

COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF DIPTEROLOGY

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held virtually on Microsoft Teams at 13:00 SAST on 8 April 2025.

1. Opening and welcome

Ashley welcomed everyone, especially those who had to get up early to attend. Meeting opened at 13:05 SAST

2. Present: Ashley Kirk-Spriggs (AKS, Chair), John Midgley (JM, Secretary), Yuchen Ang (YA), Steve Gaimari (SG), Valery Korneyev (VK), Kazuhiro Masunaga (KM) and Ximo Mengual (XM).

3. Apologies: Erica McAlister, Netta Dorchin, Dalton de Souza Amorim, Xiaolin Chen and Sarah Oliveira.

4. Adoption of the Agenda and additions

Two items were added to the agenda: 5) Approval of the minutes of the last meeting (20 July 2023) and 7) Any other business – Bids for ICD12 in 2030. (Proposed AKS, seconded JM).

5. Approval of previous minutes

Deferred to the next meeting, as we did not meet quorum.

6. Options for the relationship between CICD and Dipterists Society

AKS gave a background of how we have come to this point, where a meeting was required. The establishment of a formal International Dipterists Society (DS) has been discussed at many previous Council of the International Congresses of Dipterology (CICD) meetings (details can be found in the minutes online). Nothing has come from this, in part due to the lack of a committed leader to drive the process and in part due to the lack of clear goals for the proposed society. The goals of a society need to be greater than the narrow purpose of CICD: "... to provide continuity and direction for the International Congresses of Dipterology".

Establishing a society will also cost money, which CICD does not have.

In order for ICD10 to take place, SG legally established the North American Dipterists Society (NADS). The main reason for this was that a legal entity was needed to enter into contracts and obtain insurance. Since then, the name has changed to the Dipterists Society, reflecting the wider geographic reach the society has. The Board of Directors has been expanded to better represent the major zoogeographic regions. The DS provides grants, arranges Fly School, Field meetings and other meetings.

It was decided at the second business meeting at ICD10 that a subcommittee would be formed to explore options to give CICD a legal standing. As detailed in previous minutes, Ashley Kirk-Spriggs, John Midgley, Rudolph Meier and Thomas Pape were chosen to represent CICD. The DS was represented by Steve Gaimari and Martin Hauser.

AKS and SG discussed options, as detailed in the letters (dated 28 March 2024 and 10 May 2024) shared with the council ahead of this meeting. From these letters, the legal ramifications of the current status of CICD are clear, particularly the liability of councillors. As options 3 – 6 do not offer significant changes from the status quo, they were not discussed further. Only two options exist for giving the council legal standing: **1) Incorporation of the Council**, *i.e.*, establish the ICD as an official non-profit organization and **2) Merge the Council completely with the Dipterists Society**.

The subcommittee met in full on 14 August 2024, and unanimously decided that option 2 was the best course of action: to Merge the Council completely with the Dipterists Society. From this, a formal proposal of the merger was developed (the third document for this meeting).

As president of the DS, SG was asked if he had anything to add before questions were taken. He explained that the goal of the proposal was to fit as close as possible to the current situation. Because the DS is Director driven, some approvals (particularly financial) must happen at Director level, but apart from this the Council will have operational autonomy. Details of what needs director approval are in the society's bylaws, available online. He added that being elected a councillor does not require one to join the DS.

Discussion

XM asked about the benefits listed for Option 1 and why they would not apply if Option 2 were taken. It was clarified that the benefits listed under each option are compared to the current status of CICD and not to each other.

YA asked if Option 2 (complete merger) was possible on a trial basis. If the arrangement did not work, could CICD follow option 1 later? SG confirmed that this is possible and the process is governed by the bylaws. A follow up question was about the ownership of the name “International Congresses of Dipterology” if we merged and then reversed the merger. Confirmed that currently no one owns the name. If CICD were to leave DS, the only way to keep the name would be to follow Option 1. A return to the current status would not allow CICD to trademark a name.

YA asked about global representation in the society and the current dominance of North American Dipterists in the Board and possible regional bias. Was it possible to build in recommendations for global representation. SG stated that initially, as NADS, the main function was organizing ICD10 and so regionally biased directorship made sense. After becoming the Dipterists Society, the directorship has been expanded globally and directors were invited from all Zoogeographic regions. Membership is plurality North American, but the only way for this to change is for Dipterists from other regions to become members.

XM suggested the geographic representation could still be recommended for the CICD, but that expanding it to Director level may not work. XM also queried the minimum and maximum number of Directors. SG confirmed the minimum was one and maximum 15, as listed in the bylaws, but that the bylaws are amendable. The board should consist of the best possible directors who can advance the society. The wording of CICD constitution

creates a recommendation that is unenforceable in this regard, as geographic regions and dipterological discipline may not correlate.

SG raised that a potential issue would be if DS invested financially in an ICD, only for CICD to decide to leave the DS. CICD provides oversight to ICD organisers, but little support, but this could change with DS involved. JM said that the process of CICD leaving DS would need to take time, so a sudden change would be unlikely.

AKS called for a vote on the merger. As the meeting did not have quorum, in person votes would be recorded from the meeting. Members of CICD not in attendance would be sent an e-ballot, as per the CICD constitution.

Vote: *That the Council for International Congresses of Dipterology formally merges entirely with the Dipterists Society and functions forthwith according to the Society's amended Bylaws and structure.*

All in attendance (7) voted in favour.

The e-ballot was sent to CICD members not in attendance on 8 April 2025 who will have one calendar month to respond. All councillors responded by the deadline.

The final count was 15 in favour, no abstentions and no votes against.

AKS gave a summary statement of the way forward, on the assumption that the vote would pass:

- The merger is still subject to the formal approval of the Dipterists Society at their Director's meeting, which is due to take place towards the end of April, so no announcement of the merger should be made known outside this meeting before formal approval.
- The current ICD website is hosted by the University of Guelph, Canada and has been very ably maintained by Jim O'Hara, who has carried on doing so long after his term on the ICD Council ended. **AKS proposed a vote of thanks to Jim for his hard work (agreed unanimously).** The website will now fully move to the Society's website, whose current webmaster is SG.
- The minutes of all previous Council meetings will now be published in *Fly Times*, and minutes of future meetings in *Fly Times* and on the Society website. The structure of the website will need to be changed as we are now subject to Society Bylaws not a constitution.
- It was decided that the Society funds that amount to 3237.55 € in cash would remain with AKS until a decision had been reached regarding a merging with the Society. Assuming the merger is approved, SG and AKS will now look at the best option to transfer the funds, preferably by hand, so no additional bank costs are involved.
- SG suggested we use CICD funds for grants to attend the next ICD.

XM asked about the possibility of DS functions happening in other parts of the world. SG confirmed that this can go ahead if someone volunteers to host it. Field meetings, Fly School and Entomological meetings are all possible.

7. Other business

Bids for ICD12 in 2030

Vladimir Blagoderov intimated a potential bid for Edinburgh. ICD was last held in the UK in 1998, so while the UK has hosted ICD before, it has not happened recently. Additionally, the proposal is for Scotland while the previous ICD was held in England. As South America has never hosted an ICD, they should be given a chance to make a bid, if they are interested in doing so. AKS and JM have raised the possibility of hosting an ICD in South America with Sarah Oliveira and she is investigating options in Brazil or another country.

Before closing the meeting, AKS thanked the members of the subcommittee: Thomas Pape, Rudolf Meier, Martin Hauser, Steve Gaimari and John Midgley for their assessing the proposals and making recommendations.

8. Date of next meeting

The Mid-term meeting will be held in July 2025 to assess progress with arrangements for ICD11 in Croatia. An exact date will be decided closer to the time.

9. Closure

Meeting closed at 14:01 SAST