

Minutes of the EXARC Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 11 May 2014, Museo de la Evolución Humana (MEH), Burgos, Spain

Present: Martin Schmidt (Chair), Javier Baena (Secretary), Luc Eekhout (Treasurer), Bill Schindler (Board Member), Roeland Paardekooper (Director)

Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University, UK), Justyna Duda (Truso, PL), Maura Stefani (Livelet, IT), Claudia Speciale (Università del Salento, IT)

Guest: Gavin MacGregor (UK)

Absent: Board: Hans Reschreiter (NHM, AT), Björn Jakobsen (Foteviken, SE). Auditors: Jack Veldman (Archeon, NL), Rüdiger Kelm (Albersdorf, G).

1. Opening

The meeting was opened at 10:38h by Martin Schmidt, Chair

2. Establishing if the AGM is able to take decisions

It was established so.

3. Verifying that the meeting was called early enough

It was verified so.

4. Verifying that the agenda for the meeting has been agreed and agreeing the Minutes of the previous AGM

The agenda was verified; the minutes of the previous ASGM were agreed.

5. Annual Report of the previous year by the Chair

Martin presents the Annual Report about 2013. The Board met several times, not always complete because we live far apart. Our membership rises fast. On Social Media we have over 10,000 followers, a rise of 100%. We had a conference cohosted with Sagnlandet Lejre on the history of experimental archaeology. We also had a meeting in Hungary together with Csiki Pihenökert. We travelled to many places, adding to our visibility. ICOM has advantages for EXARC as well as its members. We added over 125 old EuroREA articles online, open access. The Journal now has 4 legs (themes). In cooperation with Hunebedcentrum (under the flag of OpenArch), EXARC published a guide on PR for archaeological open-air museums. OpenArch is a large project with 11 partners including EXARC itself. We shared the PR book with all our institutional members; individual members can order a free copy. We were in contact with many AOAM who are not member yet. EXARC is supporting its members if they are in danger or going through important activities like major funding proposals.

Linda Hurcombe: Exeter has connections in Russia and South America, please be in touch.

Justyna Duda:

- At Openarchaeology.info, on the venues site with pins, can the pins open in a new tab?
- The Main Goals of EXARC online are "hidden" on the website. Possibly a "read further" behind it, possibly add also the PPT link there.
- I like to be involved in what EXARC is doing.
- I don't understand how EXARC can help us. It is hard for new members to understand what they have to do in order that EXARC can help.

Martin Schmidt: we are a network and can help as required. If you need expertise, ask us. There are many experts in EXARC we can connect you with.

6. Financial Report* of the previous year by the Treasurer

Luc Eekhout presents. EXARC does a lot with very little money. A large part of our budget is a project budget, OpenArch so we tried to make that more visible. We also made the administration more efficient. In 2012 the accountant cost 33% of our budget; in 2013 this was only 9%. We are not obliged to have an accountant but it makes us more transparent and fits well with our EU activities. The volunteer fees in 2013 were paid again. Travel costs for EXARC increased but so did our income.

7. The Auditors' report on the previous year's finances*

Two auditors checked the books 2013: Rüdiger Kelm & Jack Veldman. Veldman demanded an audit every three months. He also called on our accountant and tried giving him instructions, way beyond Veldman's mandate. Veldman disapproves, Kelm approves the 2013 finances. The books are approved unanimously.

8. If agreed, dismissing the old Board following Article 6.4 of the Charter

The AGM dismisses the 2013 Board unanimously.

9. Appointing new Board members

Bill Schindler is candidate for Vice Chair.

Several members candidate for Board member: Maura Stefani (IT), Aidan O'Sullivan (IE), Hans Reschreiter (AT, 2nd term) & Björn Jakobsen (2nd term). Maura is present. Aidan and Hans made a clear letter to become member.

The AGM elects Schindler as Vice Chair, and Stefani, O'Sullivan and Reschreiter as Board Members.

10. Appointing new Auditors

The AGM appointed the following auditors:

- Claus Detreköy (AEAS, CH)
- Artūrs Tomsons (LNHM, LV)

11. Presentation of the Plan for the forthcoming year*, including the Budget 2014 & 2015*

Martin Schmidt presents the prospects for 2014. We are aiming to get more members, more on social media, more online contents (www.openarchaeology.info) and better publicity in the USA. We will print two EXARC Journal Digests and four online issues (thanks to OpenArch). The costs we cover for the volunteers does not cover their real hours. The Proceedings of the Lejre Conference will be published in 2014 in cooperation with Sagnlandet. We met/meet in Oxford, Burgos, Paris, Mamuz and the OpenArch meetings. EXARC joined workgroups to help AOAMs in Germany. Two roundtables are organized, one in Madrid (Universities and Experimental Archaeology) and one in Vienna (National Associations on Experimental Archaeology). The Universities like to make a workgroup in EXARC and will meet again in Dublin in January 2015. EXARC is exploring the option to hire somebody part time. We need to be aware that in OpenArch we do not get the last funding (€ 4,270) until a year after the project.

There are ideas of doing more things online, like a depository of texts, images and films. Some if it may be members' only, other open access.

12. Adoption of a Budget for 2014 & 2015 and setting the annual contribution 2015

The budget is adopted, the annual contribution for 2015 is set unchanged with 2014, but including the light membership.

13. Suggestion to change the Bylaws*

The AGM unanimously accepts the changes in the Bylaws.

14. Next AGM

The suggestion is to have the next AGM in Dublin in January 2015.

15. Any Other Business

Justyna: Truso likes to invite to Poland in 2016. We like to open an AOAM and need help.

Roeland suggests Justyna to be in touch: share documents and visit members.

16. Closing

Martin Schmidt closes the meeting at 11:50h.