

24th September 2006

To: All members of the Management Committee

Cc: The President

From: The Secretary

**Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting**  
**Goldap - 15th September 2006.**

1. Members Present:

John Fletcher (JF) President	GB.
Rolf Eriksson (RE)	S.
Jacob Hogfeldt (JH)	S.
Dainis Paeglitis (DP)	LT.
Greg Potterton (GP)	IRL.
Ray Gower (RG)	GB.
Andrzej Malczewski (AM)	PL.
Piotrek Karwala (PK)	PL.

There were a further 15 delegates from the Polish Association.

Apologies were received from Czech Rep., Hungary, Holland, Lithuania, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland, Austria, and Norway.

2. Minutes of the last MCM meeting held in Brussels 14-15/03/06. There was a short introduction speech made by JF (President) welcoming the delegates on behalf of the Polish Assoc. to Goldap. The minutes of the last MCM were read and agreed upon.

3. Communications within FEDFA.

a) Magazine

Each delegate having been given the latest copy of the BDFA Deer Farming magazine, were invited by JF to comment on its format. He proposed that the magazine should in future have a much more

European format, with some of the articles supplied by the member countries in their own language. Other articles might be translated into English to give them a wider readership. The representatives agreed to undertake this task, and to liaise with JF. It was agreed that a pan-European magazine would attract more advertisers and so ensure its viability.

DP asked if the magazine could carry articles on hunting and even advertisements advertising this sport. JF's reply was in the negative, pointing out that in some countries, especially the UK, hunting had to be kept entirely separate from the activities of farming for meat and breeding stock production.

#### b) FEDFA Website.

Unfortunately due to pressure of work Trygve Solheim the current webmaster was unable to be present, but it was understood he would be able to attend the Spring meeting in Brussels.

RE suggested that everyone should help TS and contribute short news messages and photographs of interest to the website.

#### 4. Discussions and update on the Survey of Deer Farming methods in different European Countries.

JF opened the long discussion by repeating that Prof. Ludek Bartos from the Czech Rep. had volunteered to assist FEDFA put a small booklet together outlining in some detail the different approaches to deer farming across Europe. It had to be accurate and a fully authoritative account country by country. This would help immensely when meeting Commissioners or their representatives in Brussels as well as helping deer farmers lobby their own governments for changes to regulations. It is obvious when discussing the subject that each country has different rules governing deer farming. For example, there is no clearly defined way of defining a deer farm in Poland or Great Britain.

And in some countries where deer farming is trying to become established governments are trying to ban deer farming. The results of this questionnaire should help resolve these issues especially if they can be published. Therefore the type of questions to be asked, and subsequently the answers given, become very important. JF asked for comments and suggested questions via the Yahoo group. It was stressed that this project must not be allowed to "sleep", but must be acted upon as quickly as each country could manage. This also included those countries not at this meeting. It was thought that it may be necessary to interview each country, once the questions had been

agreed, either by 'phone or at the Spring meeting in Brussels. If the latter was the case, time would have to be set aside.

Some of the headings were then suggested and copies of the draft questionnaire were circulated with the following subjects to be included:- i] Categories of deer, ii] Slaughter of deer, different methods and rules, iii] Vets involvement, iv] Venison prices, vii] Is hunting allowed in enclosures? viii] Is the Venison market increasing or declining? ix] Are there Quality Assurance marks in each country?

Delegates suggested other questions for inclusion in the survey.

[Bartłomiej Dmuchowski](#) (Pl) Suggested that questions should be included to cover the economics of deer farming, and the regulations controlling the establishment of new deer farms in each country.

RayGower (GB) Asked that the differences as to how the Single Farm Payment was being administered in each country should be covered.

RE (S) Asked for a survey on the state of diseases, especially TB in each country. He wondered if like Sweden, TB had been eradicated from some countries.

It was agreed that JF as President would distribute the draft questionnaire via the Yahoo group, but he did appeal for help from the representatives.

##### 5. EU news from Brussels.

JF reported on a meeting that he had had with Marianne Fischer-Boel in June. She had stated that there was the option within the Regulations for countries like Wales and Scotland, where Single Farm Payments are made on a historic basis for categories such as deer farmers to be allowed access to the National Reserve of entitlement.

RE reported that the CWD rules had changed. Those countries that currently did not have to test farmed deer, will now have to have the test carried out on deer that died. This new rule will be finally decided upon in November. He did not believe that CWD existed outside of the USA. The reasons for these new testing regimes was to assure the New Zealanders that CWD did not exist in the EU, and so allow live exports to New Zealand. Deer sampling has already begun in Poland, and most other member states but each country will be expected to take sample tests.

It was agreed that FEDFA would seek a meeting with the EU vets in March, prior to the Spring meeting. Please advise JF of any discussion

points. Eg. As a result of an interesting paper given at the World Conference recently, DP wants to explore the possibility of reintroducing the cutting of velvet in Europe.

It may also be possible to obtain a meeting with the commission that deals with grants and subsidies as there are still a lot of anomalies within Europe.

#### 6. Report on the Australian World Congress.

GP and DP who both attended the Conference reported on some of the papers given. There were a lot of papers given on breeding, genetics and the cutting of velvet. It was also noted that the Australians were keen to eliminate all wild deer as they were an alien species to the country. Another paper reported on the hunting farms that are popular with fenced areas of 2-3000 hectares being fenced for this purpose. GP reported that the Conference was opened by Sir Tim Wallis, which contained video footage about the start of Deer Farming in New Zealand. GP took the good wishes from FEDFA to the conference and was well received.

World wide, the industry appears to be split almost evenly into three, Venison, Velvet cutting and Trophy +tourism. It was generally also agreed that the industry as a whole should unite across the continents, with perhaps an international organisation established to liaise with the different countries. The next World Congress will either be in China or S.America.

JF gave a brief report on the International Deer Biology Conference held recently in Prague. FEDFA was one of the sponsors. These conferences were started 24 years ago, this one being the 6<sup>th</sup>. to be held. The first meeting held in Dunedin was probably dominated by deer farming and associated research but over the years this imbalance has been redressed with more papers relating to wild deer. Nevertheless the largest section in Prague was dedicated to deer management including the management of farmed deer and the second largest section was on the diseases of deer predominantly dealing with the health problems of farmed deer. The next meeting will probably be in either S.America, Texas or Spain and deer farmers would certainly find it useful to attend. There were three lecture theatres operating simultaneously each day so that delegates could choose the subjects in which they were most interested but there were also seven distinguished plenary speakers. Extended abstracts of the papers have been printed and are available.

Our congratulations to Ludek Bartos and his team of helpers who efficiently organised a complex conference with enthusiasm and flair and particular thanks for his efforts to involve FEDFA. This was a mutually beneficial arrangement which we hope to be able to continue at the next meeting.

7. Any Other Business.

It was suggested that the Sec. should e.mail Silvio Novak (Slovenia) as his association wishes to become a member of FEDFA. (*Could someone please e.mail his address to me!*)

JF then introduced a discussion regarding the change in legislation regarding the field slaughter of deer. He wished to discuss the possibility of lobbying in March in Brussels to allow those deer farmers slaughtering their deer in the field with a free bullet to have the option not to have a vet present for ante- or post-mortem inspection. The venison from these animals, as far as legislation was concerned would then be treated as wild. This would mean an enormous saving in vet costs, and for those farmers selling at the farm gate or local markets, it would be a huge benefit. Paul A. from Belgium had sent the Secretary his views on the subject, and these were opposed to this method of slaughter, in that he wanted to retain the involvement of vets, so insuring that the resulting venison would remain a “red meat” able to be sold in supermarkets, provided it was taken to an abattoir in the prescribed time for skinning and evisceration. Further discussion took place, with no FEDFA policy being agreed.

8. Date and venue of the next Autumn meeting, also confirmation of the meeting date for Brussels.

As the Danish representative Asgar Anderson had not arrived, the Autumn 2007 meeting could not be confirmed as taking place in Denmark. So the decision was deferred until the Spring meeting, or before if AA is able to confirm earlier. GP tentatively offered Ireland as a venue, but he would prefer to hold it in 2008.

The dates of the Spring meeting were confirmed as March 21-22, 2007 in Brussels. The Secretary to liaise with Paul A. regarding accommodation.

Action points:-

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| A] Magazine articles.....                | All.    |
| B] Website contributions.....            | All.    |
| C] Deer Survey Questioner for Yahoo..... | JF (GB) |

D] Suggestions for above, and answers.....	All.
E] Spring meeting discussion points.....	All.
F] Contact Silvio Novak (Slovenia).....	AGA (GB)
G] Autumn Meeting.....	AA (DK)
H] Spring Meeting.....	AGA (GB)

A vote of thanks to the Polish Deer Farmers Association is extended on behalf of all of FEDFA for a most enjoyable and well organised weekend.