



Minutes of the General Assembly of the WBFSH

November 4th 2008 at Haras National de Cluny

Agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2007
3. Presentation and adoption of activity report by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments
4. Financial report
5. Presentation and approval of the budget for the coming financial year
6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year
7. Election of Board members (Jim Flanagan and Paul Hubert come up for election)
8. Election of members for the Audit committee (Ingvar Fredricson, Håkon Wahlman, Jacques Vandenberghe, Werner Schade, Chris Gould)
9. Election of members for the Board of Appeal (Jos van Campen, Hanfried Haring, Theo Van den Broek, Peter Ljungcrantz, Xavier Libbrecht)
10. Election of members for the Disciplinary Committee (Joachim Wann, Roland Devolz, Dermot Ryan, Egon Fræhr)
11. New Members/Associates
12. Motions from members/associates
13. General Assembly 2009
14. Miscellaneous

Minutes:

1. Opening and welcome

Francois Roche-Bruyn, director general of Les Haras nationaux welcomed everybody in attendance and gave a speech about the foundation of the Selle Francais studbook. He emphasized the important work of the WBFSH – now with more than 60 member studbooks and with new applicants each year it displays a strong factor in accomplishing issues like the UELN which is fundamental to the increased information between FEI and studbooks and

between one studbook to another. He thanked the FEI and HRH Princess Haya in particular for the good cooperation between the FEI and the WBFSH, without which we would not be able to move forward in such focus areas as we actually do. He ended with wishing the delegates a good general assembly.

Jan Pedersen, president of the WBFSH, thanked for his very kind and warm welcome and expressed his joy for the magnificent choice of meeting facilities for the general assembly.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2007

The minutes were adopted without any remarks.

3. Presentation and adoption of activity report by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments

I can hardly understand that a year has passed since I presented the activity report 2007 in Apeldoorn. Time flies when you are busy, and it has been a busy year although many of the WBFSH activities have not all been visible.

Current contact and communication with many member studbooks about this or that is time-consuming, especially for the secretariat, but hopefully also of some value for the studbooks. If it is this organisation has reason for existing and we are only glad to be of help.

In March I was invited to a COPA meeting in Brussels to make a presentation of our organisation. COPA is a European organisation and the letters "COPA" stand for "Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations".

Our objectives and the objectives of COPA go well together. When I was there items like horse identification and welfare of animals in transport were discussed. The agenda reflected the relevance of a close cooperation and I am sure that both organisations would benefit. I hope that my visit in Brussels was the beginning of a closer cooperation which will soon end in the foundation of a working group on EU legislation composed of representatives of FEI, COPA and WBFSH. Secretary General of FEI, Alexander McLin has already expressed the necessity of such a working group.

In order to improve our communication with other organisations, a so called WHIRDEC meeting will take place tomorrow here in Lyon; we have invited several other international organisations. The US Horse Council will be represented, as well as the US Equestrian Federation and Equine Canada.

The World Breeding Championships

Verden

The World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses were again organised by the Verdener Turniergesellschaft. Once again breeders, riders and spectators witnessed a great show with extremely good horses, the quality of

which has been going up if you look at the development over a period of just a few years.

And it is gratifying that the quality of the riding and the judging has undergone the same positive development.

World Champion of the 5 year old horses 2008 is

The Oldenburger Desperado by Dressage Royal, ridden by Nadine Plaster.

World Champion of the 6 year old horses is

The Hanoverian Dramatic by Don Frederico, ridden by Jana Freund.

Lanaken

As usual, the Championships for young jumping horses at Zangersheide were very spectacular and as breeders we can only be pleased with the Super Premium to the breeders of the winning horses in the finals provided by Studbook Zangersheide. This Premium is awarded to the breeders of the first three winning Horses of each age group with a total prize money of Euro 10,000.- per age group. The total sum of prizes and bonus amounts to over EUR 140,000.

The only spot on these championships is the number of wild cards given by the organiser. The number of starters is in my opinion not a problem because the competitions are so very well organised. However, for a FEI / WBFSH world championship it is not acceptable that over 50% of the starters were wild cards as it was the case in the classes for both 5-year-old horses and 6-year-old horses and it is not in accordance with our agreement according to which the WBFSH studbooks have a total quota of 102 horses per age group. The championships 2008 had 219 starters in the class for 5-year-old horses, 204 6-year-old and 152 7-year-old horses. We need to discuss this with FEI and the organiser before next year's event.

The winning horses:

5-year-old horses: Donna Fortuna, BWP mare by Nagano / Grandeur

6-year-old horses: Vedor. KWPN gelding by Indoctro / Fedor

7-year-old horses: Ubalia, KWPN mare by Inductro / Sstarsky de Brix

Le Lion d'Angers

The FEI World Breeding Eventing Championships for Young Horses 2008 were traditionally and again most successfully held in Le Lion d'Angers, France.

It is extremely important that we and FEI work together towards strengthening the link between breeding and sport. Thus, only horses which are identified at birth on the basis of a covering certificate and a birth declaration should be allowed to compete in FEI/WBFSH championships. This has not been the case in Le Lion d'Angers. Allowing horses without these documents to compete makes it much more difficult to verify the age of the horses competing. We have informed the FEI about our position on that subject.

The winning horses 2008 in Le Lion d'Angers:

6-year-old horses: Olso (Selle Francais) by Lando / Hadj AA
7-year-old horses: Walter von der Vogelweide (Hann) by Waldstar XX / Landclassic.

There has been some discussion during the year if the championships should stay in Verden, Lanaken and Le Lion d'Angers. The argument has been put forward that a rotation of the Championships would contribute to a more independent authority of the World Championships. This topic will be discussed further in the year to come internally and with the FEI and countries which are interested in organizing a championship.

www.ueln.net

On June 6th, after several years of discussion and after several drafts the EU finally issued the new regulation concerning horse identification in Europe. The regulation makes the implementation and use of the life number mandatory and fortunately dictates the UELN concept. We draw your attention to the fact that each database is responsible for the UELN implementation in its own files, including horses born before 2009.

XML, the system for international exchange of horse data, is still progressing in a close cooperation between our department breeding, our French connection that is, and FEI. The UELN web-site contains information about the system. The Breeding Department has recently started making contact with various labs in order to also promote exchange of DNA of imported horses with this fantastic tool.

EVA

Last year in Apeldoorn, we discussed the necessity of harmonizing EVA tests, in order to avoid that an exported "negative" horse becomes a "positive" horse.

In July at Vilhelmsborg in Denmark we organized a presentation by the AFSSA laboratory, which in June 2008 was appointed European referent lab for 5 years for all horse diseases.

Aymeric Hans from this lab gave a very clear presentation, asking all the members for help to get in contact with other labs in their countries. For this reason we invited him for a new presentation for the countries interested in this item. This presentation takes place tomorrow.

Rankings

It is our impression that both riders and breeders highly value the rankings as the standard for comparing the strength of both competitors and horses. The activities of the Department Promotion in the year 2008 were mainly concentrated on the WBFSH breeding rankings.

As you probably know FEI produces the world-rankings for horses and studbooks. I regret having to say that the cooperation in that specific field has

not been completely unproblematic in 2008 - too many errors and communication has been somewhat hard.

It is planned to add sire statistics in the future, too. These can not yet be produced by the FEI. Therefore - as an interim solution - Hank van Campen produces the sire rankings manually. This work cannot be started until the final horse rankings have been received in the beginning of October.

Of course, the WBFSh attach great importance to the completeness and correctness of the pedigree information that we deliver to FEI. Each individual studbook is responsible for the pedigree information of its own horses and the department promotion has given much attention to the production of correct pedigree information. Regrettably this is still a lot of manual work. Hopefully, in the near future an XML tool for data exchange will take over.

Studbook Rankings 2008

This year the Hannoveraner Verband topped the rankings for dressage.

Jumping: KWPN

Eventing: Irish Sport Horse

Ranking horses

Dressage:

For the fourth time: The Hanoverian Salinero by Salieri. Salinero also topped the list in 2004, 2005 and 2006 – last year he was second to Satchmo.

Jumping

Hickstead by Hamlet, KWPN.

Eventing

Ben Along Time, Irish Sport Horse by Cavalier Royale.

Strategic Plan 2012

Concerning the Strategic Plan 2012 the Board and the Executive Committee among other things have been discussing voting at the General Assembly. As it is, the voting system is not practically possible and if it should ever be necessary to have a voting, the system could collapse. Later today the Board will submit a motion to the General Assembly on that subject.

Regarding membership the Board and Executive Committee move that it is not possible for a studbook to be an associate member, if it fulfils the criteria for full membership.

www.wbfsh.org

This year our web-site has been redesigned and more actual news and news of individual members has made the site more attractive and the number of visitors has been going up. Hosting and updating of the new site is done by the Secretary's Office of the WBFSh in Denmark in cooperation with membership magazine of Danish Warmblood, RIDEHESTEN HIPPOLOGISK.

During 2008 the Executive Committee and the Board have had discussions about different studbooks which have applied for membership of this organisation. Regarding that I refer to item 11 and concerning the departments Finance items 4 and 5. I hope you have all studied the different reports from the departments as they go into details about some of the subjects on which I have only touched lightly in my report.

4. Financial report

Financial report 2007/2008 is enclosed.

Rik van Miert presented the account for the financial year 2007/2008. The result of the year 2007-2008 was -129.61 € due to a few annual fees to be paid, of which some have already been paid. One member seem to systematically only pay the fees for every second year, and this will be dealt with soonest possible.

5. Presentation and approval of the budget for the coming financial year

Budget for 2008-2009 is enclosed. The budget in total for 2008-2009 will be 121,487,40 €. The budget for the coming year was approved by the General Assembly.

6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year

The President presented the annual plan for the coming year:

1. Planning of the championships together with FEI
2. Establishment of a working group on EU legislation together with FEI and COPA
3. Improve communication between stud books and FEI in general and specifically concerning data exchange
4. Breeding information on starting lists
5. Sponsorships
6. Further seminars on judging in cooperation with FEI
7. XML and contact to international federations
8. International organisation of young breeders and competitions
9. Maintain contact to the EAAP horse commission
10. Mother-daughter relationship clarification

11. Implementation of priority actions under the strategy plan 2008-2012:
 - a. Review statutes in regard to definition of members and associate.
 - b. Monitor opportunities to become subject to international law rather than the Netherlands' law.
12. Implement stallion rankings
13. Improve the quality of the FEI database concerning the pedigrees.
14. Coordinating horse welfare issues
15. Give consideration to increase knowledge awareness as regards what should be done to hold the spread of African Horse Sickness

The Annual Plan for 2009 was approved.

7. Election of Board members

According to the statutes, one third of the Board members must be elected every year. This year, Jim Flanagan and Paul Hubert came up for election. Jim Flanagan and Paul Hubert were re-elected by acclamation as Vice Presidents.

8. Election of members for the Audit committee

According to the statutes, the Audit Committee should be elected annually.

Ingvar Fredricson, Håkon Wahlman, Jacques Vandenberghe, Werner Schade, and Chris Gould were re-elected.

9. Election of members for the Board of Appeal

According to the statutes, the Board of Appeal should be elected every second year.

Jos van Campen, Hanfried Haring, Theo Van den Broek, Peter Ljungcrantz, and Xavier Libbrecht were re-elected.

10. Election of members for the Disciplinary Committee

According to the statutes, the Disciplinary Committee should be elected every second year.

Joachim Wann, Roland Devolz, Dermot Ryan, and Egon Fræhr were re-elected.

11. New Members/Associates

Nicholas Finnerty from the Development Department presented the new

applicants:

Polish Horse Breeders Association

The Polish Horse Breeders Association is already an associate member of the WBFSh and applied for full member status during the year. The Board deferred a decision on the application pending clarification of the relationship between this organisation and the 3 studbooks that it maintains.

International Jumper Futurity Studbook

The Board deferred a decision on this application and a decision will be made in the context of the review of the statutes in regard to definition of members and associates. This review will take place in 2009 as part of the Annual Plan.

*Associação Brasileira dos Criadores do Cavalo Puro Sangue Lusitano (ABPSL)
(Brazilian Pure Bred Lusitano Breeder's Association)*

Accepted as members by the General Assembly.

Latvian Horse Breeders' Association

Accepted as members by the General Assembly.

Latvian Horse Breeding' Association

Accepted as members by the General Assembly.

With the three new members it brings the total amount of WBFSh members up to 61 and associate members to 4.

12. Motions from members/associates

Jim Flanagan, Vice President of the WBFSh, and member of the Strategic Group outlined the motions 1-4, as being the intent of the Statutes, but they have not been explicitly pronounced hitherto.

Motion 1. Constitutional Amendment

Amend Article 5.4 by adding the following sentence:

"Studbooks that meet the requirements for membership under Article 5.2 are not eligible to become associates."

The General Assembly approved the motion.

Motion 2. Constitutional Amendment

Add a new section 6.1.d in Article 6 as follows:

"d. to pay the annual fees due."

And amend Article 8.1 by adding the words "by failure to pay the annual fee or" to give an amended Article 8.1 as follows:

"1. Membership shall end by a member giving notice of termination of membership or dissolution of the member, as well as *by failure to pay the annual fee or* by expulsion or notice of termination of membership given by the WBFSh."

The General Assembly approved the motion.

Motion 3. Constitutional Amendment

Amend Article 21.1 by adding the following sentence:

“Observers may be invited by the President to attend the General Assembly but they shall not have the right to speak unless invited to do so by the Chairman.”

The General Assembly approved the motion.

Motion 4.

Under Article 25.4.a voting at a General Assembly is by country rather than by member studbook based on the number of foals registered by member studbooks in each country. To prepare for the possibility of a vote the WBFSH secretariat shall determine the average number of foals born per year in member studbooks for each country based on available data for the previous three years. The way in which a country votes shall be decided by the members in the country by weighting each member studbook's vote preference by the average number of foals registered in its studbook. This way the system gets more operational.

To a question whether a studbook would have to have paid its annual fee in order to have the right to vote at the GA, Jim Flanagan answered positively as per agreed in connection with motion 2.

The General Assembly approved the motion.

Motion 5.

The studbook Associacao Brasileira de Criadores do Cavalo de Hipismo has sent in a motion (please see enclosed).

According to Brazilian law, only bodies which are authorized by national Ministry of Agriculture is allowed to issue passports on sport horses born on Brazilian ground. Two European studbooks have issued passports for Brazilian sport horses lately, and therefore, the Associacao Brasileira de Criadores do Cavalo de Hipismo asked the GA to take action on this matter.

It was agreed by the General Assembly that the President sends a letter to the two studbooks in question that it is the policy of WBFSH that all member studbooks should respect National law in all countries in which they operate; that all horses should have a unique equine life number; and that all horses should only have one passport.

The President took the opportunity to stress the fact that the Board has the possibility to grant new honorary members, and was pleased to announce that two new honorary members had been found.

Xavier Libbrecht was one of the visionaries who saw the need for an organisation representing the World's sport horse studbooks and worked tirelessly over many years to achieve this mission. He met and talked with and encouraged and convinced many people, who could make this happen, that it was a good idea. And eventually it happened and the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses became a reality.

Of course many other people were involved but those who were around at that time freely admit that Xavier was one of the most enthusiastic and committed persons to achieving the goal of a WBFSH.

When the WBFSH was set up Xavier was very helpful and supportive of the organisation, particularly in the public relation and press areas and played an important role in getting the new organisation known and accepted throughout the sport horse community worldwide.

Xavier is very worthy of the honour of being elected an Honorary Member of the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses. He clearly meets the requirements for such in our statutes which say:

"The GA may grant a natural person the title of Honorary Member for meritorious achievements in promoting the development of sport horses in general and / or for the WBFSH in particular".

This was met with applause by the General Assembly and Xavier Libbrecht thanked dearly and said that he was very happy to be under the flag of the WBFSH.

The second person to be honorary member this year, Hanfried Haring, unfortunately could not attend at this year's meetings.

Hanfried Haring was also one of those who greatly contributed to the setting of the WBFSH. He was a strong advocate of the idea and played a leading role in getting the German studbooks to buy into the idea and fully participate in the new organisation.

Hanfried has had a long and distinguished career in the sport horse industry. He has played a leading role in its development not only in Germany but worldwide. His wise council and advice has been sought widely and by many people and has been willingly given. He has been involved in both breeding and sport and has had many years of close association with the FEI.

Hanfried is very worthy of the Honorary Membership of the WBFSH for his meritorious achievements in promoting the development of sport horses worldwide and he has been very active in bridging the gap between breeding and sport.

The applause also this time pronounced the clear obligingness of the General Assembly.

13. General Assembly 2009

In 2009 the Scandinavian Warmblood studbooks of Dansk Varmblod, Avelsföreningen för Svenska Varmblodiga Hästen, Suomen Hippos ry, and Norsk Varmblod (Danish, Swedish, Finnish, and Norwegian Warmblood associations) are pleased to be hosts for the General Assembly. The dates will be November 3rd to 5th 2009 in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, and at the National stud of Flyinge. Accepted by the Board, an information film was shown to the assembly.

14. Miscellaneous

Young Breeders International

The Young Breeders International had held a constructive meeting on November 3rd during the seminars this year, and the meeting's spokeswoman, Inken Johannsen from the German Holsteiner Association presented the structure of the organisation and other decisions made at their meeting: They had had three big goals, of which the two were perfectly closed, but they needed the help of the GA on the 3rd.

They wished to hold an annual meeting in connection with the one of WBFSH as from 2009. A chairman will be elected in Ireland at the WCYB on July 17th-19th 2009. Alison Corbally from the Irish Sport Horse is the main contact person until a chairperson has been elected in July next year. The third issue was the wish that as many studbooks as possible will send representatives as well as competitors to WCYB in Ireland next year, as this is the best way to get contacts and really get this new organisation started well.

Stallion Directory 2008

The new Stallion Directory was presented by Xavier Libbrecht who urged the assembly to check the book for mistakes and lackings and to consider if it would be a possibility for next years advertisement budget.

EAAP

The horse commission of EAAP has become a new president, Nicoletta Miraglia, who attended the annual meetings in Lyon and Cluny this year. Being the Vice President of EAAP for many years, Nicoletta Miraglia has followed the cooperation with the WBFSH closely and she used the opportunity to welcome the studbooks to the next EAAP working sessions in Barcelona with the newest research presentations. Nicoletta Miraglia dearly thanked the WBFSH for the supportive responses they always get and for maintaining the contact to EAAP. Jan Pedersen thanked her for her invitation to Barcelona and expressed that great importance was attached to the cooperation with EAAP.

Horse situation in the USA

Mary Giddens from the International Jumper Futurity Studbook outlined the present situation of the slaughter horse banning in the United States that has caused serious horse welfare issues all over America. Following state laws of March 2007, horse slaughtering was banned in Texas and Illinois. During this year the export of live horses to Mexico has increased 312% and to Canada it has doubled. Within 2008 it is expected that slaughter horse transports are banned and since horses have no residential value, many are now deserted

and left for starving.

Identification project in the BWP

Rudi Eerdeken informed of the structure and process that the BWP had experienced following a Royal decree of 2005 in the Belgian Parliament, requiring obligatory registration, equine passport, and microchipping for all horses born in Belgium.

Cooperation between studbooks regarding registration of Portuguese and French sport horses in France and Portugal

Luiz Almada, the President of the Portuguese Sport Horse Association (Associação Portuguesa De Criadores de Racas Selectas), informed of an agreement settled by the ANSF and the Associação Portuguesa De Criadores de Racas Selectas to register Portuguese born Selle Francais horses in the horse database of Associação Portuguesa De Criadores de Racas Selectas and French born Portuguese sport horses in the French horse database, thereby letting the country of birth register the foals and issue passports for the other country's studbook working in their country.

*Vilhelmsborg, November 18th 2008
Christina Brogaard Lund*