

Minutes of the EE Annual General Meeting in Hotel Histria, Pula, Croatia on 3rd. May 2008, 8:30am

Attendance: Attending were delegates and guests with 79 votes from 24 countries

Chair: Urs Freiburghaus

Minutes: Gion P. Gross

Agenda:

1. Opening
2. Recording attendance
3. Minutes of the last meeting, 19th. May 2007 in Piestany/SK
4. President's Report
5. General Secretary's report
6. Section Chairmen's Reports (poultry, pigeons, cage birds, rabbits and cavies)
7. Section Chairman's Report (Sub-Committee for Animal Health and Welfare)
8. Treasurer's Report and the Auditors' Report
9. Elections
 - 9A. Election of Vice President (Re-Election)
 - 9B. Election of General Secretary (Re-Election)
 - 9C. Auditors for 2008
 - 9D. Reserve-Auditor
10. Honorary Memberships
11. Propositions
12. Affiliation of new members
13. Information about future EE-Conventions
 - a) Belgium, Ovifat-Waimes, 21.- 24. 05. 2009
 - b) Spain, 13.- 16. 05. 2010
 - c) Hungary, Budapest 2.- 5. 06. 2011
14. Information about the European Show 2009 in Nitra/SK
15. Suggestions and requests
16. Any other business

1. Opening

Urs Freiburghaus opened the meeting with a quote from the Swiss author Jeremias Gotthelf.

Furthermore he welcomed the Croatian organisers of this year's convention plus all honorary members:

- Jean-Louis Frindel, F
- Willy Littau, DK
- Dr. Werner Lüthgen, D
- Istvan Rohringer, HU
- Hermann Stroblmair, A
- Hans Schipper NL
- Jo Vanhommerig, NL
- Hans Zürcher CH
- Josef Demeter, SK
- Federico Voltolini, I

A special welcome went to all delegates who attended their first meeting. He presented the Croatian President, Zeljko Serepac and his administrator, Vladimir Pavin, with a Swiss watch as a 'thank you' for their hard work in organising this convention.

Introduction by the President

“The previous year was an incredibly busy year again for the EE. The contacts to foreign associations took up a lot of time and, as a result, we can welcome the pigeon associations of Macedonia and Bulgaria later on in this meeting.

An application for membership has been received from the poultry association of the Ukraine, which will be discussed next year.

We have to keep making new contacts to foreign associations and their members, as the friendship amongst nations is our highest aim.

Unfortunately, we are more and more often dealing with the fact ,that there is more than 1 small livestock association in one country and both of these would like to join the EE. Our Constitution forbids this, though. This is especially true of Spain and Serbia, where an amalgamation of the two associations has proved impossible. Very often these situations are created through national or political differences. I am sad about that, as all small livestock fanciers should stand together and share their mutual love and appreciation of animals.

I am very proud to announce that the EE currently comprises around 2.5 million members.

We will only reach our targets and ideals if we work closely together”.

A minute’s silence was requested in memory of all the friends and fellow fanciers that had departed this life in the last 12 months.

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Edwin Vef, Honorary President EE (indisposed)
- Micky and Guy Tompers, Luxembourg (Guy indisposed)
- Fausto Hernandez Velad, Spain
- Hans Schipper, Netherlands

2 / Recording Attendance

Voting cards: 79

Majority: 40

Attendance: 79

3 / Minutes of the last EE-AGM in Piestany /SK on 19. May 2007

The minutes were taken as read and passed unanimously.

4 / President’s Report

Urs Freiburghaus had once more put together a very comprehensive annual report. Gion Gross thanked the President on behalf of the Executive as well as all delegates for his tireless commitment to the EE.

The report was unanimously passed.

5 / General Secretary’s Report

Gion Gross informed the meeting about the possible amendments to the Constitution which will allow two associations to join the EE in any one country. He further suggested ways to widen the membership of the EE.

6 / Section Chairmen's Reports (poultry, pigeons, exotic birds, rabbits and covies)
See the minutes of the individual section meetings.

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

Hans-Joachim Schille spoke about the following items:

Composition of the Sub Committee:

Professor Scholl has died. Mr. Janssen from Holland has had to resign because of ill-health and Mr. Verelst has been elected onto the Poultry Standards Committee and has therefore also resigned.

From next year onwards Mrs. Hermans, a veterinarian from the Netherlands will be opted on to the Sub Committee.

Visit to the EU in Brussels:

He had appealed to the EU-delegates that the word 'Biodiversity' should no longer be used as a catchphrase.

The Sub Committee had received 10 invitations for various events, but could only attend one of them, because of the lack of funds as well as the Avian Flu outbreak. The various discussions about Avian Flu had been well received.

Achievements had been made with the crests on Poland bantams, but there is still more work to be done on their large counterparts. Further achievements had been made in certain pigeon breeds and English Lop rabbits. He advised that pictures of excessive features should no longer be published in the fancy press.

There is a very good contact with all the right channels in the EU; during the EE presentation in Brussels, he had had a 2 hour meeting with Mrs. Pittmann, who assured him that the veterinary regulations for the European Show in Nitra had been conveyed, so that we can expect uniform regulations throughout the EU.

The EE has tried for years to obtain financial support from the EU. There might be a possibility now in that the EU Commission has launched a programme for animal welfare. A sponsorship proposal will be put together with the help of all sections, but there is no certainty that the EE will actually receive some financial support.

8 / Treasurer's Report

Willy Littau discussed the accounts and balance:

Income

Opening balance	€ 29'569.07
Affiliations	€ 9'435.00
EE-Show Leipzig	€ 36'578.00
Sponsorships	€ 4'736.50
Interest	€ 15.25
Total	€ 79'333.82

Expenditure

Executive meetings	€ 11'146.00
Postage, presents	€ 1'253.90
Standard Committees	€ 5'000.00
Travelling expenses	€ 3'155.00
Account costs	€ 7.26
Difference EE sashes	€ 2'170.00
EE-Website	€ 65.00
Total	€ 23'237.16

Balance as per 31.12.2007 was €56'096.66

Auditors' Report

Slavibor Petrzilka read out the Auditor's report and recommended that the meeting should accept the accounts. A vote was taken and the accounts were approved unanimously.

9/ Elections

The following Executive members were up for re-election:

9.1 Election of Vice President

Jaroslav Kratochvil was unanimously elected for a further term of office.

9.2 Election of General Secretary

Gion Gross was unanimously elected for a further term of office.

9.3 Election of Auditors

Slavibor Petrzilka, Czech Republic, is retiring.

Istvan Rohringer, Hungary, remains in the post for another 12 months.

The current reserve auditor, August Heftberger from Austria was proposed and duly elected.

9.4 Proposal for Reserve Auditor

Armin Wyss, President of the Swiss Rabbit Association; who was duly elected.

10 / Honorary Memberships

The following four personalities were presented with their much deserved honorary memberships.

- Dietmar Kleditsch, Germany
- August Heftberger Austria
- Herbert Zens, Czech Republic
- Alois Kirchhofer, Switzerland

All four were touched and thanked the meeting.

11/ Propositions

None were received this year.

12 / Affiliation of New Members

The following new member states were welcomed into the EE:

Country	Section
Bulgaria	Pigeons
France	Cavies
Macedonia	Pigeons
Rumania	Rabbits
Russia	Cavies and Rabbits

Gion Gross congratulated all new nations on their integration into the EE and welcomed them all. He did remind them, however, that there is more to the EE membership than just paying the annual fees. All are expected to attend the EE

conventions and European shows on a regular basis. Information gathered at the meetings and conventions should be passed on to members.

13 / Information about future EE Conventions

2009: 21. – 24 May in Ovifat-Waimes in Belgium
Dieter Plumanns informed the meeting about the next EE Convention

2010: 13. - 16. May in Bilbao, Spain
According to the latest information, this convention is now taking place in Bilbao in northern Spain

2011: 2. – 5. June in Budapest, Hungary

2012: possibly in Germany, if the European Show is held in Nürnberg.

2013: possibly in Switzerland in conjunction with the 75. Anniversary of the EE.

14 / Information about the European Show in Nitra / SK on 20.-22. November 2009.

Lots of preparations for the 26. European Show have already been made. The show contracts were signed the previous day.

The show incorporates the 2. Juvenile-European Show and we hope that this will be a resounding success again.

We have set our target at getting an entry of around 20.000 exhibits in Nitra. We therefore need the cooperation and support of all national associations. We also expect good entries from the eastern countries.

The exhibition halls were viewed by the President; he is convinced that we will have a great European Show there.

The President of the Slovak Small Livestock Society briefly introduced the venue in Nitra.

15 / Suggestions and Requests

None were expressed.

EE-rings:

Urs Freiburghaus said that the new rings with the EE logo would not come into force until 2009. Detailed information was handed out in the relevant sections; it is important that all fill out the issued forms and return them to the President, otherwise no rings can be obtained.

EE-Website

All delegates were urged to visit the EE Website regularly; it is constantly updated and all the latest information from the Executive and the sections can always be found on this website, under www.entente-ee.com. Hans Zürcher was thanked for his enormous commitment to the EE Website.

16 / Any Other Business

Federico Voltolini has been attending the EE conventions for the last 32 years and honoured with a warm applause.

Scientific Poultry Institute of the BDRG in Sinsteden:

Dr. Inga Tiemann has been appointed as the new leader and she is continuing the great work that Prof. Rehkämper had started. The President urged all delegates to financially support the Ju-Wi-Ra.

Finally, the President thanked all delegates for all the work that they do within their organisations and asked them to pass on all the information, that they had gathered at this convention, to their members. It is important that all information reaches right down to the bottom of any organisation; one way of doing this is by publishing everything in the fancy press.

The European Association is a powerful organisation that can operate publicly in an assured manner.

He thanked the organisers for their hospitality and the organisation of the 2008 convention once more.

He ended the meeting with another poem by the Swiss author, Jeremias Gotthelf

Meeting closed at 12.15pm.

Piestany, 03.05.2008

Gion P. Gross

General Secretary