

# WORLD BUDGERIGAR ORGANISATION

Minutes of the sixteenth meeting of the WORLD BUDGERIGAR ORGANISATION held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2009 in Lido de Jesolo, Italy; commencing at 14.30 hrs.

## **Present:**

Gerd Bleicher	Chairman	
Roger Carr	Immediate Past Chairman	
Ghalib Al-Nasser	Secretary/Treasurer	
Salvatore Cirmi	President of C.O.M.	
Canada	Al Consiglio	
Eire	Terry Knott	
France	Pierre Channoy	
Germany	Gerd Bleicher	
Holland	Cor Booster	
Italy	Alessandro Bernabei	Luisa Ballerini
Portugal	Carlos Ramôa	
Sweden	Björn Johansson	Leif Lindbergh
United Kingdom	Gren Norris	

## 1. **Chairman's Opening Remarks**

The Chairman, G. Bleicher, welcomed delegates to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the WBO held in Jesolo, Italy. He specially welcomed Sig. Salvatore Cirmi, President of the Confederation Ornithologique Mondiale (COM) and said that the WBO has built up a good relationship with COM as many of our member countries are also members of COM. He said that it is his privilege to ask Sig. Cirmi to officially open this meeting.

Sig. Cirmi welcomed all delegates to Italy and said that the role of COM is to have the same goal as the WBO and we are working together to have the same Standard and hope that we can come back again to Piacenza in the future in his home town. He made presentations to the members of the WBO Executive Committee and declared the meeting open.

The Chairman again thanked the organisers for this meeting, for making us so welcome and for the wonderful presentations they made to all the delegates and partners. He made special welcome to all who attended and to Pierre Channoy from France who is attending for the first time.

The Chairman commented that there are delegates from nine countries present at this meeting which is within our rules to make decisions and asked delegates to come forward with all their ideas.

## 2. **Apologies for Absence**

The Secretary, G. Al-Nasser, informed the meeting that he had received apologies for absence from Carl Slavin (Vice Chairman) who was attending their Canadian National. He also informed the meeting that Herman Van Thielen (Belgium) had booked his flights and hotel but on Wednesday he suffered a mild heart attack and was taken to hospital. He had phoned him this morning and wanted to relay his best wishes to the delegates. Apologies were received from Australia, Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Republic of Ireland (BSI), Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, United Kingdom (NIBZFFBS) & USA.

## 3. **Arrangements for the Meeting**

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Club AMICI who is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is hosting this meeting and they will pay for the cost of the room as well as all refreshments during the meeting. There is a get

together organised for the evening and he hoped that many delegates will attend with COM officials. Judging will commence at 09.00 hrs on Saturday morning and there will be an official opening ceremony by the Mayor at 10.00 hrs. He urged delegates to attend the show at that time. The boat trip to Venice will be at 13.00 hrs and the special evening meal at 20.30 hrs. with the cost payable by delegates. On the Sunday morning Cor Booster will be presenting a power point presentation and urged delegates to attend.

#### 4. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2008**

These minutes were circulated on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008 to all delegates and society officials. The Chairman thanked the Secretary for producing the Minutes while still trying to participate in the meeting. There were no comments made about the Minutes.

It was proposed by G. Norris, seconded by T. Knott that the Minutes of the last meeting be approved as a true record. The delegates, who were present at the last meeting, unanimously approved the motion.

#### 5. **Matters arising**

There was one matter arising from the previous Minutes and the Secretary informed the meeting that BGC (Belgium) did not come back with a firm proposal for a Rule Change (Item 9 of the last Minutes). He further read out a fax from Mr. Thielen saying that his society will not be issuing a Rule Change and thanked delegates for their support last year. They have resolved their internal problems and their Chairman has now resigned.

#### 6. **WBO Pictorial Ideal & Colour Standards**

The Secretary informed the meeting that this item has been included on the agenda and for future meetings in accordance with the request from last year's meeting. Both Germany (DSV) and Denmark (DUK) have accepted the WBO Ideal as their Ideal since the last meeting.

He also informed the meeting that C.O.M. has adopted our own Colour Standards and Pictorial Ideal for itself thanks mainly to Carlos Ramôa's influence, who is also the Assistant Secretary of C.O.M.

#### 7. **Judging Methods**

The Chairman said that he included this item on the agenda as it is good to have knowledge of how other countries run their method of judging. He said that he judged in many countries around the world and has seen different methods in different countries and if we share the information this can be of help.

**Germany** G. Bleicher said that we have two societies that judge differently. In his society the DSV we judge down to seven plus extra information for the quality. Some area societies use a kind of grading, for each bird and that is on the placing cage label. For example we tick the box for v – excellent (91-100 points), sg – very good (86-90 points), g – good (81-85 points), b – satisfactory (76-80 points) and “without predicate” for birds up to 75 points. At the DSV National show we have a "Quality Limit", which is defined at 85 points. An exhibit with 85+ points is marked as "quality" and can compete for specials. This is to encourage exhibitors to enter only birds of a minimum level of quality.

In the VZE society (the old East German organisation) they have the points system and give points from above to below 90 and have “quality” grading points. For 90 and above it is excellent then another group between 85-89 points and below 85 points. So the ranking is one class is documented by the points allocated. Even in one country we have two different systems.

**Sweden** B. Johansson said that they judge by comparison and not on the points system. However, for judging the sections they can bring back birds that were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in the class because of their quality. The points system was dropped in the late 1970's. This means that they can bring back birds that are not class winners.

They judge for the major awards (Best in Show, Best Any Age, best Any Age opposite Sex, Best young Bird and Best young Bird Opposite Sex) as per usual but also judge for 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> best in each section.

**Canada** A. Consiglio said that they use a similar method to Sweden by judging for old and young in cocks and hens and then bring back for the best 10. They also use the open judging system with fanciers watching the judging, as this helps them to understand the judges' placing.

**Great Britain** G. Norris said that they judge by the comparison system and judge each class down to 7<sup>th</sup> place. At championship shows there are "Best of Colour" awards, "Major Specials" and then "Section Awards". They have 5 status' (champion, intermediate, novice, beginner and junior) and with any age and young bird in cocks and hens; a colour group will have 20 classes to cover above.

This year The Budgerigar Society introduced Major Faults section where a bird with one major fault can still win but if it had two major faults it cannot win a special. As from 2012 it cannot win a major special with one major fault. The six major faults are flecking, opalescence, spots, primary flights, tail feathers and deformity. This is to eradicate birds with faults winning major awards.

**Eire** T. Knott said that they use the same system as the Budgerigar Society and use the colour spots for the Best of Colours and then the major awards.

**France** P. Channoy said that they have two different systems in France. The comparison system used by the AFO organisation (a budgerigar only organisation) with colour groups, section winners and major specials and their major annual show can attract up to 1200 birds. His society the UOF which is affiliated to COM uses the points system but they have changed the system this year. In the past the young bird was for two years like the COM system but as from this year the young bird is for only one current year. They also have pairs at the shows as well.

Birds with higher points are kept behind to the end to judge for Best in Show if there is such an award. They keep a maximum at 91 points then they can increase for the BIS award. UOF shows attract about 200 budgies and the points marking can be either detailed or just a final figure.

**Italy** A. Bernabei said that they judge either from 1-5 or 1 – 7 in each class then get the major winners from those class winners. They have specialist shows and club show. At the national level only they use the points detailed system with a maximum of 94 points for the best and 80 points for the worst. Birds with below 75 points are not suitable for judging and are marked "NG". This is a very limited field to allocate the points but the system works well.

The points system is more detailed and the exhibitor can see where the points were taken off while you cannot see that very clearly in the comparison system.

**Portugal** C. Ramôa said that they do not have great experience in judging budgerigars as many cage bird shows have few budgies only. They judge on the points system as per COM, with each bird having its own card with points allocated for each category. The points range from 75 – 94. The specialist shows within the SPO are judged by the comparison method but they will adopt the DSV method this year.

Winning a class of birds does not tell the breeder much about how good or bad his bird is but if you have comments then it gives the exhibitor an impression of the quality of his bird.

At COM shows, judging is over 2 days as you can only judge 120 birds per day. If judging by comparison then one needs to compare the bird with the standard rather than with other birds. The greatest advantage with the points system is that it gives the breeder guidance as to the quality of his birds but the disadvantage is, of course, the time factor in 2 days judging. Also in COM system they only have 2-year young bird classes. If a few birds have 93 points then judges need to compromise and give one bird an extra point to make it 94 points and BIS but they must all agree to that. There are minimum points to get the gold, silver or bronze medals so

each colour can have these medals for the BOC and they do not come against each other under the COM system.

The points system with the marked card tells the exhibitor the weakness of the bird in each particular category and the exhibitor does not have to come to the show as the points card is his guidance. In G.B. exhibitors come to the show with their birds and most stay behind and steward and so see how their birds have done.

**Holland** C. Booster said that they run their shows under the comparison system and judge down to 7<sup>th</sup> place in each class. They have the Scale of Points to assist judges to place the birds in the class. Like the B.S. they also have the 5 major specials. They also give the grading like the German system; very good, good etc. All shows are for one day, but next year they will have 2-day shows with judging on the Saturday and open to the public on the Sunday.

R. Carr could not see that the WBO could standardise the judging system but each country can adopt the system that suits it best.

The Chairman, in his concluding comments, said that you can see how different judging methods are from one country to another. We need to accept these methods and when you judge in another country then you need to adopt their method. We also need to run shows to please the exhibitors but economics also have a major factor on how to run shows. He thanked the delegates for their valuable contribution on this subject.

A. Bernabei said that we need to ask other countries for their method of judging, age of birds and classification structure and proposed that a Questionnaire be sent out to all affiliated societies requesting this information. C. Ramôa seconded the proposition and it was passed by a large majority.

#### 8. **Accounts**

The audited accounts for 2008, circulated to members on 30<sup>th</sup> April, were approved unanimously on a proposition by C. Ramôa and seconded by B. Johansson. The accounts showed an excess of income over expenditure of **£571.28**.

L. Lindbergh asked why the accounts are not presented in euro which is the currency of most European member countries.

The Chairman explained that the accounts are presented in the currency of the country of residence of the WBO Treasurer.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that the bank account as of 5<sup>th</sup> October stood at **£2774.74**. Outstanding expenses to be paid are those of the officials attending this meeting and secretarial expenses.

The Chairman and Secretary/Treasurer recommended that subscription rates for the year 2010/2011 remain the same as this year as outlined below:

<b><u>Number of Members</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Fee (£)</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Votes</u></b>
5000 or above	350	10
3000 to 4999	290	8
1000 to 2999	180	6
500 to 999	95	4
Less than 500	35	2

It was agreed unanimously to keep the same subscription rates as outlined above.

#### 9. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary, G. Al-Nasser, read out his report: "Since our last meeting in Mönchengladbach, Germany last

October I have communicated with all delegates by email seven times (3<sup>rd</sup> November 2008, 30<sup>th</sup> April, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 9<sup>th</sup> August, 20<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2009). All those communications were also sent, via the Internet, to officials of societies. I also communicate with many delegates by telephone or email throughout the year when necessary. I would like to express my thanks to our Chairman Gerd Bleicher for translating many of the above communications into German, which enabled me to forward them to the German speaking societies.

Since the last meeting, I am very pleased to announce that 3 new societies have joined our ranks and they are Exhibition Budgerigar Society (Ireland), Northern Ireland Budgerigar, Zebra Finch & Foreign Bird Society and only recently a small but enthusiastic group of budgerigar fanciers in Spain (Asociación Nacional de Criadores de Periquitos [National Budgerigar Breeder Society of Spain]). We have now 34 affiliated societies based in 25 countries around the 6 continents. Unfortunately I have not heard from the small group of budgerigar enthusiasts in Argentina for over a year and they have not paid their 2009 affiliation fee and so take it that their membership has ceased. Through my contacts and with the help of Carlos Ramôa we are trying to get more countries enrolled in Latin America.

I was able to obtain two research articles from Don Burke on Sick Budgie Breakthrough, sent to me by the NSW, Australia, and a second article from Dr. John Baker on Diarrhoea in Budgerigars supplied by The Budgerigar Society of G.B. Again I appeal to all delegates to send me articles that are published in their national magazines so that I can forward them to all member organisations.

The WBO website is constantly being updated and currently the Rosette Winners file is being updated with names and photos of winners.

It is never easy being in a high position and I am sure that all of you have experienced difficulties on numerous occasions. Twice this year I have had to deal with difficult situations due to my reluctance in bending the Judges criteria of our organisation which resulted in people using the internet and the press to attack me and the WBO. I suppose it is all part of the job!

My usual appeal is for you all to co-operate with me by supplying me with the information that I request”.

**Rule Change** – The Secretary referred the delegates to his communication dated 21<sup>st</sup> August 2009 informing them about the results of the ballot for Rule change (Rule 3.vi) with regard to **Membership**. He informed the meeting of the outcome of the vote:

**18** societies with a total of **28** votes were **FOR** the proposed Rule change (88% of the cast vote)

**2** societies with a total of **4** votes were **AGAINST** the proposed Rule change (13% of the cast vote)

**13** societies with **26** votes did not cast their vote

The proposal managed to attract the necessary 65% majority of the casting vote and therefore according to our Constitution (7.iv), this means that the new Rule (3.vi) will be added to the Constitution and be effective immediately.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary for all his work since the last meeting.

The Secretary advised the meeting that he had received a letter from The Budgerigar Society (G.B.) dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 questioning the Rules appertaining to Membership (Rule 3), Representation (Rule 4) and Voting Powers (Rule 5) and he felt that there is merit in that letter and asked the delegates to give authority to the Executive Committee to look at those Rules and any others and come forward with any necessary proposals early in the New Year to be voted upon.

The delegates gave authority to the Executive Committee to do so.

#### 10. **WBO International Judges Panel**

The Secretary read out a letter that he had received from the Budgerigar Society of Ireland (formerly Eire B.S.)

dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2009 proposing an additional wording to criteria (c) of the current WBO International Judges Panel criteria. The proposed new wordings (shown in bold & italic) is as follows:

“apply in writing to their National Society (or the society in which they qualified) to be placed on the list. The National Society will then be responsible for checking their qualifications and, if eligible, *place a copy of the candidates “Certificate of Judging Qualification”* with the Secretary of the WBO. *The Certificate should state the Candidates name, when and where their final test was taken, and the testing official’s name. A copy of these qualifications would be made available to WBO affiliated societies upon written request through the WBO secretary*”.

G. Norris said that this is fine if a society has its own system of getting judges on their list, but do we know the degree of competence that the society has supplied the certificates, or is their standard similar to other standards? What is adequate in one country may not be adequate in another country. We have already agreed today that we judge differently so we cannot have the same standard. We are a world organisation and we cannot have common standards.

C. Booster asked what a “Certificate” means? It does not tell the competence of the judge. Judges are scrutinised by exhibitors and not certificates. We have a proper procedure and also visit many other European countries.

G. Bleicher said that we have a criteria which we set some years ago and it worked well for us over the years. What the BSI is asking for is a bureaucracy level in supplying documentation. Do we need to build up data on judges?

A. Consiglio said that we do not have a test in Canada so how can one get a certificate and become a qualified judge?

L. Lindbergh said that we should not put more bureaucracy in the WBO.

C. Ramôa said that we must decide on what we want from the WBO Judges Panel list? Is it just a list of those judges who have been qualified for 5 years and more or does it mean that the judge is an “International Judge”? We have in Portugal a 2 years trainee judge then 5 years later to be added on the WBO list. We must implement a test set by the WBO to have the WBO Judges Panel.

B. Johansson said that if countries send names that do not qualify then the Secretary can go back to them for further information.

G. Al-Nasser said that he is in a fortunate position in knowing fanciers in most countries and also their Judges’ Panel. On two occasions this year he had to turn down requests from societies to include certain fanciers in their countries on the WBO Judges Panel because they do not satisfy the WBO criteria; so he is constantly vigilant regarding such requests.

The Chairman asked for a vote but no one supported the proposition.

P. Channoy asked for information to be provided at the next meeting in Portugal on “How to become a Judge and Judging Test”. This was agreed to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

#### 11. Gould award

The Secretary read out an email sent to him on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 by Carl Slavin (Canada) with a joint proposition from him and Ian Bleasdale (South Africa) requesting that a committee be set up to establish the criteria for a WBO Honorary Award to be known as the “**Gould Award**”.

The Secretary read out the WBO Rule 2.vi. (*To reward any work of outstanding merit with prizes or other marks of recognition*) and suggested that the current Standards Committee (Executive Committee plus Gren

Norris & Lars Voss) look at this proposal as well when they meet to review the Colour Standards again.

The meeting agreed to this suggestion.

## 12. Delegates Update

The Chairman asked for updates and delegates gave comments as follows:

**Holland** C. Booster said that we have a new judge who passed his test this year. There is a meeting in 2 weeks time of the Technical Committee with 2 qualified judges, one of which is already on the WBO Panel under another country and the other judge is from a different organisation who has been a judge for more than 5 years.

**Portugal** C. Ramôa said that we have a special year in 2010 when we stage the World Show in January and the WBO meeting in October. We are making progress even though at times it is slow.

**Italy** A. Bernabei said that all judges of Club AMICI are also judges of his national organisation FOI and they are more general judges who can also judge parakeets.

**France** P. Channoy said that we have a French Standard of budgerigars and as COM has accepted the WBO Standard we need to translate the WBO Standard into French. The French organisation AFO (budgerigar only society) would like to come back as a member but because of language they only have one person who speaks English and although he is on their national committee he lives in Belgium. Under the current WBO Rules he cannot be their delegate. He felt that under the European Community with no borders we should be more relaxed this rule.

It was pointed out that this rule change was put forward only 2 years ago and was defeated.

**Sweden** B. Johansson said that we have 2 societies currently in a small country due to politics and personalities but as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 our society SUH will have had their AGM and approved forming an amalgamation with the other society SUK.

**Canada** A. Consiglio said that we have 2 major budgerigar clubs in the whole country, one in central Canada in Ontario and one in the west in British Columbia. Each is trying to get new members but need quality budgerigars. Next year we have the winter Olympics in Vancouver.

**Eire** T. Knott said that the old society changed its name and a new society was formed in February by the name of E.B.S. (Ireland) which has done well so far with a spring and annual show.

**U.K.** G. Norris said that, as from next year, the General Council will be reduced from 22 to 14 after a rule change was passed in May. A new Colour Standards was published in January and the society will be holding a Convention next summer on 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> June in Southport. Also the B.S. are organising a spring event in April 2011.

## 13. Nominations for Chairman

The two-year term of office of the current Chairman ends on 31.3.2010. Under the Constitution, nominations for this position should be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by 31.12.2009 so that if there is more than one candidate and no meeting is scheduled before 31.3.2010, a postal ballot can be held.

The Secretary informed the meeting that the Chairman intends to stand again for re-election and under the Constitution his name will be added to the ballot automatically if another nomination is put forward.

## 14. Date & Venue of next Meeting

The Secretary informed the meeting that the next WBO meeting would be held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in Portugal in **Póvoa de Varzim** near Porto by invitation of the club SPO. The 2011 meeting will be held in Australia in **Canberra**, the country's capital, to coincide with the Australian National in May. The WBO meeting to be held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

C. Ramôa gave out a leaflet of the programme of events for Portugal and more details will be sent out to delegates during next year.

The Secretary then read out a letter that he had received from the Budgerigar Society of Pakistan (BSP) inviting the WBO to host the meeting in 2015 to coincide with their 10<sup>th</sup> annual show.

After discussion it was agreed that a suitable letter be sent to the society thanking them for the invitation and pointing out that it is very premature to reach a decision today but will bring it up again in 2012 and pointing out that their society is one of the last societies to join and that there are many other countries in front to be considered.

15. **Any Other Business**

There were no relevant matters notified to the Secretary prior to the meeting.

C. Booster requested from C. Ramôa (official of C.O.M.) to raise the matter at the next C.O.M. meeting that the national Holland-COM accepts his budgerigar society NGC-DBS to affiliate so that they can exhibit at C.O.M. International Shows recognising the NGC-DBS rings.

The Chairman, in concluding the meeting, thanked the delegates for their positive contribution and said that he had a good feeling that we had a very good atmosphere and hoped that we all enjoy the show and the friendly relationship with the Italian fanciers.

Meeting closed at 19.00 hrs.