

The WHFF Council appoints Cherilyn Watson (New Zealand) as President and László Bognár (Hungary) as Vice President.

The WHFF Council met virtually on the 14th January 2021. At this meeting, the WHFF Council discussed the election of the new WHFF President and Vice President.

In 2020 with the postponement of the 2020 World Holstein Conference, Jos Buiting agreed to complete another year as President, to see where the world situation with Coronavirus ended up. At the same time Cherilyn Watson and Laszlo Bognár were elected as joint Vice Presidents.

Since then, the 2020 World Conference has now been cancelled, and with the next World Conference not due until 2024, the Council have now addressed the roles of President and Vice President through until 2024.

Oceania representative Cherilyn Watson (New Zealand) was elected to the role of President. Cherilyn first joined the Council in 2016 and will be the first women in the history of the Federation to hold the position of President.



László Bognár of Hungary was elected Vice President.



Cherilyn and Laszlo were both honoured to be elected and will each hold office for a period of 3 years.

The Council wishes to thank Jos Buiting (Netherlands) for his contribution as President of WHFF since March 2016. Jos will continue to serve on the WHFF Council.

Other Council Changes:

Jens Baltissen (Germany) succeeds Egbert Feddersen who retired in November 2020.

Martino Cassandro succeeds Giorgio Burchiellaro who is retiring from ANAFIJ in 2021. Giorgio was a member of the Council from 2003 to 2021.

Following the retirement last year of Denis Bieri (France), the member of the Council responsible for liaising with the WHFF Type Harmonisation Working Group is now Thierry Menard (France).

Council also discussed the topics of Haplotypes and Genetic Conditions, Explanation of Semen Zootechnical Certificate's and Cloned Animals.

Farewell message from retiring President Jos Buiting (Netherlands)

Dear Members of WHFF,

In this newsletter I would like to say a few words before stepping back as WHFF President. Unfortunately, we could not meet at the WHFF Conference in Montreux last year, due to Covid-19. We started to postpone the conference for one year, but recently it was decided to cancel the whole 2020 conference; the next one is planned for 2024.

Looking back to my term as President, I concluded at the end of 2019 that it would be good to step back. My work as Manager of CRV Herd Book was taking a lot of time and it seemed good to give the opportunity for this position to other Council members. Due to the lock down my term was extended for one more year, but recently the Council has chosen a new President, Cherilyn Watson and Vice President, Laszlo Bognar. I want to congratulate both and wish them all the best in their new position. I will become a councilor again and will be happy to support both!

Looking back over the last 5 years I would like to mention 2 important projects:

- **Monitoring traits:** a project where WHFF can monitor the development per trait and per country and where members can compare with different countries. The monitoring is based on the exchange of data by Interbull and is fully automated, the results will be updated every year. Members can view their

position and progress per trait in the member section of the WHFF website: <http://www.whff.info/login/index.php#go1>

- **Exchange of Genetic Traits:** a second project where calculation centres can send in their data on genetic traits per animal (males and females), to Interbull. Interbull combines this data and sends it back to all participating countries. In a test situation between 3 countries (UK, Germany and Netherlands) we found that we could add between 7 and 22% of registrations on genetic traits.

No need to say that this is very important for our breeders when using Sire Advisory Programs that can exclude combinations of carriers of genetic defects.

There is only a few countries that are participating in this project, but it's open to all WHFF-members. Please do consider that this exchange of Genetic Traits will become more valuable if more countries participate in the exchange.

In general, one of the most important tasks of our members (recognized Herd Books) is setting the breeding goal for the Holstein Breed. If you look at the global dairy industry, the Holstein cows form by far the biggest population. In addition it is the breed with the highest milk production per cow and as a result Holstein is an important breed to feed the world.

But we have to realize that dairy farming is under discussion in many countries. Climate change is a big issue, and we should not deny that. Cows have a great impact on the CO2 production and emission in the world. Besides CO2 in some countries we have issues with Phosphate, Nitrogen and access to water resources as well. So we should realize that our cows have to become more efficient. This is something we have to address in the next coming years and since the problems mentioned are considered worldwide, we should co-operate on a worldwide scale (in WHFF) as well.

Last but not least: I would like to thank all WHFF members and the councilors in particular, for the trust that has been placed in me and the support I got in the past 5 years. It was an honour and a pleasure as well, to serve you as President.

Jos Buiting

Membership Fees 2021:

After discounting the memberships fees to all members in 2020 due to the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Council have now decided to reinstate the full membership fees for 2021.

If you have any concerns you wish the Council to discuss, please either get in touch with your regional representative or email worldholstein@gmail.com

General Assembly:

As the General Assembly (GA) was not held in 2022, the WHFF membership were asked to vote on some topics. Thank you to everyone who voted - 27 countries out of 40 WHFF members. Your votes were allocated depending upon the number of animals that were declared in the 2019 statistics. The topics were passed by a 75% majority, surpassing the required quorum of 66%. Topics voted on were:

1. 14th General Assembly Minutes
2. Working Group reports
3. Amended Constitution
4. New WHFF Member - Latvian Holstein Association. This organisation has been accepted by WHFF Council, but for completeness needs to be voted on by the Membership.
5. Budget 2021 - 2024 - The financials for 2014 - 2019 and the budget for 2020- 2021 were sent out to the WHFF members on 27th March 2020, and again on the 14th May 2020. There were no negative comments and so the financials for 2014 - 2019 and the budget for 2020 - 2021 was deemed approved by the WHFF Membership. However, WHFF Membership needs to approve a budget for 2021 - 2024.

WHFF Web Site

Please remember to send in news stories, show details, and pictures of your Holstein Champions for the web site: www.whff.info

Dates for your Diary:

The following dates are subject to change due to the COVID 19 pandemic, but planned as below:

Planned 2021	WHFF World Classifiers Workshop, Switzerland
Planned 2022	Harmonisation of European Judging and Judges Panel Workshop, Italy
2022 – 22 / 27 November	European Show in Verona, Italy
2023 - August	European Judging school, Latvia