

# **ICGS 3rd Annual General meeting (at ICCXVII Amsterdam 29<sup>th</sup> August 2007.**

## **Present:**

Peter Pearson (Chair) - PLP

Darren Griffin (Secretary General) - DKG

Willem Rens (Treasurer) - WR

## **1. Opening and welcome**

PLP opened the meeting by welcoming all the attendees. He explained how there had been significant changes to the business plan and hinted of the financial problems that the society had faced. He stressed however that now was the time to decide on how to move forward. He stated that the ICCs were “brilliant meetings” without fear or favor for any one system or organism, covering, as they do, the full breadth of chromosome biology. He mentioned that he personally had been to the second and third of the original Oxford chromosome conferences organized by Cyril Darlington (the first was in 1964) and had organized the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting in Leiden in 1974. He mentioned being astounded when Mary Lou Pardue presented the first ISH images and noted that the conferences had traced the changes of chromosome research throughout the decades.

## **2. Minutes of the 2nd AGM (Canterbury 2006) (**

DKG summarized the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM in Canterbury ([link to minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM](#))

## **3. Involvement of ICGS in future ICC meetings**

PLP noted that when he had been asked to be president of the society following the death of Harold Klinger, he agreed only on the condition that the society took over the presidency of the already existing ICC meetings instead of creating a “another bloody meeting” and set about making that happen to provide continuity to the meetings which were, historically, left to the local organizers alone. He stressed that the role of the society would not be to micro-manipulate the conference but to ensure members got value for money. He also noted that the ICGS committee had been working hard to fulfill several instructions set in the Canterbury meeting (including taking the over the guidance of the ICC standing committee), these are dealt with in subsequent points.

## **4. Organisation of future ICC meetings**

PLP mentioned that the organisation of the next meeting was now a “done deal” and that ICCXVIII would be held in Boone, North Carolina organized by Ken Shull and Dwayne Wise. He also mentioned that a bid to organize ICCXIX (2011) had been made by Dean Jackson, however it was too early to make a decision at this stage. He also stressed as mentioned in the minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM that (following a question from Trude Schwarzacher ) the format has reverted to a 2-year one and would remain so for the foreseeable future (it is also a legal requirement to have a General Meeting at least every two years). PLP then introduced Ken Shull followed by Dean Jackson to give their presentations for future meetings.

## **5. ICCXVII (2009) proposal by Ken Shull (Boone, NC)**

Ken Shull showed a promotional DVD of the Boone area of North Carolina mentioning that unlike Amsterdam (a big city) the next ICC would be held in a small community town. He encouraged delegates to come to North Carolina mentioning that the area was diverse and excellent for hiking, camping etc. He mentioned that it was the intention of the organizers to keep the costs of the conference down as much as possible especially given the air-fares involved in getting to North Carolina.

PLP mentioned that the Society wishes to keep a close check on the finances and, as such will be offering a €50 reduction in the registration fee for ICCXVII (at neutral cost to the organizers) to anyone taking out a 2 year subscription to the society. He also mentioned that one third of members had made personal donations to the society, including Harold Klinger himself who made a very large donation.

#### **6. ICCXIX (2011) proposal by Dean Jackson (Manchester)**

Dean Jackson said a few words about his bid to host the conference in 2011. He mentioned that the university had recently invested £700 million in its infrastructure and that he had the support of the North-West development council who had prepared a pack outlining the bid and likely costs. He mentioned that the conference centre was currently being built on Oxford Road and that Manchester was a vibrant city in which the University with massive things to offer including actively promoting the hosting of international conferences. He stressed it would be a priority to support PhD students and young post-docs and that he was pushing hard to get the endorsement of the ICGS board's approval. PLP thanked him for his presentation but stressed that it was too early to make a decision just yet. No other group have, as yet, put their name forward to host ICCXIX.

#### **7. Registration of the society (PLP)**

PLP mentioned that establishing a new society was tricky given the legal matters that are involved. The previous incarnation of the society (registered by Harold Klinger in Switzerland) had a bank account controlled, in part, by the publisher Karger, to which, following the death of Harold Klinger, other society officers had no direct access. Given this unworkable relationship PLP stressed that it was important to “get out of Switzerland,” re-build the society and establish new statutes etc. where the society AGM calls the tune, not one individual. He therefore went to the lengths of legally establishing a “Verenigen” (a Dutch term meaning “society”) to meet these ends.

#### **8. Election of Joep Geraedts to the board (PLP)**

Clearly some heavy-duty decisions needed to be made and, with this in mind, PLP contacted a former colleague Joep Geraedts requesting that he become the Dutch contact person on behalf of the society in banking matters. Once this happened a Dutch postal address was set up for the society and many other things then became possible such as the legally established statutes, registration with the Chamber of Commerce, legal issues etc. Of course the appointment of Joep Geraedts was one that was made out of necessity given the need for expediency. Respectfully, therefore PLP and DKG requested a retrospective approval of Joep Geraedts as a member of the ICGS board. This was carried unanimously by the AGM.

## **9. Statutes**

PLP briefly mentioned the statutes of the society (which can be found as an English translation on the society web-site) without going through them in detail. He gave a brief overview of the aims of the society (from an historical standpoint), but stressed that the statutes, by necessity, contained generic issues involved with democratic procedures of election and decision taking with little specific reference to cytogenetics per se. The more specific cytogenetic issues can be addressed later, by establishing relevant bye-laws which do not require the same level of legal approval as changes in statutes.

## **10. Bank account (WR)**

Once all statutes, the address, legal issues etc. had been sorted out, this meant that a bank account could finally be set up. The final stages of this happened the day before this AGM with the activation of the Treasurer's bank-card.

## **11. Treasurer's report (WR)**

All "remaining" money from the original bank account in Switzerland has now been transferred – a total sum of around €12,000. It was noted that this was considerably less than the €35,000 reported at the last AGM. Although we have paid a few bills essentially the main reason for the discrepancy was a withdrawal by Karger of \$27,000 without prior recourse or account to the society board. As far as we are aware, the reason given for this was to repay Karger for alleged labor costs involved in building the first website (\$15000) and for secretarial assistance in setting up the society (\$12500) under the responsibility of Harold Klinger. To date no officer of the society has seen an official invoice for transferring monies to Albert Einstein University in New York where the work was carried out, other than an internal Karger company financial transfer request viewed by PLP. Given that Harold Klinger is dead, there is no one from the society that can attest to the accuracy and legitimacy of these financial claims on the society. In any case removal of the monies from the bank account without approval of the board simply high-lighted the necessity of establishing independent banking facilities elsewhere. The meeting expressed its disappointment at this turn of events, but noted that we were now "on our own" and free to make decisions without Karger's influence.

## **12. Web site [www.icgs.info](http://www.icgs.info) (PLP)**

PLP mentioned that he had, with some secretarial help from the University of Kent, now established a fully functioning web site. He was damned if the society would have to shell out another \$15000 for a new website. Colleagues were encouraged to view it and register their membership interest on line.

## **13. Benefits to members (PLP)**

PLP listed the main benefits to members. All members will receive free online access to the Journals Chromosoma and Chromosome Research as well as (for 2-year registrants) a €50 reduction in the costs of attendance at either the last ICC in Amsterdam or the next ICC in Boone. Discussions are also in progress with the publisher Elsevier in the hope of further online access. It was also suggested that members could submit techniques and links to educational resources to the web site. Finally it was mentioned that ties with Karger were not entirely severed and that members could receive a "substantial"

reduction in the costs of the journal Cytogenetics and Genome Research – the upshot being that the journal would cost members only €470 per year. DKG mentioned that the society had a number of noble aims ([link to society AIMS](#)) and recalled the words of Harold Klinger that supporting those goals might be reason enough to join the society.

#### **14. Any other business**

There was no other business (PLP: was it all so clear?), however PLP suggested that he was more of a Professor Dumbledore than a Harry Potter.