

## **Report of the ETS Directive Committee (Board) meeting Valencia - Tuesday, May the 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

The European Turfgrass Society Directive Committee (Board) met on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 in Valencia, Spain, at Campus de Vera, Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain), from 9.00 to 13.00.

### **Participants:**

Mr. Marco Volterrani – President  
Mr. Stephen Alderton  
Mr. Adriano Altissimo – Treasurer and secretary  
Mr. Stephen Baker  
Mr. Stanislav Hejduk  
Mr. Alexander Richter  
Mrs Cilluf Svensson  
Mr. Gerard van't Klooster

As board secretary staff:

Mrs. Francesca Amendola

And, as ETS host:

Mr. Simone Magni, University of Pisa, Certes Department

Mr. A. Richter proposes the project of collecting historical data and pictures for turfgrass research in continental Europe, in relationship with the collection of photos of a professor who is in contact with Mr. A. Richter himself, and wishing in this way to contribute to ETS activities.

### **1 - Budget 2009 and balance sheet 2008**

Mr. A. Altissimo, as ETS treasurer, presents the draft of 2008 Balance sheet and 2009 Budget plan, that will be presented the following day to the General Assembly for their approval.

The break event point is not attained.

ETS in 2009 (April 21<sup>st</sup>) had 80 members.

The recently launched green membership campaign was not fully successful: ETS received only one green membership request (Turf Europe).

An intense discussion about which strategy can ETS take in order to reach as soon as possible the break even point follows.

There are several proposals. Between them:

- Considering the 70E fees for the ordinary membership only as a minimum fee.
- Increasing the ordinary membership fees up to 100E.
- Distinguishing between private members and company members and introducing special offers for multiple memberships of persons working in the same company (i.e.: for one company, asking 350E fees, including 5 ordinary memberships).
- Giving the opportunity to companies and associations to become sponsors of ETS for one year long.

Mr. A. Altissimo proposes that, in the organization of the following ETS conferences and events, the conference and event balance will be provided to and accepted by the board.

Mr. S. Alderton proposes also that the entries of the event/conference will be assigned to ETS and to the event organizers as follows:

- A minimum quota of 5.000E to ETS.
- The remaining entries will be assigned 50% to ETS and 50% to the organizers of the event.

Mr. G. van't Klooster states that this kind of system is adopted very often and leads to a bigger gain for the association.

## **2 - Focus on the organization of the 2010 conference in Angers**

Mr. S. Alderton presents the first draft of the programme of the next year's conference in Angers – France.

The conference will be mainly organized by the SGF – Société Française des Gazons, with several partners.

- It will be held from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 2010
- A translation to French is foreseen
- Now it is time to start working on the realisation of the conference proceedings.

## **3 - Definitive approval of a method of reimbursement (and quantity of money) to board members attending the board meetings**

The board decides to definitely establish a maximum reimbursement of 300E per board meeting for the travel expenses of each board member that will ask for it.

Mr. A. Altissimo proposes also to organize, when possible, board meetings via web-conference, in order to reduce the costs.

Mr. S. Baker proposes also to organize the autumn meetings in places that should be easy to be reached by every board member (ie. Paris)

## **4 - Discussion on the Working plan 2009 that will be presented in the to the General Assembly**

A draft of the working plan is examined and approved by the board. This draft will be presented to the General assembly the following day

Mr. M. Volterrani is going to attend the ITS conference on July in Chile, together with Mr. A. Richter. There, there will be a good occasion to present ETS goals and activities.

## **5 - A grant for a post doc research on the European turf market: how to keep on and realize it**

An open discussion follows in order to choose the better methodology to collect data about the turfgrass market and the situation of the European turfgrass sector.

## **6 - Creation of a network of Country representatives: how to keep on and realize it**

This issue is still undetermined. Mr. M. Volterrani proposes to elect a number of Country representatives and to send them a questionnaire to receive data about the turfgrass network in their own country.

## **7 - Providing and filling the ETS database with technical documents: how to keep on and realize it**

Mr. A. Altissimo states that industries and companies could fill the ETS database with a big amount of documents. He proposes to inform them better (they were told about it yet, with few results)

## **9 - Discussion of the “Educational” proposal**

Mr. A. Altissimo focuses on a proposal of “educational programme” consisting in a series of one-week individual trainings at those ETS companies and research centres that will be available for hosting this programme.

Mr. M. Volterrani proposes to start with this activity next year.

Mr. A. Richter states that education is currently made now for the golf sector.

Mr. G. van’t Klooster proposes to ask to ETS members if they are interested in hosting this training programme

#### **10 – Approval of the members list**

The board members check the members list and approve it unanimously

#### **11 – 2011 ISHS conference in London**

Mr. M. Volterrani communicates that Mr. Nektarios Panayiotis, ETS member, asks the cooperation of ETS for the organisation of the ISHS conference in London in 2011.

A discussion follows: since the 2012 ETS conference will be held in London, hosted by Mr. S. Baker and the STRI, it seems difficult to operate in London 2011.

The board meeting ends at 13,00.