



# General Assembly 2011

*Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup> 2011 at  
Fernando III Hotel, Seville, Spain*

## Agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2010
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. Discussion of new strategic plan 2012-2016
8. WBFSH/FEI rankings
9. Election of Board members
10. Election of members for the Audit committee
11. New Members/Associates
12. Motions from members/associates
13. General Assembly 2012
14. Miscellaneous
  - a. Report from EAAP Horse Commission (Jim Flanagan)
  - b. HUB/data exchange presentation (Bérengère Lacroix)
  - c. Report from IYB (Celia Clarke)

## Minutes

### 1. Opening and welcome

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The President welcomed all the participants and expressed great gratitude to the Asociación Nacional De Criadores De Caballos de Pura Raza Española (ANCCE) for planning such a fantastic programme. Unfortunately, the patroness of the WBFSH, HRH Princess Benedikte was not able to attend the meeting, but she sent her warmest greetings to the WBFSH.

Unfortunately, due to the Pan American Games and the FEI meetings in Guadalajara taking place almost parallel with our meetings FEI was not able to send representatives to Seville.

### 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2010

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The minutes of 2010 were 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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"In my report last year and the year before I touched on the global financial crisis and its impact on the horse breeding sector. I stated that the number of riders and the number of starters in competitions had not been affected much by the crises and so I predicted that the state of the market was going to change in a positive way and if the usual mechanisms also applied to the market for horses we should soon experience sellers' market. Unfortunately, this has not happened yet. I have received many reports of an ongoing recession resulting in falling prices and another fall in the number of coverings and foals. Under these circumstances more than ever the WBFSH and the individual studbooks have an important mission to support the breeders many of whom are somewhat pessimistic right now. The fat years must be right around the corner.

In this report I will review the reports of the departments which have already been published on our web-site.

#### Department Cooperation

A main goal of the WBFSH is to bridge breeding and sports and thus the relationship with the FEI is very important and I am pleased to say that the FEI also attaches much importance to our co-operation.

The new FEI Secretary General, Ingmar De Vos, was invited to join us here in Sevilla but due to the Pan American Games and FEI meetings in Guadalajara both the President, HRH Princess Haya, and De Vos to their regrets are unable to attend our meetings this year.

In Copenhagen two years ago another player in the horse world and another WBFSH partner was presented, the European Horse Network. This organisation convened an interesting conference in Brussels in November. The aim was to discuss how to proactively influence the upcoming change in the agricultural policy as well as all relevant European policies. According to the report of Dr. Miesner the conference was very successful.

It was, of course, a European conference dealing with EU-matters. I would like, however, to take this opportunity to invite the representatives of studbooks from other parts of the world to use and involve this organisation towards your national authorities whenever you think it helpful and suitable and whenever it is in accordance with our goals.

#### *Dressage in Verden:*

To breeders and many riders the *FEI World Breeding Dressage Championships for Young Horses* are the highlight of the season. Again this year the organization by the Verdener Turniergesellschaft was simply fantastic. Every year small details and changes contribute to raise the level compared to the year before.

However, the value of these championships has often been questioned: do they strain the horses too early? Will these horses really make it to top sport? In order to answer these questions the magazine, *HORSE INTERNATIONAL*, has surveyed one hundred of the most successful horses in these championships. 43 of them have reached the highest level. 80 % of the horses in the survey have – by now - made it to Small Tour or Grand Prix. The *HORSE INTERNATIONAL* conclusion: *"From these high percentages one might assume that a five- or six-year-old's success at Worlds Championships almost guarantees a high-level sport career"*.

The above documentation of the high and unambiguous correlation between the results of the young horses at Verden and international top sport makes these championships even more interesting. It was also striking at Verden that the majority of the sires of the horses in the finals have themselves been competing successfully at these championships. So what we do in Verden and Lanaken does make sense – from a breeding and a sporting point of view.

One of the great stars of the dressage championships this year was incontestably the winner of the 5-year-old horses, the mare Woodlander Farouche by Fürst Heinrich, bred by Lynne Crowden, and ridden by Michael George Eilberg, representing the British Hanoverian Horse Society. That horse is fantastic and beyond extraordinary gaits it really radiated a temperament out of the usual.

Winner of the class for 6-year-old horses was last year's 5-year-old champion, the KWPN stallion Astrix by Obelisk, bred by E.T. ten Bosch, and ridden by Emmelie Scholtens.

#### *Jumping at Zangersheide:*

The FEI World Breeding Championships for Young Jumping Horses were as usual very well organized by Zangersheide. The survey by Horse International that I mentioned in connection with the championships for young dressage horses established the same high correlation between the results for the young jumping horses and their future performance in higher classes.

However, the importance of the championship at Zangersheide to the WBFSH is declining concurrently with the increasing number of wild cards distributed by the organizer. In the class for 5-year-old horses 55% of the participants were wildcards and the class for 6-year-old horses consisted of 58% wildcards. 50% of the 7-year-old horses were wildcards. According to the schedule the organizer may invite only 30% wildcards.

This is a fact and obviously not in accordance with the agreement. The high number of wildcards weakens the importance of these championships as the official world jumping championship of the WBFSH for which reason some kind of action needs to be taken and will be taken.

Here the results:

The winner of the 5-year-old horses: Gladys by Wandor, Studbook BWP, rider: Yves Vanderhasselt (Belgium).

The winner of the 6-year-old horses: Carthageno Z, by Carthino Z, studbook Zangersheide, rider: Gerben Morsing (Ned).

The winner of the 7-year-old horses: Co Dela Rossa Z, by Cor d'Almé I Z, Studbook Zangersheide, rider: Jessica Kürten (IRL).

#### *Eventing at Le Lion d'Angers:*

Great event, very well organized.

The results:

6-year-old horses. Winner: Roscana SFT by Ituango xx, bred by Mirko Glotz, Studbook Sachsen Thüringen

7-year-old horses. Winner: Zidante by Polydox, bred by Ben Walden, studbook KWPN.

Overall winning studbook in Le Lion d'Angers: KWPN

### **Department Promotion**

From time to time our way of calculation the rankings is criticized. However, we have never tried to make a secret out of the merits and demerits of the system. We do not want to try to compare something that is not possible. We have kept it simple: the best 6 horses count for their studbook and higher competition gives higher scores. We do wish to improve the calculation system but for that we need reliable data from each studbook about the exact number of jumping, eventing and dressage foals. This is not possible at the moment but it is our goal to take the size of the studbook into account.

Daniëlle Arts will develop this subject further under item 8 of the agenda.

### **HKM**

We have signed a sponsor agreement with the German company, HKM Sports Equipment. Besides supplying the WBFSH officials with jackets the agreement comprises prizes of honor in terms of jackets, halters and coolers for the winners of the championships for young horses and for the breeders of the top horses in the rankings. I am sure that this agreement will be mutually advantageous.

### **Breeding Department**

For some years now the Breeding Department has put a lot of effort into the project of linking the horse databases. Several horse organizations work together on that project through WHIRDEC (World Horse Identification, Registration and Data Exchange Committee).

The first goal was the UELN (Unique Equine Lifenumber). The second phase is now launched with the HDE (horse data exchange) project that will enable us to trace the horses in the databases whether for health, sports, breeding or promotional purposes. One of the difficulties has been the definition of clear standards in a sector where technology is constantly evolving.

The staff of the FEI is deeply involved in the HDE project. Due to several problems, the project came to a standstill in 2010. However, on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, a WHIRDEC meeting took place in Paris with delegates from various WBFSH studbooks, national databases, the WBFSH, the FEI and the European Commission (SANCO). After reviewing the status of the project, the delegates confirmed the wish of their organizations of linking databases and wished that the process be continued.

The aim is now to set up a world hub, funded by the WBFSH for its members, but which may be open to all databases of members of organizations officially recognized by WBFSH. The HUB will be a center of orientation and a link between databases, which will manage the authorisations set by each "player".

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, Rudi Eerdeken and Xavier Guibert met the new Secretary General of the FEI (Mr Ingmar De Vos) in Lausanne in order to present the status of the project and to plan future steps. After an exchange of views concerning exchange of data between the stud books, the national equestrian federations and the FEI, it became apparent that the national federations could also take advantage of the concept and the HUB. So, it was agreed to draft a memorandum of understanding to be signed by the presidents of the WBFSH and the FEI, designed to enhance the information of their members at their next General Assembly.

### **X-ray harmonization**

The WBFSH wishes to harmonize the basis of X-rays standards between countries. It is in particular important to make the exchange of stallions easier. The focus should therefore be on stallions for breeding and not riding horses. Therefore five

veterinarians were invited, two from Germany, one from France, one from Belgium and one from Ireland to a meeting in July to discuss this topic. The WBFSH suggested the veterinarians to work with the following agenda:

1. Definition of a common protocol for the number and projections of X-rays
2. Determination of the number of categories and description of the separate categories
3. Agreement on radiological interpretation

The vets discussed the agenda for a few hours and then reported to the WBFSH joint meeting. They had agreed on item 1 and decided that the minimum of X-rays should be 12 projections. Items 2+3 need several more meetings, not necessarily together with the WBFSH. The veterinarians would like to extend the group with vets from the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden etc.

They suggested that the group could meet in connection with the examination of X-rays of stallion prior to the stallion selection in each country in order to exchange experience. It was pointed out that there can be differences in the consequences of the findings depending on the policy of the individual breeding association. Also here the funding is the problem. Paul Hubert is our connection to the vets and he will examine the possibilities of funding.

With this I conclude the activity report of the Board. I have only touched lightly on the reports from the various departments as they have been published on our website for some time now.

Finally let me take this opportunity to thank our partners for fruitful cooperation, the FEI, the magazine Breeding News, represented by Xavier Libbrecht, the International Young Breeders represented by Wendy Colon, Ireland and Mediehuset Wiegaarden, Denmark, represented by our press officer, Thomas Bach Jensen."

The reports by the President and the five departments were adopted without any remarks.

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

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*Financial report 2010/2011 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 presented the account for the financial year 2010/2011. The result of the year 2010-2011 was 5,207.41 €, leaving the savings account with 125,465.27 €.

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 2011/2012 is enclosed.*

Rik van Miert presented the budget for 2011/2012 with expected result of the year on -22,606.46 €.

The costs to run the organization are fixed amounts to the office, the president and the vice-presidents. The WBFSH still have to pay the invoice from FEI from previous year, as well as the IYB competition 2011 on 3,500 €. The IYB will have no competition in 2012. Referring to the revenues the WBFSH still hopes to find a sponsor.

*Questions:*

Ludwig Christmann, HANN, asked why the revenues for full members were less than previous year. Rik van Miert explained that the WBFSH expects a drop in the amount of foals due to the financial depression. Therefore a reduced income of 15% for full membership with more than 1000 foals was expected. Jan Pedersen added that Board had discussed to raise the membership fee, but the conclusion was that they would rather try to find a sponsor.

The budget for 2011/2012 was approved.

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

Jan Pedersen presented the annual plan 2012. Many of the items are ongoing projects and should therefore stay in the plan for the coming years.

The annual plan 2012:

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. Development of new strategic plan 2012-2016
11. Stimulating the development of vaccinations against and prevention of the spread of exotic diseases
12. Coordinating horse welfare issues

*Comments:*

During 2011 Xavier Libbrecht had tried to find sponsors for the WBFSH. He had a very good contact to the animal nutrition company "Alltech", but they had just informed that unfortunately they had to decline our offer.

Per Lundberg, SWE, suggested connecting a sponsor to IYB. That could be something new and fresh.

Klaus Miesner drew attention to item 4. He requested all the studbooks to send in pedigree information together with the entry forms to the Young Horse Championship. There are still problems with receiving this information. Klaus Miesner also asked if FN, Germany should organize a seminar in 2012 for studbooks that are not so familiar with breeding dressage horses?

Jan Pedersen suggested another item for the annual plan could be establishment of a Young Horse Championship in the US. It is a pity that it currently only works in Europe. Maybe the US Federation could help organizing it? The Board would examine this further.

The General Assembly approved the Annual Plan for 2012.

## **7. Discussion of new strategic plan 2012-2016**

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Jim Flanagan informed that the Board will present a new Strategic Plan for 2012-2016 at the next General Assembly in 2012. In the meantime all studbooks were invited to send input to the draft. It can be forwarded to the WBFSH secretariat.

During the next 4 years the Board wished to work further with the items already stated in the Strategic Plan, so it did not need changes in the mission statement, values or major goals. But maybe something needs to be added or deleted in the strategic plan.

The Board suggested adding something about:

- Encouraging research on horses
- Developing a horse research agenda
- Sponsorship issues
- Horse health and welfare
- Stallion rankings
- Newsletter
- Connection to IYB

### *Questions:*

Chris Gould, CWHBA, suggested adding the stimulation of the sport horse industry. If the decline continues it will be very difficult to be a horse breeder in the future.

Jim Flanagan answered that the Board would consider if and how it could be added.

## **8. WBFSH/FEI rankings**

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Jan Pedersen informed that the FEI/WBFSH rankings have often been criticized for not including the population size. But this was not as simple as it sounded. Therefore the Board had asked Daniëlle Arts from the Department Promotion to illustrate the problems.

The purpose of the rankings is to compare the studbooks based on FEI/WBFSH horse rankings. The 6 best horses from each studbook are added together and they establish the studbook rankings per disciplines. The higher a horse is ranked, the higher score is added to the studbook. The problem is that differences in population size and breeding goals make the comparison difficult.

A journalist had recently produced an alternative ranking list by using the 300 highest ranked horses and taking an estimated number of foals born per disciplines into the calculation. Daniëlle Arts showed that the rankings would differ hugely if only top 100 compared to top 600 are used. So which ranking list would be the most correct one?

The conclusion was that the rankings were highly sensitive. To correct for studbook size the WBFSh would need the exact number of foals born per discipline. Furthermore all studbooks and not just top 300 should be in the rankings. Until these figures are available from all studbooks it is better just to keep the rankings as simple as possible.

Finally, Daniëlle Arts informed that the final rankings for 2011 as well as the sire rankings were already available on [www.wbfsh.com](http://www.wbfsh.com).

*Question:*

Chris Gould asked what the WBFSh were using the rankings for? Was it to make awareness of the WBFSh? Was it to say which studbook was the best?

Jan Pedersen answered that the main goal was to focus on the breeders of top horses in the rankings and to make a competition between the studbooks.

## **9. 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 have to be elected, meaning that two out of the six Board members are elected each year for a three-year period.

Jan Pedersen informed that Jim Flanagan is willing to stay as vice-president and the IHB is willing to continue with the Department Development. The General Assembly re-elected Jim Flanagan as vice-president and Alison Corbally as member of the executive committee until 2014.

Likewise, Paul Hubert, ANSF, was re-elected as vice-president and Xavier Guibert as member of the executive committee until 2014, taking care of the Department Breeding.

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

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

John Shenfield, Håkon Wahlman, Alf Kjetil Andresen, Werner Schade and Chris Gould were elected.

## **11. New Members/Associates**

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Jim Flanagan 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.

Continental Studbook (LLC) applied for associate member and it was accepted by the Board in March 2011. They aim to breed horses capable of competing up to Olympic level in dressage, show jumping and eventing. There was no objection from the General Assembly.

The North American Studbook (NAS) applied for full membership in September 2011. They aim to breed horses for dressage, show jumping and eventing. The studbook was established in 2009 and 150 horses are currently registered. The



Board has decided that the studbook is not yet of sufficient size to become full members. Instead the Board will suggest the NAS to apply for associate. The General Assembly agreed in that decision.

With the above 1 new associate this brought the total amount of WBFSH members up to 66 and associate members to 3 as from October 2011.

## 12. 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.

## 13. General Assembly 2012

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At the meeting the Board was not able to inform about the place and date for the General Assembly 2012.

Jan Pedersen informed that two different studbooks in Europe were considering being the host, but there was no decision yet. As soon as the decision would be made, the information would be put on the WBFSH web-site.

## 14. Miscellaneous

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### a. *Report from EAAP Horse Commission (report enclosed)*

Jim Flanagan informed that one goal of the WBFSH strategic plan was to maintain a close working relationship with the Horse Commission of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP). Over 1000 people attended the annual meeting of the EAAP in Stavanger, Norway on August 29<sup>th</sup> – September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011. The Horse Commission had planned 7 sessions including 2 work shops on equine education, nutrition and welfare, feeding practices, social constraints on horse housing as well as free communication in horse production.

### b. *HUB/data exchange presentation*

Registration of imported horses/semen takes up a lot of time in each studbook and sometimes errors occur because of manual typing. To solve these problems WHIRDEC (World Horse Identification, Registration and Data Exchange Committee) was established in 2005. The first result of WHIRDEC was the UELN (Unique Equine Life number), which became a mandatory standard in Europe in 2008 (regulation 504/2008).

The second phase was the HDE (Horse Data Exchange) project. The goal was to use the UELN to ensure traceability of horses in different databases whether for health, sports, breeding or promotional purposes. FEI had a high interest in the project to ensure correct pedigree in their database. In return, the international results were of high interest to the studbook organizations. The aim now was to set up a world hub, funded by the WBFSH, which may be open to all databases of organizations officially recognized by WBFSH. The world hub would be free of charge for the WBFSH members.

Bérengère Lacroix, IFCE, presented how the HDE worked by importing a Belgian

horse to the French horse database, only by using the UELN. If any of the studbooks would want to connect the world hub, they could contact Bérengère Lacroix on e-mail: [contact@ueln.net](mailto:contact@ueln.net)

c. *Report from IYB (reports enclosed)*

Celia Clarke, WBS, presented two reports of 1) the World Championship 2011 and 2) the IYB meeting in Lyon 2011.

The World Championship 2011:

The International Young Breeders World Championship was organized by ANSF and took place in Chazey sur Ain, France on July 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> 2011. There were 180 participants from 21 different studbooks (compared to 17 studbooks in Ireland 2009). The overall winners were:

1. Holstein
2. Brandenburg
3. Baden Württemberg

The IYB meeting in Lyon 2011:

The aims of the IYB is to improve international cooperation by organizing World Championships every second year. The participants are divided in two age groups: juniors (16-19 years of age) and seniors (20-25 years of age). Future IYB championships have been planned to be in:

- 2013: Sweden
- 2015: Great Britain
- 2017: Canada

The IYB were grateful for the support of the WBFSH. Every organisation that organises the championship would receive 3,500 €. For the website 1,000 € in the budget annually and additionally the IYB received 2,000 € on presentation and acceptance of invoices per year.

The IYB would like to use some of the budget to support studbooks that cannot afford the cost to go to Canada. The board of the IYB consists of the President Inken Gräfin Platen, Vice-president Norman Storey and Secretary Celia Clarke. More information can be found on [www.young-breeders.com](http://www.young-breeders.com)

*Other items:*

Klaus Miesner presented the new WBFSH sponsor, HKM sports equipment ([www.hkm-sportsequipment.eu](http://www.hkm-sportsequipment.eu)). The HKM had agreed in supplying the WBFSH officials with jackets; give prizes of honour in terms of jackets, halters and coolers for the medallists of the WBFSH championships; and to supply the breeders of the winning horses on the FEI/WBFSH ranking list with jackets, halters and coolers. Furthermore the WBFSH members would be able to buy items with the WBFSH logo at a special price.

The Board had decided to modernize the WBFSH logo, so it looked better on the jackets etc. The new logo was presented.

Chris Gould, CWHBA, brought up an item regarding a new method of DNA parentage identification for horses. Jan Pedersen informed that the Board would discuss this and that Chris Gould could bring up the item as a motion for the General Assembly 2012.

Philippe Lemaitre, ANSF, requested the WBFSH Board to publish all information in good time in advance of the meetings, thereby giving the studbooks a possibility to discuss the items before the General Assembly.

Finally, the winning studbooks in the end results of the FEI/WBFSH rankings 2010-2011 were celebrated:

Dressage: KWPN

Jumping: KWPN

Eventing: ANSF

*Vilhelmsborg, November 15<sup>th</sup> 2011*  
*Karina Christiansen*