



# EUROPEAN CONFERENCE OF ARAB HORSE ORGANIZATIONS

## Minutes of the Show Commission Meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2009, at NOVOTEL Brussels Airport, at 9.00 h

### Those present:

Dr. Francesco Santoro, Chairman EAHSC  
Anne Heiloo, Austria  
Christine Jamar-Demeersseman, Belgium  
Jaroslav Lacina, Czech Republic  
Marianne Tengstedt, Denmark  
Christiane Chazel, France  
Burchard Schröder, Germany  
Finn Guinness, Great Britain  
Pierluigi Rota, Italy  
Princess Alia Al Hussein, Jordan

Amir Mardini, Libya  
Irina Stigler, Russia  
Guy Rhodes, Saudi Arabia  
Carmelo Zaragoza, Spain  
Ann Norden, Sweden  
Basil Jadaan, Syria  
Marianne Dijkman, The Netherlands  
Essam Abdulla, UAE

### Observers:

Mohamed Ossidhoum, Morocco  
Annette Dixon, Great Britain

Patricia Borstel, DCIC

### Ex officio:

Gudrun Waiditschka, Exec.Sec. (minutes)

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Francesco Santoro, at 9.00 h.

**1-(09,3) Apologies for absence** – were received from Nasr Marei, Egypt; Tamas Rombauer, Hungary; Tommy Huseby, Norway; Jerzy Bialobok, Poland; Tariq Al-Saddiqui, Qatar; Didier Thievent, Switzerland.

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Schröder as new delegate for Germany, replacing Sylvie Eberhardt and advanced agenda item 11.

**11-(09,3)** (item advanced) **Report from Judges Instructor Team**  
Sylvie Eberhardt reported that the team had a constructive meeting on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November which was attended by Dr. Thomas Stohler, Marianne Tengstedt, Peter Upton and herself; Dr. Nasr Marei, Izabella Zawadzka, Mohammed Machmoum und Urs Aeschbacher had apologized due to health or personal reasons.  
The team reviewed the first Judges Course according to the new scheme in April 2009 at Janow Podlaski and concluded that it is important for the instructors to arrive one day earlier, to judge the horses and find a common judgement as basis for the assessment of the students. Further the team has reviewed the Multiple Choice questions and will eliminate some about veterinary matters and add others, concentrating more on Arabian type, conformation, movements and Blue Book. Now, that a scheme of how to assess the students has been reached, it is hoped to get the results out more quickly.  
The Instructor Team further discussed to modify the Level I Course and proposed that Level I should be for teaching and examining the students with regards to theory and language, therefore no horses are required and the course can be held in a hotel to safe costs for the participants.  
Ann Norden stated that after reconsideration she is now in favour of this new structure; she also agrees that the course needs to be held in English.

Anne Heiloo proposed, if language is the problem, it should be put behind the name of the judge in the judges list. Sylvie Eberhardt insisted that the courses for international judges are conducted in English only, which was supported by Christine Jamar who referred to the training of pilots while Christiane Chazel felt that this leads to the segregation of all the French, Italian and Spanish speaking people.

**It was agreed** by the Show Commission to change the wording of the purpose of Level I courses to: **Education plus examination of students, to assess their basic knowledge in horsemanship, conformation, type and language skills (“hotel course”)** – Blue Book p. 30.

It was further proposed by the Instructor Team to ask for **three probationings in foreign countries** because it was felt, that for becoming an international judge, travelling and adapting to new situations should be part of the test. **This was agreed**, however, the Chairman asked the Commission and the Instructor Team to think about alternatives to the probationer scheme, as hardly any of the A-judges is happy to take probationers. Sylvie Eberhardt explained that it should become easier with the new rule (agreed at the last meeting, item 19-(09,2) d)), as there will be no probationer at Title and A Shows anymore, and maximum one probationer per show.

Further, the Instructor Team proposed to add on p. 30 of the Blue Book that **any judge who has not judged for 10 years or more must start again at Level I – this was agreed.**

It then was also discussed and agreed to change the time span from three to four years, i.e. **“for any B list judge who hasn’t judged for four years to attend a refresher course Level II”** and **“any A judge who hasn’t judged for four years to attend a refresher course Level III”**.

Sylvie Eberhardt explained that the Instructor Team felt that the national judges of ECAHO member countries are discriminated compared to national judges of non-ECAHO member countries, because they are not allowed to judge B and A shows. The Instructor Team proposed to go back to the wording in the Blue Book 2006, where it reads (generalized): **There shall be a minimum of xx judges, of which the majority must be chosen from the EAHSC list. Any judge who is not on the EAHSC list of judges needs to apply for a guest license. This was agreed.**

Sylvie Eberhardt then reported that the team is working on the new Syllabus based on Peter Uptons book “The Classic Arab Horse”, which needs to be amended. A CD with movements will be added to it, too.

Sylvie Eberhardt left and Claudia Darius joined the meeting.

### **3-(09,3)**

(item advanced) **Matters arising from these Minutes -**

**11-(09,2) b) – Promotion of Judges from B to A** - The Chairman explained that Claudia Darius has not been promoted from B to A at the last meeting due to a potential conflict of interest. He therefore invited her to come to this meeting in order to present her case.

Claudia Darius explained that she has been on the B list since 2006 and judged during that time around 30 shows (A, B, and C shows), also abroad. Her application for the Judges Course in Janow Podlaski in April 2009 was accepted, she passed as one of the best students, and the VZAP asked the EAHSC to promote her to the A list. Nevertheless, the EAHSC refused to do so.

The reason appears to be an alleged conflict of interest involving Giampaolo Gubbiotti (Woody), her boyfriend, a well-known horse dealer, as well as Paolo Capecci, handler and trainer at this stable. Claudia Darius confirmed that she has no business involvement with Mr. Gubbiotti’s stable and visits his stable maximum twice a year. They keep any business such as covering a mare with a stallion at this training stable strictly separated from their private relationship, i.e. she is paying covering fee, etc.

She explained that the Blue Book defines any conflict of interest quite clearly and she is not aware of any complaint lodged against her. Therefore she is asking why there is a pre-judgement in her case? For something that maybe can happen in the future. She is fully aware that she is in the spotlight, but asks the question whether there is a difference between B and A judges when it comes to ethics?

She described herself as a very honest and trustful person with a big passion for the Arabian horse, and with very ethical principles to protect herself and the reputation of all judges. **Therefore she had taken a number of decisions some time ago with the result that:**

- **She has never judged a horse of the Training Centre of Mr. Gubbiotti (Training centre Cá di Gianni).**
- **She has never judged in Italy, not even at shows where Paolo Capecci is not showing horses.**
- **She has never judged a horse handled by Paolo Capecci.**

She concluded her presentation with the hope that these efforts will take away any doubts, and added that anybody who passes the course should automatically be promoted.

Ann Heiloo stated that there was never any doubt about her qualification.

However, ECAHO had a similar problem some time ago with Christine Jamar who therefore openly declared not to judge any A and Title shows as long as she is involved in the sales business. Christine Jamar confirmed and added that she feels much more comfortable with this self-imposed "rule".

Claudia Darius stated that so far she only judged one A show (Towerlands) but **promised not to judge any A and Title shows until further notice.**

Although she doesn't see any difference in this respect whether or not you are on the A or B list. **It was then accepted to promote Claudia Darius to the A list under the promise that she will not judge any A and Title shows.**

Claudia Darius left the meeting.

**2-(09,3) Minutes of the previous Meetings** – no corrections were necessary and the minutes signed as a true record.

**3-(09,3) (continued) Matters arising from these Minutes –**

**4-(09,2) I) – Red & Yellow Cards** – Jaroslav Lacina proposed to impose money fines when issuing a red or yellow card. This was felt to be a good idea and it was unanimously agreed to **implement this fine for 2010, the amounts were decided to be 1000 € for a red card, 500 € for a yellow card;** the handlers permit to be withdrawn by the DC unless the fine is paid. **It was agreed that this needs to be checked by the lawyer.**

**6-(09,2) – DC Courses** – Ann Norden stated that the summaries given on our webpage should be more neutral, i.e. without any comments such as "very good", etc.

Jaroslav Lacina proposed that also ringstewards should follow the DC Course, as they have the power to issue red & yellow cards. This was supported by the Chairman.

**4-(09,3) Analysis of the Shows 2009** – Christiane Chazel proposed to have proper statistics of the past show season and presented figures of participating horses at A and Title shows, which indicated that numbers in the Middle East are increasing, in Europe decreasing (A Shows), while for Title shows they are generally increasing. The Executive Secretary presented figures for B Shows which do not show such a clear trend (4 had more entries, 5 had less entries, 1 was stable). The economic crises, selling of the best horses from Europe to the Middle East, and trainers which are too expensive were suspected to be reasons for this development.

Ann Nordén proposed to change the rules for the European Championships to be eligible for horses registered and owned by Europeans only, as it looks not nice to have "the Sheikhs" in the ring for the prize giving at a European Championship. This idea was not followed.

Ann Heiloo stated that it is not the economic crisis as people have enough money for VIP tables, but do not wish to show horses because they don't want to be second.

Christine Jamar felt that there are not enough trainers and they are too selective.

Christiane Chazel stated that allowing prize money would make the horses come.

Coffee break

**5-(09,3) Report from the DCIC** – Patricia Borstel (DCIC) reported that they had not yet received all DC reports, some were late, some are lacking necessary information, e.g. when horses were withdrawn from Championships, some are not in English, handwritten and difficult to read, too positive, etc. Several shows were conducted without any ECAHO-DC, such as in GB and Iran, or not enough DCs, such as the Elran Cup in Belgium. Altogether 12 yellow cards were issued for disobeying orders, whipping and shanking, but the DCs feel it is difficult to follow them up, as there is no list on internet yet. The Executive Secretary explained that a technical solution is being sought, in order to have individual access for all DCs, so it is traceable who is in possession of the list. The lawyer advised, not to make the list public. It was felt it is the responsibility of the DC to ensure that yellow & red cards are publicly announced immediately at the show, where it happens. If the organiser refuses to announce it, it must be stated in the DC report. DC reports have to be submitted latest 1 week after the show, Executive Secretary Viola Speier to keep track of them and contact the organiser, if they are not coming in. With regards to dope testing, the testing vets know how to deal with the kits. In other cases, where the samples were taken by other vets, it happened that empty kits arrived at the lab. At five shows no kits were available when needed. There are only two labs in Europe that are FEI approved, in Newmarket and Paris. There are three positive dope tests so far in 2009; one horse was disqualified for unruly behaviour. Horses were withdrawn from Championships with and without veterinary certificate; it was pointed out that it needs to be the DC vet to issue such, not the exhibitors private vet. Female judges had complained about insufficient toilet facilities at the Dammam show (KSA). The DCIC also takes unofficial complaints against DC's serious and tries to follow them up internally for informational reasons (without sanctions). The workshop on 14-15 November was very successful; the next workshop is being held on 28-29 November 2009 in Copenhagen; both courses had 12 and 14 students, respectively. A copy of the Aachen abuse case 2008 was requested by the DCIC for educational purposes.

**6-(09,3) Changes of Blue Book 2010 -**

A letter of the SDC was presented by Princess Alia as member of the SDC, as the SDC encountered problems with an inconsistency concerning two paragraphs (RCS § 44-45 and RDC § 19-21). **It was suggested that our Lawyer should rephrase these paragraphs for the Blue Book 2010. This was accepted.** It was discussed to whom the dope test results should be sent. The laboratories send the results automatically to the address who pays for the test, i.e. usually the show organiser. It was proposed that ECAHO should pay for them, and charge the costs to the show organiser together with the affiliation fee. The amount of 250 € was proposed (kit plus analysis). **No decision was taken.**

**a) Foal Classes** –The Chairman proposed that no foal classes should be allowed at any ECAHO show. Ann Heiloo felt, that exhibitors will complain and organisers organise these classes “outside” ECAHO. They do so already under the present rule, no foal classes at A and Title shows, as was demonstrated by the Elran Cup in Belgium. Further, several A and Title shows are held in conjunction with a lower category show (e.g. ANC Aachen / National Championships; Wels A Show / National Championship). How to avoid foal classes being held the same weekend, but at a different show category?

**The proposal of the DCIC was not approved, no decision was taken on this subject and the rules stay as they were approved at the last meeting.**

Princess Alia Al Hussein leaving the meeting.

**b) Rules for Affiliation - number of DCs at C nat./intern. shows** – The proposal was not agreed and the rule stays as printed in the 2009 Blue Book.

**c) Rules for Affiliation art. 5i) definition of age groups** – it was agreed that foal classes need to be included in this definition and the amendment shall read:

**Foals – horses born in the current calendar year.**

The different age groups in the Middle Eastern countries remains untouched by this.

**d) Rules for Affiliation art. 5d) – Prize Money** and

**e) Rules for Affiliation art. 5 d) – Prize Money at European Shows** – the proposed wording was agreed and amended with a maximum prize money of 5.000 € for shows in Europe.

**It was agreed that para 5 d) shall read:**

**In the event that prize money is to be awarded, the total amounts as well as their distribution should be published in the schedule. For shows in Europe, prize money is allowed up to a total prize value of € 5.000.**

**In all shows where prize money is awarded and the total prize value is € 5.000 or more, 3 % of the value of all prizes (above the € 5.000 total) is to be submitted to ECAHO as a fee.**

**f) RCS art. 2 – Conflict of Interest for DC's** – This item was postponed from the last meeting (see item 4-(09,2) k)). The DCIC stated that DC's should be independent and not part of the organising team or being employed by any member of the organising committee or any exhibitor. The DCIC proposed, where this cannot be applied in Middle Eastern shows, to introduce a “DC Liaison Officer”. The whole problem mainly concerns the situation in the UAE and Essam Abdulla in person. Essam Abdulla objected the proposal, explaining that he does not allow any European DC's to mess up UAE shows or hassle any handlers, as they have their rights, too. He further explained that the UAE insists on its sovereignty, as the UAE shows create a lot of money for ECAHO. He proposed to exempt the Middle Eastern shows from this rule. It was proposed to take a vote on this subject. Guy Rhodes stated he did not wish a vote to include all Middle Eastern countries and suggested that the proposal includes the UAE shows only. He added that Saudi Arabia joined ECAHO to be part of a regulating organisation and they wish to abide by the same set of rules as the Europeans. He felt that this exemption is morally wrong and should not include Saudi Arabia.

**A vote was taken that in all Middle Eastern countries DC's may be also part of the organising committee. It was approved with 12 ayes, 0 noes, and 4 abstained (Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and Saudi Arabia).**

**g) RCS art. 5 – Class sizes and qualification** – The DCIC stated that where class sizes are as low as 1-2 horses, all horses automatically qualify regardless of their quality. Therefore they proposed to amalgamate classes if they don't reach more than 5 (A, B and Nat. Ch.) or 3 (C nat./int.) entries. **The proposal was rejected**, as it was feared to have only 1 senior class left which takes the suspense out of the Championships; further, it was felt to have more happy owners when there are more class winners.

**h) RCS art. 13b) – Declaration of Conflict of Interest** – The DCIC stated that although exhibitors are obliged to state any conflict of interest, this hasn't been done so far to their knowledge. Therefore they proposed to amend RCS 13b) stating that **“any exhibitor not declaring an existing conflict of interest will forfeit all entry fees and will be prevented from showing the horse.” This was agreed and decided to amend the entry form accordingly.**

**i) Handlers Permit included in new art. 18 RCS** – The handler permit was briefly discussed and the proposal of the DCIC approved. Further it was decided to extend the 2009 rule, i.e. the **permit to be obligatory for A and Title shows only**, until the end of 2010. This to be added to the proposed wording to read: RCS art. 18 – All handlers at A and Title shows must be in possession of a valid handlers permit, in order to participate in ECAHO affiliated A and Title shows. RCS art. 19 – Handlers will be neatly dressed... (etc. as in old art. 18 and 19 combined).

**j) RCS art. 31a)** – the DCIC proposed to amend art. 31a) with “... Removing the hair around the eyes by shaving or any other means and the artificial colouring of the skin in that area is not permitted...” to avoid “panda eyes”. **This was unanimously agreed.**

**k) RCS art. 42** – the DCIC proposed to modify art. 42 to read: “Veterinary treatment before or during the show must be carried out according to FEI Veterinary Regulations. The person responsible for the horse will ask the vet who treats the horses to complete a treatment form and present it to the DC-vet at the show. **This was unanimously agreed.**

**l) New Rules for Championships** – Christiane Chazel explained that at big shows the age classes should be allocated to the championships differently, and more champion titles be accepted (i.e. junior, medium, senior for each sex = 6 champions). More champions means more happy exhibitors. It was proposed that Abu Dhabi serves as a test show. **A proper proposal incl. wording to be prepared for the next meeting.**

**m) Rules for Championships** – Marianne Dijkman proposed to make it compulsory to start with trotting first. It was felt that this is not always possible depending on the size of the arena, collecting ring, number of horses and time available. It was therefore agreed to leave it with the organiser to decide in which order the horses will show trot and stand up in 2010.

**n) Rules for Championships** – procedure for Silver and Bronze Medal – it was **agreed to delete rule 2a)**; the Bronze Medal winner to be selected in the same way as the Silver Medal winner.

**o) Handlers Permit** – Marianne Dijkman proposed that organisers shall take horse passports and handler permits until the end of the show. It was felt that organisers don't like to take the responsibility for the horse passports. Permits may be collected until the end of the show.

**p) Addendum I** – the wording “immediately” was discussed and specified to “10 days after the show”. If the DC report has not been received, the Executive Secretary (Show Section) shall contact the organiser to get the name of the DC and remind him to send the DC report within another 10 days, otherwise he may be taken off the list.

The same discussion arose concerning show results, where **it was decided that the show calendar on the ECAHO website** should show “results received”, “results online” (with link) or “results missing” for organisers and national organisations to be informed.

**q) Addendum II** – see item 11-(09,3) Report from Judges Instructor Team

**r) Addendum III** – The proposal of the DCIC was discussed and **probationings as alternative to the Workshops was accepted**; the wording for EAHSC's decision of accepting new A or B list DCs was **decided to follow that of the judges** in Addendum II; **the license for DCs** was deleted.

**s) Entry Forms** – **the change of the wording “servants” to “employees and assistants” was agreed.**

- 7-(09,3) Handler's ID Cards** – It was felt that this is not an imminent problem and therefore postponed for the time being.
- 8-(09,3) Problems with approval of Show Schedules** – The DCIC stated that they had problems with the schedules on several occasions. It was stated that it is the duty of the show organiser of B, A and Title shows to send their schedule to the Executive Secretary three months prior to the show for approval. It was agreed to make the national organisations responsible to chase up the show organiser if he hasn't done so in time.
- 9-(09,3) Red & Yellow Cards** – It was proposed to make **no changes to the procedure concerning red & yellow cards** (i.e. no accumulation) for the year 2010, which was agreed.
- 10-(09,3) Approval of Show Calendar 2010 -**
- a) to limit number of B, A and Title shows** – Christiane Chazel stated that the number of entries will get less per show if the number of shows is being increased.
  - b) Upgrade of C int. to B in Libya** – this was agreed.
  - c) Upgrade of C to B of Mohamadia show in Saudi Arabia** – Essam Abdulla stated that the show date clashes with the National Championships in Sakkara/Egypt and therefore the up-grade should not be approved. Guy Rhodes stated that the Mohamadia show on 7-8 April 2010 was a fixed date and cannot be changed. Further the affiliation of the Mohamadia B Show was submitted to ECAHO in time for the deadline of international shows, while the deadline for national shows is only on 20<sup>th</sup> December. It was further stated that national shows should find their dates around the international shows in their vicinity. It was proposed that the organisers should talk to each other and Essam Abdulla was commissioned with the task.
  - d) Upgrade of B to A of Blommeröd show** – Ann Nordén stated that it was Vicke who wants the A show, but the EAHSC had decided to have only one A show in the North of Europe, which is in Denmark. The SAHF board is not against an A show for Blommeröd, but they do not wish that ECAHO takes it away from Denmark. Marianne Tengstedt stated that they appreciate the Blommeröd show as it is, but Denmark wishes to continue with the A show. The up-grade was therefore not approved.
- 11-(09,3) Report from Judges Instructor Team** (item was advanced)
- 12-(09,3) New Judges for the A and B list**
- a) Regis Huet** – ACA France proposed to promote Regis Huet to B as he passed the ECAHO Judges Course Level II in Janow Podlaski 2009. The Executive Secretary explained that ECAHO had received a letter of complaint by AECCA, the Spanish National Organisation and organiser of the Nat. Championships in Segovia 2006, where Mr. Huet was meant to do his probationing. Following the letter of AECCA his probationing was not accepted by EAHSC. He also did one probationing in 2007 with Richard Pihlström, who at the time was suspended from the ECAHO judges list and therefore was not entitled to take probationers. He also did one probationing with Jean-Marc Valerio, who is a B list judge and therefore not entitled to take probationers. The situation was also explained by the Instructors to Mr. Huet in Janow. **It was agreed that Mr. Huet has to do a minimum of three positive probationings before he can be considered for the B list.** A letter to be written by the Executive Secretary to ACA France, including the file.

**b) Wojtec Kowalik** – a letter was received shortly before the meeting from the PZHKA (Polish Private Breeders Association) to re-instate Mr. Kowalik on the B list who hadn't judged some time due to being a professional trainer. It was at present not clear, if Mr. Kowalik is on the Polish National List of Judges. Further, it was explained that he had passed the Judges Course in Blommeröd in 1999, but did not return his judges form in 2001 to indicate his shows judged during 1999-2001. It was therefore assumed that he had not judged since his course, i.e. more than 10 years. **It was decided that he has to start again with the judges training, i.e. with Judges Course Level I.**

**13-(09,3) Any Other Business –**

**a) Basil Jadaan** stated that it is difficult to explain exhibitors the Rule 2b) of the Rules for Championships, as it allows second-placed horses (with less points) to become Reserve Champion ahead of first-placed horses (with more points). It was stated that this has been discussed often in the past and Rule 2a) was deleted during this meeting which will not be reversed.

**b) Missing Show Results of the years 2007 and 2008** – The Executive Secretary explained that the results of about 50 shows of 2007 and 2008 are missing, i.e. any qualified horse at any of these shows is not on record with ECAHO. It was suggested to send the list of missing show results together with the minutes to the National Organisations for them to attempt to get the results.

**c) Finn Guinness** brought forward the proposal of the **Wessex show in GB** to held two shows in one, one in "Classic Style" the other in "Modern Style". It was agreed to accept these as long as they are run as proper shows.

**d) Finn Guinness** asked if it is possible to include the **dispensation of GB from vaccination rule** in the Blue Book. It was feared this would raise more question from other countries than it would help British organisers and DCs.

The meeting was closed at 16.30 h...