

NOTICE OF THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WORLD FARRIERS ASSOCIATION

The 2007 Annual General Membership Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Friday, March 2, 2007. It will be held in the Sierra Vista Room, Hyatt Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. A Continental Breakfast will be served members and delegates.

If there are matters that you wish to be included in the Agenda of the meeting, please make this known to Dr. Tina MacGregor, Secretary-Treasurer, by e-mail at wfassoc@msn.com or by telephone at 1-505-345-6338.

Officer and Director Reports will be received, as well as informal reports from individuals and countries represented.

World Farriers Association
ANNUAL MEETING
in the
Sierra Vista Room, Hyatt Hotel, Albuquerque, NM
March 2, 2007
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call To Order
Introductions
Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting
Reports
 President
 Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)
 Secretary – Treasurer
Association Updates
 All Countries represented
Old Business
 WFA website update
 Sponsorships
New Business
 Matters Arising
Adjourn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
World Farriers Association – Annual General Meeting
Albuquerque, New Mexico
March 2, 2007

Once again, good morning to all of you! Thank you for your interest in world-wide foot care and farriery, and for taking the time to be here with us this morning. It is always a pleasure to be able to be together at an event like the American Farrier's Association convention and our yearly meeting. There is always so much going on, so many things to see, so many learning and sharing opportunities that make our lives richer. The years pass so quickly it seems like only last week that we were meeting in Omaha, thinking about and looking forward to a prosperous year in 2006. Whatever your interests or your endeavors, I hope that it was a good year for you and those that are close to you.

Last year, I made an observation that our work and our interest in our profession of serving the foot care needs of equidae is so diverse, yet so similar. We use techniques learned from someone else. We pattern our manufacturing or product distribution systems after proven, successful businesses, and constantly strive to make those techniques and systems serve our needs even better. Though we may lack the language, cultural capability, financial resources, or other social, economic, or political attributes, we move freely within our areas of interest to share with others not as fortunate as we are. There are no limits, there are no boundaries. There are only opportunities to give, share, receive, and enjoy the interpersonal relationships that develop. These enrich our personal and professional lives and, concomitantly, make us better professional people. So don't be tempted to downplay or give short shrift to the fact that each of us has something to offer to someone else...here in this room, in our home country, in the entire world. We are all in this together. My wish is that the World Farriers Association is both the glue and the springboard that holds our worldwide fraternity together and makes it possible for all of us, regardless of our interest or motivation, to learn from and share with others. Those people and organizations that do not share this work are missing some of life's richest rewards.

Last year, we continued to hear from and about farriers in different parts of the world with whom the WFA has worked in the past. These hard-working people are in Mexico, Turkey, and Morocco and are looking to the WFA for advice and educational material that will help them every day. While these instances may seem small and inconsequential to us, they represent monumental progress for the people involved. They are maturing through the learning/experience phases of their work, and are coming to realize how important it is to have a support system available to them. This support system is made up of other trained, professional people in their own country as well as those in other countries that they can contact, of businesses that provide the material and supplies they need, and the understanding and acceptance of their standard of work by the owners and users of equidae. The in-country associations and organizations (some yet to be realized, sadly) are essential to the survival of the industry in those countries. If you represent one of those associations or organizations, I urge you to redouble your outreach efforts in education and training to reach every foot care practitioner regardless of how 'good' or how 'bad' each may be in your judgment. If there are areas not now served by

farrier associations or organizations, I ask that you offer yourselves and your expertise in helping to develop that part of the support system that they need. If you manufacture or market a product, look for ways that you can provide those goods and services to places that don't have such commerce now. Advice, counsel, understanding, acceptance.... All are as equally important as the physical assistance that you can give them. There is strength in numbers; there is strength in shared goals and objectives. We should try constantly to add to that strength.

Every year we talk about the WFA website and the need to revise and update it. The good news here today is that the revision and updating are almost complete. The Secretary-Treasurer has the capability now to do this work, so it can be done much more expediently. We hope that you will take the time to go to the site, read through it, visit the links to allied interests, and give us some back-talk. Corrections, additions, calendars of events, breaking news, and matters of general interest are solicited from you. We know that in order to get a 'good list' you print a 'bad list'. That way, everybody wants to help by correcting the 'bad list'. We hope it works here. There is a lot of material on the web-site, and on those sites with whom it is linked. All that should serve to strengthen our mutual interests and help reach our world-wide mission. That is why we exist.

Without direct support and interest of like-minded people, the WFA could not exist. Dr. Yuzo Sato, the current President of the Japan Farriers Association (and all his predecessors) has been and is stellar in its support of the WFA. The JFA has accepted the challenges and the opportunities of leadership in education, research, and outreach in their area of responsibility. The work they have done in Korea is exemplary, and with the Olympic Games scheduled in China, we expect that they will be called upon to provide expert advice and counsel to authorities in all the equestrian activities. THANK YOU, Dr. Sato (and all your very capable Staff) for your significant contributions to our profession in Japan, all of Asia, and around the world.

Also, I want to recognize the Fieracavalli in Verona, Italy. While this may seem strange to you, it is not at all. Since 1990, either I or another person designated by the WFA, has been the guest of Fieracavalli as a member of the Jury at International shoeing and forging contests. The Horse Fair is one of the largest in Europe and is well over 100 years of age. Another member of the Jury is either the President or a delegate of the European Federation of Farrier Associations. You will recall that the WFA was instrumental in the formation of that organization to serve European farriers. They have done an exemplary job of that, and I salute them. We are most pleased to have their President, Mr. Mts Persson here with us today. You will hear from him later.

The point is that the event at Verona is a great opportunity to meet farriers from across Europe and encourage them in their work. The Fair organizers realize the value of the WFA to farriers everywhere, as well as at their own event. The event there is organized and run by the Veterinary Corps of the Italian army who operate a farrier training center for both military and civilian students. They send their greeting to you today.

Thank you for being here, for making time in your busy lives to help others. I know I speak for farriers every where when I say that. I look forward to a good year in 2007, and to continued prosperity of the World Farriers Association.

Walt Taylor, President

ATTENDEES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
World Farriers Association
Sierra Vista Room, Hyatt Hotel
Albuquerque, NM
March 3, 2007

Tina MacGregor	USA	wfassoc@msn.com
Marcela Alcantara	Mexico	herramex@infosel.net.mx
Jack Milman	USA	jmmcjf@crocker.com
Mats Persson	Sweden	mats.elfviken@telia.com
Moriharu Yamada	Japan	
Tatsuya Mori	Japan	mori@farriers.or.jp
Mitsuo Matsumae	Japan	
Lee Green	USA	shoeinshop@aol.com
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Yoshifumi Honjo	Japan	
Carolyn Gibbins	UK	caro@gibbins.co.uk
John Gibbins	UK	john@gibbins.co.uk
Grant Moon	UK	gdmoon@ottglobal.net
Carl Bettison	UK	carl@stromsholm.co.uk
Walt Taylor	USA	wfassoc@msn.com

**ATTENDEES AT THE
INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION
Hyatt Hotel, Albuquerque, NM**

February 28, 2007

Tina MacGregor	USA	tmacgregor@redw.com
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Cole Henderson	Canada	colethe @hotmail.com
Nick Charnley	UK	nicholascharnley@aol.com
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Per Christoffersen	Denmark	farrier@pc.dk
Mats Persson	Sweden	mats.elfviken@telia.com
Tomohiro Otami	Japan	tomohiro- -otani@pop.ocn.ne.jp
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Yoshinori Ino	Japan	
Junya Unoki	Japan	
Moriharu Yamada	Japan	
Tadahiro Kitajima	Japan	
Yoshifumi Honjo	Japan	
Hideki Nakashima	Japan	
Hank McEwan	Canada	604-856-0460
Gerard Laverty	Canada	604-599-3241
Carolyn Gibbins	UK	
John Gibbins	UK	

**MINUTES OF
Annual General Meeting
WORLD FARRIERS ASSOCIATION**

Sierra Vista Room, Hyatt Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico
March 3, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:10 a.m., while attendees enjoyed a Continental Breakfast. Attendees were asked to self-identify and sign a sheet with their name and contact information. That list is part of these Minutes. (A list of attendees at the International Reception is included here for informational purposes, but ARE NOT part of these Minutes.)

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

The PRESIDENT'S REPORT is included with these Minutes

The ASIAN VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT was presented by Dr. Yuzo Sato, President of the Japan Farriers Association (JFA). His report is included with these Minutes.

No reports were received from the AMERICAS, EUROPEAN, OCEANA VICE PRESIDENTS, or from Directors.

The SECRETARY – TREASURER'S REPORT was given by Dr. Tina MacGregor. There were no additions or corrections to the Minutes of the 2006 meeting. The financial status of the WFA is shown in the Balance Sheet, the Profit & Loss Statement, and the Itemized Category Report. Each of these is a part of and is included with these Minutes. The Treasurer reiterated that there is enough money available to sponsor one or two farriers from 'Third World' countries to the WFA-AFA meetings. These people would be sponsored to attend and learn, and would NOT be sponsored as competitors in AFA-sanctioned events.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FARRIER ASSOCIATIONS (EFFA)

Mr. Mats Persson, President, reported on EFFA efforts to move ahead with farrier education and practice standards in the European Union. They are still working with the Leonardo Project "Unity in Farriery", and have a 200-page curriculum handbook nearly ready to circulate to farrier schools. It is in French now, but will be translated into English at the expense of the Leonardo Project. Members will be asked to translate the material into their own native language. It should be ready in October 2007. The 2007 education event of the EFFA will be on August 25-26 in Sweden. The 2008 European Championship event will be in Germany.

Work continues by the EFFA Accreditation Board to establish basic competency standards throughout the EU. The Board has visited several associations and has developed a process of evaluation and testing of practical work and theoretical knowledge.

Documents detailing the various efforts will be placed on the EFFA website so that everyone can know exactly what is happening. Mr. Persson said he would e-mail pertinent material to those interested, as well. Readers must realize the problems generated by language usage and translations!

Walt Taylor reported that his travel in Europe has found that the EFFA (and its member associations) is highly respected, and everyone agrees that their work is worthwhile. Horse users are most enthusiastic – ironically, more so than the farriers.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FARRIERS, BLACKSMITHS, AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS (NAFBE)

Mr. Huw Dyer, President, could not be present. His report was made by Mr. Carl Bettison. The original Act of Parliament required registration of farriers in England, Wales, and the Scottish lowlands. A revision of that Act now requires that ALL farriers in Scotland be registered. Revision of the Veterinary Practice Act is being discussed, as well. It is proposed to bring the practice of all kinds of animal care (veterinary medicine, acupuncture, chiropractic, farriery and foot care, dentistry, etc.) into or under one Act. No final decisions have been made. “Barefoot Trimmers” are causing a lot of problems for horses and horsemen. These people can operate without the sanction and without the formal training required of farriers. Several court cases have been brought. The Worshipful Company of Farriers (WCF) is sponsoring a “Trimming for Soundness” seminar in April to try to educate farriers and owners in correct and proper care. The WCF is revising and updating its website, as well.

Grant Moon, from the UK, referred back to the “Barefoot Trimmers”, making the point that all farriers do “barefoot trimming”, and trained farriers know how to do it correctly. He made the point that those that call themselves “Barefoot Trimmers” should not be given credibility by suggesting that correctly trained farriers do not do it. The horse event known as *Equitana* was held last year in Australia, where four seminars were held on different ‘barefoot trimming’ techniques.

MEXICO

Marcela Alcantara P. reported that there is still hesitancy by Mexican farriers to form a rigid, formal association. Four farriers in Mexico City are working toward that end, but it is hard to overcome the apathy. Nonetheless, they are holding several seminars, competitions, and educational meetings in several locales. These are generally well attended. Both Marcela and her husband, Jose, who are veterinarians, encourage the farriers, but do not interfere with the organizational process (or lack of it).

UNITED STATES

Jack Milman is Chair of the Public Relations and Marketing Committee of the American Farrier’s Association (AFA). The AFA has not been an active participant in the WFA since the mid-1990’s. Nobody could shed any light on why this is the case. Jack will look into this and will try to raise the profile of the WFA within the AFA. He, too, referred to the “Barefoot Trimmers”, acknowledging that there are many in the United States that do respectable work, but many others that do not. He said that former farrier Bob Ramey is now into the barefoot movement, and is trying to get an association organized for the people following that line of thought or fad.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The Secretary-Treasurer now has the capability to revise and update the WFA website (worldfarriers.org). The site is being reorganized with many improvements planned to make it more attractive and useful. Links to all known farrier organizations and groups with similar interest will be included to improve information networking.
2. Sponsorship by the WFA to attend the WFA-AFA events was discussed. All attempts will be made to identify and sponsor two farriers to the 2008 affair in Lexington, Kentucky.

NEW BUSINESS

1. At Omaha, Nebraska, last year, the WFA sponsored an International Reception for foreign guests. It was not as successful as had been hoped for, but it was the first attempt. The second was held this year, with much better participation. Many foreign guests did not attend, however. Non-attendance was reasoned to be due to poor timing, lack of 'advertising' of the event, and natural shyness by individuals in a foreign country that may not be fluent in English. It was agreed that the Secretary-Treasurer and President review the event and try to find ways to improve participation next year. All agreed that the event has merit and should be continued.

ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 8:00 am.

Tina MacGregor
Secretary