

## Report EE-Meeting Pula / Croatia 2008

### In Hotel Histria



**by Evelyne van Vliet**

The representatives of the Small Livestock organisations of all countries affiliated to the European Association met in Pula / Croatia for their annual convention from 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>. May 2008.

I would like to profusely thank the Croatian organisers for their fantastic organisation of this convention and also for their kind and caring way in which they looked after all delegates.

My report concerns the meetings of the ESKC (European Standard Committee Cavies) as well as the Section meeting for cavies.

#### **ESKC Meeting**

The most important item on the agenda was the official publication of the first ever European Standard for Cavies. This book of standards is a unique publication. All breeds that are fully recognised throughout Europe have been included and for every breed there is at least one coloured photograph.

The Standards Committee discussed the contents of this new standards book in great detail.

The second very important item on the agenda concerned the retirement of Gaby Prust from the ESKC.

Gaby not only leaves a great void as a member of the Committee, but also in her capacity as Secretary. Gaby will be hugely missed as a very gifted judge and for her great technical knowledge, Last but not least she will be missed as a great colleague and friend.

Gerrit Grooten also announced his retirement from the ESKC.

The remaining three members of the ESKC: Helmut Sakac (A), Flor Dickens (B) and Evelyne van Vliet (GB) therefore conducted all business for 2008, with Helmut writing the minutes and Evelyne in the chair.

One vacancy has been filled in the mean time -Lena Tysk from Sweden was elected unanimously as new ESKC member. We would like to welcome Lena to the Committee and look forward to working with her.



Lena Tysk (Sweden)

Those countries, that do not have a representation in the ESKC were asked to nominate a candidate for the second vacancy to be filled in 2009. Once the ESKC comprises five members again, the jobs will be allocated, namely President, Vice President and Secretary.

### **Cavy Section Meeting**

The cavy section meeting was held on Friday. Some very important items were discussed.

This year the meeting was attended by 9 delegates from 9 countries, whilst 3 countries had apologised for their absence.

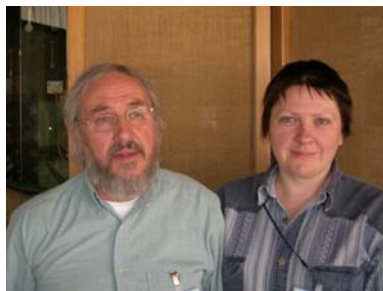


The 9 delegates on the terrace of the conference hotel

Gaby Prust's retirement also left its traces in the section meeting, as here we had also lost our secretary. It was decided not to elect a new secretary, as section elections will be held in 2009 anyway. Priska Küng (CH) kindly offered to write the minutes for this year

Every year, there are new countries which request information about the EE and possible affiliation to the cavy section. 2007 / 2008 was no different with Spain's requests. Further talks will hopefully result in affiliation in the not too distant future. It was great to be able to propose two more new countries for affiliation in the cavy section this year.

First of all there was France. ARSF is a new umbrella association of the former three separate cavy clubs. They have approximately 70 members.



Our „2 new delegates“: Claude Brigelhuber (France) and Tatyana Ostashevich (Russia)

The Russian association was formed 12 months ago and comprises around 300 members, that can show at 9 to 10 shows throughout the country annually.

The first ever “Breedspecific European Show” for Smooth Coated cavies will be held in Twello, the Netherlands on 7th. – 8th. June 2008. An international jury will judge the Agouties, Solids, Argentes, Sells and Marked Varieties.

The show will be hosted by the NCC (Nederlandse Cavia Club).

The entries closed for foreign exhibitors on 25<sup>th</sup>. April –until then 175 cavies had been entered by 25 exhibitors from 8 countries.

The closing date for Dutch entries is 10<sup>th</sup>. May 2008.

It was decided to organise vocational training seminars for fully qualified European judges. Only those judges that attend these seminars will be able to judge at European Shows; thus creating a uniform judgment.

It was further decided to organise judges' training courses for those members that would like to become judges, especially from those countries that currently have no judges at all.

The money made from the sale of the standards books will be used for these seminars and training courses.

A date was picked for these seminars: it will be the third weekend of March every year. In 2009, as it is our first year, every country will only delegate 2 judges to the seminar.

The subject for 2009: Longhaired breeds led by Lena Tysk and possibly Jens Lindgren from Sweden.



Interval for all delegates during the section meeting.

All countries will be asked for possible documentation for the judges' training course. The trainee judges will be trained in three stages (C.B.A.); namely: C-Judge is a judge that has successfully absolved one category of the European standard (Smooth Coated, Rough Coated, Long Coated); B-Judge is a judge that has successfully absolved two categories of the European standard and A-Judges are fully qualified. Trainee judges can attend the seminars in March as well as all shows where an EE approved judge is officiating (the trainee judge could possibly take his oral and practical exams at such a show).

It was decided to take the organisation and administration of the cavy entry at the next European Show in Nitra into our hands.

Things have not always gone very well for the cavy section at previous European shows. There are no cavy clubs nor cavy fanciers in Slovakia. The Czech association would be prepared to organise the whole event –they possess a show programme. Petr reckoned that some Czech fanciers could be at the show full time and the Swedish association has guaranteed a team from penning until lifting the exhibits.

I had a really good feeling after the meeting had finished. All delegates had really worked hard throughout the session and offered some really good ideas. The delegates had got to know each other a bit better againb this, which can, no doubt, only be very beneficial for a closer cooperation between all countries.

**Am meisten hat es mich aber gefreut, dass die Cavia-Sparte jetzt weder das "Stiefkind" der EE noch die kleinste Sparte mehr ist –"das Joch haben wir längstens abgeworfen!!" The thing that gave me most pleasure, however, was that the Cavy Section is now no longer the poor cousin of the EE, nor the smallest section: "That yoke was thrown off a long time ago!!!"**

