



EUROPEAN HOLSTEIN AND RED HOLSTEIN CONFEDERATION

Summary of the European Holstein Judges Workshop at the Montichiari Fair, Italy 17th – 19th May, 2022

The working group was represented by Torben Lund (Chair), Søren Christensen, Cord Hormann, Mark Nutsford, Thomas Ender and Tamás Sebők.

Thomas Ender (CH), Andrew Cope (UK) and Jean-Phillipe Duchange (FR) were the Master Judges for Ranking and Reasons.

The following countries joined the program: Italy – as host country, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom, all together 38 participants.

Day 1 – Dinner and Theoretical session

The first day began with a theoretical session. This comprised of an introduction by Torben Lund, regarding the format of the following day. This was followed by presentations by the Working Group on "The Everyday Cow" and "Ethic Codes". The session concluded by a welcome drink and buffet.

Day 2 - Practical session:

The following day was a practical session, held at The Montichiari Fair.

The practical session was organized by ANAFIBJ, bringing forward a selection of very good cows and heifers for the stock judging competition. Each class contained six animals. The participants had been randomly assigned a group to give reasons on.

The Working group continued the policy of a yellow / red card at the Workshop. If a participant were found to be talking during a class, they would be given a yellow card and sent out of the ring for that group. A repeat offence would result in a red card and the participant would be disqualified from that class. Fortunately, the yellow / red cards were not needed at the Workshop.

Firstly, there was a harmonization group of maiden heifers. Here no reasons were given. After the participants judged the heifers there was a discussion lead by the Master Judges.

The competition started with two first calver groups, followed by a second and third calver group and finally a mature cow group. Reasons were given for all four classes of cows.

At the end, there was a Championship class comprising of the winners from the four classes. All who scored 4 in reasons were given the opportunity to give their reasons again using the Championship cows

Following the Judging, the Breeders were presented with a commemorative Murano glass plaque by Torben Lund. In the evening there was a dinner at a very nice historical restaurant in Cremona.

Day 3 - Theoretical session:

The next morning started early with a theoretical session at the hotel.

Torben Lund summarized the previous day. Due to the small number of participants who had a correlation of 75% or more (at previous workshops each participant could withdraw the worst class from the final ranking, but as the Working Group had decided earlier this would not be the case this year, we realized we had to lower the limit for the correlation), the Working Group decided to set the limit of correlation between the Master Judges and the participants down from 75% to 65% for this workshop.

16 participants passed the workshop. The result sheets were later emailed to the participants. Torben Melbaum was the once again the best participant at the workshop.

Due to the results 4 participants will be added onto the European Judges Panel. These are

Torben Melbaum (Germany)
Thomas Hannen (Germany)
Patrick Gubelmann (Switzerland)
Marcel Egli (Switzerland)

All participants who passed the workshop were presented with a certificate. 4 Judges on the EHRC judging panel did not pass and have been taken off the list.

Conclusion:

The workshop was a great success, the participants were asked to comment and give ideas for improvement. It seemed they were very satisfied that the organization, hospitality, and efficiency of the Italian organizers was very good indeed.

The participants were asked to give an overall ranking (1 to 9) for Workshop. The feedback was: 7.2 (based on 19 responses).



A total of 38 people from 15 different European countries participated in this year workshop.