

World Farriers Association
ANNUAL MEETING
in the
Marriott Hotel, Chattanooga, Tennessee
February 27, 2009
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call To Order

Introductions

Minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting

Reports

 President

 Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)

 Secretary-Treasurer

Association Updates

 All Countries Represented

Old Business

 European Vice President

New Business

 Future of the WFA

 Matters Arising

Adjourn

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
World Farriers Association – Annual General Meeting
Chattanooga, Tennessee
February 27, 2009

Good Morning to you, and WELCOME to this annual meeting of the World Farriers Association. The fact that you are here means that you care about the practice and the profession of farriery around the world. You care enough to take the time and make the effort to be part of something that is bigger than any of us, bigger than all of us and the businesses or associations that we represent. THANK YOU for this interest and commitment. My wish is that more people cared, that more people and associations would see and recognize the needs of individuals and farrier organizations in other parts of the world where the practice of foot care does not enjoy the advantages of education and technology to which we are accustomed. Sadly, many are too caught up in their own lives and interests to be able to perceive what is happening elsewhere.

On this topic, it was and is my hope that the WFA would be the conduit through which assistance is given to farriers and equidae that are in need around the world. There are scores of charitable organizations that make an effort to ease the daily burden of life for both humans and animals as they struggle for subsistence. But *very few* are even remotely interested in foot care of the working beast, without which none can perform to their optimum level. To my knowledge, only the WFA has this interest at heart. Obviously, the only way to resolving those problems is through the education and training of footcare professionals.

My concern is not just for that segment of our civilization, though. Every person that practices farriery around the world in 'developed' or 'undeveloped' countries deserves the opportunity to learn and share knowledge and skill with their peers. Although the WFA has had some considerable success in helping this to happen in some places, there are countless other places where we have not been able to have an influence. This is because we haven't had the people or the program assistance available in those areas of need.

This is why the WFA needs to be more proactive and visible to farriers and horse-oriented organizations around the world. They have a problem, but don't know where to turn for help because the WFA hasn't made itself well enough known or available to those in need.

Last year, in my report to you, I suggested that if we don't change our *status quo* and become more individually interested and involved, we should seriously consider whether or not we should continue with the effort of the WFA. Inasmuch as I dropped the ball and did not get that report to you and others, it is still a moot question. So I am reiterating that concern to you again this year. We have to make some positive changes and take positive steps toward change, or our efforts will not bear fruit. It is our choice. **WHAT WILL WE DO TO MAKE THE WFA VITAL, VIABLE, VALUABLE, AND VALUED BY THE FARRIER PROFESSION?** Other people outside the farrier's world recognize the value of the WFA to the horse industry and to the welfare of millions of people and their animals. Why can't we? That is the question I want to leave with you on this matter: Why can't we????

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the Asian Vice President and the Japan Farriers Association for their continued and valued support of the WFA and their recognition of the need for positive leadership in our profession in Asia. They have been exemplary in the assumption of leadership and in furnishing advice and assistance in foot care and farriery throughout the region. THANK YOU for your diligence and your commitment.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not recognize and pay tribute to the memory of Edward Martin and his work on behalf of the WFA over the years. He was one of the founders of the WFA and gave considerable time and effort to its organization and to ensure its success. He and I traveled a lot in Europe in the early years on behalf of the WFA. He was a strong supporter of an organization for all farriers in Europe, a fierce competitor who realized the value of farrier and blacksmith contests to raise skill levels and in the value of sharing of knowledge and skill, as well as a greater understanding and acceptance of each other as human beings. He will be missed.

The current economic hardship that plagues every part of the global scene surely has an impact on footcare and farriery. We have seen some of it already, and there probably is more to come before things get better. All of us hope that we will turn the corner soon, and move toward more prosperous times in the near future. How we (as individuals or organizations) will survive and what we will be in the future is unknown. During this time of change, I trust that we will remain firm in our commitment to our profession and to our professional associations. Let's do our best to make 2009 a good year for the WFA. Get in touch with me if there is any way that I can help you or help the World Farriers Association prosper.

Again, THANK YOU.

Walt Taylor
President

ATTENDEES
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
World Farriers Association
Lexington, Kentucky
February 29, 2008

Hacky Plath	GERMANY
Anja Plath	GERMANY
Mats Persson	SWEDEN
Steve Eastman	USA
Lee Green	USA
Jack Millman	USA
Sammy Aoki	JAPAN
Tsukasa Ono	JAPAN
Kohei Yoshida	JAPAN
Tatsuya Mori	JAPAN
Walt Taylor	USA

MINUTES OF
Annual General Meeting
Hyatt Hotel, Lexington, Kentucky
February 29, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:00 a.m., while those in attendance enjoyed a Continental Breakfast. Each person self-introduced, and signed a sheet with their name and contact information. That list is part of these Minutes.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

The **PRESIDENT's** Report is included with these Minutes.

The **ASIAN VICE PRESIDENT's** Report was given by Kohei Yoshida for Dr. Yuzo Sato. This report is included with these Minutes.

The **SECRETARY-TREASURER's** Reports were given by Walt Taylor for Dr. Tina MacGregor. The Treasurer's Report is included with these Minutes. There were no more Reports.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FARRIER ASSOCIATIONS (EFFA)

Mr. Mats Persson, President, reported the completion of a new farriery study manual or handbook that will be the teaching curriculum for schools in Europe. It is available now in French, English, and German. It will be translated into other languages as needed and as possible. This is seen as a major accomplishment. There are now 11 countries that are part of EFFA. Yugoslavia, Italy, Belgium, and Norway are not members at the present time, but are interested in joining. The 2008 Annual General Meeting and European Blacksmithing/Horseshoeing Championships are scheduled to be held on April 18-19, 2008. WFA Director Lee Green has been invited to attend the affair while he is in Europe on other business. An educational event is planned for November 2008, as well, and an invitation to attend was extended to the President by Mr. Persson.

GERMANY: Hacky and Anja Plath are attending their first WFA meeting, as well as their first AFA Convention. Both are pleased to be able to attend and share with so many other farriers. They estimate that there are between 3,000 and 4,000 farriers in Germany, not many of whom belong to the national association or EFFA. They were unsure if this would change significantly.

UNITED STATES: Jack Millman reported that he is still working with the AFA through its officers and Board of Directors to create interest and support for the WFA. Progress is slow due to reorganization of the AFA's Board and other internal business.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The President asked Mr. Mats Persson if he would assume the office of European Vice President. Mr. Persson said he would consider the request and give a response in the near future.

MATTERS ARISING

None

Inasmuch as the President had to appear on the AFA program as a speaker, he left the meeting at 8:15 a.m. Participants remained in informal discussion after his departure, but no Minutes were kept of the discussion.

ADJOURN

The meeting ended informally.

Prepared by Walt Taylor
FOR Dr. C.M. MacGregor