Minutes from the  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY of EWAS  
Friday June 24, 2016 at 12:30 – 13:25  
Santander.  

1. **Introductory remarks from the Secretary General. (Haugstvedt)**  
The secretary General welcomed everybody to the GA.  

2. **Presidential Report. (PCHo)**  
Our President gave a report of the activities within EWAS the last year. He mentioned the different courses organized by EWAS as well as the courses supported, in one way or another, by EWAS. He also mentioned the new association, APWA (Asian Pacific Wrist Association) and the possibilities for collaboration between EWAS and APWA in the future.  

In the absence of the editor of JWS, Toshi Nakamura gave the report from the Journal. The number of submissions to the Journal is increasing, exceeding 100 last year, the submissions coming from all over the world (more than 20 different countries), the majority, though, from the US. The most downloaded papers included repair/reconstruction of the TFCC as well as arthroscopic treatment of perilunate (fracture-) dislocations. David Slutsky will step down as Editor in Chief after issue 3, 2016; the new Editor in Chief will be Toshi Nakamura. There will also be new, probably four, assistant editors, the final agreements with these persons are not yet finalized. Again we concluded that the JWS, as the official journal of EWAS, has been a great success.  

4. **Update on meetings and courses and future directions. (Haugstvedt)**  
As Mathoulin had to leave due to family issues, Haugstvedt informed, on behalf of Mathoulin, about the future plans for EWAS. For the next year (2017), we’re planning for basic (and/or) advanced courses at the IRCAD centers in Strasbourg, Taiwan, and Brazil (Baretos). A new IRCAD center will be opened in Rio early 2017. A course in India (Bengalore) will be established in 2017, and EWAS will also support (in one way or another) courses in Singapore, Markgröningen, Istanbul, Shanghai, Rotterdam, Barcelona/Arezzo or Verona, Lyon, Capetown and Hong Kong, and probably even more places. We will also in the future be involved in courses in Copenhagen as well as in the Eastern Europe, and will be active at different meetings in Hand-/Orthopedic- and/or Plastic surgery throughout the world. We are specifically being asked to
participate in new courses in South America as well as in Africa and in the Middle East, and we anticipate our activities will grow within the next year(s).

5. **Report from Internet committee. (Messina)**
The online payment system from our website, “wristarthroscopy.eu”, is now working well. There is a new section for “Posts, Positions, Fellowships”, and the rules for EWAS forum has been posted on our home page. The same goes for a list of the Junior Grant winners and the Whipple Prize winners. There is also an updated version of upcoming courses and meetings.
For 2015 there were almost 16000 visitors to our website, for the first half of 2016 we had a little more than 6000 visitors. Most of the visitors are from France, USA and Spain. The visitors look at the Home page as well as the Members area where also an EWAS directory is found.

6. **Report from Studio Progress (Secretary Office). (Haugstvedt)**
Studio Progress has served as the Secretary Office for EWAS for the last years. They keep the list of the members, keep track of members who have paid their dues and do remind those who have not paid to pay. As of June 2016, EWAS has 334 paying members. The collaboration with Studio Progress has worked very well and will continue in the future.

7. **Membership. New members, suspensions, exclusions. (JRH)**
EWAS has many members that have access to our website and the webforum, who receive the JWS, however still don’t pay their membership fees. EWAS has to pay Thieme for all the members that receive the journal, thus we “loose” money if these people don’t pay their dues. According to our By-laws, Paragraph 5.5, members who don’t pay their dues for more than two years could be excluded. As Studio Progress now has updated lists of who are paying their dues, and who are not, the “members” on the lists that have not paid their dues for 2015 and 2016 will at the end of 2016 be excluded from EWAS. Thus they will loose their possibility to attend the General Assembly, to vote, to access the members area from the website, and they will also be excluded from the webforum as well as loose the subscription of the JWS. (According to our lists, the number of non-paying “members” that could be excluded could be more than 200; this number is not included in the 334 members who had paid their dues in June.)

8. **Financial Report. (Schmelzer-Schmied)**
EWAS has €10-15.000 in our bank account. The income is from membership fees and sponsoring, the expenses are for the JWS to Thieme and for organization and participation in different courses. We also pay for legal- and tax advisors in St Gallen and for Studio Progress, all necessary for our organization.

9. **Orientation about agreed sponsorship for EWAS. (Haugstvedt)**
Storz has signed a sponsorship agreement with EWAS for 2016. They will provide equipment for 20 working stations at 10 different courses throughout the year. They will also provide support for some of the expenses for the experts in order for these to participate and teach at some of the courses. The sponsorship agreement will be evaluated at the end of the year. The intention, though, is to have a similar contract for 2017.

10. **Decision of membership fee (including subscription of JWS). (Haugstvedt)**
The JWS is the official Journal of EWAS. We pay Thieme a reduced fee for the journal for each paying EWAS member. As of now, the JWS comes out with 4 issues a year. The plan is to increase this to 6 issues per year, which will be good for the journal (and for EWAS). However, the price we pay Thieme will increase, and in order to cover for these expenses, as well as for the expenses for Studio Progress and the advisors in St Gallen, a raise in the annual membership ship fee to €75/year was proposed. This was unanimously agreed upon.

11. **Change of By-laws. (Haugstvedt)**
   In our By-laws, Paragraph 7.2: "Duties of the EWAS Board and the Executive Committee", it reads:
   “The society is on daily basis managed by an Executive Committee which has the following members: The SG, the treasurer and the current EWAS Board member responsible for the website, the President and the AB.”

   To make the work of the Executive Committee more efficient the following change of the By-laws was proposed:
   "The society is on daily basis managed by an Executive Committee which has the following members: The SG, the vice SG, the treasurer and the President”.
   This change was unanimously accepted.

12. **Outgoing of the President and Inauguration of the New President. (JRH)**
    PC Ho received thanks for the work he has done as our President for the last year. Following that, Guillaume Herzberg was welcomed as our new President. He gave a short speech. (His Presidential talk will be found on our website.)

13. **Next GA. (Haugstvedt)**
    The next regular GA is planned for at the FESSH meeting in June 2017, in Budapest.

14. **Any other issue to be discussed.**
    The President of FESSH 2016, Paco del Piñal, informed that there would probably be a surplus after the meeting being shared by different organizations and associations. EWAS would be one of the societies that would benefit from this surplus. The idea specifically mentioned was that the donation should be used to training of young hand surgeons.

    Jan Ragnar Haugstvedt

    Secretary General, EWAS