

## **Minutes of the Rabbit section meeting, Friday, 18th. May 2007, at 8am, in Piestany (SK)**

Chair: Jo Vanhommerig – President – NL  
Minutes: Dieter Plumanns – Secretary - B  
Attendance: 29 delegates from 16 countries, comprising 13 votes

### **1. Opening/ Welcome by the President**

The President welcomed all to Piestany. A special welcome to honorary member, Jacques Witry and a big ,thank you' to the organisers of last year's convention in the Netherlands. A further ,thank you' was expressed to the Slovak organisers of the 2007 convention, as well as the organising team of the European Show last December and the people in charge of this year's judges' seminar in Belgium.

Jo Vanhommerig was delighted to welcome one delegate from Rumania and two from Hungary for the first time at this meeting.

One minute's silence was observed in memory of Manfred Seiler, who had recently passed away.

### **2. Attendance**

29 delegates from 16 countries were present –see attendance sheet.

### **3. Minutes of the last meeting in Leusden (NL) on 26th. May 2006**

The minutes were incorporated in the minutes book 2006. All had received a copy, so the minutes were taken as read. No matters arising. The President thanked the minutes' secretary.

### **4. Correspondence and Information**

All correspondence was dealt with in the Standards Committee meeting and would be incorporated in various items of this agenda.

### **5. Reports of the Executive meetings**

The Executive held its meeting the previous day and dealt with various subjects; some of which will be discussed at the AGM.

### **6. Agenda of the Annual General Meeting on 19th. May 2007**

The agenda was discussed and Jo Vanhommerig asked whether there were any questions: none.

The President and Treasurer were standing for re-election and there were no further nominations.

Proposals for affiliation to the EE were received from:

Bulgaria (for all sections)

Portugal (cavy section)

The revision of the Constitution and the Regulations for European Shows were read out –these had been available on the EE-website for perusal prior to the convention. The AGM was to vote on these revisions.

New regulations had been added to the Constitution with regard to judges and judging panels. It was mentioned that there should be some flexibility in these matters.

The revision of the Regulations for European Shows was read out. Some changes had been made with regard to judges. Countries with smaller entries now only need 80 exhibits to qualify to send a judge. This judge must have attended at least 2 judges' seminars prior to the European Show, however.

*It was proposed: that very small countries should be able to join forces and jointly send one judge; e.g. Scandinavia plus the Baltic states*

### **7. Affiliation of new members**

**Rumania** is applying for affiliation and fulfilled all requisites. 16 clubs with 84 members. The affiliation was voted on in favour unanimously.

**Estonia** had applied for affiliation, but not yet fulfilled all requisites. Currently there are 50 members.

**Russia** would like to apply for membership and would be informed about all details involving affiliation.

**Serbia** would like to affiliate for the pigeon section; this was difficult as there were currently two associations for pigeons.

In **Spain** there are also two associations; these will have to get together first before affiliation can be contemplated.

## **8. Breed Specific European Shows 2007**

There was a proposal from Belgium to hold a breed specific show for Rex rabbits in Sankt Vith (B), on November 3rd. and 4th. 2007. All in favour.

## **9. Report of the Standards Committee**

Jo Vanhommerig informed the delegates about the Standards Committee meeting. He quoted the minutes of the 17th. May 2007 meeting that had been handed out to all members of the Standards Committee.

Berth Andersson was informed about the Standards Committee's decision with regard to the breeds ,Orange' and ,Swedish Fur' and was given a copy of the meeting's minutes

The newly formed Standards Committee consists of the following members:

Dieter Meister (D) President

Reinhard Seeber (A) Vice President

Markus Vogel (CH) Secretary

Erwin Leowsky (D)

Roland Olinger (L)

Existing members:

Dieter Plumanns (B)

Herbert Zens (CS)

*Amendments to the minutes of the 17th. May 2007:  
under item 6*

*Composition of the Standards Committee:*

*Current member:*

*Peter Mickmann (with voting rights)*

- *For item Presentation:*

*Peter Mickmann proposes: that he will withdraw from the Standards Committee, so that the remaining candidates can be voted on en-bloc.*

- *Item 7:*

*Discussion about the Presidency of the section:*

*President: Nominations: Peter Mickmann (D), Dieter Plumanns (B)*

*(Peter Mickmann was nominated in writing by the ZDRK);*

*(Dieter Plumanns was nominated per email);*

The official publication of these minutes for the website will be updated.

## **10. European Standard**

Inventory of the European Standard:

German: 89 copies - English: 92 copies - French: 58 copies.

96 German language copies were re-purchased from Switzerland.

## **11. EE-Judges' Seminar**

The fourth seminar took place in Belgium on 14th. and 15th. April 2007. A report had been compiled.

Jo Vanhommerig thanked Dieter Plumanns and his crew once more for the excellent organisation.

The fifth Judges' Seminar will take place in Popradske Pleso, Slovakia 12th. and 13th. April 2008.

Programme: Czech and Slovak breeds  
Dutch

## **12. Report of the European Show in Leipzig on 8th. 10th. December 2006**

It was a fantastic show! The show had already been discussed at the Standards Committee meeting. Mistakes that were made had already been extensively discussed. The organisers had to be congratulated on this gigantic show, however. Credit where credit is due!

The next European show will be held in Nitra, Slovakia in 2009.

For 2012 feelers have been put out to see if the European show can be hosted in Nürnberg (D).

Reinhard Seeber had a request –that club identifications would be overwritten with felttip pens at the next European show.

A vote was taken with the following result:

- 6 for;
- 5 against;
- 2 abstentions

So the club identifications will be over written. The future section committee will have to discuss the practicalities of this. The club identification should be over written with the pen number.

It was contemplated to start with the Dwarf breeds in the catalogue.

### 13. Address list

See appendix

### 14. National rabbit breeds as yet not incorporated in the European standard?

The Standards Committee compiled a current list of all scandinavian breeds. Working through the scandinavian standards book (Norway, Denmark and Sweden), it became apparent that the following fully standardised breeds were as yet not listed in the European standard.

- Tronder;
- Large Feh (Storg Egern);
- Isabella;
- Magpie blue-white (this breed is standardised in England);
- Swedish Fur (Svensk Päls);
- Small Havana (this breed is also standardised in Belgium and France);
- Orange;
- Örestad;
- Small Vienna (blue and agouti)
- Small white Vienna is the same as the ‚Hultsländer‘. The Dutch breed is also standardised in Belgium.
- Dwarf Hare (Polish) (a breed which is also standardised in England and the Netherlands);

In the case of the ‚Hermelin‘ (in the scandinavian standard the Hermelin includes all coloured Dwarfs), all accepted colours and all colours of the larger breeds are standardised, as well as all coat types (Angora, Rex, Swiss Fox and Satin)!

The Dwarf Lops are recognised in all colours of the larger breeds.

Czech Republic: Siamese large blue and fawn; Marten large blue and brown;

Slovakia

Zobor; Blesser of Liptov; Slovak Pastel Rex; Siamese large blue and fawn; Marten large blue; Slovak grey blue Rex;

Luxemburg: Stone Rabbit;

Belgien: Blue de Ham; Stone rabbit; Black Hare; Black Beveren; Belgian Silver and Bearded Gent as well as the following colours: Harlequin blue-fawn; Dwarf breeds are recognised in all colours and markings of larger breeds.

Great Britain: Polish; Golden Glavcot; Squirrel; Flemish Giant; British Giant; Lion Head; Miniature Lion Lop; Siberian; Smoke Pearl and in Rexes: Marten Sable; Smoke Pearl;

Germany: Giant in chinchilla colour; Large Silver in black, blue, havana, fawn and grey brown; light small Silver; Californian Satin; Thuringer Satin; Jamora; Dwarf Swiss Fox in black and feh.

Austria: New breed: Small Rex (black, blue, havana, castor, dalmatian)

Switzerland: All breeds are in the EE-Standard

### 15. Information EE-Conventions

#### Future conventions:

2008	Croatia in Pula	1.05 – 04.05.08
2009	Belgium in Namur	21.05 – 24.05.09
2010	Spain in Toledo	13.05 – 16.05.10
2011	Italy in Jesolo	02.06 – 05.06.11
2012	Germany in Nürnberg ?	
2013	possibly Switzerland – Jubilee Convention – 75th. anniversary of the EE!	

## 16. Ailments

Sweden: There are lots of wild rabbits again, but myxomathosis is diminishing.

Luxembourg: No problems – obligatory vaccination against VHD – Ministry pays for the serum.

Czech Republic: Enterocolitis is present. Obligatory vaccination against VHD and myxomathosis for showing.

Slovak Republic: All rabbits are vaccinated against myxomathosis and VHD.

IT HAS TO BE AGREED WHETHER THIS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR THE EUROPEAN SHOW?

According to Dr. Hippe it would be very sensible if all rabbits were vaccinated against VHD. This does not apply to myxomathosis, as infection takes place through flying insects which are not active at the time of the European show. Rabbits that stem from heavy risk myxomathosis areas, should ideally be vaccinated, however.

Latvia: All rabbits are vaccinated against myxomathosis and VHD. Exhibits are vaccinated against snuffles after the shows. Dr. Hippe stated that it would be more effective to vaccinate before the shows.

Switzerland: Not one case of VHD – Enterocolitis is still a problem. Feed analysis has been undertaken.

Results have shown that feed cannot be held responsible for enterocolitis. Last year there was one case of VHD, vaccination remains obligatory.

France: No problems.

Germany: The research project was prolonged at the end of April for another 6 months. Peter Mickmann reported on the results so far.

There is no generally valid vaccination against enterocolitis yet –perhaps only for one stud. Dr. Rossi has a stud specific vaccination, but this has to be newly produced every year. Hygiene, exchanging stock and shows are constant danger zones.

Last year's advice still holds good: Beware of drinking water: high germs content – coli bacteria – Coccidiosis! Water bottles are potentially dangerous: coli bacteria! Water bowls are to be preferred in conjunction with daily cleaning. Strict environmental hygiene is to be observed. ZDK has donated €95.000 for research.

Myxomathosis – great care has to be taken on the flats and the marshes –there are regular outbreaks in those areas. Keeping the midges' population down has brought relief so far.

VHD – vaccination no longer obligatory. It is recommended that a VHD vaccination certificate is handed in at shows. Big national shows require a VHD vaccination certificate, however. Those rabbit fanciers, that do not vaccinate, lose great quantities of rabbits each year.

Dr. HIPPE said the sub-Committee for Animal Health and Welfare will discuss ailments in future; this will even feature in the Constitution..

Great Britain – rabbits brought into England from the US are quarantined for 4 months. There is no longer any need to quarantine rabbits that have been imported from the Continent. Rabbits are vaccinated with a combination vaccine.

Netherlands – there are problems with myxomathosis, especially in coastal areas. Other problems include VHD and enterocolitis. Vaccination advisable, but not obligatory.

Sweden, Denmark and Norway: no problems and no obligatory vaccination.

Austria: no obligatory vaccination – rare cases of myxomathosis. No obligatory vaccination for national shows either. No problems with myxomathosis and VHD, but enterocolitis and snuffles do occur.

France – as there was no delegate from France, Dr. Rey-Bellet (CH) reported that the French had invested a huge amount in research. He had attended a congress in Paris where he was told that €4.000.000,- had been invested in research since 1997. This is necessary as France is a big rabbit meat producer.

Dr. Hippe: The meat producers have to ask themselves the question: „where do the germs come from“?

Belgium: Very few or no cases of myxomathosis. Still obligatory vaccination against VHD. Enterocolitis is found around the entire country.

## 17. Welfare

Switzerland: Armin Wyss confirmed last year's report on this subject. There is an Animal Welfare organisation in Switzerland that even attacks via the internet. The dialogue with animal welfare protesters has equally brought some results, though.

Voluntary certification –rules have been set up. Armin Wyss mentioned the internet site: [www.sgk.org](http://www.sgk.org), the rules and certification are explained on this site. The first certificates have been issued.

Good results have been achieved with raised sitting and retreating areas after a 12 year transitional period. These are now conditions for certification.

Armin Wyss is very afraid of the animal welfare protesters, who want to condemn rabbits being kept in pens. There are great fears for the future.

Latvia: Animal welfare is not active. There are guidelines for animal transportation.

Slovak Republic: No problems for rabbit fanciers.

Czech Republic: A committee has been formed for the entire nation. The opinion of rabbit fanciers is valued and they have a seat on the committee. Animal welfare protesters want to abolish tattooing and replace this with chipping.

Luxembourg: No problems.

Sweden: Tattooing is the biggest problem – transitional period until 2009. Tattooing is done by vets or trained fanciers. Rabbit housing should be bigger and contain a raised sitting area. This is a recommendation, no obligation, yet. There are rules about animal transportation.

Austria: The Austrian association has been renamed: **Rasseverband Österreichischer Kleintierzüchter mit Tier-, Natur- und Umweltschutz (Breed Association for Austrian Small Livestock Fanciers and Animal, Nature and Environmental Protection)**. Since renaming the association, no further problems have been encountered with animal welfare protesters.

Norway: No problems.

Denmark: No problems –working with animal welfare organisation.

Netherlands: No problems.

Great Britain: No problems.

Germany: The guidelines for small livestock fairs are not aimed at fanciers. Fanciers no longer keep their rabbits in „pens“, but in „enclosures“!!

The ZDRK renaming: **Zentralverband Deutscher Rassekaninchenzüchter** has been received very well everywhere and its motto still is: **Purebred Rabbit breeding is Animal Welfare.**

Maximum weight limits have been introduced for large breeds:

- 11,5 kg for Giants
- 10 kg for Lotharinger
- 9 kg for Lops

The ideal pen size is:

▪ Large	1,1 m x 0,80 m
▪ Medium	0,90 m x 0,80 m
▪ Small	0,60 m x 0,70 m

Husbandry should be adapted to the conditions that are in force for meat production.

The housing in groups of rabbits was discussed at an international congress

Dr. Hippe: The EU takes the view that ‚Animal Welfare‘ should be dealt with on a national scale. Members of his sub-committee would like to profile themselves in each section and ask as many questions as possible to give themselves a better picture of what is going on.

Belgium: No problems.

## 18. National Shows within the EE –venue and how many exhibits?

Sweden: 2.000 to 2.500 rabbits mixed – 1st. Weekend January 2008 in Stockholm.

Luxembourg: 1.800 rabbits plus poultry and covies; around 3.000 exhibits in total – 19. and 20. January 2008 international show in Luxembourg town in the Victor Hugo exhibition centre.

Czech Republic: 17. and 18. November 2007 near Prague – 2.500 rabbits

21. - 23 November 2008 in Prague (international show)

Slovakia: every year in Nitra in the last weekend of November – 2.000 rabbits from a total of 5.500 exhibits.

Latvia: two shows – an agricultural show with around 200 rabbits – 30. June – 1. July 2007.

1st. Week in November 2007 – around 600 rabbits..

Switzerland: National Buck show in Basle, 7. – 9. January 2009 – 4.500 bucks.

Germany: National Rabbit Show in Bremen – 15. and 16. Dezember 2007 – around 22.000 rabbits

National Buck show 26. – 27. January 2009; 8.000 bucks

National Rabbit Show in Sinsheim – 12. December 2009

Great Britain: Stafford (Middle England) – SPECIAL SHOW – 23. - 24. June 2007, around 2.500 rabbits.

Netherlands: National Show 24. – 26. January 2008 in Utrecht – mixed 8.000 exhibits of which 5.000 rabbits and 500 covies.

Denmark: 2.000 rabbits – the beginning of February 2008 in Tinglewo

Austria: National Buck Show and National Show in Ried near Wels 8. – 9. December 2007; around 4.500 rabbits.

Romania: Show of around 1.000 small livestock exhibits – 15. – 18. November 2007 in Clus.

Slovenia: Last weekend in November 2007 CELJLE exhibition centre – around 700 rabbits.

Belgium: 18. and 20. January 2008 mixed show with around 1.000 rabbits.

Malmedy: 3. weekend of January 2009, organised by KZV Weywertz

Russia: St. Petersburg second weekend in November 2007.

## 19. Internet

The internet site has been upgraded. The address is: entente-ee.com.

## 20. Elections

Both nominations for the post of president of the section ,Peter Mickmann (D) and Dieter Plumanns (B), introduced themselves.

Jacques Witry (L) and Roland Olinger (L) were appointed as scrutineers.

There was a written ballot for the 13 attending countries with the following result:

- Dieter Plumanns received 7 votes;
- Peter Mickmann received 6 votes;

Elected as President of the section:

- Dieter Plumanns (B)

Vice President:

- Herbert Zens (CS)

Nominated by the meeting and elected unanimously.

Secretary:

- Markus Vogel (CH)

Nominated by the meeting and elected unanimously.

## 21. Elections for Standards Committee

The Standards Committee consists of the following members:

Dieter Meister (D) President

Reinhard Seeber (A) Vice President

Markus Vogel (CH) Secretary

Erwin Leowsky (D)

Roland Olinger (L)

Dieter Plumanns (B)

Herbert Zens (CS)

The delegates confirmed the election of the above candidates.

## 22. Requests

None

## 23. Any other business

Jo Vanhommerig thanked the retiring committee members once more and congratulated the new committees (section and standards committee) on their respective elections.

Dieter Plumanns took the opportunity to thank all delegates for his election. He specially thanked Jo Vanhommerig: to sum up Jo's tireless work over many years was impossible! The EE benefitted from his enormous technical knowledge that he acquired over many in his native Holland. His confident and calm demeanour secured many wise decisions. His professional knowledge of accounting had put the section in very good stead.

He thanked Jo for all he had achieved within and given to the European rabbit fancy. The meeting gave Jo a standing ovation!

Jo Vanhommerig  
President

Dieter Plumanns  
Secretary