



## **EFFA AGM**

4th November 2012 / 9.30 am to 5.00pm  
Hotel Radisson Blu Royal, Helsinki, Finland

President: Mr. Flemming Christensen DK

Secretary: Mr Miles Williamson-Noble UK

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### **Participating members:**

Austria:	Georg Rys Elisabeth Prinz
Czech Republic	Jindrich Vincalek Michaela Kubistova Zdenek Polak
Denmark:	Flemming Christensen (EFFA President & Board Member) Michael Kjaer Jacob Algot
Finland:	Thomas von Troil Riina Villanen
France:	Dominique Fonseca Grégoire Fauquembergue
Germany:	Paul Hellmeier Konrad Maier
Ireland:	Martin Leahy John Brennan
Malta:	Martin Darmanin
Netherlands:	Chris Oomen Dennis van Heel
Norway:	Aksel Vibe (part time)
Spain:	Roger Soler-Pont
Sweden:	Peter Frosch (EFFA Vice President & Board Member) Anders Norman

**Miles Williamson-Noble**

**Registrar & Secretary, European Federation of Farriers Associations**

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Jacob Norberg

Switzerland: Andreas Furgler (EFFA Treasurer & Board Member)  
Siegfried Dauner (EFFA Board Member)  
Bernard Haberli  
Richard Hasler  
Isobel Imboden (eHoof Editor)

United Kingdom: Gary Burton  
Chris Linssner  
Miles Williamson-Noble (EFFA Registrar, Secretary & Board Member)

## **1. Opening and introduction**

On behalf of the entire EFFA Board, Flemming Christensen welcomed all delegates to Helsinki. He was very pleased to see such a good turnout.

Flemming thanked the organizing team of the Finnish Farrier Association for the great preparation work without which this congress and AGM would not have been possible.

## **2. Approval of the AGM minutes 2011 Barcelona**

The minutes of the AGM of the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in Barcelona were approved subject to inclusion of the names of the Irish delegation, and two editorial changes in the text. The revised minutes will be published on the website.

## **3. Matters Arising**

All matters arising had either been actioned or were included in the agenda.

## **4. President's Report**

Since last year's AGM in Barcelona, EFFA has been busy with competitions and helping to raise farriery standards throughout Europe.

The Executive Board has met twice. The first meeting was in Stockholm in March, when our Swedish friends kindly invited us to join their anniversary celebrations. I was unable to go because of a bad back, but those who did attend did some useful work, and I understand had a very enjoyable time. The second meeting was in Zurich in September when the Swiss Metal Union kindly hosted us. At this meeting we spent some time discussing possible future Board positions, and you will hear more about this later in the day.

It is important for EFFA to help those countries in and around Europe which are trying to raise standards of farriery. As part of this effort a team of 4 from Switzerland and France went to Algeria in April to help them develop a system of training. This was well received and I am only sorry that Yasmina Belabbas is not able to be with us today to tell you about it herself. I took a break from a Mediterranean cruise holiday in the spring to visit Malta, and met Martin Darmanin who is working hard to set up training and examinations there. I am delighted that he is here with us today. We also helped in the provision of judges for Hungary's first farriery competition. Shortly we will be contacting the Belgian Farriers Association to see if we can encourage them to rejoin.

In August, Austria hosted a very successful Euro-championships, and you will hear more about this later from Georg Rys. In October, World Skills Europe took place at the F1 race track at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium. This is a competition for apprentices and young tradesmen. Unfortunately only 4 nations entered teams in the farriery competition, and we need to discuss later what we should do about this. However, this should not take anything away from the young Swiss farrier who won.

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The Accreditation Board had expected to visit Norway in the summer, but in the end this did not happen. However, the new charging system for Certified Euro-Farriers is working well, and with over 1500 registered in 2012, we have more than we have ever had before.

During the year Aksel Vibe has been working on some new competition rules, and the Leonardo da Vinci partners have been working on the English version of e-Hoof. You will hear more about both later.

Lastly, I come to an announcement that I am sad to make. My back has been very painful throughout the year, making travel difficult, and the painkillers that I have to take make sitting and concentrating for long periods hard. I have, therefore, decided that I should resign as your President. I will chair this meeting today, but at the end of it you must make up your minds and vote for my successor. It has been traditional for the Vice President to take over from the President, and this is what the Executive Board will recommend, but there is nothing to stop someone else from putting their name forward.

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Andreas Furgler informed the members about last year's financial situation, the budget for 2013 and the balance sheet. He explained that the Leonardo e-Hoof project funding was helping in the sum of €5000 (for further dissemination strategy), and he thanked the Austrian Association for their excellent work in reducing the cost of the Eurochampionships, so that EFFA only had to contribute €10.



	Budget 2012	30.09.2012	Budget 2013
<b>Income:</b>			
Official member fees	€ 14'000.00	€ 14'205.00	€ 14'000.00
C-EF Registration Fee	€ 7'000.00	€ 10'984.00	€ 10'000.00
Interest	€ 100.00	€ 85.13	€ 80.00
Divers	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
<b>Total income</b>	<b>€ 21'100.00</b>	<b>€ 25'274.13</b>	<b>€ 24'080.00</b>
<b>Costs:</b>			
Financial administration & bank costs	€ 300.00	€ 912.62	€ 1'000.00
Web site	€ 3'000.00	€ 1'863.34	€ 2'000.00
Representation costs president	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Travel expenses executive board	€ 5'000.00	€ 4'236.57	€ 5'000.00
AFA convention, travel expenses	€ 1'000.00	€ 0.00	€ 1'000.00
Administration	€ 1'500.00	€ 3'000.00	€ 3'000.00
EFFA Educational / eurochamp.	€ 5'000.00	€ 10.00	€ 5'000.00
EFFA C EF Accreditation Board	€ 3'000.00	€ 7'016.03	€ 7'000.00
EFFA AGM	€ 3'000.00	€ 5'000.00	€ 3'000.00
Leonardo Project "e-hoof-glossary"	€ 1'000.00	€ 0.00	-€ 3'000.00
<b>Total cost:</b>	<b>€ 22'800.00</b>	<b>€ 22'038.56</b>	<b>€ 24'000.00</b>
<b>Benefit / Lost</b>	<b>-€ 1'700.00</b>	<b>€ 3'235.57</b>	<b>€ 80.00</b>
	<b>€ 21'100.00</b>	<b>€ 25'274.13</b>	<b>€ 24'080.00</b>

**Miles Williamson-Noble**

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BILANZ / BILAIN / BALANCE				
		01.10.2011	30.09.2012	01.10.2012
<b>ACTIV</b>				
Bank	UBS 211-255602.M1F	€ 16'168.13	€ 24'181.70	€ 24'181.70
	Cash	€ 445.00	€ 67.00	€ 67.00
Debiters	Member fees	€ 600.00	€ 600.00	€ 600.00
<b>Total activ</b>		<b>€ 17'213.13</b>	<b>€ 24'848.70</b>	<b>€ 24'848.70</b>
<b>PASSIV</b>				
	open transactions	€ 600.00		
	EFFA capital	€ 16'613.13	€ 16'613.13	€ 19'848.70
	E-hoof reserve		€ 5'000.00	€ 5'000.00
	Benefit / Lost		€ 3'235.57	
<b>Total passiv</b>		<b>€ 17'213.13</b>	<b>€ 24'848.70</b>	<b>€ 24'848.70</b>

## 6. Auditor's Report

Having been appointed auditor at our last AGM, Martin Leahy verified the accounts of our Federation for the period of 1st October 2011 until 30th September 2012. He concluded that all financial activities for the year 2011/2012 had been treated in a correct way and that our assets had been managed in accordance with the financial rules.

**The delegates approved the accounts for 2011/12, and appointed Martin Leahy as auditor for the next year** (he said that he wished to stand down as auditor by the end of the next period / together with the treasurer).

## 7. Report of the Accreditation Board

Miles Williamson Noble informed the meeting that the planned visit to Norway had not happened, and that as a result there had been no Accreditation Board visits in 2012.

It would soon be necessary to find a replacement for Howard Cooper as Chairman, and it was desirable to have at least one more farrier member and a standby for the veterinary member. It would be necessary for them to attend an accreditation visit as an observer before they could become full members. Michael Kjaer expressed interest in joining as a farrier, and Isabel Imboden would talk to Michael Weishaupt about becoming his deputy. Miles Williamson-Noble would be standing down as Registrar in November 2013, and ideally his replacement should also attend a visit as an observer.

The future visits programme was discussed, and agreed as follows:

- 2013 France
- 2014 Switzerland Denmark Finland
- 2015 Austria Czech Republic
- 2016 Germany UK
- 2017 Ireland Netherlands Sweden Czech Republic

Other nations for possible accreditation:

- Norway, Hungary

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Roger Soler-Pont said that there was currently no farriery school operating in Spain (Catalonia), and Georg Rys explained that there were problems with the Vienna school in Austria. There were also difficulties in finding a replacement to take over from him running the farriers association, and it might be that the metal working union would have to become the official EFFA member association for Austria. The Czech Republic was starting training of beginners in 2013, and the first students would graduate in 2016. A revisit to look at Czech mature students in 2015 was possible, and a first visit to the graduating beginners could be scheduled for 2017. Chris Oomen stated that because of changes in the language requirements for farriery students in the Netherlands, they might not be starting any more courses for foreign students, and so a visit to look at the training of German students in the Netherlands would not be needed.

Some rescheduling might be necessary to limit the number of visits in 2017 to 3.

## 8. Numbers of Certified Euro - Farriers

Miles Williamson – Noble informed members that as at 30 October 2012 we have a total of 1512 EFFA Certified Euro-Farriers. The numbers are:

• Austria	60
• Czech Republic	8
• Denmark	106
• Finland	72
• Germany	149
• Ireland	106
• Netherlands	258
• Spain (Catalonia)	0
• Sweden	31
• Switzerland	82
• United Kingdom	638
<b>Total</b>	<b>1512</b>

The policy of graduating charges according to numbers, with no payment for numbers over 400 was working well, and the UK numbers had returned to their previous high level.

Andreas Furgler was keen to see the Certified Euro-Farrier qualification moving towards requiring holders to complete some Continuing Professional Development (CPD) each year. It was agreed that this was desirable as a long-term aim, but that it would depend on individual national requirements for CPD.

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## 9. Competition Rules

Aksel Vibe described the work he had completed during the year on developing improved competition rules, which he hoped might become standard throughout European competitions. He was offering a choice of overall scoring systems, with one based on marks in each section of the competition and one based on places in each section. Siegfried Dauner stressed that the new rules could be enforced in the Eurochampionships, but should be offered as guidance not a requirement for other competitions. The guidance would be particularly helpful for nations just starting to run competitions.

The draft rules would be emailed to all delegates, and would be displayed on the website. Any nations running farrier competitions in 2012/13 were encouraged to try the new rules, and to trial the two ways of deciding the overall winner to compare results. Time would be set aside at the 2013 AGM for delegates to discuss what they had found when trialling the new rules.

Flemming Christensen invited Aksel Vibe to attend the Danish competition in March and to run both systems of deciding the overall winner to see how they compared.

## 10. Link with FEEVA

Work had continued during the year on developing the link with the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations, and a set of agreed aims had been reached. These are to:

- Improve the welfare of the horse by encouraging the highest standards of hoof trimming and shoeing by means of a certified farrier
- Encourage close working between farriers and veterinary surgeons on the therapeutic treatment of horses' hooves
- Encourage the education of the horse owning public to make use of certified farriers who guarantee the art and science of farriery

A press release had been issued, and delegates were encouraged to give the agreement publicity with equine associations and with equine veterinary surgeons in their own countries.

## 11. EFFA Educational Event

### a) Plans for Denmark 2013. (Michael Kjaer outlined the plans and gave a short presentation)

Time and place:	Thursday the 17th to Sunday the 20th October 2013 (week 42)
Thursday:	Arrival (bus collection at Copenhagen Airport)
Friday:	Teaching at KU Life
Saturday:	Competition at KU Life, followed by excursion to Copenhagen
Sunday:	Home travel day
Limitations:	In total max. 100 people. There is no limit to entries from countries.
Invitations:	will be sent June 2013
Entry fee for apprentices:	150 Euro (includes: Room and food, teaching and excursions)
Entry fee for non apprentices:	350 Euro (includes: room and food, teaching and excursions)
Sightseeing destinations:	The Royal Stalls, The Danish Farrier Museum; Amalienborg (the royal residential)

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## **b) France 2015 (Grégoire Fauquembergue outlined the plans)**

- The Educational Event will be held alongside an equine event in Normandy.
- Master farriers as well as apprentices will be welcome, and there will be a forum.
- The event is likely to be in September 2015.

## **12. European Championship**

### **a) Austria 2012.**

Georg Rys presented a video and a series of photographs of the very successful Eurochampionships held in Stadl Paura, Austria from 2nd to 5th August 2012. The competitions were held in a large riding arena in Stadl-Paura at the same time as the European Championship for Haflinger and Friesian horses. The arrangement with the Haflinger association was successful as it attracted more public to the farrier competition than would have been there otherwise. Approximately 55 people from 15 countries participated. Judges: Joop Weijnen, Holland and Siegfried Dauner, Switzerland. Organizer: Österreichischer Hufschmiede Verband

The Austrian Association had managed to get the use of the competition hall almost free, so saving themselves over €10,000. This combined with the fact that they did not award any prize money meant that the cost was well contained, and the grant that EFFA had offered was not needed. Delegates thanked the Austrian Association for this excellent outcome.

Some discussion on the problems of getting sponsorship followed. It was noted that some sponsors wished to be the sole partner for an event, but it was suggested that this was not a good idea. Mustad were now reluctant to give money for prizes, but were prepared to commit staff time in support of an event. Some farriery companies were reluctant to sponsor competitions as they thought that only a few farriers attended, and many of them made their own shoes. They would prefer to sponsor events at which a larger number of farriers were present. Sponsors are interested in how much publicity they get, and thus articles afterwards in the press are greatly appreciated. Linking farriery competitions with other equine events could reduce the cost of hiring facilities, get more spectators there and raise the profile of the event.

### **b) UK 2014**

Gary Burton said that observers from the UK had attended the Eurochampionships in Austria to get ideas. They were trying to link the farriery competition to a major event, but had not yet been successful. The British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association had just run the International Championships, combined with a Farriery Focus day, and they might cancel the International in 2014 and run the Eurochampionships instead. The event will be at Stoneleigh, and will probably take place in September.

### **c) 2016**

Denmark offered to host the Eurochampionships in 2016.

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### **13. World Skills Europe 2012**

Chris Oomen, Chief Expert for the farrier competition within World Skills Europe, provided a report on the 2012 competition. Despite encouragement for as many nations as possible to compete, only 4 entered teams. These were Austria, France, Netherlands and Switzerland. Switzerland won the competition. Reasons given for nations not entering were the cost (€7500 per competitor), national skills organisations not having links with the farriery associations and the fact that farriery is not included in World Skills.

The next World Skills Europe will be in Lille, France in 2014. Delegates would like national teams to consist of more than one competitor, but the World Skills Europe rules only allow more than one individual on a team when they work as a team and not separately. There is unlikely to be a significant reduction in cost as the entry fee covers the cost of judges, experts and general overheads.

Delegates thought that only having one competitor for the fee of €7500 represented bad value for money, and that EFFA member associations could organise competitions far more cheaply, and allow many more competitors per nation. However, it was pointed out that the €7500 was paid by the national skills organisations, and would not become available to EFFA if it decided to run its own competition instead. The general feeling was that EFFA should consider organising its own competition for apprentices, but that this should not be part of the Educational Event which should continue to place emphasis on education, and allow competition between individuals who might not be the best in their country.

It would be national skills organisations, not EFFA, which decided whether to enter farriery teams in 2014, but if there were less than 6 teams entered, it was likely that farriery would be removed from the competition.

**The Executive Board undertook to consider the idea of an EFFA Apprentice Shoeing Competition further.**

### **14. Annual General Meeting.**

On behalf of the Czech delegation, Zdenek Polak provided details of the plans for the 2013 AGM. It would be held in Prague from 7th to 10th November.

Although Hungary had been unable to attend the 2012 AGM, they provided a Powerpoint presentation of the facilities and sights that would be included in the 2014 AGM in Budapest.

Switzerland offered to host the AGM in 2015.

**Ireland undertook to consider possibly hosting the 2016 AGM.**

### **15. EFFA Website**

Miles Williamson-Noble informed delegates that hosting of the EFFA website had moved to the UK, where the new company, Paesposoft, would be more responsive and cheaper than the Swiss hosts had been.

It was agreed that Certified Euro-Farriers could only be nominated by the country in which they were recognised by the accredited national association, but that if working overseas they would be shown on the website by the country where they worked. Germany undertook to provide additional address details to make the listing of German CE-Fs more complete. It was noted that the BVM had not put anyone's name forward, and that all German CE-Fs had been nominated by the EDHV. Ireland confirmed that they did not have postcodes as part of their addresses.

It was felt that having the location of CE-Fs shown on a map would be nice to have, but was not worth significant expenditure.

# European Federation of Farriers Associations EFFA



## 16. Leonardo da Vinci Project “e-hoof”

Isabel Imboden reported that she had a meeting with the eHoof partners on Friday evening at which a number of detailed points were covered. She explained that the main languages were German, English and French. Other languages would be included in the glossary, but not in the definitions. She stressed that the programme was not linear in the way a book is, and that those using it could go in wherever they wished and jump around as it suited them.

e-Hoof Version 2.0 is expected to be ready in March 2014, but this requires all contributors to produce their work on time. The target groups are farriers, vets and other equine professions. The level of the material is essentially that taught at colleges, but will include CPD material.

An important part of the funding bid was dissemination of the final product, and Isabel would be looking to all partners to help with this.

## 17. Elections and Appointments

The following all offered themselves for election, no other nominations were received, and delegates agreed unanimously:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| a. <b>President (2012 – 2015)</b>                 | <b>Peter Frosch (Sweden)</b>                              |
| b. <b>Vice President (2012 – 2015)</b>            | <b>Bernard Vessiller (France)</b>                         |
| c. <b>Executive Board Members (2012 – 2015)</b>   | <b>Michael Kjaer (Denmark)</b><br><b>Gary Burton (UK)</b> |
| d. <b>Secretary and Treasurer (from 2013 AGM)</b> | <b>Magdalena Boucaud (Sweden)</b>                         |
| e. <b>Registrar (from 2013 AGM)</b>               | <b>Ginny Ifould (UK)</b>                                  |

## 18. Open Forum and 19. Any Other Business

Andreas Furgler explained that the reason for him standing down was that he was moving from the Swiss Metal Union to another job at Christmas. He confirmed that he was happy to remain as Treasurer until he handed over to Magdalena Boucaud within next year.

Zdenek Polak informed delegates that a new law on animal welfare had been brought into effect in the Czech Republic two weeks earlier. This limits those who can work on horses' feet to those who are approved. This will not restrict those already working as farriers, but all new entrants will have to follow the approved training, which is based on the EFFA standards. Farriery has been set up as a separate profession, and any schools wishing to teach it will have to implement the new farriery programme. The first school taking in beginners will start courses in 2013 with the first students graduating in 2016. Jindrich Vincalek has recently finished the text book in the Czech language. Zdenek said that the Czech delegation wished to thank EFFA for its help in this very successful outcome. Delegates applauded the Czech delegation for what they had achieved.

Grégoire Fauquembergue said that the UFM supported FEEVA, but was concerned that their web pages implied EFFA endorsement of hoof trimmers. Andreas Furgler explained that the SMU had

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offered support to an individual who was concerned with hoof trimming, but that this did not mean that EFFA supported them. He would attempt to make sure that the misunderstanding was removed.

Chris Oomen said that he was disappointed with the outcome of the World Skills Europe debate. He was not opposed to World Skills Europe, but he did feel that EFFA should concentrate on having its own apprentice competition.

Thomas von Troil said that although there were no farrier associations in Latvia or Estonia, he did have a contact in each country and would see if he could get them interested in joining EFFA. Zdenek Polak undertook to contact farriers in Poland whom he knew. Miles Williamson-Noble would be writing to the Belgian association to encourage them to join EFFA again.

Siegfried Dauner explained what he had done to arrange help with forges and materials for Algeria. He would wait until Yasmina Belabbas was back in the country before sending them. He explained that they have a number of expensive racehorses and that pressure to improve farriery standards might come from the racehorse owners and trainers. There had been great progress in communication between vets and farriers in Algeria, and a recent meeting with farriers was attended by 24 out of the possible 25 equine vets.

It was noted that EFFA had never had a presence at the Lubeck seminar. One suggestion was that the EDHV could publicise their involvement with EFFA on their stand. Andreas Furgler made the point that the individual who was responsible for putting on the seminar was Swiss, and that despite being invited to do so, he had not been able to put together a case for support from the Swiss Metal Union.

## **20. Closing Remarks**

Flemming Christensen thanked all the delegates for attending, and the Finnish delegation for arranging such a successful programme.

Peter Frosch thanked the delegates for electing him as their new President, and said that he would try to make as much a success as Flemming had done. He welcomed Michael Kjaer and Gary Burton to the Executive Board.

**[Secretary's Note.** At the formal dinner that night, Peter Frosch paid particular thanks to Flemming Christensen, and on behalf of all delegates presented him with an engraved glass bowl by a modern Finnish designer]

Signed on behalf of the EFFA Board  
by Miles Williamson-Noble

November 2012