

2016 will be remembered for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Holstein Friesian Federation Conference and General Assembly in Buenos Aires, Argentina. WHFF is continuing to promote itself Internationally, gaining more International relevance and respect through involvement in INTERBULL, GENOEX and ICAR. The WHFF Working Groups continue to provide good work that is communicated to the wider Industry, promoting better animal identification, health and welfare.

## **WHFF conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina**

The beautiful city of Buenos Aires in Argentina was the venue for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Holstein Friesian Federation conference from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016. Our hosts were Asociación Criadores de Holando Argentina (ACHA) and the venue was in the Rural Centre, a short coach ride from the hotels. In the days before the conference, there was a successful classifiers workshop, an extensive youth program and farm visits.

The conference theme was 'Imaginemos el Futuro' – 'Lets Imagine the Future'. The themes included Genomics, What defines a Useful Cow, Production Efficiency and What is the Future for Dairy Businesses. The range of speakers and subjects was extensive. 498 delegates, of whom 223 were international delegates, joined the conference from 31 member countries.

After the conference were the Argentinian Expo Lechera and Dairy Expo 2016 Show. The Dairy Expo 2016 show was judged by Horacio Barberis, who judged the Champion of Dairy Expo 2016 to be SAN SATURIO SHEILA CHELIOS from La Sorianita II Fernando Martínez e Hijos.



A very special thanks to Liliana Chazo, Guillermo Miretti (ACHA president), and the organising

committee chaired by Maximo Russ for ensuring that everything ran so well.



## **Changes in your WHFF Council**

At the General Assembly there were some changes to the WHFF Council. We said goodbye and thanks to Matthew Shaffer (President for the past four years), Keld Christensen and Liliana Chazo, for all their hard work and enthusiasm.



Replacing them are Felipe Ruiz (Mexico), Laszlo Bognar (Hungary) and Cherilyn Watson (New Zealand), and we sincerely welcome them to the WHFF Council.

Your new President is Jos Buiting (Netherlands) and new Vice President is Ann Louise Carson (Canada). The full Council can be viewed on the WHFF web site.



### **WHFF General Secretary**

At the General Assembly David Hewitt retired from the Secretary General position. He has been succeeded by Suzanne Harding, the current EHRC Secretary General. The Council wish to thank David once more for all the hard work he has put into WHFF during the past eight years.



### **Next World Conference**

The 15<sup>th</sup> WHFF Conference and General Assembly will be held in Montreux, Switzerland in March 2020. Pascal Monteleone, Swiss chair of the organising committee, introduced a video demonstrating the possibilities of a conference in Switzerland. Please put the date in your diary; there will be more information as the Conference date draws nearer.

### **WHFF Working Groups**

Working Groups have been key factors in the historic success of WHFF. WHFF has been fortunate to have extremely active group membership complimented by excellent and hard working chairpersons to ensure all tasks are completed.

The 2016 General Assembly brings to an end the chairmanship of Arie Hamoen, Chair of the Type Harmonisation Working Group, as he retires from his position. WHFF and its members are indebted to Arie for the work he has completed on their behalf and may we all wish him continued success for the future in his retirement. Arie has been succeeded by Gabriel Blanco, of CONAFE, Spain.

The Registration Working Group, under the Chair of Linda Markle is developing a new standard for the nomenclature of genetic traits. Once finalised, this will be communicated to all WHFF members as well as the international scientific community.

The final version of the WHFF Showing Rules are now available on the WHFF web site. The new Showing Rules have been developed to address issues relating to consumer confidence and animal welfare.

### **INTERBULL GENOEX Parentage SNP Exchange**

The GENOEX-PSE database is still on track for launch at ICAR in October 2016. More information will be sent out later this year as it becomes available.

### **Members Section of the WHFF web site**

The contact details of the Type Harmonisation and the Registration Working groups are now available in the members section of the web site.

Please take a moment to check that we have your current Holstein Champion on the website – if not please email a picture and details to the Secretary General.



Contact Details

Email: [worldholstein@gmail.com](mailto:worldholstein@gmail.com)

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