium with 2 new single memberships and a potential affiliated membership, as well as 2 members paying their 2002 and 2003 memberships.

There was discussion about paying with credit card. LA explained that it would be expensive to administer this through the UK but she was going to ask David to see what the cost would be in the USA and whether it would be possible to make a surcharge to members for using credit cards.

Action LA, VC

11) Management of the Euro account

The account held in Germany for payment in euros has historically been administered by Wolfgang Schneider. He has now given notice that he will be unable to continue after the 4th Symposium in 2005. PSC suggested that we should ask Wolfgang to name a successor, and Linda suggested that she could appeal for a volunteer through *Agrion*.

Action LA, WS

12) Collect contact details of new trustees

Contact details for DP were confirmed.

13) New Trustees to sign labels for minute book

LA obtained signatures from DP and FS for the minute book

14) Any Other Business

LA circulated the UK Charity Commission's Trustees newsletter. MLM took it and to return to LA.

15) Date of the next meeting

To be decided, but provisionally at the 4th Symposium in Spain in July, 2005
MLM thanked members for their participation and valued contributions and closed the meeting at 18.00 h.

Chairman:

Date: