



**Minutes of International Meeting for New Forest Stud Books 9th - 10th July 2011, Saarioismaja, Tarttila**

**Present:** Representatives from the studbooks of UK, Belgium, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway and Finland

**Apologies:** North America and Germany

**Chairman:** Mr Håkan Wahlman, representative of Finnish Hippos

**1. Opening and Welcome**

Mr Håkan Wahlman opened the meeting with some welcoming words

**2. A general discussion on the breed in each of the daughter studbook countries**

**Sweden:** new registration organization and EU-legislation has kept them busy

**France:** no change in the number of ponies, NF are well represented in the competitions and often on the podium

**Belgium:** some rules have to be changes because the legislation has changed. Some new rules for the performance test for stallions as some rules weren't clear

**Norway:** eight licensed stallions and 10-15 foals are born yearly, some import, some changes in performance test for stallions and mares, some good performance ponies

**Netherlands:** government has to be notified of the inbred rates, new registrations to online service should be ready this year, once online all will have access to register

**Denmark:** NF doing well on the showground as well as competitions, only about 70 foals this year, no changes in rules/registration.

**UK:** adults can compete in basically any competition, NF have won on a regular basis, this is good promotion for the breed, a whole new market for small adults who perhaps can't afford a horse.

Market for ponies has gone down to a half, breeding in the forest has been limited and now stallions are out only for a month.

Studbook online for all members of the society (if some daughter studbook still hasn't received their password please ask for them).

Registrations have dropped to a half which is good since now breeders are only trying to breed the best, ordinary ponies are not easy to sell.



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The ponies are very strong and they can carry heavy weight successfully.

Sweden is changing the age limit of pony riders from 18 to 16,

**Finland:** changes in breeding rules, registration system will be changed and different levels (C1, C2, C3 and X-register) will be adopted

Small adults have started to buy NF ponies for the whole family.

Hoping to have open classes (for adults) for ponies on national level

### 3. Different types of passports

Decision made that Mother studbook will gather from every country a copy and a description of the passport

A lot of differences between the countries in what is marked in passport

**Denmark:** A pony with too many white marks can be fully registered but not graded. Owner certificate separate from the passport

**Netherlands:** Passport is purely for identification not for registration

**Finland:** Hippos takes care of the registration, if they feel something is unclear they either ask from the society or directly from mother studbook

**UK:** different colors for pure bred and cross bred and one more for identity only

**France:** three types of passports A, B and OC

**Norway:** two different passports, red front page for the main studbook and white for the X-register

### 4. How a safe registration can be made when ponies are exported from one country to another.

**Denmark:** asked for a list of addresses and contact details of all the daughter studbooks where they can ask about registrations issues

**UK:** not so many ponies are imported, when it happens they contact the daughter studbook

**Belgium:** when a pony is imported passports come directly to the studbook and they check that everything is ok

**France:** Les Haras Nationaux (through Sire) manage the imports in partnership with 'l'Association Française du Poney New Forest' (French New Forest Pony Association). The procedures for importing ponies (among others) are described on the French New Forest website. ([www.asso-newforest.com/](http://www.asso-newforest.com/)) *Currently these are only in French, but will be translated in the future.*



## **5. Updating of the list of International Judges from all countries**

Decision made that daughter studbooks will send an updated list to the mother studbook and then they will comprise an updated list of international judges and send it to all countries and publish it on the website

NA: don't have any international judges

UK: dealt a list to all participants, all judges on the list can judge all breeds, most likely one more judge will be added

## **6. Does Mother Studbook require that the stallion election is made by judges approved by the Mother Studbook?**

UK: mother studbook doesn't feel they are an authority to make decisions in this kind of a matter as long as the rules they set are followed

Every country has to breed the kind of pony that can be sold in the particular market

Breed needs to adapt and move forward, but at the end of the day, the ponies need to be recognized as NF-ponies

Mother studbook tries to invite judges from abroad to judge at their breed show and they hope that will lead to some kind of a standard in type

France: There is always an international judge from the NFB&CS for the stallion approval

## **7. The definition of 'white spots'.**

France: white spots are only accepted if they are due to accident or injury such as scarring

In France they have made a study about colors and it will be distributed with the minutes

UK: if they are registered correctly as a foal and a white spot appears later on a vet should decide how that mark has appeared

## **8. Comparability of the stallion performance test between countries.**

All countries offer a possibility for the test but some countries have it mandatory

Norway: new rules for performance test will be attached to the minutes

Sweden: 3-year-old stallions have a short test, they are back when they are 5 for 2 weekends, if they prove themselves later on they can then be licensed

Denmark: A four week test in one place, ridden by riding master, points are given during their stay for temperament and behavior, minimum of 700 points to pass. If not qualified, offspring up till the time of the



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test are accepted. A more detailed description of the stallion performance test will be attached to the minutes.

**Netherlands:** mandatory test, 3 days including jumping, dressage, cross country and veterinary check

Offspring of a stallion that hasn't done the test will go to F-register

A stallion has 2 years to perform the tests, otherwise pony goes to F-register

Stallions are measured yearly until they are seven

**Belgium:** quite same as in Holland, if rejected may redo the test in a year

**UK:** Test is voluntary with jumping and dressage to required level

Ponies are getting bigger, in UK ponies are measured at five and if they are close to upper limit they only get a license for one year.

UK suggested that if stallions prove their talent later on they could still be accepted. It is not the ponies fault, if owners haven't had the money or taken the effort to train them

**France:**

In France all stallions will need to perform a test.

For stallions born in France: they will need to do tests for jumping, dressage and temperament. If the temperament is bad, the pony will be refused. This is regardless of the marks in the other tests. Ponies with bad temperament will receive bad points and bad remarks are given.

Imported New Forest stallions will also need to perform the test. The pony will be rated and remarks (good/bad) will be given as well. The pony will never be refused because it was accepted already by the other studbook.

The imported stallions will need to be judged within the first year of arrival.

Stallions can try three times, because stallions can be presented already as a two-year old and they can improve in all areas later.

France proposed that all countries would start to keep notes why a stallion was rejected so that when that pony is going to another country to be graded that can help in the decision making

Ponies are getting bigger, in UK ponies are measured at five and if they are close to upper limit they only get a license for one year.

In France the stallions are measured by a stallion agreement commission. When they are inside the limits, they are accepted for life. When they are bigger than the upper limit, they are rejected.

**Netherlands:** stallions are measured until they are seven

**Finland:** At the moment a basic riding test with own rider is required but the actual performance test is voluntary but as our breeding rules in general are changing next year we don't know yet how the stallions will be tested in the future.



### **9. Can stallions with torsions in testicles be accepted to the studbook?**

It was decided that all countries should talk within their society and vets and then come back to mother studbook and they can decide if the rule should be changed

**Netherlands:** They have kept to UK rules, but the public opinion has changed and other breeds don't have this rule

**France:** In France, all candidate stallions have a veterinarian file. When the genitals are not compliant then the pony will be excluded by the horse commission. France wants to keep the rules as they are now.

**UK:** it has not been proven that it is hereditary, a two or three year old with one torsion can have a year's limited license and can be normal later

In lot of times torsions correct themselves but if on both testicles stallion is rejected

### **10. Golden Wonder: interpretation of the agreement**

It was agreed in original agreement that ponies over 6,25% GW were NF-ponies ONLY in Holland and not recognized anywhere else but the ponies have been sold to other countries as NF-ponies.

Ponies with over 6,25% GW should have a register of their own so that they can compete against the pure bred ponies.

**Netherlands:** Have interpreted the rule differently, and believed that after 2012 only the end result (foal) needs to be 6,25% GW not the mares. Most of their mares are 6,25%-12,25% and this rule will take out half of their population

Board of Netherlands can give a proposal to NFB&CS board on how to proceed, but all UK board promises is to discuss it

**UK:** On 31 December 2012 the issue needs to be closed, after that anything over 6,25% GW is no longer to breed into the studbook. Anything under 6,25% GW will no longer be marked in the passport, as they are now and will always be ok.

**France:** A foal can only be registrated in the main studbook when both parents have  $\leq 6,25\%$  GW. There is no possibility to combine 0% with 12,5% to obtain a New Forest with 6,25% GW. That pony will not be accepted in the main studbook.

UK suggested that the ponies with over 6,25GW% should have their own register so that they can breed sport ponies but not NF-ponies and compete normally against pure bred NF-ponies



### **11. Different life/ UELN-numbers for ponies registered in different countries**

**NA:** don't have UELN-numbers yet

**Belgium:** has a problem with ponies that come from Germany as they have changed the name and life numbers of the ponies

**UK:** make sure that original UELN number is used if ponies are imported

### **12. Duplicate of a passport**

**Belgium:** the rule has changed and now the duplicate may not be sent straight to owner but to the local division of the federal agency of the food safety (FAVV). The addresses of these local divisions aren't published on the internet yet, so if needed you can contact the studbook so that they can send the passport to the correct address.

### **13. Questions concerning Finland's new breeding guidelines**

**Finland:** Mother Studbook in England requires stallions to receive a minimum of 70% of grading points in order to be licensed. In Finland we are not able to affect the way the judges grade NF-ponies and we fear that the 70% limit is too high when we look at the points during recent years. This narrows the selection for breeders too much.

**UK:** it's up to daughter studbook to set the limit, if you are too severe the breed will die

**France:** In France there is a breeding program that enhances the mares and stallions through their production. This breeding program is completed by a Quality Breeding Charter, which is to the European standards.

### **14. Other issues**

**France:** Wild imports, are with almost as many as there are births in France. But, they have problems with eg. their passports (passport for male, but if female...; part bred but passport says pure NF; sport register for pure NF) and with the quality of the ponies. The problem comes from merchants and other persons that buy a batch of horses. The rules for chipping and identification when born are not respected.

**UK:** hopefully the problem is getting smaller and smaller now that foals are micro chipped and in UK also the older ponies are often micro chipped if they are exported

### **15. The next International meeting will take place in 2013**

Sweden said that they might be interested in hosting the conference but an email about the issue will be circulated



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**16.** France would like to translate the minutes to French in order to check the wording and they will confirm the minutes within eight days.

**17.** UK wanted to thank the hosts and Håkan Wahlman for excellent chairmanship and entertainment.

**18.** The minutes were checked and the meeting was closed on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2011 at 10.20 a.m.