

MINUTES OF THE S.I.O. BUSINESS MEETING MARIBOR, JULY 14TH, 1997

CHAIRMAN: WERNER PIPER

The meeting started at 16.25 h.

1. Appointment of Minute Recorders: Vicky McMillan, Janet Rith and Ronnie Silsby were appointed Minute Recorders.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Essen Business Meeting: These were unanimously accepted.

3. Approval of Agenda: With one modification, approval was proposed by Heinrich Lohmann, seconded by Reinhard Jödicke and carried unanimously.

4. Election of Members of Honour: The election of Dr Norman W. Moore and of Mr Kiyoshi Inoue were enthusiastically agreed.

5. Report of the President of SIO. Prof. Jean-Guy Pilon referred to the difficulties that had been encountered when trying to act in accordance with the existing Constitution. The inclusion of "Option 1" had made many Articles null and void. He reminded the meeting that Council had been charged with two chief undertakings: to produce the draft of a new Constitution and to publish Selysia. Both these goals had been met.

6. Report of the Treasurer: Heinrich Lohmann presented his Statement of Income and Expenditure, which is attached. When explaining the first item: 'lump sum B. Kiauta', he erroneously stated the sum had been NLG 5000, which led to questions as to how the amount credited had been only DEM 3534.84. With no correction from the donor, Lohmann's integrity was seriously questioned and a vote of no confidence followed. After a search, the Treasurer was fortunately able to produce the relevant bank transaction which proved that the sum in question had been NLG 4000. The Report was then accepted and the vote of no confidence withdrawn.

7. Auditors' Report: René Hoess presented the Auditors' Statement, which is attached. 'In summary, the balance account, the books and the respective documentation are perfectly in order. Therefore we are suggesting a motion of thanks to Heinrich Lohmann for the exceedingly committed performance of his job, despite the often not easy circumstances during the Essen-Maribor period.' The Report was accepted.

8, 9. Reports from the National Offices: Reports were given by Mladen Kotarac (Slovenia); Jill Silsby (U.K.); Kiyoshi Inoue (Japan); V.J. Kalkman (Netherlands). B.Kiauta gave those of the Offices whose representatives were not present.

10. Report of the Chairman of Standing Committee of International Symposia. B.Kiauta mentioned possible future symposia. The 1999 Symposium would be at Colgate University, Hamilton, N.Y.

11. Report of the Working Group on the New Constitution. Wolfgang Schneider reported that, at Essen, he had been appointed by Council to chair a working group with the aim of preparing a new constitution. This appointment had been confirmed by the Business meeting. The final draft had been produced in strict accordance with the old Constitution, although it proved impossible to keep to the original time schedule: it had been impossible to forecast the many technical difficulties members of the group were going to meet or the personal attacks they were to face. The principle changes that had to be made were:

i) As a result of Option 1, all sections of the old Constitution & Bylaws dealing with Odonatologica and fees and finances had to be totally re-written;

- ii) Reducing the unwieldy number of Council members;
- iii) introducing a more democratic method of running the Society. Many members demanded provisions to ensure that vital Society issues should be decided by mail ballot - to allow those members who by chance or circumstance attend a Business Meeting to decide major issues affecting SIO was considered undemocratic.

At all stages SIO members had been given opportunities to make suggestions as to alterations to the drafts (published in Selysia). Schneider ended by saying: 'As I wrote in Selysia, I dare to say that, if the new regulations are accepted, SIO will have one of the finest constitutions of all entomological societies. I am also confident that it can form a sound basis for reconciliation between alienated members and factions. A vast majority of members have acknowledged this and have voted accordingly.'

12. Results of the voting on Constitution/Bylaws, on the assets of SIO and on the fate of the Society's scientific journal. A summary of the results of a postal ballot sent to all members of SIO on 2 May 97 was read by Jill Silsby and is attached.

13. Discharge of Council: On a proposal from Marcel Wasscher, seconded by Peter Schridde, the present Council was discharged.

14. Amendments to the Constitution: After much discussion, it was agreed to omit Article 16, Section 1(d) from the new draft. There followed a vote on the acceptance of the new Constitution, which was defeated:

YES 13

NO 23

Abstentions 9

At this point Wolfgang Schneider and his team resigned from the SIO, followed by Jean-Guy Pilon and Jill Silsby, who also resigned on behalf of Philip Corbet and Mike Parr, who were not present at the meeting.

This, in effect, was the end of formal proceedings. Reinhard Jödicke announced the formation of a new organisation which had been formed in June, 1997. The Chairman of the Business Meeting inquired if the names given for officers of the new foundation (International Odonatological Foundation S.I.O.) were to be considered as a proposal. Bastiaan Kiauta replied in the negative.

At 9.35, the Chairman suggested that further discussion cease..

Maribor, July 17, 1997

W. Piper (Chairman)

V. McMillan, J. Rith, R. Silsby (minute recorders)

N.B. It should be noted that, since a number of items on the Agenda were not addressed, the Business Meeting was never formally closed.