



European Federation of Farriers Associations

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Presentation of the Stockholm Handcraft Association

Jens Vollmer, Director of the Stockholm Handcraft Association, where our AGM was held, introduced us to the Swedish School System in general and the handcraft education system in particular.

Established in 1847, the STOCKHOLM CRAFT ASSOCIATION today includes members in more than 300 professions. The number of craftsmen employed by the members of the Stockholm Craft Association in the year of 1880 was only 90'000 persons, whereas the number achieved in 1930 was 250'000 active persons. In 1950 the highest number of craftsmen was reached with a total of 360'000. Then the number came back to 220'000 in 1980. Today the Stockholm Craft Association counts 240'000 craftsmen.

The Stockholm Craft Association has an important duty, due to the fact that 100.000 new craftsmen need to be trained by the year 2010 and that there is a need for advanced vocational education after the pre-occupational upper secondary school such as a need of basic vocational education for adults (age over 20 years). Also very important is the model for work-place education - modern apprenticeship (dual system which is already working for example in Switzerland, Germany or Austria).

1. Opening and introduction

David Gulley, President of EFFA, gives a special thank you to Mr. Jens Vollmer, Director of the Stockholm Handcraft Association for the invitation to hold the day's AGM.

On behalf of the Board, our President welcomes all delegates and guests, and informs members that all documents for today's AGM were sent out in time. Therefore he declares the AGM 2009 open.

2. Approval of the AGM minutes 08 Saumur FR

The minutes have been sent out by our former Secretary, Chris Oomen to all delegates and member associations of EFFA. There were no comments and therefore David Gulley asks the delegates to approve the last year's AGM minutes.

The minutes of the SAUMUR AGM in 2008 are approved unanimously.

3. Report of the President

David Gulley states that the past year was a very busy one. In February the Board met in London and in May once again in Zurich. On both meetings the Board members worked on the important items "farrier education", "certified farrier", "new rules & procedures" and the "EFFA Homepage".

A great thank you goes to Miles Williamson – Noble, our Registrar, and to Andreas Furgler, Secretary and Treasurer, for the important written work in order to put up the new rules and financial procedures of EFFA. For the first time, all major documents of EFFA are available in English, German and French.

The third Board meeting was held here in Stockholm and as every year, this meeting is used to make the final preparations for the AGM.

David Gulley has taken the opportunity to observe one of the accreditation assessments (Sweden) and the EFFA education event in Deurne. He was pleased to see, that on both counts, great work has been done.

The President's Report is approved by the delegates with warm applause.



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4. Report of the Treasurer (accounts 08/09)

The last year's accounting period ended with an overall surplus of €5'466.87 which was booked onto the EFFA capital. The new EFFA capital as at 1st of November 2009 shows an amount of €25'864.95.

All member nations, except Spain, have paid the member fee for the last period by the end of September. Since then, Spain has also paid and this means that we do not have any unpaid member fees which is a very good sign.

5. Report of the Auditor

Martin Leahy, elected auditor, declared that he verified our accounts on the 19th of November. He came to the conclusion that all financial activities for the year 2009 have been handled in a correct way and that our funds have been managed in accordance with our financial rules.

He declares that EFFA has achieved the result that the treasurer presented and that the capital which was shown truly exists.

The delegates accept the balance and accounts of the past period

6. Budget for 09/10

The Treasurer presents the budget which shows a deficit of €4'100.-. This deficit is considered as a worst case scenario which should be bettered, if everything turns out right.

The delegates accept the budget for 2009/10

7. Report of the accreditation committee

a) Report on visit to Czech Republic

The Accreditation Board visited the Czech Republic at the invitation of the Živnostenské Společenstvo Podkovářů (Czech Farrier Association) from the 23rd to 26th April 2009. This was the first occasion on which the new farriery examination had been held. There were three candidates, all of whom were experienced practising farriers. It will be a number of years before any new apprentices are ready to take the examination.

General Comments

All parts of the examination were set at a high standard. Throughout the examination the examiners related well to the candidates, helping them to relax and to give of their best.

The system of starting each candidate on the practical exercises only after the previous candidate had finished meant that every candidate could be given individual treatment, but also meant that it took a long time to complete the programme, and a long waiting time for some candidates.

Recommendations

Suggestions were made to the organisers of ways to handle a greater number of candidates, to increase the pool of examiners, to improve control of spectators, and to standardise written paper questions.



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Conclusions

The EFFA Accreditation Board was unable to visit the official full-time school-based training system, and must check this before giving full approval.

The Board recommends conditional approval of the existing Czech Farrier Association training and the Farrier (EU Level 3) examination in accordance with the standards of the European Farrier in the 21st Century as approved by the European Federation of Farriers Associations in November 2008. The approval remains conditional until the full-time school-based training system has been observed and accredited as meeting the EFFA standards. This should be done at the earliest possible opportunity.

b) Report on visit to Sweden

The Accreditation Board visited Sweden at the invitation of the Svenska Hovslagareforeningen (Swedish Farrier Organization) from 2 to 5 November 2009. The visit was based at the Biologiska Yrkeshögskolan Skara (BYS) and the Axvalla Racetrack.

The Board was provided with a clear explanation of the preferred Swedish system of formal farrier training as follows:

- General education at school before leaving at age 19 to specialise
- One year's general horse handling experience
- One month's introductory experience with a master farrier
- Two year's farriery training consisting of 40 weeks in blocks at college and the remaining time with the master
- A minimum of one year's further practical experience, either with a master or self-employed, before taking the Journeyman Examination

However, this system is not enforced by law. Some colleges have a course that lasts for only one year, and it is also possible for candidates to take the Journeyman Examination without attending any formal instruction at college.

There is currently no regulation of farriery in Sweden and anyone may work as a farrier whether properly trained or not.

The Board was informed that Sweden has approximately 300,000 horses. There are 400 farriers who are members of the Swedish Farrier Association, most of whom are full-time, and about 1000 others, many of whom are part-time. The Swedish Farrier Association sees a need for more properly trained farriers.

Examinations

The examination was in three sections: There is a written paper that candidates who have not been to college must take and pass before being allowed to sit the practical tests. Those students who had successfully completed the two year college programme were examined on theory at the end of their second year, and took a shorter paper as part of the Journeyman Examination.

There is then a live horse shoeing test in which candidates must make and fit 4 shoes to a horse. Lastly there is a forging test in which candidates must make 2 standard shoes to a drawing and 2 remedial shoes to fit wooden hooves.



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General Comments

Staff and students were all enthusiastic and keen to improve. There were excellent workshop and shoeing facilities and a good supply of suitable horses for students and for the Journeyman Examination candidates. However, a health and safety audit of the working areas is needed, and examiners should insist on the wearing of appropriate personal protective equipment.

The two-year college programme with a year's improver training afterwards fully covered the EFFA Standards. However, the Board felt that the examiners were unduly lenient in the standard they expected for a pass in both the shoemaking and the shoeing tests.

Recommendations

Suggestions were made to the organisers about using visiting examiners and a programme of exchanges to ensure that the required Swedish practical standards meet or exceed those required elsewhere in Europe. Recommendations were also made on health and safety and the setting of written questions.

Conclusions

The EFFA Accreditation Board was impressed with the quantity and quality of facilities at BYS, and with the enthusiasm and desire to improve of the staff and the students.

The Board observed students on the two year BYS course and three candidates taking the Journeyman Examination, two of whom were trained at Skara, one farrier on an earlier design of course and one on the new system. The Board was satisfied that this training, including 40 weeks at college, and the rest of the 2 years with a master and a further one year improver training covered all the EFFA Standards, and that the Journeyman Examination at the end could provide an acceptable test of theoretical knowledge and practical skill. However, the marks allotted by the examiners for the shoeing and shoemaking parts of the Journeyman Examination, combined with the pass mark of 50% for practical work meant that some of the candidates who passed did so despite not being up to the standard expected of a Certified Euro-Farrier. ***The Accreditation Board is thus not able to recommend the Swedish Farrier Association for full accreditation at this time.***

Members of the Board will need to revisit the Journeyman Examination when the Swedish Farrier Association has addressed the pass standard.

Candidates can take the Journeyman Examination having come through training at other colleges with a shorter period of college training, or after training by their master without attendance at a college. If the Swedish Farrier Association wishes these farriers to be eligible for the Certified Euro-Farrier qualification once the BYS scheme has been approved, they will need to introduce a formal system of accreditation for prior learning to ensure that the candidates have covered the full breadth and depth of the BYS training programme.

The delegates accept the two proposals from the EFFA Accreditation Board as endorsed by the EFFA Executive Board.



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c) Fees for further accreditation visits

The assembly agrees that a visited country (for accreditation or re-accreditation) is not obliged to pay an accreditation fee but will have to cover all costs for food and accommodation of the accreditation committee. Miles informs members that with the actual numbers of C-EF and with the number of host nations asking for initial accreditation and re-accreditation, it is financially possible to maintain our current system which allows EFFA to cover the travel and daily allowances for the Accreditation Board .

d) Countries to visit / re-visit in 2010/11

In 2010, the following visits are planned:

- confirmed initial visit in June to Germany
- confirmed re-visit to Holland
- confirmed re-visit to UK in July
- confirmed re-visit to Sweden in Summer (small team)
- non confirmed re-visit to Spain (small team)

For 2011 no confirmed visits at the moment

e) Information about C-EF / stickers, diploma, etc.

- Austria 59 (about 250 licensed farriers)
EFFA Certification is a promotion and the association funds the certificates for the members but not for all the other certified farriers.
- Denmark 122 (about 300 licensed farriers)
EFFA Certification is a promotion and the association funds the certificates for the members but not for all the other certified farriers.
- Finland 60 (120 – 140 farriers active)
EFFA Certification is a promotion and the association funds the certificates for the members but not for all the other certified farriers.
- Holland 265 (about 600 licensed farriers)
EFFA Certification is a promotion and the association funds the certificates for the members but not for all the other certified farriers.
- Switzerland 218 (98 members in the SMU)
- Great Britain 633 (about 2500 registered farriers)
EFFA Certification is a promotion and the association funds the certificates for the members but not for all the other certified farriers. NAFBAE charges a C-EF handling fee for all non NAFBAE members.

The new vehicle window stickers in a new colour will be sent out at the beginning of 2010. Before that can be done, all accredited member nations will have to notify the correct number of C-EFs.



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8. Election of new EFFA members

On behalf of the BVM, the German Association for blacksmiths, farriers and metal workers, Herbert Ammer is presenting the candidature for EFFA membership.

The EFFA rules & procedures say that if two associations from the same nation are accepted as members of EFFA, the 2 votes for delegates are split. Therefore it is clear, that by acceptance of BVM as a new EFFA member, the EDHV which is at the moment the only representative for Germany's farrier, will have to give away one of their votes.

The EFFA delegates accept the BVM (Deutscher Bundesverband für Metall) as a new member of EFFA and David Gulley, EFFA President, congratulates Mr. Ammer and the BVM.

Andreas Furgler, EFFA Secretary, stresses that even if there are 2 German Associations representing the farriery businesses of Germany within EFFA, it is important that these two associations work together in a constructive way and for the welfare of the horse.

In order to update the EFFA website, the secretary will send a fact sheet to the BVM secretary (Mr. Alfred Sieberg) to ask for the details and contact addresses.

9. Approval of the revised EFFA rules & procedures

The new rules & procedures have been reviewed and agreed by the EFFA Board at the meeting in May in Zurich. The new rules & procedures take care of the evolution that EFFA has undergone in the past few years. It is necessary that EFFA adapts its rules & procedures if the environment changes and the Association grows.

The proposal for the new rules & procedures has been sent out to all delegates with the information for today's meeting and published (under condition of today's approval on our webpage). We have received no written or oral feedback. Therefore the Board asks the delegates to adopt the revised EFFA rules & procedures as they have been proposed.

The French delegation wants to know why the French language is no longer an official language of EFFA. Andreas Furgler, Secretary, explains that there is one official language and that this is English. This seems to be very important because of the fact, that different official languages could give us some difficulties because things may be translated but not say the same thing. Nevertheless, the Board is willing to translate all official documents into German and French.

It is also asked why a minimum number of members for national associations is no longer required. The Secretary says that this is not important due to the fact that the AGM has the last word and if the AGM thinks that it is worthwhile to accept a national organisation with less than 10 members it should be possible.

The EFFA delegates accept the revised EFFA rules & procedures.

10. Approval of the revised EFFA financial procedures

The revised financial procedures have been reviewed and agreed by the EFFA Board at the meeting in May in Zurich. The revision became necessary because the Board of EFFA in general and the Secretary/Treasurer in particular had to act more and more outside of the existing financial procedures. Even if the situation was not problematic, the Board came to the conclusion, that in view of the work and the increase in the number of our projects – in particular the C-EF – we needed to update the financial procedures.



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The proposal for the revised financial procedures had been sent out to all delegates with the information for today's meeting and published (under condition of today's approval on our webpage). We have received no written or oral feedback. Therefore the Board asks the delegates to adopt the revised financial procedures as they have been proposed.

The EFFA delegates accept the revised EFFA financial procedures.

11. Report of the EFFA European educational in Deurne

From the 5th to the 7th of November 2009, the biennial EFFA Educational Event 2009 has taken place in NHB Deurne. This event was integrated into the 40th anniversary of the Helicon School of Deurne. A great thank you to Chris Oomen, master farrier and instructor at the Helicon School, for his great work in such a short time.

Unfortunately only the University of Giessen (D) and the Educational Centre from the Swiss Metal-Union for Farriers in Switzerland accepted the invitation. Nevertheless, some good lectures have been held, thanks to the presence of Denis Leveillard and other professional instructors.

Klaus Mäurer, Board member of EFFA and responsible for EFFA educational events informed the delegates about the programme. He came to the conclusion that it was a good experience but, since the preparation time was very short, some critical points must be checked in order to improve the next event. These points were:

- More members of the Dutch Farrier Association than students.
- Definitions of how many schools or educational systems are present to say that it is an EFFA education event. (Otherwise it is a national event)
- How far sponsors can interfere with the programme of the event and what consequences this can have (transportation, influence, etc.)
- Clear instructions on who does what and how these responsible people can be reached. Students from other countries have to be followed!
- The price should be affordable by students

The guidelines for EFFA educational events are published on www.eurofarrier.org. All interested nations can consult them and for more information, Klaus Mäurer, member of the EFFA Board and responsible for this, is willing to help.

Siegfried Dauner announced that the Swiss Metal-Union is willing to organize the next Educational Event in 2011. Switzerland will check the possible dates.

Denis Leveillard thinks that the Educational Event should not only be open to students, but to all farriers (life long learning).

Flemming Christensen (DK) offers to host this event in 2013 during the Northern Championship in Herning..

George Rys wonders why we are not able to fix a clear date for our major events. It must be possible that they can be held always in the same period. The discussion shows that this is very difficult, because all nations have major commitments that they can not ignore. The EFFA Board will take this subject and discuss it at one of the next EFFA Board meetings.

12. Reproduction of the Leonardo Hand Book by Andreas Furgler

The Delegates decide that EFFA shall ask officially for the final version in English and French. Once this final version is in the possession of EFFA, then the Board will ask for the protection of the "intellectual property" by asking for an ISBN number.



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Miles is making contact with Albert Riudeubas to ensure that all documents are sent to the Secretary.

13. Presentation of interactive “e-hoof” education tool

Dr. Michael Weishaupt from the University of Zurich presented the one and only interactive learning tool for veterinarians and farriers (also for students). The delegates were impressed by the potential that this tool offers.

At present only a German version is on the market (www.ehoof.ch) but the work for the English version is already started and nearly 80% of the translations are made. Mike Weishaupt hopes that the English version can be started in spring 2012.

The EFFA board decided to share the existing glossary on www.eurofarrier.org with the one on www.ehoof.ch and to invest into more translations. In a first step, the glossary in French and English will be made, then Dutch (help has been guaranteed by Chris Oomen), Czech (help offered by Jindrich Vincalek) and Danish (help offered by Michael Kjaer) will be put up. The speed of entering more languages depends on the money that is available. Every language costs about €6'000.- to 8'000.-. Those nations which are interested can get into contact directly with Michael Weishaupt or the EFFA Secretary Andreas Furgler.

14. EFFA website (www.eurofarrier.org) by Andreas Furgler

Andreas Furgler presents the updated Internet site of EFFA and the delegates of all EFFA members seem to be very pleased. The site is constructed in a very simple but attractive way and gives a lot of information about what EFFA is, who has something to say within EFFA and information about education and competitions is available.

Andreas Furgler insists on the fact that news can only be put onto the web if details are sent to him. All members are kindly invited to send all information, pictures, offers, etc. and he will transfer the interesting ones to the webmaster.

Martin Leahy asks why no information about members of non certified EFFA members can be put onto the EFFA homepage. Andreas Furgler is supporting this demand from Martin. He declares that if the national associations are sending an actual list of members, this one can be put onto the webpage in the chapter member associations. Those members who have an own homepage can directly be linked on. However, this should not be confused with the listing of Certified Euro-Farriers, where only those whose training and examinations have been accredited can be shown.

15. EFFA Euro – Championship 2010 in Bordeaux FR

Arnaud Gidel described the next EFFA euro championship which will take place from the 5th to the 7th of February 2010 in Bordeaux. All information will be available on the official website www.europe-marechalerie.com or via www.eurofarrier.org.

All nations can send a team of 4 competitors. For supporters and fans there is a special programme.

EFFA is contributing financially with an amount of €2'000.-. The Board will hold the spring Board meeting on Sunday, 7th of February and participate officially at the prize ceremony. Both, the President David Gulley and the official EFFA championship delegate, Flemming Christensen, will be present during the whole championship.



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16. Matters arising

Chris Oomen asked why the official documents have not been sent to the official addresses of the Association but only to the delegates. Andy Furgler regrets this mistake and will make sure that in the future not only the invitation will be sent to the official member addresses but also the documents which usually are following a little later.

Chris Oomen asked whether it would be possible to get more associations into our association. The Dutch Association considers the fact that only 15 European nations are organized in EFFA, is insufficient. On behalf of the EFFA board, the Secretary explains that this is not so easy due to the fact, that in a lot of nations, no official farrier associations are active and that we are not in a position to force someone to join EFFA.

Therefore it is important that EFFA becomes professional in its activities so that we can prove and show our work.

Concerning the Euroskills which will take place in 2010 in Lisbon, EFFA is not in place to oblige our members to participate but encourages all members to do so. At the moment, Switzerland, Germany, France, UK and Holland will send competitors.

IMPORTANT DATES:

EFFA AGM 2010 will be held in NEWMARKET /England

Date: 18th to 21st of November 2010.

Previewed program:

- visit to the Rosssdale Veterinary Clinic near Newmarket
- our Hotel is located near to Simon Curtis' forge
- visit to Cambridge including the University
- AGM Dinner in the Newmarket Jockey Club including guided tour

The AGM 2011 will take place in Spain.

The EFFA Educational 2011 will take place in Switzerland.

The AGM 2012 will take place in Finland.

EFFA Euro Championship in 2012 might be organized in Austria. If Austria can not host the EFFA Championship, the Board has the authority to look for alternatives

Before our President can close the AGM 2009 at 4pm, he is thanked by our Vice-President, Flemming Christensen. David has done excellent work and the delegates congratulate him while offering him warm applause.

A great thank you to our Swedish friends in general and Peppe Frosch and his organization team in particular for the excellent work in preparing our stay in Stockholm. We have had a great time and many good moments – not only during the AGM.

Aarberg, 2nd of December 2009

Andreas Furgler, EFFA Secretary