



WWW.ECAHO.ORG

Extract from the minutes of the 26th ECAHO Annual General Meeting held in Warsaw on 1st March 2009

by Willy Luder ■ photos by Barbara Pfistner

Opening of the meeting

the President of ECAHO, Willy Luder, warmly welcomed the delegates of the 24 countries who assembled for the 26th Annual General Meeting of ECAHO. The President thanked the host, the Polish Agricultural Property Agency (ANR), for their hospitality and the opportunity to hold the AGM in the heart of Warsaw, which has been beautifully renovated after the troubled past. He expressed his gratitude for allowing all friends of the Arabian horse to assemble peacefully together with the friends from the ANR,

represented by Izabella Zawadzka, Dr. Marek Trela, Jerzy Bialobok and Anna Stojanowska. He also expressed his thanks on behalf of the EC and those gathered for the kind dinner invitation on the previous evening. Further thanks went to POLTURF, which organised the event. The floor thanked everybody with a round of applause.

The President went on remembering two people who had passed away during the last 12 months, namely Hannie Wehkamp, President of AVS, Netherlands, who will be remembered as a very active member and delegate, and Tore Nikkerud, President of NAHF, Norway, also a highly respected and valuable member of all commissions.

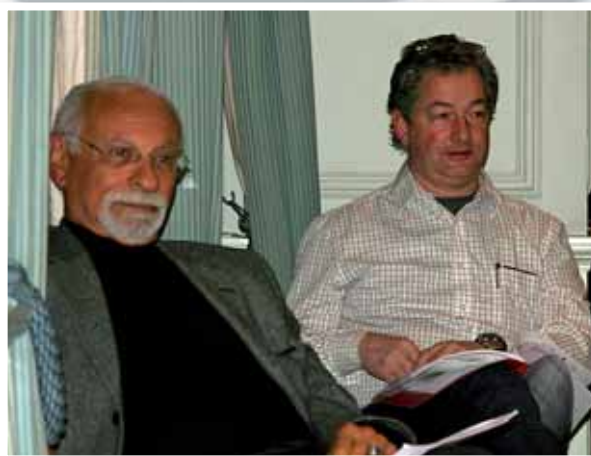
The assembly honoured the dead with a minute of silence.



Representatives from Italy,
Spain, France and Austria



The Executive Committee table



Dr. Nasr Marei for E.A.O. Egypt and Mr. Detailleur representing Belgium



H.R.H. Princess Alia Al Hussein Al Saleh representing Jordan and the Hon. Finn GUINNESS representative for AHS Great Britain

Statutory Items

The first six agenda items were passed smoothly

Changes to Membership

ECAHO had received the Application for Full Membership by the King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The President stated that the KAAHC had been a member of ECAHO for more than 10 years. They had already applied last year for Full Membership, but the AGM decided to postpone the approval of Saudi Arabia for one year.

The President invited Sami Al Nohait, representative of KAAHC, to introduce the KAAHC. Sami Al Nohait explained that KAAHC (formerly Dirab Arabian Horse Centre) was established in 1961 and is the authority in charge of registration and shows. Currently, around 7000 Arabian horses are registered in Saudi Arabia, and altogether 12 shows (not all ECAHO affiliated) have been organised since 1996, including the international Al Khalediah show (B). The King Abdulaziz Arabian Horse Centre was accepted with majority vote as Full Member of ECAHO.

Cancelling EAHBA's Suspension

The President explained that on 13th December 2008, the EC decided with majority approval to suspend the membership of our Associate Member EAHBA due to the breaching of ECAHO Rules during and after the Egyptian National Championship Show 2008. The President also explained that in the meantime ECAHO had received unconditional confirmation from the present EAHBA board that all the appropriate measures had been taken to avoid such breaches again. Accordingly, the EC reconsidered the facts of the matter and decided unanimously that suspending the EAHBA would constitute an inadequate measure. The EC intended to recommend the floor remove

this agenda item. The President therefore asked for a vote to remove the item from today's agenda. It was decided by majority vote (37 ayes, 3 abstained) that item 8 would be removed from the agenda.

President's Report

The President highlighted the most important points of the work done in the past year, i.e. the Blue Book, which was overhauled during the past year and fine-tuned by a sub commission (DCIC). The President stated that he was very happy that this version was finally approved by the EAHSC (with some changes agreed during the meeting). It was very important for the EC to fix the issues concerning horse protection, as this is one of our main constitutional duties.

In addition, the Constitution had to be adapted to the new Blue Book, mainly with regards to legal issues arising from the Handlers Permit, which will be implemented for 2009 at A and Title shows, in order for them to submit to our Blue Book and Constitution.

He continued expressing his concern that at big shows, a dead-end road had been reached by our judging system and ECAHO has to think about variations; proposals are welcome.

Also, the parameters used by ECAHO judges need to be adjusted or aligned. To this purpose, several workshops with moderators have been planned to guide through some topics. ECAHO's aim for judges' courses is to achieve an equal level of knowledge for all judges, judges workshops should achieve a common basis in relation to ethical aspects, etc. Last but not least, two DC Seminars are planned for the current year in Italy and in the Netherlands.

Another main topic subject to the AGM's approval was the proposed Constitutional Changes. The President explained that there were no major changes, but some fine-tuning was necessary. The prime task was to make ECAHO less vulnerable towards unqualified attacks and to

create a legal framework for all participants. This was not the case before, as e.g. handlers, assistants, etc. were not covered by the Constitution.

Furthermore, according to Swiss Law, the responsibility of the EC in relation to the commissions needed clarification. The EC has the responsibility for all actions carried out by ECAHO with regards to the "outside world", but before the EC was not given the necessary tools. Now, the EC acts as protection for ECAHO in case some legally or financially critical decisions are made in the Commissions, as it can now approve or reject any decision taken by the Commissions and refer it back to the competent body for rectification. He asked for a vote to accept the Constitution as distributed. The constitutional changes were accepted by a broad majority.

Another improvement has been made with regards to the ECAHO Office, which is now shared between Gudrun Waiditschka (steering section) and Barbara Pfistner (show section). He thanked the two secretaries for jumping in without asking when they were needed urgently. Giving professional services to members is ECAHO's prime task and therefore a functioning office is crucial.

Winand Bijens (Belgium) and Anna Stojanowska (Poland) new members of the Executive Committee

Another topic was the "Registration & Identification Commission" (EAHRIC). The President explained that there was a certain tendency to abolish the EAHRIC, but the following discussion demonstrated that the goals need to be re-defined and that it would become a useful commission where Registrars could meet, for example, in between two WAHO Meetings. The AGM also confirmed the unanimously elected Chairman, and the President welcomed him aboard.

Another election was the one of a new EC Member. Two people had received valid nominations and the President invited the two candidates to introduce themselves.

Christiane Chazel stated that she had worked for ECAHO already for 25 years as show organiser of important events such as Menton, the European Championships, the World Championships and several shows in the Emirates; she also organised two General Meetings of ECAHO in France. She further explained that she stands for election for EC Member for

the third time and will not try again, in case she is not elected.

Anna Stojanowska explained that she has been professionally involved with horses and especially Arabian horses all her life, first as assistant of Izabella Zawadzka, later as chief specialist for horse breeding in the Ministry succeeding Izabella; she is responsible for breeding and selecting all horse breeds in Poland and has for many years organised all the shows in Poland. She explained that her motives are not to gain any power, but solely to help ECAHO as best as she can.

The result of the election was 21 votes for Christiane Chazel and 21 votes for Anna Stojanowska. According to the Constitution (§ 10.6.), in case of a draw, the President/Chairman of EC has the casting vote. After some consideration, the President decided to reach his decision by ballot. The Casting Vote was in favour of Anna Stojanowska, who was consequently welcomed as new EC Member.

At this point, the French delegation of Daniel Souppat and Christiane Chazel left the meeting under protest. The President regretted their action, but expressed his understanding for their feelings, but also explained that in such situation there is always one winner and one who is disappointed.

Reports by the Commissions

As Dr. Francesco Santoro, EAHSC Chairman, had already left the meeting, the Vice-Chairman, Essam Abdulla, gave a brief report. He explained that the main topics were the Blue Book 2009, which was thankfully prepared and co-ordinated by Ursula Rahm of the DCIC and which was not an easy task. Next was the Handlers' Permit, which will come into effect in 2009 together with the red and yellow cards for A and Title shows.

For the Sport Commission, the Chairman, Toto Modderman, stated that at the beginning of her term she got the feeling that sport with Arabian horses was not of great interest in the Arabian horse scene, but fortunately, she can see a slight change. She feels that shows are completely

Many representatives join the post conference tour to Janow Podlaski



in the hands of professionals, and small-scale owners are more or less excluded. However, they wish to do something with their horses themselves, i.e. riding or amateur sports. Several shows have and will in the future organise the so-called „Ridden Classes“. With regards to events in 2008, the Chairman reported about several events in Great Britain, Sweden, and Germany, which are all good preparation for the European Championships in Stadl Paura, organised for the sixth time by Mrs. Chat. Unfortunately, not enough countries were present. She therefore calls urgently all National Organisations to support and motivate their riders to participate in the European Championships.

The Chairman recalled the World Endurance Championships, won by a Dutch-bred purebred Arabian. However, she wondered how many of the delegates actually had ever attended an international Endurance competition. When visiting Abu Dhabi, she was surprised by how unfamiliar most visitors were with the sport, which is a tough one, separating the wheat from the chaff.

For the Registration and Identification Commission, Mr. Bijmens offered to give a brief report about the preceding meeting and outlined some of the points presented by Xavier Guibert, such as the fact that identification of horses has become mandatory, breed associations need to maintain a database, UELN has become the accepted term. The definition of "owner" proved to be difficult, EU came up with "keeper" as the one in whose custody the horse is. Definition of "Studbook" - the EU defines it as "registration organisation of a breed" or a "group of breeders". He proposed that ECAHO should oppose the definition of a "brand of horses", such as Zangersheide who also registers ox-clones, although these cannot be registered as purebred Arabians due to WAHO regulations. VAT for horse related matters differ in Europe between 6-21%, depending on whether or not horse breeding is regarded as agriculture, profession, or hobby.

Reports by the Commissions

The Treasurer reported on the Business Year 2007-2008 (ending 30/09/08). The net loss in 2007/08 amounts to -4'654 CHF. The Treasurer sees the necessity to improve the punctuality of payment for Membership and Affiliation fees. Following his report, the accounts as distributed prior to the meeting were approved by majority vote, as was the budget for 2008/2009.

World Championship for Sport Arabians

A Motion was received from Austria regarding the organisation of the World Championships for Sports Arabians in 2010 in Stadl Paura instead of the European Championships. The President invited Mrs. Chat to present her proposal. Elisabeth Chat, AT, thanked the President and the floor for having the opportunity to present her project. She invited everybody to come and see the 2009 European Championships with all the disciplines. She also explained that the Stadl Paura facilities will be upgraded to Olympic size, so both the Austrian Equestrian Federation and the Stadl Paura management approved and encouraged her to organise a World Championship for Sports Arabians there. She also had received very positive response from countries outside Europe who would like to participate. She ensured that there would be no financial risk for ECAHO.

The Chairman of EAHSpC, Toto Moddermann, stated that first the European Championships needs more riders, and that the European Championships should grow and improve before we should consider opening it for World Championships. She confirmed that the facilities are brilliant.

The President stated that the EC felt the same, first the number and quality of the riders need to be improved and we should help to promote the European Championships. After a long discussion, the President asked for a vote if there should be a World Championship in 2010. The motion was rejected. The President asked Elisabeth Chat to continue with the European Championships.

ECAHO Yearbook

ECAHO Yearbook - The President explained that a free copy was available for all delegates, donated by the publisher, Alim Editrice ("Tutto Arabi"). The President thanked Simone Leo, who also sponsored ECAHO with a substantial amount.

ECAHO AGM in 2010 in Egypt

It was agreed that the 2010 AGM would be held in Egypt, by kind invitation of the Egyptian Agricultural Organization (EAO). □



WWW.ECAHO.ORG