



# WBFSH General Assembly 2020

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Web-Conference  
Time 13h00 (GMT+2)

## Agenda

1. Opening and welcome
2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2019 and of the coordinated statutes including the voted amendments of 2019 (#GA2a) (#GA2b)
3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments, (#GA3.1) (#GA3.2) (#GA3.3)
  - a. FEI Update (WBFSH Data Exchange & Digital Passports)
  - b. WBFSH Marketing Survey – report (#GA3b)
  - c. WBFSH Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (#GA3c)
4. Financial report (#GA4/5)
5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year (#GA4/5)
6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year (#GA6)
7. Election of Board members (#GA 7-10)  
*Retiring & eligible for re-election for a 3-year period; Vice Presidents Paul Hubert (FRA) & Marion Hughes (IRE)*
8. Election of members for the Audit committee (#GA 7-10)  
*Referring to the statutes, 3 members & 2 substitutes must be elected annually. In 2019, Alf Kjetil Andresen & John Shenfield accepted standing for another year. Werner Schade, Phillippe Lemaistre & Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr. retired & were replaced by Wilken Treu, Guillaume Blanc & Charmaine Bergman*
9. Election of Disciplinary committee (#GA 7-10)  
*Referring to the statutes, 4 members must be elected every two years. In 2018 Constanze Winter (GER), Phillippe Lemaistre (FRA) & Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr (BRA) accepted standing for another 2-year period. Jim Flanagan was newly elected to the Disciplinary committee.*
10. Election of Board of Appeal (#GA 7-10)  
*Referring to the statutes, 5 members must be elected every two years. In 2018 Theodor Leuchten (GER), Hanfried Haring (GER), Leopold Erasmus (AUT), Peter Ljungcrantz (SWE) and Xavier Libbrecht (FRA) accepted standing for another two-year period*
11. New Members/Associates
12. Motion from the Board
13. Motion from members/associates
14. General Assembly 2021
15. Miscellaneous

# MINUTES

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## **1. Opening and welcome**

The WBFSH President Jan Pedersen welcomed the participants to the virtual general assembly, the first of its kind due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the first one since the foundation of the federation that is not taking place as a live meeting.

## **2. Adoption of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2019 and of the coordinated statutes including the voted amendments of 2019**

The minutes of the previous general assembly and the coordinated statutes were adopted without any comments.

## **3. Presentation of activity reports by Jan Pedersen and discussion of the written reports of the five departments**

This item was presented in four parts, starting with the annual activity report presented by Jan Pedersen.

He stated that it had been an unusual year. With the Covid-19 pandemic having led to the cancellation of equestrian events worldwide throughout the year, financial difficulties had resulted for many of the WBFSH member studbooks. Many large breeding events have been replaced by smaller events with little or no spectators and that had also affected the support of sponsors.

The general manager Nadine Brandtner had conducted a survey among the WBFSH members to gain an impression of the impact of the pandemic on the breeding industry. The survey having been conducted relatively early during the pandemic, he stressed that these were preliminary findings that may not completely reflect the true impact. Conforming to the president's own feeling - there was no indication that the number of breeders and coverings had decreased. One could have expected that a situation of such uncertainty may have led to pessimism and recession. Although this did not seem to be the case at the individual breeder level, it did seem to be more so at studbook level.

In some countries, auctions, an important source of income to many studbooks, were held as "hybrid auctions" a new format that evolved during this crisis. They are run live at the auction venue, with a limited number of spectators, but are offered primarily for internet bidding. This new auction format had proven to be remarkably successful.

### **International Breeding Values**

At the WBFSH annual meeting 2019 in Saumur, the WBFSH SC-CIGA Committee (Standing Committee for Collaborative Implementation of Genomic Applications in Sport Horse Breeding) had organised a seminar and workshop about International Breeding values (IBV). The outcome had been a clear mandate to continue the engagement of the WBFSH in a project aimed at producing IBV across studbooks. Such IBVs will allow to identify the stallions which can promote breeding progress in each studbook.

The SC-CIGA, responsible for the project, has asked a team of scientists from Germany, France and Sweden to make a report about how the project can be executed and to estimate the costs. A questionnaire based on the Interbull format for description of national genetic evaluations for dairy cows. The questionnaire was sent to studbooks from nine countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland). Seven studbooks provided information on how breeding values are currently estimated were provided by their organisations.

The conclusions from the questionnaires were that regardless of the heterogenous organisation of sport horse breeding and breeding-related analyses in the different countries, there are reasonable similarities regarding traits, data sources and evaluation methodologies. The team of scientists underlined the importance that the new system for international genetic evaluation should allow participating studbooks to keep their trait definitions.

The MACE system (Multi-Trait Across Country Evaluation), which is based on the exchange of national breeding values and has already proven its suitability in the dairy industry, was mentioned as an implementation option. However, a major concern with MACE is that it is built on the principle that an animal has performance data in only one country, whereas data structure in equestrian sports includes horses with performance records in more than one country, which may lead to bias. Accordingly, the recommendation was to use the IBV project for comparison between different approaches of international genetic evaluation and investigate first whether and how MACE can be adopted for the sport horse. The team of scientists has suggested some alternative options for this investigation. They estimate that the total project, including the development of a prototype, for routine IBV estimation will take around 2½ years and will cost around 240.000 Euros.

This is a substantial investment in terms of time and money, and the president was therefore pleased to announce that this very important project is supported by all the biggest European studbooks.

### **Traceability of Genetic Material**

Following the WBFSH GA-2019, a working group of studbook representatives, stallion owners, the IFCE as regulation advisor and the WBFSH general manager was established. Discussions within the group throughout the year have led to a deeper understanding of the complexity of a solution. Originally the topic revolved around the traceability of semen but now the scope includes all genetic material. The complicated project is ongoing, and now part of the annual plan for 2021.

### **Department Internal Cooperation**

The department has sought ways to bring member organisations together to exchange ideas, needs and opportunities. These efforts have led to the working group SC-CIGA and to several partnership opportunities. One of these opportunities capitalised on the new relationship the WBFSH has with World Breeding News (WBN). This first rate publication has a long history of providing insightful coverage of Warmblood performance and has transitioned from a traditional format to an online format.

WBN provides an excellent forum-style tool, through which studbooks contribute articles or advertisements. Fifteen studbooks are participating in the WBFSH-WBN joint platform and many if not all contribute editorial content and advertising every month. The president encouraged all member studbooks to subscribe to this initiative and so to create a global sport horse information portal. This joint initiative has had a very positive impact on the reach of World Breeding News.

### **Marketing the organisation:**

The WBFSH Marketing Committee is progressing in raising the profile of the organisation. Several surveys have been performed that underline what has already been anticipated: the WBFSH flies below the radar of most industry participants. Nadine Brandtner would be presenting a marketing survey report further on in the general assembly.

### **Studbook data services:**

One of the most exciting opportunities for new studbooks, or those with smaller memberships, is the EQUIS initiative. The October issue of World Breeding News profiles the service offered to WBFSH members. This platform has the potential to offer big-city data collection and analytics at small-town rates. It offers a back-office, front-office and data-exchange environment. This platform offers user-friendly service in registrations, traceback metrics and financial transactions. Studbooks can conduct most of their business there and individuals can create environments for their horses and breeding programs. This initiative is ongoing – the WBFSH anticipates announcing important developments in the near future.

### **Department External Cooperation**

The constructive cooperation with the FEI has continued throughout the past year. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the FEI / WBFSH Council Meeting scheduled for March 2020 was initially cancelled and then took place on 25th July as a web conference. Main items of discussion were:

- World Breeding Championships (schedules and quotas, prize-giving ceremonies, plans for rotations) The importance of the organisations appearing as equal partners during the prize-giving ceremonies of the championships was addressed. The FEI agreed to review the protocol accordingly, and to consider joint FEI and WBFSH trophies. Only 2 days prior to the GA-2020, the WBFSH received a draft prize giving protocol from the FEI. An internal discussion about the proposed protocol has not yet taken place, but the president felt that it complies with the wishes of the WBFSH.
- The Data Exchange Project had also been on the agenda. Gaspard Dufour, head of IT at the FEI, would be presenting an update of the project further on during the general assembly.

### **FEI-WBFSH World Breeding Championships**

The dressage championship was postponed from August to due to the restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The president stated that he hoped the championship would go through, despite further development of the pandemic.

The jumping championship, which had been scheduled to take place from 16 – 20 September, and had been reviewed to take place with an altered format to comply with Covid-19 restrictions, was cancelled after decisions taken during the Belgian Security Council on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

The eventing championship was due to start the day following the general assembly, with adherence to Covid-19 restrictions. The event would be held "behind closed doors", i.e. without any spectators or non-essential attendants.

## **Digital Equine Passports**

A taskforce for Brexit and EU Animal Health Law, run under the framework of the ISHC (International Sport Horse Confederation) with the FEI and the IFHA (International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities), has formulated a digital passport solution to ensure the efficient cross-border movement of sport, racing and breeding horses from 2021 onwards. The proposed solution would allow for the free movement of horses between Great Britain and Europe and would also meet the requirements of the new EU Animal Health Law Legislation, which comes into force at the beginning of next year. Gaspard Dufour would be touching on this subject in his report.

## **LONGINES-WBFSH Breeders Award**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the format of the 2020 LONGINES-WBFSH Breeders Award ceremony also had to be changed. The WBFSH sponsoring agent, Xavier Libbrecht would be visiting the winning breeders in their homes with a video crew. The video would be shown at the Longines Equita-Lyon CHI, and on the same day Longines would be posting it on their Twitter and Facebook accounts, in order to reach a large audience and be able to honour the breeders.

### ***a. FEI Update (WBFSH Data Exchange & Digital Passports)***

Gaspard Dufour presented an update of the project by addressing the main concept, the current status of the project, an overview of the solutions and the next steps in the process. (refer also to [http://wbfsch.org/files/\(GA\\_3a\)\\_WBFSH\\_GA\\_-\\_Data\\_Exchange\\_Platform\\_-\\_2020-10-14\\_\(FV\).pdf](http://wbfsch.org/files/(GA_3a)_WBFSH_GA_-_Data_Exchange_Platform_-_2020-10-14_(FV).pdf))

#### **Main concepts of FEI-WBFSH Data Exchange:**

The common FEI-WBFSH platform will enable an exchange of data between the FEI and participating studbooks. Studbooks will gain sports results of their own horses, and the FEI will gain pedigree information of the FEI horses of participating studbooks. Each party remains sole owner of their own data. A horse's main identifier used is the UELN and microchip ID. The platform is not publicly available, only authorised users can access the data. All actions on the platform are logged. Data can be exchanged either by CSV file or by API.

#### **Current status:**

In 2018 the WBFSH and FEI chose the pilot studbooks. The German studbooks signed the agreement in October 2019. In June 2020 the BWP joined as a non-German pilot studbook. Exchange started by CSV format. From July to October 2020 the technical build of the platform was carried out, with completion expected by the end of the month.

#### **Quick overview:**

Mock-ups of the interphase for the API setup were presented, to illustrate a horse search or results search, as well as the logs where studbooks can see who has tried to access data.

#### **Next steps:**

Completion of the build is anticipated to be end of this month. In November 2020 the pilot studbooks will be able to start using Version 1 of the platform. From November 2020 to March 2021 the project will run with the pilot studbooks. If the pilot phase runs successfully, from April 2021 the project can be opened up to other WBFSH studbooks. Upon signing a 3-party agreement between the studbooks, FEI and WBFSH the studbooks become integrated into the platform.

#### **Questions:**

- Joan van Gorkum (AES): How will results of a stallion originating from one studbook, but approved in another studbook, be reflected?  
A stallion will be captured as having a primary studbook, as well as secondary studbooks in which he is approved. These secondary studbooks will be able to access the stallion's results.
- Joan van Gorkum (AES): In previous years the Horse-Link solution was presented at the WHIRDEC meetings. How should these exchange solutions be positioned in relation to each other?  
Horse-Link is a separate initiative and not part of this exchange of data.
- Joan van Gorkum (AES): Why is this platform only for studbooks, and not for breeders or auctions?  
This project is being started with the main stakeholders, but future expansion does not exclude this. Furthermore, national results may also be considered at some stage in the future.
- Emma Thorén Hellsten (SWB): How will the non-pilot studbooks be notified when the project is opened up to the rest of the studbook?  
The WBFSH general manager will communicate this to the studbook.
- Stephan Kelchtermans: Many mares have offspring in several studbooks.  
This has not been discussed yet, but possibly the same scenario can be used as with licensed stallions
- Bérengère Lacroix (SBSF): Can lists of results be accessed using the UELN codes of multiple horses?

Using the log-in feature of the platform, only horse by horse searches are possible. But using the API, it is possible to obtain results from a list of horses, as long as these horses are only from its own studbook.

- Carlos Fuchs Facht (AAFE): Will there be a permanent ranking of horses and studbooks?  
This platform makes no calculations, it is purely for the exchange of data. The rankings will continue to be managed separately.
- Morgane Libotte (SBS): Can we see a copy of the contract before signing up? We have a contract with a provider for the display of SBS horse results on our website. Would display of the FEI results from the platform on our website be considered as making money out of it?  
This answer cannot be easily answered without more information. However, the display of studbook horse results on a studbook website is not explicitly excluded. The contract will be available to studbooks for them to be fully aware of the conditions involved.
- Name unknown: What is the biggest benefit for studbooks to upload their data to the platform?  
To ensure correct identification of horses and correct public pedigree information, which is used by event organisers and on starting lists. Furthermore, the studbooks get validated FEI results from the official source.
- Bérengère Lacroix (SBSF): how much does it cost to join?  
There is no cost to the studbook, since the development costs are covered by the FEI and WBFSH. However, a studbook needs to assume any costs related to making their own data system API compatible.
- Andries van Daalen (KWPN): Could a session for additional questions and details regarding to the data exchange project to be set up?  
This can be arranged in the form of a webinar.

### **Digital Passports:**

This is a project run under the framework of the ISHC, in collaboration with the FEI and IFHA (International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities). The goal is for the digital platform to be ready in 2021, but much work still needs to be done. The purpose of the digital passport is to aid ease of movement of HHP horses (high performance status horses, under the OIE framework) in accordance with the EU Animal Health Law (AHL), which comes into effect in April 2021 for. The digital passport format is not intended to replace the paper passports. (refer also to part two of [http://wbfs.org/files/\(GA\\_3a\)\\_WBFSH\\_GA\\_-\\_Data\\_Exchange\\_Platform\\_-\\_2020-10-14\\_\(FV\).pdf](http://wbfs.org/files/(GA_3a)_WBFSH_GA_-_Data_Exchange_Platform_-_2020-10-14_(FV).pdf))

#### **Questions:**

- Rudi Eerdeken (BWP): Shouldn't the WBFSH be represented on the working group for the digital passports, since the IFHA represented thoroughbred breeding and sport, but the FEI represents only sport?  
Although Gaspard felt that he is not sure how to answer this question, he suggested that this could be discussed between the FEI and the WBFSH at one of the council meetings.
- Arancha Rodriguez (ANCCE): Who will issue digital passports, breeding associations or competent authorities?  
This is still under consideration, but discussions are around whether the owners should be able to create them, in order to receive the necessary documentation for movement of their horses. However, the creation of digital passports by owners will necessitate specific protocols of control and validation.
- Verena Kruepe (AWR): Do the digital passport apply to ease movement of European horses within Europe, or would it include horses from outside the EU, e.g. American and Canadian horses?  
It will include horses that originate from Europe and are moved to non-European countries. At this stage the solution is not addressing the movement of non-EU horses coming into the EU. Although the EU-AHL does not address the movement of horses from outside Europe into the EU, the HHP description of the EU-AHL addresses movement of all horses worldwide. So, there is potential to include movement of non-EU horses into the EU.

### **b. WBFSH Marketing Survey – report (#GA3b)**

Nadine Brandtner presented the results of a marketing survey that was circulated in January 2020. The aim of the survey was to establish whether the WBFSH is perceived by the equestrian public, and how it is perceived in terms of what the organisation's function is versus what it should be, its contribution to the industry, and what its image as a relevant organisation is. The results of the survey were intended to guide the WBFSH marketing committee, to develop the brand image of the organisation, as well as improve reach and communications with its target audience.

The findings of the survey were that the WBFSH needs to look beyond its current borders to grow its network & be attractive to the younger generations as well, without neglecting its current member base and their needs. It should review its role in the industry, the services it currently provides and could

provide. It needs to modernise its brand image and its digital image. The conclusions drawn have been taken into consideration by the marketing committee to continue its work. In addition to that, the results of the survey were considered when drafting the new strategic plan of the WBFSH for 2021-2025. (refer also to [http://wbfsh.org/files/\(GA\\_3b\)\\_WBFSH\\_Marketing\\_Survey\\_2020\\_\(report\).pdf](http://wbfsh.org/files/(GA_3b)_WBFSH_Marketing_Survey_2020_(report).pdf))

### **c. WBFSH Strategic Plan 2021-2025 (#GA3c)**

The strategic plan was presented by Jan Paul Steenbergen. During the process of establishing the new plan, the joint committee had also updated the mission, vision and values of the organisation. The new strategic plan incorporates four pillars:

1. *Positioning the WBFSH as the overarching representative body for sport-horse breeding*, by developing overarching policies, developing incentive programs, as well as advocating, representing and lobbying for the industry.

2. *Becoming a service provider for the entire sport-horse breeding value chain*, by maintaining and aligning its services for the studbooks, developing additional services for the breeding community, and creating additional and direct revenues.

3. *Advancing sport-horse breeding worldwide*, by supporting international exchange between breeding and sport, developing a public presence, and delivering strategic projects

4. *Developing the collaboration & operating model of the WBFSH*, by developing a collaboration platform, enhancing the professionalism and neutrality of its operating model, and attracting additional resources. (refer also to [http://wbfsh.org/files/\(GA\\_3c\)\\_WBFSH\\_strategic\\_plan\\_21-25\\_final.pdf](http://wbfsh.org/files/(GA_3c)_WBFSH_strategic_plan_21-25_final.pdf))

## **4. Financial report (#GA4/5)**

The financial report 2020 was presented by Stephan Kelchtermans (Vice President, Dept Finance). The fiscal year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August every year.

The result of the year 2019-2020 was:

Total Revenues	€ 239,657.31
Outstanding Revenues	€ 26,915.00
Total Expenses	€ - 239,967.07
Outstanding Expenses	€ 0
<b>Balance</b>	<b>€ 26,605.24</b>

The total balance of the financial report and the amounts in the bank accounts for 2020 is € 256,612.56. The financial report has been presented to and checked by the audit committee and was adopted by the General Assembly without any comments and questions.

## **5. Approval of the budget for the coming financial year (#GA4/5)**

Stephan Kelchtermans presented the budget for 2021 (revenues 285,429.00 Euros and expenses 273,551.44 Euros).

There were no comments, and the budget were approved by the general assembly.

## **6. Approval of the annual plan for the coming year (#GA6)**

Jan Pedersen presented the new annual plan for 2021:

1. Planning of the championships together with FEI
2. Working on EU legislation in cooperation with European Horse Network and other organisations
3. Improve overall communication between the WBFSH and its studbooks through implementation of the marketing and communications plan.
4. Continue to improve overall collaboration between the WBFSH and FEI, for example through the WBFSH FEI Council.
5. To finalise implementation of a suitable platform that will provide clean, verified pedigree data, to enable data exchange with the FEI.
6. Verified breeding information on starting lists and other media
7. Sponsorships – work on attracting additional sponsors
8. Contact to international federations (COPA, EAAP etc)
9. Continued support of international organisation of young breeders' competition
10. Promote and maintain the WBFSH rankings of horse breeders, studbooks and the stallions

11. Raising the profile & gaining greater recognition of the WBFSH through new initiatives e.g. develop our presence on social media, develop the idea that breeders' get a share of competition prize money.
12. Continue the work of the WBFSH CIGA committee
13. Make progress with the establishment of WBFSH International Breeding Values (IBVs)
14. Continue working with EQUIS to provide a database management system for small studbooks
15. Continue work with appointed task force to explore and develop a solution for tracing genetic material.

## **7. Election of Board members (#GA 7-10)**

The elections were moderated by Edward Kendall (CWHBA). It was the end of the three-year term for Vice Presidents Paul Hubert (FRA) and Marion Hughes (IRE). The SBSF nominated Paul Hubert for re-election. Marion Hughes was retiring and the ISH nominated Jim Flanagan to replace her. New nominations had been received for Sonja Lowenfish (USA/AWR) and Eva-Maria Broomer (GBR/AES).

A digital and anonymous voting protocol had been developed for the online general assembly and had been approved by the law firm VOBIS Law (Antwerp/BEL). The voting procedure was audited by the polling committee, made up of Rik van Miert (WBFSH honorary member), Marc Boudewijns (attorney VOBIS Law), Thomas Stevens (attorney VOBIS Law) and Nadine Brandtner.

The voting results were: Paul Hubert (86 votes), Eva-Maria Broomer (83 votes), Jim Flanagan (59 votes), Sonja Lowenfish (24 votes).

A comment was submitted requesting the destruction of the ballots. Marc Boudewijns suggested that the ballots are held by the lawyers until such time as the minutes for the meeting have been signed.

## **8. Election of members for the Audit committee (#GA 7-10)**

Referring to the statutes, 3 members and two substitutes are elected annually. In 2019, Alf Kjetil Andresen and John Shenfield, Wilken Treu, Guillaume Blanc and Charmaine Bergman were appointed to the audit committee. All the members of the audit committee accepted to stand for another year. This was approved by the general assembly.

## **9. Election of Disciplinary committee (#GA 7-10)**

Referring to the statutes, 4 members must be elected every two years. In 2018 Constanze Winter (GER), Phillippe Lemaistre (FRA)), Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr (BRA) and Jim Flanagan (IRE) were appointed to the Disciplinary committee. Phillippe Lemaistre (FRA), Henrique Fonseca de Moraes Jnr (BRA) and Jim Flanagan (IRE) retired at the GA-2020. Three new nominations were received – Olivier Couvé (FRA), Renai Hart (NZL) and Arancha Rodriguez Sainz de los Terreros (ESP). The general assembly accepted the new nominations.

## **10. Election of Board of Appeal (#GA 7-10)**

Referring to the statutes, 5 members must be elected every two years. In 2018 Theodor Leuchten (GER), Hanfried Haring (GER), Leopold Erasmus (AUT), Peter Ljungcrantz (SWE) and Xavier Libbrecht (FRA) were appointed to the board of appeal. At the GA-2020 all members of this committee accepted standing for another two-year period. This was approved by the general assembly.

## **11. New Members/Associates**

Alison Corbally from the Department of Development presented membership applications received in 2020 and informed the General Assembly about the ratification process. One studbook was accepted at the 2019 General Assembly in Saumur (FRA) and was up for ratification this year: American Trakehner Association (ATA). Their membership was ratified by the General Assembly.

### New membership applications:

#### **i. Koninklijk Friesch Paarden-Stamboek (KFPS)**

This studbook has applied for membership in the past. In recent years the studbook has demonstrated a steady increase in horses competing at international level dressage. It is a closed studbook with a breeding goal that reflects a strong, fundamental emphasis on sport aptitude. The KNHS is confident that the KFPS will contribute positively towards the WBFSH goals. The studbook has 13.000 members, 15.000 registered brood mares and currently has 130 active, approved stallions. In the last five years the studbook has registered an average of 3500 foals per year. For horses to be registered the studbook requires a covering certificate and a veterinary-authorized birth certificate. Horses are microchipped and given a UELN. Selection procedures for stallions and mares are carried out. Genetic evaluation is part of their breeding improvement plan.

The WBFSH board agreed with the recommendation of the department of development that the KFPS meet the criteria for full WBFSH membership. This is due for ratification of the members at the GA-2021.

**ii. The North American Studbook (NAS)**

This studbook applied for full membership in 2018. At the time they did not meet membership criteria. They needed to become more established in terms of foal numbers, as well as addressing governance issues such as formalising membership structure and holding an annual meeting. From 2014 to 2017 they registered about 30 foals. In 2018 this rose to 40 foals and 60 foals in 2019, showing a steady increase. The studbook has formalised its membership structure. They now have about 150 members. Membership is free. As of January 2020, members elect the Board of Directors every 4 years. BOD elects Executives every 4 years. NAS is officially recognised by the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) as a studbook. Its goal is to create a competitive US-based studbook that will produce Olympic level horses in all three Olympic disciplines. Currently show jumpers and hunters are predominant. The WBFSH board agree with the recommendation of the department of development that the issues that prevented the studbook from obtaining full membership in 2018 have been addressed. This is due for ratification of the members at the GA-2021.

**12. Motion from the Board**

There were no motions from the board.

**13. Motion from members/associates**

There were no motions from the members.

**14. General Assembly 2021**

The Southern German Studbooks of the German Sport Horse (DSP), who were the original hosts for the GA-2020 have graciously agreed to host the GA-2021, after the live general assembly had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. President Jan Pedersen thanked the DSP for their understanding and cooperation and said that the WBFSH looks forward to meeting again on person next year.

**15. Miscellaneous**

**a. WBFSH Rankings 2020**

President Jan Pedersen announced the WBFSH studbook ranking winners. The KWPN took first place in all three disciplines, with 12,923 points, 5,176 points and 723 points for dressage, jumping and eventing respectively. The KWPN previously won all three disciplines at the GA-2018 Budapest (HUN). Virtual certificates were presented in lieu of the framed certificates that could not be presented online. The framed certificates will be sent by mail to the KWPN.

The WBFSH Breeders of the Year were announced by the president. The winning dressage breeder was Inge Bastian for breeding Weihegold OLD. Mrs Bastian previously won the breeder of the year award for breeding Weihegold in 2017. The winning breeders for jumping and eventing were Johan Schurink and Anton Woertman for breeding Denver KWPN and Don Quidam KWPN respectively. Since the breeder awards cannot take place live this year, as was planned for the Equita-Lyon (FRA) at the end of October, it had been agreed with Longines to produce a video of the winning breeders with their Longines watches.

**b. EU recognition of UK studbooks after BREXIT**

In her capacity as chairperson of the 826-Equine Studbooks Association (826 referring to the UK UELN code 826 and being the organisation that represents all UK studbooks that issue pedigree passports in the UK) Celia Clarke addressed the general assembly. After 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020, when the BREXIT transition period ends and the UK will no longer be part of the EU single market, all UK studbooks will belong to a third country and automatically lose their EU recognition. Applications for EU-reapproval have already been submitted to Dr Füssel of the EU commission, but their processing is on hold until after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, and reapproval will take some months. This means that UK horses imported into the EU after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 will not be regarded as pedigree animals. Germinal products such as semen, embryos and zygotes will be affected in the same way until such time as the UK studbooks regain their EU-recognition. Celia Clarke made a plea to the EU studbooks to bear with the UK studbooks over the coming months.

**CLOSE**

Jan Pedersen thanked the members for attending the general assembly, which he felt went very well. He stated that he looked forward to seeing everyone in person in Dresden in 2021.