

## **Agenda Regional and Council Member Meeting Meeting Minutes May 14, 2022**

**Welcome:** The meeting started at 10:00 am EDT. Eric Smith, FHANA Board of Directors President and Tineke Schokker-Strampel, KFPS Chairwomen, welcomed all to the Regional Spring Meeting. Tineke Schokker-Strampel commented that it was her honor to support this beautiful Studbook.

**Announcements:** Per Tineke Schokker-Strampel there were no announcements at this time. Specific items would be addressed throughout today's agenda.

**Approval Minutes Previous Meeting:** Tineke Schokker-Strampel asked if there were any comments on the minutes from minutes of the meeting of the Member Council of the Koninklijke Vereniging 'Het Friesch Paarden—Stamboek from November 26, 2021. Will Bron commented that the meeting could have been handled a bit better with respect to the voting process. Nynke Bakker indicated that the Structure Committee would address this. He did indicate that the process to have people speak at the podium was very beneficial and that the translator did very well. There were no further questions or recommendations from the meeting participants.

**Year Report 2021:** Nynke Bakker reported a negative €26,703 balance after-tax result in 2021; however, they are financially healthy, and income is stable. There is positive results with respect to investments. The Stallion Show did occur but without public viewing due to Covid and there were no Inspections outside of Europe. This had financial implications.

### **Appointments:**

- a. Member Council: There are three members leaving the Member Council and there were seven candidates, four from outside of Europe (Israel, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica, and South Africa). Replacements were selected yesterday, and the results are posted on the KFPS website.
- b. Nominations by the Board - Appeals Committee/Disciplinary Committee: Voting next week on May 20, 2022.
- c. Nomination by the Confidential Committee: the Board / Board of Appeals / Integrity Committee / Financial Committee / Confidential Committee - Voting next week on May 20, 2022.

### **Amendments Statutes and Regulations:**

a. Amendment Statutes regarding term in office Board members: In exceptional cases, the Confidential Committee motions to extend the term in office for a Board member with one extra year after a period of two four-year terms. That involves amendment of the Statutes. Will Bron indicated that he agreed with this proposal. Eric Smith asked what is an "exceptional case." Tineke Schokker-Strampel indicated that if they had a member with a great deal of experience it would be beneficial to have them continue for another year to help with the transition. Jack Vanderkooy asked that a flow chart be created so members could better understand how the organizational sections relate.

b. Amendment Code of Conduct (CoC): Tineke Schokker-Strampel explained that the CoC addresses inherent conflicts of interest e.g. not accepting gift and the appointment and use of a KFPS Confidential Advisor. This information can be found on the KFPS website.

c. Amendment Inspection Regulations – Grooming: Members are to keep all tactile hairs in place, the hair in the ears stay. It is permissible to trim the edges of the ears but not inside. Trimming of the beard is allowed as is the whiskers. Jack Vanderkooy pointed out that this is more restrictive in the Netherlands. Tineke Schokker-Strampel explained the KFPS needs to be strict for the wellbeing of the horse and that they have been talking about this since 2014. The horses cannot be judged if they are not groomed correctly. Jack hoped that they will be more lenient in North America since it is not a law here. Anna Osinga pointed out that the FEI indicates that they can not trim either, there is more awareness about this. Klass Wiersma stated that the flies are a problem in the ears and that FHANA should be strict. Will Bron reminded all we are part of the KFPS and that there should not be two set of rules. It was asked that FHANA communicate this early in the year, so horse owners are aware.

d. Amendment Registration Regulations - Risky matches hydrocephaly and dwarfism: Sietske Oosterb, Breeding Council Representative, was happy to report these cases have continued to trend downward and indicated that we have a closed Studbook; kinship cannot go down. The KFPS is discussing fining those who do risk pairings. There is a 25% chance a foal will have dwarfism or hydrocephaly with risk pairings. There are some breeders who do this unknowingly and others do it who know about these risks. The KFPS has talked about issuing warnings who participate in risk pairings and to look at each of these cases separately. Matt Kissack commented that there have not been stallions approved in North America in ten years and that contributes to the breeding issues and asked why. Jack Vanderkooy asked how the fines would be collected. Sietske Oosterb indicated that further discussions will occur next week at the KFPS about fines and warnings. Anna Osinga indicated that it is hard to breed here and that we do not want to encourage risk breedings. She indicated that FHANA has lost members to others like Friesian Heritage due to the lack of approved stallions. Klass Wiersma indicated that the KFPS should look broader to increase our breeding possibilities. Sietske Oosterb indicated that their approaches need to be voted on, we need to produce something. We need to make sure mares are tested, no one wants a dwarf or hydrocephaly offspring. Sietske Oosterb indicated that there are about 30 high risk breedings, understanding why this is occurring will drive what can be done to stop it. She reported it is only a few who repeatedly engage in high risk breedings. Eric Smith asked how many of these high risk pairing are occurring in North America and Sietske Oosterb indicated that most are in Europe. Stallion owners in North America work with their clients to avoid these high risk pairings. Ted Vanderkooi indicated that education is key, some members have no clue about this issue. He prefers education over fines. Jack Vanderkooy thought the proposed actions seemed heavy handed given there is only 30 high risk pairings per year and that about 50% due it purposefully. He asked if we could not allow these in the Studbook and Sietske Oosterb indicated this would not be possible. Will Bron asked for improvements in the frozen semen

process so shipping can occur more successfully. Matt Kissack indicated that there is not a live foal guarantee with frozen, this is an issue for breeders.

e. Amendment Registration Regulations - Performance predicate: The KFPS would like to raise the expectation from 75 to 77 (AA for 77). This will occur proactively; it will not be changed retrospectively.

f. Amendment Regulations Stallion Inspection - description of roaring: There will be a change in the naming, description of roaring. The chosen description for class 1 did not entirely fit with the description used by the assessment committee. Class 1 – No Remarks will be Class 1 - In Order (acceptable).

#### **Current Affairs:**

a. Preparations inspection season: There will not be excessive whip use at Inspections, no plastic whip components, there will be a quiet presentation, and correct use of the triangle. They are stressing **Functionality instead of Spectacularity**. Matt Kissack indicated that he overheard inappropriate comments by the Judges. Tineke Schokker-Strampel advised him to write a letter to the KFPS as soon as these concerns occur so they can deal with them more effectively. Angie DePuydt asked about the use of rocks and cans. Sabian Zwaga replied that it should not be excessive and will get further clarification. Sabian indicated they want to see horses in their relaxed state, this is more for the Netherlands than in North America. Sharon Bechler asked about training for the Inspection, expressing concerns that some are working on unnatural gaits. Sabian replied that we should be working on the natural trot and that the Judges should be communicating that to the participants. She will provide a video to Jason Tice illustrating these techniques that he will share with FHANA members.

Sabian indicated with respect to foals, if they are irregular in their gait, it is best to scratch the foal from Inspection. With this, they will not be registered as defective, this will keep the paper intact.

The Linear Score sheet will be changed, the grey cubes will be removed. Jack Vanderkooy likes the grey cubes; it helps owners understand expectations and results and helps to plan. Sabian agreed with Jack. Hooves will be analyzed with respect to evenness; even, slightly uneven, very uneven. This is evaluated under leg work. The scoring form is on the KFPS website with the breeding goals.

b. Structure Committee: The themes are total governability, structure abroad, and structure in-land. The KFPS will be receiving guidance from notaries and lawyers with expertise in the association to guide them.

c. Discussion breeding topics - Stimulating low kinship - Sustainability - Welfare – Character: The Fenway Foundation was congratulated by the KFPS for their cutting edge work and research on megaesophagus. Fenway is sharing their developments with the KFPS so they can develop a plan for the future.

The KFPS is encouraging low kinship. The average in 2008 was 17.5% and 17.8% in 2021. The variation is between 15.5% and 20.5%. Low kinship is a quality standard. The KFPS is considering bonus points for kinship less than 16.9% and giving an extra chance for stallions to get through testing. For Gran Prix, the average Kinship is 17.4%. The KFPS is looking into breeding limits in highly related stallions. Jack Vanderkooy indicated that they should look at stallions with a high number of approved sons. Sharon Bechler indicated

that the KFPS consider making a requirement that an approved stallion must come to North America and that frozen semen be available in North America. She would like to see North America get use of all stallions from the Netherlands. It was noted that frozen semen is not counted against a breeding limit. Eric Smith asked if the KFPS could adjust their breeding standards for low kinship mares that are rare, at risk of going extinct to encourage diversity. Tonya Hutjas asked about crossing Friesians with Dutch Warmbloods to increase diversity. Outcrossing is considered a last resort, it would be Plan B. If that is ever to be implemented, there must be collaboration with scientists to ensure its safety and appropriateness. Will Bron commented that we need to be openminded with respect to options to improve diversity, that we are heading in the right direction. We should not be afraid to consider options. Ted Vanderkooi stated that it has been going better the last 20 years, our horses are doing well. Eric Smith cautioned about using Plan B and Scott Kelnhofer likened Plan B to the nuclear option. He indicated that no one would be happy with that and that we needed to exhaust all options.

We are doing well with respect to inbreeding. It is critical we stay below 1%. We have been performing at 0.5 – 0.6%. The lower the better as it relates to heredity problems.

Durability – the KFPS needs to examine deaths, this is really not well reported. Understanding deaths will help guide future breeding decisions. Follow up research is needed.

They are discussing increasing the age of eligibility for ABFP testing, moving it from 32 months to 35 months. This would reduce dropouts and help achieve optional results. Eric Smith reminded Sietske Oosterb that foals are born in mid-summer in North America, this could affect their planning.

Breeding Values – Endurance and Character: There is a discussion about the link between lactic acid measurements and character scores. Sharon Bechler indicated she participates in endurance events and is happy to share her information with the KFPS. More work is being done at this topic. The equestrian teams are scoring character at ABFP testing.

**Other Business:** It was asked by Teri Overby if the canter will be scored in Inspections. Given this cannot be done in-hand, the option is available only with IBOPs. Anna Osinga asked if the fees for IBOP could be reduced to help members, it gets to be very expensive. Matt Kissack asked about how the KFPS could help members better understand the Judges at Inspections. Will Bron advised that participants have a one-on-one conversation with Judges at Inspections to better understand their feedback. Tineke Schokker-Strampel will look into this further. Matt Kissack expressed a concern about Judges not wanting to award an eligible horse reserve champion. Eric Smith indicated that FHANA will continue to work with the Judges before Inspections, so they understand our expectations and processes. Angie DePuydt asked about the status of distichiasis testing. Sietske Oosterb will get back to her.

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 EDT**

**Attendees from FHANA and KFPS Leadership:**

KFPS/FHANA Region Meeting 5.14.22 Presented by JoAnn Clough

Tineke Schokker-Strampel, KFPS Chairwomen  
Sietske Oosterb, Breeding Council  
Nynke Bakker  
Sabian Zwaga  
Marijke, Akkerman, KFPS Director  
Eric Smith, FHANA President  
Will Bron, FHANA/KFPS Member Council member  
Ted Vanderkooi, FHANA/KFPS Member Council member  
Jack Vanderkooy, FHANA/KFPS Member Council member  
Erin Miley, FHANA/KFPS Member Council member electee

