



2007 AGM Minutes

Date: 13 September 2007

Venue: The BA Festival of Science, York

Attendees ASDC Executive	Apologies Board Members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Penny Fidler ▪ Louise Webb ▪ Rosalind Mist ▪ Colin Johnson (Ecsite) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roland Jackson, British Science Association ▪ Heather Mayfield, Science Museum ▪ Kelvin Boot, National Marine Aquarium

A full list of attendees and apologies can be found at the end of this document.

Action	By when	By who
1. Opening of the Meeting		
Linda Conlon, Chair of Ecsite-uk, welcomed all Ecsite-uk members and thanked the BA and York University for their hospitality. Prodir Ltd was thanked for their sponsorship of this year's AGM.		
The AGM was minuted by Dr Penny Fidler (Ecsite-uk Director).		
2. Apologies		
A list of attendees and apologies can be found at the end of these minutes. Committee members sending apologies were: Roland Jackson, the BA Heather Mayfield, Science Museum, London Kelvin Boot, National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth		
All other Committee members were present, together with about 20 other members.		
3. Minutes of the 2006 AGM		
The Minutes of the 2006 AGM in Norwich were approved.		
4. The Chair's report by Linda Conlon		
Linda Conlon began by summarising that two events had dominated the year: 1. The appointment of the new Director. Welcome to Dr Penny Fidler 2. The House of Commons Inquiry		
The House of Commons Inquiry Linda explained that Ecsite-uk has been working hard over a long period first through Colin Johnson, then through John Durant to prove that science centres are worth supporting and are doing an excellent and cost-effective job. She stressed that Ecsite-uk has been pursuing a concentrated and concerted effort over a considerable time in terms of meeting with civil servants, lobbying, and more general profile raising.		

<p>In summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outcome of the enquiry is expected (optimistically) in October. • The spirit was friendly and warm and approving of what we already do. • The Ministers were newly appointed to the posts. • The support from the Wellcome Trust was very powerful and positive for us. • Linda wrote immediately to the Minister and is awaiting a response regarding a future meeting. • Civil servants are now extremely keen to see how our outreach project (SCEAG) progresses, as an example of what we can do. • A future major challenge for Ecsite-uk is to get consistent data collection so we can prove in a robust way that what we are doing works. 		
<p>The sustainability of projects</p> <p>Linda reported that it is very encouraging that many of our projects take on a life of their own once the actual funded project has finished – for example the dialogue work, facilitation training and meet the scientist is becoming part of other projects. It is clear we learn from these projects, collaborate, disseminate and adhere to best practice.</p> <p>Linda encouraged members to look at the Ecsite-uk website which has a whole host of information about all the Ecsite-uk projects.</p>		
<p>Presentation by Dr Penny Fidler, the new Director</p> <p>Penny had been in post for 9 days. She began by thanking both Rosalind Mist and Louise Webb for their warm welcome and is looking forward to working with the Ecsite-uk team, committee and members.</p> <p>Penny introduced herself and talked a little about her background within science centres and her work as a neuroscientist prior to this.</p>		
<p>She reported on the SCEAG meeting on Tuesday 13 September which was attended by representatives from both the DIUS and DCSF and Chaired by Dr Rosalind Mist. This meeting went extremely well, revealing the strong partnerships that have built up between member science centres, in particular between smaller and larger centres.</p>		
<p>Penny also talked of the <i>Inside DNA</i> project being developed by At-Bristol on behalf of Ecsite uk. This is funded by The Wellcome Trust with support from The Sanger Institute. It launches on 29 November and eight Ecsite-uk centres will have the opportunity of hosting the Exhibition as part of the project.</p>		
<p>She went on to say “we’re poised at an exciting time in science and science engagement with some major global challenges to address in the immediate future, such as reducing carbon emissions, securing water supplies and ensuring the health and vitality of our ageing population. We need to inspire a new cohort of science specialists as well as increasing the scientific literacy of the population and creating opportunities for dialogue within society relating to all matters of science.</p>		
<p>The UK network of science centres represents an extraordinary resource for the future of science in this country, and we are perfectly placed to deliver a number of strategic objectives on behalf of the government and other</p>		

partners”		
She closed by saying that Ecsite-uk is about people and partnerships and talked of her desire to work closely with all the Ecsite-uk members, as well as other national networks such as the Science Learning Centres, The Beacons for Public Engagement, STEMNET and a host of other partners.		
5. Treasurer’s report		
<p>Peter Trevitt reported finances for 2006.</p> <p>He began by thanking the BA who host the Ecsite-uk finances and submit them to The Charity Commission. This is an important contribution to Ecsite-uk administrative life and we particularly thank John Gagg for all his work.</p> <p>Thanks to Dr Ros Mist and Dr Louise Webb for their tremendous work, including their attention to detail in the accounting of projects, their effort, extra hours and dedication.</p>		
<p>2006 (calendar year)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core made £3K surplus (against budgeted loss of 30K). • Projects contributed £50-60K. • Overall, £96K surplus against a budgeted value of £23K. • Adding to the reserves, this is a very healthy situation. <p>The Position is strong and this year we are doing well against the targets</p>		
<p>Longer term trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecsite-uk has been steadily building up a reserve. • There has been increasing activity on projects from £50K in 2003 to £307K in 2006 • It is likely that this will drop back in the coming year as there are currently fewer projects in the pipeline • Core is reliant on support from OSI and the Wellcome Trust: we need to ensure that the fundamental organisation at the heart of these networks – Ecsite-uk - can get on-going core support 		
6. Elections to the committee		
<p>Official Thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linda noted that she will be stepping down after 6 years on the Committee and 2 years as Chair. • Gillian Pearson will be stepping down after 6 years on the committee, and as deputy Chair. Many thanks particularly on constitutional matters. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you also to the Treasurer, and to Roland Jackson for hosting Ecsite-uk, and John Gagg for his financial assistance. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Also thanks to Dr Jenny Search for the project development work on <i>Inside DNA</i>. • Rachel Simmons who has kept the admin up to date and made all the arrangements for this AGM – Many thanks. • Martin Glancy for great work on the web site. • Simon Chambers for his work on SCEAG management. 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> And particular thanks Ros and Louise for their excellent work particularly over the past 7 months. 		
7. Voting introduction		
<p>Ecsite-uk's statutes specify a Committee composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair 8 -10 members (8 elected and up to 2 more co-opted), The Chief Executive of the BA, Roland Jackson 		
<p>Committee members must be re-elected after a two year term. The following Committee members were elected last year and therefore are not up for re-election.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Mayfield, Science Museum, London Stuart Monro, Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Peter Trevitt (Treasurer), Techniquet, Cardiff 		
<p>The AGM was presented with nine candidates for election or re-election to five open positions. The candidates were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Kelvin Boot, National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth Vicky Brightman, Horniman Museum Robin Hoyle, Glasgow Science Centre Phil Winfield, Intech Science Centre Goéry Delacôte, At-Bristol Sean Gaffaney, Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester Judith Harvey, W5, Belfast Ian Simmons, Centre for Life, Newcastle Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Eureka! The Children's Museum, Halifax 		
Ballot papers were distributed and votes (including proxies) cast.		
8. Election Results		
<p>The following members were voted onto the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kelvin Boot, National Marine Aquarium, Plymouth Goéry Delacôte, At-Bristol Sean Gaffaney, Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester Judith Harvey, W5, Belfast Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Eureka! The Children's Museum, Halifax 		
<p>They join those already on the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heather Mayfield, Science Museum, London Stuart Monro, Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Peter Trevitt (Treasurer), Techniquet, Cardiff Roland Jackson, the BA 		
<p>The following member was co-opted by the Committee later in the day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phil Winfield, Intech Science Centre, Winchester 		
9. The new chair of Ecsite-uk		
<p>The current Chair, Linda Conlon, officially handed over to Dr Nick Winterbotham, CEO of Thinktank, Birmingham to take up his position as the new Chair of Ecsite-uk.</p> <p>The AGM was followed by a discussion led by Nick Winterbotham, the new Chair.</p>		

Member Attendees

- Bob Bloomfield, The Natural History Museum
- Linda Conlon, Centre for Life
- Goery Delacote, At-Bristol
- Alan Fielding, Prodir Ltd
- Sean Gaffaney, Museum of Science & Industry
- John Gagg, British Science Association
- Judith Harvey, W5
- Noel Jackson, Centre for Life
- David Morgan, Thomas Hardy School
- Stuart Monro, Our Dynamic Earth
- Gillian Pearson, The Oxford Trust
- Kirk Ramsey, Glasgow Science Centre
- James Rudoni, The Science Of...
- Angela Ryde-Weller, Intech
- Ian Simmons, Centre for Life
- Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Eureka! The National Children's Museum
- Alice Taylor-Gee, British Science Association
- Naomi Temple, Royal Institution
- Peter Trevitt, Techniquist
- Nick Winterbotham, Thinktank