Summary of the European Harmonisation and Judging Workshop Hodmezovasarrhely, Hungary 2nd and 3rd September, 2015

Following a meeting of the European Judging Panel Working Group on the 1^{st} September.

The working group was represented by Keld Christensen, John Gribbon, Arie Hamoen, Gabriel Blanco, Markus Gerber, Guido Simon and Tamás Sebők.

John Gribbon, Nico Bons, Tamas Sebok and Jaume Serrabassa were the Master Judges; Gabriel Blanco and Arie Hamoen the ring stewards.

The following countries joined the program: Hungary – as hosts country Czech Republic, Italy, United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Germany, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Turkey, Portugal, Sweden, Poland, Finland and Hungary, all together 52 participants. There were also 7 observers.

The program included a practical session, which was held at the beautiful show ground Hod-Mezogazda Co Ltd. Followed by a theoretical session back at the hotel the next morning.

Practical session:

The practical session was organised by Tamas Sebok and Zsolt Korosi, who brought a selection of the best Hungarian cows and heifers for stock judging. There were two rings active at the same time. The participants were assigned into one of two groups. Each class contained six animals. The participants were randomly assigned a group to give reasons on.

First there were two warm up groups – maiden heifers and cows, the judging was discussed by the Master Judges and the participants.

The competition started with a maiden heifer and a heifer group, followed by two second calver groups and finally a mature cow group. There was then a Championship class with the first and reserve from each class put forward.

The Championship was judged by Nico Bons, who judged the champion to be Nora HU3250607641, Breeder and Owner Palotási Mg. Zrt., Besenyszög.

Guido Simon then gave a demonstration of a new ring procedure, placing the cows from the bottom to the top.

Theoretical session:

Next morning the spreadsheet containing the scores was distributed to all participants. There were four new people to come onto the Judges Panel -Gary Hurley (Ireland), Lambert Weinburg (Germany), Mark Nutsford (UK), and Martine Lambot (Belgium). These four had passed the previous workshop in Netherlands two years ago.

To qualify at this working group, participants must have 70% correlation with the master judges and score the maximum results in reasons. Any one with middling reason score and over 70% correlation will be discussed individually by the EHRC Judges Panel Working Group.

All participants and observers were given a certificate of participation. There will be a follow up meeting of the working group to finalise the participants who qualified at this judging Panel workshop.

Conclusion:

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The workshop was a great success, the participants were asked to comment and give ideas for improvement, but most were very satisfied that the organization, hospitality and efficiency of the Hungarian organisers were very good indeed.