



## Council

President, Egbert Feddersen, informed Council that, due to pressure of work, he would retire at the 2012 General Assembly. Council elected Matthew Shaffer as President and Jos Buiting as Vice President. Matthew becomes the first President from the southern hemisphere, and the youngest to hold office

The success of the past 4 years was reflected in the re-election of all existing councillors to represent their regions.

Front Row: David Hewitt (Secretary General) Liliana Chazo, Matthew Shaffer, Jos Buiting.

Middle Row: Denis Bieri, Hironoroi Otomo, Ann Louise Carson, Egbert Feddersen,

Back Row: John M Meyer, Giorgio Burchiellaro, Keld Christensen.

At the conclusion of the last General Assembly, in 2008, Council set out a bold strategic vision to increase the activities and industry awareness of WHFF. This concluded in 2012, with 3 Council meetings, The World Conference, General Assembly and International Classifiers workshop. Refreshingly, during the past four years WHFF has achieved most of its aims, as it continues to globally promote Holsteins and assist Herdbook Associations in the administration and development of the breed.

## General Assembly

Representatives from 31 countries attended the meeting and unanimously endorsed all Councils recommendations. A summary of the key decisions follows:

## Type Harmonisation

- To focus on the improvement of the following traits: foot angle, rear legs rear view, locomotion and angularity.
- Faster implementation of WHFF defined traits.
- Aim to improve correlations between countries.
- Approval of the multi lingual Virtual Cow training program in the member's section of the web.
- Continue the programme of Head Classifier workshops and investigate further the computer programs that associate linear scores with final class.

## Type Harmonisation Workshop Attendees



## Electronic Data Exchange

- Rapid changes in the requirements of Holstein Associations had prompted the group to reassess the terms and to put on hold the original project.
- Member countries to be consulted via a web survey on their future.
- The Requirements for Electronic Data Exchange.

### **Registration Working Group**

- Genetic recessive information: To develop the WHFF web site and collate the latest information, communicating to members and the industry in general.
- Continue to standardise codes for recessive genes.
- Lobby ISAG to define and recommend a SNP panel for Parentage identification. (This has now been approved and introduced information on Web site).
- Review the genetic defect reporting procedures.
- Define polled testing codes. (Updated on Web site).

### **Genomics and Fertility**

Reports of WHFF activity in these important subjects were presented and approved. The Fertility Literature Review and the survey of members will be available on the WHFF website in the New Year. WHFF would continue to monitor and review these important subjects and communicate information to members.

### **Membership**

The expansion and development of WHFF activities and the assistance it provides to Herdbook Associations was reflected in the increase in membership as WHFF welcomed 10 new members to the federation: Costa Rica, Latvia, Croatia, South Korea, swissherdbook, Romania, Uganda, Ecuador, Uruguay and Serbia. The General Assembly approved the 2012-16 budgets, which included changes to fees. WHFF, since the last General Assembly, had been discounting the membership fee by 25% per animal, but due to increased activity and investment, combined with inflation the per animal fee would return to the €0.004 per registered Holstein, with a minimum fee of €300 per annum.

### **Invitation to 2016 World Conference**

The President of the Argentina Holstein Association (ACHA), Juan Jose Ysrraelit, extended an open invitation to all Holstein enthusiasts to visit Argentina and attend the 2016 World Conference. His invitation was accompanied by a video highlighting the quality of the environment, its sporting activities and an open invitation to the next Holstein Conference.

### **2012 World Conference Symposium**

The future is an unknown frontier, which impacts on all organisations, and in many ways was the theme of the World Conference 'Holsteins Today for a Better Tomorrow.' A diverse range of topics including genomics, welfare, farm succession, and the role of Herdbook Associations, captured the attention of over 500 delegates from 43 countries. Our sincere thanks go to Holstein Canada for organising and administering such a tremendous event. Full details are available on the WHFF web site. <http://www.whff.info> .



### **WHFF Working Groups**

One of the important aspects of WHFF is the Working Group structure. The following details provide a background and an insight into their work and how information is communicated and introduced into practical use.

## 2012 Type Working Group



Members: -

Uehara Tomoichiro (Japan), G Blanco (Spain) J Connor (USA). S Rensing (Germany scientific adviser), A Hamoen (Netherlands chairman) T Byers (Canada) Corrado Zilocchi (Italy)  
Member not present, J Gribbon (UK).

The technical advancements in communications and genomic evaluations are making the requirement for standardised data collection essential. WHFF has always subscribed to this view and part of its investment in the development of the Holstein breed has always been active in developing global harmonisation programs. The most notable has been type harmonisation, which is now established as the benchmark for international linear type assessment for all dairy breeds, and an integral part of sire type indexes.

WHFF will continue to arrange workshops and provide statistical information to ensure head classifiers are well informed of the developments and the requirements of linear assessment to improve the quality of the service. This is an important part of developing genomic indexes for specific type traits, as the requirement for phenotypes is one of the key elements.

Head classifiers discuss the assessment of individual traits at the 2012 workshop



## The Future

WHFF continues to evolve with the aims of the global Holstein breed, together with the requirements of the international dairy industry at its heart. The next 4 years will bring new challenges for council to ensure WHFF continues its important role on behalf of the Holstein breed and Herdbook Associations. The council looks forward to helping its members achieve their goals.

Further details of the 2012 WHFF World Conference and General Assembly together with information on all of WHFF activities is available on the WHFF website.

Website: [www.whff.info](http://www.whff.info)



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