

International Committee Meeting

September 6, 2011

Kreuth/Rieden, Germany

Attendees: Viggo Mortensen, chair; Paul deJong, Monika Hagen, Scot Jackson, François Lejour, Hardy Oelke, Markus Rensing, Alberto Rodeghiero, Karl-Heinz Schmidt, Lex Smurthwaite, Irene Stamatelakys, Martin Laleese, Nicole Verhulst, Franz Vorraber.

Guests: Bruno Alt, Butch Carse, Eva Rodeghiero, Lia Rodeghiero, Jessica Sondervig.

I. "Veto-Right" to show dates

The Dutch Paint Horse Club (DPHC) brought up the problems they are facing because individuals are sponsoring shows with a substantial amount of added prize money. This is drawing exhibitors away from DPHC shows. They feel that in five years the club could go bankrupt because of the loss of income. They are seeking APHA protection. Smurthwaite said that there are three solutions: change APHA rules, request the Executive Committee grant a variance to APHA rules to block a show approval, establish a procedure for individuals to provide feedback about a show approval application (similar to the judge evaluation form). Several options were explored. Lex felt he had collected enough information to come up with a rule change proposal that he could submit to the committee for approval.

II. APHA Liaison

There have been questions about the role of Markus Rensing, APHA Director of European Affairs, and Butch Carse, APHA Judge Liaison at the EPHC. Lex presented the history behind the creation of the APHA Director of European Affairs position. He described Rensing's responsibilities and mentioned the representatives in France and South America. He compared Rensing and Carse's positions to similar posts at the APHA World Show. Smurthwaite talked about the APHA's role in the European Championship. The majority of USLGE funds go towards this event. He emphasized that the APHA is here to provide support and assistance, experience and solutions. The APHA is here to work together with the European clubs to make this a successful event. All of us are working together towards a common goal.

III. National Champion for each European country

Some members requested that the title of National Champion be recorded on the APHA performance record, for example German National Champion, French National Champion. Lex felt that there is a lot of positives to this, and it's doable, but this will take a lot of IT time. It is all possible, but we have to prioritize our requests.

IV. APHA Amateur Lease

The Amateur lease rule change proposal never came out of the Amateur Committee at the 2011 Workshop. There were several concerns. The Amateur Committee is working

on revising the proposal, and it will be presented again next year.

V. Internet Portal

Irene Stamatelakys briefly spoke to the group about the APHA International website and will present the updates to the site later in the meeting.

VI. APHA Online Show Software

Lex updated the group on the status of this project. It is on the priority list, however it will require a huge amount of programming time. We are embracing it as it would benefit both the Association and the international affiliates.

VII. EuroPaint

Karl-Heinz Schmidt updated the group on the show. There are currently 276 horses, 317 exhibitors and close to 800 entries. PHCG has contracted with the Kreuth facility for September 1-9, 2012 and August 24-September 1, 2013 in Kreuth. The facility is offering a contract for August 30-September 7, 2014 at the same rates. The group agreed that PHCG renew the contract through 2014. A comment was made that the European clubs would like to be more involved in the planning of the event.

VIII. USLGE Funding

Lex explained the USLGE program. The deadline to submit requests is Dec. 31, 2011 for 2013. We've already submitted a marketing plan for 2012. If you want to change up activities, Lex needs to know that prior to the end of the year.

IX. 2012 Judges Seminar

Joint seminar with AQHA in Germany from March 27-April 1. It will be held close to Frankfurt. ApHC may join the event.

X. 2012 Youth World Games

June 22-29, 2011 during the Youth World Show. The classes will be showmanship, horsemanship, trail and English equitation. Similar format to 2010.

XI. World Show

New sale concept. Special Yearling Select Sale. International Committee meeting during the show (November 2-12).

XII. APHA on the Road/Registrations

This works very well for our international community. It was very successful at Equitana. We're looking at expanding the program in 2012. We offer registrations, transfers and memberships right on-site. It was suggested the APHA and PHCG booths at Equitana or Americana be merged or perhaps open to other European nations.

XIII. Digital Connection

Mortensen feels it has been a success for Denmark. Sondervig never heard about it. Lex mentioned that if international members wish to receive the print version of the Paint Horse Connection, they may opt-in by request.

XIV. Gelding Stamps

If you've been given a gelding stamp, be responsible enough to submit that information to the Association so our records match.

XV. Youth Horsemanship Camp

Stamatelakys and Carse updated the group on this event.

XVI. Youth Judging Seminar

Carse spoke about the idea and need behind this program which will be offered for free to youth at the EPHC. The program is sponsored by the Corses. No other association has ever done anything in Europe to teach children about judging. It's a great project and we're very excited about that.

XVII. PHJ Special Offer

We're offering our International and Canadian members a special rate on Paint Horse Journal subscriptions through November 30, 2011.

XVIII. Gelding Plus

The Gelding Plus program will end on December 31, 2011. That money will be available through a different program which will benefit the regional clubs with some funding. We're going to have a certain budget to allocate. The club submits a proposal to the APHA and follow up with a report/success story, the APHA will support the program with funding.

XIX. AjPHA Sponsorship of European Championship Show

Every year the AjPHA picks a zone show to sponsor. This year, the EPHC was selected and the top three all-around Youth will win buckles donated by the AjPHA. This changes from year to year.

XX. DPHC Bronzes

The Dutch Paint Horse Club donated eight bronze trophies made by Ellen Welten-Louwers. They will be given to the Amateur Horsemanship and Equitation classes (Regular and Solid Paint-bred) at the 2011 EPHC to the gold medalist and the fourth place finisher.

XXI. International Affiliate Recognition

Lex recognized the UKPHA, celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, and the Danish Paint Horse Club, celebrating their 15th anniversary.

XXII. DSA Recognition

Hardy Oelke is the APHA's newest Distinguished Service Award winner, the highest honor of the Association. He was honored at the committee meeting and again during the Nation's Cup competition Thursday night.

XXIII. APHA's 50th Anniversary

Lex called for suggestions on how we can celebrate the Association's 50th anniversary in 2012. Also, next year the Association plans something special to commemorate the one-millionth horse registered.

XXIV. Presentation of Show Software

Christian and Heino Heckemüller presented "Risan," a web-based show management software solution they developed for APHA shows. They demonstrated Risan's features and answered questions. European Paint Horse clubs are invited to contact the Heckemüllers to participate in beta testing through December 2011. Risan will be officially released at the end of the year. For more information, contact chris@double-h-ranch.de.