

15th March 2006

To: All members of the Management Committee

Cc: The President

From: The Secretary

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Brussels - 15th March 2006.

Present:	Johan Trygve Solheim (President)	Norway
	Tony Armitage (TA)	Great Britain
	John Fletcher (JF)	Great Britain
	Paul Audenaerde (PA)	Belgium
	Mogens Madsen (MM)	Denmark
	Asger Andersen (AA)	Denmark
	Hanspeter Danzer (HD)	Switzerland
	Rolf Eriksson (RE)	Sweden
	Andreas Svensson (AS)	Sweden
	Jacob Hogfeldt (JH)	Sweden
	Dainis Paeglitis (DP)	Latvia
	Greg Potterton (GP)	Ireland
	Franz Vogelmayr (FV)	Austria
	Andrzej Malczewski (AM)	Poland
	Marc Peelman (Treasurer)	Belgium

1) Minutes of the last AGM.

Minutes of the last AGM held on the 29th March 05 was approved as being a true representation of the last AGM.

2) Annual report

The President apologised for not presenting an Annual Report, but he will shortly send one on the Yahoo group.

3) Financial report.

This was given by MP who said that the FEDFA current account amounted to Euros 4.725,51. He gave a short summary as to how this current position was arrived at. JF pointed out the difficulties that had been experienced by GB in transferring their subscription, but now had cash to put this problem right. Euros 65 still short.

GP had problems with Irish contribution, but again this was being corrected with the contribution of a fresh cheque to clear their account.

Poland asked that the name on their invoice be change to Institute of Poland.

MP asked that all representatives check the invoice mailing address.

4) National Reports.

Poland - 112 members, with 74 registered farmers. 44 had Fallow, 15 had Red, 6 had Sika and 9 were mixed herds. The population of the various deer were 8000 Fallow, 1000 Red, 250 Sika. The largest farm had 2000 Fallow. The farm sizes ranged from 1-300 hect. There were included in these numbers 15 organic farms. The industry was progressing steadily trying to achieve EU standards. Were currently changing from an association to a union for more government recognition.

Denmark - There were 600 farms, 50% Fallow and 50% Red. A slight 5% decrease in the number of farmers. Prices have fallen to Euros 3.5/kg./carcase. A project is currently being carried out to access the industry. Last year Zealand organised Open days and had a very positive response, so in 2006 hoping to do this across Denmark with higher Venison prices the aim. Industry still depressed.

Latvia - Farm deer under the Wild animals Breeders Association. This includes Red deer, Fallow deer, Wild Boar, Mouflin, and European Bison. There are 42 members. Many are hunting parks, 5 or 6 are connected to tourism while 5only produce Venison. A mobile abattoir is being introduced. Most of the meat is sold into Latvia. There should be an increase in deer farming due to 50% grants for fencing and buildings. After the meeting in Latvia, 3 TV stations, and several newspapers published articles about deer farming.

Belgium - Not much has changed since last meeting. Hobby farmers continue to leave the industry. There were 80 members, now down to 45, but the real commercial deer farmers are doing quite well, but nearly always it is a second job.

Great Britain - Changes over the last 12 months have taken place with a new secretariat, this caused a certain amount of turmoil, but things are now moving ahead again. A new Link project worth £150,000 will start in April to ascertain the keeping and eating qualities of Venison after having been slaughtered in a variety of ways within Field and Abattoir systems. Also the different stress and nutritional levels within these systems will be examined. With the implementation of the SFP, it is hoped more farmers may be persuaded to keep deer as there appears to be a growing demand. Currently the largest Venison producer, Venico, is paying about £3.25/kg d.c.w., however this drops to £2.90 in the Autumn flush. Those farmers that prefer to sell through their own shops and at farmer's markets make higher prices. The QA

scheme is now no longer handled by BDFA in house, but is now run independently by EFSES. A lot of good publicity/promotion had been achieved by working closely with DINZ. A worry is the constant attention that the animal liberation organization seems to be giving British deer farmers.

Austria - Industry hasn't changed much over past 12 months. 1800 people own deer, but most are hobby farmers, but there is a small group of professional farmers. Euros 8-10/kg, but sold direct to consumer. If a farmer joins an animal association for health care, he is trained in ante mortem inspection, a vet. need only visit the farm once a month, and no vet. is needed for post mortem inspections.

Norway - Little change over last 12 months. 100 members of the association, 64 have deer. 55 farm Red deer, and 14 farm Fallow, while 5 have both. There was rapid growth after 1985, but now stabilised as the farmers now have to sell Venison and not breeding stock. In 2002 there were 10000 kilo Red and 1000 kilo Fallow deer venison produced, by 2005 this had grown to 24000 Red and 4000 Fallow. There is a huge market potential as shown up by recent research, and industry could grow many times. The farmers' union is being more helpful with negotiations to get subsidies for production as well as area payments.

Switzerland - Situation similar to Belgium and Austria. There is an increase in herd size, but member numbers are getting less. There are 85% Fallow farmers and 15% Red farmers. Prices are staying at the high "Swiss" level. There is good co-operation between all the small ruminants (sheep, goats, llamas, and deer) especially on the vet. and political side to farming. Deer are now accepted as an agricultural animal and so there is quiet optimism for the industry.

Sweden - There was a steady increase from the late '80's. The TB controlled programme is due to finish in 2 years. There are 370 farmers with deer, 4/5 with Fallow, and 1/5 with Red deer. Total 25000 head of deer. There appears to be an optimistic trend with new deer farmers, and larger farms. Price is about Euros 3.50/kg/ d.c.w. Some farmers are changing from Fallow to Red. Quite a lot of venison is imported from New Zealand.

Ireland - Message is optimistic. There is now a shortage of animals for slaughter, so there is a need to increase the number of deer farmers and increase herd size. Commercial deer farming could increase as farmers can now farm deer instead of sheep. There is a strong market to GB as sterling is stronger than the Euro, but there is a transport disadvantage.

On the whole the deer farming out look across Europe from the delegates present was quite optimistic.

5) Election of National Representatives.

The changes to the countries representatives were recorded, and now read as follows:

Johan Trygve Solheim	Norway
John Fletcher	Great Britain

Tony Armitage	Great Britain
Greg Potterton	Ireland
Michael Quinn	Ireland
Hanspeter Danzer	Switzerland
Franz Vogelmayr	Austria
Ludek Bartos	Czechia
Petr Janovsky	Czechia
Paul Audenaerde	Belgium
Andrzej Malczewski	Poland
Patrick van Aubel	France
Dainis Paeglitis	Latvia
Rolf Eriksson	Sweden
Andreas Svensson	Sweden
Asger Andersen	Denmark
Peter Timmerman	Holland

6) Office Holders.

Firstly the change to the Constitution was agreed and carried (see EGM Minutes).

i) Election of President.

John Fletcher was elected unopposed to serve 2 years as President of FEDFA.

ii) Rolf Eriksson and Greg Potterton were elected to serve for one year as Vice Presidents of FEDFA, but can stand for re-election at next years AGM should they so wish.

iii) Tony Armitage was elected as Hon. Sec general to FEDFA for 2 years.

iv) Asger Andersen was elected as Hon. Treasurer for 2 years.

v) Trygve Solheim was elected to the new post of Webmaster and i/c of communication for 2 years.

vi) Working Committees were then under the new President formed:

- Vet Committee..... Rolf E., John F., Paul A.
- Communication.....Trygve S., Tony A., John F., Rolf E.
- Fund Raising.....Angers A., John F., Greg P.

A vote of thanks was offered to Trygve for all the hard work he had done while President. This was accepted, and he replied that the help that he had received while President was much appreciated.

Discussion took place about the format and distribution of the BDFFA magazine; it was decided to leave this to the Communications sub- committee.

7) Any other Business.

PA had received a letter from Dr. Manfred Golze who had asked permission to include the names and addresses of the FEDFA members in a book he was writing. The members were generally reluctant to divulge these details, although it was pointed out that they are freely available on the website, but the association saw this request as a possible way of starting dialogue with the Germans. FV hopes to go to their Conference on May 6th. in Saxony. RE suggested that we should give FV the mandate to invite the Germans to the Polish meeting with a view to opening re-joining of FEDFA discussions. This was agreed.

Rolf E was not sure that the current amount for subscriptions at Euros 150 was enough to undertake all the work that was needed. It was pointed out that if this figure was raised we may have problems collecting the higher figure from some nations. It was therefore agreed to lower costs of hotel meetings, and ask the new fund raising committee to start working on this problem.

8) *Date and venue of next AGM.*

This will take place in Brussels March 20th – 21st 2007.