



ECAHO AS GUEST IN *Egypt*

The 27th Annual General Meeting of ECAHO

■ photos by Viola Speier

The meeting was opened by the President Willy Luder who thanked Mr. Ahmed Hamza and his team of the E.A.O., our host, for all his efforts he put into organising this event. He further took the opportunity to introduce Viola Speier as ECAHO's new Executive Secretary (show section) who replaced Barbara Pfistner since October 2009.

Three applications for ECAHO membership were received. The Croatian Centre for Horse breeding, Croatia, and the Association of Breeders and Owners of Arabian Horses in Romania were unanimously accepted as Associate Members; the application of the Breeding Society for Arabian Horses in Slovenia (ZRAKS) was rejected, as they lacked the proof of being registered with a higher authority and did not submit their constitution. They may apply again.

Presidents Report – The President explained that during

the first six months of 2009, there was a downward trend in the show entries, especially in Europe, however, things recovered in the second half of 2009. For 2010, it generally looks positive, and there are more show affiliations than in 2009.

The main focus last year, however, was laid on Judges- and DC training. Thanks to the hospitality of Janow Podlaski Stud and Dr. Marek Trela, the first Judges Course according to the new syllabus was held at the Polish State Stud. A Judges Workshop was organised with 50 participants in Brussels, which was helpful, but did not really come up with any concrete results. Points of discussion were among others the judging system and conflict of interest. The President explained that he sees a problem in the different ways, judges apply the points system. One group is evaluating a horse with points and judging against an ideal; the other group is using the points to get the ranking right; and



For most of the visitors an excursion to the pyramids was a must

the third group is mixing the two ways. He feels, a different approach is needed or we will have more and more problems.

The President remarked that the Disciplinary Committee members were, for a long time, standing in the shadow of the judges. The Sub-Commission for the Instruction of DCs (DCIC) has kindly come up with a new revised and approved syllabus and has carried through the first two workshops in Zürich and Copenhagen. DC's in the field are more and more confronted with legal problems and therefore a lawyer was part of the instructors' panel, next to an experienced DC instructor and a veterinarian. The President will put further efforts in the training of DC's and judges in the near future.

In autumn 2009, headlines were created by doping in horse sports and the standpoint of FEI; this will also influence ECAHO. During 2010, he will look into new ways of dope testing and procedures, because the FEI Rules have become too complex to follow and too costly. However, ECAHO will not be in a position to change this at short notice. Therefore a letter will go out to all show organisers explaining the procedures to be followed by show organisers between now and the year end. Other horse sport organisations (i.e. Jockey Club) will be contacted to learn from them. The President stated that he will personally fight for the well-being of our horses.

Looking back on 2009, the President felt that many small steps were achieved, but there is still a lot to be done. Hopefully, ECAHO's capacities will no longer be absorbed by legal and pseudo-legal issues.

He stated that the world has changed, and ECAHO with it, but maybe not exactly at the same speed. The Arab horse scene has become more international, if not global. It has changed around ECAHO, and he sometimes fails to understand what is happening in and around ECAHO. Ten years ago, there were winners, and losers, the occasional

complaint, but the solution was easy and could be done by our bodies. Today, even the owners of doped horses take legal steps against ECAHO in order to find formal mistakes along the road; a tendency which is absorbing a lot of valuable time and costing ECAHO a lot of money.

REPORT ABOUT RESOLVED STANDING DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE CASES

a) World Championships in Paris 2008 – The President reported that an exhibitor had accused the judges of ha-



Many delegates used their free time for a visit to the Egyptian Museum

ving conflicts of interest that influenced the results. He also maintained that make-up was used on a competing horse, which was proven inaccurate by the DC and three Vets. The SDC gave the plaintiff a time-limit to deposit a clear statement concerning his accusations against the judges. As the plaintiff failed to do this, the complaint was dismissed and the deposit retained by ECAHO.

b) Qatar International Show 2009 – The DC fined 10 horses 100 € each for infringement of the Rule RSC 31a) (clipping of tactile hair). The fines for 3 horses were paid immediately. The fines for 5 horses should have been paid in the two days after the show. The fines for two horses have been contested by the owner who made a complaint, alleging that there was no rule in the Blue Book that allowed fines to be given. This accusation was unfounded, the complaint was dismissed and the deposit retained by ECAHO.

c) Alleged Doping Case at the All Nations Cup 2009 – The VZAP had not followed the Rules for Medication Control, i.e. the urine sample was not collected by a FEI sampling vet and it was sent to a laboratory not approved by FEI. Therefore the SDC was forced to close the proceedings without sanctions a few days ago.

d) Alleged Doping Case at the Spanish National Championships 2009 – The organiser, AECCA, knew that the veterinarian was not a FEI sampling vet and had sent



Willy Luder and Sh. Khaled Bin Laden during "welcome ceremony"

the blood samples to a lab not approved by FEI. Here as well, the SDC was forced to close the proceedings without sanctions for lack of compliance with the applicable rules and regulations by the organiser of the event.

REPORT ABOUT JUDGES AND DC WORKSHOPS

a) Judges Workshop – The Chairman of EAHSC reported that a Judges Workshop was held in Brussels with about 50 participants. The judges agreed not to change the judging system for the time being; nevertheless the subject needs to be discussed further in the EAHSC. In 2010, there will be another Judges Workshop.

There was a query from Mr. Ahmed Hamza: In which sense should the judging system be changed? The Chairman explained that breeders sometime complain about the 20-point-system and ask for a new judging system. However, at the moment, no changes will be made. It is in the hands of the judges to use the system properly; if used properly, it works. One of the problems is that judges do not use the full scale in the 20-points-system.

b) DC Workshops – Mr. Sinan Odok explained that there were two DC Workshops in Zürich and Copenhagen during 2009, of which he was part of the instructor panel in his capacity as ECAHO's lawyer. The courses were attended by 12-14 participants each and consisted of i) legal aspects of the Blue Book from the perspective of the DC; ii) veterinary issues



explained and discussed; iii) virtual show with problems to which the students had to apply our rules. Sinan Odok recalled that both events were very

good with lively discussions and he felt that the DC's were grateful to have an occasion where they could discuss their problems with each other. He regarded both courses as a great success.

STATUS IN THE DISPUTE WITH MR. OMAR SAKR, EGYPT

The President informed that the EC had imposed a sanction on Mr. Sakr in context with the Egyptian National Championship 2008. Mr. Sakr appealed against this decision at the ECAHO Appeals Committee and in parallel sued ECAHO and the EC members Christine Jamar, Francesco Santoro and Willy Luder for 1 Million CHF in a civil law suit in Switzerland. A hearing was called that took place in St. Gallen last Tuesday, 2nd February, and the matter was settled

in as much as the sanction was lifted with immediate effect and we apologized for the circumstances which led to the sanctions. After fulfilment of the conditions in the settlement agreement the parties will be entirely settled. The President stated that all attendees felt that the case



Ahmed Hamza



Vernissage

was solved in the best possible way for ECAHO. Dr. Nasr Marei queried, if both parties signed the agreement. The President confirmed and explained that the agreement is legally binding. Mr. Ahmed Hamza queried whether the basis of the sanction had any grounds, or whether it was a mistake. Sinan Odok explained that this is not to be discussed and the settlement did not go to the bottom of the underlying problem.

ELECTION OF EC MEMBER

The President explained that only Essam Abdullah had the required minimum of two nominations from two different countries. Essam Abdullah was re-elected for another term of four years.

ELECTION OF SDC MEMBERS

The President explained that Dr. Thomas Stobler resigned because of lack of time due to his profession as veterinarian. The President thanked him for all the services and time spent over the past years. He further explained that Izabella Zawadzka has severe health problems. However, the EC felt that she should stay in the panel, but released her from her duties for 2010 and hopes that she will be back in 2011. The President wished her in the name of all present a speedy recovery.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PROPOSED THE FOLLOWING NAMES TO COMPLETE THE STANDING DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:

a) Dr. med.vet. Nils Ismer – he was introduced as a member of the well-known Ismer family in Germany, he is a vet at their stud farm and zoo.

b) Ali Shaarawi – was present and introduced himself as breeder since 1987; he became a national judge in Egypt and later an international judge with ECAHO. Both candidate reached the necessary majority and were therefore accepted as SDC Members.

The existing SDC Members were confirmed as follows: Princess Alia Al Hussein Al Saleh, Ursula Rahm, Dr. Abdelwahab Amira, Izabella Zawadzka. Ursula Rahm had explained that she wishes to resign in one year from now; Izabella Zawadzka should be disburdened for one year. The above names were confirmed unanimously.



Francesco Santoro at El Zahraa

ELECTION OF EAC MEMBERS

The President explained that Peter Upton had resigned, therefore the Executive Committee recommended Dr. Carl van Roesbrook to replace him. Christine Jamar introduced him as father of four children, a lawyer and DC, who helped to organise shows and knows all the rules. He is not emotional, not to be influenced, independent with a strong character and objective. Carl van Roesbrook reached the necessary majority and was therefore accepted as EAC Member.

The existing EAC Members Bianca ter Laan, Xavier Guibert, Teresa de Bórbon and Jaroslav Lacina were confirmed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Marek Trela gave a report of the financial activities for the business year 2008 – 2009, which ended on 30.9.2009. The income statement shows an increase, which he sees as a positive achievement. However, he reminded everybody, that this was possible mostly due to the



Mirjam Boschini, Italian delegate



Sinan Odok, ECAHO advocate

income from prize money of some Middle Eastern Shows.

The Treasurer addressed some components of the expenses. The main costs were those of the office in general. He explained that these costs are very difficult to reduce without decreasing the efficiency of the day-to-day activities of ECAHO. As a positive achievement there is very moderate increase of personnel cost compared to last year.

The Treasurer explained that there was an increase of costs for legal services, created not only because of legal actions,

but also as a result of consultancy fees necessary for the Blue Book and legal training of our DC's during the workshops. The expenses for courses, workshops, etc., were almost twice as high as planned in the Budget. These costs are showing a correct constitutional activity of ECAHO, i.e. serving our members with professional knowledge. The reported year concluded with a profit.

With regards to the Budget 2009 – 2010, a higher income is being expected as result of prize money from some Middle Easter Shows.

The costs of constitutional activities, such as judges & DC courses and seminars are planned to be higher compared to the previous two years, which is a positive symptom.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW SCHEME FOR MEMBERSHIP FEES

a) Foal registration as basis for new membership scheme – The President explained that the aim of the proposal was to create a more transparent, fair and just membership scheme, because it appeared that in the past the amounts were not always decided according to uniform criteria. The criterion of foal registration fulfilled for the majority of Executive Committee members the requirement of fair balance; however, other opinions are welcome to create a new membership scheme for 2011.

The President asked for comments. The following discussion revealed the different structure of membership fees among ECAHO members, e.g. in Austria all breeders, big or small, pay the same membership fees, whereas in Spain, different membership fees apply to the members depending on the number of broodmares; the same applies to Germany. After some discussion the following positions became evident: a) the present situation is not just; b) some countries support that the same membership fee should apply for all or c) that membership fee should be calculated according to a neutral criterion. Further it was felt that raising the total amount of membership fees might be justified, as ECAHO is facing more expenditure. A consultative vote was conducted; with a majority voting for "all members should be paying the same amount".

b) To cover imminent costs, a supplement fee based on 15 % of the present Membership Fees was agreed by a majority vote.

c) The item of linking foal registration with voting rights was postponed.

PRIZE MONEY IN EUROPE

The President explained that the Executive Committee proposes that show organizers in Europe may issue up to 5.000 € prize money (in value) at shows. He further explained that this is only to legalize present practice, as some shows traditionally have small amounts of prize money for exhibitors. The amount of prize money must be declared

in the schedule and the catalogue. Prize money will not be mandatory.

It was agreed by majority vote that show organizers in Europe may issue up to 5.000 € prize money (in value).

ECAHO YEARBOOK

The President explained that Alim Editrice (Tutto Arabi) has again published the ECAHO Yearbook. Unfortunately, it was too short time to send a sample to Cairo to show it here. The book can be ordered on the ECAHO homepage or directly at Tutto Arabi. He expressed his gratitude for the continued and generous sponsorship by the TUTTO ARABI management.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President asked for any proposals for hosting the AGM in 2011. Winand Bijnens brought forward the invitation of BAPS to host the AGM in Belgium; the venue has still to be decided but may be Brugge.

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS

Show Commission – The Chairman of EAHSC, Dr. Francesco Santoro, reported in brief, that workshops and courses were organised in 2009, the Blue Book 2010 was approved and some problems solved with the help of our lawyer, the handler permits were issued to ca. 180 handlers and the relationship between show organisers, DC's etc. need to be improved, especially results and DC reports to be received in a more timely manner.

Registration and Identification Commission – The Chairman of EAHRIC, Winand Bijnens, explained that he tried to save EAHRIC and feels that it is on a good way. They had a good meeting the previous day, with 20 countries present, where they tried to put the objectives of EAHRIC into a wider perspective also by looking at its history. All countries presented themselves and the big diversity of the internal structure with regards to size, income and experience of the individual registries became apparent. The problem EAHRIC vs WAHO was discussed and it was felt that European countries are closer together than other areas due to a similar structure, same EU government etc. The Chairman explained that in 2008, EAHRIC was under the pressure to be abolished. He had sent letters by the EC to all registries proposing three options, a) to abolish EAHRIC; b) to be purely informative; c) to work as a pressure group, mainly with regards to Brussels. The meetings should be attended only by the registrars, to keep it more technical. They made a list of potential subjects to be discussed; two or three should be tackled by next year's meeting.

Finally, Gideon Reisel gave an informative presentation about the Dutch way of breeding evaluation of horses by their offspring, individual results, etc.

He concluded that EAHRIC can be a valuable instrument – too valuable to let it down.

The President thanked Winand Bijnens for bringing a



Annette Dixon



Klarit Wolf



Ali Shaarawi

new spirit into this commission and he is sure that this commission will come up with new results in the future. He reported that he had informal talks with WAHO president Hans Nagel and they favour a closer relationship of the two organisations.

Sport Commission – The Chairman of EAHSpC, Toto Moddermann, explained that regrettably she couldn't attend any sport events during 2009; however, she is happy to see an increased interest and organisers should take the effort to make reports of these events for the media.

During the year a survey was conducted, unfortunately only four countries replied to it, so that the data is incomplete. This indicates a lack of communication between organisers, EAHSpC delegates, Member Organisations and the FN's. She emphasised that it is not possible for her to monitor all sport events herself, therefore the delegates are needed.

Too few countries have delegates who are really interested in sports, however, some are; endurance and racing are also sport disciplines but do not need ECAHO's help.

The Chairman encouraged all countries to co-operate with their FN's (National Equestrian Federations). Otherwise problems will arise for licensed riders as soon as the sport competitions become international.

The Chairman stated to be pleased that some countries are organising National Championships in Sport, which is an important step; these are Poland (Western & Classic), Germany, Sweden does it for many years; Austria, also here a tradition for many years; Spain the same; Netherlands, too. These are important steps towards qualifying at National Championships for the European Championship in the future. An international event is organised each year in Aachen and the ANC Tournament has reached a very good level.

For the first time the European Championships will be held in Sweden, at Bökeberg Gard on 9-11 July 2010.

The Chairman thanked the President for his support and feels that small steps were made forward. She reminded everybody that although ECAHO's main objective is the show scene, most horses finally will be used as riding horses, not in shows. That's why promoting the Arabian horse as a sport horse serves the breeders in your country.

SIDE PROGRAM AND STUD VISITS

On Saturday evening all ECAHO Delegates and guests had the pleasure to attend a delicious dinner at the Inter-Continental Semiramis on invitation of the EAO, the host of this event.

On Monday after the meetings the ECAHO Delegates were invited to visit the Egyptian State Stud El Zahraa and to witness a very well organized horse presentation of the Private Breeders Organization EAHBA.

At El Zahraa the delegation was welcomed by Mr. Ahmed Hamza, Chairman of EAO, and the stud director Dr. Ahmed Hamed. A nice selection of around 8 stallions and 30 mares was presented in-hand, most of which showed genuine type and very strong movements.

After an amicable reception by the EAHBA board and an excellent Lunch at the Mövenpick Hotel, sixteen of the private breeders joined together, each bringing 2-3 horses to Rabab Farm of Sh. Khaled Bin Laden to show their horses in this beautifully situated equestrian club and spare the visitors the hassle of travelling back and forth through the nightmare-like traffic of Cairo. Mostly young horses, the products of the old and new breeding programs of the private breeders in Egypt were shown, competently commented and admired by the visitors.

When evening dawned, it was time to say good-bye to the horses, the people, and soon to the country when everybody departed home. □