

Minutes of
Annual General Meeting
World Farriers Association
Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Walt Taylor at 7:29 a.m., while those in attendance served themselves with a Continental Breakfast hosted by the WFA. Everyone self-identified and signed a sheet of paper with their name and home country. This meeting was better attended than last year's meeting, but still not well attended.

In attendance were Lee Green and Steve Eastman, California, USA; Daryl Bean, Florida, USA; Alexi Gutierrez, Cuba, now living in Florida, USA; Jean Meneley, Reno, Nevada, USA; Dr. Teruyuki Imahara, Japan; Dr. Tatsuya Mori, Japan; Juan Pablo Montoya and Pablo Emilio Montoya, Colombia; Walt Taylor, New Mexico, USA; one other gentleman from Japan and one other gentleman from Colombia. Neither of these men signed the attendance sheet.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting were circulated by email to all interested parties following last year's meeting. A printed copy of these Minutes was given to each person present at this meeting. There were no questions, comments, additions, or corrections received.

The Minutes stand approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report:

Income from member's dues in 2012 was \$1,050, and \$869.10 from the Jim Linzy Fund, for a total income of \$1,919.10. Expenses were \$1,607: (P.O. Box rent \$114.00; Annual Meeting \$301.50; International Reception \$603.00; Computer Support \$588.50). There was a total of \$312.10 surplus of income over expenses. The bank balance on December 31, 2012 was \$21, 371.54. There were no questions, comments, additions, or corrections received.

The Report was approved as submitted.

Asian Vice President's Report:

Hello, everyone. I'm Teruyuki Imahara of the Japan Farriery Association and I'm very much honored to be here today. I would like to give you a brief report on our Association's activities for the past year.

1. In Japan

Last year, I spoke about the damage from the huge East Japan Earthquake. Since then recovery efforts have been progressing, but it will still take some years before full recovery is made from the enormous damage.

In the past year, the JFA created a new project for earthquake recovery support. The project involves supporting the farriery of about two hundred forty horses over a period of three years to help with the care of horses that are used in a traditional horse festival in Fukushima Prefecture.

Going on to more general information, the current horse population in Japan is about 82,000. Of these, about 44,000 are Thoroughbred racing and breeding stock including stallions, broodmares, foals, young horses in training and racehorses, 16,000 are pleasure horses for riding and the remaining 22,000 fall into the “all others” category.

Due to the long term recession in Japan, the racing industry has been shrinking these past years, but the number of riding clubs has actually been increasing.

On the whole, the JFA’s activities last year did not differ greatly from past years. We continue to train 16 new farriers each year at our JFA Farriery Education Center. Graduates of this training program all find work as farriers mainly at racetracks, farms and training facilities in breed areas and also riding clubs.

In October last year, we also successfully held the 64th Japan Farriery Competition. At the time, we invited Mr. Gene Lieser from the U.S. to the competition to demonstrate farriery techniques and offer advice to Japanese farriers.

2. Overseas Activities

Concerning farriery news in the Asian region, the Tenth International Asian Farriery Regional Competition was held in Penang, Malaysia at the end of November last year. This competition is held about once a year with the three racing associations in Malaysia (Selangor, Penang, Perak) taking turns hosting the event. Two farriers from Japan competed in 2012, which was the second time we participated in the regional competition, and we were the only participants from outside Malaysia. The competition was held over three days, and our team won in two divisions, the open-class shoeing and the shoe creation divisions.

Also at this meeting last year, I reported that the JFA had participated in the China International Horse Exposition in Shanghai and set up an exhibition booth to report on the JFA’s activities and the state of farriery in Japan.

Since then, there has been increased tension in relations between China and Japan over territorial disputes, and we have been forced to wait and see if the situation improves.

The state of affairs in the Asian region including Japan, is bound to continue changing. We at the JFA hope to adapt in response to these changes and contribute in any way we can to the advancement of farriery in Asia.

3. Suggestions for the Future of WFA

This is the fourth time I have attended an annual WFA Meeting and during that time, despite President Taylor’s enthusiasm and best efforts, it seems that the number of participants has continued to decrease. This could very well negatively affect the purpose of WFA as a place to exchange information on farriery with industry associations around the world and also discuss what the Association can and should do internationally for the interest of farriery worldwide. The fact the financial backing for such activities by the WFA is not exactly solid, and also

possibly the matter of language when it comes to communicating internationally, no doubt add to the difficulties.

It is now probably a good time to consider the present situation and search for answers on the direction in which the WFA should proceed in the future.

To that end, I hope you will allow me to humbly make the following suggestions:

1. The WFA should go on existing as the international organization for industry associations to exchange information on farriery.
2. The main tool for information exchange can be the WFA website, to which farriery associations from around the world should each contribute information such as: Membership numbers, competition, reports, anything related to training/education of farriers, problems that require advice, etc.
3. Links to websites of the farriers associations in various countries can be provided on the WFA website.
4. To achieve 1 – 3 above, we will need to ask the cooperation of farriery association in countries throughout the world, and at the same time, make the presence of WFA strongly known.
5. Once such a set-up is in place, the WFA can start asking for support in the form of membership fees from its members.
6. The WFA should continue to hold its Annual Meetings as previously, while continuing efforts to encourage members from various countries to attend the meeting.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Dr. Teruyuki Imahara, President
Japan Farriery Association***, and
Asian Vice President, World Farriers Association

The report was accepted as presented.

*** During 2012, at the direction of the Imperial Government of Japan, the name of the Japan Farriers Association was officially changed to the Japan Farriery Association. With the name change came a directed change in membership of the Association. Other people, not heretofore represented by an association, were made eligible for membership by the name change. Examples given were race jockeys and race trainers. It isn't known what impact, if any, these changes will have on the day-to-day operation of the JFA and its relationship to footcare students and practitioners.

European Vice President: No report
Oceana Vice President: No report
Americas Vice President: No report
President:

Good morning, and welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the World Farriers Association for 2013. Thanks for taking the time and making the effort to be here today. As usual, I regret that there are not more people to share with us in a work that is bigger than all of us. I am trying to learn and appreciate that 'big' is not necessarily 'best' or 'necessary' in work of this kind. A few can do a lot if we are committed to our cause. There is no doubt that you, the faithful few, are as committed as I am to the betterment of the farrier industry around the world.

Let me reiterate my belief that, although we work primarily with people and their organizations (the industry of footcare and farriery), the real beneficiaries are the horses, donkeys, and mules of the world - and the people that use and enjoy them in whatever way. Sometimes this is overlooked, but it is and has been one of the basic, founding tenets of the WFA since its beginning.

On the surface, there has not been a lot of WFA activity in 2012 to report to you. That we are still 'alive and well' is most noteworthy. We are financially solvent, we are organized, and we still have interest in the betterment of our profession around the world. You are to be congratulated and thanked for your steadfastness in pursuit of that goal.

Since the founding of the WFA, **nobody** has been a stronger supporter or active participant in this work than the Japan Farriers Association. From Dr. Kita at the start of the WFA, through the succession of very able and dedicated men who have followed him as President of the JFA, there has been unwavering interest and support of the WFA by the JFA. The JFA has been unerring in financial support, in dedication to meeting the needs of farriers, in really understanding the fundamental need for and value of the WFA to their own farriers and other farriers in Asia and around the world. They have been proactive in providing professional advice and assistance wherever it is needed. They have participated in and provided speakers and clinicians to international professional programs, they have competed successfully in international contests, and have been a vital part of the WFA-AFA meetings and conventions for nearly 30 years.

That is an outstanding record of service that goes far beyond the usual call of duty. I want to publicly thank the entire JFA, and those of the Japanese delegation that are here at this meeting of the WFA (and the AFA convention) for their extraordinary contribution.

At this meeting, the JFA and its current President Dr. Teruyuki Imahara (also the WFA's Asiatic Vice President) responded once again to a pressing need. You may have tired of my annual plea for ideas and ways to increase the presence of and knowledge about the WFA to farriers around the world, and increase interest and participation of farriers and their organizations in the WFA. I offer no apology for my constancy in this regard, even though that constancy has produced little fruit from the labor. Later in this meeting we will consider a proposal put forward by the JFA as a way to accomplish this. I hope that you will consider it carefully, move to accept the challenge that it will be, and help in every way that you can to make its implementation successful.

Regardless of the final outcome of the New Business item, I want to acknowledge the work of Dr. Imahara and his able staff. This is the first time in the history of the WFA that such a meaningful proposal has been brought forward for our consideration. Dr. Imahara, THANK YOU! And thank you to the Japan Farriers Association for your unmitigated and unending support! It has been and is exemplary. If other and similar organizations around the world had your understanding and your commitment to the world's farrier profession, things would be better everywhere.

This concludes my report to you. Thank you, again, for your interest, your effort, and your dedication to the world's practice of footcare and farriery. Should you have any question or comment on this report, please don't hesitate to bring it to my attention now or at a later date.

Walter E. Taylor, President

The report was accepted as presented.

ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Steve Eastman, a Director of the American Farrier's Association (AFA), reported on his efforts to make the AFA more aware of the WFA and its work. His overtures were overlooked, largely. He reiterated his belief that the WFA could contribute information to the AFA's e-zine "The Professional Farrier". The President reported that he had had conversation with the publisher, Mr. Dick Booth of Boca Publishing, at the International Reception. Mr. Booth was interested, but believed that the AFA would have to approve such an arrangement. Both Greg Johnson, AFA Convention Coordinator and Eric Nygard, AFA Past President, were party to some of the conversation and both agreed wholeheartedly with the idea to include some WFA general interest articles in the on-line magazine. An appointment was made for Mr. Booth and the President to discuss matters more during the days together at the Convention.

No other associations were represented at the meeting. However, Alexi Gutierrez reported that he has an initiative called "The International Farrier Academy" that he is fostering in Florida. It's aim is to teach and assist farriers and farrier students in the Caribbean, in Mexico, Central America, and South American in learning footcare and farriery. It should be functional early this year.

OLD BUSINESS

Severe economic hardship in Italy resulted in cancellation of the International contests at the Fieracavalli in Verona in November 2012. Meaningful and clear discussions with Mr. Blasio could not be done by telephone or email, so no invitation was made to him to speak as a representative of the WFA at the AFA convention in 2013.

Nothing was attempted to develop a workable "exchange" program within the WFA and its areas of influence.

Regarding WFA information included in the AFA's e-zine, see the discussion, above, in ASSOCIATION UPDATES.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for new business of WFA from Japan Farriery Association

1. Exchanging the information through WFA website: As one of activities of WFA, we would like to make a proposal for new business of WFA which is exchanging the information related with horseshoeing and foot care among several areas in the world through website of WFA

For this new business, WFA should select and appoint several agents among member countries of WFA, for example the United Kingdom, Europe country, Asian country, Oceania, North and South America.

Those agents should report local events and topics related with horseshoeing in their own area in English periodically every three or four months to keeper of WFA website.

(1) Introduce of Local or national farriers associations

Number of members

Activities of the association

(2) Certification and education programs for farriers

(3) National or International farriery competitions

Dates and place

Contents and Regulations

(4) Local events and topics related with horseshoeing or horses

(5) Others

Questions or asking for the reports should be forwarded through e-mail to the agent reporting the contents.

This agent should reply or answer the questions through e-mail or website of WFA.

2. New contents of Annual meeting of WFA at AFA Convention:

Annual meeting with breakfast at AFA Convention will be continued hereafter.

At the meeting, several agents appointed from WFA before meeting will make presentation or introduction using slides about the local events and topics reported on WFA website.

Moved and seconded that the matter be discussed so that everyone understood the proposal.

It was agreed, after discussion, that the proposal is contingent on two things:

- (1) An updated and kept-current web-site
- (2) A ‘Facebook Page’

Both these entities would provide a place where information can be gathered and disseminated relatively easily. There is no capability within those now associated with WFA to do this work in a professional way that would be a credit to the WFA.

Consensus was that the President should make every effort to find a volunteer person who could do these things as a contribution to the WFA. If possible, that person should become a ‘webmaster’ or go-to communications person that would initiate and continue contact with farriers and organizations around the world. Pertinent information would be collected and redistributed to everyone that visited either the website or the Facebook page. The ‘webmaster’ would not generate data or be an official spokesperson for WFA, but would act solely in a support capacity.

Until this part of the job is done, there would be no effort made to begin to network with organizations or individuals to collect and convey information as suggested in the original JFA proposal.

Unanimous agreement was reached and the President will proceed to start the process and pursue it diligently.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

APPENDIX MATERIAL

World Farriers Association

The 2013 Annual General Membership Meeting of the World Farriers Association will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013. It will convene at 8:00 am in the East Baton Rouge Room of the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. 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
East Baton Rouge Room, Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 1, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Introductions

Minutes of 2012 Meeting

Reports

 Secretary-Treasurer

 Vice Presidents (European, Asian, Oceana, Americas)

 President

Association Updates

 All Countries Represented

Old Business

New Business

 Japan Farriers Association Proposal – following page

Adjourn

Proposal for new business of WFA
From Japan Farriery Association

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President's Note:

A volunteer person skilled in website design and management is desperately needed now and if the above proposal is accepted and initiated. This individual would be the contact person who would be in touch with appointed agents and ensure a timely flow of information (as outlined above) between organizations and the WFA website.

PLEASE make a concerted effort to identify such an individual who is interested, committed, capable, and willing to undertake a position of service to the World's farriers and equine population. Neither Secretary – Treasurer Tina MacGregor nor I have those skills. This has been a problem for some time and has inhibited the flow of information.

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President's Report
2014 Annual General Meeting
Silver Legacy Resort Casino
Reno, Nevada
February 27, 2014

Good Morning!

It is always a pleasure to be able to attend the Annual General Meeting of the WFA, and to welcome you to the meeting! As usual, there are far too few people here. That being the case, I honestly believe that it isn't an overall disinterest in what is happening around the world, but more a reflection of the time, money, and effort that must be spent in order to be able to attend. None of us can set priorities in anyone else's life, so we have to be content with the decisions that they make. After all, we are responsible for what WE do – or don't do. No matter how much we might wish or want someone to do something, we can never make it happen. It is the responsibility of that person.

In general terms, 2013 was a rather unproductive year for the WFA. It started well with our general meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, last year. With the approval of the initiative proposed by the Japan Farriery Association to redevelop our website and open new communication channels, I was excited about the possibilities ahead of us. I forewarned you that electronic "things" were not within my area of expertise, and that outside help would be needed to fulfill the decision that was made. It didn't take long to disabuse me of the idea that a fix would be quick, easy, and painless. Had I been more literate in this area, some problem situations might have been avoided.

As is the case in many undertakings, what is known, understood, and agreed to by parties to a transaction may vary considerably with the numbers and motivations of the people that are involved. To make a long and frustrating story short, we are now on our fourth person/company to implement last year's decision. Finally, I have confidence that this one is going to work out. We have a draft or dummy format of the website, and are developing material for inclusion in the site. Like too many things, it is all easier talked about than done. Given a worse-case scenario, the new site should be available within 60 days. I don't know, yet, how we will let the world know of its existence to get the cycle of communication started, but that should be the easier part.

The website will NOT be focused on the WFA as an entity. You – individuals and farrier organizations – will be the players. This will be the place where each and every one of you can put in your "two cent's worth" on any matter relevant to footcare and farriery. If you choose not to be involved, it won't work.

Another source of frustration in 2013 was the effort to find a functional European Vice President. An offer was made to the European Federation of Farrier Associations to suggest a candidate for appointment to the post. So far, nothing has come of the overture. Time and money seem to be at the root of decision-making. It has to be said that, for the 28 years of the WFA's life, time and money have not been limiting factors. All who serve the WFA do so without remuneration or thought to time taken to do the job at hand. In my view, it is a privilege to be able to give back and pay forward to our profession that has done so much for each one of us. I will keep working on this, and on finding an

Oceana and Americas Vice President, as well. Should anyone know of someone interested and willing to work in either of these posts, please share that information with me.

Again, I want to publicly thank the Japan Farriery Association and its President Dr. Imahara for their long and stalwart support of the WFA. They have always “been there” for the WFA. This year, Dr. Ryo Kusunose is here to represent the JFA on behalf of Dr. Imahara. We welcome you Dr. Kusunose, and hope that your trip here to participate in this meeting and the AFA Convention program will be very rewarding.

It is sometimes easy to be discouraged by what doesn’t happen, or that doesn’t happen according to our timetable. That is one of my life’s biggest and ongoing battles. I am not patient enough; I expect or demand too much; my expectations are not realistic. To all these I plead guilty. But they are only rough spots in the road. They don’t limit or delimit my interest and enthusiasm for the WFA and all that it stands for. I look forward to the year ahead of us, with the belief and hope that the plans we have made will be fulfilled, that the influence of the WFA will spread, and that the good of the WFA will be magnified many times over during 2014.

I look forward to sharing it with you! Again, THANK YOU for being part of the WFA and its work.

Walt Taylor
President

TREASURER'S REPORT