



General Assembly 2015

October 20th 2015
At Austria Trend Hotel Ananas, Vienna, Austria

Agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2014, # 1
3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments, # 2, 3, 6, 12, 15
4. Financial report, # 17
5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year
6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year, # 16
7. Election of Board members (*Retiring and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period; Thomas Nissen and Siem Korver*), # 4-6
8. Election of members for the Audit committee (*Referring to the statutes 3 members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2014, Chris Gould, Alf Kjetil Andresen, Werner Schade, John Shenfield and Philippe Lemaistre were elected, the two last mentioned as substitutes*)
9. New Members/Associates
10. New organizational structure, # 18
11. Motion from the Board, # 7
12. Motion from members/associates, # 8-11
13. General Assembly 2016
14. Miscellaneous
 - a. Annual report from International Young Breeders (*Celia Clarke*), #13, 14
 - b. Report from EAAP 2015 (*Kathrin Stock, member of EAAP Horse Commission*), # 19

Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

The President welcomed all the participants and expressed great gratitude to the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Warmblutzucht in Österreich (AWÖ) for the planning of a fantastic programme.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2014, # 1

The minutes from Sao Paulo, Brazil were adopted without any remarks.

3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments, # 2, 3, 6, 12

In many ways 2015 has been an eventful year in the WBFSH. There have certainly been great moments and important achievements - achievements and events that were made possible through co-operation with our sponsors. For strategic communication reasons our sponsor, the watch company Jaeger-LeCoultre, decided to change their focus and therefore terminate our co-operation.

ROLEX

But - through Xavier Libbrecht's mediation we have now a new strong partner; ROLEX. ROLEX has been involved in horse sports since 1957 and I am sure that this partnership is going to make us even stronger. Our partnership with ROLEX was announced at a press conference during the **European Championships in Aachen** in August. Apart from Breido Graf zu Rantzau, Theo Leuchten and me, our patron, HRH Princess Benedikte was there and so was the equestrian world press including 3 TV stations. The Princess was available for the press all day and I must say that the WBFSH was very well exposed that day.

WBFSH / ROLEX WORLD RANKING LISTS

The partnership with ROLEX was made possible through a new agreement with the FEI about the rankings as of July 1st which implies that we are now sole owner of the rankings and so we are entitled to have our own commercial partners for the WBFSH World Breeding Rankings. That was not the case before. The official name of the rankings is now "WBFSH / Rolex World Ranking Lists".

Another change is that the new rankings focus more on the breeders, who now appear in the first column of the rankings.

The WBFSH / Rolex Award Ceremony 2015 will be held in December during the CSI-5* in Geneva. Here the breeders of the top-ranked horses in all 3 disciplines will be honored and receive a ROLEX watch.

Let me briefly present the top-ranked horses and their breeders, whom we are going to invite to Geneva:

Dressage: For the 4th time in a row **Valegro**, breeders: Maartje and Joop Hanse, studbook KWPN, the Netherlands.

Show Jumping: For the second time in a row, **Hello Sanctos (ex Sanctos van het Gravenhof)**, Breeder Willy Taets, Studbook SBS, Belgium.

Eventing: **Horseware Hale Bob**, Breeder: Dr. Rolf Lück, studbook Oldenburg, Germany.

Memorandum of Understanding

As already mentioned the new rankings are the result of a fruitful meeting with the FEI in the spring. Apart from new agreement for the rankings the meeting resulted in

a so-called "Memorandum of Understanding" between our organizations. This memorandum shall form the basis of the future co-operation between us and it describes among other things a new forum, the **FEI WBFSH Council**, the mission of which is to be a platform for the discussion matters of mutual interest, especially in fields where both parties have already interactions, such as the Rankings, FEI World Breeding Championships, selections and quota systems, etc. The FEI WBFSH Council shall meet once a year, but both Parties can agree to have additional meetings if necessary.

FEI / WBFSH World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses

For years now the championships for young horses have been the visible sign of the co-operation between breeding and sport.

The championships for young dressage horses were held in Verden for the last time - at least for some time to come. From 2016, the World Championships will take place in Ermelo, the Netherlands, for a period of three years. However, the Verdener Turniergesellschaft has left us a great legacy. These championships have grown up and been successful in Verden, and if the O.C. of Ermelo makes use of those experiences accumulated in Verden, then I am fully confident that the success of Verden can be continued.

I would like to thank the Verdener Turniergesellschaft and the Hannoveraner Verband for their good, smooth collaboration, their outspoken courtesy, and their great hospitality.

This year's event in Verden was a real triumph for Danish Warmblood. Both gold medals were won by Danish horses and on top of that the silver medal in the class for 5-year-old horses also went to Denmark. From a breeding perspective it is interesting that the 5-year-old gold and silver medalists are full sisters, results of embryo transfer.

Here is the 5-year-old gold medalist:

Fiontini by Fassbinder, Breeder: Hanne Lund and Henrik Hansen, Denmark
Rider: Severo Jurado, Spain.

The 6-year-old winner:

Sezuan by Zack, Breeder: Linette Jæger, Denmark
Rider: Dorothee Schneider, Germany.

For the second time we had a CDI1* for 7- and 8-year-old horses. This was a great success and as a result of that the FEI and WBFSH decided that from next year on also a championship for 7-year-old horses will be organized in Ermelo.

FEI / WBFSH World Breeding Jumping Championship for Young Horses

The world championships for young jumping horses again took place at Zangersheide. Again it was a great event. The setting and the organization was as always perfect but the event was again somewhat disfigured by the large number of wild cards. The host Agreement allows the participation of app. 130 horse per age group, that is 104 horses per age group to be divided between the WBFSH studbooks plus 30 % percent wildcards.

This year 225 5 year old horses, 270 6 year old horses and 208 7 year old horses were competing at Zangersheide.

The number of participants is not a problem for the getting through of the classes as everything is so very well organized but it is a problem - the way I see it - for the image of the event and it is a problem for us as a partner.

A solution could be an increase of the WBFSH quota.

The winners at Zangersheide:

Champion of the 5-year-old jumping horses:

KERSWIN VAN 'T ROOSAKKER
Bay BWP gelding
Sire: Echo van 't Spieveld
Breeder: Kluskens, Belgium
Rider: Doron Kuipers, the Netherlands

Champion of the 6-year-old jumping horses:

EARLEY
Grey KWPN gelding
Sire: Harley VDL
Breeder: M. van Kollenburg, Netherlands
Rider: Maikel van Mierlo, Netherlands

Champion of the 7-year-old jumping horses:

MJT NEVADOS S
Grey PZHK stallion
Sire: Calvados
Breeder: Stanislaw Szurik, Liskowo Stud, Poland
Rider: Gregory Wathélet, Belgium

FEI/WBFSH World Championships for Young Eventing Horses

The FEI/WBFSH World Championships for Young Eventing Horses was held while the meetings in Vienna took place, but for the records we have the pleasure to list the winners here:

Champion of the 6-year-old eventers:

FISCHERINCANTAS
Holsteiner - bay stallion
Sire: Ibisco xx
Breeder: Kirsten Roll, Germany
Rider: Michael Jung, Germany

Champion of the 7-year-old eventers:

MR BASE

Holsteiner - Bay gelding
Sire: Carrico
Breeder: Heinz Henning, Germany
Rider: Laura Collett, Great Britain

Data exchange

Easy, secure and fast data exchange is still a goal of WBFSH. We have already invested a lot in the project - both money and time. The project is rather complicated, both technically, juridically, and politically, but we still believe in it. This autumn Rudi Eerdeken, Johan Knaap and Klaus Miesner met in Warendorf and in Lanaken to discuss the future of a data exchange system. The result is a schedule for the future process and I hope we shall be able to be more concrete when we meet again next year.

Members

The number of members of WBFSH is almost unchanged. The membership status of two studbooks have been terminated and four studbooks have not paid their membership fee for two consecutive years. On the other hand - on the credit side so to speak - we have received three completed applications for membership. Alison Corbally will give us an account of that later today.

As I said in the beginning, 2015 has been an eventful year. The level of activity is not too high, though but it is getting too high for the governance and organization model we have had since 1999. Since then we have been growing year by year but the work is still being done by executive committee members and unpaid studbook politicians in their so-called spare time, that is to say "When they have the time for it". That is not good enough anymore.

Governance and organization of WBFSH

Therefore we launched a project in June to review and redesign the governance and organisation model of the federation. After an initial workshop with the board and executive committee, all members of the board and the executive committee and some additional members of WBFSH were interviewed. The workshop and interview were focused on the clarification of expectations on the ambition and role of the WBFSH and how these are best served in terms of governance and organisation.

Today Jan Steenbergen from the company Pepper Consult will set out the views of the Board and the Executive Committee for us to discuss afterwards.

This brings me to the conclusion of my report:

Our organization is sound, it is proceeding satisfactorily. We have become a key player in the equestrian world but the organization is not completely in phase with time.

4. Financial report

Financial report 2014/2015 is enclosed (# 17).

Rik van Miert from the Department Finance started by thanking the Audit Committee for their controlling work each year.

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

The result of the year 2014-2015 was -9,890.34 €, leaving the total assets with 160,294.76 €.

The financial report was adopted by the General Assembly.

Alf Kjetil Andresen, member of the Audit Committee, officially handed over the approved annual financial report to the President. There were no comments to the financial report.

5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year

The budget for 2015/16 shown in # 17 was approved. Due to the new sponsor, increased expenses on marketing and the engaging of a manager as expected. The budget varies more than usual to the year before.

6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year

The annual plan for 2016 was presented as follows:

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
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. Promote and maintain the WBFSH rankings of horse breeders, studbooks and the stallion
11. Organizational structure
12. Raising the profile of WBFSH through new initiatives

The annual plan for 2016 was adopted without any remarks.

7. Election of Board members (Retiring and eligible for re-election for a 3-year period; *Thomas Nissen and Siem Korver*), # 4-6

Siem Korver, KWPN, had decided to withdraw his candidature as Vice-President within WBFSH due to the conclusion of Jan Paul Steenbergen that the WBFSH should make

room for the smaller studbooks and its participants from the overseas member studbooks.

Thomas Nissen from HOLST, Kees van den Oetelaar from AES, Chris Gould from CWHBA, and Tom Lemmens from ZANG candidated for the two Board member seats. Thomas Nissen and Chris Gould were elected by ballot.

8. **Election of members for the Audit committee** (*Referring to the statues 3 members and two substitutes must be elected annually. In 2014, Chris Gould, Alf Kjetil Andresen, Werner Schade, John Shenfield and Philippe Lemaistre were elected, the two last mentioned as substitutes*)

The Board suggested that Philippe Lemaistre, France was elected as member instead of substitute, and the General Assembly agreed.

9. New Members/Associates

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 associates. The General Assembly may overrule the decision made by the Board.

Since the General Assembly 2014 the Board has agreed in granting member status to two studbooks and rejected one:

Czech Warmblood Breeders Association (CZEWB)

An application for membership of the WBFSH from the Czech Warmblood Breeders Association (CZEWB) was received on November 24th 2014.

The CZEWB was founded with the aim of breeding horses mainly for the disciplines of eventing, dressage, and showjumping. The studbook is approved by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Czech Republic and accepts thoroughbred, Anglo Arab, Trakehner, and all European warmblood horses. Its breeding objective is to produce a noble, correct, easy to ride horse which covers ground easily, and is suitable for all FEI equestrian events.

The Board finds that they fulfil the current criteria so they agreed that the Czech Warmblood Breeders Association could be granted membership status. The General Assembly agreed in this decision.

ACE Studbooks Inc.

The Australian Continental Group Pty Ltd (ACE Group) submitted an application for membership of the WBFSH for the Australian Warmblood ACE Studbook on the 9th January 2015. Their application for membership was discussed at a joint meeting on the 23rd June 2015 and it was determined that the studbook did not comply with the rule that member studbooks must "*Be a horse studbook that is a studbook of members and controlled by these members in a democratic fashion*". The ACE Group have since changed the structure of their organisation in order to meet WBFSH requirements. As part of this process their organisation's name was changed to 'ACE Studbooks Inc.' which is now governed by a Management Committee that is elected by the members. At the Joint Meeting on October 18th in Vienna, Austria, the Board

decided to grant membership to the ACE Studbooks Inc. and the General Assembly in Geneva 2016 will be asked to verify it.

Breeders Elite Studbook for Irish and European Sport Horses (BE/SIES)

An application for membership of the WBFSh from the Breeders Elite Studbook for Irish and European Sport Horses (BE/SIES) was received initially on the 1st October 2013 and further information has been supplied to support the application in 2014 and 2015. The BE/SIES application was discussed at the Joint Meeting on the 28th January 2015 and on the 23rd June 2015 and it was agreed not to grant WBFSh membership to the BE/SIES as the studbook does not comply with the rule that member studbooks must "*Be a horse studbook that is a studbook of members and controlled by these members in a democratic fashion*".

10. New organizational structure, # 18

The consultant, Jan Paul Steenbergen from PepperConsult presented the process and the recommended solutions for the coming structural changes in the organization of the WBFSh, see enclosure 18.

Comments:

Emma Thorén Hellsten (SWB) asked for a clarification on the mentor forum idea. Jan Paul Steenbergen informed that the different fora etc. should be mentored by a Board member to support the group and to report back to the Board.

Mette Hansson (NWB) asked if the presented ideas for structural changes did not need a change of Statutes in order to be implemented. She also wished for an election nomination committee which should take care of the elections, inform members, receive inputs from members and new possible candidates for the Boards and Committees within WBFSh. It was that a change of Statutes was not necessary.

Philippe Lemaistre thought that it would be quite a big and unnecessary waste of resources to have an election committee to make a job and rules that were described in detail in the Statutes. Jan Pedersen agreed in this and would rather see that those resources were invested in a manager.

Chris Gould was very happy with the proposed structural changes and thought it showed progress in a very positive way.

11. Motion from the Board, # 7

This was not intended as a motion, but a working proposal from the General Assembly 2014. The subject and its contents was presented under item 3.

Comments:

Chris Gould from CWHBA said that put together with the in item 10 presented structural changes, this was very much in line with the wishes from some of the small member studbooks that had held a meeting on Sunday morning. A few notes to the draft would be sent from Emma Thorén Hellsten to the secretariat from the Sunday-morning work group.

12. Motion from members/associates, # 8-11

Motion 2:

Motion 2 was sent by NWB, FWB, AWÖ, and SWB and is shown in enclosure 8. Jan Pedersen asked the studbooks behind the motion to define what was really meant by this motion.

Mette Hansson, NWB, explained that the background was their interest and concern about the structural changes in the organisation. They had expected to be able to discuss eventual new changes to the Statutes. But following the interesting development explained during item 4 and 10, they did not have anything to add by now.

Motion 3:

Motion 3 was sent from WSI and is shown in enclosure 9. WSI had not sent a representative, but Jan Pedersen stated that the WBFSH of course is against any kind of discrimination. Furthermore, it was his opinion that we had to rule this motion out since it asks the WBFSH to censure the NF's, and we have no mandate to do so. The studbooks themselves must bring this issue up when communicating with their NF's."

Motion 4:

Motion 4 was sent from the BWP and is shown in enclosure 10. The motion had been discussed in the Board. The Belgian NF has the authority to select the WBCYH participants. We can only urge to increased cooperation; The National Federations have the last say with regards to which competitors are entered for the WBCYH's. The question will be brought up in the FEI/WBFSH Council at the next meeting.

Motion 5:

Motion 5 was sent from the AES and is shown in enclosure 11. The motion from AES regarding a common database for stallion x-rays was suggested to be one of the fora proposed in the structural changes of WBFSH. Many aspects around this suggestion need some consideration, for instance costs, who should manage this database and which resources, who can ask to get the x-rays for viewing, etc. AES agreed that the studbooks which have an interest in the project could establish a special forum under WBFSH management .

13. General Assembly 2016

Geneva, Switzerland during the CHI in December 2016 was suggested as venue, since our new sponsor, Rolex is interested in hosting the annual meetings together with the Swiss member CH-Sportpferde.

14. Miscellaneous

a. Annual report from International Young Breeders (Celia Clarke), #13, 14
Cecilia Clarke shortly described the history of the International Young Breeders association. The IYB was formed in 2001. After that, the IYB has grown rapidly and nearly every second year an international competition has been held. Last time was in 2015 in England with a total budget around 80,000 Euros. It has evolved into a big event now and quite complex to organize. The next competition in 2017 will be held in

Canada, which unfortunately makes traveling expensive to the European young breeders. Therefore Celia Clarke asked the studbooks to support their young breeders in fundraising. For the competition in 2019 Austria has been suggested. The competition in 2021 is still open for suggestions and she emphasized that hosting this kind of event is a good way of promoting the studbook. During 2015 the board of IYB has produced a new manual and rule book and worked out a new constitution. This includes membership rules, financial structure, code of conduct, voting structure and election to the IYB board. More studbooks are starting to use linear scoring, which should also be incorporated in the IYB competition, probably in 2017.

b. Report from EAAP 2015 (Kathrin Stock, member of EAAP Horse Commission)

EAAP, formerly known as European Association for Animal Production, is now called European Federation of Animal Science. Kathrin Stock's powerpoint presentation serves as enclosure 19.

One of the equine topics at this year's annual congress was genetics & genomics in horses. Using the first statistics from linear scoring from some of the studbooks who have implemented it with online tablet scoring showed that results are clearly indicating that these data would be a good background from which to support genomic selection. Increased cooperation between studbooks in these areas is pushed and a reality. Next EAAP congress will be in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Jan Pedersen thanked her for her contribution to the high level of interesting presentation at this annual meeting.

a.o.b.:

Xavier Libbrecht informed of the new partner, Rolex, who is one of the oldest watch-producing sponsors in the equestrian world. With Rolex as main partner it would be possible to celebrate the WBFSH/Rolex breeders rankings winners during the CSIO in Geneva. On Saturday night December 12th the formal celebration will take place in the main arena of Palexpo in Geneva.

Finally, the winning studbooks in the end results of the WBFSH/Rolex rankings 2014-2015 were celebrated:

- Dressage: 1) KWPN (15012 points)
2) Hann (13759 points)
3) Westf (11729 points)
- Jumping: 1) Holst (8181 points)
2) KWPN (7824 points)
3) SBS (7096 points)
- Eventing: 1) ISH (1308 points)
2) HANN (1167 points)
3) OLDBG (1144 points)

Jan Pedersen thanked Siem Korver for his time in the Board.

Siem Korver wanted to express his gratitude, too, for the past time spent in the Board of the WBFSH and thanked also the Executive Committee for the good and important

work that had been done, for instance creating the UELN and making it world-wide implemented and accepted, great World Breeding Championships and the broadening cooperation within the sport horse breeding world. Now is the time for transition, he ended.

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 Geneva. Chris Gould expressed a special thankfulness to the host "Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Warmblutzucht in Österreich" for the planning of a fabulous programme in Vienna.

Vilhelmsborg, November 2015