

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the EE in Hotel Balnea „Esplanade-Palace“ – Badethermen Piestany SK on 20th. May 2007 at 8.30am.

Attendance: 87 delegates and guests from 23 nations comprising 76 votes.

Chair: Urs Freiburghaus
Minutes: Gion Gross

Agenda:

1. Opening and Welcome
 2. Attendance
 3. Minutes of the last EE-AGM in Leusden/Netherlands on 27th. May 2006
 4. President's Report
 5. General Secretary's report
 6. Reports of the Section Presidents (poultry, pigeons, cage birds, rabbits, cavies)
 7. Report by the President of the Animal Health & Welfare Sub-Committee
 8. Treasurer's and Auditors' Reports
 9. Elections:
 - 9.1 EE-President (Re-Election)
 - 9.2 EE-Treasurer (Re-Election)
 - 9.3 Auditors for 2007
 - 9.4 Reserve auditor
 10. Honours
 11. Propositions
 - 11.1 Revision of the EE Constitution
 - 11.2 Revision of the EE Regulations for European Shows
 12. Affiliation of new members
 13. Information on future EE conventions
 14. Report of the European Show, held in Leipzig/Germany 2006
 15. Suggestions and Requests
 16. Any Other Business
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1. Opening and Welcome

The President, Urs Freiburghaus expressed a warm welcome to all delegates and gave a special mention to the organisers of the 2007 convention:

Dr. Michal Straka, President Slovak Association

Dr. Blanka Bruteniova

Eric Kubica

Josef Demeter

Dr. Lothar Heinrich from Leipzig, show manager of the European Show 2006 in Leipzig

The EE Honorary members:

Jean-Louis Frindel, F

Hans Schipper, NL

Willy Littau, DK

Thérèse Tompers, L

Dr. Werner Lüthgen, D

Jo Vanhommerig, NL

Istvan Rohringer, H

Jacques Witry, L

Hermann Stroblmair, A

Hans Zürcher, CH

The President thanked the Slovak committee for organising a perfect convention and presented them all with a wallet.

Josef Demeter welcomed all delegates and presented all Executive members with a medal of the Slovak Small Livestock Association.

Interpreters were Urs Lochmann, Switzerland (English) and Jean Louis Frindel (French) from France.

In his introduction, Urs Freiburghaus looked back on the very successful 25th. European Show in Leipzig, especially in view of the constant threat of an A.I. outbreak.

The public came in droves and friendships were made or extended between fanciers. It was good to see so many people at the show, as membership numbers are dropping throughout Europe.

It was the first European Show with 5 sections and the newly formed cage bird section put together a fantastic show.

Fanciers that had passed away in the last 12 months were remembered with 2 minutes silence.

2. Attendance

Voting cards: 76

Majority: 39

Attendance: 87

3. Minutes of the last EE-AGM in Leusden/Netherlands on 27th. May 2006

The minutes were taken as read and passed unanimously.

4. President's Report

In his report for 2006, Urs Freiburghaus highlighted the European Show in Leipzig as one of the greatest achievements for the year. As he stated in his opening address, this big show had taken place despite the constant threat of a bird flu outbreak.

The bird flu scare had entered a quieter phase, which had enabled the EE to extend their discussions with national authorities and also Brussels. Research was still going on with regard to preventative vaccination of the birds.

The sub-committee for Animal Health and Welfare had completed its first year in office and made great strides forward.

The Executive had met four times in the last year; its main agenda items being: the organisation of the European Show in Leipzig and the revision of the EE Constitution as well as the Rules and Regulations for European Shows.

Much work had also been dealt with in the sections and he thanked the section presidents and the rest of the Executive for their commitment and support.

Many visits to shows had been cancelled in view of lacking funds within the EE. The President had attended a fantastic show in Poland and also mediated successfully in a controversy between various small livestock associations in France.

Discussions were still going on with regard to the EE obtaining financial support from the EU.

5. General Secretary's report

Gion Gross opened his report with a quote from the German politician, Norbert Blüm. As the President had already tackled most events that had taken place throughout 2006 in his report, the secretary would also talk about his vision for the future of the EE.

118 delegates and guests represented 21 countries with 65 votes at last year's AGM.. He questioned whether the EE should only cater for active fanciers and exhibitors of poultry, pigeons, cage birds, rabbits and covies. Should the EE not also welcome hamster, chinchilla, tropical fish, pigmy goat, bee etc. enthusiasts in our ranks, he asked. As an example where the EE has missed the boat, he quoted the original foundation of the 4th. section "small rodents" which was renamed after 2 years to "covies" section to only cater for that species.

He furthermore questioned whether the EE should exclusively cater for active fanciers, breeders and exhibitors, or whether the EE should also embrace pet keepers or those that keep one or two animals just for fun and/or company.

In his view no-one that keeps small animals in any which way should be excluded from the EE, as this category of animal keepers would strengthen our cause and give us the necessary support in animal welfare issues etc.

6. Reports of the Section Presidents (poultry, pigeons, cage birds, rabbits and covies)

See the minutes of the individual section meetings.

The President thanked the retiring President of the Rabbit section, Jo Vanhommerig for all his hard work for the section and the Executive and then welcomed his successor, Dieter Plumanns from Belgium.

7. Report by the President of the Animal Health and Welfare Sub-Committee

The most important items in Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille's report included:

- animal welfare issues that cropped up during the European show;
- through the intervention of the sub committee all racing-pigeon fanciers were able to show at

- the Racing Pigeon Olympiad;

- animal diseases and epidemics have to be defined better in the EU regulations;

- levelling out the import of rare bird species;

- influencing the European regulations for transporting animals;

- financial support from the EU to the EE.

Animal welfare is very important: 20.000 people in Germany had absolved the course for animal husbandry and a certification-system for excellent small livestock husbandry had been launched in Switzerland.

8. Treasurer's and Auditors' Reports

Willy Littau clarified the accounts for 2006:

Total income: € 53'991.32

Total expenditure: € 24'422.25

Balance: € 29'569'07

The accounts were audited by Flor Dickens and Slavibor Petrzilka and approved.

The 2006 accounts were accepted unanimously and the treasurer thanked.

As the second payment from the European Show (around € 46.000) had been received earlier this year, this amount has not featured in the 2006 accounts.

Urs Freiburghaus informed the meeting that as a result of the payments from the European show, the annual payments to the standard committees had been raised to € 1000. From this year onwards the sub-committee for animal welfare would also receive this amount.

The Executive had also discussed a possible rise in the annual affiliation fees.

The President had so far raised € 6000 in sponsorships and asked all delegates for their support in finding more sponsors.

9. Elections

9.1. Election of President

Urs Freiburghaus was elected unanimously for a further term of 3 years.

9.2. Election of Treasurer

Willi Littau was elected unanimously for a further term of 3 years.

Dieter Plumanns was confirmed by all delegates as the new President of the rabbit section.

9.3. Election of Auditors

Retiring: Flor Dickens

Auditors: Slavibor Petrzilka and Istvan Rohringer

9.4. Election of Reserve Auditor

August Heftberger (A) was unanimously elected as Reserve Auditor

Urs Freiburghaus thanked Jo Vanhommerig on his retirement as President of the Rabbit section and presented him with a hand painted timber board representing a Dwarf Lop.

10. Honours

The following delegates were given honorary membership of the EE:
Joseph Demeter (Slovakia)
Hans-Ulrich Schmid (Switzerland)
Federico Voltolini (Italy)

11. Propositions

There were no propositions from any of the affiliated countries.

11.1 Revision of the EE Constitution

The adapted EE Constitution was unanimously accepted.

11.2 Revision of the EE Regulations for European Shows

The adapted EE Regulations for European Shows were accepted with 2 abstentions.

12. Affiliation of new members

Gion Gross gave a brief report on all the ongoing negotiations with possible affiliations.

The cavy section of Portugal had put in a proposal for affiliation and fulfilled all requisites. Mrs. Verena Fuchs briefly introduced her association, whereupon all delegates voted in favour of affiliating the Portuguese Cavy Club CAPI.

13. Information on future EE conventions

2008: 1st. – 4th. May in Pula, Croatia

The Croatian representative briefly introduced the convention programme.

2009: 21st. – 24th. May in Namur, Belgium

2010: 13th. – 16th. May in Spain

2011: 2nd. – 5th. June in Jesolo, Italy

2012: Germany, venue not decided yet

2013: Possibly in Switzerland to celebrate the 75th. Anniversary of the EE

14. Report of the European Show, held in Leipzig/Germany 2006

Dr. Lothar Heinrich gave an in-depth report of the last European Show in Leipzig.

15. Suggestions and Requests

None

16. Any Other Business

Urs Freiburghaus mentioned once more that as many people as possible should financially support the Scientific Poultry Station of the BDRG in Sinsteden, Germany.

He closed the meeting at: 12:30pm

Piestany, 20.05.2007

Gion P. Gross

General Secretary