

NOTICE OF THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

World Farriers Association

The 2011 Annual General Membership Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Friday, March 3, 2011. It will convene at 7:00 am in the Kentucky Room of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, in Lexington, Kentucky. A Continental Breakfast will be served members and delegates.

Matters for discussion that you want to be included in the Agenda of the meeting should be forwarded to Dr. Tina MacGregor, Secretary-Treasurer, by return e-mail at wfassoc@msn.com, or brought to the attention of the President before the meeting is held.

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

World Farriers Association
ANNUAL MEETING
in the
Kentucky Room, Hyatt Regency Hotel
Lexington, Kentucky
March 3, 2011
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order
Introductions
Minutes of 2010 Meeting
Reports
 Secretary-Treasurer
 Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceania, Americas)
 President
Association Updates
 All Countries Represented
Old Business
 DVD's
New Business
 Matters Arising
Adjourn

MINUTES of

Annual General Meeting
World Farriers Association
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Lexington, KY
March 3, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:20 a.m., while those in attendance enjoyed a Continental Breakfast. Each person self-identified and signed a sheet with their name and contact information. This was the least-well-attended meeting of the WFA in history with only seven people.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Secretary's Report

Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were circulated by email to all interested parties following the meeting. There were no comments, additions, or corrections received in response. The Minutes will stand approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses for 2010 were rounded to \$1,602. This was for the Annual Meeting, (\$366); the International Reception at the AFA Convention (\$756), and for preparation of the Power Point presentation of Marco Antonio Torres at the Portland AFA Convention (\$480). Income from dues was \$1,175 in 2010, leaving a balance on hand of \$21,665,31.

These Reports were accepted as presented.

Asian Vice President

Mr. President, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

It is my great honor and pleasure to be here again and meet all the honorable delegates. My name is Teruyuki Imahara, President of the Japan Farriers Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you about the current status of Japan's horseshoeing and horse industries. I would also like to report on the recent situation of the Asian region to the best of our knowledge.

In Japan, the annual turnover of horse racing has declined consecutively for the past ten years, and there are no signs yet of recovery. This makes the financial situation of the Japan Farriers Association remain difficult, as the most part of our budget is financed by subsidy from the Japan Racing Association.

In 2010, 7,100 thoroughbred horses were produced in Japan. The total amount of the thoroughbred sales of all the markets was about 3% down from the year before. The sale of foals was not active, while the sale of one-year or two-year old horses in training increased.

Against the background of such financial difficulty, the number of applicants for JFA's one-year education course was down for the past two years, running short of the quota. We tried hard to increase the publicity of our education course through our homepage and mass media. Fortunately, the number of applicants for the course which will start in April this year included applicants from Taiwan, China, and Mongolia ... one from each country. However, we could admit only the applicant from Taiwan, as he was able to obtain a proper Visa to attend the course. He is a son of a horse-riding club owner

in Taiwan. He will be engaged in shoeing riding horses when he goes back after the completion of the course. Those from South Korea and Inner Mongolia were not admitted, because they failed to obtain a long-term Visa. Considering the expansion of economic exchanges among countries in Asia and the advancement of technical exchanges in the field of horse racing and riding, we are aware that the establishment of a system is urgently needed to facilitate trainees to obtain a proper Visa by working more closely with horse racing associations of other countries in Asia.

At the request of the Japan Bloodhorse Breeder's Association, we organize courses to educate farriers, veterinarians, and producers in the production area about foot care. In November last year, we invited Mr. Simon Curtis, a renowned farrier from New Market, England, to the production area. His lectures and demonstrations had a great response from the participants. In recent years, we also receive an increasing number of requests from horse racing and horse riding groups to organize foot care courses for their horse managers and veterinarians.

In October last year, we successfully held the 63rd Japan Farriery Contests. As usual, 30 contestants screened out from the local preliminary took part. We invited Mr. Todd Walker, a renowned farrier from the United States to the event. We could obtain satisfactory results from an educational point of view by his excellent technical demonstrations. The contest winners were dispatched to the farriery contests of the AFA as usual. Let me take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Lee Green who always offers great help to our contestants during their stay in the U.S.

In Asia, sources say that China is becoming more active in the horse industry as a result of rapid economic development. A number of large-scale horse riding clubs have been established one after another in Beijing and Shanghai, targeted at an increasing number of wealthy people. Presently, no official horse races are organized yet. However it was for the first time that Chinese buyers purchased and imported 81 born-in-Japan thoroughbred horses last year. They anticipated the establishment of a horse racing industry in the near future. We will try harder to obtain more information about the current status and future possibility of the local horse shoeing industry, by paying more attention to trends in the horse industry not only in China but also in other countries in Asia.

Situations in Asia, including Japan, seem to change largely in years ahead. We, at the JFA, would like to address these changes properly and to work harder to contribute to the development of the horseshoeing industry.

Thank you for the attention.

The report was accepted as presented.

European Vice President: No report.

Oceania Vice President: No report

Americas Vice President: No report.

President's Report

Good Morning, everyone! Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to attend this meeting. At a busy place and time, it takes extra commitment to get up early and come to this meeting. We have looked at trying to schedule the meeting at another time of the day, but with the plethora of events that compete for time and attendance of each of us, it just doesn't seem to be possible to make a change to a more 'convenient' time. Thank you for understanding this!

The past year has been somewhat uneventful for the WFA. There has been no contact from organizations or individuals that elicited a response or sought advice on farriery and footcare matters. This is somewhat unusual, and is (I think) the first time this has happened since the WFA was organized in 1985. To what this can be attributed, I am not certain. Obviously, there are two opposite ways to look at it:

1. Many people have felt that the WFA has not been pro-active or aggressive enough in making contacts around the world and offering our advice and services, of whatever kind, to any and all. The WFA has been around for 25 years now, and should be well enough known by world farriers, organized or not, for the help and service it can give. One can imagine many scenarios and various situations where we could help, IF we were asked for advice and counsel. The facts are that the WFA has not been asked nor has our help been solicited. Few things are as quickly rejected as unsolicited advice or interference by another entity into matters that are thought to be none of their concern. A parallel may be drawn here with several global social, economic, religious, and political events that are active currently. These are affairs of different cultures, different people, and different circumstances than those of most of us. I don't believe that the WFA has any prerogatives other than to offer 'help'. We have no remit to insist on tools, values, techniques, or processes that are foreign to those national interests or to initiatives that are not of their own making. This does not mean, obviously, that we should be unconcerned or disinterested in what is happening in our profession and with our peer groups. We can be sure that our 'world' is small enough that whatever affects any part of our profession anywhere in the world will have some impact on each of us; and *vice versa*.

2. Since its inception in the mid-1980's (and before that, even) the WFA and its organizers have worked tirelessly to be of help and assistance to founding organizations of farriers, and in helping individual farriers with their problems. We tried constantly to be proactive, eager to meet needs wherever they existed or were called to our attention.

During those 25 years, WFA has been instrumental in helping to form educational and social associations/organizations for farriers at local, regional, and national levels in different parts of the world, as well as to develop and foster the beginnings of specialized, modern farrier education and training programs in many areas. Most of these continue today, and are growing into the tasks before them. In one way or another, animal (equidae) welfare groups now have some kind of footcare and farriery outreach program as part of their in-country work. In other cases, following the lead established by WFA-WTFE work over the years, some individual farriers/blacksmiths have taken advantage of the opportunity to work as consultant/training farriers in several countries.

WFA was part of the initial organization of the World Equine Veterinary Association (WEVA) that has grown since the late 1980's into a world-force in management and welfare of equidae. They now include an emphasis on equine footcare in both their outreach programs and in their annual meeting/symposium. The American Association of Equine Practitioners now sponsors both national and international outreach programs that include footcare and farriery, as well as veterinary student and farrier education and training in diverse places. Several AFA members have shared their knowledge and skills in these programs. Farriers in Japan and the United Kingdom have

participated in this kind of program, as well. There is no doubt in my mind that the majority of these exist now because of the impetus and work started by the WFA.

Although this last point is a product of the times, this is a VERY troubled world where we live and work. Severe conditions exist in many countries where working horses, donkeys, and mules need improved footcare and farriery. But the social and political factors that are extant exert so much pressure on owners and users of these animals that their interests and their need to survive far exceed their concerns for their animals. Individual farriers are in about the same situation. Their motivation is to survive, not be expansive, risking their livelihood by reaching out to others, or to be part of something that is beyond their reach.

Of these two choices, I think that the second one most closely defines or explains the juxtaposition of the WFA on the world scene of footcare and farriery. If this is the case, then we can relax a bit and stop being anxious about the facts that the phone doesn't ring constantly, the computer message inbox is not full of emails, and the snail-mail box isn't loaded to capacity every time it is checked. I am NOT suggesting that this is a time to rest on our laurels or to become complacent and indifferent to needs of farriers and equidae around the world. I believe that much remains to be done on the global scene, but its doing can't be forced. Progress must and will come at its own pace, and probably will be achieved through the efforts of someone else that has been stimulated by our work, rather than by the WFA directly.

Becoming less pro-active in our thinking and in our expectations may help us to be more open and receptive to the opportunities that come our way. I am asking for your thought and consideration of this argument or proposal, and your thoughtful response to it as a road map for the immediate future. I think we must continue our tradition of the annual meeting, monetary support of the organization through payment of annual dues, encouragement and support of individual farriers and organizations in less-developed parts of the world, and providing learning and sharing experiences with those farriers and organizations with whom we have contact.

To that point, you know that we tried last year to bring a farrier that was trained by WFA-WTFE in Mexico to speak at the AFA convention. You know it didn't work out because he didn't get a Visa to visit here. Nor could we pull it off this year. I think we should continue to try to do this in spite of our experience of the last two years.

There are a couple of possibilities for next year. We will get started on it earlier this time to try to assure it can be done in time. This presumes, of course, that we want to pursue the program. I still think it is a good idea with many benefits to everyone that is touched by it.

As promised you last year, we have completed an inventory of edited WFA-WTFE DVD's.* these discs may be purchased for \$25 each. None of this material may be reproduced or used for other than your information and entertainment, without a case-by-case authorization given in writing by the WFA. There are several hours of unedited material that may or may not be edited into a coherent or 'broadcast' format. Unedited material may not be purchased, reproduced, or otherwise made available to individuals. It is considered archival material. There may come a time and instance when it is processed or edited into programs. Time and cost constraints prevent this now.

This concludes my report. I want to thank each and all of you for your continuing support, your interest in something larger than yourselves, and for being willing to put yourself 'out there' for those less fortunate. I value the friendship of each of you, and appreciate your being here today. Your feedback is especially important to me, and I look forward to our advice and counsel.

Walt Taylor, President
World Farriers Association

*DVDs are available for purchase as follows:

Beasts of Burden – 28 minutes. Morocco & Mexico

Shoemaking & Oxen Shoeing – 57 minutes. India

Farrier & Veterinary Training – 16 minutes. Mexico

Farrier Training, General – 59 minutes. Jordan

Collage: Traditional shoeing, nail making – 24 minutes. Morocco

Outreach Training Program – 7 minutes. Morocco

DVDs that are free:

We Fight Because They Can't – 16 minutes. International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH)

The Work Goes On – 23 minutes. International League for the Protection of Horses (ILPH)

The report was accepted as presented.

ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Mr. Steve Eastman, California, USA, is a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors of the AFA. He stated that, if elected to that Board, he will work to increase liaison and good relations between AFA and WFA. Results of the election will not be known until two days hence.

Mr. Huw Dyer, past President of the National Association of Farriers, Blacksmiths, and Agricultural Engineers (NAFBE) in the U.K. gave a brief report. He conveyed apologies from the President of NAFBE who could not be present. NAFBE officially changed its name in 2010 to **BRITISH FARRIER & BLACKSMITH ASSOCIATION (BFBA)**. Agricultural Engineers in the U.K. seem to be a 'dying breed' and only a couple of them are members of BFBA. He said that the horse industry in the U.K. is down, overall, but that the 'hunting ban' that was imposed a few years ago has little practical effect and farriers still enjoy good business from this activity. He also reported that the European Federation of Farrier Associations (EFFA) is working well and membership numbers are growing. The EU parliament is helping to fund some EFFA activities through grants from the DaVinci Project. Education continues to be the primary aim of EFFA.

Mr. Lee Green reported on his attendance at the Luwex clinic in Europe. He remarked on the quality of presentations and high levels of interest shown by attendees. He also commended the Japanese contestant who participated in the AFA competitions this year. He observed that the young man has tremendous abilities and that, if he is allowed or able to return and compete in succeeding years, he should move ahead in the contest with more specific practice and experience in international contests.

OLD BUSINESS

1. The President referred to his promise at last year's meeting concerning several DVDs that resulted from work of WFA and WTFE in other parts of the world. They are listed at the end of the President's Report by title and cost. He will send complimentary copies to the Japan Farriers Association.
2. The matter of WFA furnishing a speaker for the next AFA convention was discussed briefly. It was decided that this should be investigated and continued, pending the ability to find a foreign farrier with attributes suitable for such an assignment.
3. Use of WFA funds for assistance to Third World or other needy farriers/farrier organizations was discussed further. Dr. Imahara raised the issue of the need for education and training in China. He suggested that some avenue might be found to be of assistance there. Much discussion ensued with the general conclusion that with China's economy now ranked third in the world, they should be able to pay for such service or activity and not rely on charity from WFA or other groups.

NEW BUSINESS

The only matter arising had to do with increasing interest and participation in the WFA's Annual Meeting. This is a long-standing problem and one that does not lend itself to easy or immediate resolution. The President will explore some possible avenues during 2011.

ADJOURN

There being no more business to transact, the meeting ended at 8:15 a.m.

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