Minutes of Joint meeting

Monday May 7th 2012 at 12am-5,30pm

At O’Callaghan Davenport Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

Present: Thomas Nissen, Klaus Miesner, Johan Knaap, Paul Hubert, Xavier Guibert, Rik van Miert, Rudi Eerdekens, Jim Flanagan, Alison Corbally, Deirdre Harty, Jan Pedersen, Karina Christiansen and Christina Brogaard Lund (ref.)

Excused: Siem Korver

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes joint meeting on October 23rd 2011 in Seville, # 1
2. Update on X-ray project
3. General Assembly & Seminar 2012
   3.a Programme 2012, # 2
   3.b GA Agenda # 3
4. Annual Plan 2012, # 4
5. Amendments to the zootechnical studbook legislation, # 10 & 11
6. Breeding certificates
7. Transportation of semen across European borders
8. Motion from CWHBA on new DNA method, # 5
9. New strategic plan 2012-2016, draft, # 6
10.Cedric, # 7
11.Data exchange, # 8, 13, 14, 15
12.Info on the meeting with FEI, # 16
13.Discussion of draft to update number of foals etc. # 12
14.Members
15.IYB application, # 9
16.AOB

Minutes:

1. Approval of Minutes joint meeting on October 23rd 2011 in Seville

See enclosure 1. The minutes from the joint meeting in Seville on October 2011 were adopted without any remarks.

2. Update on X-ray project

During the General Assembly of WBFSH in Seville October 2011 our members were informed about the X-ray harmonisation seminar held in Amsterdam and its outlooks. The following step of this harmonisation process was the proposal of Prof. Denoix and his
colleagues to meet at the end of 2012 after the licensing shows to examine together all the x-rays of the approved stallions 2012, anonymously, and tend to a harmonisation. Prof. Denoix proposes to meet his colleagues in the "Cirale", a big equine x-ray database used as archive for French Anglo-Arabs, trotters, thoroughbreds and Selle Francais stallions near Caen in Normandy to have ideal conditions for examining, comparing, studying analogy with other similar cases, etc. in week 49 or 51.

All invited radiographic experts from selected studbooks should bring a set of anonymized x-rays of each of the approved stallions. In order to categorize and make recommendations for the member studbooks the vets can also draw on the multitude of the x-ray database at the meeting place. Each of the studbooks represented at Board or executive committee can send a delegate to this meeting.

At the first meeting each individual studbook paid for its own vet’s accommodation and transport. This time transport, one lunch and dinner, accommodation and meeting room should be paid by the WBFSH since all member studbooks will benefit on the outcome of this gathering.

3. General Assembly & Seminar 2012

3.a Programme 2012, # 2

From the host representative, John Shenfield, outlines of seminar topics, place, practical excursions and a historic hotel in Newmarket has been proposed. This hotel does not hold a conference room, but another hotel only a short walk away has a room big enough for our seminars and General Assembly. Therefore it was decided to have the meetings at one hotel and to propose to book accommodation at the old, historical hotel. It will all be focussed on the surroundings of Newmarket which is not far from Stansted airport.

A few extra topics were proposed for the seminar topics: Strict vaccination rules in some countries, heritability of roaring (instead of the proposed headshaking item) and Import of horses into China.

WHIRDEC meeting was scheduled to Sunday November 4th at 11am-4pm and Joint Meeting of Board and Executive Committee at 5pm-8pm the same day.

3.b GA Agenda # 3

Siem Korver and Thomas Nissen come up for election this year for the Board. As mentioned in item 6, Breeding certificates is added under Miscellaneous.

4. Annual Plan 2012, # 4

The Annual plan 2012 was evaluated:

1. Planning of the championships together with FEI – ongoing project
2. Working on EU legislation in cooperation with European Horse Network and other organisations – ongoing project
3. Improve communication between stud books and FEI in general and
specifically concerning data exchange – ongoing project
4. Breeding information on starting lists and other media – ongoing project
5. Sponsorships – ongoing project
6. Harmonizing of basic X-ray standards – ongoing project
7. Contact to international federations – ongoing project
8. Contact to international organisation of young breeders competition – ongoing project
9. Maintain contact to the EAAP Horse Commission – ongoing project
10. Development of new strategic plan 2012-2016 – delete for 2013 since a draft has been made and adopted.
11. Stimulating the development of vaccinations against and prevention of the spread of exotic diseases – ongoing project: The main problem is that authorities lack a good monitoring system. In Normandy, France a network database was created with an alarm system. Studbooks and vets in their network receive e-mails at new outbreaks in Europe. Analysis is paid by governmental subsidies. It was decided that we should help by promoting this international network, making this a new item for the Annual Plan 2013.
12. Coordinating horse welfare issues – ongoing project
14. Promote and maintain the FEI/WBFSH rankings and the stallion rankings (new for 2013).

5. Amendments to the zootecnical studbook legislation, # 10 and 11

See enclosures # 10 and 11. There are several critical points in the working document of EU legislation on Breeding animals. In the documents horse legislation is combined with other species. In the old regulations there were exceptions for the equine sectors and equine legislation should be kept separate to make it possible to interpret. For instance there is very little support to a studbook of origin etc.

In the inspection systems of either of our member studbooks’ there are differences that have been decided on that somehow characterize the breeds and that are considered as competitive factors and marketing of the existing studbooks. So if our individual selection systems are to mean anything each studbook should have the right to keep their own more or less strict rules. In the document a wrong use of terminology is used when talking horses, though not for talking zootecchnical matters. There is also a conflict between the definitions of different horses and the veterinarians seem to obtain the right to issue equine passports, no matter the breed and the importance of having original breeding documents. This document undermines the authority of the individual studbook and could cause a catastrophic impact on the horse breeding world.

Comments and quiries from WBFSH:

General Comments:

? Amalgamating equine breeding legislation with other species makes it more difficult to interpret. Separate equine breeding legislation would be preferable.
The legislation seems to offer very little support/protection to Studbooks of origin. It doesn’t define ‘studbook of origin’ or state that there can only be one for a given breed.

There are very few requirements for bodies that want to start a new studbook/register which may lead to countries having large number of approved studbooksregisters. This would cause difficulties for regulation and standards.

The provision were the Commission must be informed by the competent authorities when they are panning on refusing to grant approval to a body, and possibly reverse that decision, would appear to undermine the competent authority.

The ‘third country’ requirements are confusing. Does a studbook from a ‘third country’ apply to the commission for approval? Following the third country’s approval does each individual animal entered from a third country have to comply with all EU identification standards (UELN, microchip etc)? Does a third country need to have legal personality?

The references to ‘filial-books’ are also confusing. What is the definition of a ‘filial-book’? Is this a daughter studbook? Can a filial book also be a third country? Does a filial book need to have legal personality?

The studbook of origin/daughter studbook relationship/requirements are not clearly outlined.

Specific Queries

Page 2. 3. Definitions, e(ii). Why is an exemption made for geldings? Most male horses will be registered as a foal and it won’t be known at that stage whether or not they will be gelded in the future.

Page 3, 4. Conditions for the circulation of breeding animals. What does the last paragraph mean (particularly the reference to ‘characteristics distinguishing them from the population of the same breed’).

Page 4, 6. Refusal, suspension and withdrawal of recognition. The second last paragraph states that the competent authority can withdraw recognition if a body persistently fails to comply with the Regulation i.e. more than a generation interval. The generation interval reference does not seem appropriate for equines where the generation interval is generally around 10 years.

Page 4, 7. Entry or registration of breeding animals in books and registers. The meaning of the third paragraph is not clear. Does this refer to classifying animals from daughter studbooks and if so, shouldn’t the procedures for classification/registration be in compliance with the studbook of origin.
5. **Breeding certificates**

A growing problem around missing breeding documents, double registrations of foals etc is detected. The stallion owners will stop investing in expensive stallions if they loose control over where their semen is sold to, and for how many mares. Also, though it is already forbidden double registrations will impose a problem in the studbook rankings in a few years; which studbook should a given top horse count for? But how can we make sure that a horse does not get two passports? A combination of branding and chipmarking is good, but just one of them is actually not enough. Legislation is at hand, but a higher degree of discipline is needed. Micro chipping has
weak links because in some countries there are many different systems available and not just one central microchip database has been introduced per country.

Furthermore, can a sport horse foal get an original equine passport from a given studbook if a covering certificate/breeding certificate is not produced but just a DNA parentage verification? National rules vary a lot: In France each straw of frozen semen must be followed by a confirmation of the stallion keeper. In the Netherlands as in Denmark the mare owner and stallion keeper are free to choose studbook of registration.

It was decided that this topic should be a part of the GA agenda in Newmarket in November 2012.

7. **Transportation of semen across European borders**

By now the transportation of semen across European borders involves a hopeless load of bureaucracy; 8 pages of signatures, confirmation by a central vet, etc. must follow each load. Since Füssel seems to be under a lot of pressure a motion from the WBFSH and each country could be helpful. A French motion is being prepared, it must be translated and sent to all of our members soonest possible.

8. **Motion from CWHBA on new DNA method, # 5**

It was recommended that it would be far too early to implement a change like the proposed. CWHBA will receive an answer from the secretariat.

9. **New strategic plan 2012-2016, draft # 6**

The draft with its proposed changes was adopted.

10. **Cedric, # 7**

The ministry of Schleswig-Holstein in Germany has examined the zootechnical matters of the pedigree of the horse in mention with the aim to clear the identification. Breeding certificate has been confirmed and adopted by the ministry.

Referring also to item 6 we must take care that we do not allow change of studbook of horses. In Cedric’s case this was not the case, though, since he had only a passport for competition originally. Now his new pedigree is printed and inserted in his original competition passport. Both dam and sire of Cedric were fully approved Holstein individuals, but financial problems forced the breeder not to register it at birth – a situation apparently seen all over the world at present due to financial crisis.

11. **Data Exchange, # 8, 13, 14, and 15.**

FEI is very interested in this solution, and more interested now than in the beginning. With a login the professional user (for instance studbook manager) can search for individual horses and import data to their own database. For further information, please see the enclosures 8, 13, 14, and 15.
The final contract between the French office administering the hub and WBFSH is almost ready to be signed. A few amendments were proposed. If FEI agrees to use the hub for data exchange they agree by signing among other things that the studbooks own their own data.

A newsletter introducing the hub and the possibility finally to connect with it after many years of building the system was sent from the secretariat on April 27th 2012 and it is also published on the news page of www.wbfsh.org

12. **Info on the meeting with FEI, # 16**

There had been a very fruitful meeting with Ingmar De Vos. For agenda and minutes of this please see enclosure 16. DeVos had been very clear in his support of the position of WBFSH regarding less wildcard invitations for Zangersheide from now on. We will send a letter for Zangersheide urging them to have WBFSH flags at the arena, and ask how many they will need for this.

13. **Discussion of draft to update number of foals etc., # 12**

At the last meeting in Seville it was decided that it should be simplified. Rudi will need the foal numbers by Mid June for making the membership invoices. See enclosure 12 for final draft. The answers will be put in an excel sheet and published on the website.

14. **Members**

There were no new applicants this time.

15. **IYB application, # 9**

The Young Breeders have applied for a “piggy-bank” possibility, see enclosure 9. We could open a separate account that operates the IYB expences and subsidiaries.

17. **AOB**

Next EAAP conference will be in Bratislava, Slovakia on August 30th. Jim and Alison plan to go there. Among other things there will be a round-table workshop on genomics and genetic evaluation to detect diseases.

*Vilhelmsborg, May 29th 2012*