General Assembly 2017
November 13th 2017
At Hotel Legoland, Billund, Denmark

Agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2016, (#GA2)
3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments, (#GA3.1) (#GA3.2) (#GA3.3) (#GA3.4)
4. Financial report (#GA4)
5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year
6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year
7. Election of Board members (Retiring and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period; Paul Hubert. Retiring is Jim Flanagan and new suggested Vice-President suggested is Marion Hughes)
8. Election of members for the Audit committee (Referring to the statues 3 members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2016, Alf Kjetil Andresen, Werner Schade, John Shenfield, Phillippe Lemaistre accepted to stand another year. Chris Gould was replaced by Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr.)
9. New Members/Associates
10. Motion from the Board
11. Motion from members/associates
12. General Assembly 2018
13. Miscellaneous
   a. Annual report from International Young Breeders, (#GA13a)
   b. Report from EAAP 2017 (Kathrin Stock, member of EAAP Horse Commission)
   c. Sponsorship (Xavier Libbrecht)
Minutes

1. Opening and welcome
The President welcomed all the participants and expressed the Danish studbook’s enthusiasm for hosting the general assembly.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2016, (#GA2)
No remarks were made and the minutes from the general assembly in Geneva/Switzerland were adopted.

3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments, (#GA3.1) (#GA3.2) (#GA3.3) (#GA3.4)

Introduction
The competition between studbooks to breed the best horses has always been high. The WBFSH rankings are one of several yardsticks for measuring the success of a studbook. In recent years the competition has intensified, among other things, due to harmonisation and internationalisation. These days studbooks share the same breeding goals and bloodlines to a high degree. This has led to a competition on fees and services to members. Studbooks underbid each other in order to attract members. This development cannot be controlled and is driven by the shrinking number of members that most studbooks have seen since 2008. It should be questioned if the trend to provide discounted business will damage the development of breeding.

WBFSH / ROLEX WORLD RANKING LISTS- Winners
Since 2015 the ceremony for the WBFSH Rolex Awards has been an integrated part of the CHI of Geneva, which is also sponsored by Rolex. This event contributes to raising the profile of breeding.
The winners that will be celebrated at the CHI Geneva 2017 in December are:

Dressage Breeder:
Inge Bastian for breeding Weihegold OLD (Don Schufro / Sandro Hit)

Jumping Breeders:
Stephan Delabie for breeding Halifax van het Kluizebos BWP (Heartbreaker / Fetiche du Pas)

Eventing Breeder:
Mirko Glotz for breeding FischerRocana FST (Ituango XX / Carismo)

Data Exchange
The development of a data exchange system has been a difficult, long-term project. In 2016, the WBFSH had hoped for a breakthrough, being close to signing an agreement with Hippomundo. This could unfortunately not come to fruition due to an incompatibility with the FEI, the relationship with which is vital for the WBFSH.

Much work has been done in 2017 to get a step closer to the implementation of a data exchange:

In January 2017 the WBFSH & FEI met to discuss the needs of both organisations in terms of data-exchange and a partnership between the FEI and WBFSH was proposed. A follow-up meeting took place in February where the FEI presented a proposal to the WBFSH for a common central database.

A shortened version of this presentation was shared at a WBFSH/FEI meeting with a few of the larger European studbooks in March 2017, to gauge if the concept was a feasible option for them. The proposal was received in a positive manner, but the concrete requirements that this database could provide the participating studbooks needed more clarification.
A survey with 23 questions was drafted by the WBFSH and shared with its member studbooks, to assess the needs and concerns of the studbooks in terms of data exchange, as well as to identify areas that needed to be more clearly defined in order for a platform to be designed. The results of the survey were intended to help at the next meeting which was scheduled for May 2017.

A small group of studbook representatives that are involved in data exchange and data management within their organisations were invited to the meeting in May, with the purpose of capturing the specific requirements that the FEI would have to incorporate in the project, to produce a useful platform with all the necessary functions.

However, the outcome of the meeting in May was not as expected, and it became apparent that a central database was not something that all studbooks felt comfortable with, in terms of sharing their data and data protection. At the end of the meeting it was concluded that a form of web-service to exchange data would be preferable to a central database administered by the FEI. An exchange should therefore allow the studbooks to gain the sports results of their own horses from the FEI, and the FEI would receive the correct breeding data of these horses. Access to another studbook’s data could therefore be prevented or controlled. Data-sharing was considered to be more easily defined and managed in legal terms, than data ownership and complicated data user rights.

A meeting of the board in early June 2017 was held to determine how to progress from this point. The FEI was informed of the outcome of the May meeting and the survey results were also shared with them. Shortly thereafter a WBFSH/FEI Council meeting took place and the topic of data-exchange was also on the agenda. It was deliberated that a web-service was not much different to the establishment of a central database. However, in a web-service only studbooks that have a web-based database can participate in the exchange. A central database would therefore have allowed studbooks without a web-based database to also participate in the project.

In discussions between the FEI and WBFSH at the 2016 Council meeting, the FEI had stipulated that for a collaboration for data exchange, the WBFSH had to guarantee that the majority of WBFSH studbook members would participate. By the time of the 2017 Council meeting both the FEI and WBFSH had come to the realization that the project would never be launched, if agreement for participation from all the studbooks was a pre-requisite.

**Current Status and goals for data exchange:**

To work on the architecture of the web-service for data exchange the WBFSH appointed an expert panel in July 2017 to work with the IT department of the FEI. Work previously done by the WBFSH (the HUB) was referred to as a basis for building the skeleton of the project. The expert panel, the WBFSH project manager and the FEI have had two meetings (one in August 2017 and one in September 2017).

The FEI is now drawing up a cost proposal based on the technical specifications that the expert panel and the FEI have identified and defined. Pending this cost proposal to the WBFSH, legal agreements will be drafted for the WBFSH, FEI and the studbooks. It is anticipated that the pilot stage could be launched in the first half of 2018. The status at this point is to engage a few larger studbooks in the launch of a pilot phase before rolling the project out to all studbook members.

**FEI / WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Horses**

The FEI / WBFSH Championships for Young Horses allow for sport and breeding to walk hand in hand.

**FEI / WBFSH World Breeding Dressage**

This event was held for the second time in Ermelo and was organized in a very professional manner. Many horses in the three age-groups showed sport at the highest level.
**Medal Distribution:**

HANN  2 Gold  
OLD  1 Silver  
DWB  1 Gold, 1 Bronze  
KWPN  2 Silver  
WESTF  1 Bronze  
TRAK  1 Bronze  

**Gold Medal Winners:**

Five Years Old:  
Horse  Don Martillo HANN stallion (Don Juan de Hus / Benetton Dream)  
Breeder  Axel Windeler (GER)  
Rider  Ann-Christin Wienkamp (GER)  

Six Years Old:  
Horse  Lordswood Dancing Diamond HANN gelding (Dancier / Wolkenstein II)  
Breeder  Heinrich Ebeling (GER)  
Rider  Anne-Kathrin Pohlmeier (GER)  

Seven Years Old:  
Horse  Fiontini DWB mare (Fassbinder / Blue Hors Romanov)  
Breeder  Hanne & Henrik Lund  
Rider  Severo Jurado Lopez (ESP)  

**FEI / WBFSH World Breeding Jumping**  
The Breeding Championships for Young Jumping Horse in Lanaken were characterized by good sport and great horses with top-class performers in all three age-groups.

**Medal Distribution:**

DSP  1 Gold  
HOLST  1 Silver, 1 Bronze  
ISH  1 Gold  
SF  1 Silver  
BWP  1 Gold, 1 Bronze  
KWPN  1 Silver  
OLD  1 Bronze  

**Gold Medal Winners:**

Five Years Old:  
Horse  Chilli DSP mare (Colestus / Colorit)  
Breeder  Erich Schoch (GER)  
Rider  Pippa Goddard (GBR)  

Six Years Old:  
Horse  Columbcille Gipsy ISH mare (Toulon / Grundyman)  
Breeder  Eamon Murphy & Gerard O’Neil (IRE)  
Rider  Gerard O’Neil (IRE)  

Seven Years Old:  
Horse  Koriano Van Klapscheut BWP Gelding (Lord Z / Darco)  
Breeder  Bvba Mivaro (BEL)  
Rider  Dayro Arroyave (COL)  

**FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Eventing**  
The event took place at the beautiful show grounds of Lion d’Angers in France. Many horses showed top sport at a high level.

**Medal Distribution:**

HANN  1 Gold  
DSP  1 Silver  
SF  1 Bronze  
AA  1 Gold
Gold Medal Winners:
Six Years Old:
Horse: Monkeying Around HANN gelding (Bertoli W / Donnerhall)
Breeder: Christian Heinrich (GER)
Rider: Izzy Taylor (GBR)

Seven Years Old:
Horse: Alertamalib'Or AA gelding (Yarlands Summer Song / Prince Ig'Or)
Breeder: Renaud De Lauriere
Rider: Astier Nicolas (FRA)

International Young Breeders
The International Young Breeders Championship takes place every two years and in 2017 it took place in Spruce Meadows, Canada. The feedback from the participants was entirely positive.
A few days prior to the General Assembly President Jan Pedersen received a letter from the Canadian Steering Committee to the Young Breeders Organisation which announced that, after a successful 2017 Championship, on behalf of Spruce Meadows they were donating 2,000 Euros to the WBFSH Young Breeder's Fund.

Dept. Internal Cooperation
Its function is to ensure that the WBFSH fulfills its mandate to engage member studbooks in fora, by sharing expertise and through collaborative projects. The Department’s main activity is to stimulate cooperation among member studbooks using regional fora. At the General Assembly 2016 the department hosted an introductory workshop to establish the main issues & priorities for the member studbooks on a regional basis.
In 2017 the objective of the department was to raise awareness of it and its function, as well as to encourage discussion on a topic that was determined to be of general interest at the workshops of the 2016 General Assembly: “genomic applications for breed improvement”. A Standing Committee on Collaborative Implementation of Genomic Applications (SC-CIGA) was formed to collect and document information regarding activities and developments in this area and to facilitate future fora on cooperation.
According to the annual report the department had hoped to enhance communication with member studbooks. It was noted that many members are not fully engaged with the organisation, this may be due to communication failure or to perceived relevance.

Dept. Development
The president informed the general assembly that at present there are 75 members and three associate members. In 2017 five completed membership applications were received. The executive director for the department, Alison Corbally will give more information under item 9 of the agenda.

Project manager
The project manager, Nadine Brandtner has been with the WBFSH for a good year now. She has dealt convincingly with complex cases - not only technical matters but also political issues. The workload is heavy and growing - also the part carried by the board members and members of the Executive Committee.

Cooperation with EEF and EU Commission
The activities of the federation are a great many. Apart from the activities mentioned directly in this report the WBFSH cooperates with EEF (a working group on EU-legislation) as well as with the European Horse Network. The WBFSH is continuously in contact with the EU commission about matters of mutual interest not only for the European studbooks, for instance about the unique Equine Life number.
In closing his report, President Jan Pedersen thanked the WBFSH partners for a fruitful cooperation: the FEI, the magazine Breeding News, our sponsoring consultant Xavier Libbrecht, the International Young Breeders Organisation and Mediehuset Wiegaarden, Denmark.

The annual reports were adopted without comments.

4. Financial report (#GA4)
Rik van Miert from the Department Finance started by thanking the Audit Committee for their investigative service each year.

The financial year runs from September 1st to August 31st.

The result of the year 2016-2017 was:

<table>
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<th>€</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>260,828,34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Revenues</td>
<td>19,941,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>- 287,151,83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Expenses</td>
<td>- 5,000,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>- 11,382,49</strong></td>
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Werner Schade, member of the Audit Committee, officially handed over the approved annual financial report to the President.

The financial report was adopted by the General Assembly. There were comments to the financial report.

5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year
The budget for 2017/2018 was shown. Ronald Funke Küpper (NRPS) asked for clarification why the software budget had increased from €5000 to €25,000. Rudi Eerdekens, executive director Dept. Finance, explained that this amount was budgeted to cover the costs of implementing the technical development of the WBFSH FEI Data Exchange platform.

There were no other comments and the budget was approved.

6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year

1. Planning of the championships together with FEI
2. Working on EU legislation in cooperation with European Horse Network and other organisations
3. Improve communication between studbooks and FEI in general and specifically concerning data exchange – finalise implementation of the WBFSH/FEI data exchange project
4. Breeding information on starting lists and other media
5. Sponsorships – work on attracting additional sponsors
6. Contact to international federations (COPA, EAAP etc)
7. Contact to international organisation of young breeders’ competition
8. Promote and maintain the WBFSH rankings of horse breeders, studbooks and the stallions
9. Raising the profile & gaining greater recognition of the WBFSH through new initiatives e.g. develop our presence on social media, develop the idea that breeders get a share of competition prize money.
10. Install & facilitate one additional forum and carry forward the committee WBFSH-CIGA
11. To review the statutes as regards voting at general assemblies, enforcement of obligations of members, recognition of the studbook of origin and Respect of fellow WBFSH member studbooks.
12. Develop a document on setting up a studbook and how to become a WBFSH member.

The annual plan for 2018 was approved by the General Assembly without comment.

7. Election of Board members
(Retiring and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period; Paul Hubert. Retiring is Jim Flanagan and new suggested Vice-President nominated by ISH is Marion Hughes. Retiring from the board – Rik van Miert and new suggested Vice-President by BWP is Stephan Kelchtermans)
A requirement of being a board member is to bring in with them an executive director for the executive committee, as well as providing office support of administrative tasks.

It is the end of the three-year term for Paul Hubert and Jim Flanagan. ANSF nominated Paul Hubert for re-election as Vice President for the Department of Breeding. Since there were no other nominations, the General Assembly was asked if they were in favour. The general assembly agreed. Guillaume Blanc will continue as his executive director.

Jim Flanagan is retiring and ISH has nominated Marion Hughes as Vice President for the Department of Development. Jim Flanagan introduced Marion Hughes. There were no other nominations and the General Assembly accepted. Alison Corbally will continue as the executive director of the department.

Rik van Miert was re-elected at the GA 2016 in Geneva. He had announced his retirement during the joint meeting before the General Assembly. BWP nominated Stephan Kelchtermans for Vice President for the Department of Finance. There were no other nominations. Jim Flanagan put the re-election to the general assembly, which approved it. Rudi Eerdekens will continue as the executive director of the Department of Finance.

8. Election of members for the Audit committee
(Referring to the statues, three members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2016, Alf Kjetil Andresen, Werner Schade, John Shenfield, Philippe Lemaistre accepted to stand another year. Chris Gould was replaced by Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr.)

Phillippe Lemaistre (FRA), Werner Schade (GER) Alf-Kjetil Andresen (NOR), John Shenfield (GB) and Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr (BRA) accepted standing for another term. The General Assembly agreed.

9. New Members/Associates
Alison Corbally from the Department of Development presented applications that the WBFSH has received during the year and is working on. She also informed about the General Assembly about the ratification process. Two studbooks accepted at the 2016 General Assembly were up for ratification this year: Norwegian Danish Warmblood (NDWB) and Breeders Elite / Studbook for Irish and European Sporthorses (BE/SIES).

Baltic Hanoverian Horse Breeders Association
No decision has been made since additional documentation had been requested by the Dept. Development to assess the application. The documentation is still outstanding.
Confederation Internationale de l’Anglo Arabe (CIAA)
Seven Anglo-Arab European Studbooks (from France, Italy, Spain, Poland, Portugal and Sweden) have sent a signed agreement from these organisations to the Dept. of Development. For WBFSH membership purposes they wish to be considered as a single
The studbook called “Confederation Internationale de l’Anglo Arabe” (CIAA). Since these organisations operate in different countries the UELN is a problem, since one studbook can only have one UELN. The DSP (which contains studbooks such as Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg) uses a single UELN. Poland has three WBFSH members, each with their own UELN. The board declined granting membership.

The Royal Friesian Studbook (KFPS)
Alison Corbally informed the General Assembly of the history of this studbook’s application. The studbook has approx. 13,000 members, 15,000 registered mares & 130 registered stallions and between 3000-4000 foals per year. They applied for member status in 2007 & 2008. Their application was declined on the basis that the breed is not a sport horse breed within the definition of the WBFSH. In 2016 the board decided to uphold the decision made in 2008 to not grant membership status. Further information provided to the Department of Development was reviewed by the board. The Board has retained its original conclusion & denied membership.

New Zealand Hanoverian Society (NZHS)
They are an official daughter studbook of the Hannoveraner Verband e.V. with 70 members and 36 associate members. In recent years between approximately 60 foals registered annually. The NZHS has approximately 114 breeding mares, 7 active stallions and 1570 horses registered in total. They run an open studbook. Mare and stallion approval is as laid down by the stipulations of the constitution of the Hannoveraner Verband e. V. Evaluation of horses is done by linear scoring. The board was satisfied that the NZHS meet the membership criteria and decided to grant membership. The membership will be up for ratification at the GA-2018.

The Lithuanian Horse Breeders Association (LHBA)
LHBA was established in 1993. The Studbook has 77 members. It is the oldest & largest studbook in Lithuania with 1425 registered horses, 522 breeding mares and 41 active stallions. The foal registration system includes microchipping, ULEN and specified rules for naming foals. Random DNA checks are carried out. It runs an open studbook with studbook inspections for mares and stallions. The board was satisfied that the LHBA meet the membership criteria and decided to grant membership. The membership will be up for ratification at the GA-2018.

New Zealand Warmblood Association (NZWA)
The application for membership was received on the 5th of September 2017. NZWA have been recognised as an Incorporated Society by law in New Zealand since 1979. They have 480 members, 2000 registered horses, 171 classified mares in the studbook and 45 approved stallions residing in New Zealand. Each horse is assigned to a section of the Studbook based on their pedigrees and their scores at inspection. Studbook inspections are held for both stallions and mares. DNA testing is required for all foals conceived by embryo transfer or from frozen semen. DNA testing is also required for all stallions entered in the Studbook. From 2017 onwards, all mares are also required to undergo DNA testing. Horses must be microchipped or branded before they are registered. The board decided to grant membership status. The membership will be up for ratification at the GA-2018.

Ratification of members given membership at GA 2016:

NDWB
Jim Flannagan announced to the General Assembly that the board received a letter from Mette Hansson on behalf of NWB in November 2017, requesting that the membership of the NDWB not be ratified on the grounds that the studbook does not meet membership criteria on the basis of annual numbers of foals born (as per the application form). An associate membership was suggested as an alternative.
This lead to two issues of discussion among the General Assembly:

- The annual report form states that to maintain membership criteria a studbook must have at least 100 foals per year. There are several studbooks that do not meet this criterion. Should their membership therefore be reviewed? Should the
minimum number of foals born only apply to new memberships and not to existing memberships?

- For a studbook to meet membership criteria, it must have a viable breeding program. If a population is too small, how can a breeding program drive breed improvement? How can breeding values be calculated?

The discussion did not lead to a consensus and the ratification of the NDWB was therefore put to a vote.

The outcome of the vote was as follows:

- 26 studbooks voted for ratification of NDWB (total 25.19 votes)
- 12 studbooks voted against ratification (total 9.34 votes)
- 1 studbook withheld its vote

The membership of the NDWB was therefore ratified.

**BE/SIES**

The general assembly ratified the membership.

**10. Motion from the Board**

For the General Assembly 2017 no motions were put forward by the board.

**11. Motion from members/associates**

For the General Assembly 2017 no motions were put forward by the members or associate members.

**12. General Assembly 2018**

Jan Pedersen informed the General Assembly that the Hungarian Warmblood Studbook would host the 2018 General Assembly in Budapest.

**13. Miscellaneous**

   **a. Annual report from International Young Breeders, (#GA 13a)**

The report was presented by Inken von Platen. She gave a short summary of the history and structure of the International Young Breeders. The International Young Breeders Championship, which takes place every two years, was held in Canada (Spruce Meadows) in 2017. 17 studbooks sent participating teams. The individual & studbook winners (for age categories juniors and seniors) were announced. The overall winning studbook (combined results of juniors and seniors) was Baden Württemberg, followed by Swedish Warmblood and in third place the Hanoveraner Verband.

The full report can be found on the WBFSH website:

   **b. Report from EAAP 2017 (Kathrin Stock, member of EAAP Horse Commission)**

Kathrin stock reported on research news from the EAAP annual meeting which included major topics such as new traits, optimisation of data analysis and use, and genomics (methodological developments, new techniques and challenges). She also reported on results from selected studies (e.g. Selle Francais – conformation and gaits data; new variance components in Swiss warmblood horses; genetics of linear traits for specifying and enhancing breeding programs for sport horses).

The activities, plans and perspectives of the EAAP Horse Commission are to provide specific support to studbooks, to develop and use of the network (e.g. knowledge transfer, support of R&D initiatives) as well as to focus on implications and prospects for horse breeding.

The full report can be found on the WBFSH website:
c. Sponsorship (Xavier Libbrecht)
Xavier Libbrecht gave an update on the current situation regarding sponsorship and plans to attract new sponsors.
A renewed contract with Rolex is uncertain at this stage, due to an audit that Rolex has carried out, reviewing all its sponsorship contracts. New sponsors are essential for the WBFSH and could be attracted using a worldwide communication tool for the WBFSH, studbooks and breeders. The magazine Breeding News, a long-time partner of the WBFSH, has the potential to fulfill the criteria such a vehicle needs. An editorial committee (Chris, Gould, Xavier Libbrecht and Nadine Brandtner) has been appointed by the board to oversee the development of the product, which will provide advertising space to all the WBFSH studbook members. Due to a state of urgency, it is anticipated that the Breeding News project kick off mid-2018.

d. Honorary Member Title Awarded to Jim Flanagan & Rik van Miert
President Jan Pedersen asked the General Assembly for approval to grant honorary membership to Jim Flanagan & Rik van Miert.
Jim Flanagan said that he had enjoyed the many years he had worked with the organisation. He will miss it and leaves the organisation with fond memories.
Rik van Miert was involved with the WBFSH from the beginning, he was present at one of the first meetings in Buckingham. He thanked Rudi Eerdekens for his great help over the years and the audit committee for their help and support.
The general assembly approved awarding this title to both the retiring board members.

e. Studbook Rankings
Finally, the winning studbooks in the end results of the WBFSH/Rolex rankings 2016-2017 were celebrated:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dressage:</th>
<th>Jumping:</th>
<th>Eventing:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) KWPN (13957 pts)</td>
<td>1) BWP (9113 pts)</td>
<td>1) ISH (1248 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) HANN (12527 pts)</td>
<td>2) KWPN (7965 pts)</td>
<td>2) OLD (1205 pts)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) OLDBG (12519 pts)</td>
<td>3) SBS (6772 pts)</td>
<td>3) HOLST (1168 pts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The President handed over certificates to the representatives of the winning studbooks.

Vilhelmsborg, January 2018