

European Federation of Farriers Associations EFFA



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Federation of Farriers Associations the 14th of November 2015 in Bern, Switzerland.

Participating members:

Austria:	Wilfried Wallner
Czech Republic:	Jindrich Vincalek
Zivnosdenske Spolencenstivo Podkovari	Michaela Kubistova
	Zdenek Polak
Spolecenstvo umeleckych kovaru a zamecniku a kovaru-podkovaru Cech, Moravy a Slezska:	Karel Kysilka
	Pavel Komarek
Denmark:	Michael Kjaer (treasurer)
	Peter Kristiansen
	Kjetil Nygaard Hansen
	Thomas von Troil
Finland:	
Germany:	
BVM:	Reik Weber
	Matthias Straßner
EDHV:	John Ravanelli
	Michel Sachs
Italy:	Sergio Forapani
	Cesare Rognoni
	Guiseppe Biffi
Netherlands:	Dennis van Heel
	Chris Oomen (secretary)
Poland	Janusz Okonski
Spain	Marti Surinach
	Pau Fontane
Sweden:	Peter Frosch (president)
	Hans Wincent
Switzerland	Simon Grämiger (board member)
	David Frei
	Siegfried Dauner
United Kingdom:	Gary Burton (vice-president)
	Chris Linssner
	Miles Williamson Noble (registrar)
E-hoof.com	Michael Weishaupt (accreditation board)
Excuses from Ireland.	

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Richard Hasler, vice-president of the SMU welcomes the AGM in the Schmiedestube in Bern.

1. Opening

The president opens the meeting at 9.30 H thanking the SMU for organising the event.

2. Minutes 2014 AGM

The minutes of the AGM 2014 in Budapest are approved.

3. Establishing the agenda.

The agenda is established with the remarks, that under 14 a report will be made from the EFFA Educational event in France

4. Presidents report.

The president starts his report expressing his abhorrence with the terrorist attacks in Paris. Because of personal matters he was not very active as president for part of last year. Now the problems are solved and he is eager to lead EFFA in the coming 3 years. He thanks the members of the executive board and announces the retirement of Bernard Vessiller, who left the French association and registrar Ginny Ifould, who got a change in her other occupations. The executive board met 2 times this year, in Kopenhagen, Denmark in May and in Harwell, UK in September. With Gary Burton he was invited to discuss the rules for farrier competitions with Mustad. More information about these rules: www.farrierportal.com. He was contacted by representatives of the Icelandic and Flemish Belgian associations about a possible membership next year and he thanks Michael Kjaer for initiating the presence of EFFA on Facebook.

5. Financial report.

Michael Kjaer gives the financial report, which will be attached to these minutes.

6. Report of the auditor.

The auditor, Chris Linssner, UK checked the books and proposes the AGM to discharge the treasurer.

7. Budget for 2015/2016.

The treasurer presents the budget and asks for a raise in the membership fee of 3%. John Ravanelly, EDHV asks if board meetings could be done through e-mail or Skype. Treasurer states, that some matters have to be handled face to face and new ideas come up during the social moments. Hans Wincent, SHF asks about the cost of the website. Secretary answers, that costs are already reduced, but that the board still looks for a cheaper and simpler solution, because in the future the website will be only for external use and more static, while communication with members and delegates will go through social media. The president asks the delegates to check the data of their association on the website, for data of some associations are not up to date.

8. Report of the accreditation committee.

The accreditation committee sent observers to Austria, Finland, Czech Republic and Denmark for re-accreditation.

In Austria many candidates were not ready to shoe independently. However only candidates who were-, passed the exams, so the committee advises the AGM for approval of the re-accreditation of Austria.

In Finland many candidates missed enough practical training as an apprentice to shoe according to the high standard the examiners held. Only candidates fulfilling that standard passed, so the committee advises the AGM for approval of the re-accreditation of Finland.

In Czech Republic the examination was set at a high standard and candidates, who failed a section were not allowed to proceed further. 6 out of 9 candidates passed.

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The committee advises the AGM for approval of the re-accreditation of Czech Republic.

In Denmark last year the accreditation committee had to advise a provisional accreditation, because of problems in the organisation of the examinations. Siegfried Dauner visited the examinations again this year and found out the problems were solved, so the committee advises the AGM for approval of the re-accreditation of Denmark.

The AGM recognises the advise of the accreditation committee and accredit the diplomas of Austria, Finland, Czech Republic and Denmark.

The registrar gave some general remarks: The first accreditation is done with 3 members and the registrar, one of them is a veterinarian or educational expert, re-accreditation with 2 members, farriers, and the registrar. EFFA pays for travel to the country and a daily allowance, while the inviting association pays for travel in the country and daily maintenance. When there are more schools in a country, re-accreditation will be done in a different school every time.

8a. Nomination of a registrar.

As mentioned in the report of the president Ginny Ifould had to retire as registrar. Miles Williamson Noble was nominated as the new registrar.

9. Register of CE-F's.

The registrar presented the number of CE-F's in the member countries. In the Netherlands the number decreased because a number of members didn't fulfill the CPD demands the association had set.

10. Letters to the executive board.

In letters the farrier associations from Hungary, the Netherlands and EDHV stated they were not entirely happy with the way EFFA functions. Hungary even suspends its membership. The executive board acknowledge some problems and proposes some measures:

- The board will send out a newsletter after every board meeting to update members during the year.
- A facebook page will be updated regularly.
- A closed group on Facebook will be created for member delegates.
- Secretary will send out all documents as PDF files.

Gary Burton states that member associations have to come with initiatives and demands for the executive board to do. The member associations are running EFFA and have to come with ideas. For such a small organisation as EFFA influence in Brussels can't be done with lobbying there, but is only possible for the national associations through national EP members and only in the direction of animal welfare. Market protection is against the principles of the European community. The registrar is available as an advisor when national associations have meetings with national authorities about rules for farrier education and recognition of foreign diplomas. In the letter of the EDHV mention is also made of the Dutch education for German students. The registrar will try to check this education and its exams when the Dutch diploma is re-accredited. The Dutch delegates are asked to check with the school, that only diplomas are given to students who did the whole education and not to hoof trimmers. The board asked for an example of a diploma to check it with the school.

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11. Proposition for accrediting an advanced level of farriery to promote CPD.

The registrar presents the history of accreditation for the basic level, the purposes of the accreditation of the advanced level, funding by Leonardo program or self funding and he asks the delegates for the situation in their country.

In the UK there are advanced levels of the Worshipful Company of Farriers with examinations. In Czech Republic there is an advanced level with diploma, in the UK, Switzerland and Austria there is a short course to prepare farriers to teach apprentices and in the Netherlands the association organises a course in advanced farriery without examinations or diplomas.

In a short questionnaire the great majority of member delegates state, that they would be interested in an advanced level of farriery and ask the registrar to draw up proposals.

12. Proposal to change the general rules.

The proposal to change article 16 and 28 of the general rules is approved by the AGM.

13. EFFA safety guidelines

Gary Burton presents the EFFA safety guidelines for championships and events.

They can be found at www.farrierportal.com.

14. EFFA Educational event France

Gary Burton gives a report from the EFFA educational event in Saligny sur Roudon in France last March. Students from farrier schools in France and teams from UK, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Switzerland met for competitions, lectures and demonstrations. Students from different countries and different levels were put together to do tests, so cooperation was promoted.

15. EFFA Eurofarrier European Championships

Peter Kristiansen gives an explanation of the plans for the Eurofarrier European championships in Herning, Denmark the 18th until 20th of March 2016. The competition will be open with a maximum of 110 participants. All member associations get an opportunity to subscribe a team of 4 participants, who are selected in their country.

16. EFFA Educational Event

The next educational event will be organised in Finland. Ypäyä equine college will organise, with a veterinary clinic in Helsinki as 2nd choice. Sweden will organise the educational event in 2019.

17. EFFA AGM

The next AGM will be organised by Ireland, if problems occur the UK will organise instead. In 2017 the AGM will be organised by the Dutch association.

18. Presentation new member.

The president of the Polish association Janusz Okonski presents his association. It has 25 members, enthusiastic farriers who are working on a system of CPD courses because of the insufficient basic education in Poland. The AGM accepts the Polish association as a member.

19. Election board members

Peter Frosch is re-elected as president, Gary Burton and Michael Kjaer as board members and the vacancy in the board is filled by Simon Grämiger from Switzerland.

20. No member association has propositions for the AGM.

21. Matters arising:

- Michael Weishaupt asks the delegates about the collective subscription for E-hoof. He states, that there are not enough paid subscriptions to proceed in updating the program. Michael Kjaer answers that E-hoof is very useful for students, but that in his experience working farriers don't use it very much.

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Michael Weishaupt asks to link the E-hoof glossary to the EFFA website. He offers to ask his technician to make an offer to improve and simplify the EFFA website.

- Reik Weber shows a risk assessment for farriers in German and English which he developed for his organisation. It could be of use for other associations.
- Thomas von Troil states that one Finnish school changes its examinations and he fears that then the EFFA standard will not be met. The registrar will look into it and will warn the school that EFFA accreditation could be at stake.
- Gary Burton mentions, that with help of Mustad new competition rules are developed for Nordic competitions which can be used by other organisations also and found at www.farrierportal.com.

22. Closure.

At 15.30H the president closes the meeting thanking the delegates for their positive contributions.

Chris Oomen, 26-11-2015