



Minutes of the Cavy section meeting in Hotel Beatriz in Toledo / Spain on 14. May 2010

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1. Opening and Welcome

Evelyne van Vliet opened the meeting at 8.44am and welcomed all delegates cordially to the meeting, especially Peter Supuka, who was attending for Slovakia, that had applied for EE affiliation. Christian Koch was attending for the first time this year, as well as Eddy de Permentier, who was standing in for Flor Dickens, that was absent through personal reasons.

Evelyne apologised for her late arrival, caused by the Icelandic ashcloud and thanked Helmut Sakac and Petr Tejml who represented her at yesterday's Executive meeting and the ESKC meeting respectively. She was very sorry that no delegates from Spain and Portugal were attending, despite the geographic vicinity of these countries to the convention venue.

2. Recording Attendance: Evelyne van Vliet, England; Helmut Sakac, Austria; Petr Tejml, Czech Republic; Priska Küng, Switzerland; Sigrid Tooson and Christian Koch, Germany; Co Korsuize, Holland; Aldona Czerniakowska, Poland; Eddy de Permentier, Belgium; Lena Tysk, Sweden; Peter Supuka, Slovakia.



Absentees: Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Russia and France.

10 voting rights, so a majority of 6 votes was required

3. Minutes of the last section meeting in Ovifat/B on 22. May

All delegates had received the minutes, so they were taken as read.

Lena requested some clarification on one sentence: „part of the seminar was too country specific and not objective enough“.

Helmut reacted that the practical part was not based on the European standard, but about the way Swedish fanciers present their cavies to the judge. The presentation was not criticised and part of the problems arise from the fact that several countries operate from different backgrounds.

Result: People from different backgrounds will have to co-present the introduction to the breeds and live cavies should originate from different countries.

Evelyne reminded all that we had agreed to write small showreports which would be uploaded onto the website with photos.

Aldona was critical of the EE website, as it was not current; Poland had still not been included in the membership list. It appeared that only items offered by Evelyne for the website were published.

The english language pages were also not up to date (minutes).

The homepages of the affiliated associations should be linked.

Evelyne will try and sort things out.

Helmut suggested that he will produce a separate page, containing all the shows, which will then be linked to the EE website.

All countries to send their information directly to Helmut.

According to an email from Holland, the international Judges list contains people that have died. All countries to send their updated judges' list to Evelyne. Affiliated countries to choose judges from that list for their shows only.

It was suggested that judges from the EE list do not judge in countries and clubs that are not affiliated to the EE. The question was raised, though how we would encourage new countries to join the EE.

There are 2 cavy clubs in Poland and their delegate requested that the other club would receive no benefits from the EE. This contravenes the EE principle to try and bring factions together so that they can jointly join the EE.

Judges' seminars are one of the privileges that the EE offers to its affiliated members only.

Another problem that was encountered is that several countries are training up new judges in neighbouring countries according to their national standards. This will not be tolerated any longer and these new judges must be trained according to the European standard.

Helmut suggested that all judges can judge in all countries, but only to the European standard. Christian added that EE judges can only train up judges in countries that are affiliated to the EE. We were unable to solve these problems at this meeting, so will be discussed again at next year's convention. All countries are urged to come up with some ideas by the Judges seminar in September.

4. Correspondence and Information

Evelyne had received a letter from the Swedish club SMF. Paragraphs from this letter were discussed under the relevant agenda items.

Evelyne also had a lot of correspondence with regard to the European show in Nitra as well as about the Breedspecific shows that will take place next year in Switzerland.

Contact had been made with the cavy association In Slovakia.

Emails had been received from Dr. Samuel Boucher of the French cavy association ANEC. These would like to re-affiliate to the EE. Claude Brigelhuber, our French delegate for some years, has moved to Italy and no more contact has been had with this association, although the membership fees have been paid. ANEC is part of the umbrella organisation SCAF, so will have to officially re-apply for EE membership.

A letter was received from the MFD in Germany, which contained a nomination for Christian Koch to have a seat on the ESKC. Despite the fact, that in 2010 there are no elections, Evelyne suggested to co-opt Christian into the ESKC –he was elected unanimously. Evelyne further wondered whether the ESKC should be expanded to 7 members.

Priska demanded that ESKC members must attend the EE convention every year. Evelyne added that these people also had to attend the Judges' seminars. The further suggested that the money that the ESKC receives from the EE (€1.000 per annum) would be used towards travelling expenses for ESKC members. She urged once more, that the conventions should be simplified and therefore be made cheaper to attend, as the smal(ler) associations were hampered in attending through failing finances.

5. Reports of the Executive meetings from 6.2.2010 and 13.5.2010

In the February meeting one of the discussion points was that the Cavy section was too expensive in relations to its size. Evelyne felt that all the achievements in this section were not valued enough by the Executive. It was further discussed that those countries that do not attend the annual conventions and do not support the (Breedspecific) European show with cavies, will risk to lose their EE membership. Lena felt that it should be examined why these countries are not participating. Aldona feels al lot depended on costs and the fact that certain cavy fanciers do not want their cavies to be at a show for great lengths of time. Helmut said that the contact persons from all participating countries were paid for their accommodation and food for the week, provided that 100 cavies are entered from that country. Other complaints included: the distribution of specials and prizes are not clear, people want to watch the judging and be present at an awards ceremony and be able to see the winning exhibits.

The Breedspecific European shows will provide an ideal opportunity to honour these suggestions. So far, we have only had 1 Breedspecific show every 3 years. We can extend this rule to having one show every year, excluding the year in which a European show for all sections is held. Aldona would like to organise such a show in Poland; another possibility would be to organise a national show with participation from other countries, making it an international show.

Other infos at the February meeting dealt with the other sections. A European association for homing pigeons want to join the EE. There were 2 propositions for organising the 2018 European show from Poland and Denmark, but Poland had to withdraw their proposal, so Denmark was elected. The problems with the 2 Spanish associations were discussed. It also became apparent that there are problems in Rumania with a second association comprising several sections, including cavies, was seeking EE affiliation.

The Poultry section was looking for a new President, as a result of the resignation of Frans van Oers. Frans had served an extra year, as the section Presidents are always up for election in the same year as the European show, which is very unfavourable.



Helmut reported on the 13.05.2010 meeting, in the absence of Evelyne, because of her flight cancellations:
the commercial Spanish association Artistica's membership would lose its membership at the AGM to enable Fesacocur to be affiliated.

There were 150 representatives from 24 countries: Macedonia, Greece, Russia, Norway and Portugal were absent.

The 2013 convention will be planned in Switzerland in view of the EE's 75. anniversary.

A trophy had gone missing in Nitra, but will be replaced.

The membership lists have to be updated; all delegates were asked to fill in the form, as the voting rights will be changed per section (up to 1000 members 1 vote, 1000 to 5000 2 votes and more than 5000 3 votes).

Proposals for new affiliations at the AGM included:

Slovakia - Cavies

Rumania - Cavies, Rabbits and Poultry

Rep. of Ireland - Pigeons

Spain - Poultry

Proposals for organising Breedspecific European shows (BES) must be in the hands of the section Presidents by 31. January of the year before the year in which the show is planned.

Only 1 BES can be held in between European shows for one breed. It was decided to raise the entry fees for BES with €1 per exhibit to support the EE coffers.

Final preparations were in the making for the Judges' badges. It includes attendance rates, which will be documented in booklets. In order to receive an EE Judges' badge, one must have attended 3 Judges seminars and judged at 1 European show or 2 BES.

Furthermore the judging procedure has to be revamped, as it appeared that comments on the award cards were illegible. It was suggested that the exhibits would be judged on points only without any comments on the cards. The cavy section felt that these comments were extremely important and valuable to our exhibitors.

There are problems in obtaining EE sponsorship. Most firms would rather financially support their national associations.

Sigi Tooson questioned how she could get an EE judges' badge, as she is not an ESKC member and she feels these members are advantaged. Evelyne explained that the show rules stipulate that any country can only send their judges if it has entered a certain number of exhibits. Our section is too small to warrant this rule, so she wondered whether the cavy section could apply for some exceptions to this rule.

Urs Freiburghaus briefly visited our meeting and was glad to see that the cavy section is growing.

He reminded us that it was in the interest of the section that all countries buried their differing opinions to seek uniformity Europe-wide. Especially in matters relating to the European standard and judging, it would be beneficial if all affiliated countries would show more conformity. Other sections had suffered the same problems in the past and found solutions.

He further mentioned the letter from SMF and some of the problems that were mentioned in there, as e.g. the showing of Skinnies etc. These problems must be solved within the section. He requested all countries, but especially Germany, to enter more cavies at the next European shows, as the cavy section –with its actual size- has been a financial drain on EE coffers.

Last but not least, he campaigned for the next BES to be held in Switzerland in May 2011 –this show will have many other fringe events, such as a Young stock show for other species.

6. Agenda for the AGM of 15. May 2010

There were no questions nor remarks relating to this agenda.

7. Report of the Standards Committee meeting (ESKC)



Petr reported on the ESKC Meeting and mentioned the newly standardised breeds: Red-Eyed Creams, Slate Agouties, Lux and Otters.

All delegates were handed the minutes and requested to send any queries or remarks to Evelyne.

Amendments and new standards will be published on the EE website in future, so that they can be downloaded to enable all countries to amend their standards accordingly.

Age groups were introduced and all weights were dropped in the European standard, but for the minimum weight of 450 grams. The awards were amended in line with the rabbit section.

Lena asked about the acceptance of Skinnies. The EE Sub-Committee for Animal Health and Welfare is totally against exhibiting these hairless breeds. Evelyne asked all countries to discuss the showing of hairless breeds nationally and send the results of these discussions to her by 1. January 2011. This item will be discussed again in May 2011.

In case Skinnies were to be accepted in the European standard, it would lead to problem in some affiliated countries, resulting in the fact that the European standard would no longer be used in those countries. In Austria, e.g. the animal welfare legislation forbids hairless animals. the Österreich z.B. hat in der Tierschutzgesetzgebung ein Verbot haarloser Tiere.

As a result of this legislation, it would be impossible to show these breeds at European shows in such countries; e.g. Skinnies in several countries and Satins in Sweden etc.

Marked varieties have a position for head markings and one for body markings in the European standard; some marked breeds require amendments to their standards.

All breeds are enhanced with a satinised version.

Helmut will administer all amendments and put them on the website.

8. Proposals from the Cavia Verein Schweiz

1) Judging of young cavies

The Cavia-Verein proposed that the standard text would be extended with the sentence „according to age“, so that young cavies are not unduly penalised for their lack of size or shorter coat on longhaired breeds etc. The meeting was in agreement with this.

2) Amendments to the requirements and admittance of longhaired breeds at shows. Switzerland proposed that longhairs would be clipped to floor level plus 2 cm. For exhibition, as it is illegal to show longhairs in full coat and wrap them in many countries.

Evelyne felt that we would make our section a laughing stock if we would allow longhaired breeds to be shown with short coats and suggested to make two categories for longhaired breeds at our shows: one for exhibits in full coat and one category for clipped longhairs. It was mentioned that some longhaired exhibits in Nitra were chewed, which does not come into this. Helmut contradicted this.

So far, the decision has been that longhairs that had coats longer than floorlength plus 2 cm. Were excluded from judging.

All affiliated countries were urged to discuss this proposal and report back to Evelyne by 1. January 2011 at the latest.

The ESKC will have the final say on this at their next meeting.

3) Collections with more than 1 colour

The Cavia-Verein proposed to allow collections of 4 exhibits of one breed in more than colour again at European shows.

This proposal was not discussed, as it was only discussed last year and agreed that in future only 1 breed in 1 colour would be entertained at European shows (without a written proposal, which was really incorrect). A vote was taken, however, and all countries were in favour of last year's ruling, but Switzerland was against.

9. Affiliation of new members

Slovakia - Cavies

10. Report of the European Show In Nitra (SK) from 20. to 22. November 2009

Feedback Evelyne:

It was the first time ever that the cavy section organised the entire entry itself. Evelyne and David administrated the entries and forwarded them to the cage bird section for inclusion in the catalogue. There were problem with the pens to start with, but everything was solved. The cooperation with the show management and amongst all the helpers was good. Evelyne really rated the fact that we had a hall all to ourselves and that there was an office next to the country stand.

She gave special thanks to Claudia and Michaela from Germany for their excellent organisation of the sale section. Points that need improving: distribution of the specials and awards and age categories to be printed on the entry forms. We could contemplate selling items from the all participating cavy associations on the country stand at the next European show in Leipzig, but we would have to think about how to organise this.

Feedback Lena:

The discussion prior to judging was very helpful and could be enhanced next time. Distributing the specials was difficult, as there were more quality exhibits than specials. Evelyne suggested that all participating cavy associations could donate extra specials. As a judge, Lena had noticed the amount of exhibits that were carrying mites, lice etc. We should have a disinfection spray available.

Vetting of exhibits before entering the hall??

Feedback Helmut:

The exhibits had been entered according to country and not per breed, colour and age, which he found very annoying. Helmut suggested to work together better and keep everything within the section, so that mistakes can be ruled out in future. He could possibly get the entry ready for inclusion in the catalogue. In future, all judges should heed the instructions that were given in the judges discussion prior to judging (especially disqualifications etc.).

The awarding of the European championships was not transparent: none were given in the English Cresteds, but there were 2 in the Americans (out of only 2 collections). Evelyne had put together some lesser breeds, in conjunction with the Show regulations, to enable them to win the titles. This should be communicated.

Mr. Stratka visited our meeting in the morning and thanked the section for our participation at the European show in Nitra. This cavy show had been the biggest to be held in Slovakia so far and this had had a very positive effect on the cavy fancy there; even national television had covered it extensively. He apologised for the things that had gone wrong. Evelyne thanked the organisers once more for the fine cooperation. Mr. Straka finally suggested Bratislava for a future Judges' seminar.

Petr wanted to know some statistics of e.g. how many exhibits came from which countries and how successful they were. Evelyne will compile these statistics and distribute them.

11. Discussing the Regulations for Breedspecific European shows

These regulations are being amended. The Executive would like all these regulations to be fairly uniform throughout the sections. Evelyne will distribute the old version and all the amendments, so that these can be discussed and voted on next year.

Suggestion for judges travelling expenses: on the basis of the cheapest air fare.

Lena suggested to do this on an individual basis; i.o.w. try and find the cheapest way for an individual judge to travel and pay out accordingly. It should be strongly recommended for judges to car share.

12. Discussing the Breedspecific European show in Etziken (CH) 14./15. May 2011



Priska distributed all the schedules and entry forms, which will also be available for downloading from their website: www.cavia-meerschweinchen.ch.vu.

Evelyne assured all that shows in Switzerland are organised with perfection and encouraged all delegates to get as many of their members there as possible.

13. Report of EE-Judges' Seminar in Cheltenham (GB), 20./21. March 2010

The seminar should have been held in March, but had to be cancelled because of lack of participation. Evelyne had signed a contract with the hotel, which stipulated a minimum participation of 20 people and at the close of entries, only 11 people had enrolled; there was penalty clause in the contract which would have cost her several thousands of pounds. The seminar was postponed and will now take place in Cheltenham on the 4. – 6. September 2010 and part of the programme will include a visit to the London Championship show in Reading, where the group will be divided into groups and given assignments to solve at the show –the outcome will be discussed after supper on Saturday evening. 13 people have so far enrolled for the new date and it is expected that the minimum amount of 20 people will be reached. A breed will be discussed on the Sunday morning, just like it was done in Retie last year.

Novice judges are very welcome to attend as well.

Evelyne is also willing to arrange a programme for those that would like to extend their stay in England, as well as help in obtaining stock if needed. Those that would like to buy cavies are to get in touch with Evelyne as soon as possible.

Evelyne would like to arrange the programme for the Saturday with the ESKC members during June.

The date for future seminars will remain the third weekend in March every year.

2011: Austria, organised by Helmut in Laar an der Thaya on the 19./20. March 2011. delegates can fly to Vienna and get to Laar by train within an hour. Breeds to be discussed will be: Teddyies (Sigi Tooson) and Rex (Anneke Vermeulen)

2012: Holland

Priska wondered whether there was a possibility to re-imburse those judges that had lost their airfares through the cancellation. Evelyne will make enquiries.

14. EE-Judges Training

The training of new judges within the EE had not got off the ground, as yet and we are still waiting for training material. She suggested to appoint 5 people, who will write an extensive article on a certain subject, which the trainee judges can study. The following people will contribute:

Christian: Article about diseases

Petr: Article about genetics of all breeds

Evelyne: Function/organisation of the EE.

Anneke: Article about nutrition and biology. She is **also lie wünscht auch einen Artikel über Fütterung, den kann ev. Priska liefern.**

Lena suggested for the ESKC to offer judges's courses for trainee judges, so that we could e.g. offer such a course to our Russian members in their own country. Evelyne thought that such courses could be incorporated in shows in those countries.

The question remains: what to do about a final examination? Would a practical exam suffice, or would we require a written test as well or an oral test respectively.

The ESKC will make an attempt to come up with a concrete programme.

For now, trainee judges that are interested in a concrete programme should send their own thoughts on this matter to Evelyne.

15. Information from the „Internet“ Sub-Committee

See above under item 3.

16. Ailments

Sweden: OD - Satins can no longer be shown. None in any of the other countries.

17. Suggestions and Requests

Co suggested for all relevant documents to be sent out in conjunction with the agenda in future, so that all items can be discussed thoroughly in the affiliated countries prior to the convention.

It was decided that all documents would reach the delegates by 1. April at the latest.

Russland wanted to know whether it was feasible to work towards uniform pedigrees throughout Europe. As long as not all cavies are not carrying clear identification marks, such pedigrees would not make any sense. On top of that the EE has a policy of not intervening in the national affairs of the affiliated countries.

Helmut requested that new countries would adopt and translate the European standard as their national standard rather than one from another country.

18. Any Other Business

None.

Evelyne closed the meeting at 4pm.

Priska Küng, 14.5.2010

