



## **General Assembly 2013**

*October 9<sup>th</sup> 2013  
on JM Apart Hotel, Warsaw, Poland*

### **Agenda**

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2012
3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments
4. Financial report
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; Jan Pedersen and Rik van Miert*)
8. Election of members for the Audit committee (*Referring to the statutes 3 members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2012, Håkon Wahlman, Chris Gould, Werner Schade, John Shenfield and Alf Kjetil Andresen were elected, the two last mentioned as substitutes*)
9. New Members/Associates
10. Motions from members/associates
11. General Assembly 2014 (Brazil)
12. Miscellaneous
  - a. Annual report from International Young Breeders (*Celia Clarke*)

### **Minutes**

#### **1. Opening and welcome**

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The President welcomed all the participants and expressed great gratitude to the Polish Horse Breeders Association (PZHK) for planning a fantastic programme.

## **2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2012**

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The minutes of the General Assembly on November 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 in Newmarket was adopted without any remarks.

## **3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments**

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### **President's report**

Since 2008 the horse breeding sector has been affected by the general recession which has led to a smaller demand for horses and as a consequence of that a fall in the production of horses.

But I do not think that this development is only connected with the financial crises. We, at least in Europe, are experiencing a change in the lifestyle of especially young people. Riding and possessing a horse reduce their freedom to do other things and today not so many people as before are prepared to make that sacrifice.

Another thing that has contributed to the downturn is the heavy burden of laws and regulations which complicate the keeping of horses. This burden is probably not going to be lighter.

I think we must adapt ourselves to new conditions and accept that we are probably not going to reach the same level again as far as quantity is concerned and that this is going to be a big challenge for the studbooks and with that for the WBFSH.

### **Development Department**

The main function of the Development Department is to promote growth in the membership of the WBFSH. And the department has been doing a good job as we have been growing year by year in spite of the hard times. We are now the umbrella organization of 67 studbooks and this year again we have two applicants. Ms. Corbally will present them later today asking for your approval.

### **Finances**

Unfortunately the number of members is not directly proportional to the total membership fee. In spite of continuous growth in the number of members the total membership fee is lower than expected. In the budget we have two headings concerning the membership fee: one is the basic fee which is the same for all studbooks. The other heading concerns a fee for studbooks with over 1000 foals. The income derived from the latter is EUR 9.400 less than expected due to a dramatic fall in the number of foals.

Another matter which has put a strain on our finances is a court case concerning membership of the WBFSH. The Board assessed that the Anglo European Studbook did no longer meet the requirements for membership as these requirements are laid down in our statutes. The AES did not accept our decision and started a legal process that we lost. This, of course has influenced the financial result of 2012 / 2013. Rik van Miert will present the accounts later today.

### **Department Cooperation**

For some time now we have been trying to bring our influence to bear on the EU Commission as regards the EU requirements for stallion and insemination stations. These requirements seem worthless, bureaucratic, expensive and very difficult for the stallion owners to work with. At the end of April we sent a proposal with the desirable and necessary changes to DG SANCO. On international level the proposed changes have fully support of the WBFSH Member Societies in BEL, DEN, GER, FRA, IRL, NED and SWE. These breed societies promised to contact the relevant authorities in their

own countries in anticipation of their support in the Permanent Veterinarian Committee in Brussels.

So far our proposal has not been discussed, but DG SANCO has promised to speed up the procedure so that we can have a result before next breeding season.

The cooperation between FEI and WBFSH could be continued in 2012/2013. The Executive Committee and I had another pleasant meeting with the FEI Secretary General Ingmar De Vos, in June in Brussels. We discussed among other things the rankings, the realization of data exchange, pedigree information on FEI-TV and the World Breeding Championships for Young Horses in all three disciplines. If you are thinking right now that we have had these discussions before, you are completely right. In the equestrian world things take time – sometimes a long time and Rome was not built in a day, you know. When I took over this job after Gerd Jan van Muijen he said to me: “this is a great organization, but sometimes working in it is a bit like pulling a dead horse”. And he is right. However, things are progressing, and at least the FEI is listening and has a positive attitude towards our plans and wishes.

A very positive result of the WBFSH / FEI cooperation is the **World Breeding Championships for Young Dressage Horses** hosted by the Verdener Turniergesellschaft.

Of course they were very well organized. They always are. Of course the Organizing Committee of Verden was ready to meet constructive criticism. It always is – and that is exactly why we have been able to develop this event further year by year.

Last year's sharpening of the qualification requirements had again a positive effect on the quality of the starting horses.

During this event in Verden Klaus Miesner and I discussed the possibility of developing these championships even further with the FEI Dressage Director, Trond Asmyr. We had an idea that for horses which have participated earlier special classes on Prix St. Georg level should be established. In that way we would be able to follow the horses from a breeder's perspective from young horse classes to Grand Prix. The Dressage Director seemed very enthusiastic about the idea and he will come back to us with an operational plan.

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

The FEI/WBFSH World Breeding Championships for Young Jumping Horses 2013 took place at the Domain Zangersheide in Belgium as usual. The Championships were again very well organized and showed top sport on the future's top horses.

I think that the number of wild cards this year was somewhat reduced but the number is still too high. Especially the number of Z-horses appeared a bit high.

### **Breeding Department**

This year, the breeding department was involved in 4 items. One of them concerns a new EU Zootechnical regulation which for several reasons could have a negative influence on organized breeding. One of the results of that regulation would be that new studbooks could easily be recognized even if there is already another studbook of the same breed in the country. It is important that we try to exert our influence on that regulation.

Another item has been the draft of a European regulation concerning identification of horses. The EU has decided to issue new amendments to the existing rules meaning

that a central database is established in each country. This new regulation calls for the organization of data exchange, that WBFSH has been promoting for many years.

The Breeding Department has been working on the WBFSH/FEI agreement concerning the exchange of data between studbooks, National Federations and the FEI. We had a meeting with FEI concerning the agreement. At this time, the FEI is still working on the agreement and has asked for another meeting in order to finalize it. FEI is very interested in exchanging data, but does not want to go a long way into the project before a majority of stud books has shown the way. This is a chicken and egg situation. Many studbooks wait for the FEI to join the project before they join it.

Ladies and Gentlemen! This is important. This is going to be a huge step forward and I hope we can have it implemented and have all studbooks aboard within the next year. It has been heavy getting as far as we are now. However, the development and the implementation of the UELN was just as heavy. Today everybody can see the importance of that. The data-exchange system is step 2 – and this step is exactly as important – especially if the EU plans to have only one central database in each country will be effectuated. I have heard from a very reliable source that this will happen. So we are going to need a simple, fast and secure system of exchanging data. So, ladies and gentlemen, studbook representatives, please join now.

Last but not least the Breeding Department is managing the ueln website and the HUB project. The department is frequently in contact with studbooks from all over the world asking questions about the ueln rules.

Last year we started the X-ray harmonization project. We have come a far way but have not finished yet. The next meeting about that will take place in January 2014. We hope that many studbooks will send their vet or vets because this project is relevant to all of us.

### **Department Promotion**

I am glad to be able to announce that we have a new main sponsor. The Swiss watch company Jaeger-LeCoultre has decided to support the WBFSH. A contract was signed in March in the castle of Berleburg, the residence of our Patron, HRH Princess Benedikte.

The contact between Jaeger-LeCoultre and us was established through Xavier Libbrecht who has put a lot of effort into this project. Without him it would simply not have happened so I think he deserves a loud applause.

This sponsorship is important to us because it is going to raise our profile in the equestrian world. Therefore it is essential that we really strive to live up to the expectations of Jaeger-LeCoultre so that the agreement can be prolonged after 2014. The agreement implies that we shall organize an award ceremony for the breeders of the top-ranked horses of the rankings in all 3 disciplines. This year the Award Ceremony will take place in November in Doha, the capital of Qatar. It means that the breeders can visit the Global Champions Tour which is taking place in that period. Our Patron, HRH Princess Benedikte will be present in Doha and during the award ceremony, JAEGER-LECOULTRE will present a Reverso watch engraved with the WBFSH logo on the back to the 3 winners. The value of each watch is EUR 10.000.

Our contract with Jaeger-LeCoultre also implies that on the occasion of the World Equestrian Games 2014 in Normandy we shall organize a gala dinner and a seminar under the Patronage of H.R.H. Princess Benedikte of Denmark. We will organize the event together with the Société Hippique Francaise. Johan Knaap, Xavier Libbrecht and I had a meeting with Mr. Yves Chauvin, the President of Société Hippique Francaise during the European Equestrian Games in Denmark so we have already

started preparing for the event. The topic of the seminar is molecular genetics and we are going to invite the world's leading experts in that field.

Another 2013 event belonging under the Department promotion was the WBFSH Dressage Quadrille on the occasion of the European Championships which in the gala show Saturday night before a sold out stadium really gave lustre to the federation.

### **The Individual Horse Ranking winners 2012 / 2013:**

The breeders and the studbooks of these horses will in a few days receive an invitation to go to Qatar for the award ceremony that I have just mentioned.

### **Young Breeders**

Finally, a few words about the young breeders. In the World Breeding Federation we attach great importance to the work being done by the organization, International Young Breeders, and we are proud to support it.

This year the World Championship for young breeders took place in Sweden. I was there and I was very impressed by the high standard of the performances. Also it was so great to experience comradeship flourish across borders and I thought: This really prepares the ground for the next generation of breeders and for a good and prosperous international relationship between future breeders.

I cannot think of a better way to finish this report. As I said in the beginning the times are still difficult but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and the enthusiasm and eagerness of the young people promise well for the future.

### **Questions and comments:**

Klaus Miesner from the Executive Committee asked the General Assembly if the studbooks who supported the amendments to the EU directives had remembered to send the documents to their ministries.

Kees van Oetelaar, AES, asked if it could be possible to have more cooperation on x-ray demands at the different stallion licensing systems throughout the whole studbook sector, in order to make it easier when a stallion owner wants to have a given stallion approved in different studbooks. Paul Hubert from the Board answered that the WBFSH in 2011 initialized an international group of radiographic veterinarian experts with the aim to harmonize first the findings and their categorization. Deciding exactly which x-ray pictures are asked to show a stallion in each respective studbook is a matter of politics from the respective studbooks, but the expert group is to gather again soon, and a veterinarian from each country or studbook is welcome in this group. The accommodation and travel costs of the veterinarians must be covered by the studbook sending them.

John Shenfield from BHHS brought up the question about who points out the Verden participants and the procedures to be followed. Mette Hansson, NWB, said that also in Norway it was not always the view of the National Federation that the pointing out of Norwegian Verden competitors was an assignment to be worked out in cooperation with the studbook, like it was supposed to be. Both Mette Hansson and John Shenfield experienced that the National Federations would sometimes misinterpret some of the rules laid down regarding WBCYH in Verden. Klaus Miesner informed that there are clear rules on this and they can be found on the WBFSH website. Consequently Klaus

Miesner said that they were welcome to ask him for help, but emphasized that the cooperation nationally was very important in cases like this.

Alison Corbally from the Executive Committee congratulated the Board and Xavier Libbrecht for the work that resulted in the new sponsor, Jaeger LeCoultre which she saw as very important for the future work of the organization.

The report was adopted by the General Assembly.

#### **4. Financial report**

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Financial report 2012/2013 is enclosed.

The financial year runs from September 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Rik van Miert from the Department Finance started by thanking the Audit Committee for their controlling work each year and presented the account for the financial year 2012/2013. The result of the year 2012-2013 was -47,532.90 €, leaving the savings account with 136,983.87 €.

The financial report was adopted by the General Assembly.

Håkan Wahlman, member of the Audit Committee, officially handed over the approved annual financial report to the President.

#### **5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year**

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The budget for 2013/2014 is enclosed.

Rik van Miert presented the budget for 2013/2014 with expected result of the year on 16,292 €.

The budget for 2013/2014 was approved.

#### **6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year**

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Jan Pedersen presented the annual plan 2014. Generally, the items are ongoing projects and were therefore proposed from the Board to stay in the plan for the coming years.

The annual plan 2014:

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 stud books and FEI in general and specifically concerning data exchange
4. Breeding information on starting lists and other media
5. Sponsorships
6. Harmonizing of basic X-ray standards
7. Contact to international federations

8. Contact to international organisation of young breeders competition
9. Maintain contact to the EAAP Horse Commission
10. Stimulating the development of vaccinations against and prevention of the spread of exotic diseases
11. Coordinating horse welfare issues
- 12.. Help promote international network of exotic disease alarm system database
13. Promote and maintain the FEI/WBFSH rankings and the stallion rankings

### **Comments:**

Chris Gould, CWBA, raised the question that since some of the items in the Annual Plan were not mentioned in the President's report, maybe it could be more clear as to which items the members could anticipate where action takes place currently. Many of the items are ongoing projects being worked at continuously so the President said that it was a possibility that some of the items could just be a part of the statutes. An alternative way of making the Annual Plan will be considered.

The General Assembly approved the Annual Plan for 2014.

## **7. Election of Board members**

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The Board consists of the president and 5 vice-presidents. Each year, one-third of the Board members are retiring and up for election, meaning that two out of the six Board members are elected each year for a three-year period. This year, Rik van Miert and Jan Pedersen were up for election and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period.

It was informed that Rik van Miert from the BWP is willing to stay as vice-president and the BWP is willing to continue with the Department Finances. The General Assembly re-elected Rik van Miert as vice-president and Rudi Eerdeken as member of the executive committee until 2016.

Likewise, Jan Pedersen (DWB) was re-elected as President and Karina Christiansen as member of the executive committee until 2016, taking care of the secretariat of the WBFSH.

## **8. Election of members for the Audit committee**

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Referring to the statutes three members and two substitutes must be elected annually for the Audit Committee.

Håkon Wahlman did not wish to continue in the committee. Therefore Phillippe LeMaistre from ANSF replaced him in the committee. Werner Schade and Chris Gould were re-elected. Alf Kjetil Andresen and John Shenfield as substitutes of the committee were re-elected as well.

## **9. New Members/Associates**

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Alison Corbally reported from the Department Development. The Department presents the application to the Executive Committee and they advise the Board. The Board then decides on the admission of members and associate. The General Assembly may overrule the decision made by the Board.

The Slovak Warmblood Studbook completed their application for full membership in June 2013. The breed has been the most popular breed in the country since the formation of the Slovak Republic in 1993. The breed originated from Austrian and Hungarian Warmblood breeds in addition to Arab and Thoroughbred horses. Slovak Warmbloods are used in the disciplines of showjumping, dressage, and driving. The Board decided to grant membership status on a meeting on October 6th 2013. The General Assembly agreed in that decision.

The Furioso Studbook applied for full membership in June 2013, but the Board decided not to grant membership as the studbook on the basis of the size of the studbook and its ability to sustain a breeding of horses for the international level of the three Olympic disciplines. Instead the Furioso Studbook will be invited to apply for associate membership. The General Assembly agreed in that decision.

The membership of Studbook APH and Stud book de Cheval Marocain was terminated in 2013, because of outstanding membership fees, followed by reminders.

With the above amendments the total amount of WBFSh members is now 68 and 3 associate members as from October 2013.

## **10. Motions from members/associates**

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According to the rules the provisional agenda shall be sent to the members at least four weeks prior to a General Assembly meeting. Within ten days after receiving the provisional agenda, any member may request the Board to add one or more items to the agenda, provided with an explanation.

No motions had been proposed by members, associates, or Board this year.

## **11. General Assembly 2014**

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The Board has received an invitation from the Brazilian studbook, Brasileiro de Hipismo, who will host the General Assembly in 2014. The meetings will take place on November 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2014, probably in São Paulo, and the delegates of the General Assembly all received a DVD with a video invitation which was also shown at the meeting.

## **12. Miscellaneous**

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### ***a. Annual report from International Young Breeders***

Celia Clarke from the Board of the Young Breeders Int. presented the new logo of the organisation and had a presentation about the World Championships of Young Breeders in Sweden 2013 and their visions for the future. Please see the powerpoint presentation for further details.

**b.** A report made by Alison Corbally informing of the EAAP Horse Commission conference 2013 was handed out.

Jan Pedersen thanked the General Assembly for a good and fruitful meeting and hoped for an equally large attendance at the meeting next year in Brazil.

## **Addendum**

During the traditional Gala Dinner the former Breeding Manager and Managing Director of Hannoveraner Verband e.V. was granted the title of *Honorary Member*. The President gave the grounds for the appointment as follows:

"A few individuals have played a very special part in the creation and development of the WBFSH.

As Breeding Manager and Managing Director of the Hanoverian Studbook Jochen Wilkens was very successful. I am sure that much of the success of that studbook is attributable to Jochen Wilkens. Behind such a success are not only skilled breeders but also a visionary breeding adviser.

In the World Breeding Federation Jochen Wilkens will always be remembered for his positive attitude, his professional contributions and his cheerful mood. He was always good company and he has been with us from the very beginning – always supporting and believing in the idea of a world breeding federation. Representing one of the largest studbooks in the world his support was always very important."

*Vilhelmsborg, November 2013*