



**American Holsteiner Horse Association  
Joint Meeting of Breeding Committee and Board of Directors  
February 22 – 24, 2008**

*Board Members Present:* Kim Gill-Favier, Maggie Sjoberg, Cheryl Kellerman, Arlene Rigdon, Beth Colle, Meredith Weller, Ed Wallace, Rebecca Rigdon, President Dan van Heeckeren

*New Board Members Present:* Wendy Webster, Nick Edmunds, Anke Magnussen, Karen Ball-Vinther, Brian Bodarke, Anya Getman

*Board Members Absent:* Andras Szieberth, Steven Passman

*Breeding Committee Members Present:* Kim Gill-Favier, Guy Hodgson, Cheryl Kellerman, Arlene Rigdon, Maggie Sjoberg (Chair) and Meredith Weller

*New Breeding Committee Members Present:* Karen Ball, Anke Magnussen and Wendy Webster

*Breeding Committee Members Absent:* Andras Szieberth

*Also Present:* Jennifer Vanderstelt (Executive Director), Dr. Stefanie Walker (Verband liaison)

*Guests Present:* Lisa O'Brien, Karen Reid, Jos Sevriens, Jill Cordsen, Wendy Davis-Gerrish, KC Kelley and Doris van Heeckeren

**FEBRUARY 22, 2008**

**Breeding Committee**

**I. Closed Session**

At 8am, Maggie Sjoberg called to order a closed session of the Breeding Committee to discuss several petitions that were submitted for consideration.

**II. Breeding Rule Changes Proposal**

At 9.30 am, Maggie called to order the open session of the Breeding Committee meeting.

Ed presented the results of the membership survey about the new breeding rules proposal. The sample size was very small, and responses to questions about raising our approval requirements for non-Holsteiner mares were generally split on two opposing sides. There was an overwhelming response that we should not have two stallion books.

At this point, Maggie opened the discussion to everyone present. The consensus was that the proposal is a positive step in the right direction to make the breeding rules more consistent with those followed by the Holsteiner Verband but still offers a place for all breeders within our association. Dr. Walker indicated that the Verband was pleased with the direction of the proposal.

### III. Scoring Method for Dressage Phase of Stallion Approval

Arlene Rigdon provided an update from the Dressage Judges Forum regarding the FEI Young Horse classes. She explained the scoring process for the Young Horse classes and suggested that this scoring method is better than what we currently use in the stallion approvals process. This will be taken into consideration when revising the stallion approval process.

### IV. Discussion of New Proposed Breeding Rules

The group went through the proposal in detail to discuss each aspect of the new proposed rules. After discussion, the group agreed upon the following:

1. Main mare book bonit requirements for non-Holsteiner mares will be 46 (to be consistent with our Premium designation for Holsteiner mares), or mares who bonit 41-45 must meet performance requirements
2. Minimum bonit requirements for Holsteiner mares recorded in the main mare book will start at 39. Holsteiner mares will include any mares currently in the AHHA or Verband books regardless of stamm.
3. Mare performance requirements for non-Holsteiner mares who bonit 41-45 to be in Main Mare Book
  - a. MPT – 75% or more
  - b. Jumping track
    - i. Placed in top 6 at 5 or more Level 5+ events at A-rated shows
    - ii. Free jumped at the inspection and attained 22+ free jump points with no score lower than 6
    - iii. *The group also discussed the complications of conducting free-jumping at the approval sites – variations in footing, knowledge of people setting up the chute, etc. Discussed the responsibility of the organization to determine which sites are adequate for free-jumping when accepting site host applications. Maggie asked Nick Edmonds to look at the requirement from a trainers perspective.*
  - c. Dressage track
    - i. Five USEF recognized Second Level Test 4 classes or higher and averaged score at least 60%
    - ii. *Meredith also pointed out that the current proposal has contradictory language regarding performance requirements – as a result, the paragraph in the original proposal preceding the bullet point performance requirements was struck to eliminate the contradictions.*
  - d. Eventing track
    - i. Completed five USEF Training Level Events – the mare must complete the events and place within the top half of the field
  - e. Hunter track
    - i. Placed in top six in five USEF A-Rated shows at 3'3" or higher
  - f. Thoroughbreds with significant Jockey Club or steeplechase race records may be petitioned
4. Outside mares scoring 43 to 45 bonits that don't meet minimum sport requirements will go into the Mare Book. Their foals will receive silver papers and control brand. These mares will only be eligible to produce silver paper foals (will not be eligible to move up to the Main Mare Book). However, their daughters will be eligible for the Main Mare Book if they meet the Main Mare Book requirements at the time of mare approval.
5. Horses currently in the organization will be grandfathered in to the Main Mare Books.
6. There will only be one stallion book and no changes to the current stallion approval requirements.
7. CP foals who are out of mares who are pedigree-eligible for the Mare Book but who do not qualify for the Mare Book for any other reason will be allowed to come to approval sites for comment (but will still only receive a CP).

## **V. 30-Day Stallion Test Presentation**

Presentation by Summer Stoffel and Barbara Sikkink re: 30-day Stallion Test proposal for the AHHA. They presented the 30-day Stallion Test that they conduct for the RPSI organization and discussed the format, logistics, requirements, etc. They are committed to offer the test twice a year – spring and fall.

They indicated that they would be open to the AHHA sending judges for the last three days to evaluate the Holsteiner stallions in the test, but they would also still have their test judges score the stallions independently.

The Breeding Committee discussed this proposal and tabled for further discussion later in the meeting.

## **VI. Adjournment**

At 6pm the meeting was adjourned.

## **FEBRUARY 23, 2008**

### **I. Closed Session**

At 8am, Dan van Heeckeren called to order a closed session of the BOD. At 9am, the closed session was adjourned and the meeting resumed open session.

### **II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the previous BOD meeting were approved.

### **III. President's Report**

- a. USEF number update – we will now have a uniform number assigned to the horses in our registry linked to the USEF number to better track performance
- b. Calendar – since the 2008 calendar came out late, January and February advertisers will be compensated with a free page in next year's calendar or page in stallion roster
- c. Report on mare bonits analysis prepared by Ed and Meredith. Number of HV mares presented for approval is increasing. From 2004-2007, of all mares added to studbooks, HV mares had higher percentage of bonits >47. From 2004-2007, most non-Holsteiner mares had bonits <44. Summary: We analyzed mare data to determine if we had enough of a critical mass of HV mares to be more selective in our mare approvals. It was decided that we could be more selective by approving non-Holsteiner mares with higher bonits or those mares with lower bonits but good sports performance.
- d. Jennifer is investigating the possibility of providing printed registration papers on site at the approvals.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **Advertising and Promotion**

A promotional pamphlet has been designed and is ready to be printed. Requested \$850 for costs of producing promotional pamphlet – *request approved.*

We reviewed the advertising budget from 2007 and discussed how to best allocate funds. Guy pointed out that our ads are currently just increasing name recognition for the AHHA but do not provide much value.

This led into a discussion of the AHHA website. Ed suggested we improve our sales page on the website and suggested we create a committee to help our members get their ads on the website, as well as streamline the process (eliminate the need to print and fax an ad to the office). We will

start offering this as a free member benefit – if non-members want to post an ad, it will cost \$85 (essentially cost of membership). They will receive a membership for the \$85.

The BOD approved the preliminary budget request for 2008 as the same amount approved in 2007.

### **Awards**

Rebecca Rigdon explained the complications of trying to recognize all divisions, including those not historically recognized by the AHHA. She requested we add a High Point ribbon for Open and Junior AA divisions at Regional dressage championships. She suggested we send an AHHA representative (local member) to each USDF Region Championship to verify that the awards are handled correctly.

Rebecca requested we re-direct some money from the advertising and promotion budget to create more banners that we could then send out to actively competing members to hang at horse shows along with the new pamphlets. These banners are to include “www.holsteiner.com”.

Rebecca asked for suggestions on how we should best reach out to Jumper shows, and other members recommended we offer Holsteiner awards at the Young Jumper Championships and Finals.

Ed suggested that we self-fund some of the awards outside of the formal AHHA budget by calling and getting farms to sponsor coolers, saddle pads, etc. Karen Ball offered to help Rebecca with making phone calls to get sponsors.

It was decided that the Awards budget for 2008 would be the same as in the prior year, but that Rebecca has free rein to spend any additional money on awards that can be raised outside of the budget in donations.

Maggie, Meredith, and Beth committed to donate \$100 each for awards.

Karen Ball agreed to join the Awards committee and work with Rebecca to revamp the Awards Program. They will present a proposal for revisions to the Awards Program at a later meeting.

### **Breeding Committee**

Maggie discussed the results of the 2007 Approvals Tour and the performance of the Learner Judges.

The BOD discussed the possibility of using the new RPSI 30-Day Stallion Test as an option for performance requirements – will consider further via Breeding Committee conference calls.

New Breeding Rules Proposal – discussed that in the Breeding Committee meeting held 2/22/08, some changes were made to the proposal. Additionally, some housekeeping changes were made to the general breeding rules in January. The revised rules have not been placed into rule form yet, so Maggie re-stated all the proposal changes agreed upon in the Breeding Committee meeting on 2/22/08. She will write all of the changes in rule form and circulate for review by the BOD.

The BOD agreed we will table deciding upon a control brand until we get additional feedback from the Verband.

The BOD discussed when the new proposal would go into effect. Dr. Stefanie Walker suggested we implement in 2008 instead of 2009. Maggie suggested that as a compromise we use 2008 as a transition year, in which mares would be eligible to be approved under either the old rules or the new proposal. Stefanie indicated she would be comfortable with 2008 being a transition year and both sets of rules being applicable.

Meredith questioned if the Provisional Mare Book would still be an option for 2008 mares who do not score 43 bonits. The consensus was that the Provisional Mare Book will be discontinued in 2008.

***A motion was made and seconded to adopt the new Breeding Rules proposal. The motion passed unanimously.***

Dan thanked all the Breeding Committee members who worked so hard on the proposal.

Maggie recommended that we accept the RPSI 30-Day Stallion Test as a viable option for the stallion approval performance requirement. The BOD agreed we should send our judges to the final days of the test to observe and “audit” the results. There was discussion about whether or not stallions should be allowed to attend prior to their preliminary approval by AHHA judges.

***A motion was made and seconded that the AHHA will accept the 30-day test as a viable option for the performance requirement. In addition, the AHHA will accept this as a preliminary stallion site and send our judges to observe the final days of the test assess the performance of the stallions. The motion passed unanimously.***

The BOD discussed a small-site inspection that occurred in 2007, but the results were not posted on the website. Maggie requested that the office post the results online.

#### **Bylaws Committee**

Dan explained that during an October teleconference, a motion was made to decrease the size of the BOD from 15 to 12. Since the election process was ongoing, the motion was tabled until after the elections. Dan drafted revised bylaws to implement these changes.

***A motion was made and seconded to vote immediately on the proposed bylaw changes since 45 days have already passed. The motion passed unanimously.***

Dan called for a vote to approve the proposed bylaw changes of reducing the size of the BOD to twelve members via a process of electing one fewer BOD seat per year from 2008 to 2010. All BOD members voted in favor of the proposed bylaw changes, except Rebecca Rigdon. She opposed the vote because she would prefer the BOD to decrease to 10. Ed suggested that we revisit the idea in the future of reducing it further. ***The proposed bylaw change for reducing the size of the BOD to twelve members was approved.***

Article 5.1: COMPOSITION – The Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors which will consist of ~~fifteen members~~ AFTER A TRANSITION BETWEEN 2008 AND 2010 CONSIST OF TWELVE MEMBERS. A director must be at least nineteen years of age and be a member in good standing. No employee of the Association may serve as a Director.

ARTICLE 5.2 TERM OF OFFICE – Directors shall be elected for a term of three years. A term shall begin and end at the completion of and Annual Membership Meeting. Each year ~~five~~ FOUR Directors shall be elected.

The BOD discussed how to address filling empty BOD seats as vacancies arise, and how the rules should be interpreted. Cheryl proposed that if a vacancy occurs, then we should not fill that seat until the BOD reaches a size of 12 members, since we have approved a motion to reduce the size of the BOD to 12. Ed questioned whether that would go into effect immediately or going forward after the current vacant seats are filled. The issue was tabled until later in the meeting.

#### **Membership Committee**

Meredith reported what she has been hearing from members for areas of improvement:

- website

- make the judging and approvals process more user-friendly and consider implementing a liaison for the judges to interact with the public at the sites
- prepare a video of all inspection sites and group the foals by sire, etc.
- offer a prize for the top scoring foal produced via the Stallion Service Auction – offer the winner a \$250 credit towards a future SSA and a plaque
- appreciation awards for Maryanne Nicpon and Bart Massucco for their contributions to the Stallion Service Auction and the AHHA advertising and promotion
- better documentation/publication of AHHA horse successes
- marketing ideas from Lisa Paulson

Meredith requested that two volunteers be recognized for exceptional service to the Association by presenting them with an AHHA jacket from the Holsteiner Shop, embroidered with their farm name. These volunteers are Maryanne Nicpon, chair of the Stallion Service Auction, and Bart Massucco, chair of Advertising and Publicity, and editor of the Holsteiner Magazine. KC Kelley offered to donate the jackets. Meredith also proposed an award for the top-scoring foal produced from each year's Stallion Service Auction. The award will consist of a \$50 plaque and a \$250.00 credit in the subsequent Stallion Service Auction. ***Requests approved.***

Beth agreed to put together the inspection tour DVD – Meredith will coordinate with each site to have it filmed, and video will be sent to Beth for formatting and compilation.

Guy and Cheryl both agreed to look into upgrading our website, and will present proposals to the BOD when available.

Meredith discussed the difficulty of obtaining comparative membership numbers since members sign up all throughout the year and there is no consistent membership term. Jennifer explained the logistical difficulties in the office of entering memberships, since dual-entry is required for multiple systems.

#### **Education and Publications Committee**

Kim is still working on soliciting commercial advertisements for the Holsteiner magazine. Anke suggested we publish in the magazine that Pferd + Sport now has articles in English and provide instructions on how to subscribe.

#### **Finance Committee**

At this time, the BOD went into Closed Session to discuss the Finance Committee report. After this report was presented, the meeting resumed in Open Session.

#### **Ombudsman**

Wendy Webster reported that no significant issues were brought to her attention during the year. Wendy was pro-active in contacting people who posted on the bulletin board and appeared to have conflicts.

#### **Stallion Service Auction**

There were no buyers in the second chance stallion auction.

This led to a discussion of the impact of the new Verband-Eligible studbook program on new stallions and the potential reduction of new stallions being presented to the AHHA.

Dr. Walker clarified the Konzept AHHA proposal to say that Verband-eligible mares who are approved by German judges in the US will be registered in the Verband studbooks – she will verify this again with the Verband.

She also emphatically stated that the use of the word “Reinzucht” to describe these horses is misleading and should not be used – such horses should be described as Verband-Eligible or something similar. Horses can be “Reinzucht” and not be Verband-Eligible. She stressed that

this controversy is a waste of time and energy for our association and should be stopped immediately.

Dr. Walker also stated that she and others in Germany interpret the bulletin board conversations very poorly and it makes the AHHA appear unprofessional. The BOD discussed the use of the bulletin board and agreed that members of the BOD should not engage in any negative or controversial discussions on the bulletin boards.

This led to a greater discussion of BOD member conduct and confidentiality requirements. Discussion tabled until later in the meeting.

#### V. Old Business

- a. Discussed obtaining 501(c)3 status – Jennifer said she inquired and was quoted costs of \$10K in the first year and \$5K every year thereafter. Ed felt those costs were too high and might include filing costs, legal fees, etc. Jennifer will continue to follow up and will check with the law firm that Steve Passman recommended that handled the filing for the Saddlebred Association.
- b. Dan brought up the proceeds of the AHHA raffle and Calcutta. Typically, these have gone to our Young Riders Scholarship. Jennifer proposed we consider donating this money to a local Equine Studies program in the Lexington area. Ed suggested we could give a small portion of the money currently in our Young Riders Fund to that program. **Dan proposed we donate the lesser of \$250 or half of whatever is raised at tonight's raffle and Calcutta and the BOD approved the request.**
- c. Dan reviewed the Policy Handbook to identify old policies that are no longer active or relevant. **He proposed rescinding policies 10.96, 22.99, 30.96 and 30.98 - approved unanimously.**

#### VI. New Business

- a. Request for capital expenditure to upgrade hardware and software in the office. The BOD also discussed the need for wireless internet connectivity at approvals sites and the possibility of using broadband cards. Ed agreed to investigate upgrading the Heavy Horse software – Jennifer will provide him the software and Ed will work on finding someone to write a new or revised program that will be a relational database.
- b. Discussed an email received in the office from the state of Kentucky regarding microchipping of livestock. Maggie and Kim stated they feel that this will not be implemented for several years until there is a universal reader. Dan clarified he wants the BOD to be aware of the issue, but no action is needed at this time.
- c. Meredith informed the BOD that she and a group of other AHHA volunteers will be manning a booth at the Rolex horse show in order to help the local Children's Hospital receive a \$25K contribution from Rolex.
- d. Discussed location for the summer meeting – suggested Lexington, Colorado, New York, Las Vegas. The BOD also discussed changing the timing to July or August, since that will be after the end of most people's breeding seasons. There was also a recommendation of Gulfport for next year's winter meeting. Decision tabled for further discussion.
- e. The BOD discussed a scholarship request from Rebecca Rigdon to attend the mare approvals in Holstein in conjunction with increasing her knowledge as an AHHA learner judge. Dan recommended we pay the airfare. **A motion was made and seconded for the AHHA to pay for Rebecca's airfare out of the Young Rider Fund. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### VII. Adjournment

At 4.30pm the meeting was adjourned and immediately followed by a presentation on findings related to OC/OCD by Dr. Stefanie Walker from the Verband. This talk was warmly received and very instructive. Copies of the slides will be available in hard copy format upon request to Dan. Dr. Walker expressly requested that the electronic copies NOT be posted or disseminated.

## **FEBRUARY 24, 2008**

At 8.45am the meeting was called to order.

### **I. Closed Session**

The BOD went into closed session to discuss the issue of empty seats on the Board. After discussion, the meeting returned to open session.

### **II. Filling Vacant BOD seats**

The BOD followed precedent to fill two vacant BOD seats with the candidates who received the next highest number of votes. The two new BOD members, Brian Bodarke and Anya Getman, were invited to join the meeting. The BOD clarified that going forward, any new vacancies will not be filled until the BOD reaches the new size of 12 members as agreed upon on February 23, 2008.

### **III. Nominations**

The Nominating Committee gave a report on officer nominations and elections were held. The following members were elected:

**President: Dan van Heeckeren**  
**Vice President: Anke Magnusson**  
**Secretary: Meredith Weller**  
**Treasurer: Beth Colle**  
**At-Large: Ed Wallace**

### **IV. Breeding Committee Business**

The Breeding Committee discussed filling the empty seat on the BC. The next two candidates in line had an equal number of votes, so the BOD voted to fill the empty seat. **Andras Szieberth was elected.**

The Breeding Committee reviewed the minutes from the prior meeting and made one correction: "The Committee also voted that two-year-old stallions presented for Part A must be required to come back for the Part B evaluation under-saddle ~~in the following year~~ *before the end of its sixth year* and cannot fulfill their licensing requirements through the in-sport option." **Taking into account this correction, the Committee voted to approve the minutes.**

**Maggie Sjoberg was nominated and elected (unopposed) as Chair of the Breeding Committee.**

**Cheryl Kellerman was nominated and elected (unopposed) as Vice-Chair of the Breeding Committee.**

The BC resumed discussion of stallion performance testing. Maggie stated that she wanted to accept the 30-day test but also still keep our under-saddle portion of the final AHHA stallion approvals, taking into account revisions to the under-saddle portions of the approval process. Maggie will work with other Breeding Committee members to revise the under-saddle portions of the approvals.

Additionally, the BC discussed the free-jumping chute for the approvals process. They agreed that the owners and judges should have the freedom to adjust the distances, add a ground pole, etc. for each horse to show him to the best of his ability. Additionally, the free jumping lane should be composed of jumps that are not all solid white because this is not friendly to the horse. Guy and Nick will work on the wording for the free-jumping portion of the approvals.

Maggie discussed the need to send out an email to gauge interest of how many stallions might be attending this year's approvals so we can determine where we will hold stallion sites.

Guy brought up a suggestion that the AHHA fund an annual trip for the Breeding Committee Chair to visit Holstein for educational purposes. ***A motion was made and seconded that the AHHA pay the airfare for the Breeding Committee Chair to visit Holstein for educational purposes. Motion passed unanimously.***

The group discussed the AHHA merchandise sold online and the quality compared to that of the Holsteiner Verband shop.

Wendy suggested we modify the way we format our stallion roster. She proposed we outsource the roster publication to a third party company who already prepares an international stallion roster. Wendy agreed to contact the company to inquire about price, logistics, etc.

Ed volunteered to contact members to get them to place ads on the website now before waiting for the new upgraded website design. He, Rebecca, Karen Ball, and Doris van Heeckeren will split the membership list to call breeders and solicit advertisements as well as donations for the awards programs at the same time. Ed will send out a template for the online ad for comment, and then it will then be disseminated in an e-Update.

Anke brought up the issue that BOD members should not be allowed to post negative information on the bulletin boards. ***After discussion, a motion was made and seconded that any sitting member of the BOD or BC will not be allowed to post any information on any bulletin board (including Chronicle of the Horse, etc.) regardless of content. The AHHA Ombudsman will be allowed to post a message directing people to the AHHA website or the relevant rule. Any BOD policy or rule changes should only be published on the AHHA website or through the e-Updates. Motion passed unanimously.***

Maggie requested that we also pass a rule that addresses the permissible conduct of the general membership. Ed will revisit the proposed rule change he drafted in prior years and will send out for comment.

Ed brought up the issue of BOD and BC confidentiality. ***After discussion, a motion was made and seconded that no sitting BOD or BC member will disseminate or discuss any information that is relevant to an ongoing BOD or BC discussion prior to policy or rule being passed, unless it is information that has already been discussed in an open meeting, or during a period of soliciting member feedback. This confidentiality requirement will include all email correspondence, teleconference discussions, and closed session discussion of BOD and BC meetings. Motion passed unanimously.***

#### **V. Closed Session**

The BOD went into closed session to discuss the AHHA office and performance evaluations.

#### **V. Adjournment**

At 12.40pm the meeting was adjourned.