

Veterinary Wound Healing Association

"Advancing knowledge of veterinary wound healing"

President: Jacintha Wilmink

info@woumarec.nl

Secretary: Loni Loftus

loniloftus@hotmail.com

Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Michael Braun

treasurer@vwha.net



Minutes for the 2016 AGM of the Veterinary Wound Healing Association held
in Bremen during EWMA, Germany 12th May 2016

Please address any correspondence to:

VWHA Membership Secretary and Treasurer

Michael Braun: membershipsecretary@vwha.net or treasurer@vwha.net

Schülke & Mayr GmbH

Robert-Koch-Str. 2

22851 Norderstedt

1. Apologies for absence:
Loni Loftus not present. Council members present: Jacintha Wilmink, Michael Braun, Elin Skärlina, Mirja Nolff
2. Minutes of the 2015 AGM
Minutes of the 2015 AGM were not made available to members on the VWHA website, as stipulated in the VWHA constitution, but has been sent out to each member instead.
3. Matters arising from the minutes 2015
None
4. Correspondence
None
5. President's report
President's report by Jacintha Wilmink: Year 2015 – In 2015 we organized a independent VWHA symposium within EWMA Londen with the topic “the Secrets of successful wound closure”, in collaboration with CAP. Although the programme was very good, and a good amount of sponsor money was achieved, we did not manage to attract enough attendants (we only had approx. 50) to make the whole balance from a commercial point of view even. This meant that there was a considerable loss, which is fortunately supported by CAP-EWMA. Another point was that the London construction meant that all income from sponsors was invested in the VWHA-EWMA symposium, resulting in no chance for income for the VWHA, and a negative balance last year. In negotiation with CAP we have decided to organize the next Conference again as session within EWMA, like we did in Madrid. This meant that VWHA did all the organization, and CAP-EWMA only organized the official part (invitations etc.). Additionally, VWHA agreed with CAP that we would attract our own general sponsors and that these were allowed to attend the conference in Bremen, with the income for VWHA. This concept worked out well this year. A very good chance and change this year is the call for abstracts for a scientific session, which was very successful. In this way we bring research groups together and fulfill one of the main objectives of VWHA “to promote research into the scientific basis and the clinical management of wounds of whatever aetiology in the veterinary science”. We should certainly continue this! Rest of 2015 has been used to make up new agreements with CAP and to organise the Conference in Bremen. After having organised 2 practical courses in 2014, 2015 has been silent. We tried to contact potential new countries for 2016 (France and Switzerland) which was not successful. A new serious option is to organise a practical course in Equine Wound Management in Cordoba Spain next year February or March (2016 was not strategic because of the VPD programme in Spain). Our plans for 2016/17 are again to collaborate with EWMA – Amsterdam Netherlands May 2017 – Theme to be formalized and announced asap. Hopefully CAP-EWMA is satisfied with our input in their big congress, and hopefully we can keep the same agreement, which was satisfactory for VWHA. I expect that more delegates can be attracted in the Netherlands.

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6. Treasurer's report
Balance looks good (around 5000 €), income comes from membership fees and sponsors, costs are homepage (a new one, which is more expensive than last year, but much easier to update and work with in general), bank costs, liability insurance, and reimbursement of council members.
7. Election of council members and replacement of officers
None of the current council members were replaced. Stine Jacobsen (Denmark) was added to the council as vice president.
8. Scientific meeting/ courses 2016-2017
 - VWHA conference during EWMA Germany May 2016
Scientific session with 8 abstracts presented was a great success. The current format, where EWMA delegates are invited to also attend the VWHA session was a very good way to organize things, as each talk had 40-50 delegates participating (counted by the EWMA staff), and the discussion was lively.
 - Equine course and/or Small animal courses to be decided
It was decided that Jacintha Wilmink takes the lead and ask Dylan Gorvvy if he wants to remain involved. If not, Elin Skärlina and Stine Jacobsen are prepared to contribute.
 - VWHA conference during EWMA the Netherlands May 2017
Jacintha Wilmink, Michael Braun, Elin Skärlina and Stine Jacobsen will organize the scientific program. The theme for the meeting must be settled before July 1st, the organizers will discuss this via email.
9. Issues to be discussed
 - a. Attracting more members: Elin Skärlina suggested that automatic payment would result in more people remaining members. Michael Braun will investigate this possibility. Stine Jacobsen suggested that wherever possible membership should be advertised to students. She also mentioned that benefits of membership are not entirely clear (homepage mentions e.g. access to member's area, but it is not clear what this is and what members may gain from it).
 - b. Attracting more delegates for VWHA EWMA conference: As described above, the collaboration with EWMA is an important aspect of this.
 - c. Attracting more sponsors: Sponsors mentioned that for the VWHA/EWMA conference, it was good to be in the room with the delegates, but that it would be preferable to have longer breaks, to get an insert into the proceedings, maybe to have shorter sponsor presentations. Michael Braun suggested that it would be ideal, if refreshments were served inside the lecture room near the sponsors during breaks in the program. The organizers of the next meeting will have these suggestions in mind.
 - d. Strategy for the future of the VWHA.
 - e. Constitution: the VWHA constitution needs to be updated. Jacintha Wilmink will send it around to all council members for comments.
10. Any Other Business.
None

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